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Dylan Bundy mows down Rangers and the Orioles hit four home runs in 5-1 win

By Peter Schmuck / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

Orioles rookie Dylan Bundy carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second start in a row Tuesday night, and this time he was rewarded for it.

Bundy didn’t get the no-hitter and might not have gotten the chance to go all the way regardless of the number of hits he gave up, but he outdrew Texas Rangers right-hander Yu Darvish and the Orioles scored a homer-happy 5-1 victory before 22,230 at Camden Yards.

Bundy allowed just one hit in seven innings in the longest start of his brief major league career and did not give up a run on the way to his fourth victory of the season. He threw 88 pitches before giving way to reliever Brad Brach to start the eighth.

“I think keeping the ball in against some of those lefties they had in that lineup [was important],” Bundy said, “and also mixing it up the whole game and not trying to get into a pattern.”

Darvish struck out nine, but he served up three solo home runs – two of them to Orioles designated hitter Pedro Alvarez. The Orioles had four homers in all, the last one off the bat of Matt Wieters, whose 10th homer of the year gave the Orioles seven batters with double-figure home run totals.

There was a bit of suspense in the eighth. Brach allowed two walks and two singles to bring the go-ahead run to the plate with two outs. That set up a showdown between Rangers 20-homer center fielder Ian Desmond and Darren O’Day. The duel came down to a pair of full-count pitches.

Desmond fought off a two-strike slider and then struck out to end the threat.

O’Day remained in the game to pitch the ninth and recorded his third save of the season. Zach Britton remained in the bullpen after the O’s added a fifth run in the bottom of the eighth and took away the save opportunity for him.

Alvarez doubles up again: Pedro Alvarez broke the scoreless tie when he opened the Orioles’ fifth inning with his 14th homer of the season – a line drive into the right field bleachers. In his next at-bat, he launched a ball onto the flag court for his 15th homer, which dropped his HR ratio to a home run every 15.2 at-bats. That ranks him second on the team behind only Mark Trumbo (13.8). It was his second two-homer game of the season.

“He very quietly, for about a month now, has been a real threat for us at a time of need,” manager Buck Showalter said. “He’s been a real contributor for us. He’s had solid at-bats and being a lot more selective. He hit breaking balls both times, didn’t he? Actually, the first one he hit was a pretty good pitch. He didn’t get all of that, but he’s just strong.”

Back-to-back again: Wieters followed Alvarez to the plate in the seventh inning and hammered a ball into the right field bleachers to produce the 11th pair of back-to-back home runs hit by the Orioles this season. Alvarez’s homer came off Yu Darvish. Wieters’ came against Rangers reliever Dario Alvarez.

Jones hits No. 21: Adam Jones broke open the 12th inning on Sunday in Toronto with a three-run homer and then made it back-to-back games Tuesday night when he hit his 21st of the season to lead off the sixth inning.

Wieters shortens the fourth: Bundy allowed his first baserunner of the game in the fourth inning when he walked center fielder Ian Desmond to bring new Ranger Carlos Beltran to the
plate. Lest anyone forget, Bundy was perfect through five innings in his previous start before walking Colorado’s Mark Reynolds with one out in the sixth and giving up a home run to former Oriole Nick Hundley. This time, he teamed up with Wieters on a strike-em-out, throw-em-out double play to end the inning and hold down his pitch count.

**Buck moves up:** Showalter earned his 518th win as Orioles manager, moving him past Paul Richards for sole possession of second place on the franchise’s all-time wins list behind only Earl Weaver.


**Brilliant Bundy, 4 HRs lead O's over Rangers**

By Brittany Ghiroli and Ryan Baillargeon / MLB.com

*August 3, 2016*

BALTIMORE -- Tuesday night was the clash of two first-place teams, the Orioles and the Rangers, who were both active in adding to their roster at Monday's Trade Deadline as they make the push for their respective division titles.

But despite all the new faces, it was rookie Orioles starter Dylan Bundy who stole the spotlight, throwing seven dominant one-hit innings to lead his club to a series-opening 5-1 win at Camden Yards.

"Of course, I knew it all along," Orioles manager Buck Showalter joked of Bundy's progression from the bullpen. "Of course not. Nobody knew. We're not that smart. And who knows what's going to happen [in the] next one? I wish it was that predictive. If it was, it would be a lot easier. But you never know. It's very hard to do what he's done these last few outings."

Pedro Alvarez homered twice to back the effort -- chasing Rangers starter Yu Darvish with his second -- and Adam Jones blasted his 21st homer of the year in the sixth. Darvish went 6 1/3 innings and was charged with three runs, all via solo homers, on six hits with nine strikeouts. Matt Wieters homered off Dario Alvarez in the seventh, going back to back with Pedro Alvarez to extend the lead to 4-0.

The Rangers loaded the bases on reliever Brad Brach in the eighth inning, scoring their only run when Elvis Andrus drove in Jonathan Lucroy with a sacrifice fly. Darren O'Day came on and struck out Ian Desmond to end the the frame.

"I tip my cap to O'Day on that 3-2 slider," Desmond said. "That was a good pitch. I felt like I put a pretty good at-bat against him."

Newcomers struggle: It wasn't the debut Rangers fans envisioned for Lucroy and Beltran, who went a combined 0-for-6 with three strikeouts and a walk in their first game with Texas. Lucroy did come around to score the Rangers’ lone run in the eighth after drawing a one-out walk.

**MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

**Bundy's brilliance:** Bundy didn't allow a hit until the sixth inning, Andrus’ two-out single. In just his fourth career start, he was masterful, holding down a lethal Texas lineup. He struck out seven and issued one walk in the 88-pitch outing.

"Every team in the big leagues has a good lineup. They are professional hitters for a reason, they are good at what they do. I don't look at it any particular way," Bundy said of handcuffing Texas. "I just go out there and try to compete and give the guys, six, seven innings if I can. And keep them in the game."

**Newcomers struggle:** It wasn't the debut Rangers fans envisioned for Lucroy and Beltran, who went a combined 0-for-6 with three strikeouts and a walk in their first game with Texas. Lucroy did come around to score the Rangers’ lone run in the eighth after drawing a one-out walk.
Manager Jeff Banister spoke pregame of the anticipation of watching the new-look lineup, but he noted that they still needed to produce. As a group, the Rangers managed just three hits.

"He just did a good job of hitting the glove really," Lucroy said of Bundy. "He made big pitches when he had to."

**Twice as nice:** Alvarez put the Orioles on the scoreboard with a solo shot in the fifth inning. He went deep again on Darvish's 2-2 pitch with one out in the bottom of the seventh inning to chase him from the game. It marked Alvarez's second multi-homer game of the season and the 12th of his career.

"He very quietly, for about a month now, has been a real threat for us at a time of need. He's been a real contributor for us," Showalter said of Alvarez. "He's had solid at-bats and being a lot more selective. He hit breaking balls both times, didn't he? Actually the first one he hit was a pretty good pitch. He didn't get all of that, but he's just strong."

**Darvish racks up Ks:** Darvish had the Orioles' hitters off balance for much of the night, posting nine strikeouts in his 6 1/3 innings. He entered play averaging 12.7 strikeouts per nine innings this season, and he now has 35 strikeouts in his past four starts (22 2/3 innings). But it was the long ball that caused him trouble Tuesday. Though he entered with just three home runs allowed through his first five starts this season, he surrendered three solo blasts.

"He made great progress, in my opinion, on how he threw the baseball, just how he competed and how he attacked the strike zone," Banister said.

**QUOTABLE**

"It was fun. It's fun to catch when he's able to have all three of his pitches. He located his fastballs really good tonight. It gives me a lot of options to call, and for a young guy, he knows what he's doing. It's nice to work with a guy who has a game plan going in, and he's going to execute it." -- Wieters, on Bundy

**REPLAY REVIEW**

The Orioles won their manager challenge in the eighth inning, when Nomar Mazara had a checked swing overruled. The review, which took one minute and eleven seconds, saw the O's retain their challenge.

**WHAT'S NEXT**

**Rangers:** Cole Hamels (12-2, 2.84) will look to continue his recent success when he takes on the Orioles at 6:05 p.m. CT at Camden Yards. The All-Star lefty has won each of his past three starts, pitching to a 0.84 ERA in that span. In his first start against the Orioles this season on April 14, he took a no-decision after allowing three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

**Orioles:** Baltimore will send Kevin Gausman to the hill for Wednesday's 7:05 p.m. ET game against the Rangers. The righty allowed three home runs in the first inning in Friday's loss to Toronto. Gausman tied a season low with three innings and was charged with six runs.
An examination yesterday on outfielder Joey Rickard’s right thumb didn’t reveal anything that should push back the timetable for his return.

Rickard actually may be ahead of schedule after going on the disabled list retroactive to July 21.

“The four-to-six weeks was a pretty loose guideline,” he said. “It’s pretty average just given that I’m still pretty young and they expect me to heal sooner than later.”

The checkup didn’t show anything “specific” or “crazy,” Rickard said.

“I’m still a couple weeks away and hopefully it will be the sooner end of the four-to-six,” he said.

The Orioles were hoping to get Rickard back by September, but they may not have to wait that long.

“It’s tough to say,” he said. “That’s the plan, to get back before then. I think as of right now, I’m on a good pace.”

Without Rickard on the roster, the Orioles figure to start Steve Pearce and Nolan Reimold Wednesday night against Rangers left-hander Cole Hamels.

Wade Miley is expected to make his Orioles debut on Thursday. He’s under their control through 2018, including a club option.

“He’s more than just a rental.

“That’s a lot better, obviously,” said executive vice president Dan Duquette. “Wade has proven that he can pitch 200 innings, and if you look in the book, there’s a handful of left-handed pitchers that have pitched 200 innings in one year in the big leagues and he’s done it a couple of times.

“We needed a left-handed pitcher to complement our rotation, and Wade’s a workhorse. He’s pitched in the American League effectively. He’s got all the qualities to help our club, and not just for this year, for next year. We’ve liked his skills for a while, going back to the first winter meetings. We tried to acquire him in a trade with Arizona. And he had a terrific year. He was, like, second in Rookie of the Year and made the All-Star team and he’s had some good years since then. He’s got some more good baseball ahead of him and I think there’s a good fit here and a good opportunity to help our club.

“It’s a good team. We’ve got a good offense, we’ve got a good defense and we’ve got an excellent bullpen.”

Manager Buck Showalter indicated that Miley will make his first start on Thursday, keeping him on normal rest. How is the rest of the rotation impacted?

“We haven’t gotten that far,” Showalter said. “We want to see how everybody feels on their workday. We’ve got some options there, whether we want to give Chris (Tillman) an extra off-day there, see how he feels.

“We’ll probably have a pretty definitive idea after batting practice today. A couple of things we’re waiting on.”

Showalter downplayed the importance of adding a left-hander to the rotation.
“The left-handed thing is not a big part of the equation. It really isn’t,” he said. “You’re looking for pitchers. I know our infielders and outfielders and catchers will like it, and maybe the media because he works fast. I don’t think there’s anybody that works faster than him.

“That’s why we got him. He throws strikes. He sinks a little bit, coming off some good outings. Been throwing the ball good. He’s been a guy that’s always taken the ball. I don’t really look at like we needed a left-hander. Dan and I, we’re just trying to add people who give us a chance to try and stay engaged in the game and give us a chance to win.”

Showalter didn’t think Dylan Bundy would be impacted.

“No, not really. No,” he said. “The other team impacts how I handle Dylan as we go forward. “That’s why we did it (limited pitches) on the front side, so that we could turn him loose after the break, hopefully. We can give him an extra day or two.”

A six-man rotation isn’t out of the question. It’s just not in play at the moment.

“We’re going to take a look at it,” Showalter said. “There’s that potential, but right now I don’t see it. But it could change.”

The pitching staff changed from 13 to 12 with Odrisamer Despaigne and Tyler Wilson optioned to Triple-A Norfolk. It was the easiest move, but not a slam dunk.

Showalter admitted that serious consideration was given to sticking with 13 pitchers and a three-man bench, saying the expanded staff has become the norm in August.

“A lot, a lot. We really would have liked to,” he said.

“I was with Dan in the afternoon yesterday and there’s a lot of stuff that people say they’d never do that at 3:30, all of a sudden they’ll do it. There are (ways) we could have stayed at 13, things that we could have stayed at 12. I think we know with the schedule the way it is, it’s going to be hard to stay at 12.

“Tyler’s done a good job, Despaigne’s done some good things for us. We want to get them back down there starting. Tyler’s got an 8:20, 8:30 flight to Durham. He’s going to start tomorrow night. Despaigne’s going to start for them either the next day or the next day. They have to be down 10 days unless we have an injury.

“Tough sending those two guys out. Steve (Pearce) helps us in a lot of areas that we had a need for.”

Pearce is part of the four-man bench tonight and will start Wednesday night.

“We’ll use him today off the bench,” Showalter said. “We’ll get our arms around him. He’s got a couple of nagging things. He’s played like five out of the last seven days. I know he’s going to get a little break off the turf. I know he’s kind of excited about that.”

The Orioles may have to lock him out of the indoor batting cage again to reduce the risk of injury, especially to his wrists. No one outworks Pearce.

“That’s why you like him,” Showalter said. “He’s very respectful where he’s come from.”

Outfielder Henry Urrutia was added to Double-A Bowie’s roster today after clearing waivers and being outrighted.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Mychal Givens is the first Orioles reliever with at least eight wins by the end of July since Arthur Rhodes in 1996.

The ceremonial first pitch was delivered by 9-year-old Zion Harvey of Baltimore, the first pediatric patient to have a bilateral hand transplant. He walks on prosthetic legs. There won’t be a more inspirational moment tonight.

