



The exciting battle for last place in the American League Central Division will reach a crescendo this week as the Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins meet for the final time in the 2012 season with a three-game series at Progressive Field. Just one game separates these two lovable losers and emotions are sure to run high during this crucial series. If the season series is any indication of how things will go, hide the women and children.

Of all the teams in the Central Division, the Indians have allowed the most runs to the Minnesota Twins. There are still six games left against both the White Sox and the Royals, but that still seems like an inexcusable stat. The Twins lead the season series 10-5 and have outscored the Indians 93-60 in the 15 meetings. That means that the Twins are averaging more than six runs per game against Indians pitching this season. Only the White Sox are higher with over seven runs per game.

The Indians put themselves in this position by losing 45 of their 62 games since the All-Star break. In that span, the Tribe offense has averaged 3.24 runs per game and Tribe pitching/defense has allowed 5.66 runs per game. As for the Twins, they have hit the wall again after playing well out of the All-Star break. They're 12 games under .500 over their last 44 games. Of the 13 other AL teams, the only team other team that the Twins have a winning record over is the Royals.

Two really bad ballclubs going in the same direction will try to avoid the dubious distinction of finishing last in the AL Central. Here are the pitching matchups for this epic series:

