Prospect-laden Kannapolis eager for playoffs

**Loaded squad will press on despite losing Cease to shoulder fatigue**

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO -- The first bit of news involving Class A Kannapolis and its South Atlantic League playoff push beginning Wednesday night wasn't exactly positive.

Dylan Cease, acquired with outfielder Eloy Jimenez from the Cubs as part of the Jose Quintana deal and ranked No. 64 overall by MLBpipeline.com, was scratched from his Game 1 start against Greensboro due to right shoulder fatigue. Cease will not pitch in the playoffs, but the White Sox call the move precautionary, with Cease still scheduled to take part in instructional-league action in Glendale, Ariz.

Even one pitcher down, the first-half champs in the Northern Division remain confident.

"Anytime as a manager you can be here in September and play extra games, with a playoff atmosphere, it's a good benefit for everybody," Kannapolis first-year manager Justin Jirschele said. "We're looking to have some fun."
"It honestly means a lot," said outfielder Blake Rutherford of the playoff appearance. "Anytime you're on a team, it's your goal to win a championship. I was able to get traded to a team that already won the first half and has the opportunity to win a championship. It's a special experience, and I look forward to it."

Rutherford, the No. 44 prospect overall per MLBPipeline, hit .213 over 30 games with the Intimidators after being traded by the Yankees as part of the David Robertson/Todd Frazier/Tommy Kahnle deal. Gavin Sheets, the team's second-round pick in the 2017 MLB Draft, hit .266 with three homers and 25 RBIs over 52 games with Kannapolis.

They will be joined by Jake Burger, the White Sox top pick in the '17 Draft, along with Evan Skoug and Tyler Johnson as players in pursuit of postseason glory.

Sheets fell short of the '17 College World Series when his Wake Forest team lost in the Super Regionals, and he appreciates the second chance.

"It's great to have the opportunity to play in the Super Regionals and then come and have an opportunity to play for a team that already knows they're going to playoffs," Sheets said. "That's why you play the game, and I'm excited to go to the playoffs."

Top prospect Jimenez visits Sox in Chicago

Outfielder, acquired in Quintana trade, hit .348 in 47 games since joining White Sox system

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO -- Eloy Jimenez sat in the White Sox dugout Tuesday evening at Guaranteed Rate Field, but wearing jeans as a pregame guest and not as part of the team's active roster.

In the mind of Major League Baseball's No. 6 prospect per MLBPipeline.com, his time wearing the White Sox uniform is not too far away.

"I truly believe that I can be playing here right now," said Jimenez through interpreter Billy Russo. "Like I say, God's plan is perfect. The only thing I can do and handle is to work hard every day and try to do my best and try to learn about the game every day and put me in the best position to force them to make a decision.

"They are the ones who can have the power and in my case, in my mind, I'm ready. But I have to wait."

At the age of 20, and after being acquired from the Cubs as a featured part of the Jose Quintana trade the day before the second half began, Jimenez certainly made a solid big league case during the 2017 campaign. The outfielder was named the White Sox Player of the Month for August/September on Tuesday, hitting .345 with nine doubles, one triple, seven home runs, 19 RBIs and 21 runs over 30 games between Double-A Birmingham and Class A Advanced Winston-Salem.

Since joining the White Sox Minor League system, Jimenez has hit .348 with 16 doubles, one triple, 11 homers, 33 RBIs and 31 runs in 47 games. And this broadly-built young man has the personality and confidence to match his ability. Is he quite possibly a star in the making amid the White Sox rebuild? A smiling Jimenez likes his chances.

"That's why I'm working hard every day," Jimenez said. "I want to be the best player on the field every time I go out. I don't want to be just another player. I want to be the best player."

"He seems like he's way older than 20," said White Sox assistant general manager Buddy Bell of Jimenez during a recent interview with MLB.com. "His at-bats are more mature. Makes the right plays on the bases. His positioning in the outfield is, you don't have to say much to him. If you do say something to him, you don't have to say it to him twice. I mean, a really, really good-looking player."

Michael Kopech, the top pitching prospect in the game and No. 11 overall, visits Guaranteed Rate on Wednesday. But on Tuesday, it was Jimenez talking with White Sox manager Rick Renteria, the coaching staff and players such as second baseman Yoan Moncada and pitcher Carson Fulmer.

It was Jimenez's chance to survey a ballpark where he soon might be putting up significant numbers.

"Part of my personality is, I like to have fun," said Jimenez, who will play winter ball in the Dominican Republic. "But at the same time, it's also because I don't want to get tense in the game. That's the way I can do better, just being relaxed. Try to slow things down on the field and just enjoy it."
"You have to have a plan and a purpose for every day. That's the way I like to work. That's the way I like to prepare myself."

**Lopez seeks improvement vs. red-hot Tribe**
By Fabian Ardaya / MLB.com | September 6, 2017

The Indians know how to sustain stretches of regular-season success as well as anybody. After all, their 13-game winning streak is the longest in the Majors this season, and they had a 14-game streak last season.

"We've had great success all year," said Jose Ramirez, the reigning American League Player of the Week. "We're just having more now. We have great players on this team, great guys, and we're winning. We do the same thing all the time. We joke around, and we have great energy, and once the game starts, we're really focused on what's most important."

The Indians are the first club since the 1960-61 Yankees to post winning streaks of 13 games or more in consecutive seasons, and they're doing so in large part due to their starting pitching. Before Danny Salazar's rough outing Tuesday, Cleveland starters had a 11-0 with a 1.51 ERA during the streak.

Right-hander Carlos Carrasco -- who is the club's nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award -- looks to continue his strong season when he takes the mound against White Sox flamethrower Reynaldo Lopez (0-2, 6.06) in Game 3 of a four-game series at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Carrasco has gone 13-6 with a 3.67 ERA in 27 starts for the Indians this season, his third consecutive season with double-digit wins. He has gone at least six innings in four of his last five starts, with two or fewer runs allowed in four of those outings. In his last start against Detroit, he allowed one run on six hits over seven innings while picking up a no-decision.

In Carrasco's last start at Guaranteed Rate Field on April 22, he worked eight shutout innings and allowed just three hits, with eight strikeouts.

This will be Lopez's fourth start with the White Sox. He allowed three runs over six innings, with seven strikeouts, in his last start Friday against the Rays.

**Three things to know about this game**

- The White Sox could have Nicky Delmonico back in the lineup Wednesday. The rookie was placed on the 10-day disabled list Aug. 26 due to a sprained right wrist. He has reached base in 21 of his first 22 career games and became the first player in White Sox history to homer six times in his first 19 career games.

- The Indians should also have some of their own reinforcements, with Jay Bruce and Bradley Zimmer each potentially returning to the lineup. Bruce (stiff neck) has missed the past four games and Zimmer (concussion) the last three.

- To earn Player of the Week honors, Ramirez went 15-for-29 (.517) with 12 extra-base hits from Aug. 28 to Sept. 4, including extra-base hits in all five at-bats Sunday in Detroit.

- Carrasco continues to rack up strikeouts thanks to his arsenal of offspeed pitches: his slider, curveball and changeup. He gets opponents to hack at his offspeed pitches, and when they do, they miss. Of the 34 pitchers to get at least 500 swings against offspeed pitches this season, Carrasco has the highest whiff rate on those swings, 44.1 percent.

**30 Clemente Award nominees revealed**
By Mark Newman / MLB.com | September 5, 2017

It was 45 years ago this month when Roberto Clemente doubled to the wall for his 3,000th and final career hit -- three months before the plane crash that took his life as he tried to deliver relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

"I want to be remembered as a ballplayer who gave all he had to give," Clemente once said.

Today the legend of Puerto Rico's favorite son is stronger than ever, and the annual Roberto Clemente Award has become "baseball's most prestigious award," according to Commissioner Rob Manfred.

On Tuesday, Major League Baseball revealed the 30 club nominees for the 2017 honor, which goes to a player from each club who best represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions, both on and off the field.
American League nominees are Chris Davis of Baltimore, Rick Porcello of Boston, Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox, Carlos Carrasco of Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera of Detroit, Jose Altuve of Houston, Drew Butera of Kansas City, Cameron Maybin of the Los Angeles Angels (since acquired by Houston), Joe Mauer of Minnesota, Brett Gardner of the New York Yankees, Liam Hendriks of Oakland, Robinson Cano of Seattle, Evan Longoria of Tampa Bay, Cole Hamels of Texas, and Marcus Stroman of Toronto.


The list of nominees features Major Leaguers whose work in the community focuses on important issues ranging from awareness and fundraising of childhood cancer and other illnesses, education, outreach to underserved children and communities in the U.S. and abroad, care for veterans and more.

“This award represents everything Roberto stood for as a 'good Samaritan,'” said MLB goodwill ambassador Vera Clemente, Roberto's wife. "Through the Roberto Clemente Award, today's players are recognized for these same qualities."

Each club nominates one current player to be considered for the Roberto Clemente Award in tribute to Clemente's achievements and character. Wednesday marks the 16th annual Roberto Clemente Day, which was established by MLB to honor Clemente's legacy and to officially acknowledge local club nominees of the award in his honor.

Clubs playing at home on Wednesday will recognize their local nominees as part of Roberto Clemente Day ceremonies. Visiting clubs will honor their nominees on a subsequent homestand. As part of the league-wide celebration, the Roberto Clemente Day logo will appear on the bases and official dugout lineup cards and a special tribute video will be played in ballparks.

There are seven 2017 All-Stars among the nominees: Goldschmidt, Altuve, Turner, Harrison, Posey, Cano and Zimmerman.

The Roberto Clemente Award winner will be selected among the group of nominees via a blue-ribbon panel that includes individuals connected to the game, including Manfred, representatives from MLB-affiliated networks (MLB Network, FOX Sports, ESPN and TBS) and MLB Advanced Media, as well as Vera Clemente.

Fans will be able to vote from Oct. 2-6 for the overall Roberto Clemente Award winner. The voting page will feature bios of each of the nominees and will allow fans to easily vote by clicking on the respective nominee's name. The winner of the fan balloting will count as one vote among those cast by the blue-ribbon panel. Additional information about fan voting will be shared via MLB.com and MLB social media channels.

