

McCutchen's strong outing lifts Pirates over Cards

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ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PITTSBURGH -- Daniel McCutchen pitched six shutout innings for his third victory as a major league starter, Neil Walker tripled with the bases loaded and the Pittsburgh Pirates dealt the St. Louis Cardinals another damaging loss by winning 5-2 on Wednesday night.

Dropping their fourth consecutive series against a losing-record team, the Cardinals fell 3½ games behind Cincinnati in the NL Central. St. Louis also remained a game back in the NL wild card race.

The Pirates, on pace to lose more than 100 games, had lost 15 before beating St. Louis on successive nights. Walker, a rookie batting .325 since July 17, also

drove in three runs as Pittsburgh won 4-3 on Tuesday.

Walker's triple in the third came after Jake Westbrook (1-2) got into trouble by hitting Chris Snyder with a pitch and Andrew McCutchen beat out an infield single. Jose Tabata, another rookie, made it 4-0 an inning later with an RBI single, his sixth hit of the three-game series.

The Cardinals have fallen into an unusual pattern since the All-

Star break: They beat good teams but lose to mediocre or bad ones. They are 12-2 against top clubs but 9-13 against teams that are .500 or own losing records. This month alone, they have dropped series to the Astros, Cubs, Brewers and Pirates.

McCutchen (2-5) wasn't supposed to oppose St. Louis, but found out Tuesday night that scheduled starter Jeff Karstens was being skipped due to arm

fatigue. The right-hander responded with the best of his 14 career starts, striking out five and walking two, while giving up three hits.

The Cardinals never advanced a runner past second against McCutchen, who pitched with multiple runners on base only once.

Garrett Jones hit his 19th homer, a solo drive in the Pirates eighth against Blake Hawksworth.

Volleyball

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In practice have made the decision of who to play and who to redshirt a tough one for the Penn State coach.

"The problem is one day one's good and the next day somebody else is good," Rose said of the newcomers.

"I think young players, you recruit them for their potential but in the end, you evaluate them

in how they work with others."

Preseason practices have given Rose an opportunity to see what kind of chemistry the players have while performing drills and scrimmaging.

Junior Katie Kabbes said the returning players and freshmen are all getting along well, which helps when they need to help each other out on the court.

Kabbes — a captain on this season's team — said an increase in communication has been necessary at practice.

The junior outside hitter said there's been a lot more talking between upperclassmen and underclassmen than in past seasons.

Freshman setter Mikinzie Moydell said inexperience has made it tough to adjust, but she's getting a lot of support from all her teammates. Even with the newcomers adjusting to practice on the fly, D'Errico said the team isn't slowing down.

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Quarterbacks

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started playing football, Newsome thrives on the pressure.

"He's just a nice, easy-going personality," Kevin Sr. said. "He can be in a competition with someone and still, in a way, be kind of helpful. He's easy to work with, I'll put it that way."

Add Bolden to the competition, and the Lions understand why

this year's starting position is taking an extended amount of time to decide.

But whether or not Paterno decides to wait until the week of the game, like he did in 2008 with Daryll Clark and Pat Devlin, the quarterback are just worried about taking steps in the right direction. "We're all going to be the best that we can become," Newsome said. "From there, Coach Joe will choose us."

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Hertzog

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impressive start to finish, his body control when he received the ball and his finesse and his control around the ball."

Hertzog wasn't lost on him as the clock wound down.

"[Burke] said before the game we needed a win or a tie to get our seed in the division," Hertzog said. "It was just a great ball and I put it in the back of the net."

While Penn State's season has yet to officially begin, Hertzog's teammates have seen a determined forward.

Defenders Andres Casais and Andy Parr said it's difficult to defend Hertzog in training because of how well-rounded the forward's game is.

"You've gotta expect the unexpected," Parr said at media day Wednesday, drawing a laugh from Casais and coach Bob Warming. "That's a key thing with him."

At the same time, midfielder Matheus Braga said he loves hav-

ing Hertzog ahead of him on the field and anticipates big things from the striker this season.

"I expect a lot of good things man, he's a machine," Braga said. "He's fast, he's fit, he scores a lot of goals, even in practice he's always scoring."

"He gets there like 10 minutes early before everyone just shooting the ball into the goal, taking the ball to the goal. It's amazing the runs that he makes through defenders, it's just beautiful for the midfielders, especially for me."

Over the summer Burke said he saw Hertzog's work rate and understanding of playing off the ball improve dramatically. Former Lion and current FC Dallas forward Jason Yeisley played for Burke last year, and the coach said he's seen a lot of Yeisley's work rate rub off on Hertzog, which makes the junior twice as dangerous.

Burke sees a lot of pro potential in Hertzog.

The coach said he talked to several pro scouts and this upcoming season could be the one for

Hertzog to pin himself in the middle of the pro radar.

"The sky's the limit for Corey. True goal scorers, there's a reason they get paid better than anybody else at any level and that's because they're hard to come by," Burke said.

"He hasn't quite put it all together yet, but he's not far off putting his whole game together and I, for one, would not be surprised if he had an absolute breakout season for Penn State this year."

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Spikes

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Though aside from Santos' three-hit performance, the Spikes only had two hits, Santos said he thinks the team had a better approach at the plate Wednesday.

"We just tried to take our approach from BP to the game," Santos said. "Just being aggressive. Just trying to keep a good swing on the ball throughout the whole at-bat."

The three runs were enough for the

State College pitching staff. Brandon Cumpton made his first professional start and second appearance. A ninth-round pick by the Pittsburgh Pirates in June, Cumpton hurled three innings of one-hit ball Wednesday night. The right-hander struck out five and walked just one in the process.

"He looked great," Santos said. "He's a strong guy. He throws well, and we'd been looking forward to seeing him on the bump and he did an outstanding job."

Kevin Decker relieved Cumpton

and though Decker said after the game he didn't have his best stuff, he picked up right where Cumpton left off. Decker improved his record to 7-1 after he threw four innings and gave up only one run on three hits. Justin Ennis and Jason Townsend pitched an inning each to close out the game.

The lone Mahoning Valley run came on an RBI triple by Fontanez in the seventh inning. State College mustered just seven hits and one run in the two games prior to Wednesday.

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