

Halladay wins 19th as Phils beat Marlins

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MIAMI — Philadelphia's Roy Halladay struck out nine to defeat Florida for the fourth time this season, and the surging Phillies extended their lead in the NL East to three games by beating the Marlins 10-5 on Wednesday night.

Halladay (19-10) gave up three runs and 10 hits in six innings for the Phillies, who swept a three-game series at Florida for the second time this season and are 17-3

away from home since Aug. 1. Halladay has a career-high 210 strikeouts, 41 coming against the Marlins, and is the Phillies' first 19-game winner since John Denny in 1983.

The win, combined with Atlanta's 4-2 loss to Washington, gave the two-time defending NL champions their largest division lead since May 25.

Philadelphia trailed the Braves by seven games on July 21,

and has gone 38-15 since.

Raul Ibanez and Wilson Valdez both had three hits for Philadelphia, and Chase Utley hit his 15th home run. Shane Victorino added two hits, his seventh multi-hit game in his last nine, and Jose Contreras — who relieved an ineffective Brad Lidge in the ninth — escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam for his fourth save in five chances.

Logan Morrison had two hits for Florida, stretching his streak of reaching base to 35 straight games, the third-longest run in the majors this season.

Gaby Sanchez homered and

scored twice for the Marlins, who used six pitchers, all relievers.

Jorge Sosa (2-3), making his first start since July 27, 2007, gave up six hits and six runs, four earned, in 2 1-3 innings. He threw 68 pitches, 46 more than his average in 15 previous relief appearances this year.

The Marlins went with the all-bulpen approach because they are simply out of starters.

The Phillies have an abundance, starting with Halladay.

Philadelphia went 8-1 at Florida this season, and the Marlins are surely pleased that they won't have to see Halladay — who

pitched a perfect game against them on May 29 — again until 2011.

Halladay went 4-1 against the Marlins this season with a 1.66 ERA in 38 innings.

He's the third starter to win at Florida three times in a year, joining the Phillies' Jamie Moyer and the New York Mets' Oliver Perez, both of whom went 3-0 at the Marlins' ballpark in 2008. Halladay is the third starter to beat Florida four times in a season; Moyer (2007 and 2008) and Tom Glavine (2002) are the others.

By the time Halladay went to work, he had a 3-0 lead.

10
Philadelphia
5
Florida

Mets hold off late-inning comeback to beat Pirates

Rick Freeman
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — Angel Pagan capped New York's seven-run fourth inning with a tiebreaking two-run single and the Mets handed the Pittsburgh Pi-

rates another road loss with an 8-7 victory Wednesday night.

Jose Reyes hit his 10th homer in the sixth inning for the Mets,

who have won three straight.

The Pirates helped New York out with two errors in the big fourth inning, when they wasted a 5-0 lead. Ike Davis and pinch-hitter Mike Hessman each had run-scoring hits in the frame.

Paul Maholm (7-15) lasted just 3 2-3 innings for

Pittsburgh, which dropped to 15-58 on the road and could threaten the 1963 Mets' record for worst road mark (17-64) in a 162-game season.

Raul Valdes (3-3) came in when Mets starter Jenry Mejia left with one out in the third inning after straining a muscle in the back of his shoulder. Valdes allowed four runs in 1 2-3 innings and Hisanori Takahashi, the last of seven Mets pitchers, surrendered a homer to Andrew

McCutchen on his first pitch before retiring three straight for his seventh save in seven chances.

Seven consecutive batters reached after Pagan led off the fourth with a routine grounder. He came up again with two down and singled to left-center to put the Mets ahead 7-5.

The Pirates let the tying run score when shortstop Ronny Cedeno mishandled a one-out grounder by pinch-hitter Joaquin Arias. Before Cedeno's miscue,

catcher Chris Snyder dropped a throw from third baseman Pedro Alvarez on Ruben Tejada's grounder, letting Davis and Nick Evans score.

Maholm (7-15) was charged with seven runs, just two earned, and seven hits. He walked two and struck out one.

The Mets had their own fielding problems in Pittsburgh's four-run fourth.

The Pirates have lost their only six games at Citi Field.

8
New York
7
Pittsburgh

Rout

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Amy got the Lions (3-2) on the board just 11:12 into the game on a deflection goal off of a cross from freshman midfielder Brittany Grzywacz. The goal gave Penn State the 1-0 lead and they never looked back from there.

The defense was on top of its game in the first half — allowing only one shot, which did not reach the goalie. But redshirt sophomore Kristen Schaefer attributed much of the defense's success to the communication and stellar play of the goalkeeper Halus.

"She played really well," Schaefer said. "Ayla's doing a great job back there. Her communication with us is incredible and that just really makes things a lot easier on defense of where to go and who to mark up with when you have such a vocal goalie back there."

After the Lions upped the lead

to two following a Jessica Longstreth rebound goal, Halus made a couple of game-saving stops off of Lafayette penalty corner chances to keep the Lion lead safe.

Had the Leopards been able to score and shrink the lead to one, coach Char Morett said the game would have taken on an entirely different complexion. She said those stops couldn't have been more important. They kept the momentum on the side of the Lions and didn't let the Leopards think they had any life.

"[The saves] were huge. I mean, you don't want to get the game tight and she just came up with some great saves and I thought it was solid," Morett said. "It's nice to see her get that shutout."

After Halus' stonewalling of the Lafayette attack, Kelsey Amy all but clinched the victory for the Lions with a breakaway goal off a sharp feed from Longstreth. The goal was Amy's second of the

"Ayla's doing a great job back there."