Maybin remains the Angels' nominee despite changing teams via waivers on Aug. 31. The Angels notified MLB after the transaction that they wanted him to retain the honor. In fact, Maybin will be returning as an Astro to Anaheim in mid-September, when the Angels were already planning to honor him.

Last year's recipient was Dodgers outfielder Curtis Granderson. He was like other recipients who say at each presentation that it is the most important honor of their careers, on or off the field.

“This is all part of just trying to do the legacy, like Ms. Clemente said, trying to do better each day, making it better for the next group to come up behind you,” Granderson said.

Willie Mays won the first of these honors in 1971 when it was known as the Commissioner's Award, to recognize players for their philanthropic work, and he is among 16 Hall of Famers who have been recipients of the honor. After 1972, the award was dedicated in Clemente's name.

More information can be found at MLB.com/clemente.
White Sox reinstate Moncada from DL

Holland granted unconditional release; Shields hopes to make next start

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com | September 6, 2017

CHICAGO -- Yoan Moncada, the No. 1 prospect in all of baseball per MLBPipeline.com, returned to the White Sox starting lineup for Tuesday's 9-4 loss to the Indians after being activated from the 10-day disabled list.

The switch-hitting second baseman had been out of action since Aug. 24 and on the disabled list since Aug. 25 with a bone contusion to his right shin, finishing Tuesday with one single and two strikeouts in five at-bats. Moncada started feeling better 2-3 days ago.

"I was feeling a little discomfort at that time, but I knew I could play through that kind of soreness. And right now I feel 100 percent," said Moncada through interpreter Billy Russo. "I am going to do all I can to perform at the best level I can. I have to do my best to get results. That's the only way I know how to play baseball."

White Sox manager Rick Renteria mentioned Moncada, who is hitting .188 with three home runs, 13 runs and 11 RBIs over 30 games, won't be starting every day at the outset of his return.

"Trying to get him in the game today, see how he recovers tonight, and we'll make the decision tomorrow morning," Renteria said. "More than likely, he'll be off tomorrow."

Holland departs from the White Sox

The White Sox tenure for Derek Holland came to an end after 29 games, 26 of which were starts, as the team requested waivers on the left-hander for the purpose of granting his unconditional release.

Holland was happy to help as a free-agent addition with the White Sox on a one-year-deal; he provided a strong veteran clubhouse presence. But he posted a 6.20 ERA and 187 baserunners allowed in 135 innings.

"He was grateful for the opportunity, but he was disappointed he couldn't do more," Renteria said. "He wanted to come in and do better, but with the guys we brought up, they're going to be the ones taking up those innings. See what we can gain, for their experience and our knowledge of them.

"One of the things we discussed was how he impacted us as a good teammate. A gentleman, a nice man to have around, knew the game, but it got to the point where he wasn't going to get the opportunities."

Shields expects to make next start

Despite being hit in the right knee by a Francisco Mejia line drive in the seventh inning of Monday's start, James Shields expects to be back on the mound Saturday against the Giants.

"I feel pretty good, relatively speaking," Shields said. "They're taking good care of me in [the training room]. I got a full workout in today, and things are looking good."

Shields saw the video a few times and acknowledged with a smile that the liner got him pretty good.

"It actually hit me in the one spot around my kneecap you would want to get hit if I did get hit," Shields said.

Third to first

• Tyler Danish suffered a dislocated left shoulder and general soreness as part of an eight-car accident on his drive from Charlotte to his home in Tampa after Charlotte's season ended Monday. Danish is expected to recover in 7-10 days, and he tweeted about the incident from his account, @danish_Tyler7.

• Nicky Delmonico, sidelined by a right wrist sprain, took batting practice Tuesday and should return from the DL soon.

MLB debut a 'dream come true' for reliever Fry

24-year-old has had to overcome two Tommy John surgeries

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com | September 6, 2017

CHICAGO -- The first calls placed by Jace Fry after finding out two days ago of his promotion from Double-A Birmingham to the White Sox went to his family.
Actually, the calls went to family members the left-handed reliever could contact.

"My dad actually was on a fishing trip, so he was out of service. I still haven't even talked to him yet," Fry said. "He said he hopped on the first flight, though, that he's coming out here.

"He'll be here as soon as possible. My mom and fiancee both thought I was lying, like, 'No, quit messing with me;' and, 'You're kidding.' I was like, 'I'm not, so go get that flight booked.' And that was the first thing they did."

Fry's father will arrive Thursday, but he had a strong family contingency including his mom, fiancee, sister, brother and aunt at Guaranteed Rate Field on Tuesday when he made his Major League debut in the ninth inning of a 9-4 loss to the Indians. Fry allowed a Carlos Santana single and a walk among the three hitters he faced, and both scored when Chris Beck gave up a Yan Gomes homer after replacing Fry.

It still was an experience not to be forgotten.

"Obviously it wasn't what I wanted, but my family is still sending me texts as proud as if I were to go out and strike out the side," Fry said. "It was awesome to get in the game in front of my family and everyone here. It was a dream come true."

Even after undergoing a second Tommy John surgery on June 18, 2015, and missing the entire ‘16 season, Fry never doubted his Major League potential. The 24-year-old posted a 2.78 ERA over 33 appearances for Birmingham before joining Aaron Bummer as the southpaws in the White Sox bullpen over the final month of the ‘17 season.

"I feel blessed, blessed to be healthy now and have had good people to support me the entire time through both the surgeries [first one as a sophomore at Oregon State] and the entire grind all the way up," Fry said. "I just feel happy to have those people around me.

"I was expecting to have a few more butterflies out on the mound. It felt good to go in and have a first-pitch strike. [Santana] crushed it, but I was glad I was in the zone and came back and attacked the next hitter. Threw some good pitches. They laid off a couple of good pitches, but I thought we will just get them next time."

White Sox bats quiet after Davidson’s 3-run jack
By Scott Merkin and Fabian Ardaya / MLB.com | September 6, 2017

CHICAGO -- The Cleveland Indians stand one victory away from matching franchise history.

With Tuesday's 9-4 win over the White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field, the Indians (82-56) won for the 13th straight time. They won a franchise-best 14 straight in '16 and became the first team with win streaks of at least 13 games in consecutive seasons since the Yankees won 15 straight in 1960 and then 13 in 1961.

Cleveland has trailed twice in 117 innings during the 13-game win streak; the Yankees held a 2-1 lead for a half-inning on Aug. 28 and the White Sox grabbed a short-lived 4-3 lead in the first inning Tuesday. But Jose Ramirez tied the game with a home run off White Sox starter David Holmberg in the second, and Greg Allen's two-run double put the Indians ahead to stay in the third.

The Indians’ magic number to clinch the American League Central falls to 14 with the Twins’ 2-1 loss to the Rays.

"They have a really good offense," said White Sox first baseman Matt Davidson of the Indians. "Everybody swings it, and everybody's hot right now. I think that's kind of what they want as a playoff team going into September and October. We're just trying to give them the best we've got and keep on going."

Danny Salazar returned from the disabled list (elbow inflammation) with a short outing planned for his first start since Aug. 20. But the right-hander didn't get out of the first inning, walking two, hitting a batter and yielding Davidson's three-run home run.

"The good side of it is his arm's obviously feeling good, because he was firing it," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "He just had no idea where it was going. He had no feel for a changeup, and he was erratic with his fastball."

Seven relievers followed Salazar, with Dan Otero earning the victory with two scoreless innings. The final six Cleveland relievers yielded nine hits over eight scoreless innings, issuing one walk and striking out nine. Shawn Armstrong pitched the ninth to preserve the win.
"We're prepared for anything," Otero said. "We've been there before. We're prepared for anything from the first pitch on, and when these situations arise, you can’t really mope or do anything about it. You just have to go in there and pitch. Everybody who came in there tonight really attacked, and we were able to pull off a great team win."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Ramirez has something extra: Ramirez homered with two outs in the second, but that long drive did more than tie the game. It gave Ramirez two home runs in two innings, and his sixth career two-homer game, all coming this season. That total stands as the most by a switch-hitter since Lance Berkman in 2006, per Statcast™. Ramirez has seven homers in his last eight games and five in his last three, not to mention 15 extra-base hits out of his last 19 hits covering the past nine games.

"It's impressive. It looked like at the end of the day, he almost felt too good," Francona said. "He was kind of over-swinging. But it's been fun to watch."

Fulmer escapes: With the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth, Carson Fulmer was summoned from the bullpen to replace Mike Pelfrey and face Ramirez: No pressure there, kid. The situation grew even tougher for the No. 11 White Sox prospect per MLBPipeline.com when he fell behind one of the game's hottest hitters at 3-1. But Fulmer's four-seam fastball got Ramirez to pop out to third baseman Yolmer Sanchez for the inning's third out. Fulmer retired Ramirez on a popout to third in the eighth as well, finishing with 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

"I was talking about it with [White Sox pitching coach Don Cooper] on the bench -- 'What do you go with here?' -- of the guys we had available to us," said White Sox manager Rick Renteria of the first Fulmer-Ramirez matchup. "Fulmer's got some life to his pitches, and it was basically what happened.

"He beat him enough to induce that fly ball. It ended up working out in that particular situation, and he got through a couple other jams, too. He's getting a feel, trying to get comfortable, just trying to be himself and pitch."

QUOTABLE

"Yeah, definitely I've shown some success, but I feel like I have a lot more to improve on. I'm glad to put some numbers up." -- Davidson, who set a career high at any level of his professional career with his 24th home run. Davidson hit 23 homers with Triple-A Charlotte in '15.

"That just shows the kind of depth we have. Everyone came in and did their job. When they scored four runs in the first, it's the same thing as us. We scored three runs in the first, and our momentum was kicking. They did the same thing, and to shut them out for the rest of the game, that's pretty hard to do." -- Indians catcher Yan Gomes, on the bullpen

FIRST-INNING FOLLIES

The first inning of Tuesday's contest was not exactly a thing of beauty on either side. The frame lasted 46 minutes, with both teams sending nine men to the plate and scoring a combined seven runs. Salazar and Indians reliever Nick Goody threw 44 pitches, with 18 for strikes. In total, 82 pitches were thrown in the first, with seven walks and a hit batsman.

WHAT'S NEXT

Indians: Carlos Carrasco (13-6, 3.67 ERA) threw eight scoreless innings the last time he was at Guaranteed Rate Field on April 22. He'll make the 8:10 p.m. ET start looking to allow two or fewer runs for the fourth time in his last five starts.