Adam Jones caught the first pitch, hugged Harvey and posed for photos.
Update: Pedro Alvarez lined his 14th home run of the season into the right field seats leading off the bottom of the fifth to break a scoreless tie.

Dylan Bundy hasn’t allowed a hit in five innings for the second consecutive start. He walked Ian Desmond with one out in the fourth, but a strikeout/caught stealing has allowed Bundy to face the minimum number of batters at 61 pitches.

Update II: Adam Jones led off the bottom of the sixth inning with his 21st home run and his second in two games to give the Orioles a 2-0 lead.

Elvis Andrus broke up Bundy’s no-hit bid with a two-out single into center field in the sixth. Bundy has allowed one hit, walked one and struck out seven over seven innings. He’s thrown 88 pitches, one short of his career high, and he’s twice left the mound to standing ovations.

Update III: Alvarez has his second multi-homer game of the season and the 12th of his career. The Orioles lead 3-0 in the seventh and Darvish is done.

Update IV: Matt Wieters greeted Dario Alvarez with his 10th home run, giving the Orioles a 4-0 lead in the seventh. Wieters is the eighth Oriole with double-digits in home runs. He hadn’t gone deep since June 25 versus the Rays.

The Orioles have hit back-to-back home runs 11 times this season.

Update V: The Rangers scored once off Brad Brach in the eighth and Darren O’Day struck out Ian Desmond with the bases loaded and the count full to keep the score 4-1.

Update VI: The Orioles defeated the Rangers 5-1 for their second consecutive win after losing five in a row.

Chris Davis had a broken-bat RBI single in the eighth after Hyun Soo Kim was hit by a pitch and Manny Machado singled.

Bundy improved to 4-3 with a 3.05 ERA. O’Day retired all four batters he faced and recorded his third save.

The Orioles are 60-45 and assured of maintaining sole possession of first place in the American League East. They’re 38-16 at home.
Dylan Bundy pitches seven scoreless innings as Orioles top Texas

By Steve Melewski / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Orioles right-hander Dylan Bundy seems to keep getting better and better, and his starts keep getting more exciting. Tonight, he picked up his second victory as a starting pitcher with the longest start of his professional career.

Bundy held the Texas Rangers, the team with the best record in the American League, to one single over seven scoreless innings as the Orioles beat the Rangers 5-1. It was the start of a three-game series between AL division leaders.

Bundy had a perfect game through five innings and a shutout through 5 1/3 last Wednesday versus Colorado. He topped that tonight.

He took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before a clean single to center with two outs by No. 9 hitter Elvis Andrus. In his last inning, the seventh, Bundy went back out with 77 pitches and got a strikeout, groundout and flyout on 11 pitches to finish with 88. He needed just 21 pitches to roll through the first two innings and just 45 to get through the fourth. He improves to 4-3 with an ERA of 3.05.

Over his last 10 games since June 9, Bundy has pitched to an ERA of 1.78. He has thrown 35 1/3 innings allowing 24 hits and seven earned runs with nine walks and 43 strikeouts. The previous longest outing of his pro career was a 6 2/3 innings start for Single-A Frederick on Aug. 1, 2012.

While Bundy was holding the Rangers off the scoreboard, Texas right-hander Yu Darvish was doing the same against the Orioles through four innings.

But in the last of the fifth, Pedro Alvarez led off with a line-drive homer to right-center to break the 0-0 tie. Alvarez hit No. 14 on a 2-2 cutter. It traveled an estimated 372 feet, according to Statcast.

An inning later, the Orioles got another leadoff homer. This time it was Adam Jones. His high fly ball to left just cleared the fence for No. 21 and a 2-0 lead. It went 358 feet and was Jones’ second homer in two games and his fourth in his last seven games.

In the seventh inning, the Orioles made it 4-0, hitting back-to-back homers for the 11th time this season as Alvarez homered again (No. 15) and Matt Wieters followed with a solo shot (No. 10). Alvarez’s homer knocked Darvish from the game and Wieters greeted Dario Alvarez with a homer to right.

For Pedro Alvarez, it was his second multi-homer game of the year and the 12th of his career. It was the 14th time this year an Oriole produced a multi-homer game. The O’s and Seattle are tied for the major league league lead with 14 each.

Down 4-0, Texas scored once off reliever Brad Brach in the eighth on two singles, a walk and a sac fly. But when a second Brach walk loaded the bases, Darren O’Day came on to get a huge third out to end the inning. O’Day has held opponent batters to 0-for-5 with the bases loaded this season after they went 1-for-13 last year. The Orioles completed the scoring on a Chris Davisbroken-bat RBI single in the last of the eighth, and O’Day pitched the ninth to finish it out and record his third save.

The win means the Orioles will end the night in first place at 60-45. They have won two in a row since ending a five-game slide. They improved to 38-16 at home, where they have won 12 of 15 and 21 of their past 27 games. The Rangers fall to 62-45 and had a four-game winning streak snapped. The Orioles had lost nine of their last 10 against Texas until getting this win.
BA LTIMORE -- Dylan Bundy wasn't going to go past the seventh inning, no matter what. So, quite unintentionally, the rookie gave up a hit to make life easier for manager Buck Showalter.

Bundy took a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second game in a row, Pedro Alvarez hit two of Baltimore's four solo homers and the Orioles beat the Texas Rangers 5-1 on Tuesday night in a duel between AL division leaders.

Making his fourth career start, Bundy allowed one hit and a walk over seven sparkling innings against a potent lineup featuring newcomers Carlos Beltran and Jonathan Lucroy.

Bundy (4-3) retired the first 10 batters before issuing a fourth-inning walk to Ian Desmond, who was thrown out trying to steal as Beltran struck out. Elvis Andrus ended the rookie's no-hit bid with a clean line drive up the middle with two outs in the sixth.

"The seventh was his last inning, regardless," Showalter said. "That was a pretty good progression for him. He almost got through the sixth inning last time."

In his previous outing, Bundy -- the fourth overall pick in the 2011 draft -- retired the first 16 batters against Colorado before giving up three runs in the sixth.

This time, Bundy capped his outing with a 1-2-3 seventh -- the farthest he's gone in the majors.

"I knew that was it for him," Showalter said. "Usually, people stay away from the pitcher during no-hitters, but all the coaches were staying away from me. They were afraid I was going to ask what they thought."

Facing the team with the AL's best record, Bundy struck out seven and didn't allow a runner past first base.

What else can the right-hander accomplish?

"Mainly, just getting deeper in games and getting my arm built up," Bundy said. "Still got to go above 90 (pitches)."

Bundy is not yet a finished product, but he's getting there.

"He threw the ball really well," Desmond said. "He's stingy. Didn't miss over the plate to me much."

Texas closed to 4-1 in the eighth against Brad Brach before Darren O'Day struck out Desmond with the bases loaded and two outs. O'Day came back in the ninth to earn his third save.

It was the second consecutive win for the Orioles following a five-game skid that temporarily dropped them out of first place in the AL East.

Bundy outpitched Yu Darvish (2-3), who allowed three homers for only the second time in 90 major league appearances. Alvarez connected in the fifth and seventh innings, and Adam Jones went deep on an 0-2 pitch in the sixth.

Darvish was pulled after Alvarez's second homer made it 3-0, and Matt Wieters greeted reliever Dario Alvarez with a shot to right.
Facing the Orioles for the first time since taking the loss in the 2012 wild-card game, Darvish gave up three runs and struck out nine in his seventh start this season.

"He made progress, in my opinion, on how he threw the baseball, how he competed and just how he attacked the strike zone," manager Jeff Banister said. "He had to pitch almost flawless with what Bundy was doing."

The loss snapped the AL West-leading Rangers' four-game winning streak. Playing with Texas for the first time since being obtained Monday in separate trades, Beltran went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and Lucroy was hitless with a walk but scored the Rangers' lone run.

MILESTONES

**Rangers:** Texas' run of 14 straight games with a HR ended.

**Orioles:** It was Showalter's 518th win as Orioles manager, lifting him out of a tie with Paul Richards and into sole possession of second place on the team's career list. Earl Weaver is the leader with 1,480.

TRAINER'S ROOM

**Rangers:** OF Shin-Soo Choo (lower back inflammation) is getting close to coming off the disabled list, Banister said.

UP NEXT

**Rangers:** Cole Hamels (12-2, 2.84 ERA) starts the second game of the series Wednesday. He's 3-0 with an 0.84 ERA since the All-Star break.

**Orioles:** Kevin Gausman (2-8, 4.18) has won only two of 18 starts this season and lost his only career appearance against Texas.
Orioles' Darren O'Day picks up Brad Brach, whose second half has not gone smoothly

By Jon Meoli / The Baltimore Sun
August 3, 2016

In the midst of his All-Star first half, Orioles reliever Brad Brach knew how hard it was to pitch that well for a month, let alone three months, let alone an entire season.

Since his trip to San Diego for the All-Star Game in mid-July, however, Brach is seeing the flip-side of that, and seeing how slight the difference is between an All-Star reliever and one in a funk.

Brach entered the Orioles’ 5-1 win Tuesday over the Texas Rangers with a 4-0 lead in the eighth inning, but allowed a run on two hits and a pair of walks before leaving the bases loaded for Darren O’Day, who successfully got out of the inning for him.

He recounted the outing and all the two-strike pitches that could have changed things, and admitted it’s been tough going since the break.

“I think to put up [numbers] like I did the first half, you have to have a lot of luck,” Brach said. “It seemed like every ball that’s hit hard, the play is made, the double play is made, and it gets me out of the jams. I’m just kind of going through it. It’s one of those spots where I’m one pitch away, basically. Every inning. I’ve just got to make that pitch and try to get out of this little funk.”

Brach had a 0.91 ERA (five earned runs in 49 1/3 innings) and a 0.82 WHIP in the first half of the season, but has a 3.68 ERA with a 1.50 WHIP in eight appearances since the break. Manager Buck Showalter thinks it’s mostly the results that are different.

“The end game, a little bit, but he was a pitch away from getting out of it,” Showalter said. “The groundball that went through, and a tough play by [first baseman Chris Davis]. Everybody’s got a little bit of wear and tear on the team. Everybody.”

One member of the Orioles bullpen that doesn’t have that usage, O’Day, ended up cleaning up for Brach and pitching a perfect ninth inning for his third save of the season. Since returning from the disabled list on July 24, O’Day has allowed one hit and walked one while striking out seven in 4 2/3 innings.

“He comes in with the bases loaded, you know he’s going to get out of it,” Brach said. “He does it all the time. Definitely, having him back, he’s a huge help. It doesn’t leave all the burden to a couple of guys, two or three guys. We’ve got a whole bullpen ready to go.”

O’Day returned from a hamstring injury on July 24 and has produced four scoreless outings since.

“I don’t know if anybody made a better addition before the trade deadline than we did with Darren,” Showalter said.

Both O’Day and Brach are effective against left-handed hitters, and are reliable almost to a fault. Brach seized the eighth-inning role in O’Day’s absence, and even as one’s struggles have coincided with the other’s return, they’re both quite happy to lessen each other’s workload and pick one another up when the time comes.

“Brad, what a first half he’s had,” O’Day said. “I’ve been saying it for a long time. Brad’s going to be a closer some time, somewhere in his life. Brad’s a heck of a relief pitcher. He’s picked me up quite a few times. It’s nice for me to return the favor.”
Dylan Bundy takes another step by completing seven scoreless innings

By Jake Lourim / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

Dylan Bundy had been there before — six days earlier, in fact. After 15 up he had sent 15 down in a pitching duel against the Colorado Rockies’ Jon Gray.

In the midst of his best start as a big-leaguer, Bundy left two changeups high in the strike zone, and Nick Hundley and David Dahl hit them out for solo home runs.

This time, Bundy found himself in almost the same situation. An Ian Desmond walk was the only base runner the Texas Rangers managed in the first five innings, and Desmond was caught stealing at second on a strikeout pitch.

This time, Bundy pitched the sixth and seventh without a blemish, turning in his longest start as a professional and one of the Orioles’ best of the season in a 5-1 win Tuesday at Camden Yards.

“Just to get six, I was pleased with that,” Bundy said. “Went back out there for the seventh and just had to focus a little bit more and locate a little better.”

The 23-year-old right-hander cruised through the first three innings on 31 pitches — 24 strikes. He struck out the game’s first batter and then froze Carlos Beltran with an outside fastball to end the top half of the first.

In all, he retired 20 of 22 batters he faced, exiting the game after seven innings and striking out seven on 88 pitches. Elvis Andrus’ line-drive single in the sixth was the only hit Bundy allowed, relieving manager Buck Showalter of the decision between taking Bundy out in the middle of a no-hitter and leaving him in, risking arm damage. Asked if he was disappointed or comforted by that, Showalter said with a smile he’d never tell.

“The seventh was his last inning regardless,” Showalter said. “That was a pretty good progression for him. He almost got through the sixth inning last time. We had [relief pitcher Brad Brach] up and he was kind of going hitter to hitter.”

Until that hit, the Rangers hadn’t made contact with Bundy’s pitches or — even better for Bundy’s pitch count — made soft contact early in the count.

Other than the single, just five balls left the infield in Bundy’s seven innings, only one of which was hit hard, right at center fielder Adam Jones.

Bundy claimed he didn’t notice the running no-hitter, but the announced crowd of 22,230 did, giving him rounds of applause after the single, after he finished the sixth and again as he walked back to the dugout for the last time.

In just four big-league outings, Bundy has now worked his way up from 3 1/3 innings to seven without reaching the 90-pitch threshold.

“Mainly just getting deeper into games and getting my arm built up for that kind of stuff and being able to do that every five days, I think is the biggest part,” Bundy said. “Pitches still haven’t got above 90 yet, so … still gotta go above 90 pitches sometimes, so we’ll see how it goes.”

