

Reds shut out Pirates

By Alan Robinson
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Reds rookie Travis Wood shut out the Pirates on two singles over seven innings, fill-in first baseman Miguel Cairo drove in two runs and the Cincinnati Reds stayed hot, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-0 on Monday night.

Cincinnati

Pittsburgh

Russ Springer, the 41-year-old right-hander brought up from the minors earlier in the day, and Arthur Rhodes, the 40-year-old first-time All-Star, pitched an inning each to complete the combined three-hitter — Cincinnati's seventh shutout and fifth victory in six games.

The Reds began the night one-half game behind NL Central leader St. Louis, which played

Houston on Monday night. Chris Heisey finished off the Reds' seventh victory in their last eight against Pittsburgh with an inside-the-park home run in the eighth inning.

Heisey's line drive over the head of shortstop Ronny Cedeno found the left-center gap and was misplayed by center fielder Andrew McCutchen, who wasn't given an error despite permitting the ball to roll to the wall. Heisey beat the relay throw to the plate standing up for his seventh homer. The Pirates, on pace for their record-extending 18th consecutive losing season and their first 100-loss season since 2001, have been outscored 34-5 while losing their last five. They have scored two runs in their last four, with the Cardinals outscoring them 21-2 during a three-game weekend sweep.

Three of those losses were to some of the NL's top pitchers — Ubaldo Jimenez, Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter

— but the left-handed Wood (2-1) had made only six previous career starts, winning once. His first career victory was a 10-2 decision over Milwaukee on Wednesday, when he lasted five innings.

Wood was in control from the start before a smallish crowd of 15,172 in PNC Park, never allowing a runner past second base while giving up only singles by Neil Walker in the first and Lastings Milledge in the fifth. He struck out four and walked one, lowering his ERA to 2.87 to 2.42.

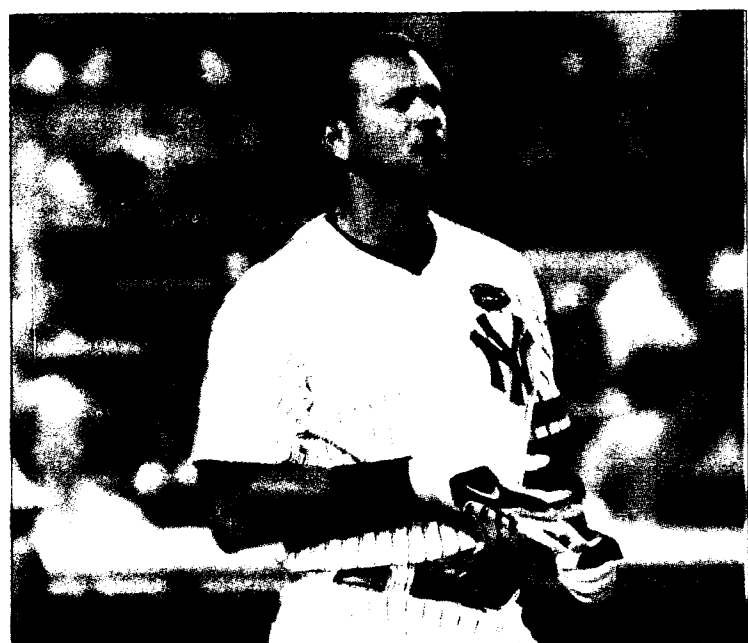
Pirates starter Ross Ohlendorf (1-9) withstood being struck by a line drive in the first inning for the second straight game, but was troubled by wildness. He walked four and hit a batter over five innings, with walks to Brandon Phillips and Orlando Cabrera setting up Cairo's run-scoring single.

Cairo, filling in for NL RBIs leader Joey Votto, also had a sacrifice fly in the fourth after Phillips singled and stole second.



Gene J. Puskar/AP

Chris Snyder readies for his first at-bat since being traded to Pittsburgh



Kathy Willens/AP

Alex Rodriguez reacts after striking out against Toronto Monday.

Rodriguez remains at 599

By Howie Rumberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK -- Travis Snider hit two of an AL record-tying six doubles in a seven-run fifth inning and the Toronto Blue Jays prolonged Alex Rodriguez's search for his 600th homer in a 8-6 victory over the New York Yankees on Monday night.

Snider began the barrage of doubles with a leadoff hit against A.J. Burnett and finished it with a drive off Sergio Mitre. In between, Fred Lewis, Jose Bautista, Vernon Wells and Aaron Hill all doubled off Burnett (9-9).

