

Fukudome's three hits propel Cubs past Pirates

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO -- Thomas Diamond received a game ball and a beer shower after his first major league win.

Diamond relieved injured starter Tom Gorzelanny and was part of a strong effort by the Chicago Cubs' bullpen Wednesday in a 5-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"It's always nice to get the first.

I wish it would have happened a little sooner," Diamond said. "Now, hopefully we can go on and win a few more."

Kosuke Fukudome had three hits, including a go-ahead double, during a perfect day at the plate for the Cubs.

Carlos Marmol escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning and finished for his 25th save in 30 chances.

Gorzelanny was knocked out in the third when Jose Tabata lined a

shot off his right hand. The left-hander, a former Pirate who is a native of nearby Evergreen Park, Ill., departed for X-rays.

"That was very scary," Tabata said. "I saw the ball and I thought it was his face. In the moment I froze. I hope he's better. I feel bad for that."

After Gorzelanny left, five Cubs relievers combined to allow four hits the rest of the way.

"Now that I've moved from the rotation to the bullpen, hopefully I

can find a spot there and contribute," the 27-year-old Diamond said.

Diamond (1-3) gave up two runs and two hits in 1 2-3 innings. Marmol walked in a run with two outs in the eighth but struck out Tabata to preserve a 5-3 lead.

James McDonald (2-5) took the loss, allowing three runs and eight hits in five innings.

"For most of the game he wasn't able to get the ball down like he usually does and it cost him a little

bit," Pirates manager John Russell said.

Diamond, called up from Triple-A Iowa on Aug. 2, struck out three and walked one.

The Cubs won two of three in the series and finished 5-10 against last-place Pittsburgh this season.

"I've been feeling pretty good and I've been working on a new pitch — a cutter — with (pitching coach) Larry (Rothschild)," Diamond said.

Marlins top Nationals following bench-clearing brawl

By The Associated Press

MIAMI -- Nyjer Morgan charged the mound after a pitch sailed behind him, triggering a bench-clearing brawl Wednesday night during the Florida Marlins' 16-10 win over the Washington Nationals.

Morgan, recently suspended and criticized by his own manager for questionable acts on the field,

left Florida catcher Brett Hayes with a separated shoulder Tuesday night after a home plate collision in the 10th inning.

Florida's Chris Volstad hit Morgan with a pitch in the fourth inning this time. The speedy lead-off man then stole two bases with his Nationals trailing 14-3.

Volstad threw his first pitch of the sixth behind Morgan, taking off a wild scene. Morgan, setting a big swing that appeared to graze Volstad's face - Marlins first base-

man Gaby Sanchez clothes-lined Morgan, knocking off his batting helmet and sending him to the ground.

The teams piled up, and managers Jim Riggleman of the Nationals and Edwin Rodriguez of the Marlins jawed at each other.

Morgan, Volstad, Rodriguez and Marlins pitcher Jose Veras were ejected. Morgan was loudly booed when he raised his arms as he was escorted off the field.

Morgan is currently appealing a

seven-game suspension for throwing a ball at a fan in the stands in Philadelphia on Aug. 21.

Last Saturday night, Morgan collided with St. Louis catcher Bryan Anderson, who had stepped a foot or two in front of the plate. Riggleman later called Morgan's actions "unprofessional."

Washington reliever Doug Slaten and Riggleman were ejected after Sanchez was hit with a pitch with two outs in the seventh. Four batters were hit overall.

Res Helms had three hits and five RBIs in the Marlins' highest-scoring game of the season. Mike Stanton, Brad Davis and Cameron Maybin homered for Florida.

Logan Morrison and Hanley Ramirez each scored three times through the first three innings as the Marlins took a 14-3 lead. Florida scored five runs in the first, five more in the second and four times in the third.

Volstad (9-9) wound up with the win.

Redshirt

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injuries of the team. But right now, I would say there's a couple of them who are strong candidates for redshirting."

In the Lions' season-opening tournament in North Carolina last weekend, six of Penn State's nine rookies saw playing time. That leaves three players — Ariel Scott, Crosby Pabst and Maggie Harding — Rose could still potentially redshirt and thus be granted a fifth year of eligibility.

If any of those players need

advice, they can look no further than across the gym. Brown, now a senior captain on the No. 1 Nittany Lions and returning first-team All-American, is a prime example of why taking a year off may not necessarily be a bad thing.

"Redshirting was a great decision for me," Brown said. "It really let me get used to the program and adjust to the level needed to be a collegiate volleyball player. And I consider myself very lucky to have that experience."

One player who could benefit from that experience this year is Scott, a 6-foot-4 Ridgewood, N.J.,

native recruited by the Lions for her lean volleyball frame and physical net presence.

But Scott — a ballyhoed high school prospect from Immaculate Heart Academy — said ever since she's arrived on campus this summer, she can't help but be impressed by the atmosphere in a Division I gym.

"It's way faster," she said. "Everyone's bigger and more physical."

Scott said naturally she wants to play this year, but she ultimately trusts the coaching staff to make the right decision for her. For now though, she hasn't heard

anything definite on the upcoming season.

That's the sentiment Brown said she also felt at the beginning of her freshman year.

"Of course I always wanted to be on the court, and I always wanted to be playing with the team," Brown said.

"But I noticed, playing with the other girls, that I needed a lot of work. The coaches were really patient with me early on, and that helped me find that I had more potential to get better."

Rose said Brown is a success story of redshirting.