Showalter couldn’t claim to have seen this coming when the Orioles inserted Bundy into the starting rotation after the All-Star break.
“Nobody knew,” Showalter said. “We’re not that smart. And who knows what’s going to happen next one? I wish it was that predictive. If it was, it would be a lot easier. But you never know.”

While Bundy is unlikely to take a no-hitter into the sixth for a third straight start in his next outing, he’s building his confidence with every outing. Asked if he could have started the eighth inning Tuesday, Bundy of course said he “absolutely” could have.

After having their eyes on Wade Miley for years, the Orioles finally landed him to bolster their rotation

By Eduardo A. Encina / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

The Orioles had been interested in acquiring Wade Miley for several years, and Dan Duquette had been targeting the left-hander since his first winter meetings as Orioles executive vice president. Duquette tried unsuccessfully to acquire Miley from the Arizona Diamondbacks before his breakout rookie season in 2012 and again before he was shipped from Boston to Seattle before this season.

Now, the Orioles have Miley – acquired Sunday, the day before the non-waiver trade deadline, from the Mariners for Triple-A Norfolk left-hander Ariel Miranda. He’s the left-handed rotation arm Duquette had been searching for since losing lefty Wei-Yin Chen to free agency.

“Our scouts have followed Wade for several years,” Duquette said in a press conference before Tuesday’s series opener against the Texas Rangers. “… He’s a workhorse. He’s pitched over 200 innings a few times, excellent command of four pitches, he’s got a good pickoff move. And he loves to compete. We hope he helps stabilize our pitching rotation and is a key piece we hope to help us advance to the playoffs.”

Miley, who will debut with his fourth team in three seasons Thursday against the Rangers, now knows he’s in a place where he’s wanted. The 29-year-old is under team control through the 2018 season – his deal includes a club option for the final year – so the Orioles see him as a part of their future.

“It just gives you a little more confidence, that these guys have enough confidence to take that chance and it’s now my job to help improve this team [to] get to the playoffs,” Miley said. “That’s where it starts. That’s what we want to do.”

Miley said he followed rumors that he might be traded leading up to the deadline, but hadn’t heard any rumblings about coming to Baltimore. He was pleasantly surprised to be dealt to a first-place club.

“When I first found out I was excited,” Miley added. “Going from a third-place team to a first-place team overnight, there’s nothing wrong with that. So hopefully, I just come in here and not screw that up.”

With so many teams in contention and looking to improve their pitching staffs, Duquette said it was difficult landing a starting pitcher, let alone one in Miley whose contract is under team control for the next two full seasons.

“There was more teams chasing pure players because with the second wild card, allowing another club to qualify, there's more teams in contention now,” Duquette said. “So generally what happens is you try to beef up your pitching staff this time of year. Teams that are out there competing to get into the playoffs are looking to add, and they're looking at a very limited pool of major league pitchers to add to their club. So it was certainly a seller's market.”
The Orioles hope Miley can help upgrade a starting rotation that posted a 5.15 ERA in the first half of the season, a mark that ranked 14th among the 15 American League teams.

“He’s a bulldog,” said Orioles outfielder Mark Trumbo, who played with Miley in Arizona in 2014. “I think his tempo is my favorite thing, playing behind him. It can make it tough as a hitter — I’ve also seen that side of it. He works very quickly, doesn’t waste any time. So from the defense, it really keeps them on their toes. He throws a lot of strikes. He’s pretty much everything you ask for in a starting pitcher.

The Orioles believe Miley’s career ground-ball rate of 48.4 percent will play well with the defense and his career home run rate of 0.9 per nine innings will neutralize the hitter-friendly nature of Camden Yards. Miley's ground-ball rate this season (46.6 percent) is its lowest in four years but his homers allowed per nine innings (1.45) is the highest of his career.

“If he can keep the ball on the ground he's going to help stabilize our rotation and our guys are going to score runs and make plays for him,” Duquette said. “So all he has to do is what he's done over his whole career, and that's take the ball and go out and pitch. I think everything will go fine.”

Miley – who has a diverse arsenal that includes a four-seam fastball, sinker, changeup, slider and curveball – averaged 198 innings per season from 2012-15, including back-to-back 200-inning seasons with the Diamondbacks in 2013 and 2014.

Duquette said he attempted to trade for Miley before the 2012 season, when he went 16-11 with a 3.33 ERA in 32 games, made the NL All-Star team and was second in NL Rookie of the Year voting in his first full major league season with the Diamondbacks. He also tried to acquire Miley this past offseason, when he was coming off a year in which he went 11-11 with a 4.46 ERA with the Red Sox, his only previous season in the American League East.

“He’s got all the qualities to help our club, and not just for this year, for next year,” Duquette said. “We’ve liked his skills for a while, going back to the first winter meetings. We tried to acquire him in a trade with Arizona. And he had a terrific year…. and he’s had some good years since then. He’s got some more good baseball ahead of him and I think there’s a good fit here and a good opportunity to help our club. It’s a good team. We’ve got a good offense, we’ve got a good defense and we’ve got an excellent bullpen.”

Through his first 14 starts this season, Miley had a 5.58 ERA, but over the past month, he’s pitched well. Despite going 1-4 in five July starts, he recorded four quality starts and a 3.45 ERA, including a seven-inning, one-run, one-hit, nine-strikeout outing in his last start on Saturday at Wrigley Field. That performance had Duquette fearing whether he’d be able to acquire Miley at the deadline.

“We had discussions ongoing and I wasn’t so sure we were going to be able to do that after he pitched so well on Saturday, but we did and here he is,” Duquette said.

Even though the Orioles didn’t make any splashy moves at the deadline – and other competing teams in the division and the AL seemed to do more – the additions of Miley and Pearce sent a strong message to other Orioles players.

“When you buy, it gives your players a sense of ‘Hey, our front office is trying to improve us and trying to see that we have something special here,’” center fielder Adam Jones said. “If you’re selling, the team understands that you’re in rebuild mode a little more, but I think that over the last five years here, we’ve proved to the front office that we have a formidable team on the field, and sometimes we just need a little push, and I think we got a little push right now, so let’s see what that runs out for the next six to eight weeks and then to October.”

Duquette said he will continue to improve the club down the stretch – players must now clear waivers before being traded but players acquired through Aug. 31 are still eligible for the postseason.
He said the team’s additions of Miley, utility man Steve Pearce and right-handed reliever Logan Ondrusek, who was signed last week after pitching in the Japanese Central League, all address areas of need.

“At this time of year you'd like to be adding players without taking them away,” Duquette said. “It’s hard to do the math and make sure what you're subtracting doesn't take away what you're adding. Fortunately in this case we added three ballplayers. . . . And we're going to continue to look for ways to strengthen the team. We want to see this through. We've been to the playoffs a couple of times and we want to advance to the playoffs and taking


Orioles players react to trades for Wade Miley, Steve Pearce

By Jon Meoli / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

The Orioles had the off-day Monday to digest the acquisitions made since they last played, with left-hander Wade Miley and outfielder/infielder Steve Pearce joining the club from Seattle and Tampa Bay, respectively.

On Tuesday, some of the team's stars gave their thoughts on the additions to a team that returned home for a three-game series against the Texas Rangers with a slim grip on first place in the American League East.

Outfielder Mark Trumbo:

On his impressions of Miley as both a teammate in Arizona and as an opponent: "He’s a bulldog. I think his tempo is my favorite thing, playing behind him. It can make it tough as a hitter — I’ve also seen that side of it. He works very quickly, doesn’t waste any time. So from the defense, it really keeps them on their toes. He throws a lot of strikes. He’s pretty much everything you ask for in a starting pitcher."

On whether he'll fit in well with the team: "This is a really welcoming clubhouse for people who get in the situation he’s in, whether it be an off-season trade or a midseason trade. I think the guys here are really welcoming and I think a lot of it’s probably because quite a few people in this room have played somewhere else before. Everyone knows what it’s like to be the new guy and what you can do to make someone feel more acclimated and ultimately probably play better for you. It puts you in a good head space."

Starting pitcher Chris Tillman

On his impressions of Miley: "I’ve seen him multiple times. He works quickly, which is always good. We have a couple of guys who do that — it helps the offense, helps the defense, makes the defense play better. He knows what he’s doing. He’s been around for a while. He knows how to pitch, and he’s fun to watch. I look forward to getting to know him."

On whether he can be the final piece to an improving rotation: "You can’t say that. It’s putting too much pressure on him. That’s not what it’s about. It’s about coming in, getting outs, and doing your job. You can’t put that much pressure on him. It’s not fair. Hopefully it will make us better. I think it will, and I think that’s why we made the move. To help us. Another thing is he’s a lefty and we haven’t had one of those all year. That’s a big part of the game."

On adding two major league players without trading away major league assets: "Any time you can get proven guys, that’s big. Especially a guy that we’ve seen a lot, and another one that’s been in this clubhouse a lot. We know what they’re about, and I think only good things can come of it."

Center fielder Adam Jones
On adding two pieces at the deadline: “We welcome them both with open arms. ... Two veteran guys that understand the game and understand the grit and fight of the dog days of August that we’re on now, and the last 60 games, going to try to get to the playoffs.”

On what making moves like this means for the team: “It means that the front office understands that they have something good on the field, and a good product, and that they want to improve it. That’s what the trade deadline is. The cool part is you still have another 30 days with the waiver wire, so you never know what moves are set in stone, because there’s still another 30 days for things to happen. I’m excited to have all these guys and just to see. I’ve always said that I enjoy my teammates no matter who’s here in the dugout and the clubhouse with us. Right now we have two new guys — or one and a half new guys. I don’t really know Steve Pearce too well. I don’t remember him too well. So I’ll try to get myself reacquainted with him and just make this push for the next two months.”

On being a contender again: “It’s better to be a buyer than a seller. When you buy, it gives your players a sense of ‘Hey, our front office is trying to improve us and trying to see that we have something special here.’ If you’re selling, the team understands that you’re in rebuild mode a little more, but I think that over the last five years here, we’ve proved to the front office that we have a formidable team on the field, and sometimes we just need a little push, and I think we got a little push right now, so let’s see what that runs out for the next six to eight weeks and then to October.”
Steve Pearce said he spent all afternoon Monday waiting for the trade deadline to pass and for his situation to be resolved, but was glad for his final destination to be back in Baltimore.

Returning to a first-place Orioles team, he said, is a “good situation.”

“Playing meaningful baseball, that’s what we want to do,” said Pearce, who joined from the Tampa Bay Rays in a trade for catching prospect Jonah Heim. “It gives us a reason to show up at the park every day and get ready to strap it on because it is going to be a dogfight. It’s a tough division. There’s a lot of people competing right now for the playoffs.”

Center fielder Adam Jones joked that he needs to be re-introduced to Pearce, but the reality is all parties involved are happy for a reunion. Pearce said coming back to a place where he played — and thrived — for parts of four season is making it easier to move in-season.

“I’ve played with these guys for a long time, so they’re excited, I’m excited,” Pearce said. “Just excited to be back. I heard the news yesterday and it was great news. It’s an easier transition for me.”

Executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette slapped Pearce on the back during an introductory press conference, saying it was the fifth time they’ve come together after parting ways in one form or another.

“Had a terrific year in Tampa, we are glad to have him back,” Duquette said. “He gives us excellent defense, power when he’s in the game and when he’s not in the game he gives us a real strong bench. … These are two workman-type players. Guys that like to grind it out in the American League East, they’ve got ability and we are real glad to have them back with the club.”

Pearce is batting .309 with 10 home runs in 60 games for the Rays, having missed time in June with a hamstring injury. He primarily played first base, second base and designated hitter with the Rays, though he said he’s prepared to play the outfield. As a right-handed batter who’s hitting .377 off left-handed pitching, he could platoon with either Hyun Soo Kim in left field or Pedro Alvarez at designated hitter against lefties.

Showalter said Pearce would make his 2016 Orioles debut Wednesday against left-hander Cole Hamels, though how he’ll be used is still up in the air.

“I’m not sure where we’re at,” Showalter said. “We’ll use him today off the bench. We’ll get our arms around him. He’s got a couple of nagging things. He’s played like five out of the last seven days. I know he’s going to get a little break off the turf. I know he’s kind of excited about that.”
Buck Showalter now has another option to fill out his ever-evolving rotation

By Jon Meoli and Jake Lourim / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

All season, manager Buck Showalter has tinkered with the Orioles’ starting rotation. Acquiring left-hander Wade Miley makes that job becomes a little easier.

After Dylan Bundy’s outing Tuesday, Kevin Gausman will go Wednesday, and then Showalter will have his options. Miley could make his Orioles debut Thursday against the Texas Rangers, which would put him on regular rest after his last start for the Seattle Mariners on Saturday. He pitched seven innings of one-hit ball, giving up one run and striking out nine on 92 pitches.

If the Orioles hold Miley until Friday, Yovani Gallardo would also be in line for Thursday before Tillman pitches on an extra day’s rest Saturday. Showalter said he would wait to decide after Miley’s work day Tuesday.

The manager has more choices on the table, including moving to a six-man rotation of Miley, Chris Tillman, Gausman, Gallardo, Bundy and Ubaldo Jimenez.

For now, Jimenez moves to the bullpen and is available Tuesday. Vance Worley, who started July 19 and 24 for the first times since April, is also in the bullpen. He pitched four scoreless innings in relief of Gausman on Friday.

Meanwhile, Showalter said Miley’s arrival doesn’t change Bundy’s status. The Orioles still believe they can keep him on track as a starter and not go over the innings limit they have in mind, though the trade does enable them to give Bundy extra days off if he needs them.

Rickard update: Outfielder Joey Rickard, who is on the disabled list with a torn thumb ligament in his right hand, remained in his hard brace Tuesday after a check-up Monday.

