



In a game that featured a handful of oddities, including Justin Masterson's final stat line and Luke Carlin's day at the plate, there was one constant that reared its ugly head yet again. The Kansas City Royals started a left handed pitcher, therefore, the Indians lost.

It was a bad game for the Indians, one of their worst of the season. Coming off the heels of three real bad games in Chicago, the starting pitching is becoming a cause for concern as we get closer to closing the book on May and starting a new one in June.

May 29, 2012

Kansas City Royals 8

Cleveland Indians 2

W: Will Smith (1-1, first Major League win); **L:** Justin Masterson (2-4)

At the end of the main part of yesterday's Rundown, I said that there was no word on if Will Smith would get jiggy wit' it. He did, and it came at the Indians expense. After fighting with his command in the first inning and giving back the two-run lead that Mike Moustakas's first inning home run gave him, Smith gave up two runs of his own. The Indians loaded the bases in the first with nobody out as Shin-Soo Choo walked and stole second, Jason Kipnis walked, and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solid single to left. Jose Lopez followed with an RBI base hit just past shortstop Alcides Escobar's glove and Michael Brantley knocked in another run with a fielder's choice.

That was all the offense that the Indians would mount. Justin Masterson came out in the second and lit a four-alarm fire on the mound with his pitching performance, giving up five runs and effectively killing the chances of a lineup that featured Aaron Cunningham, Luke Carlin, Juan Diaz, the aforementioned Lopez in the cleanup spot, Mike Brantley batting fifth, a spot usually reserved for guys who drive in runs, and Lonnie Chisenhall against a lefty. Chisenhall ended the Indians only real threat, the first inning, by waving at three pitches that he couldn't hit with a boat oar.

Masterson put up one of the strangest final lines I have ever seen. He managed to navigate through six innings, despite giving up seven runs over the first two innings. He struck out eight, didn't walk a batter (for the first time all year), and gave up eight runs, seven were earned. He threw almost 70% of his pitches for strikes and threw more sliders than I ever remember him throwing in any of his starts. Pitch F/X data says that he threw 42 sliders that induced 13 swings and misses. And, yet, he got tagged.

The game featured two appearances from Royals manager Ned Yost, one to complain about a call at second base and the other to challenge a home run that was clearly foul.



[REDACTED]