White Sox: Reynaldo Lopez (0-2, 6.06 ERA) is scheduled to make his fourth start of the season, third at Guaranteed Rate Field and first vs. Cleveland in a 7:10 p.m. CT game Wednesday night. Lopez is 5-5 with a 5.22 ERA, .260 opponents average and a 1.51 WHIP in 14 career appearances (nine starts).

Watch every out-of-market regular-season game live on MLB.TV.

White Sox name Eloy Jimenez, Michael Kopech minor leaguers of month
By Scott Krine / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

As the White Sox minor-league affiliates wrap up their respective seasons, a couple of top prospects were honored on Tuesday.
The White Sox named Eloy Jimenez and Michael Kopech their minor league player and pitcher of the month for August and September.

Jimenez, who is currently MLB.com’s No. 7 overall prospect, had a batting average of .345 with seven home runs, 19 RBI and 21 runs scored in 30 games between Double-A Birmingham and Single-A Winston Salem.

Jimenez, who was acquired by the White Sox in a five-player deal with the Cubs for Jose Quintana on July 13, was also named to the 2017 Carolina League mid and postseason All-Star teams.

Jimenez finished the 2017 season with a .312/.379/.568 slash line and had 19 home runs and 65 RBI in 89 games.

Kopech, who is MLB.com's No. 12 prospect, went 2-1 with a 1.55 ERA and 38 strikeouts across five starts between Triple-A Charlotte and Birmingham in August and September.

Kopech was recently named the Southern league Most Outstanding pitcher and was also selected to the Southern League mid and postseason All-Star Teams. Kopech compiled a 9-8 record with a 2.88 ERA and 172 strikeouts in 25 starts this season.

The White Sox will welcome both Jimenez and Kopech to Guaranteed Rate Field this week.

White Sox set to part ways with veteran pitcher Derek Holland
By Scott Krinch / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

Derek Holland's era on the Southside is expected to come to an end.

The White Sox announced on Tuesday they have requested waivers on the veteran starting pitcher for the purpose of granting his unconditional release.

The 30-year-old Holland, who signed a one-year deal with the White Sox last December, is 7-14 with a 6.20 ERA and 1.711 WHIP in 29 games this season. Holland had a 2.37 ERA through his first 10 starts of the season, but fell on hard times after the calendar flipped from May to June. Holland's ERA since June 2 is 10.375.

Holland could pitch for another club once he clears waivers, but he won't be eligible for a postseason roster.

In a corresponding roster move, the White Sox purchased the contract of pitcher Jace Fry from Double-A Birmingham.

The 24-year-old Fry went 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA and had 52 strikeouts in 33 games with the Barons in 2017.

Fry, who was originally selected by the White Sox in third round of the 2014 MLB Draft out of Oregon State, missed the 2016 season and the majority of the 2015 season following Tommy John Surgery. Fry has a career record of 4-9 with a 3.63 ERA and 101 strikeouts in four seasons in the White Sox farm system.

The White Sox also reinstated infielder Yoan Moncada from the 10-day disabled list. Moncada hasn't played in a game since Aug. 24 due to a bone contusion on his right shin.

The White Sox continue their series with the Cleveland Indians at Guaranteed Rate Field on Tuesday night.

James Shields is shockingly fine and expects to make next start after taking rocket off his knee
By Vinnie Duber / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

Believe it or not, James Shields feels fine.

The veteran starting pitcher took a rocket of a line drive off his right knee during Monday's loss to the Cleveland Indians. He seemed to be in some pretty extreme pain while down on the infield and left the game shortly thereafter.

But a day after getting drilled, Shields said he feels OK and that he's planning on making his next start.

"I feel pretty good, relatively speaking," he said. "I feel pretty good. I woke up this morning, was able to move it around a little bit, but everything seems good. They're taking good care of me in there. I got a full workout in today, and things are looking good.

"I'll be ready to go."
For anyone who watched that play live or on replay, the fact that Shields feels all right is pretty shocking. It was a big enough surprise that he was able to walk off the field without any assistance Monday.

Count Shields — and his family — among those who watched the replay.

“I watched it a few times last night. It got me pretty good,” he said. “My kids were a little more concerned than anybody. My wife was obviously concerned. I got lucky. It actually hit me in the one spot around my kneecap you would want to get hit if I did get hit.”

Despite some of the reaction from fans and the media, Shields admitted this isn’t exactly a first-time occurrence and that batted balls hitting the pitcher are commonplace in baseball.

“I get hit like five or six times a year in my career,” he said. “I’ve gotten hit in my right elbow, with the same kind of velocity. You never want to get hurt. Just thank god it didn’t get any worse.”

Shields got plenty of Twitter love — and a nice ovation from the fans at Guaranteed Rate Field on Monday — for his toughness. He’ll definitely get some more props the next time he takes the mound.

Why Derek Holland is no longer with the White Sox
By Vinnie Duber / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

If you were surprised to see Derek Holland and the White Sox part ways on Tuesday, you weren’t alone.

But the reason comes down to one word: rebuild.

It was somewhat odd to see a veteran pitcher, who considering his pending free agency was in the process of pitching for a job next season, leave a team in early September. But Holland was recently moved to the bullpen after continuously failing to produce the kinds of results he was hoping for as a starter. He was then informed that his usage would decrease as the rebuilding White Sox want to get late-season looks at some of their younger arms.

“It was a difficult thing to do,” manager Rick Renteria explained Tuesday. “One of the things we discussed was how he impacted us as a good teammate. A gentleman, a nice man to have around, knew the game, impacted the other guys well. But it got to the point where he wasn’t going to get the opportunities.

“You want them to have success, to be able who they have always been. It had been a struggle the last few outings. We hoped we could get some usage in the bullpen, basically mix it in, it just wasn’t showing what we needed. With young men coming in who will be slotted into those roles. We wish him well.”

Holland was one of a couple veteran pitchers who didn’t pan out as sign-and-flip guys for the White Sox. In a season where Rick Hahn was able to deal away David Robertson, Tommy Kahnle, Anthony Swarzak, Dan Jennings and Miguel Gonzalez, Holland and fellow vet Mike Pelfrey weren’t able to produce in a way that would have made them attractive trade chips.

Holland had a bulging 6.20 ERA and 14 losses on the season. After a solid start to the campaign, he was abysmal from the beginning of June on, turning in a 9.32 ERA over his final 19 appearances, 16 of which were starts.

But upon his release, the White Sox did praise Holland, known around baseball for his big personality, as a quality teammate.

“Derek was a great teammate,” fellow starter James Shields said. “All of the guys liked him around here. He went out there every five days and pitched with his heart. The guy cared about baseball and is a tremendous human being. It’s always tough to lose a guy like that.”

With Yoan Moncada back from disabled list, is a late-season surge to come from baseball’s top prospect?
By Vinnie Duber / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

Yoan Moncada’s shin is all healed up.

Now it’s time for his numbers to get in shape, too.
The No. 1 prospect in baseball came off the 10-day disabled list for Tuesday night’s game against the visiting Cleveland Indians. He’s all better after going on the shelf late last month with a shin contusion, and he’s back in the lineup playing second base, where White Sox fans hope they’ll see him every day for the next decade.

It might be impossible for Moncada to live up to the hype of being the top prospect in the game. How many top prospects end up doing that? But if he’s going to deliver on the promise, he’ll have to start putting up some better numbers at the plate than what he’s done in his first taste of being an everyday major league player.

He’s only played in 30 games, of course, but he hasn’t hit the bigs in the same fashion in which he tore up Triple-A. Through his first 122 plate appearances in a White Sox uniform, Moncada is slashing .188/.328/.356 with 44 strikeouts and 19 walks.

The good news is that he’ll have plenty of time to find himself. The White Sox aren’t expected to compete for a couple years, meaning any struggles Moncada goes through at the start of his career shouldn’t negatively impact any pennant races.

But what a layer of intrigue it would add to the 2017 season’s final month if Moncada could really turn on the jets and start producing in a big way.

“T"m going to do all that I know, to perform at the best level I can,” he said through an interpreter Tuesday. “I have to do my best to get results. That’s the only way I know how to play baseball.

“Just to do my job. I don’t want to change anything. I just want to keep doing what I’m doing and the results are going to be there.”

Manager Rick Renteria thought Moncada was starting to figure things out right before the second baseman went on the disabled list, and that .328 on-base percentage shows things haven’t been all bad for the 22-year-old. Moncada is reaching base almost a third of the time, which is pretty darn good.

The stay on the DL could have been looked at in one of two ways. It could be seen as a break for a hitter still finding his way in his first stint as a everyday big leaguer. Or it could be seen as a brief moment of opportunity taken away from a young guy racking up valuable experience.

Renteria seems to think that no matter the results, any opportunity Moncada can get is valuable.

“I don’t know that he was in need of time off,” Renteria said. “He was pushing to try to get back even sooner than now, but we needed to make sure that bruise cleared up and he was fully comfortable and pain free.

“I think for all these young men, getting as many opportunities as they can to develop is the most important thing. There are times when you need to take a break, take a step back. I don’t think it’s going to hurt him. I think he’ll come back, he’ll settle back in.”

So White Sox fans — and White Sox rebuild fans, in particular — will get to see Moncada back in action for the first time in a week and a half, a welcome sight for a team looking to get their top prospect ready for a long future in the heart of a major league lineup. And maybe Moncada, as he continues to figure out major league pitching, can start producing like he did at all minor league levels.

This has been a last-place season for the White Sox but at the same time a very hopeful one considering the continual improvements Rick Hahn keeps making to the farm system and the highly ranked prospects that have started to trickle their way on to the big league roster. One way to put an exclamation point on this campaign? If Moncada could tear it up in September.

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**Eloy Jimenez ready to speed up the White Sox rebuild: 'I truly believe that I can be playing here right now'**

By Vinnie Duber / CSN Chicago | September 5, 2017

It’s pretty clear that Eloy Jimenez is ready for the bright lights of the big leagues.

In town for a visit to his future home Tuesday at Guaranteed Rate Field, the No. 6 prospect in baseball spent his 10-minute media session with reporters explaining that he believes he’s already ready for the majors and that he wants to be one of the best players around.

