



In the case of the unstoppable force and the rapidly-retreating object, the Indians welcome the Detroit Tigers to town for a three-game set after dropping a four-game series at home to the Baltimore Orioles and falling well behind the pace in the AL Central Division. The wild card is also beginning to look like a pipe dream as six teams are now in front of the Indians, including two teams tied at the top.

The Indians aren't entirely out of it, as the Tigers and White Sox both proved that one hot stretch of baseball can vault you to the top of the division. The Indians, however, don't appear to have the personnel to go on the type of run that it would take to get back on top and then sustain that lead through the first three days of October. Tuesday's game marks the first of 12 games remaining against the Tigers, so anything can happen, but it'll have to happen one game at a time. With a small likelihood of a long winning streak, these games against divisional opponents are enormous. These three are no different.

The Tigers are on fire. They've won 13 of 15 and steamrolled the White Sox in Detroit this past weekend, sweeping them and sending them to second place. About the best that the Indians can hope for is that the Monday off day for the Tigers cooled them off. The Indians are 5-1 against the Tigers this season, but they were both very different teams when they met in late May and again in early June. Now, the Indians have gone up and down while really struggling offensively and the Tigers can't lose.

It'll be a gut check for the Indians to shake off the bad stretch and try to salvage something within the division in advance of the July 31 trade deadline. With that in mind, let's look at the pitching matchups for this three-game set at Progressive Field.