Showalter had hoped Rickard could have the brace removed during the check-up. Still, he said Rickard is ahead of pace on the four-to-six week timeline given when he suffered the injury on July 20.

Rickard said the doctors gave him no specific update, but he said he remains “a couple weeks away, and hopefully that’ll be the sooner end of the four-to-six.”

“The four-to-six weeks was a pretty loose guideline, pretty average, just given that I’m pretty young and they expect me to heal sooner than later,” Rickard said.

The plan, Rickard said, is to make it back by September.

“I think as of right now, I’m on a good pace,” he said.

Around the horn: The Orioles optioned right-handers Tyler Wilson and Odrisamer Despaigne to make room for Miley and Pearce, so they are now back to a 12-man pitching staff. Wilson will start for Triple-A Norfolk on Wednesday, with Despaigne starting later in the week.
Local "Chopped Junior" contestant to throw first pitch at Aug. 4 Orioles game

By Sarah Meehan / The Baltimore Sun
August 2, 2016

Bryce Taylor, the Mount Washington teen who placed second on the Food Network's "Chopped Junior," will throw out the ceremonial first pitch at Thursday's Orioles game.

The 13-year-old from Mount Washington was the runner up on the cooking show in October. In addition to his pre-game pitch, Taylor will prepare ginger turkey burgers for fans at Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant.

The Orioles play the Texas Rangers at 7:05 p.m. Thursday.

Taylor, who has been cooking since age 5 with his mother, will also help judge a cooking competition between Adam Jones and Local Fry owners Kevin and Elizabeth Irish, the winners of MASN's 2016 CareFirst Fan Challenge, at Dempsey's on Wednesday.
Upgraded Rangers lineup no match for Bundy

By Brittany Ghiroli / MLB.com
August 3, 2016

BALTIMORE -- It was hard for the Orioles' crowd to decide just what moments were most appropriate to celebrate rookie Dylan Bundy. But the way the 23-year-old pitched Tuesday night, it seemed only right for those assembled at Camden Yards to spend most of the evening on their feet.

And so they did, saluting Bundy after an impressive 11-pitch first inning, rising for an ovation when he lost a no-hitter in the sixth and giving the righty the largest cheer of the night when he walked off the mound in the seventh. Bundy's outing -- which paved the way for Baltimore's 5-1 win -- was one to remember and relish, particularly against such a lethal Texas lineup. Tuesday marked the Rangers debut of Carlos Beltran and Jonathan Lucroy, both of whom were added at Monday's non-waiver Trade Deadline.

"He was born with a gift to command a baseball," reliever Darren O'Day said of Bundy. "[We] enjoyed our time with him in the bullpen, but I think he's moved on to better things."

Bundy, who opened the game with a groundout and pair of strikeouts, was masterful from the start. In throwing his first career quality start in just his fourth try, Bundy was able to pound the strike zone early and often. He struck out seven Rangers in the process.

"I think keeping the ball in on some of those lefties they had in that lineup, and also mixing it up the whole game, not trying to get into a pattern," Bundy said of the reason for his success.

"Just to get six [innings], I was pleased with that and went back out there for the seventh and just had to focus a little bit more and locate a little better."

Bundy needed just 88 pitches to go seven innings, which is one fewer than he threw over 5 2/3 frames his last time out. Asked if he was relieved when the rookie gave up a hit -- to save him from a tough decision -- Orioles manager Buck Showalter quipped that he would never tell.

"You were disappointed because you were waiting to see what we were going to do," Showalter teased the media. "The seventh was his last inning regardless. That was going to be his last inning. That was a pretty good progression for him. He almost got through the sixth inning last time, ... I knew that was it for him. Usually, people stay away from the pitcher during no-hitters, but all the coaches were staying away from me. They were afraid I was going to ask what they thought."

Bundy said he didn't notice the crowd much on Tuesday night, but he was pleased that he was able to be more efficient. In retiring 20 of 22, Bundy -- who issued one walk -- turned in the longest start of his pro career, including the Minor Leagues.

"I think the power fastball, the ability to throw the up-and-down game," Rangers manager Jeff Bannister said of what made Bundy so good. "Fastball down, fastball up. He locked in on our guys on the inside and expanded when he needed to. I think there was the one hard hit ball by [Mitch] Moreland. It was a special night for Bundy tonight with how he was throwing the ball. There are times when you've got to tip your cap to a guy when he's got his stuff going like that."
Hamels out to continue road dominance vs. O's

By Ryan Baillargeon / MLB.com
August 3, 2016

Cole Hamels has been dominant on the road this season, and he'll look to continue his success away from Arlington when he battles the Orioles at Camden Yards on Wednesday.

In his first full season with the Rangers, Hamels is 8-1 with a 1.71 ERA on the road compared to his 4.22 ERA at Globe Life Park. The left-hander has been especially good over his past three starts, going 3-0 with a 0.84 ERA.

The Orioles will need to overcome their struggles against left-handed pitching if they want to deal Hamels his second road loss of the season. Baltimore has hit .236 against lefties compared to .277 against right-handers.

Kevin Gausman (2-8, 4.18 ERA) will take the mound looking to bounce back from his rough start in Toronto on Friday. The 25-year-old matched his season high with six runs allowed in just three innings of work.

Three things to know about this game

• Jeremy Jeffress, who the Rangers acquired from the Brewers in the deal that also brought Jonathan Lucroy to Texas, is expected to join the club Wednesday. As Milwaukee's closer this season, he recorded 27 saves. He isn't expected to serve as the ninth-inning man with Texas, however.

• The long ball has been a problem at times for Gausman. After allowing three homers to the Blue Jays in his last start, he's surrendered three home runs in three different starts this season. His 19 homers allowed are a career high.

• Steve Pearce, who the Orioles acquired from the Rays, is expected to make his season debut in a Baltimore uniform against Hamels. It is his third stint with the organization.
O, what a pitch by transplant patient, 9!

By Brittany Ghiroli / MLB.com
August 2, 2016

BALTIMORE -- Orioles center fielder Adam Jones had been keeping tabs on 9-year-old Zion Harvey for about a year.

So when Harvey, the first child in the world to undergo a bilateral hand transplant last summer, was finally able to throw, Jones made sure he would get one special toss -- a ceremonial first pitch before the Orioles' 5-1 win against the Rangers on Tuesday night.

"Zion Harvey is a trooper," Jones said. "And the pitch he threw I might've chased."

It was a fitting start to a great night for Jones and the O's. Behind seven shutout innings from Dylan Bundy, two home runs from Pedro Alvarez, and naturally a homer from Jones in the leadoff spot, Baltimore got a big win over Yu Darvish and Texas. In a battle of two postseason favorites and two of the busier teams leading up to Monday's non-waiver Trade Deadline, the Orioles emerged victorious. And Harvey certainly played a special part in the evening.

Harvey, who is from Owings Mills, Md., threw the ceremonial first pitch to Jones. It was a special moment that had been a long time coming.

Ever since the operation at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Harvey has spent the last year working to regain hand function and the ability to throw a baseball. It took months of rigorous hand therapy sessions, but it was all worth it when Harvey, clad in a white Orioles jersey, took to the field at Camden Yards.

Zion has been fighting all his life. At the age of 2, he developed sepsis, a life-threatening infection that attacked his entire body and eventually required amputation of both of his hands and his legs below the knee. The infection also damaged Zion's kidneys and two years later, he underwent an organ transplant, receiving a kidney from his mother, Pattie Ray, according to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The hospital's article on Harvey also notes that Pattie brought her son in 2012 to get fitted with prosthetic hands. Instead, his doctors, Scott Kozin and his partner Dan Zlotolow, had a more radical solution: hand transplants.

It is because of this incredible procedure that Harvey was able to take a baseball in his hands, an ear-to-ear grin on his face as he threw Jones his pitch. Several hours later, Jones homered, to cap the special night.
BALTIMORE -- With Tuesday's 5-1 win over the Texas Rangers, Orioles manager Buck Showalter passed Paul Richards for sole possession of second place on the Orioles all-time managerial wins list with 518 victories.

"One of the players told me today, all those guys have passed away. I keep looking. Is there any active one? I'm not far behind 'em from that standpoint," Showalter said with a grin about being ahead of everyone but legend Earl Weaver. "People made me aware of it. It just means I've been doing it for a long time and I've been lucky enough to have good players -- that allows you to do it for a while. That's about the extent of it. Paul Richards was a great baseball man.

"Gosh, we'd all like to be half the baseball guy he was. I remember reading his book growing up, and he was way ahead of his time. Special. I know Dan [Duquette] was real close to him. He treated Dan real well at a time that a lot of guys of his stature didn't have to. That's always impressive to hear about somebody that you really respected growing up, to hear that from somebody that had day-to-day interaction with him."

Showalter, who is 518-454 in his seven seasons with the Orioles, has a ways to go before he gets close to the top spot. Weaver who won 1,480 games as manager of the Orioles from 1969-1982 and 1985-1986 also won four American League pennants and the 1970 World Series.

Tuesday also marked Showalter's 1,400th career managerial victory, which broke a tie with Hall of Famer Wilbert Robinson for 28th place on the all-time wins list. Showalter also managed the Yankees (313 wins), D-backs (250) and Rangers (319).
O's introduce Miley, welcome back Pearce

By Brittany Ghiorli / MLB.com
August 2, 2016

BALTIMORE -- The Orioles unveiled their Trade Deadline acquisitions, left-handed pitcher Wade Miley and infielder/outfielder Steve Pearce, on Tuesday afternoon, introducing a pair Baltimore hopes can aid in its push for the American League East title.

"[Miley is] a workhorse," executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette said. "He's pitched over 200 innings a few times, excellent command of four pitches, he's got a good pickoff move. And he loves to compete. We hope he helps stabilize our pitching rotation and is a key piece we hope to help us advance to the playoffs."

"Steve Pearce -- [I] think this is our fifth time together, where he's parted and come back to the Orioles. [He] had a terrific year in Tampa; we are glad to have him back. He gives us excellent defense, power when he's in the game. And when he's not in the game, he gives us a real strong bench."

The players, activated for Tuesday's series opener vs. Texas, gives the O's a four-man bench. Pitchers Tyler Wilson and Odrisamer Despaigne were optioned to Triple-A Norfolk to create roster spots.

"Obviously I struggled earlier in the year, but when I first found out [about the trade], I was excited," said Miley, who was acquired from Seattle for pitching prospect Ariel Miranda.

"Going from a third-place team to a first-place team overnight -- there's nothing wrong with that. So hopefully, I just come in here and not screw that up."

Miley is 7-8 with a 4.98 ERA in 19 starts this season for the Mariners. But he had a solid July, posting a 3.45 ERA and four quality starts in his five outings.

"We needed a left-handed pitcher to complement our rotation. And Wade's a workhorse. He's pitched in the American League effectively. He's got all the qualities to help our club, and not just for this year, for next year," Duquette said of Miley, who is under team control through 2017 and has an option the following year.

"We've liked his skills for a while, going back to the first Winter Meetings. We tried to acquire him in a trade with Arizona. And he had a terrific year. He was, like, second in Rookie of the Year and made the All-Star team, and he's had some good years since then. He's got some more good baseball ahead of him, and I think there's a good fit here and a good opportunity to help our club."

Pearce will also get an opportunity to help the Orioles, and he is expected to see some outfield time, platooning with Hyun Soo Kim and sharing the designated hitter spot with Pedro Alvarez. The O's are batting just .236 off of lefties this year, and Pearce's right-handed bat could give them a boost.

"I'm excited, especially with the group that's in there right now," said Pearce, who was part of the Orioles' 2014 playoff team. "I've been playing with those guys forever, so I'm looking forward to picking up where we left off and paving our way toward the playoffs."

Pearce, acquired from last-place Tampa Bay in exchange for catching prospect Johan Heim, has a .258/.338/.478 line with 43 homers and 116 RBIs in four seasons with Baltimore.

"These guys are good. They've always been good." Pearce said of watching the O's from afar this season. "The battles between Tampa Bay and the Orioles have always been epic. I know what they are capable of doing. They are a potent ballclub, and I'm just happy to be a part of them."
This, that and the other

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com
August 3, 2016

In case you missed the update late last night, the Orioles will start Wade Miley in Thursday’s series finale against the Rangers. It’s more than just expected now. He’s taking the ball in his debut.

Yovani Gallardo figures to be pushed back to Friday night in Chicago, but it’s not official.

In the Orioles’ perfect baseball world, major league rosters would hold 26 players and allow for a 13-man pitching staff and four-man bench.

They take another look at the schedule and wish for an extra arm. I’m not sure whether Ubaldo Jimenez’s counts if he isn’t going to be used beyond starts against the Padres and Twins.

Zach Britton is the only left-hander in the bullpen and he doesn’t really count since he’s the closer. Donnie Hart is eligible to return from Double-A Bowie after the Orioles optioned him on July 24 to make room for Darren O’Day. He could get the call sooner rather than later.

Logan Ondrusek has a minor league option, but he’s retired all six batters he’s faced with two strikeouts since the Orioles signed him.

Executive vice president Dan Duquette tried to trade for a left-handed specialist before Monday’s non-waiver deadline, but teams wanted too much in return or the more attainable guys weren’t deemed better than the in-house options.

If you’re calling the shots, do you go with 13 pitchers or four reserves?

Plenty of teams were asking for Dylan Bundy at the non-waiver trade deadline. Plenty of teams can forget about it.

Kevin Gausman also drew the usual amount of interest. Again, the Orioles kept saying “no.” The return wasn’t nearly worth it.

Gausman will try to rebound from his last outing in Toronto, when he allowed six runs and six hits in three innings. He also walked three batters and was removed after 79 pitches.