This integral part of the White Sox future lineup is not lacking in confidence.
“I truly believe that I can be playing here right now,” Jimenez said through a translator. “The only thing I can do and handle is to work hard every day and try to do my best and try to learn about the game every day and put me in the best position to force them to make a decision. They are the ones who can have the power and in my case, in my mind, I’m ready. But I have to wait.”

Yes, Jimenez — only 20 years old and only recently with any minor league experience above Class A — will have to wait for his big league chance. But he’s sure doing his best to move that timeline up.

He’s done nothing but rake since coming over from the Cubs in the Crosstown swap that sent Jose Quintana to the North Side. He posted a .345/.410/.682 slash line with eight homers and 26 RBIs in 29 games with Class-A Winston-Salem, then he slashed .353/.397.559 in 18 games with Double-A Birmingham, adding three more homers and seven more RBIs in that handful of games.

“I want to be the best player on the field every time I go out,” Jimenez said. “That’s why I’m working hard. I don’t want to be just another player. I want to be the best player.”

It looks and sounds like Jimenez is going to be a monster. The only question now is when does he start?

“I think his skill set is evident,” manager Rick Renteria said. “I think obviously, every level brings its own challenges, even coming to the big leagues will bring its own challenges. But I think if he continues to maintain the consistency in which he’s going about doing what he’s doing, there’s no reason why he’s not going to continue to want to push that door open as soon as possible.

“Obviously, we all have to consider when is the right time to have him ultimately be a part of this club, assuming everything continues to go well for him on the field, between the lines. But I think just the consistency of which he continues to do what he does, he has a tremendous routine, he talks about his routine, he’s very focused, I believe he has a desire to be one of the best. I know that’s the way he talks. It’s just about him maintaining the consistency and hopefully he’ll be here soon.”

Looking at those gaudy numbers and reading these quotes, you might not think there’s much left for Jimenez to prove. But the White Sox rebuilding schedule means there’s no need to rush him to the big leagues. He’s played just a handful of games at the Double-A level and he’s just 20 years old.

As confident he is that he can take on the majors right this second, Jimenez also isn’t shying away from doing the requisite work that will get him to where he wants to go. That ought to add comfort to anyone thinking his confidence might be a bit too far ahead of his game.

“I have to work all around. I have to improve all around my game,” he said. “I don’t think it’s any specific area that I have to improve more than another. I have to keep learning about the game because every day you can learn something different. That’s the way I like to approach my day on a daily basis. That’s the way I like to think, work hard every day and try to learn and improve every day in all the aspects of the game.”

So as much as Jimenez might like to make the 2018 Opening Day roster — or get a September call-up right now — the waiting game will still be in play for him, just like many other of the organization’s top prospects and the team in general during this rebuild.

But that’s what makes this franchise so interesting right now, the excitement for the future and wonder over what this roster could one day look like.

It’s even caught up with Mr. One Game At A Time, Rick Renteria.

“It is a pretty picture. I think a couple days ago, I’ll be honest, I sat back and started writing all the names on the board of players that we have within the system, the kids that have been within the system and the kids that we have acquired,” Renteria said. “You start looking and you go, ‘Wow, we’re poised to hopefully be able to develop, help these guys get better and become part of the Chicago White Sox at the major league level.’

“The names that are on that board are nice to see.”
Eloy Jimenez, Michael Kopech earn monthly White Sox minor-league awards
By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 5, 2017

The White Sox named Double-A Birmingham outfielder Eloy Jimenez and Triple-A Charlotte right-hander Michael Kopech their minor-league player and pitcher of the month Tuesday.

Jimenez hit .345 with nine doubles, a triple, seven home runs, 19 RBIs and 21 runs over 30 games in August and September between Birmingham and Class-A Winston-Salem. It is his second consecutive Sox minor-league award, which is voted on by Chicago-area media members.

Kopech had a 1.55 ERA, 38 strikeouts and a .210 opponents average over five starts between Charlotte and Birmingham. He finished his year 9-8 with a 2.88 ERA, 172 strikeouts and a .193 opponents average over 25 starts.

Kopech finished tied for fifth among minor-league pitchers in strikeouts and was named the Southern League’s most outstanding pitcher.

Birmingham and Charlotte wrapped up their seasons Monday, and Jimenez and Kopech were scheduled to visit the Sox in Chicago this week.

White Sox prospect Tyler Danish suffers dislocated left shoulder after car crash
By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 5, 2017

White Sox pitching prospect Tyler Danish suffered a dislocated left shoulder when he was involved in a multi-car crash that involved a semi-truck on his way home from his Triple-A Charlotte season Monday night.

The Sox said Tuesday that Danish was treated at a Jacksonville, Fla., hospital for the shoulder injury and general soreness, and doctors expect him to recover in 7-10 days. They said Danish was headed back to his offseason home in the Tampa area.

Danish shared pictures on social media of the ugly car crash, writing he was “blessed” to walk away with only minor injuries.

“Unbelievably blessed to walk away from this with very minor injuries,” he wrote. “Was (hit) by a semi last night on my way home. An angel was with me!”

Danish pitched his final game for Triple-A Charlotte on Monday, allowing three earned runs on six hits with no walks and five strikeouts.

He finished his season with a 5.47 ERA over 26 appearances, including 25 starts, with Charlotte. He made one start for the Sox on May 27 against the Tigers, when he pitched five scoreless innings, with three hits, six walks and six strikeouts.

Cease sidelined: Right-handed pitching prospect Dylan Cease was scratched from his South Atlantic League playoffs start Wednesday with shoulder fatigue.

Director of player development Chris Getz said through the Sox that Cease will do his next scheduled work in the instructional league in Arizona this fall.

Cease, who was one piece of the Jose Quintana trade with the Cubs, had a 3.89 ERA with 18 walks and 52 strikeouts over 41 2/3 innings in nine starts with Class-A Kannapolis since the trade.

“He was impressive,” Kannapolis manager Justin Jirschele said. “He’s got a special arm. He runs his fastball up there with some great offspeed pitches to go with it. He gets after it each and every day, and he attacks the zone and goes right after hitters. It's fun to watch him every day.”

Playoff-bound: Kannapolis won the SAL Northern Division first half, and so it will open the first round of the playoffs in a best-of-three series against Greensboro on Wednesday.

Among the highly ranked prospects playing for Kannapolis are infielders Jake Burger and Gavin Sheets, outfielders Blake Rutherford and Alex Call and catcher Evan Skoug.
For some of the recently draft players, such as Burger, Sheets and Skoug, it will be their second playoffs of the summer – the first in the NCAA playoffs. Sheets said his biggest adjustment from college has been playing every day as a professional.

"Just getting my body ready to play every day," Sheets said. "It's different from college when you play three games on the weekend and get four days off in between. You've got to get your body ready every night at 7:05 p.m. and that's been a big adjustment and one I've been able to make over time."

White Sox surprise Jace Fry with call to majors, release Derek Holland
By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 5, 2017

Jace Fry's father was on a fishing trip, so he couldn't be reached with the news. When Fry called his mother and his fiancee, they didn't believe him.

"Both thought I was lying, like, 'No, quit messing with me. You're kidding,'" Fry said. "I was like, 'I'm not, so go get that flight booked.'"

Fry, 24, made the leap from Double-A Birmingham to the majors Tuesday when the White Sox purchased the contract of the left-handed relief prospect. The call-up caps a journey that included two Tommy John surgeries — in 2012 when he played for Oregon State and in 2015, a season after the Sox drafted him in the third round.

Fry made his debut in the ninth inning in Tuesday's 9-4 loss to the Indians. He recorded one out and gave up a single and a walk before Chris Beck replaced him and gave up a three-run homer to Yan Gomes.

"Obviously the outcome wasn't what I wanted, but it was still awesome to get in there in front of my family and everyone here," Fry said. "I was expecting to have a few more butterflies out on the mound. … I threw some good pitches. They laid off a couple of good pitches, but I thought we will just get them next time."

Fry, who started 10 Class-A games in 2015 before missing all of 2016, switched to full-time relief this season, a move he thinks is better for his body. In 33 appearances with Birmingham, he posted a 2.78 ERA, 24 walks, 52 strikeouts, a .217 opponents' average and one home run allowed. Since July 10, his ERA was 0.64.

"I knew there'd be tough times, setbacks, pain, whatever it took," Fry said. "But I never really doubted that I'd get to this point. If I ever really doubted myself, then I wouldn't be here right now."

The Sox also requested waivers to release veteran left-hander Derek Holland. Holland, who signed a one-year, $6 million deal with the Sox in December, had a 6.20 ERA, a 1.71 WHIP and 31 home runs allowed in 26 starts and three relief appearances.

The Sox recently moved Holland, 30, to the bullpen with the arrivals of prospects Reynaldo Lopez, Lucas Giolito and Carson Fulmer. Manager Rick Renteria cited the desire to give more opportunities to the younger pitchers.

"It was a difficult thing to do," Renteria said. "He knew the game, impacted the other guys well, but it got to the point where he wasn't going to get the opportunities."

Shields OK: Right-hander James Shields said he did a full workout Tuesday and expects to make his next start after taking a line drive off his right knee Monday afternoon.

"I watched it a few times last night," Shields said. "I got lucky. It actually hit me in the one spot around my kneecap you would want to get hit."

Danish in accident: Sox pitching prospect Tyler Danish suffered a dislocated left shoulder when he was involved in a multicar crash on his way home from his Triple-A Charlotte season Monday night.

The Sox said Danish was treated at a Jacksonville, Fla., hospital for the injury and general soreness, and doctors expect him to recover in 7-10 days.

Danish wrote on Twitter he was "unbelievably blessed" to walk away with only minor injuries.
'I'm ready:' White Sox prospect Eloy Jimenez comes packed with confidence

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 6, 2017

Eloy Jimenez stepped into the White Sox dugout Tuesday afternoon and looked momentarily surprised to see more than a dozen reporters and five TV cameras waiting for him.

But then MLB.com's No. 6 prospect smiled, took his seat in front of the crowd and flashed some of the confidence that is just a small part of what makes him an intriguing Sox youngster.

After a sizzling fourth minor-league season in which he hit .312 with 19 home runs, 65 RBIs and a .947 OPS, Jimenez was just visiting the Sox before a 9-4 loss to the Indians. But the 20-year-old outfielder, who has played just 18 games in Double A, said he could have been on the field.