The power surge matched the Washington Senators, who had six against the Boston Red Sox in the eighth inning on June 9, 1934, and

the Texas Rangers on July 31, 2002, against the Yankees.

The Yankees rallied from an 8-2 deficit but fell into a tie for first place in the AL East with Tampa Bay, which beat the Minnesota Twins 4-2. New York dropped two of three games this weekend against the Rays. The Yankees had been alone in first since June 20.

Rodriguez returned to the comforts of Yankee Stadium after a homerless, seven-game road trip, but 600 still looms after an 0-for-5 night.

A-Rod is 9 for 43 in 11 games since hitting No. 599 on July 22 against Kansas City.

He grounded to short in the first and struck out with a big swing in the third — when he worked the

count to 3-1, the crowd roared in excitement only to the disapproval of the out. The slugger struck out to end the fifth and grounded out to shortstop in the seventh.

Rodriguez came up with two outs in the ninth to a huge ovation from the many remaining in the crowd of 47,034.

But he grounded to shortstop again closer Greg Gortgo who gave up Nick Swisher's second homer of the game but finished for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Swisher had given the Yankees the early lead, connecting for a two-run homer in the first after Derek Jeter singled.

Mark Teixeira hit a two-run blast in the fifth to close the score to 8-4.

Receivers

From Page 6.

the depth chart at tight end. Szczurba, a redshirt junior, played in 11 games but last only one pass for six yards last season.

Despite the receiving corps losing A.J. Price and Levi Norwood this offseason, the depth at wide-out shouldn't be affected much.

Price asked to be released from his scholarship and Norwood transferred to Baylor, where his father Brian Norwood is the defensive coordinator.

The Nittany Lions' fourth-leading receiver in 2009, Chaz Powell, moved to the defensive backfield in the spring, and he seems to be a fixture there. According to the media guide depth chart, he's sec-

ond behind sophomore Stephon Morris in one of the cornerback slots.

But even with Powell's move to the defense, receiving is one of the deepest positions for the Lions this upcoming season.

The receivers should provide a solid support system for whoever starts under center.

"I think we have plenty of kids that can play there — different roles, different situations, and I think it'll be a nice thing for the quarterbacks," said wide receivers coach Mike McQueary at a May event in Hershey. "It's always nice for the quarterback to have a couple guys around him that have had some experience and made some catches."

To e-mail reporter: bjm5146@psu.edu

Delany

From Page 6.

said. "I'm sure if you gave people this opportunity to look at these three principles and then divide up, you could probably get 10, 12, 15, 20 [outcomes]."

Delany also said he would like to expand the Big Ten schedule to nine games, meaning a fifth conference road game every other year, a move that results in the loss of at least one home game — perhaps two in the year a road nonconference matchup is scheduled — a blow for self-supporting athletic departments, such as Penn State's.

"I think to play each other more is what our fans want, and I think that's what the athletes

want," he said. "To be honest with you, the nonconference schedules that we've seen develop as we've added a 12th member have not been good for the fan base nor have they necessarily been embraced by the players. I think players want to compete. And I think fans want to see good competition."

That matchup would take away from an early season home game, as the Nittany Lions had all four nonconference contests at Happy Valley last season and will have three this season.

The extra road game coupled with a neutral-site conference title game could also make the road to the national title more difficult for a Big Ten team, who would also have to play a neutral

site title game in December.

As for where that conference title game would be held, Delany said he would spend the next few months evaluating options. Indianapolis, Green Bay, Chicago and Detroit are among the cities that have expressed interest in hosting the game.

It is likely, Delany said, the league will sign a one-year deal with a venue before looking long term after that because it's not logistically possible to visit six venues in the time frame Delany wants this done by.

It's been an eventful offseason for the Big Ten, and Delany said he hopes to have some of the lingering questions cleared up in the next month or so.

To e-mail reporter: ajc5238@psu.edu

Nebraska

From Page 6.

One answer Paterno said he doesn't have, however, is how to split up the two divisions, saying "I'm glad I don't have to make that decision."

He also hasn't thought much about playing in the same division as the conference's newest addition, Nebraska, or a potential rivalry game. But he did praise the conference for adding the Cornhuskers.

"We had played Nebraska before we got into the Big Ten, and I had some great, great games with them," Paterno said. "I have tremendous amount of respect for not only [athletic director] Tom [Osborne], but the University of Nebraska. So I think it's a really good addition to the Big Ten."

