

MLB Mariners make two deals at deadline

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — After making two moves to upgrade an already solid bullpen, the Pittsburgh Pirates added depth to their rotation on Friday by acquiring J.A. Happ from Seattle for minor league pitcher Adrian Sampson.

A little while later, they put struggling starter A.J. Burnett on the 15-day disabled list with inflammation in his pitching elbow.

The Pirates were 5 1-2 games behind St. Louis in the NL Central, but first in line for a wild-card berth and looking to close ground on the Cardinals by upgrading their pitching staff.

Shortly before the non-waiver trading deadline on Friday, they got the 32-year-old Happ, who went 4-6 with a 4.64 ERA in 20 starts and one relief appearance for Seattle this season.

The Mariners also shipped relief pitcher Mark Lowe to Toronto before the deadline.

Seattle obtained left-handed pitchers Nick Wells and Jacob Brentz and Rob Rasmussen.

Lowe has had a bounce-back year with the Mariners after appearing in just 18 games during the 2013-14 seasons. Lowe pitched in 34 games for Seattle this season, developing into a consistent eighth-inning option. He had a 1.00 ERA with 47 strikeouts in 36 innings pitched. Lowe was a non-roster invite to Mariners' spring training and was set to become a free agent after the season.



Walker goes distance, M's snap losing streak

By BRIAN HALL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Taijuan Walker pitched a one-hitter for his first career complete game in 29 major league starts, and Nelson Cruz and Jesus Montero homered to lift the Seattle Mariners over the Minnesota Twins 6-1 on Friday night.

Walker (8-7), who gave up a home run to rookie Miguel Sano, tied a career-high with 11 strikeouts to help Seattle end a four-game losing streak. Cruz had four hits, including his 27th home run of the season, and Montero added two hits and two RBIs after being recalled from Triple-A following a series of moves by the Mariners prior to Friday's trade deadline.

Tommy Milone (5-3) gave up four runs and 11 hits for Minnesota, which has lost four of five.

Walker had allowed 19 runs in his previous four starts, but held the Twins hitless until Sano hit a hard line drive into the first row of seats in left field with two outs in the fourth. It was the only blemish until Torii Hunter reached on an error in the seventh.



Seattle Mariners catcher Mike Zunino, right, hugs starting pitcher Taijuan Walker, left, after the Mariners defeated the Minnesota Twins 6-1 in a baseball game in Minneapolis, Friday, July 31, 2015.

AP Photo/Ann Heisenfelt



Sano's homer was his fourth in his impressive rookie season. Playing third base for just the third time, he made a diving stop along the line with a strong throw to end the third, but he couldn't catch a line drive from Austin Jackson right back to him in the fourth. Jackson ended up scoring on

Brad Miller sacrifice fly as part of a two-run inning. Miller had two sacrifice flies in the game.

Montero returned for his second appearance with Seattle after thriving at Triple-A and Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon said the team wants to get a good look at him in the final two months of the season.

Cepedes to Mets one of 16 trades completed ahead of cutoff

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Mets finally landed the bat they were looking for in Yoenis Cespedes just ahead of Friday's trade deadline, and Cole Hamels confirmed he blocked a trade to Houston before Philadelphia dealt its ace to Texas.

Sixteen trades were made Friday ahead of the annual deadline for deals without waivers, but San Diego was among the buyers, not the sellers, to the surprise of some.

Hamels was the only top starting pitcher dealt following earlier trades that sent Scott Kazmir to

Houston, Johnny Cueto to Kansas City and David Price to Toronto. The Blue Jays scheduled a blowout news conference at Rogers Centre to introduce Price, but instead the left-hander was sidetracked by a blowout to one of the tires on his gray sports car.

The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner, traded by Detroit on Thursday, tweeted just after 10 a.m. saying he'd blown a tire. About an hour later, he posted again to say he couldn't find anyone to fit a new tire on his car.

Blue Jays fans tweeted back, telling him they'd pick him up wherever he was waiting. One fan cautioned "If you change the tire..

RIGHT HAND ONLY!!!"

Eleven of 15 AL teams began the day within five games of a playoff berth, and seven of 15 in the NL, where the races are more defined.

"There are a lot of buyers out there," Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said. "And that probably has something to do with the second wild card, and maybe just the reality of that second wild card has sunk in, and the tightness of various races around both leagues."

Cespedes, eligible for free agency after the season, hit .293 with 18 home runs and 61 RBIs in 102 games for the Tigers. Seeking to make the playoffs for the first time since 2006, the

Mets have a talented starting rotation but rank last in the majors in runs and batting average, and 29th in on-base percentage and slugging.

New York already had added infielders Juan Uribe and Kelly Johnson, and reliever Tyler Clippard. The moves increased New York's payroll by about \$8.2 million within the last week.

Texas completed its deal to acquire Hamels and left-handed reliever Jake Diekmann for left-hander Matt Harrison and five prospects. The Rangers will receive \$9.5 million — \$7 million in 2016 and \$2.5 million in 2018 — to offset part of the contract for Hamels, who is due \$22.5 million per season

through 2018 with a club option for 2019.

Among other deals:

- The Chicago Cubs acquired right-hander Dan Haren and cash from Miami and right-hander Tommy Hunter from Baltimore for outfielder Junior Lake.

- The Orioles got outfielder Gerardo Parra from Milwaukee.

- San Diego obtained left-hander Marc Rzepczynski from Cleveland.

- Pittsburgh got left-hander J.A. Happ from Seattle and first baseman Michael Morse from the Los Angeles Dodgers.

- Minnesota acquired right-hander Kevin Jepsen from Tampa Bay.

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