"I truly believe that I can be playing here right now," Jimenez said through a Sox interpreter. "God's plan is perfect. The only thing I can do is to work hard every day... and put myself in the best position to force them to make a decision. They are the ones who have the power, and in my case, in my mind, I'm ready. But I have to wait."

Left-hander David Holmberg gave up six earned runs and three homers in three innings Tuesday against the Indians, who earned their 13th straight win.

Top Sox prospect Yoan Moncada returned from the disabled list after missing 10 games with a bruised shin, and rookie Matt Davidson cracked a three-run homer in the first inning.

The Sox aren't shy about promoting the younger group, which includes Moncada and Davidson, to drum up excitement for the future.

Jimenez said Moncada and Carson Fulmer greeted him like a member of the team, and he visited with TV broadcasters Steve Stone and Jason Benetti on the air during the game. The club will roll out similar treatment for right-hander Michael Kopech on Wednesday.

The two, who were named the Sox minor-league player and pitcher of the month for August/September, represent some of the biggest promise from the first nine months of the rebuild. Jimenez only joined the Sox from the Cubs in the Jose Quintana trade in July, but he already has made a big impression.

"He has a tremendous routine," Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "He's very focused. I believe he has a desire to be one of the best. I know that's the way he talks. It's just about him maintaining the consistency, and hopefully he'll be here soon."

In his quest to make that happen, Jimenez will play winter ball in the Dominican Republic, where he said he needs to work on every aspect of his game.

"I don't want to be just another player," he said. "I want to be the best player."

He already has the swagger. Class-A Winston-Salem teammate Ian Clarkin posted a video on Twitter last month that showed Jimenez correctly declaring he would homer in his next game.

"Sometimes I wake up in the morning, and I feel very confident," Jimenez said. "I'm feeling good with my body, and I say, 'OK, I'm going to hit a home run tonight.' And it happens. I have that kind of confidence in myself."

And he's eager to show it on the South Side.

White Sox request release waivers for Holland, reinstate Moncada

The White Sox announced three major roster moves on Tuesday.

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times | September 6, 2017

The White Sox made three roster moves Tuesday, including requesting release waivers for veteran left-hander Derek Holland, who struggled for most of the season after being signed to a one-year, $6 million contract.

The Sox also reinstated second baseman Yoan Moncada from the 10-day disabled list and purchased left-hander Jace Fry's contract from Class AA Birmingham.
Holland went 7-14 with a 6.20 ERA and 104 strikeouts over 29 appearances (26 starts). The Sox signed him to pick up the slack in the rotation after Chris Sale was traded to the Red Sox in December. While he was healthy after having battled through injury problems with the Rangers, he hadn’t regained his velocity from his good years in Texas.

“He was grateful for the opportunity, he was happy he got through the season healthy, but he was disappointed he couldn’t do more,” manager Rick Renteria said. “With the guys we brought up [from the minor leagues], they’re going to be the ones taking up those innings.”

Fry, 24, who has had two Tommy John surgeries, has played the entire season in Birmingham, where he went 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA, three saves, 52 strikeouts and just one home run allowed over 33 relief appearances. He has been hot recently: a 0.64 ERA with 21 strikeouts and just seven hits allowed over his final 14 appearances over a nearly two-month span.

Fry missed 2016 and most of 2015 after surgery. He has no previous major-league experience.

**Moncada back in lineup**

Moncada, 22, went on the DL on Aug. 25 with a bone contusion of his right shin. The top-ranked prospect in baseball, who is playing his first season with the Sox since being acquired from the Red Sox in December, was in the starting lineup against the Indians on Tuesday night but will likely get Wednesday off, Renteria said. Entering Tuesday, he was hitting .188 with six doubles, three homers and 11 RBI in 30 games.

“I won’t try to run him out there every single day,” Renteria said. “[We’ll] see how he recovers tonight, and we’ll make the decision tomorrow morning. More than likely he’ll be off [Wednesday].”

In 122 plate appearances entering Tuesday, Moncada had struck out 44 times but walked 19, boosting his on-base percentage to .328. Asked what he hopes to accomplish the last few weeks of the season, he said, “Just do my job.”

“I don’t want to change anything,” he said through an interpreter. “I just want to keep doing what I’m doing, and the results are going to be there.”

**Shields OK**

A day after he was hit on the right knee by a batted ball and left the game, James Shields did his full workout and said he expects to make his next turn.

“I got lucky,” the right-hander said. “It actually hit me in the one spot around my kneecap you would want to get hit if I did get hit.”

**Nicky knocking**

Rookie infielder/outfielder Nicky Delmonico (sprained right wrist), batting .307 with six homers and 12 RBI in 22 games, could come off the DL as soon as Wednesday.

**White Sox prospect Eloy Jimenez: ‘I want to be the best’**

So far, so good: Eloy Jimenez, the Cubs’ top prospect acquired in the trade for Jose Quintana, finished strong at Class AA Birmingham

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times | September 6, 2017

The verdict will come well down the road — perhaps two, three or more years before we know who won the Cubs-White Sox trade that caught the baseball world by surprise in July.

In exchange for left-hander Jose Quintana, the Sox got the Cubs’ top prospect, outfielder Eloy Jimenez. And if he continues to generate the kind of buzz that’s humming around him now, the 20-year-old could make it worth the Sox’ while all by himself.

(The Sox also received right-hander Dylan Cease — the No. 64 prospect, according to MLB.com — who, because of shoulder fatigue, will not pitch for Class A Kannapolis in its playoff game Wednesday. Cease is expected to participate in the Fall Instructional League, however. The Sox also got two lesser prospects in the deal.)
Jimenez, oozing personality and confidence, visited Guaranteed Rate Field on Tuesday for the twofold purpose of acquainting himself with his future surroundings and keeping the media focused on the Sox’ future and not their record, which dropped to 54-83 with a 9-4 loss to the Indians, who extended their winning streak to 13 games.

Baseball’s No. 6-ranked prospect per MLB.com, Jimenez batted .312 with 19 homers, 65 RBI and a .948 OPS between Class A and AA this summer — the first part of that with the Cubs’ Class A Myrtle Beach affiliate. Over 30 games between the Sox’ Class A Winston-Salem and AA Birmingham levels in August, Jimenez put a star on his season with a strong .345 average, seven homers, nine doubles, one triple and 19 RBI.

“I truly believe I can play here right now,” Jimenez, who won’t turn 21 until a few days after Thanksgiving, said through an interpreter.

Fans enduring a fifth consecutive losing season — the Sox haven’t had five of them in a row since 1944-50 — are thankful there’s hope with a restocked farm system.

“It’s a pretty picture,” manager Rick Renteria said. “I’ll be honest, a couple days ago, I sat back and started writing all the names on the board of players we have in the system . . . You start looking and go, ‘Wow, we’re poised to hopefully develop, help these guys get better and become part of the Chicago White Sox.’ The names on that board are nice to see.”

The board is front-loaded with top prospects such as Jimenez, who not only seems to have some game, but also an endearing disposition that fans will warm to.

“He’s a young man with some power; he can play the field,” Renteria said. “On top of that, we’ve watched some of his interviews, and he’s a bright young man. If he maintains the consistency in which he’s going about doing what he’s doing, he’s going to want to push that door open as soon as possible.”

With all of 73 Class AA plate appearances, he’s a ways away. But he has big plans.

“I don’t want to be just another player,” Jimenez said. “I want to be the best player.”

While Sox and Cubs fans might have fun debating how the trade will turn out, Jimenez says he doesn’t pay attention to what Quintana has done. The 2016 All-Star has been uninspiring with a 5-3 record and 4.50 ERA with the Cubs.

“He has to do whatever he has to do,” Jimenez said. “That’s not something I can control.”

Hours after Jimenez spoke, control was something lacking for Sox left-hander David Holmberg. He walked four Indians, hit one and allowed two homers to Jose Ramirez, one to Austin Jackson and a two-run double to Greg Allen, giving up six runs in the first three innings.

The Sox’ Matt Davidson hit his career-high 24th homer, a three-run shot against Danny Salazar, who didn’t finish the first. But seven Indians relievers combined for 8⅓ scoreless innings. The score held at 6-4 until Chris Beck gave up a three-run homer to Yan Gomes in the ninth.

Fry happy to join Chicago White Sox’s bullpen
By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald | September 5, 2017

The Chicago White Sox said so long to Derek Holland Tuesday, and they said hello to Jayce Fry.

The Sox’s third-round draft pick in 2014 out of Oregon State, Fry had his contract purchased from Class AA Birmingham.

“Feel blessed, blessed to be healthy now and to have had good people to support me the entire time through both the surgeries and the entire grind all the way up,” Fry said.

A left-handed relief pitcher, Fry had his second Tommy John surgery in 2015, and he did not pitch at all last year. In 33 relief appearances for Birmingham this season, he was 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA and 3 saves.

“I never doubted myself or anything,” Fry said. “I knew there’d be tough times, setbacks, pain, whatever it took. But I never really doubted that I’d get to this point.”

Fry made his major-league debut in the ninth inning and allowed 2 runs on 1 hit and a walk while retiring one hitter.
The Indians rolled over the White Sox 9-4 at Guaranteed Rate Field, extending their winning streak to 13 games.

After rejoining the Sox Friday from Class AAA Charlotte, David Holmberg started and was roughed up for 6 runs on 6 hits and 4 walks in 3 innings.

Matt Davidson gave the White Sox a 4-3 lead in the first inning with a 3-run homer. The rookie has 24 home runs in 98 games.

"This is kind of a breakthrough year for him," manager Rick Renteria said. "He just goes up there and has good at-bats."

**Moncada returns:**

Yoan Moncada came off the disabled list Tuesday and was back in the White Sox's lineup after missing 10 games with a bone contusion of his right shin.

"Probably 2-3 days ago, I was feeling a little discomfort at that time, but I knew I could play through that kind of soreness," Moncada said through a translator. "And right now I feel 100 percent."

Moncada was 1-for-5 with 2 strikeouts.

**Minor matters:**

Class AAA Charlotte pitcher Tyler Danish suffered a dislocated left shoulder but said he was otherwise fine after being involved in a traffic accident Monday night in Jacksonville, Florida.

On social media, Danish posted photos of his car that was heavily damaged after being hit by a semitrailer truck.

Minor-league pitcher Dylan Cease, a top prospect acquired from the Cubs in the Jose Quintana trade, won't pitch in the playoffs with low Class A Kannapolis due to shoulder fatigue.

**Shields OK:**

One day after being hit on the right knee by a line drive off the bat of Cleveland's Francisco Mejia, James Shields said he was feeling better and should be able to make his next start.

"I feel pretty good, relatively speaking," he said. "I woke up this morning, was able to move it around a little bit, everything seems good. I got a full workout in today and things are looking good."

White Sox activate INF Yoan Moncada from 10-day DL
By Jay Cohen / Associated Press | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO -- For a brief moment on Tuesday, Yoan Moncada and Eloy Jimenez were reunited in the home clubhouse for the Chicago White Sox.

Moncada was activated from the 10-day disabled list before Chicago's game against Cleveland, and Jimenez visited with the club after another solid year in the minors. While Moncada is learning his way around the majors and Jimenez is a work in progress, the promising sluggers were looking forward to joining forces again at some point soon.

"I am just hoping for him, for me and for this organization to play together for a very long time," Moncada said through an interpreter.

Moncada, widely regarded as one of baseball's top prospects, and Jimenez are two key figures in Chicago's rebuilding project. Moncada was acquired last December in the blockbuster trade that sent Chris Sale to Boston, and Jimenez was the marquee name in the package that came over from the Cubs in the Jose Quintana deal in July.

The 22-year-old Moncada was sidelined by a bone contusion on his right shin. The Cuban infielder hit .188 with three homers and 11 RBIs in his first 30 games with the last-place White Sox.

"Just to do my job," Moncada said when asked about his goals for the rest of the season. "I don't want to change anything. I just want to keep doing what I'm doing and the results are going to be there."
The 20-year-old Jimenez, who played with Moncada on the World team for this year's All-Star Futures Game, finished his season with Double-A Birmingham, hitting .353 with three homers and seven RBIs in 18 games.

"I truly believe that I can be playing here right now," Jimenez said through an interpreter while sitting in the dugout at Guaranteed Rate Field. "Like I say, God's plan is perfect. The only thing I can do and handle is to work hard every day and try to do my best and try to learn about the game every day and put me in the best position to force them to make a decision. They are the ones who can have the power and in my case, in my mind, I'm ready. But I have to wait."

Jimenez finished with 19 homers, 65 RBIs and a .312 batting average in 89 games over three minor league stops. He said he plans to play winter league in his native Dominican Republic.

"He's very focused," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "I believe he has a desire to be one of the best. I know that's the way he talks. It's just about him maintaining the consistency and hopefully he'll be here soon."

Also Tuesday, the White Sox requested waivers on left-hander Derek Holland for the purpose of granting his unconditional release. Left-hander Jace Fry was promoted from Double-A Birmingham.

The 30-year-old Holland went 7-14 this season with a 6.20 ERA in 29 appearances (26 starts). The left-hander agreed to a $6 million, one-year contract with Chicago last December.

"With the young men coming up and him being here, it was going to cut into his usage," Renteria said. "Just basically that's what it was."

The 24-year-old Fry, a third-round pick in the 2014 draft, went 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA in 33 appearances with the Barons. He had Tommy John surgery twice on his way to the majors.

"I never doubted myself or anything," he said. "I knew there'd be tough times, setbacks, pain, whatever it took, but I never really doubted that I'd get to this point. If I ever really doubted myself, then I wouldn't be here right now."

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White Sox 9-4 for 13th straight win
By Jay Cohen / Associated Press | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO -- Jose Ramirez hit two more homers, Austin Jackson also connected and the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox 9-4 on Tuesday night for their 13th straight victory, the longest run by a major league team this season.

Danny Salazar got just two outs in his return from right elbow inflammation, but Cleveland's deep bullpen took over from there. Seven relievers combined for 8 1/3 scoreless innings as the Indians moved within one of their franchise-record 14-game win streak last year.

Jackson and Ramirez hit back-to-back homers during Cleveland's three-run first against David Holmberg (2-4). Ramirez added another solo shot in the second, and the AL Central leaders went ahead to stay on Greg Allen's tiebreaking, two-run double in the third. Yan Gomes tacked on a three-run shot in the ninth.

Ramirez has five homers in his last three games. He is batting .500 (17 for 34) with seven homers and nine RBIs on Cleveland's 11-game road trip.

Matt Davidson hit a three-run drive for last-place Chicago, which has dropped six of eight. Top prospect Yoan Moncada went 1 for 5 in his return from a bruised right shin.

Davidson's 24th homer chased Salazar and gave the White Sox a 4-3 lead in the first. It was the first time the Indians had trailed since they were down by one against the New York Yankees on Aug. 28.

Cleveland responded with Ramirez's 25th of the season and then a clutch hit by Allen in the third. With two outs and runners on first and second, Allen hit a liner into the corner in left to give the Indians a 6-4 lead.

Dan Otero (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. The White Sox put two on in the eighth, but Bryan Shaw struck out Yolmer Sanchez to end the inning.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Indians: 1B Carlos Santana was shaken up after he was hit on the right leg by a pitch from Carson Fulmer in the seventh, but stayed in the game. ... OF Jay Bruce (sore neck) was held out for the fourth straight game. With the White Sox sending a lefty to the mound, manager Terry Francona decided to give Bruce another day. ... LHP Andrew Miller (right knee patellar tendinitis) threw a side session Monday in Cleveland and is scheduled for another one on Wednesday. ... 2B Jason Kipnis (right hamstring strain) worked out with the team before the game. ... The Indians were awaiting clearance for OF Bradley Zimmer, who was going through the concussion protocol. He was expected to see a doctor right before the game.

White Sox: RHP James Shields got in a full workout and expects to make his next scheduled start after he was hit on the right knee by a line drive in the seventh inning of Chicago's 5-3 loss in the series opener. ... OF/INF Nicky Delmonico (sprained right wrist) was slated to take batting practice with the team. If he responds well, he could be activated in the next day or two. ... Minor league RHP Tyler Danish dislocated his left shoulder when he was involved in a car accident Monday night in Florida. He is expected to recover in seven to 10 days. ... Minor league RHP Dylan Cease, acquired from the Cubs in the Jose Quintana trade, was scratched from a playoff start with Class A Kannapolis because of shoulder fatigue. But he is expected to pitch in the instructional league this month.

UP NEXT

Indians right-hander Carlos Carrasco (13-6, 3.67 ERA) and White Sox right-hander Reynaldo Lopez (0-2, 6.06 ERA) square off when the four-game series resumes Wednesday night. Carrasco is 9-2 with a 2.88 ERA in 15 road starts this year. Lopez pitched six innings of three-run ball in a 3-1 loss to Tampa Bay on Friday in his first start since Aug. 17 after being sidelined by a strained back.

White Sox release veteran pitcher Derek Holland
By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald | September 5, 2017

With the White Sox in rebuild mode this season, Derek Holland had value in the clubhouse.

"One of the things we discussed was how he impacted us as a good teammate," manager Rick Renteria said. "A gentleman, a nice man to have around. He knew the game and impacted the other guys well, but it got to the point where he wasn't going to get the opportunities."

Holland had little or no value on the mound for the Sox since June 1, going 3-10 with a 9.32 ERA. Moved to the bullpen after another rough start at Minnesota last week, Holland was released by the White Sox on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old pitcher agreed to a one-year, $6 million contract with the Sox in December.

"He was grateful for the opportunity and he was happy he got through the season healthy, but he was disappointed he couldn't do more," Renteria said. "He wanted to come in and do better but with the guys we brought up they're going to be the ones taking up those innings."

Two of the Sox's top pitching prospects -- Lucas Giolito and Reynaldo Lopez -- are already in the starting rotation.

Holland made his first relief appearance of the season on Sunday, and the left-hander allowed 1 run on 1 hit and 1 walk in two-thirds of an inning.

"It's tough," Renteria said. "You want them to have success, to be who they have always been. It had been a struggle the last few outings. We hoped we could get some usage in the bullpen, it just wasn't showing what we needed. We wish him well."

Like Renteria, veteran White Sox starter James Shields raved about Holland's clubhouse presence.

"Derek was a great teammate," Shields said. "All of the guys liked him around here. He went out there every five days and pitched with his heart. The guy cared about baseball and is a tremendous human. It's always tough to lose a guy like that."

Jose Abreu is having a renaissance season, but where does he fit going forward?
By James Fegan / The Athletic | September 5, 2017

It's fair to wonder what Jose Abreu's legacy will be with the White Sox. Even the legacies of Paul Konerko and Mark Buehrle, who were as much of constant, everyday presences as any player could be in the modern era, are boiled down to big moments and playoff triumphs.
Abreu’s Cuban league numbers are just as preposterous today as they were when they seemed like a misprint from a foreign country four years ago (he hit .341/.456/.622 during a 10-year run that began when he was 16 years old) and his arduous trip to Chicago (which he says included eating a fake passport) feels like the beginning of a legend. But if those big, triumphant moments are the path to bobblehead days and video tributes, time will tell how we remember Abreu, who has met every expectation, but is at risk of seeing his prime stuffed in between competitive cycles on Chicago’s South Side.

Abreu’s best season is still his hellacious 2014 breakout campaign, when he hit .317/.383/.581 in a comparatively barren offensive environment. He was named American League Rookie of the Year and inspired a world of promise for the future of an Abreu-Chris Sale-Jose Quintana-Adam Eaton core that was still a year short of being expected to win anything. His second-best season is probably going to be this one, which has resigned him to serving as the stabilizing force on a team that’s looking at least two years ahead.

At age 30, Abreu is striking out less (17.7 percent) than ever before and on pace to breeze past 30 home runs for the third time in his career. He’s already set career highs in doubles and triples this season, and somehow he’s running faster than in previous seasons. His batting average, ISO and total WAR are all on a clear pace for the second-highest marks of his career, and he’ll probably set a new high in runs scored as well, for what it’s worth.

“You’ve got to understand it’s his fourth year in the league,” White Sox hitting coach Todd Steverson said. “He’s able to put together an understanding of who he is facing. He’s a great person when it comes to doing his homework on pitchers. He has enough history on pitchers now that teams have an idea of how they like to attack him.”

