



Memorial Day has not been a kind holiday to the Indians. They entered Monday's game having lost nine of their last ten on Memorial Day and the one win was a game against the Tampa Bay Rays in 2009 where they erased a 10-2 eighth inning deficit to win 11-10 in walk-off fashion.

A lot has changed since that 2009 Memorial Day victory. Fausto Carmona, that day's starter, now has a different name. Ryan Garko had five RBI and now he's not even in the bigs. Jeremy Sowers got the win and he's probably the cashier at your local Aldi. Jensen Lewis and Rich Rundles were the other two pitchers in that game. Jamey Carroll was the leadoff hitter. The Indians were 18-28 and already 8.5 games off the pace in the AL Central.

Monday's win wasn't nearly as thrilling, but it was one that the Indians desperately needed.

Oh, and before I get too far, Lonnie Chisenhall's mustache is outstanding.

May 28, 2012

Kansas City Royals 5

Cleveland Indians 8

W: Josh Tomlin (2-2); **L:** Nate Adcock (0-3); **SV:** Chris Perez (17)

Lonnie Chisenhall returned to the big leagues in a big way, sending a solo home run to the visitor's bullpen on his first swing to get the Indians on the board after Josh Tomlin staked the Royals to a 2-0 lead. It would be the first of five runs in the third inning. Luke Carlin singled, Juan Diaz lined out to left, Shin-Soo Choo singled, Michael Brantley walked, and Jason Kipnis banged a two-run single to CF. Then, the fun started. Jose Lopez hit a Baltimore chop right off home plate and Kipnis got overzealous rounding second. It looked like Kipnis wanted to put pressure on the defense if Royals 3B Mike Moustakas threw over to try and get Lopez. Kipnis went too far off second base and got caught in between. Moustakas ran over and appeared to tag Kipnis on the backside, but 2B ump Dan Bellino said that the tag was missed. As Moustakas protested the call with words that cannot be replicated here, Kipnis scampered to third.

The blown call proved to be costly for the Royals as Casey Kotchman slapped a single through the hole between short and third, plating Kipnis and driving in the Indians fifth run of the inning.

Jason Kipnis would, however, give that run back in the fifth. After Brayan Pena hit a "Josh Tomlin Special", a solo HR to dead center field, speedster Jarrod Dyson ripped a ball past a diving Casey Kotchman down the right field line. Shin-Soo Choo took his sweet, old time getting to the ball and Dyson was in easily with a stand-up triple. In the meantime, Kipnis uncorked a wild throw that caromed into the second row next to the camera bay and Dyson was sent home. Alex Gordon eventually singled to make the run go under the "ER" category in Josh Tomlin's stat line, but nonetheless, it was an ill-advised throw from Kipnis.

Kipnis came right back in the bottom half of the inning and manufactured a run. After Brantley grounded out, Kipnis put down a bunt that pitcher Luis Mendoza fielded and threw into the

runner, pulling first baseman Eric Hosmer off the bag. Kipnis stole second and scored on a Jose Lopez RBI knock.



Josh Tomlin, on a pitch count with this being his first start back from a stint on the disabled list, left with a five-and-fly, allowing four runs, three of which scoring on home runs on a hot, humid day at the ballpark. Both home runs were aided by the weather conditions, although it's hard to say if they would have been gone at nighttime or on a cooler day. In any event, Tomlin pitched rather well for his first start back. He scattered four hits, three of which went for extra bases, and issued his first walk of the season to a right handed batter. Naturally, that baserunner, Jeff Francoeur, scored on the Eric Hosmer home run. Tomlin threw 81 pitches, 65% of which were strikes.

As has been the recipe for success this season for the Indians, who are now 16-2 when leading after five innings, the bullpen pitched well. Joe Smith, Nick Hagadone, Vinnie Pestano, and Chris Perez combined for 4 IP, 3 H, 1 R/ER, 2 BB, and 4 K.

The Indians finished their scoring in the seventh. Juan Diaz singled and went to third when Jose Mijares's pickoff attempt hit him square in the middle of the back. For what it's worth, Diaz was going back to the bag standing up. In any event, Diaz would score on a Michael Brantley broken-bat single to CF. After Kipnis singled and Brantley stole third, Jose Lopez hit a tailor-made, inning-ending double play ball that went right through the legs of Royals 2B Irving Falu. Brantley scored, but the Royals escaped further damage when Lonnie Chisenhall grounded out later in the inning with the bases loaded.