Gausman faced the Rangers on June 20 and surrendered four runs and nine hits in five innings in a 4-3 loss. He’s 0-2 with a 4.58 ERA in four career games (three starts) against the Rangers, with 10 runs and 24 hits over 19 2/3 innings.

Elvis Andrus is 4-for-9 versus Gausman and Carlos Beltran is 4-for-12 with two doubles.

Gausman is 2-1 with a 2.36 ERA in seven home starts this season and 0-7 with a 5.62 ERA in 11 road starts. Right-handers are batting .305 with 15 home runs and left-handers are batting .231 with four homers.

With left-hander Cole Hamels starting tonight, the Orioles figure to counter with Steve Pearce and Nolan Reimold in the outfield and Mark Trumbo as the designated hitter. Trumbo is 5-for-15 against him with two home runs and Reimold is 3-for-6 with two doubles. J.J. Hardy is 5-for-18 with two doubles and a home run.

Hamels is 12-2 with a 2.84 ERA in 21 starts this season. He faced the Orioles on April 14 and allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings in a 6-3 win. He’s 1-2 with a 4.44 ERA in four career starts versus the Orioles and he allowed seven runs and nine hits over five innings in his lone start at Camden Yards.
Hamels is 8-1 with a 1.71 ERA in 11 road starts this season and 4-1 with a 4.22 ERA in 10 road starts. Left-handers are batting .176 against him and right-handers are batting .248.

Since the break, Hamels has gone 3-0 with a 0.84 ERA in three starts. He’s allowed only two earned runs (four total) in 21 1/3 innings. He’s walked two and struck out four.

Rule 5 pick Joey Rickard, on the disabled list with a thumb injury, will head to Sarasota while the Orioles are on their next road trip.

Take it as a good sign.

Brad Brach has allowed four runs (three earned) and eight hits in his last five appearances over 4 1/3 innings. He’s walked two and struck out four.

Brach’s ERA climbed from 0.86 to 1.27 after he permitted a run last night in the eighth and left with two outs and the bases loaded.

“The end game a little bit (different), but he was a pitch away from getting out of it,” said manager Buck Showalter. “The ground ball that went through and a tough play by Chris (Davis). Trying to pass around the load. Everybody’s got a little bit of wear and tear on the team. Everybody.”

Adam Jones has homered in consecutive games on four occasions this season. He bumped up his total last night after also connecting Sunday afternoon in Toronto.

Jones is 11-for-32 (.344) in his last eight games and his batting .312/.355/.497 (49-for-157) with five doubles, eight home runs, 23 RBIs and 29 runs scored in his last 37 games.

Matt Wieters has thrown out 12 of 33 runners (36.4 percent) attempting to steal.

Wieters became the eighth Oriole last night to reach double digits in home runs. I’m counting Pearce, who hit 10 with the Rays.

Jimenez spent part of his off day on Monday cheering for Team Dominican Republic at the 2016 Cal Ripken World Series in Aberdeen. He hung out with the kids and took a bunch of photos.

Triple-A Norfolk’s Dariel Alvarez extended his hitting streak to 18 games last night with an infield single. Joe Gunkel posted his team-leading ninth quality start by holding Durham to one run over 6 1/3 innings.

Left-hander Ariel Miranda, traded to the Mariners for Miley, will be recalled from Triple-A Tacoma and start Thursday.

Miranda has made one appearance in the majors and it came in relief on July 3 in Seattle. He allowed three runs and four hits and struck out four batters in two innings.

The Mariners must have been impressed.

The Orioles are hosting another Social Media Night before Thursday’s 7:05 p.m. game against the Rangers. The “Birdland Social” event will include an exclusive pregame party on the centerfield Roof Deck featuring O’Day and the author of this blog, who will take part in exclusive question-and-answer sessions with those in attendance.

Tickets for the Birdland Social pregame party range from $35 to $60 and include access to the private event, a catered menu, two drink coupons per person, a ticket to the game (Roof Deck, first few rows of Eutaw Street Bleachers, or Upper Reserve with varied pricing), and an exclusive Darren O’Day Omoji T-shirt.

The party will begin at 5 p.m. and continue until 6:30 p.m. Participants will have early access to the ballpark at 4:45 p.m. through the 323 West Camden St. lobby in the warehouse. A limited number of tickets are available for purchase at www.orioles.com/birdlandsocial.
The Orioles and OriolesREACH will host a private fundraising event for Shannon’s Fund on Friday, Aug. 19, from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Camden Yards before the 7:05 p.m. game against the Astros.

There are two ticket options available for the game: $50 for seating in the Eutaw St. Reserve or $65 for seating in the Roof Deck in center field. They both include the private event and a pregame barbeque, an opportunity to watch batting practice from the Roof Deck bar, a visit from an Orioles player, photos with the Oriole Bird, an Orioles gift, two complementary drink tickets and fireworks following the conclusion of the game. Additionally, a silent auction will be held near Gate E to benefit Shannon’s Fund.

An endowment at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Shannon’s Fund was established by the Orioles and OriolesREACH in 2008 to provide financial support to hospital patients and their families to assist with many expenses associated with the treatment process. The endowment was created in memory of my friend Shannon Obaker, the club’s former Director of Community Outreach who bravely fought cancer for a year before she passed away in 2007 at the age of 29.

Fans interested in attending should visit www.orioles.com/shannonsfund to purchase tickets. The deadline is Aug. 10.


Showalter on Bundy, O’Day, history and a 5-1 win (updated)

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Orioles right-hander Dylan Bundy was coming out of tonight’s game after the seventh inning. Nothing was going to change the mind of manager Buck Showalter. Not even a no-hitter, which was alive with two outs in the sixth before Elvis Andrus singled to center field.

Bundy went a career-high seven innings and allowed no runs and one hit, walked one and struck out seven in the Orioles’ 5-1 victory over the Rangers before 22,230 at Camden Yards.

“That’s a really good offensive team,” Showalter said. “He actually faced them some before, so there’s no ambush there. That was solid. He had gone 5 2/3 last time, about 89 (pitches), so he had been in the sixth. We were able to graduate him a little bit to the seventh. That was impressive. Pitched well again.”

Bundy threw 88 pitches, one fewer than his career high registered in his previous start against the Rockies. He was more economical tonight, and the Orioles (60-45) rode his performance and four home runs - including two by Pedro Alvarez - to their second consecutive win after five straight defeats.

“He had some early contact, some early weak contact, and threw a lot of strikes,” Showalter said. “They never could box one of the pitches out. When you give hitters three things to worry about, it’s a different approach for them. It’s really tough on them when you give them two things to worry about.

“Location was good. He threw a lot of quality strikes.”

Darren O’Day got out of a bases-loaded, two-out jam in the eighth by striking out Ian Desmond after Brad Brach allowed a run on two hits and two walks. O’Day retired the side in order in the ninth for his third save.

“Nice to have Darren back,” Showalter said. “That was a very potent team and trying to keep them down as long as you can. You knew they were going to make a run at us.
“Just a reminder we had gone over two months without him and it’s a reminder of the job our guys did while he was gone. Just stay engaged in the competition in our division. It’s great to have him back and some of the wear and tear that goes with the season, I hope it bodes well for him finishing strong because usually about this time he’s got a lot more appearances.”

Showalter lumps in O’Day with acquisitions from outside the organization.

“It’s a great addition,” he said. “I don’t know if anybody made a better addition before the trade deadline that we did with Darren.”

Brach began to warm in the top of the seventh and started up again after the Orioles got back-to-back home runs from Alvarez and Matt Wieters in the bottom half. Everyone in the press box probably held the same thought in the sixth after Bundy retired the first two batters and Andrus stepped to the plate.

Was Showalter disappointed or relieved that Andrus broke up the no-hitter?

“I’ll never tell,” Showalter said, smiling. “You were disappointed because you were waiting to see what we were going to do. The seventh was his last inning regardless. That was going to be his last inning. That was a pretty good progression for him. He almost got through the sixth inning last time.

“We had Brad up and he was kind of going hitter to hitter. That’s a good question because it was a mixed bag. I knew that was it for him. Usually, people stay away from the pitcher during no-hitters, but all the coaches were staying away from me. They were afraid I was going to ask what they thought.”

In his last three starts, Bundy has allowed three earned runs (four total) and eight hits over 17 2/3 innings to lower his ERA to 3.05. He’s walked two batters and struck out 20.

Just as Showalter envisioned?

“Of course, I knew it all along,” he quipped. “Of course not. Nobody knew. We’re not that smart. And who knows what’s going to happen next one? I wish it was that predictive. If it was, it would be a lot easier, but you never know.

“It’s very hard to do what he’s done these last few outings. But he’s had great preparation for it. Not just from this spring and everything but ... This guy basically pitched in Double-A, so he brings a lot of experience his second time in the big leagues. He takes in everything. He’s a watcher. Watch him sometime during a game. He’s watching. He asks good questions.”

It’s more impressive when considering that Bundy has faced some potent lineups.

“It gives you an idea what he’s capable of,” Showalter said. “I like the fact that once he’s gotten into the rotation he’s been more efficient with his pitches. I think a lot of that had to with this being a role he was trying to work his way into. Once we got a feel for what best suited him, it made it tough on the bullpen, but we’re getting a return for it now.”

Alvarez produced his second multi-homer game this season and the 12th of his career. The Orioles and Mariners are tied for the major league lead with 14 multi-homer games by an individual.

“(Alvarez) very quietly for about a month now has been a real threat for us at a time of need,” Showalter said. “He’s been a real contributor for us. He’s had solid at-bats and being a lot more selective. He hit breaking balls both times, didn’t he? Actually the first one he hit was a pretty good pitch. He didn’t get all of that, but he’s just strong.”

Showalter has 518 wins as Orioles manager, the first coming on Aug. 3, 2010, to pass Paul Richards for second place. Earl Weaver is first, of course, with 1,480.

Showalter also has sole possession of 28th place on baseball’s all-time list with 1,400, surpassing Hall of Famer Wilbert Robinson. Jimmy Dykes is 27th with 1,406.
“One of players told me today, all those guys have passed away,” Showalter said, drawing laughter in the interview room. “I keep looking. Is there any active one? I’m not far behind them from that standpoint.

“People made me aware of it. It just means I’ve been doing it for a long time and I’ve been lucky enough to have good players. That allows you to do it for a while. That’s about the extent of it. Paul Richards was a great baseball man. Gosh, we’d all like to be half the baseball guy he was. I remember reading his book growing up, and he was way ahead of his time. Special.

“I know Dan (Duquette) was real close to him. He treated Dan real well at a time that a lot of guys of his stature didn’t have to. That’s always impressive to hear about somebody that you really respected growing up, to hear that from somebody that had day-to-day interaction with him. That’s like, people talk to me about Billy Martin. The one thing I remember most about Billy is, he had time for me. He made time, really for all the minor league managers. It was a big deal to him. So to hear that with Paul and Dan, that’s pretty nice.”

Showalter loves the Orioles’ history and how it’s so important to people in Baltimore, one example being how he makes certain to have photos hanging all around the clubhouse area. He also understands when it’s necessary to respectfully move away from it.

“When I first came here, you want to embrace the past, but you don’t become a prisoner to certain things,” he said. “We’re real proud of those guys. They’re special. We’ve got a few statues out there, too.”

**Update:** The Orioles announced after tonight’s game that Wade Miley will start Thursday’s series finale against the Rangers.


**Hearing from Duquette and Miley after the trade**

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com

*August 2, 2016*

Orioles executive vice president Dan Duquette tried twice previously to acquire left-hander Wade Miley in a trade. The third time, as it turned out, really was the charm.

Duquette sent Triple-A Norfolk left-hander Ariel Miranda to the Mariners on Sunday in exchange for Miley, who’s expected to make his Orioles debut on Thursday. Duquette also reacquired Steve Pearce from the Rays yesterday for Single-A Frederick catcher Jonah Heim.

“Wade Miley pitched a great game over the weekend against the Cubs as a Mariner,” Duquette said in his opening statement at today’s press conference at Camden Yards. “We had discussions ongoing and I wasn’t so sure we were going to be able to do that after he pitched so well on Saturday, but we did and here he is.

“He’s a workhorse. He’s pitched over 200 innings a few times, excellent command of four pitches, he’s got a good pickoff move and he loves to compete. We hope he helps stabilize our pitching rotation and is a key piece we hope to help us advance to the playoffs.

“Steve Pearce, I think this is our fifth time together where he’s parted and come back to the Orioles. Had a terrific year in Tampa, we’re glad to have him back. He gives us excellent defense, power when he’s in the game and when he’s not in the game, he gives us a real strong bench. And we’re glad to have him back.

“These are two workman-type players. Guys that like to grind it out in the American League East. They’ve got ability and we’re real glad to have them back with the club.”

Miley figured he would be on the move again as the non-waiver deadline approached.
“Not necessarily the Orioles,” he said. “Obviously, the rumors were flying around and I knew there was a chance I might get traded, but I just tried to stay focused in the time I was with the Mariners and pitch for them and then this happens. I feel very fortunate.”

Miley registered quality starts in four of his five outings last month. He held the Cubs to one run and one hit over seven innings, with one walk and nine strikeouts.

“Just try to keep working and just try to get better,” he said. “Obviously, I struggled earlier in the year, but when I first found out, I was excited. Going from a third-place team to a first-place team overnight, there’s nothing wrong with that. So hopefully I just come in here and not screw that up.

“I’m just going to go out when it’s my turn to pitch and try to give us a chance. That’s kind of what I’ve done throughout my career, just go out and compete, and I hope it works out.”

Miley joins the rotation of a club that’s one game ahead of the Red Sox and Blue Jays in the American League East.