Abreu is private about his preparation process and even more private about any changes to it, but there’s been plenty of mention made about the notebook he keeps to jot down thoughts following his at-bats. That type of diligence rubs off on his teammates.

During the spring, interview-seeking media members knew that being told a certain player was “working with Abreu in the cages” meant that player would be delayed an extra half hour past everyone else. If there’s a sure path to how Abreu's 2017, and really his whole career will be memorialized, it’s the fairly uniform way his teammates describe what goes into his success.

“His work ethic,” shortstop Tim Anderson said. “He works hard in everything he does.”

“Oh you know, Jose...he’s unbelievable. He’s a guy that works hard. He deserves everything that he’s got,” second baseman Yoelmer Sanchez said. “He’s one of the best hitters in the game. He prepares himself really good. We just try to see what he’s doing and take him as an example. As a younger guy you try to see what he’s doing in the cage or in batting practice.”

“You guys know already,” right fielder Avisail Garcia said. “He works hard everyday, he never gives up in any at-bat. I mean, he’s a great hitter, man. Great hitters adjust right away. I mean, you guys know.”

Abreu refers to his down year in 2016 the way another player might refer to getting arrested, saying repeatedly that “it’s in the past” and that he’s moved beyond it. He revealed during the spring that he even had an entire family meeting about it. Now that he’s hitting like he expects to again, he’s deflecting all the credit. The key isn’t adjusting to pitchers busting him inside by looking to pull the ball for power more, Abreu said, it’s the support of his family and his teammates.

“Those factors, when you combine them you can create something unique and special to come here every day and try to do your best,” Abreu said through an interpreter, adding that his mother gets mad when he’s not in the lineup. “That’s why it’s working out for me.”

Steverson is clearly fond of Abreu, but doesn’t issue the same soaring endorsements that he might offer to the talent of Garcia or Anderson, because he doesn’t need to. He provides an extra pair of eyes for basic swing and approach maintenance, but Abreu arrived from Cuba as a self-correcting hitter already. When I asked if Abreu was perhaps the best hitter he’s ever worked with, Steverson quickly reminded me that he coached Albert Pujols in the minors, before digressing into one adjustment he would love to see Abreu make, but has not forced on him.

“He’s a swinger. He likes to swing,” prefaced Steverson, who, as someone who oversees the aggressive approaches of both Garcia and Anderson, understands how difficult it is to change a hitter's essential nature. “But if he happened to let them walk him more, his numbers might be way, way more ridiculous than they are now in terms of on-base percentage and batting average. But he’s our guy, and he’s never really been that guy.”
Their guy has worked hard to make the most out of his abilities, and has delivered a vintage season of spraying line drives all over the field. Abreu is a rare contact-oriented hitter for average who happens to drive the ball in a record year for home runs across the league.

He's pushed himself to take a leadership role to help the rebuilding effort during a time when immediate on-field accomplishments don't mean everything to the Sox. And as Abreu puts the finishing touches on his renaissance season, it leads one to wonder what he can do to extend his window with the franchise so that he's still a part of things when all the talent he's mentored is ready to bloom.

Could that mean walking more, and altering his approach for power when and if his bat speed finally starts to slow? As Garcia would say, "He never gives up."

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**Sox minors: Eloy Jimenez wakes up feeling ready to hit homers**

By James Fegan / The Athletic | September 5, 2017

Let's get the important part out of the way.

Asked about the video he shot with fellow White Sox prospect Ian Clarkin in Winston-Salem, in which he guaranteed a home run that he promptly delivered in the bottom of the eighth that same night, Eloy Jimenez cracked up laughing during his media session in Chicago on Tuesday.

"That's one of those things that just happened," Jimenez said, opting for an interpreter with a heap of television cameras in his face. "Sometimes I wake up in the morning and I feel very confident. I'm feeling good with my body and I say 'OK, I'm going to hit a home run tonight,' and it happens. I have that kind of confidence in myself."

Sure, but how often does he wake up feeling that way?

"It's kind of often," Jimenez said. "It's not just with homers. It's with hits, singles and it's just the way I feel about my game when I'm on the field."

Jimenez is the type of prospect any team with a finger on the pulse of its fan base would embrace. Dodgers fans captivated by a potentially historic season would still probably go ballistic about Jimenez — a potential franchise bat — even if the team would stop short of setting up a makeshift dais for him in the dugout just for the event of him throwing out a first pitch to Lucas Giolito. But the White Sox seemed particularly focused on the kids on Tuesday.

On this same day, the Sox released veteran and beloved clubhouse presence Derek Holland to make room for the major league debut of Jace Fry, who was called up directly from Double-A. Holland had already been moved out of the rotation to accommodate David Holmberg (who lasted three innings Tuesday) and likely Carson Fulmer as well.

Fry, a former third-round pick who converted to a reliever after his second Tommy John surgery, has the nasty lefty stuff deserving of the promotion (52 strikeouts in 45 1/3 innings with a 2.78 ERA with Birmingham), even if the move provides an unceremonious exit for Holland.

"It was different knowing that you don't have time to settle in," Fry, a college starter at Oregon State, said about his transition to the bullpen. "That was the biggest thing, you've got 10, 15 pitches to work with and you've got to be sharp. But as far as physically, I enjoy the bullpen because starting I'd break down, get hurt, get hurt again. I just think that the bullpen is a little bit better for my body."

The newly healthy rookie will be joined by a relatively healthy Yoan Moncada, who's going to be brought back slowly as he manages his recovery from shin splints. Also returning is Nicky Delmonico, who took full batting practice on Tuesday and will probably play on Wednesday, provided nothing funny happens before he's evaluated that morning. To his credit, Moncada gave the most honest answer about how long it will take him to get back into his rhythm: "I don't know."

While Jimenez and his boasts of being ready for the majors were obviously top billing, the Sox also held a conference call for the Low-A Kannapolis Intimidators. The Intimidators feature some of the organization's most highly touted prospects, including Jake Burger, Blake Rutherford, Dylan Cease and Gavin Sheets and are headed for the postseason after winning a first-half division title.

Cease and his huge stuff, however, will not be taking part in the playoffs. The Sox announced Tuesday that Cease was scratched from his scheduled Game 1 start with shoulder fatigue. They're calling it a precautionary issue, and still planning for Cease to pitch in the fall instructional league this month.
"He was impressive. He's got a special arm," 27-year-old Intimidators manager Justin Jirschele said of Cease. "Obviously he runs his fastball up there with some great off-speed pitches to go with it. He gets after it each and every day and he attacks the zone and goes right after hitters. It's fun to watch him every day."

Postseason bids at that level are awarded to first-half and second-half division winners, and it's a good thing, too, for the Intimidators' sake. Kannapolis' roster full of 2017 draft picks has been stuck in last place since the All-Star break, as Rutherford has struggled to a .213/.289/.254 line since being acquired from the Yankees. Minor league records don't indicate prospect strength, but it's been a battle for a while for some of the bats in the Sox's lower levels.

"Try to stay healthy, continuing to build," Rutherford said of his offseason improvement plans. "Just so I know that, going to next year, I know it's a long year and I don't want to be wearing down at the end of the year. I want to continue to build and get stronger. Just the mental side, making sure I'm prepared and making sure everything's aligned for a strong year next year."

Triple-A right-hander Tyler Danish, who made one start for the White Sox this season, was in an eight-vehicle pileup involving a semi truck while heading home to Tampa following the conclusion of the Charlotte Knights' season on Monday. The 22-year-old was taken to a Jacksonville hospital to be treated for a dislocated left shoulder (again, he's right-handed), and he has since been released. Tuesday, his Twitter feed became very focused on the importance of seat belts.

Even White Sox manager Rick Renteria admitted to taking some time to stare in awe at the White Sox's organizational depth chart recently, so it felt a little quaint to get an update on James Shields' badly bruised knee. But since Shields was strutting around chatting with Fry alongside a cadre of White Sox pitchers who were circled around Holland's vacated locker, it was only right to check on his shocking progress.

"I watched it a few times last night. It got me pretty good," Shields said, demonstrating a little bit of masochism. "I get hit like five-to-six times per year in my career. I've gotten hit in my right elbow, with the same kind of velocity. You never want to get hurt. Just thank God it didn't get any worse."

Shields keeps insisting he's going to make his next start, which seems incredible, and also goes against the bet I made on this site Monday when the injury happened. With Holland gone, the Sox certainly have reason to let him try to eat some innings for them. They'll probably be a bit more cautious with any bumps and bruises to Jimenez, who missed the early portions of this season with a bone bruise and will soon head back to the Dominican Republic to play winter ball.

"Then I start working on my body," Jimenez said, ending a review of his offseason plans. He's on the same workout schedule as all of us.

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By the numbers: Another White Sox prospect makes major league debut
By James Fegan / The Athletic | September 5, 2017

After both teams batted around in the first inning, the White Sox's 83rd loss of the season got a little light on highlights as Cleveland locked up its 13th-straight victory with a 9-4 triumph on Eloy Jimenez-Meets-the-Chicago-Media Day. David Holmberg's reintroduction to the starting rotation was brutally unceremonious, but it did open the window for some effective long relief from Carson Fulmer and the major league debut of Jace Fry. Jimenez threw out the first pitch, but it looked like he missed off the corner.

"They have a really good offense," Matt Davidson said of the AL Central leaders. "Everybody swings it and everybody's hot right now. I think that's kind of what they want as a playoff team going into September and October. We're just trying to give them the best that we've got and keep on going."

46 minutes: Duration of a first inning that featured seven runs, seven walks and just four hits between the two teams. Three pitchers were used in all as Cleveland pulled Danny Salazar, who's still recovering from an elbow injury, after just two outs. A big three-run Davidson homer to center erased the Indians' early 3-0 lead, which was built during a 38-pitch inning from Holmberg, who walked the bases loaded twice and allowed back-to-back home runs to Austin Jackson and Jose Ramirez.

