

# Cubs blast Glavine in opener

Paul Sullivan  
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

NEW YORK — Dusty Baker's debut as Cubs manager, Kerry Wood's first Opening Day start and Sammy Sosa's assault on No. 500 were the main story lines going into Monday's season opener against the New York Mets.

But Corey Patterson turned out to be the man of the moment, outshining his more illustrious teammates and playing the game of his life on a wild and windy day at chilly Shea Stadium.

Patterson went 4-for-6 with two home runs and a career-high seven RBIs, leading the Cubs to a 15-2 romp over the Mets before 56,749 shellshocked fans.

"It's right there with the best Opening Days I've ever seen," Baker said. "He's still going to have some rough days, but that helps big-time to start like this, especially considering that he was struggling in the spring. That was a

huge day for Corey, I'm sure something he'll remember forever."

Patterson hit .220 this spring and was dropped to seventh in the order against Mets left-hander Tom Glavine. After RBI singles off Glavine in the first and third innings, Patterson greeted lefty reliever Mike Bacsik with a three-run homer to right in the sixth and a two-run homer to left in the seventh.

Despite a horrendous second half last year, Patterson never lost faith in himself.

"I never questioned my ability, and I never got down confidence-wise," Patterson said. "Sometimes things got a little frustrating. When you're frustrated, you think of the wrong things and you overcompensate trying to do something else. It gets you into one bad habit and it snowballs."

Patterson's seven RBIs were the most of any Cub in their 128 openers and the most by any ma-

ior-leaguer since Minnesota's Brant Alyea drove in seven against the White Sox in their 1970 opener. The Cubs set or tied a few team records for an opener, including the 1899 club record for most runs.

Wood (1-0) earned the victory, yielding two runs on two hits in five innings. He also hit an RBI single. The Cubs wound up with 16 hits off Mets pitching and were aided by 12 walks and two errors. Reliever Juan Cruz also provided a highlight, striking out six straight batters in the seventh and eighth innings to tie Bruce Sutter's Cubs relief record set against Montreal on Sept. 8, 1977.

If first impressions are lasting, the Cubs' first inning will linger for a while. Six of their first seven batters reached base, leading to a four-run inning. Sosa had an RBI single, Moises Alou a two-run double and Patterson an RBI single.

The four-run first was the first

time the Cubs had scored that many to begin an opener since a 14-10 victory over St. Louis on April 12, 1892, when they still were nicknamed the White Stockings.

Sosa failed to connect on home run No. 500 but went 1-for-2 with three runs and three walks as the Cubs waited out the out-of-control Mets pitchers. Patterson also contributed with his glove, making two fine running catches near the wall in center field when the outcome still was undecided.

It was only one game in a 162-game season, but after the debacle of 2002 and all the changes in personnel last off-season, scoring 15 runs in the opener is something Baker said fans and players alike both can cherish.

"Let them enjoy it," he said. "We realize it was one game, but it was one very good game. It's a long race, but it's a very good start."

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## Softball

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In Saturday's game, senior Amber Hutchison hit her second home run of the season for Oregon's only run — and only hit — in the 4-1 loss. Sunday, the Ducks were held to three hits while the Wildcats had 13 hits behind their eight runs.

"We need to build momentum," Arendsen said. "We need to build a positive feeling going into this weekend's series so we have to come out ready to play, intense and with a lot of respect for Portland State, and hopefully the weather will allow us and our focus will allow us to do well."

After practicing in mild Eugene weather, the trip to Arizona warmed the team up — even if they didn't come away with a win. A cold and windy doubleheader will be a large contrast to the weekend's sunny trip.

"I'm not sure it can get too hot," Arendsen said about Arizona's weather. "It probably sets us up, if it would be cold tomorrow, to feel the cold a little bit more than we would."

The cold may be just what the softball team needs to turn its season back to the winning pattern it had in five pre-season tournaments. The Ducks won three tournament titles during the pre-season, beating nationally ranked opponents in each tournament.

The Ducks and the Vikings were scheduled to play a doubleheader in Eugene on March 13, but the games were rescheduled due to weather. The teams will play each other four times in just over a week when the rescheduled doubleheader opens the Ducks' home season April 9.

Between Portland State doubleheaders, Oregon jumps back into the Pac-10 for a weekend. The Ducks will head to California to face No. 12 Stanford on Friday before playing No. 7 California on Saturday and Sunday.

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## Cycling

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for shorter distances in order to be in top shape for his or her peak race.

The Ducks had better luck with the weather last weekend as they hosted the Oregon Omnium. Three Oregon cyclists placed in the top three in their respective divisions. Ben West captured first place in the men's "B" while Zach Winter took second and Rock took third in the men's "A" division.

"Solid," is how Ritter described the Ducks' performance. "We had a good performance in most of the races."

Despite the good showing from the Ducks, Ritter said he'd like to increase female participation in the cycling club, as only four female cyclists showed up for the race. Those who did show up performed well, placing second and fourth in the women's "B" criterium.

"There's a lack of female cyclists," Ritter said. "Women just don't take to the sport like men do."

The weekend's results moved the Ducks into second place in the Northwest Collegiate Cycling Conference, ahead of Washington State and behind Idaho. As the Ducks chase the Vandals, they will also keep their eye on May 9, the first day of the National Collegiate Cycling Association finals in California.

The Ducks will once again have to postpone thoughts of warm weather as they travel to Spokane, Wash., Saturday for the Frozen Flatlands. From there, it's on to Missoula, Mo., before returning to the Evergreen State with stops in Pullman and Walla Walla.

"It's usually pretty cold (in Spokane)," said Ritter, who plans to battle the elements on his 18-speed Cannondale bike. "Cold and windy."

Hey, there's always nationals in California.

Jon Roetman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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