

The Indians have won two of their last three series. The last time I was able to say that, I was still wearing a winter coat to work. In the Monday edition of The B-List, Buff takes a look back at the weekend set with the D-Rays. He makes observations about the latest closer of the week, Pronk's mashing, Garko's emergence, and Marte's resurgence. Enjoy.



I know it's "just Tampa." It's still starting to become fun to watch this team again (starting Saturday).

1) How Not To Productions presents: Not THAT guy!

In the continuing saga of How Not To Close, Eric Wedge gave journeyman Brian Sikorski a shot at the closer's gig. You may remember that I liked Sikorski when he first arrived, in that he seemed to have strikeout stuff and threw strikes.

However, I soured on him after that because of his propensity to get hit: after giving up three taters in two games late July-early August, that pretty much told me what I needed to know about the man reader Jim Barrett dubbed "Helicopter Guy." One hopes that the defense contractor makes more reliable pitches than the Journeyman from Japan.

Look, here's all I ask: I am not a tremendously observant fellow. I forget which side of the plate Franklin Gurierrez stands on, or how old Paul Byrd is. I have trouble distinguishing Joe Inglett from the batboy. If I can tell that a guy has peaked and is not truly Reliably Good, shouldn't this be bloody *obvious* to people who are actually *paid* to notice such things?

Anyway, Sikorski was terrible and got no help from Chinless Davis, and we lost another game in which we had a lead after the 8th inning, dropping our record in such games to 2-80. Okay, that's not true, but we DO lead the majors in games lost in such a manner. Let's stop doing that, yes?

By the way, for reader Gus Brooijmans out at CERN: Brian Sikorski got the loss Friday, but was credited with a Hold. Jason Davis got a Blown Save. If there is a stat more meaningless than the Hold, I would like to know about it. The Hold makes the Game Winning RBI look like the gold standard of meaningful baseball statistics.

2) I mean THAT guy!

Have I mentioned that I like Tom Mastny? Let's hear what the critics have to say: