



Losers of six straight, a trip to Detroit will be the final stage of a nine-game road trip that has seen the Indians fall completely out of the race. The Indians' last victory came over Detroit when they got to Justin Verlander in the seventh inning of a 3-1 game to get what, at the time, seemed like the win that would turn things around and be a building block. It wasn't, and the Tribe is winless since. The highlight of the season seems like a distant memory now as the Tribe and Tigers get set to battle at Comerica Park.

The Tigers are "in the hunt" in the AL Central, not atop the division like everyone predicted they would before the season began. They'll begin this series 2.5 games in back of the White Sox and with a five-game cushion over the Indians, who are 7.5 back. Like the Indians, the Tigers have struggled since last week's series finale, losing four of six. The Tigers have scored just 19 runs over those six games while the Indians have accumulated 17. The Indians, who own the American League's second-worst run differential, have been outscored 48-17 during their six-game losing streak.

It seems that the Indians will play out the final two months of the season by trying to play spoiler. At this point, with two teams to jump in the Central, a 7.5-game deficit to make up, and a starting rotation that hasn't found any consistency – except maybe the consistency to get rocked – the Indians appear to be out of the race for good. There are still 57 games to play, but, it would take an impressive run just to get back in the hunt.

In any event, there's still baseball to be played and here are the pitching matchups for this weekend's set in Southwest Ontario.

