

Tigers lose two more starters to injury

By the Associated Press

DETROIT -- The injuries to Magglio Ordonez and Carlos Guillen added to a disastrous week for the Detroit Tigers.

Ordonez fractured his right ankle sliding into home plate in the third inning of Saturday night's 3-2 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays and Guillen strained his right calf two innings later, raising to three the number of starters Detroit has lost in six days.

Third baseman Brandon Inge, whom Ordonez and Guillen joined on the 15-day disabled list Sunday, broke a bone in his left hand Monday when he was hit by a pitch against the Texas Rangers. Ordonez is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

The Tigers, who went into Sunday's day-night doubleheader against Toronto third in the AL Central 2½ games back behind the Chicago White Sox, will be playing without their regular right fielder,

second baseman and third baseman.

Ordonez batted third in the order, Guillen was sixth and Inge seventh.

"We just have to go out and play. That's the bottom line," outfielder Johnny Damon said before Sunday's game against Toronto. "We know we're missing two of our big guys. We just have to deal with it."

Detroit filled Ordonez and Guillen's spots by purchasing the contracts of first baseman-third baseman Jeff Larish and infielder Will Rhymes from Triple-A Toledo.

Tigers' manager Jim Leyland acknowledged that the team would miss Ordonez (.304, 12 home runs and 59 RBI), Guillen (.280, five homers and 30 RBI) and Inge (.263, six HR and 40 RBI), but didn't lower expectations for his team.

"There's going to be no excuses here," he said.

"There's going to be a lot of energy. Plus the veteran leadership with (Miguel) Cabrera,

Damon and guys like that. And we'll still be OK if we pitch."

The 36-year-old outfielder is in the last year of his contract, but only needed 135 starts or 540 plate appearances this season or a total of 270 starts and 1,080 plate appearances combined for the 2009 and 2010 seasons for his contract to be renewed for \$15 million for 2011.

He was on track for both numbers — he's at 207 starts and 883 plate appearances for 2009 and 2010 — but the injury will make it difficult to reach the renewal figures.

"We're going to play our (butts) off and we're going to play hard," Leyland said. "I'm going to have to manage better and we're going to have to do things differently. But that's OK."

The Tigers created room for Larish and Rhymes on the 40-man roster by releasing right-handed pitcher Billy Buckner and designated the contract of right-handed pitcher Casey Fien for assignment.



Kirithmon F. Dozier/Associated Press

Magglio Ordonez (center) is helped off the field after breaking his ankle.

IRELAND'S WORST NIGHTMARE



Mel Evans/Associated Press

New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry sprints past Manchester City's Stephen Ireland on Sunday. The Red Bulls won 2-1 in Henry's second game in New York after joining the MLS side last week.

Mariners rally late to top Sox

By Tim Booth
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEATTLE — Michael Saunders lined a two-run single off Boston reliever Hideki Okajima in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Seattle the lead, Milton Bradley's squeeze bunt added another run, and the Mariners rallied for a 4-2 win over the Red Sox on Sunday.

The Mariners' unlikely rally salvaged a split of the four-game series and sent Boston into the final stage of its 10-game West Coast trip now eight games behind the New York Yankees in the American League East.

Seattle's rally started innocently enough with singles by Jose Lopez and Justin Smoak. After Casey Kotchman's bunt was botched by Okajima, Saunders followed by slapping a 1-2 pitch into right field to score Lopez and Smoak, with third-base coach Lee Tinsley chasing Smoak almost to the dirt circle around home plate to get the lead run across.

The Mariners only tacked on from there. Bradley, pinch-hitting, followed Saunders with a squeeze bunt for a base hit that scored Kotchman. Jack Wilson faked a bunt and smacked a single into right to reload the bases, but the rally ended there after Ichiro Suzuki grounded into a double play and Chone Figgins struck out.

Okajima (3-3) gave up two runs and five hits.

One of the runs in the inning was charged to Daniel Bard, who allowed Lopez's single.

It was the second straight day Saunders came up with a game-changing hit. A night earlier, Saunders broke up Jon Lester's no-hit bid with a two-run homer in the sixth inning of Seattle's 5-1 victory.

The young left-fielder is hitting .309 over his last 19 games.

Seattle's rally ruined a strong effort by Boston starter Daisuke Matsuzaka, who struggled with major control problems early before settling down to be in line for his third straight win.

Matsuzaka was wild early, at one point in the third inning already over 60 pitches and with an equal number of strikes and balls. But the Japanese righty settled down and retired 10 of the final 11 batters he faced. After Matsuzaka escaped a bases loaded jam in the fourth, he started rolling, setting down the Mariners in order in the fourth, then allowed one base runner in the fifth that was left at second base.

But his high pitch count early forced Matsuzaka out after six innings and Seattle took advantage of Boston's bullpen. Matsuzaka allowed just one run and four hits, but was hampered by five walks.

He struck out four. Chris Seddon worked 2 2-3 perfect innings of relief for Seattle, but it was Brandon League (8-6) getting the win after he struck out Kevin Youkilis for the final out of the eighth inning. David Aardsma pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 22 chances.

Doug Fister pitched well for Seattle, but wasn't helped by his own control problems that saw him leave after five innings. After starting the season 3-1, Fister appeared in line for his sixth straight loss before Seattle's offense rallied.

