

In today's B-List, Buff takes a look at yesterdays much needed win versus the Pale Hoes and his blossoming hatred for Boone Logan. Buff also examines the return of C.C. and Victor Martinez finally throwing out a freaking base stealer.



Whose bright idea is a pair of midweek two-game series? Where the hell is the closure in that? Otherwise, the game had some of the classic elements you want: a Hafner homer, a Sabathia win, a Buehrle loss, and wet White Sox.

By the way, send any Eric Wedge Haiku to buff@swerbsblurbs.com . To give you an idea of the groundswell this contest is creating, if you submitted the following haiku:

Eric Wedge, EricWedge, Eric Wedge, Eric Wedge, Eric Wedge,
feh. Feh!

You would be in fourth place.

1) The prodigal son returns

Well, it's not like he was gone for any Biblical stretch, but C.C. Sabathia's return to the mound couldn't have reasonably been expected to go much better than it did. The only run he gave up in 5 innings was the result of mind-wandering defense: no extra-base hits, better than 2/3rds of his pitches were strikes, and he was only in trouble in the 5th. 89

pitches were prudent, especially given the weather. He got a couple unexpected defensive plays (see below), and he did walk almost a guy an inning while striking out only two, but it was a welcome performance nonetheless. (How does a guy walk four batters with a 60:29 strike-to-ball ratio?)

2) And in other news, a freak ice storm incapacitated Hell this afternoon

Victor Martinez threw out Pablo Ozuna stealing second! Huzzah!

I never thought it would be Sabathia being held up as the shining example of keeping guys close and delivering quickly.

3) The mud broke my fall

Simply a preposterous diving catch by Sizemore in deep center. How many diving catches

are going directly *away* from home plate? When you think "diving catch," you think coming in or maybe running laterally.

Nobody

dives toward the wall on the track. That's just sick.

In the grand scheme of things, it was an out to lead off the fourth: it wasn't like the bases were loaded and it saved a bunch of runs, but it was still flabbering.

4) Hit this!

It could be argued that one of the real turning points last summer was when Mark Buehrle beamed Travis Hafner, causing him to miss games, come back slowly, and generally make the Indians look like the Price-Daugherty Cavs. So it was nice to see Hafner bomb a three-run jack off Buehrle in the bottom of the first to give the Tribe a 3-0

lead they never gave up. I imagine had Buehrle thrown at Hafner after that, in Jacobs Field, he would have needed a police escort.

5) Nice outing, Moon Head

13 hits, 3 walks, 3 Ks, 7 runs in 5 2/3 for Buehrle.

As a sort of Indians Bugbear, it's nice to have an offensive outing like that against the titular

White Sox Ace.

6) Providing interest in the late innings is our speciality

I like Jason Davis. I really do. And he did pitch two scoreless innings, throwing 24 of 30 pitches for strikes. This is a good sign, because with a 5-1

lead, I would literally go insane (temporarily) if Davis tried to nibble against a lineup featuring Alex Cintron at DH, Juan Uribe (.173), Chris Widger (.211), and Brian Anderson (.141). Ross Gload pinch-hit, and he's batting .167. This

is the best team in the American League?

But he gave up 4 hits in two innings,

including a double to

Widger! Then Danny

the Mullet comes in

and pitches two more

innings, giving up two

more hits! They strike

out a combined one

guy! The White Sox left six guys on in the last four innings, four in scoring position. This is no way to preserve my stomach lining. Will someone tell these guys that Bob Wickman is not the perfect role model? Before I die

as stomach acid leaks
through my ulcer and
dissolves my
pancreas?

By the way, by way of
contrast, all four of
the Indians' runs after
the first came with
two outs. Neener
neener!

7) Who the &@#^ is this guy?!

I have officially had enough Boone Logan to last me until 2011. Last year, it was Cotts and Pollitte. Now it's a guy from AA

who strikes out five
guys in 2 1/3 hitless
innings of relief,
including Martinez
with guys on first
and third. At least
I'd heard of guys
like McCarthy and
Liriano, this guy

literally came from
nowhere. His
picture makes him
look fourteen. A
nasty, knife-hiding,
juvenile delinquent
fourteen, but
fourteen
nonetheless. No

more Boone Logan
for me, I'm driving.

**8) Inertia Man
faked me out!**

Jason Michaels is
right back in the
two slot, while
Blake bats ninth.
Michaels did an

admirable job
yesterday,
drawing two
walks, getting a
hit, and scoring
twice. Yes, that's
his skill set. Yes,
I appreciate

continuity.
Meanwhile my
man Casey gets
two more hits
(2-for-4) which are
largely wasted
because Belliard
and Boone bat a

combined 1-for-7
in front of him.

Sigh. (Boone's hit
was a double, and
he did score, so
he has that going
for him, which is
nice.)

**9) Eduardo
Perez: the
free-agent
signing of 2006
Perez' 2-for-4
day (with a rib)
raises his
average back up**

to .333. If we
can attribute
some of
Broussard's hot
start to not
having to worry
about facing
lefties (which we

certainly can,
because logic
plays no role in
made-up
analysis), we
have turned a
below-average
first baseman

into an All-Star
platoon. He's no
Ben "Eight
Ribs"
Broussard, but
then, who is?
Heck, it took
Travis Hafner

TWO games to
reach eight RBI.

**10) Ho Hum
Dept.**

**Victor Martinez
reached base
for the four
thousand thirty**

seventh
consecutive
game, going
back to his
career with the
St. Louis
Browns.