However, sometimes giving

coaches an extra year to develop can be a double-edged sword, as it only works if the players are willing to put in the effort, the coach said.

And though the team hasn't made any decisions yet, Rose likes what he sees from this group.

"I think that all of the young players have good potential and they all bring something positive to the table," Rose said. "Our challenge as a staff is to try and put together a rotation of players that afford us the best chance to be successful."

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Role

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ways," Walsh said. "Against William & Mary, she was struggling against one of their forwards and she recognized it, raised her hand and asked how do I handle this. She recognizes her strengths and weaknesses, and she plays within them."

Walsh added that in the past Monroig spent a lot of time talking, but "now she is doing a better job of listening."

This growth has helped her become more of a leader for the Nittany Lions, and with only two seniors on the team it has become essential.

Monroig, along with fellow senior Dani Toney, has been doing anything she needs to help the team stay on track early in the season.

"She's making sure everyone is doing what they need to do," Toney said. "She's encouraging everyone and answering questions. We're just trying to work together in it."

At media day, Monroig said being one of only two seniors left on the team — after losing six people from her class for various reasons since joining the team — gives her a lot of pride in herself and the team, which makes her want to play for Penn State.

Monroig added the goal is to make the Final Four this year and that's been her final focus.

"That's what we want our team to be on board with," she said. "Everyone's been great and wants the same thing. In and out of practice everyday we are working hard and accomplishing what we have to do."

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Focus

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When they do wrap up a likely victory over the FCS Penguins — Youngstown State has lost its last three openers to FBS foes by a combined score of 119-9 — the Lions will have to turn to the far more daunting task of facing the Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa. Alabama hasn't won in Bryant-Denny Stadium since 2007, a 21-14 loss to Louisiana-Monroe.

Given the gap in national attention between the two games, Wisniewski said looking ahead makes sense.

This week, Alabama's Heisman-winning running back, Mark Ingram, whose knee injury may sideline him for the Sept. 11 game against Penn State, overshadowed Kurt Hess, Youngstown State's quarterback

"There's no need to worry about next weekend."

Brett Brackett
reciever

who will be making his first collegiate start noon Saturday.

But senior linebacker Chris Colasanti said it hasn't been that way on the practice field.

"There is that thought of Alabama on our minds, but we put that in the background right now," Colasanti said.

"We're getting ready for Youngstown State. We're going to be best prepared for the game on Saturday."

That preparation has been tough for the Lions' coaching staff given the offseason changes at Youngstown State.

Hess, a redshirt manager, will

run a new offensive scheme implemented by first-year coach Eric Wolford.

"We don't know enough about Youngstown," Paterno said.

"I'm worried about Youngstown because it's been very difficult — new coach, new coordinators — to know exactly what to expect."

Senior wide receiver Brett Brackett doesn't share Paterno's concerns about preparation, saying the coaching staff has done well, even with little information to work with.

"Our coaches do a great job of getting us focused on this coming Saturday being the most important game," Brackett said. "It's our first game and without going out and getting a win this weekend there's no need to even worry about next weekend."

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Lineman

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Terry is backing up Still, and because of the way defensive line coach Larry Johnson runs practices, Still said every player has improved.

Sophomore Jordan Hill and redshirt sophomore Brandon Ware, are playing behind Ogbu.

But the entire success of the defensive line won't rest solely on the performance of its interior players.

Junior Jack Crawford, who started every game at defensive end last season, will have redshirt junior Eric Latimore to compliment him on the right side. While Latimore started six games last

year and recorded 3.5 sacks, moving into the role of a full-time starter is something he'll have to get used to.

With an inexperienced quarterback and reshuffled offensive line, Ogbu said the defense doesn't feel it has to carry the team.

"A defense is only meant to stop somebody," he said. "You could have the best offense in the World. As a defense, you still have to go out there and stop somebody."

"So there isn't any added pressure this year or any other year that I've been here."

"It's always, go out there and be one of the top defenses in the nation."

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Spikes

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were held in check the entire game by four different Auburn pitchers.

Brown said the Auburn pitching staff did a good job of locating its pitches.

"I think we've been pressing for a while a little bit," said Brown, who also had two walks. "Anytime, other than last night, we've been struggling for runs. You get guys in scoring position, and you try a little bit harder and you can't do that."

Hitting was hard to come by at the ballpark in general Wednesday night, as the Doubledays had only four hits,

and just one after the second inning.

The lone run came in the second inning. Auburn's right fielder Steve McQuail singled to center field and was sacrificed over to second. First baseman Yudelmis Hernandez then singled to left to bring home McQuail.

State College starting pitcher Zac Fuesser was denied his first professional win, though he put together his best outing of the season. Fuesser (0-4, 3.64) threw six innings and allowed just the one earned run on three hits.

Auburn relief pitcher Brandon Berl got his first win, throwing three innings of one-hit ball in middle relief.


Though Robinson said he doesn't want to make any excus-

es for his squad's play, the manager did point out the Spikes are tired. After five-straight losses to the Batavia Muckdogs, including a 12-11 loss in 11 innings Tuesday night, the Spikes endured a six-hour bus ride Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. Robinson said his players probably didn't get to bed until around 5:30 or 6 Wednesday morning.

The Spikes hope to snap their losing streak at 6:35 tonight as they finish up their two-game set with the Doubledays.

"We're just going to keep battling," outfielder Kyle Saukko said. "Like everyone says, it's how you end. It's how you end the season."

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