Kristen Schaefer
defender

match and fourth of the season overall.

Goalkeeper Ayla Halus said she was pleased with the team's performance, but wasn't at all surprised by it. The Lions came out of the locker room before the game with the idea of controlling all aspects of the game. And that's exactly what they did.

"We wanted to come out here and we wanted to dominate," Halus said.

"That's what we talked about just coming out here and just proving ourselves. And making good movement towards a successful season, starting a new winning run, and trying to keep it going."

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Ruggers

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"If we want to play at that pace for the entire 80 minutes of the game, we will have to continue to work our hardest," Ferrell said. "But if we continue to work as hard as we have then we will be in good shape."

As the match got out of reach for the Ruggers, many of the players could be heard urging their teammates to keep their heads up.

Ferrell said that he was really impressed with how well the team kept its composure, which is what he was looking for out of the match.

Although he was not expecting a victory in this match, Ferrell said there were still things the team could have improved on.

"If we can just finish our breaks, and cut down on the mistakes it might have been a 20-

"They have big guys who have been paying since they could walk."

Don Ferrell
Men's Rugby coach

point-game," Ferrell said.

After the match had ended, Penn State players exchanged jerseys with the Cambridge players.

Even Ferrell made sure he received a jersey, while running across the field to congratulate the Cambridge coach. Ferrell said you can't compare players from overseas to players from America.

"They have big guys that have been playing since they could walk," Ferrell said.

"American rugby is coming up though."

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Blowout

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exactly what happened on the goal.

After teammate Taylor Schram extended the lead to two to open up the second, the senior Toney got to work putting the game away.

"In the first half we came out a little bit slower than we should have," Toney said. "In the second half, we figured everything out and we decided to come out strong like we know how to play and bury them."

And that is exactly what the speedy Toney did. Continuing to work with her teammates by dropping back and working the short game, Toney picked up her first of two goals on a play where she received the ball after Hayes played the ball off to Schram.

Seven minutes later, she toe-poked the ball past the goalie to continue the rout of the Bison.

"We saw Dani Toney get in and score two goals," coach Erica Walsh said. "That's

"It came from a lot of different sources."

Erica Walsh
Women's Soccer coach

huge for her confidence, she can do that all season long. We don't want to limit her as a midfielder. We want her to get into the attack."

Walsh said she saw a lot more variety out there on the field on the attack, and it definitely paid off judging by the commanding victory.

With a less predictable attack that didn't rely so heavily on long passes but rather movement along the sides, the Lions were able to finally pour on the offense.

"It feels great," Walsh said laughing. "But more importantly it came from a lot of different sources in a lot of different ways so some good creativity and great attack."

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Midfield

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Nairn said. "Maddy [Evans] is more of a holding, Taylor's more attacking and I'm, I guess, the middle man so we're just getting out there and learning to how to play with each other."

Starting the game in a box formation, the midfield acts a swarm on defense, with at least two players converging on every opponent to touch the ball. As good as the midfield was defensively, they were better in possession.

Between Schram, Nairn, Evans and Jess Rosenbluth, the starters provide four players who are good with ball at their feet and can keep possession.

"The scouting report on us is to drop off and absorb the first wave and you beat Penn State," Nairn said. "We took that with a grain of salt this weekend and learned to not go with the first attack and play the second and third ball through and I think that came through today and we had four different goal scorers with five goals."

Nairn had two assists, one on Schram's goal and the other on Maya Hayes' goal that opened the scoring. Schram assisted Dani Toney's second goal of the night while Rosenbluth had a helper on the Lions' final goal, lobbing a ball upfield to a sprinting Hayley Brock.

Once the game was decided, the midfield still continued to create chances. Redshirt junior Meghan Gill had a good look with less than seven minutes left while Ali Schaefer made a hustle play to keep a ball in along the endline a few minutes later.

Schram has made a mark on the midfield over the last three games with her hustle and energy, adding an assist against Portland. Seeing the work the freshman has put in, Lions coach Erica Walsh was happy to see Schram get rewarded.

"She deserves everything she's got com-

ing to her," Walsh said. "She was tremendous against Portland and I thought she was great again tonight. You can see the reaction from the team, they adore her and want what's best for her."

Defensively, there were plenty of plays where the midfielders chased down attackers, and Schram said the focus is to push attackers to the outside. About twenty minutes through the first half, a Bucknell attacker was shut down by Evans and Schram, allowing Nairn to sprint in from behind the ball and knock to Megan Monroig, winning it for Penn State.

While there's always a focus to play tough defense, the recent struggles had an extra emphasis on Wednesday's effort.

"Tonight it just came down to us being hungry for the win and we were just going to do everything," Schram said. "Throw our body into every tackle, get the ball back and push it up the field."

The four assists were a telling sign of what the Lions attack is capable of and Schram said it's a matter of being patient and getting into a flow. Nairn said the unit's building cohesion is a result of practice work paying off. On the field, Nairn said the starters complement each other well, whether it's her creativity, Evans' relentless running or Schram's ability to be around the ball constantly and create good touches.

Even with the win and strong showing, Walsh cautioned the team can't be complacent with a single good match. While the coach doesn't want to see the team step back, she is also encouraged by the performance the Lions turned in Wednesday.

"We've just learned a lot about ourselves, we've been pushed and pulled and cut up," Walsh said.

"We're starting to learn who we are and what we're capable of doing and I thought we did a much better job playing within ourselves."

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