Giants sweep D-backs behind Posey's two doubles

By John Marshall
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHOENIX — Buster Posey had four hits to extend his hitting streak to 18 games and Travis Ishikawa drove him in with a run-scoring single in the 10th inning, helping the San Francisco Giants beat the Diamondbacks 3-2 on Sunday to complete their first four-game sweep in Arizona in nine years.

The Diamondbacks, who traded All-Star right-hander Dan Haren during the game to the Los Angeles Angels for three pitchers and a player to be named, had

runners on the corners in the ninth, but Sergio Romo (3-3) struck out Cole Gillespie and Chris Young.

Posey started the winning rally with a double, setting up Ishikawa's single off Esmerling Vasquez (1-3) that easily scored pinch-runner Eli Whiteside and gave the Giants their first four-game sweep in Arizona since July 26-29, 2001.

Posey also drove in two runs and passed Orlando Cepeda for the second-longest hitting streak by a Giants rookie, leaving him four behind Willie McCovey's 1959 record.

Brian Wilson pitched a perfect 10th for his 29th save in 31 chances.

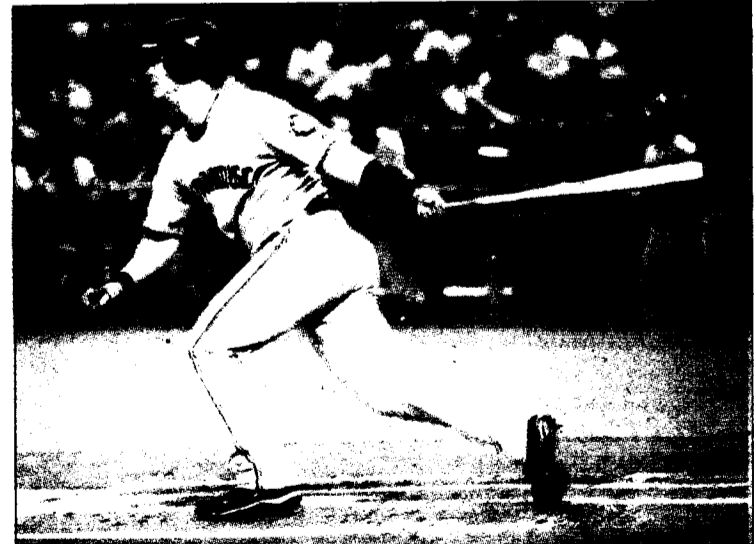
Justin Upton had three hits to extend his hitting streak to 12

games for Arizona, which had runners on third with one out in the eighth and ninth innings but couldn't score.

Starter Tim Lincecum made a similar escape in the eighth, getting Adam LaRoche to hit a too-shallow fly to left and a double play when Juan Uribe snared Miguel Montero's liner and doubled off Justin Upton at first.

The player the two-time NL Cy Young winner had the most trouble with was Diamondbacks pitcher Barry Enright, who had one career hit before Sunday. The rookie knocked San Francisco's ace for a two-run double for his first extra-base hit and added a single in the fifth.

Lincecum was good against everyone else, wriggling out of the jam in the eighth.



Matt York/Associated Press

Buster Posey hits one of his two doubles on Sunday. Posey had four hits.

Pitching fails White Sox again as road trip ends in Oakland

By Janie McCauley
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

OAKLAND -- Dallas Braden won for the first time in 10 starts since his perfect game May 9, ending a five-game losing streak in the Oakland Athletics' 6-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday.

Kurt Suzuki drove in three runs two days after receiving a \$16 million, four-year contract, and

Daric Barton hit a two-run single in the second before Suzuki followed with one of his own. Suzuki added another RBI single in the fourth.

Paul Konerko gave Chicago an early lead on an RBI double with two outs in the first. After that, Braden (5-7) retired 13 of the next 14 White Sox hitters. This was the lefty's second start since coming off the disabled list July 20 following a bout with tightness in his throwing elbow.

Braden left in the seventh to a rousing standing ovation, the A's well on their way to a fourth win in five games and ninth in 11.

The nine consecutive starts without a victory after a no-hitter was the longest such streak in major league history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Chicago's Mark Buehrle — who beat the A's here Friday night — went eight outings without a win last year after his perfect game on July 23, 2009.

Braden showed improved command of his pitches and seemed unfazed when he fell behind early. The offense quickly provided him everything he needed to finally get back in the win column.

Oakland captured its fourth straight series and third since the

All-Star break, winning its seventh consecutive day game. The A's relied on small ball a day after hitting three home runs in a 10-2 win.

They added another run on reliever Erick Threets' wild throw past first trying to pick off a stealing Coco Crisp at first base. Crisp was credited with a stolen base, then easily scored on the two-base error.

Braden allowed two of his five hits in the seventh, giving way to Brad Ziegler. Braden struck out five and walked two in 6 1-3 innings.

The White Sox got three straight RBI singles in the sev-

enth, from Juan Pierre, Alexei Ramirez and Alex Rios.

Michael Wuertz finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save. A's closer Andrew Bailey, the reigning AL Rookie of the Year, was unavailable for the second straight game because of back spasms.

Daniel Hudson (1-1) struggled in his third start since being called up from Triple-A Charlotte on July 11. After winning at Seattle on Monday and going a career-best 6 2-3 innings, he was done after throwing 108 pitches in five innings. Hudson allowed five runs, struck out four and walked four.