“It just gives you a little more confidence, that these guys have enough confidence to take that chance, and it’s now my job to help improve this team get to the playoffs. That’s where it starts. That’s what we want to do,” he said.

“I’ve faced these guys quite a few times and it’s going to be good not to do that. The defense, obviously, with (Manny) Machado and J.J. (Hardy), it’s pretty good on the left side, and with Chris Davis and Jonathan (Schoop) on the right side over there. I’m looking forward to keeping the ball on the ground. That’s my goal, keeping the ball on the ground, and I trust those guys to make those plays.”

Though he wasn’t animated during the press conference, it’s was obvious how much Miley welcomed the opportunity to pitch in a pennant race.

“The race and all that stuff, absolutely,” he said. “It’s going to make for a fun last two months of the season. It’s going to be competitive and that’s what we play the game for, to have that challenge, and I think we’re going to be up for it.”

Duquette isn’t done working the phones.

“We always try to add to our club,” he said. “Fortunately, we picked up another piece last week in Logan Ondrusek. He’s already helped us win a ballgame up in Toronto. What I liked about that is we didn’t have to give up anybody off our 25-man roster to make that deal.

“At this time of year, you’d like to be adding players without taking them away. It’s hard to do the math and make sure what you’re subtracting doesn’t take away what you’re adding.

Fortunately in this case, we added three ballplayers. Logan, a good bullpen pitcher, Wade, who we hope will stabilize the rotation, and Steve, who can help us in a lot of different ways. And we’re going to continue to look for ways to strengthen the team. We want to see this through.

“We’ve been to the playoffs a couple of times and we want to advance to the playoffs and taking another shot at winning the pennant and World Series.”

A thin pitching market presented the expected challenges at the non-waiver deadline.

“There were more teams chasing pure players because with the second wild card, allowing another club to qualify, there’s more teams in contention now,” Duquette said.

“Generally what happens is you try to beef up your pitching staff this time of year. Teams that are out there competing to get into the playoffs are looking to add and they’re looking at a very limited pool of major league pitchers to add to their club. So it was certainly a seller’s market. Fortunately, we had another left-handed pitcher in (Ariel) Miranda that Seattle liked that allowed us to acquire Wade’s contract. But it was tough.
“Our scouts have followed Wade for several years. We tried to trade for him when he was in Arizona. We tried to trade for him again when the Red Sox sent him to Seattle. We didn’t really match up. So now we have him. We think he’s a good fit. If he can keep the ball on the ground, he’s going to help stabilize our rotation and our guys are going to score runs and make plays for him.

“All he has to do is what he’s done over his whole career, and that’s take the ball and go out and pitch. I think everything will go fine.”

Manager Buck Showalter needs one more win to pass Paul Richards for second on the club’s all-time list with 518.

“I want to congratulate Buck on catching Paul Richards,” Duquette said. “Terrific achievement, number of wins in the organization. To be able to do that, first of all you have to be in one place for a long time and Buck’s been able to do that. Secondly, you’ve got to be a skipper of a club that wins a lot of games and Buck did that. So now he’s in rare company between Paul Richards and Earl Weaver.

“I remember the line, I thought it was a great compliment to Buck during the statue unveiling ceremony when (Weaver) said, ‘I want to thank the sculptor for making me look like Buck Showalter.’ The three greatest managers easily in the history of the club, and Buck has passed Richards. And his place in Orioles history is really solidified by advancing beyond Paul. Congratulations to Buck on that.”


Quick hits from Camden Yards

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Wade Miley is expected to make his Orioles debut on Thursday against the Rangers at Camden Yards.

Miley would be working on normal rest after working seven innings on Saturday and throwing 92 pitches.

Yovani Gallardo would be pushed back to Friday night in Chicago.

Miley’s wife is eight months pregnant, which will make him the latest Oriole headed to the paternity list. Catcher Matt Wieters’ wife is due on Aug. 23.

Steve Pearce will be in Wednesday’s lineup against Rangers left-hander Cole Hamels.

Tyler Wilson will start Wednesday night for Triple-A Norfolk at Durham after being optioned today. Odrisamer Despaigne will start Thursday or Friday.

Ubaldo Jimenez is available out of the bullpen tonight.

Manager Buck Showalter didn’t dismiss the idea of going with six starters, but he doesn’t see it happening at the present time.

Showalter also said the club gave “a lot of thought” to staying with 13 pitchers. He added that it’s going to be difficult to go with 12 pitchers due to the schedule.
Orioles and Rangers lineups

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Steve Pearce is on the bench for tonight’s series opener against the Rangers at Camden Yards.

It’s the standard lineup for the Orioles, with Hyun Soo Kim in left field, Mark Trumbo in right field and Pedro Alvarez as the designated hitter against Rangers right-hander Yu Darvish.

For the Orioles

Adam Jones CF
Hyun Soo Kim LF
Manny Machado 3B
Chris Davis 1B
Mark Trumbo RF
Pedro Alvarez DH
Matt Wieters C
Jonathan Schoop 2B
J.J. Hardy SS
Dylan Bundy RHP

For the Rangers

Jurickson Profar LF
Ian Desmond CF
Carlos Beltran DH
Adrian Beltre 3B
Rougned Odor 2B
Jonathan Lucroy C
Nomar Mazara RF
Mitch Moreland 1B
Elvis Andrus SS
Yu Darvish RHP
Orioles option Despaigne and Wilson

By Roch Kubatko / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

The Orioles have optioned relievers Odrisamer Despaigne and Tyler Wilson to Triple-A Norfolk before tonight’s game against the Rangers at Camden Yards.

The moves were made to create spots for pitcher Wade Miley and infielder/outfielder Steve Pearce on the 25-man roster.

The Orioles have a four-man bench to open their series against the Rangers.

Despaigne, 29, went 0-2 with a 4.81 ERA in 15 games with the Orioles, allowing 13 earned runs in 24 1/3 innings.

Wilson, 26, went 4-6 with a 4.98 ERA in 17 games (13 starts) with the Orioles this season, allowing 47 earned runs in 85 innings. He retired all 12 batters he faced in his last outing on July 26 against the Rockies.

Miley is wearing No. 38 and Pearce is wearing No. 28.

O’s notes on Bundy, O’Day, the offense and more

By Steve Melewski / MASNsports.com
August 3, 2016

With each outing, it might be hard for Orioles fans to contain their enthusiasm over rookie right-hander Dylan Bundy. After taking a no-hitter through 5 1/3 innings in his start last week against Colorado, last night he took one through 5 2/3 innings against Texas.

While Bundy gave up two homers that spoiled his outing against the Rockies, he held the Rangers scoreless on one single over seven innings. It was a special outing, as he recorded 21 outs on 88 pitches. He was pitch efficient and he was good.

Bundy gave up four runs in his first start on July 17 against Tampa Bay. But over his past three starts he has pitched to an ERA of 1.53.

Colorado and Texas are two of the seven highest scoring teams in the majors. But the last two games, those clubs are a combined 3-for-40 (.075) against Bundy. Over his past 10 games, Bundy has pitched to an ERA of 1.78 with nine walks and 43 strikeouts over 35 1/3 innings.

I asked catcher Matt Wieters if last night was one of those outings where a starting pitcher has both all his pitches going well and has solid command of them as well.

“I wouldn’t say everything went perfect,” Wieters said. “I actually think his breaking stuff was probably sharper in his last outing. But his fastball command was much better tonight. If he can have this kind of stuff and be able to mix and match, he’s going to be fun.”

If you missed it, click here to read the postgame quotes on Bundy and the win last night.

O’Day’s big out: It might get lost a bit with Bundy having such a special outing last night, but right-hander Darren O’Day got a huge out with the bases loaded to end the top of the eighth. Trailing 4-0 at the time, Texas had pulled within 4-1 against Brad Brach and had the bases
loaded when O’Day came on against Ian Desmond. O’Day struck Desmond out to end the frame and then pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to get his third save.

The Orioles have to be delighted to have O’Day back off the disabled list and pitching like his old self. In four games since coming off the injured list, he has thrown 4 2/3 scoreless innings on one hit with seven strikeouts.

O’Day thrives in bases loaded situations. Last year, American League hitters went 1-for-13 against him with the bases loaded and this year are 0-for-5. Sometimes it seems the tighter and more tense the situation is, the more O’Day likes it.

“My one inning at Bowie really got me in the mood,” O’Day said with a laugh. “Because I’ve been doing that a while helped a lot. I think that is because I pitch better in those situations because the hitters are aggressive and they want to get those runners in. That is when I enjoy being in the game. It feels good to be back and that is what I play the game for. You know, helping the team getting out of those situations.”

In this specific case, O’Day stranded three runners to help out his bullpen mate Brach.

“What a first half he had,” O’Day said. “Said it for a long time - Brad is going to be a closer at some point. He’s picked me up quite a few times so nice to return the favor.”

Buck’s milestone victory: Last night’s win was the 518th in the Orioles managerial career for skipper Buck Showalter. It moves him past Paul Richards and into second place on the club’s all-time list. Only Hall of Famer Earl Weaver, with 1,480, has more wins as Orioles manager.

Showalter also moved into sole possession of 28th on MLB’s all-time managerial wins list with No. 1,400 last night as he passed Hall of Famer Wilbert Robinson. Next up for him to catch on that list is Jimmy Dykes who is 27th with 1,406 wins. Dykes was the first manager in Orioles history in 1954, when the team went 54-100. He managed the club for just that one season.

Is the offense perking up?: The Orioles are not exactly scoring a ton of runs as they had in June, but they’ve scored five, one, six and five in their past four games as they try to break out of a slump. They’ve scored just 55 runs in 18 games (3.1 per game) in going 9-9 since the All-Star break.

The Orioles hit four solo homers last night - two by Pedro Alvarez - and it was their first four-homer game since Game 2 of a doubleheader on June 25 against Tampa Bay. The Orioles have now homered in seven consecutive games. Adam Jones hit his 21st last night. Jones has homered in consecutive games for the fourth time this season and he has hit four over his past seven games.
Dylan Bundy on his outing against Texas (plus more clubhouse quotes)

By Steve Melewski / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Leave it to Orioles veteran reliever Darren O’Day to perfectly sum up the outing starter Dylan Bundy had tonight. It was a night when the 23-year-old rookie right-hander held the first-place Texas Rangers to one single in seven scoreless innings as the Orioles beat Texas 5-1.

“He was born with a gift to command the baseball,” O’Day said. “It was fun to watch. Talked about it before, the first bullpen I saw him throw in 2012, it was amazing for such a young kid to have that kind of command.

“He’s healthy again. And he is showing why he was such a high pick. He’s got a great mentality. We enjoyed the time we had with him in the bullpen, but I think he’s moved onto better things.”

In his fourth major league start, Bundy had at times tonight electric stuff it seemed as he shut down a Rangers team that ranks fourth in the AL in runs scored.

Bundy retired the first 10 batters he faced tonight before he gave up a walk to Ian Desmond. For the second game in a row, he took a no-hitter into the sixth inning.

Elvis Andrus hit a line drive to center with two outs for a single and the only Texas hit in 21 at-bats against Bundy.

What was the key to Bundy’s outing?

“I think just keeping the ball in on some of the lefties they had in that lineup, also mixing it up the whole game,” he said.

“Not trying to get into a pattern. Just to get six (innings), I was pleased with that and went out for the seventh and just had to focus a little more and locate a little better.”

A reporter asked Bundy if there was a point he thought he might be having a special night.

“I don’t really think about that,” Bundy answered. “All I try to do is hit the glove and throw what Wheaty (Matt Wieters) calls down and just try to locate as best I can and get outs. Been good to just get deeper into games and get my arm built up to be able to do that every five days. Pitches, you know, still haven’t gone above 90 yet. I still have to go above 90 pitches sometimes, so see how it goes.”

Bundy got a couple of big ovations tonight, one when the no-hitter ended and one when he retired the side and walked off after the top of the seventh.

“People screaming, yeah, it was fun. We’ve got great fans here and they support us and what we do here,” Bundy said.

There was a funny moment in his postgame interview when he was asked if he was thinking about a no-hitter.

“No, I gave up a hit.”

The reporter let Bundy know he meant was he thinking about a no-hitter before he gave up his only hit.

“No, not really,” Bundy said. “You just try to get outs as quick as you can. So if you can get soft contact early and keep your pitch count down, that helps.”

Did he like pitching in weather tonight that was a bit cooler than his last start?
“It was still hot. I was still changing jerseys every inning. So I’m not really sure about that,” he said.

As for how his arm feels, he said: “It’s great. See how it feels tomorrow and just do my work like I do in between every start and get ready for the next one.”

Bundy retired 20 of 22 batters faced tonight. He is now 2-2 with an ERA of 3.00, a .173 batting average against and 24 strikeouts in 21 innings as a starter. Over his last 10 games, he has pitched to an ERA of 1.78 with nine walks and 43 strikeouts over 35 1/3 innings.

Other clubhouse quotes:

**Wieters on Bundy’s outing:** “It was fun to catch. When he is able to have all three of his pitches and locate his fastball like he did tonight, it gives me a lot of options to call. On top of that, for a young guy, he knows what he is doing. It is nice getting to work with a guy who has a game plan going on and is going to execute it.”

**Wieters on Bundy becoming the pitcher you all thought he would:** “Yeah, after catching him that first spring, you knew the stuff was there. He’s had to go down a tough road and from talking to him, it’s made him a lot stronger mentally. I think that is what has helped him to have success this early. The good thing about Dylan, he’s not going to take anything for granted. He is going to keep working and keep improving.”

**Wieters on Bundy’s progress as a starter:** “He thinks through his outing. He’ll come in tomorrow and critique his outing. It is nice to see a kid that young that knows it’s not a given. He is going to have to work for it and he’s going to do that.”

