

1. Minnesota 5, Toronto 4
2. Toronto 5, Minnesota 2
3. Friday, Oct. 11th
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:35 pm
4. Saturday, Oct. 12th
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:25 pm
5. Sunday, Oct. 13th
Minnesota at Toronto, 3:10 pm
6. Tuesday, Oct. 15th *
Toronto at Minnesota, 7:35 pm
7. Wednesday, Oct. 16th *
Toronto at Minnesota, 7:35 pm



American League Playoffs



1. Atlanta at Pittsburgh, late
2. Tonight
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 7:35 pm
3. Saturday, Oct. 12th
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 2 pm
4. Sunday, Oct. 13th
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 7:40 pm
5. Monday, Oct. 14th *
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 2:05 pm
6. Wednesday, Oct. 16th *
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 2:05 pm or 7:35 pm
7. Thursday, Oct. 17th *
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 7:35 pm



National League Playoffs



* if necessary
All times CDT
Network: CBS

Scott Maurer/DN

Toronto beats Twins to halt winning streak

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rookie Juan Guzman pitched 5 2/3 strong innings as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Minnesota Twins 5-2 Wednesday to even the best-of-7 series at one game apiece.

The loss broke the Twins' seven-game postseason winning streak in their high-decibel dome.

After a day off, the series shifts to Toronto for Game 3 on Friday night. Scott Erickson (20-8) is scheduled to pitch for the Twins against left-hander Jimmy Key (16-12).

"I hope we don't have to come back here," Toronto manager Cito Gaston said. "This is a tough place to win."

Coming into Game 1 of the playoffs, the Blue Jays had won 10 of 12 games in the Metrodome and 12 of 18 overall against the Twins. Minnesota was trying to tie the record for consecutive postseason victories at home, set by the New York Yankees (1927-36).

"Guzman pitched a fabulous game," Twins manager Tom Kelly said. "He's pitched well for quite a few months now. They pitched well today and deserved the win."

Guzman is 10-3 since his recall from Triple-A Syracuse on June 4.

Devon White had two hits and scored three runs. Roberto Alomar had two hits and scored a run. Each also stole a base.

Guzman walked two batters in the first inning, but the right-hander quieted the crowd by getting Kent Hrbek on a popup and striking out Chili Davis.

"I used to be concerned about Juan in a situation like that but not now," Gaston said. "You have to be patient with him."

Toronto scored a run in the first when White led off with a single, stole second, took third on Alomar's sacrifice and came around on Joe Carter's single.

In the third, White doubled and moved to third on Alomar's infield

hit to third. Alomar stole second, and both runners scored on Kelly Gruber's single. Alomar made a head-first slide to avoid catcher Brian Harper's tag.

Minnesota scored in the third when Chuck Knoblauch singled, moved to second on a wild pitch and came home on Kirby Puckett's single.



Guzman then retired seven straight before walking Knoblauch leading off the sixth. Knoblauch moved to second on Puckett's groundout, and Chili Davis drew a two-out walk. Harper pulled the Twins to 3-2 with an RBI single, chasing Guzman, who gave up two runs and four hits, struck out two and walked four.

Tom Henke relieved and got Shane Mack on a comebacker to the mound. Henke pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings and Duane Ward got the final six outs for the save.

Toronto came right back for two runs in the seventh off starter Kevin Tapani and Steve Bedrosian.

Manuel Lee walked, chasing Tapani, and Bedrosian walked White. Alomar followed with a single, and Lee scored when Mack bobbled the ball in right, also allowing White to take third. Carter followed with a sacrifice fly.

Guzman is the first rookie to win a playoff game since Baltimore's Mike Boddicker and Philadelphia's Charles Hudson, both in 1983.

Reliever skills to decide playoff winner

PITTSBURGH (AP)— Sure, both Atlanta and Pittsburgh boast big hitters. And, yes, both bring good starting pitchers.

But this is the postseason. And the bullpen becomes more important.

If last year and most every other year serves as any indication, then the relievers, more than anything else, will decide which team wins the National League playoffs.

That could be bad news for the Pirates. They had the best record in baseball, but not because of their bullpen. It's their one weak spot, which was especially bad against the Braves. Pittsburgh's two supposed closers — Bill Landrum and Stan Belinda — each had ERA's over 10.00 against Atlanta.