"You're all gamers for being here this late," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said to the assembled press after the three-hour, 43-minute affair. "Obviously they got to Holmy early and [Mike Pelfrey] came in and kind of settled them down a bit. Fulmer did a nice job working out of some traffic. Fry actually was looking OK until the last walk, and then obviously with Beck, he came in and gave up the homer."
19.80: Holmberg's FIP Tuesday after allowing six earned runs in three innings. The FIP formula, which measures a pitcher’s run prevention independent of balls in play, hates home runs and walks, and Holmberg had a heavy dose of each as he reached 70 pitches pretty quickly.

102.8 mph: Exit velocity on Davidson’s three-run homer to dead center, which, off the bat, sounded like it might land on the concourse. It was Davidson's 24th home run of the season, but he wasn’t able to do his normal home run celebration in the dugout because Derek Holland, who was released by the team Tuesday, wasn’t there.

"Definitely I've shown some success but definitely feel like I have a lot more to improve on that," Davidson said. "I'm glad to put some numbers up."

3: Home runs hit by Ramirez this series after he launched a pair off Holmberg in the first two innings. He now has five homers in his past three games and 10 extra-base hits in his past five.

13: Walks this season for Tim Anderson, equaling the total from his rookie campaign. Nick Goody, Cleveland’s second pitcher of the first inning, issued back-to-back free passes to Anderson and Rymer Liriano, who has two major league walks in the past three years. Anderson added two singles to record his third-straight multi-hit game.

"His approach has been better," Renteria said. "I think as we've continued he's just getting more and more comfortable at the plate, and that happens. Fortunately for him and for us he continues to get back on track, and it's nice to see that."

2 2/3 innings: Despite being tasked with coming in to face a red-hot Ramirez with the bases loaded in the sixth, Fulmer managed to last 2 2/3 innings without surrendering a run, tying the longest scoreless outing of his career. Lacking much control of his secondaries, Fulmer pumped fastballs and got Ramirez to pop out on a 3-1 count, an M.O. he utilized for two more largely uneventful innings. Fulmer later nailed Carlos Santana with a two-seamer, walked Francisco Lindor, and was saved by Avisail Garcia making a sprinting catch while crashing into the fence in right-center, but he got through it all unscathed.

"I was talking about it with [pitching coach Don Cooper] on the bench," Renteria said, "What do you go with here? Of the guys that we had available to us, Fulmer's got some life to his pitches, and it was basically what happened, he kind of beat him enough to induce that fly ball. It ended up working out in that particular situation, and he got through a couple other jams, too. He's getting a feel, trying to get comfortable, just trying to be himself and pitch."

1: Career appearances for Fry, who allowed a single off the wall to Santana on his first pitch. He got a line-out from the next batter, Giovanny Urshela and walked Lonnie Chisenhall, before Chris Beck came in and served up a three-run homer to Yan Gomes, causing Fry's ERA to skyrocket to 54.00. But for Fry, who's undergone a pair of Tommy John surgeries in the past five years, the important thing is that he's healthy.

"It was awesome to get in the game," Fry said. "Obviously the outcome wasn’t what I wanted. But it was still awesome to get in there in front of my family and everyone here. It was a dream come true."

8: Pitchers used by Cleveland over the course of the night, as the useful loophole of expanded rosters at the end of a long season quickly becomes an instrument of torture at the hands of malevolent genius Terry Francona. His endless cadre of relievers went un-scored upon Tuesday.

Eloy Jimenez hits like a star and talks like one too
By James Fegan / The Athletic | September 6, 2017

Eloy Jimenez’s words read a lot more arrogant than they sound coming out of his mouth, often through sheepish giggling. That he's a little bit embarrassed to talk about how and why he’s going to be the best doesn't make it any less true.

“I truly believe that I can be playing here right now,” Jimenez said. “Like I say, God's plan is perfect. The only thing I can do and handle is to work hard every day and try to do my best and try to learn about the game every day and put me in the best position to force them to make a decision. They are the ones who can have the power and in my case, in my mind, I'm ready. But I have to wait.”

He probably could hack it up here just fine, to be perfectly honest. If he's really the superstar that he looks like and carries himself like, he probably has the same sort of preternatural ability to adjust to the level of competition that all the great hitters in history have possessed. The White Sox have no reason to risk overloading Jimenez or starting his clock yet, but they did host him for a visit on Tuesday to help him get acquainted to the big league environment, and it was clear he left an impression.
“He’s a good ballplayer,” Jimenez’s former Birmingham teammate, Jace Fry, said. “He’s young and he’s big. Seeing his power and the way he can swing the bat at 20, 21 years old is impressive.”

Jimenez obliterated Double-A pitching in his tiny 18-game look, hitting .353/.397/.559 with three home runs after posting similarly absurd numbers at High-A Winston-Salem (.345/.410/.682 with eight home runs in 29 games). He’s going to be walked to avoid his power more than he’s going to walk himself, and he showed a bit of the slugger swing-and-miss in his taste of Double-A. But any concerns are wiped away by the fact that he’s conquering advanced levels at an extremely young age and is as precocious as he is objectively impressive.

To make an unfair comparison, outfielder Blake Rutherford had a rough end to his season in Low-A Kannapolis. He’s spoken clearly and honestly about the adjustment to the rigors of a full professional season, and is planning on spending the offseason building up strength and stamina for next year. He’ll likely enter the year a consensus top-100 prospect because his talent is still highly regarded and he’s moving along at a reasonable pace for his age and his draft class. He’s six months younger than Jimenez.

It’s because of all this, and because league scouts believe Jimenez can regularly live in the world of .280 with 30 home runs or more with league-leading power numbers at his peak, that his captivating personality is relevant, not the other way around. But you can forgive yourself for being struck by his confidence.

“I want to be the best player on the field every time I go out,” Jimenez said. “That’s why I’m working hard. I don’t want to be just another player. I want to be the best player.”

Yoan Moncada is a marketable face with a kinetic style of play. Lucas Giolito and Reynaldo Lopez are thoughtful players who can communicate what is behind their success articulately. Nicky Delmonico is warm and his turnaround story is inspiring. But Jimenez is magnetic, the rare player with the big-time charisma to match his talent, who can be the figurehead of the new wave of the rebuild and a unifying force in the clubhouse in one fell swoop. His arrival would instantly give the Sox a compelling bat, but also signal a new face of the franchise and the true beginning of a period when the team will be headed up by the prospects everyone was promised rather than the veterans keeping the lights on until they arrive. So yes, it’s fair to expect White Sox manager Rick Renteria to get pressed about how soon Jimenez gets called up from now until the moment it happens.

“I think his skill set is evident,” Renteria said when asked what was the holdup. “I think obviously, every level brings its own challenges, even coming to the big leagues will bring its own challenges. But I think if he continues to maintain the consistency in which he’s going about doing what he’s doing, there’s no reason why he’s not going to continue to want to push that door open as soon as possible.”

Levine: Eloy Jimenez Believes He’s Ready To Play For White Sox
By Bruce Levine / CBS Chicago | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO (CBS) — The man is ready for big league baseball.

That’s what 20-year-old White Sox outfielder prospect Eloy Jimenez emphasized Tuesday as he met with the media before the scheduled game between the White Sox and Cleveland Indians at Guaranteed Rate Field.

The centerpiece of the blockbuster trade that sent Jose Quintana to the Cubs in mid-July, Jimenez has dominated at two levels in 2017. He hit .312 with 19 home runs and 65 RBIs in time split between Class-A and Double-A. Throw in a .947 OPS, and you have one of the most interesting prospects in the game.

“Yes, I want to be the best,” Jimenez said. “I want to be the best player on the field. I work hard at it. I don’t want to be just another player. I want to be the best player.”

The White Sox moved Jimenez up to Double-A Birmingham in August. In 18 games there, he hit .353. The team will most likely start him in Double-A again in 2018, and Jimenez will also go to the Dominican Republic for winter ball before spring training begins next February.

“I like to have fun when I play,” Jimenez said. “I have learned to slow it down a little this year. This is a game, though, and you must enjoy it.”

The White Sox are licking their chops in anticipation of Jimenez’s ascension to the majors.
“Meeting with all of you and coming to Chicago where they hope to play is valuable for him,” manager Rick Renteria said. “He was all smiles in the clubhouse with all the guys. He is a pretty articulate young man. He speaks both English and Spanish. We saw a nice demeanor. He is pretty calm and pretty even-keeled.”

White Sox coaches and players, including infielder Yoan Moncada, gave Jimenez a lot of attention Tuesday. Just two years older than Jimenez, Moncada looks to the future and what may be an explosive lineup built around the two Cuban natives.

“I met him two years ago in the Futures Game and then we played together again in it this year,” Moncada said. “We haven’t talked a lot, but I am hoping for him and I and the organization that we are here together playing for a long time.”

As for Jimenez, he believes he’s ready to play in Chicago. The White Sox believe Jimenez is nearly big league ready, with just another few months in the minors for more development.

“I truly believe I could be playing here right now,” he said confidently. “All I can do is work hard every day and try to learn more about the game. That will put me in the position to force (the front office) to make a decision.”

White Sox activate Yoan Moncada from 10-day DL, set to release Derek Holland
By ESPN.com News and Services | September 5, 2017

CHICAGO -- The Chicago White Sox have activated infielder Yoan Moncada from the 10-day disabled list and requested waivers on left-hander Derek Holland for the purpose of granting his unconditional release.

The White Sox also promoted left-hander Jace Fry from Double-A Birmingham before Tuesday night's game against Cleveland.

Moncada, who is widely regarded as one of baseball's top prospects, was sidelined by a bone contusion on his right shin. The Cuban infielder is batting .188 with three homers and 11 RBIs in 30 games with the White Sox.

"Just to do my job," Moncada said when asked about his goals for the rest of the season. "I don't want to change anything. I just want to keep doing what I'm doing, and the results are going to be there."

The 30-year-old Holland went 7-14 this season with a 6.20 ERA in 29 appearances (26 starts). The left-hander agreed to a $6 million, one-year contract with Chicago in December.

"With the young men coming up and him being here, it was going to cut into his usage," Renteria said. "Just basically, that's what it was."

The 24-year-old Fry, a third-round pick in the 2014 draft, went 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA in 33 appearances with the Barons. He had Tommy John surgery twice on his way to the majors.

"I never doubted myself or anything," Fry said. "I knew there'd be tough times, setbacks, pain, whatever it took, but I never really doubted that I'd get to this point. If I ever really doubted myself, then I wouldn't be here right now."

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report