The Nittany Lions currently play Michigan State in their final regular season game for the Land Grant Trophy and Spartans coach Mark Dantonio talked Monday about the importance of keeping rivalries and traditions.

But Dantonio also said he wasn't sure divisions mattered much in terms of keeping rivalries alive because of cross-sectional games needed to fill the schedule.

There has solely been speculation about a Penn State-Nebraska rivalry game, but Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema was adamant Monday he would like to play the Cornhuskers in a yearly season-ending contest. Once the expansion was made official, Bielema said he texted Big Ten Associate Commissioner Mark Rudner asking for it. He also tweeted he wanted the Huskers at year's end.

"If Nebraska is coming to our

league, it would be neat to have them maybe as an end of season rivalry game," Bielema said. "Because we don't have that currently."

Notes

— Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor was voted preseason conference player of the year by media members, while Michigan State linebacker Greg Jones took home the honors on the defensive side of the ball.

Both players took home the preseason honors last year, as well.

— The Buckeyes were picked to finish first in the Big Ten, followed by Iowa and Wisconsin. Penn State was not included as the league only announces its top-three teams.

To e-mail reporter: ajc5238@psu.edu

Spikes

From Page 6.

want to keep the score the same and let them get a chance to get the bats going," he said.

The Spikes finally got on the board in the sixth. Second baseman Gift Ngoepe knocked in a run on a sacrifice fly, and center fielder Mel Rojas Jr. hit an RBI single to make it 6-2.

That would be the closest they would get, though, as the Jammers would add five runs in the seventh and eighth innings.

State College added a run in the eighth inning. Lyles led off the frame against left-hander Zachary Robinson, who had just entered the game.

"I was the leadoff guy just looking for something over the

plate," Lyles said of his first-pitch home run.

"I figured he'd throw a fast-ball, you know, to get going with the lead they had. He left one over the plate and I was able to get some barrel on it."

The Spikes finish off their four-game road trip at 7:05 tonight against Jamestown before returning to Medlar Field at Lubrano Park for a six-game homestand, which begins Wednesday.

"We had a good meeting tonight after the game," Decker said.

"Jamestown's one of the top teams in our division, and the second part of the season we got a lot of games with the top teams. It's a good time to get on a good run and make a run at it."

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu

Preseason

From Page 6.

the season means the Lions will have to come together fast if they want to be in form when Big Ten

play begins. Walsh knows the pressure is on the players and especially the captains to bring the team together quickly.

"If they can get a hold of this team and get them to understand accountability and reliability then

there's plenty of talent within this group to be successful this fall," Walsh said.

"But so much of it with only two seasons is going to rely on the leadership of our captains and our upperclassmen."



Collegian File Photo

Maddy Evans (19), Lexi Marton (center) and Carly Ninness (21) converge on an Illinois attacker last season.

With Naehner's departure, the Lions must field a new goalkeeper for the first time in Walsh's tenure. Krissy Tribbett and Kristen Hartmann, both redshirt sophomores, will look to take over for the three-time All-American in net.

Walsh said she expects the battle to be heated because both keepers have been preparing for two years for this.

Aside from goalkeeper, the defensive midfield position will be critical to the team's success this year.

Hayes also helped prepare the players that would contend for her position.

Sophomore midfielder Maddy Evans pointed to the depth of central midfielders including herself, juniors Ali Schaefer and Bri Garcia, redshirt junior Megan Gill and freshman Taylor Schram as players that could contribute.

"We have a lot of great players who can play in the middle and if we put us all together, I know I can learn from all the players kind of contending for that spot," Evans said.

"I think we can all learn a lot from each other and it's going to

be up in the air but I think we all can definitely contribute."

One area the Lions will be bolstered in is the wide midfield position. Junior Jess Rosenbluth is the most experienced outside midfielder, but is more of a central mid by nature.

Incoming freshman Emily Hurd, a left-footed player, is a natural winger and fellow freshman Maya Hayes is versatile enough to play up top or out wide.

Along the backline, which returns Thomson, Monroig and sophomore Lexi Marton, junior Carly Ninness will stay as a defender after making the transition last spring. Though questions remain heading into preseason, the Lions have plenty of depth to experiment with throughout August and September.

"I'm just beyond excited for the season," Evans said.

"From people I've talked to, we have a great mindset going in, everyone is really excited for the season, really motivated and really excited to get back. We want to get further than last year and I think we can really do well this year."

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu