



When the dust settles and baseball games resume, it will be Sandy Alomar Jr. filling out the lineup card as the Indians begin their final homestand of the 2012 season. The Kansas City Royals come to town, as both teams take a respite from playing the role of spoiler. This series sandwiches meetings between the Indians and White Sox and the Royals and Tigers.

The Royals enter this series five games in front of the Indians and poised for their first third place finish since 2003. The Indians would need to sweep the Royals to even the 18-game season series, as they trail 9-6, but have been outscored by just three runs. Four of the Indians' five wins in the season series came in the first four meetings of the season between the two teams. Before salvaging the series finale last Sunday, the Indians had lost seven straight against the Royals.

It will be interesting to see how the Indians come out and play with Alomar at the helm. They haven't stopped fighting in September, going 10-14, with eight one-run wins, and putting the dismal 5-24 August behind them. They have six games left to go and can really impact the American League Central Division race with the White Sox in town to end the season. But, first, they have to find a way to get excited about playing the Royals.

Here are the pitching matchups for the second-to-last series of the season:



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