**Wieters on his homer in the seventh:** “It was nice to get a barrel on a ball, especially right-handed. Just haven’t been able really to get in a groove right-handed, so nice to be able to put a good swing on a ball.”

**O’Day on his bases-loaded strikeout of Desmond in the eighth:** “When Ian was with the Nationals, it seemed like whenever I faced him, it was a tight game, a big game. He’s a good hitter, man. I enjoy watching him play. That at-bat there, it’s bases loaded, it’s kind of the game. I just kind of stuck with my strengths and Wheaty was on the same page with me back there. He fouled off some good pitches before the last one that he happened to swing through. I finally got the pitch down where I wanted it and was lucky enough to get a swing through.”

**O’Day on a big win and the stretch run being here now:** “Yeah, we’re a good team and we’re going to be in a lot of close games. It’s kind of been like that since I’ve been here. It’s exciting baseball, fun to watch.”
O’s game blog: Dylan Bundy faces Yu Darvish in Texas series opener

By Steve Melewski / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

As the Orioles begin a one-series homestand tonight, in advance of a challenging 10-game road trip, they host Texas in a matchup of American League division leaders. The Orioles (59-45) lead the AL East and the Rangers (62-44) top the AL West.

The Rangers have the best record in the AL and have won four in a row and seven of nine games. Before this nine-game stretch, the Rangers lost 15 of 19 games. But they come to Baltimore after sweeping four at home against Kansas City by a combined 18-9 score.

The Orioles are 1-3 on the season against Texas and have lost seven of eight and nine of their last 10 games versus the Rangers.

Orioles right-hander Dylan Bundy (3-3, 3.46 ERA) makes his 26th appearance and fourth start. As a starter only, he is 1-1 with a 4.50 ERA with four walks and 17 strikeouts over 14 innings.

In his last start at home last Wednesday versus Colorado, Bundy pitched five perfect innings and retired the first 16 batters he faced. But in the sixth, he allowed homers to Nick Hundley and David Dahl on changeups as the Rockies beat the Orioles 3-1.

Over his last nine games since June 9, Bundy has pitched to an ERA of 2.22. Over 28 1/3 innings, he has permitted 23 hits with eight walks and 36 strikeouts.

Right-hander Yu Darvish (2-2, 3.09 ERA) is making his seventh start. In late May, he returned from recovering from having Tommy John surgery in March 2015. But he was back on the disabled list from June 13-July 16 with right shoulder discomfort.

He has allowed two earned runs or fewer in five of his six starts, giving up four earned runs over 12 innings his past two starts with one walk and 17 strikeouts. The Rangers are 2-4 in his six starts.

Darvish has never faced the Orioles in the regular season but took the loss against Baltimore in the 2012 American League wild card game, when he gave up three runs and five hits over 6 2/3 innings. A three-time All-Star, Darvish finished ninth in the AL Cy Young Award voting in 2012 and second in 2013.

Texas has 21 series wins this season to tie the Chicago Cubs for the major league lead. Both teams have one more than the Orioles, who are 20-11-3 in 34 series on the season.

Farm notes: The Orioles have moved 19-year-old right-hander Jhon Peluffo from the Gulf Coast League Orioles to Single-A Delmarva. From Cartagena, Colombia, Peluffo went 3-0 with an ERA of 1.61 in the GCL. In 28 innings, he walked five with 31 strikeouts. He is expected to start for the Shorebirds on Tuesday.

Short-season Single-A Aberdeen won 2-0 at Brooklyn today as four pitchers teamed on a one-hitter. O’s 2016 second-round pick Matthias Dietz went the first three innings and lowered his ERA to 1.80. This was his second pro outing, and he’s allowed two hits and one run over five innings. Daniel Ayers then went three innings, Andrew Elliott two and Jake Bray pitched the ninth for his first save. Aberdeen first baseman Preston Palmeiro went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI and is now batting .353.

The Single-A Frederick Keys today placed catchers Wynston Sawyer (hamstring), Pedro Perez (hamstring) and pitcher Austin Urban (left ankle) on the seven-day disabled lists. They added
catcher Austin Wynns (from Triple-A Norfolk), infielder Anthony Caronia (from Double-A Bowie) and right-hander Franderlin Romero (from Delmarva).

Norfolk right-hander Jason Stoffel earned his ninth save with the Tides and 21st of the season Monday night. He now owns a 0.98 ERA over 17 appearances, including 15 scoreless outings, for the Tides this season.

Frederick outfielder Cam Kneeland is now batting .349/.421/.614 (29-for-83) with 13 extra-base hits and 21 RBIs over his last 22 games after going 3-for-4 with a double and one RBI yesterday.


Adam Jones on the new Orioles, Steve Pearce on his latest return

By Steve Melewski / MASNsports.com
August 2, 2016

Orioles center fielder Adam Jones appreciated the moves the Orioles made in the last two days, trading for left-handed pitcher Wade Miley and reacquiring infielder/outfielder Steve Pearce.

“It means the front office understands that we have something good on the field and a good product, and they want to improve it,” Jones said. “That is what the trade deadline is. Cool part is we still have another 30 days with the waiver wire, you know there is still time for things to happen.

“It is better to be a buyer than a seller. When you buy, it gives your players a sense that our front office is trying to improve us and trying to see we have something special here. I think the last five years here we proved to our front office that we have a formidable team on the field. Sometimes we just need a little push and we got a little push right now. Let’s see how that runs out the next six or eight weeks and into October.”

Jones believes both players will have a positive impact.

“I think they are two veteran guys that understand what it takes at this level and what we need from their contributions,” he said. “Two guys that understand the grit and fight of the dog days of August that we’re in now. We welcome them both with open arms.”

Here is O’s executive vice-president Dan Duquette on bringing Pearce back to the team: “I think this is our fifth time together where we’ve parted and come back to the Orioles. Having a terrific year in Tampa. He gives us excellent defense, good on-base, excellent power when he’s in the game, and when he’s not in the game, he gives us a strong bench. We’re glad to have him back. These are two workman-type players, guys that like to grind it out in the American League East.”

Pearce, who was acquired from the Tampa Bay Rays for minor league catcher Jonah Heim, was batting .309 with 11 doubles, a triple, 10 homers and 29 RBIs. He has a .388 on-base percentage, a .520 slugging percentage and an OPS of .908 in 60 games and 232 plate appearances.

“Very excited (to be back),” Pearce said at a Camden Yards press conference this afternoon. “We were struggling down in Florida. So to come to first place, I’m definitely in a better situation. I’m excited, especially with the group that is in there, been playing with those guys forever. I’m ready to pick up where we left off and pave our way towards the playoffs.

“I played with these guys a long time. They’re excited, I’m excited. I heard the news yesterday and it was great news. I was here a long time. After a while, your teammates become friends and family, so definitely excited to see these guys.”

Pearce went through an anxious time just over 24 hours ago as he waited to see if he would, in fact, be traded by the 4 p.m. ET deadline on Monday.
“Definitely was (an anxious time). I was looking to get some work in and take the field. You know we are not ignorant to it. I was just waiting for it to be all over to tell you the truth. So I can start getting focused on what I need to do.”

After playing over parts of four seasons as an Oriole, from 2012-2015, this year Pearce played against the Orioles and saw them from the opposing dugout.

“Good offense, same team,” he said of this year’s Orioles club. “These guys are good, they’ve always been good. I know the battles between Tampa Bay and the Orioles have always been epic. So I know what they’re capable of doing. They’re a potent ballclub and just happy to be a part of it now. I’m in a good situation, playing meaningful baseball. That is what we want to do. This is a tough division with a lot of teams competing for the playoffs.”


While Jays restrict Aaron Sanchez, Orioles riding Dylan Bundy

By Eddie Matz / ESPN.com
August 3, 2016

BALTIMORE -- The Toronto Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles are practically twins. Both teams are floating at or near the top of the American League East. Both feature heavy-hitting offenses that have a knack for smashing baseballs. Both have been relying on young, stud hurlers who are just getting their feet wet as big league starters. But the way they’re handling those horses couldn’t be more different.

If you’re an Orioles fan, you were already nervous about the Dylan Bundy Experiment. You were nervous because over the past quarter-century, Baltimore’s track record with developing pitchers is, how you say, not good. You were nervous because when it comes to pitchers drafted in the first round, said track record is especially not good. You were nervous because the O’s said they were going to be cautious with Bundy, the mega-talented first-rounder who spent the majority of the past three years on the shelf with various injuries, but when he started to show flashes (and when the Birds’ rotation continued to stink), they pulled a 180 and said, “Innings limits? We don’t need no stinking innings limits.”

As if that weren’t enough, this past weekend, the Blue Jays decided to put the brakes on Aaron Sanchez. If you’re not familiar with Sanchez, he’s a lot like Bundy. Both are former first-round picks. Both came into this season at 23 years of age. Both have been the subject of much discussion as to exactly how many innings he can be entrusted with this season before his right arm falls off.

The big difference is that since being drafted, Sanchez has pretty much remained healthy. Bundy? Not so much (see: John, Tommy, et al). In other words, the Orioles have way more reason to be cautious with Bundy than the Jays do with Sanchez. And yet Baltimore is being decidedly less cautious.

While the Blue Jays announced that Sanchez, who’s 11-1 with a 2.71 ERA and is/was a legit Cy Young candidate in his first season in the rotation, is headed back to the bullpen after another start or two, the O’s are doing the exact opposite with Bundy. They went from “we’re going to keep him in the pen and limit him to 70 innings and then see how things play out next year” to “we need him in the rotation right now and we’re totally fine with him pitching twice as many innings as we originally said.” In other words, when it comes to handling Bundy, the Birds -- who don't have a whole lot of options -- have taken off the kid gloves and replaced them with boxing gloves.

If you’re an Orioles fan, this makes you nervous. If, however, you’re manager Buck Showalter, you remain cool as a cucumber. At least publicly.
“Two completely different situations,” Showalter said when asked after Tuesday’s 5-1 win over Texas whether Toronto’s handling of Sanchez gives him pause. “It's their business. They know their player a lot better. I've got my hands full managing our team. We backed off at the front end to have Dylan at the end, and they are where they are because of some of the things that Sanchez had done.”

Everything Showalter and GM Dan Duquette said in spring training and over the first couple of months of the season suggested that Bundy would remain in the bullpen and that 70 innings was the magic number. No ifs, ands or buts. But when June rolled around and the rookie started figuring things out (and when the O’s rotation continued to tank), well, the Birds had to make adjustments.

The fact Bundy worked only 38 innings prior to the All-Star break is looking like sheer genius right about now. With the way Bundy has thrown in his first few turns as a starter, it’s looking as if the Orioles will need him in the rotation the rest of the way if they plan on outlasting Toronto and Boston in the AL East. You could even argue that, right now, with just four outings on his rotation résumé, he’s already the team’s No. 2 starter behind Chris Tillman. That’s how good Bundy has been.

On Tuesday, all he did was take a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second straight start. In the process, he became the first O’s hurler to have multiple no-hit bids of five-innings plus in the same season since Jason Hammel in 2012, according to ESPN Stats & Info research. And Bundy’s were back-to-back. Even though he lost the no-no on an Elvis Andrus single with two down in the sixth, Bundy ended up going seven innings, allowing just the one hit, while fanning seven and walking one. Since getting pulled in the fourth inning of his first start against Tampa Bay, he has now had three straight impressive starts against three impressive offenses. Against Cleveland, he didn’t allow an earned run in five innings. Facing Colorado, he took a perfect game into the sixth. And on Tuesday, he shut down Texas. If you’re keeping score at home, all three of those teams rank among MLB’s top 10 in both average and runs.

All of which is to say, so far the Dylan Bundy Experiment has been a smashing success. Just ask the crowd at Camden Yards, which gave the O’s starter a standing ovation fit for a savior as he strode off the mound after the top of the seventh on Tuesday.

"People screaming, yeah, it was fun,” Bundy said of the onlooker love. “I didn't really notice too much during the game, but I noticed coming off the field. We've got great fans here, they support us and what we do here.”

Even when they’re really nervous.
Nine-year-old with bilateral hand transplant throws first pitch at O's game

By Jackson Alexander / ESPN
August 2, 2016

Tuesday night's ceremonial first pitch at Camden Yards was in no way an ordinary first pitch.

It came courtesy of Zion Harvey, a 9-year-old from from Owings Mills, Maryland, who became the first child in the world to undergo a bilateral hand transplant last summer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, according to an Orioles media release.

Harvey, who lost his arms and legs to a life-threatening infection when he was 2, started the Baltimore Orioles-Texas Rangers game with an impressive toss to O's outfielder Adam Jones.

The team snapped some nice photos of Zion prior to the game.

Bundy Is Magnificent, Throwing Seven One-Hit Innings

By Rich Dubroff / CSN Mid-Atlantic 8/2
August 2, 2016

BALTIMORE — Buck Showalter doesn’t want to get too excited about Dylan Bundy. However, his decision to “turn him loose” in the second half of the season is starting to look better and better.

Six days after he threw 5 1/3 perfect innings against the Colorado Rockies, Dylan Bundy pitched 5 2/3 hitless innings against the Texas Rangers. Bundy allowed just one hit in seven innings as the Orioles beat the Rangers 5-1 before 22,230 at Oriole Park on Tuesday night.

Bundy retired the first 11 batters, then walked Ian Desmond in the fourth, but he was quickly thrown out trying to steal second.

The only close call came in the third when Nomar Mazara grounded in the hole towards right field. Second baseman Jonathan Schoop snatched the ball and gracefully threw to first to retire Mazara.

Elvis Andrus lined a single to center with two outs in the sixth to end the no-hit bid.

Bundy left after throwing 88 pitches.