Pirates relievers blew 15 of 66 save opportunities this season, enough of a concern that manager Jim Leyland decided to put 11 pitchers on his 25-man roster. Atlanta, like many other teams in the past, kept 10.

The Braves might need someone extra, too. Unfortunately for them, the guy they need is hurt.

Juan Berenguer was brilliant for the Braves, converting 17 of 18 save opportunities, allowing only one of 27 inherited runners to score and shutting out the Pirates for 7 2/3 innings. That was before an injury sidelined him in mid-August.

Berenguer has since been activated, but has not pitched and was not put on Atlanta's playoff roster. Under baseball rules, the Braves could activate

him for the World Series and drop someone else, if they get that far.

In Berenguer's place, Alejandro Pena has been Atlanta's saver, and savior.

Pena, acquired from the New York Mets on Aug. 29, has been near-perfect for the Braves.

Pena, though, has thrown a lot, both in games and in the bullpen. As much as Atlanta would like to use him, it's doubtful whether Pena could pitch on consecutive days for any length of time.

That would leave the closer role to Mike Stanton. He's a lefty, which would help against Pittsburgh's middle of the lineup, but has had some rough outings. And another rookie, setup man Mark Wohlers, can be wild.

Look in backyard Huskers searching for foe

Nebraska's football problems continue. Violin music, please. Last spring, Temple announced that it would not fulfill its contract obligations and travel to Lincoln on Sept. 12 next year to play the Cornhuskers.

Husker Coach Tom Osborne and Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney are searching feverishly for a replacement opponent for next season, so Nebraska will have 11 games on its alleged schedule.



Chuck Green

It increases the chances of having a nine-win season, you know.

So far, the only reassuring offers have come from Wyoming and Southwest Louisiana, and both of those programs want the game played on their respective home fields, if the game is to materialize.

As most economics majors will tell you, playing in a stadium that seats 30,000 won't bring Nebraska's program as much money as playing in 73,650-seat Memorial Stadium. And as any serious Husker fan knows, the Nebraska athletic department never seems to have enough money.

Osborne already is getting to the desperate stage. At his weekly media luncheon Tuesday, he even suggested playing a team of sportswriters.

But that's a bad idea. Such a team might be even weaker than half of Nebraska's schedule this season.

It looks gloomy, but the problem is more easily solvable than Osborne and Devaney think.

The solution: Play a game, in Memorial Stadium, against the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Sure, UNO is a Division II school. But the Mavericks probably could hold their own against any Division I-AA school the Huskers might have to settle for. And UNO plays in one of the toughest conferences in its division.

Nebraska-UNO would attract a lot of media

attention from all over — maybe even a story in Osborne's favorite magazine, Sports Illustrated . . . just watch out for the cover jinx — and Omaha football fans would be torn between their allegiances.

And of course, the game would be a monumental rout, so the Huskers would be able to top the NCAA charts in rushing, scoring and total offense, and maybe even make a rare appearance in some defensive category.

The Mavericks' colors are red, and so are the Huskers'. And, without a doubt, UNO's athletic department would benefit greatly from playing in front of 76,000 fans in Memorial Stadium.

After all, if their athletic department can't use the money, the school's academic budget would take it. They're so abused, what with not getting as much money as UNL, even though they have 20,000 fewer students.

Yessir, the new Nebraska-UNO rivalry could become one of the great ones.

Several years ago, a tiny East Coast college called Slippery Rock played one of its football games in mammoth Michigan Stadium, which seats more than 100,000. Maybe this game could reach that level, and be played on Thanksgiving Day in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

There would be a "Nebraska Classic Parade," in which combines and tractors and farm animals would rumble through the streets of Los Angeles to the cheers of millions. What a country!

But Osborne and Devaney have to make the first move. UNO's athletic department would never initiate such a deal for fear of being laughed at by their counterparts in Lincoln. If Husker officials planned it, they would be viewed once again as the good guys of college athletics, giving a smaller, financially needy program a chance to put its books in the black.

Whoops! Wait a minute. UNO has a game on the open date in question.

Never mind. Anybody have the University of Nebraska at Kearney's number?

Green is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor and a columnist.

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