“The seventh was his last inning regardless. That was going to be his last inning. That was a pretty good progression for him. He almost got through the sixth inning last time,” Showalter said.

Bundy (4-3) finished up by retiring Texas (62-45) in order in the seventh. He struck out seven.

“We were able to graduate him a little bit to the seventh. That was impressive. Pitched well again,” Showalter said.

It was only Bundy’s fourth major league start, and he’s pleased with his progression.
“Just to get six, I was pleased with that and went back out there for the seventh and just had to focus a little bit more and locate a little better,” Bundy said.

It’s been five years since Bundy signed as the fourth overall draft pick, and three years since his Tommy John surgery.

“After catching him that first spring you knew his stuff was there. He’s had to go down a tough road. From talking to him as a man, it’s made him a lot stronger mentally, and I think that is what’s helped him to be able to have this success this early. The good thing about Dylan is he’s not going to take anything for granted. He’s going to keep working and keep improving,” Matt Wieters said.

“He thinks through his outing, and he’ll come in tomorrow and he’ll critique his outing. It’s nice to see a kid that young that knows it’s not a given. He’s going to have to work for it, and he’s going to work it.”

The Orioles (60-45) took a 1-0 lead off Yu Darvish (2-3) when Pedro Alvarez led off the fifth with his 14th home run of the year.

Adam Jones’ 21st home run of the year leading off the sixth made it 2-0.

Darvish struck out nine in 6 1/3 innings. He allowed a one-out home run to Alvarez in the seventh.

“He very quietly, for about a month now, has been a real threat for us at a time of need. He's been a real contributor for us. He's had solid at-bats and being a lot more selective,” Showalter said.

Dario Alvarez followed by giving up Wieters’ 10th of the season. It was his first since June 25.

Brad Brach twice loaded the bases with one out in the eighth, but escaped with only one run allowed thanks to Darren O’Day striking out Ian Desmond to close out the inning.

“He fought off some really good pitches,” O’Day said. “The last one, he swung through it, I finally got one. I got the pitch down when I wanted to.”

O’Day has faced five bases-loaded situations, retired each of the five hitters, striking out four. He finished the ninth for his third save of the season.

“Nice to have Darren back. That was a very potent team and trying to keep them down as long as you can. You knew they were going to make a run at us,” Showalter said.

Texas played its first game with its newest additions, Jonathan Lucroy and Carlos Beltran.

Chris Davis added an opposite-field, broken bat single in the eighth to make it 5-1.

NOTES: Showalter moved into second place in the Orioles all-time win list with 518. He trails only Earl Weaver. It was also his 1,400th win, putting him in 28th place on the manager’s win list. Showalter passed Paul Richards on the Orioles win list, but he trails Weaver by nearly a thousand wins. …Alvarez’s home runs gave the Orioles 14 multi-home run games, tying them for most in the majors with Seattle. … They’ve hit four or more home runs 11 times this season. …Cole Hamels (12-2, 2.84) faces Kevin Gausman (2-8, 4.18) on Wednesday night.
Miley Likely To Start Thursday For Orioles

By Rich Dubroff / CSN Mid-Atlantic
August 2, 2016

BALTIMORE—Manager Buck Showalter thinks newly acquired Wade Miley will probably pitch on four days rest against Texas on Thursday. Currently, Yovani Gallardo is slated to pitch then, but Showalter will probably slide him to this weekend in Chicago.

Miley will be the first left-hander to start for the Orioles this season.

“The left-handed thing is not a big part of the equation. It really isn’t. You’re looking for pitchers,” Showalter said. “I don’t think there’s anybody that works faster than him.”

To make room for Miley and Steve Pearce, the Orioles optioned right-handed pitchers Odrisamer Despaigne and Tyler Wilson to Triple-A Norfolk.

Despaigne was 0-2 with a 4.81 ERA in 15 games. Wilson is 4-6 with a 4.98 ERA in 17 games.

Wilson is started for Norfolk in Durham on Wednesday night, and Despaigne will start a day or two later, Showalter said.

Showalter didn’t like losing Despaigne or Wilson. For now, Ubaldo Jimenez and Vance Worley will be the long men, but it’s worth it to get Steve Pearce back.

“Tough sending those two guys out. Steve helps us in a lot of areas that we had a need for,” Showalter said.

The Orioles again have 12 pitchers, and Showalter said thought was given to maintaining 13.

“A lot. A lot. We really would have liked to,” Showalter said. “There are [ways] we could have stayed at 13, things that we could have stayed at 12. I think we know with the schedule the way it is, it’s going to be hard to stay at 12.”

For the moment, the Orioles won’t be going with six starters.

“We’re going to take a look at it. There’s that potential, but right now I don’t see it, but it could change.”

Pearce isn’t in the Tuesday night lineup, but will start against the Rangers’ left-handed starter Cole Hamels on Wednesday night.

“We’ll use him today off the bench. We’ll get our arms around him. He’s got a couple of nagging things. He’s played like five out of the last seven days. I know he’s going to get a little break off the turf. I know he’s kind of excited about that. He’ll be in the lineup tomorrow,” Showalter said.
Duquette Pleased He Got Pitching In 'Seller's Market'

By Rich Dubroff / CSN Mid-Atlantic
August 2, 2016

BALTIMORE — Dan Duquette walked around the Orioles clubhouse, chatting with some of the club’s veteran players. He had just come from an intense few days of activity and a press conference for Steve Pearce and Wade Miley.

Duquette saw that Miley pitched an excellent game in Chicago on Saturday, allowing just one run on one hit in seven innings. That showed Duquette he was a pitcher the Orioles should get. It also concerned him, somewhat.

“We had discussions ongoing and I wasn’t so sure we were going to be able to do that after he pitched so well on Saturday but we did and here he is. He’s a workhorse. He’s pitched over 200 innings a few times, excellent command of four pitches, he’s got a good pickoff move. And he loves to compete. We hope he helps stabilize our pitching rotation and is a key piece we hope to help us advance to the playoffs,” Duquette said.

Duquette joked about Pearce’s stints with the team.

“Steve Pearce, think this is our fifth time together, where he’s parted and come back to the Orioles. Had a terrific year in Tampa, we are glad to have him back. He gives us excellent defense, power when he’s in the game and when he’s not in the game he gives us a real strong bench. And we are glad to have him back,” Duquette said.

“These are two workman-type players. Guys that like to grind it out in the American League East, they've got ability and we are real glad to have them back with the club.”

The Orioles have added three players to the club since last Friday. Right-handed pitcher Logan Ondrusek had been signed as well. The cost for Miley was Norfolk left-hander Ariel Miranda and for Pearce, it was Frederick catcher Jonah Hiem.

“What I liked about that is we didn't have to give up anybody off our 25-man roster to make that deal. At this time of year you’d like to be adding players without taking them away. It’s hard to do the math and make sure what you’re subtracting doesn't take away what you’re adding. Fortunately in this case we added three ballplayers. Logan, a good bullpen pitcher, Wade, who we hope will stabilize the rotation and Steve, who can help us in a lot of different ways. And we're going to continue to look for ways to strengthen the team. We want to see this through. We've been to the playoffs a couple of times and we want to advance to the playoffs and taking another shot at winning the pennant and World Series,” Duquette said.

As the nonwaiver trading deadline neared, Duquette spoke about how thin the pitching market was.

“There was more teams chasing pure players because with the second wild card, allowing another club to qualify, there's more teams in contention now. So generally what happens is you try to beef up your pitching staff this time of year. Teams that are out there competing to get into the playoffs are looking to add, and they're looking at a very limited pool of major league pitchers to add to their club. So it was certainly a seller's market,” Duquette said.

“Fortunately we had another left-handed pitcher in Miranda that Seattle like that allowed us to acquire Wade's contract. But it was tough. Our scouts have followed Wade for several years. We tried to trade for him when he was in Arizona. We tried to trade for him again when the Red Sox sent him to Seattle. We didn't really match up. So now we have him. We think he's a good fit.”
Dylan Bundy's Masterpiece Leads Orioles Over Rangers

By Paul Folkemer / PressBoxOnline.com
August 3, 2016

In a battle between two first-place teams, the Orioles struck the first blow against the Texas Rangers Aug. 2.

Rookie right-hander Dylan Bundy pitched the finest outing of his career -- and one of the best of any O's pitcher this season -- with a seven-inning, one-hit gem, leading the Birds to a 5-1 victory.

"That was impressive," manager Buck Showalter said. "That's a really good offensive team, and they've actually faced him some before, so there's no ambush there. That was solid."

For the second consecutive outing, Bundy carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning. During his previous outing, July 27 against the Colorado Rockies, Bundy ran out of gas after 5.1 perfect innings, ultimately surrendering a pair of homers and leaving in the sixth. He had no such trouble against the Rangers this time around.

Bundy faced the minimum 15 hitters through the first five innings. His only blemish was an Ian Desmond walk in the fourth inning, but Desmond was promptly cut down trying to steal second on a strikeout/throwout double play. It wasn't until two outs in the top of the sixth that the Rangers recorded their first hit, a solid Elvis Andrus single to center. The crowd of 22,230 at Oriole Park at Camden Yards gave Bundy a standing ovation for his modest no-hit bid, though Bundy insisted he wasn't thinking about a no-no at that point.

"Not really," Bundy said. "You just try to get outs as quick as you can. So if you can get soft contact early and keep your pitch count down, that helps."

Bundy was much more economical with his pitches than during previous starts. He reached the end of the sixth inning -- a career long -- having thrown 78 pitches, which convinced Showalter to bring him back for the seventh. Bundy rewarded Showalter's faith with a perfect inning to cap his sterling performance.

"It's kind of out of my control sometimes," Bundy said of his pitch efficiency. "It's whether they swing the bat and put it on the ground or in the air, or if it goes right to a guy or not. They hit them to some of our guys, and they made the plays behind me today."

Bundy received another standing ovation from the crowd as he walked off the mound. He was a strike-throwing machine, tossing 60 of his 88 pitches for strikes. He retired 20 of the 22 batters he faced, striking out seven while getting a lot of quick outs with a mix of pitches.

"He got some early weak contact and threw a lot of strikes, and they never could box one of the pitches out," Showalter said. "When you give hitters three things to worry about, it's a different approach for them. It's really tough on them to give them two things to worry about. Location was good. He threw a lot of quality strikes."

Bundy's performance came against a stacked Texas lineup that featured two newly acquired All-Stars -- Jonathan Lucroy and Carlos Beltran -- making their Rangers debut. The duo combined to go 0-for-5 with three strikeouts against Bundy.

"Every team in the big leagues has a good lineup," Bundy said. "They're professional hitters for a reason. They're good at what they do. ... I just go out there and compete and try to give the guys six, seven innings if I can and keep them in the game."

Bundy now has a 3.00 ERA during his four starts and has improved every time out.

"It's very hard to do what he's done these past few outings," Showalter said. "He's had great preparation for it. Not just from the spring and everything, but all the way through. This guy
basically pitched in Double-A last year. So he brings a lot of experiences his second time in the big leagues. He's one of those guys who kind of takes in everything. He's a watcher. Watch him sometime during the game. He's watching. He asks good questions.”

Bundy's mound opponent, Rangers righty Yu Darvish, was no slouch either. He racked up nine strikeouts in 6.1 innings. The Orioles, though, jumped on Darvish's few mistakes for a trio of solo home runs -- two by Pedro Alvarez and one by Adam Jones.

Alvarez, one of only two Orioles to post an OPS higher than .800 in July, notched his second multi-homer game of the season and 12th of his career.

"Pete, very quietly, for about a month now, has been a real threat for us in a time of need," Showalter said. "He's been a real contributor for us. He's having good, solid at-bats and being a lot more selective.”

After Bundy departed, the Rangers threatened to get back into the game in the eighth, scoring a run and loading the bases against righty Brad Brach. But right-hander Darren O'Day, who recently returned from the disabled list, picked up a huge strikeout of Desmond to escape the jam. O'Day then retired all three batters in the ninth to earn his third save of the year and seal the O's win.

The victory was Showalter's 518th as Orioles manager, moving him ahead of Paul Richards for sole possession of second place in club history.

"It just means I've been doing it for a long time, and I've been lucky enough to have good players that allow you to do it for a while," Showalter said. "Paul Richards was a great baseball man. We'd all like to be half the baseball guy he was. I remember reading his book and all his stuff growing up. He was way ahead of his time.”

With the win, the Orioles remained one game in front of the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League East race.


Watch Adam Jones And The Local Fry Go Head To Head

CBS Baltimore
August 3, 2016

BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Adam Jones is competing in the 2016 CareFirst Fan Challenge at Dempsey’s Brew Pub & Restaurant later today.

Jones challenged fans to whip up their favorite ballpark-themed dishes and chose husband-and-wife duo Kevin and Elizabeth Irish from The Local Fry. Jones recently explained his thinking in an interview with Norris and Long, “I like ballpark food because I don’t get to eat it during the games. In certain places like in Cleveland, they have a hot dog with macaroni and cheese and Froot Loops!”

The two teams won’t be cooking Froot Loops tonight, but it will surely be an interesting menu! Tune in tonight on MASN during O’s Xtra tonight to see the cooking commence. Chris Person, Sous Chef for Dempsey’s Brew Pub & Restaurant, will serve as Jones’ assistant for the day.

The judges include Zach Britton, Chef Chad Gauss from The Food Market and 13-year-old Baltimore native Bryce Taylor, a Food Network Teen Chef and Junior Finalist from Food Network’s show Chopped Junior.
Adam Jones Shares A Few Laughs, Talks Season So Far And Playoff Race

CBS Baltimore
August 3, 2016

Adam Jones started our Wednesday morning off with a laugh as he joined Norris and Long. The guys cracked jokes about food, feet and Jerry Coleman, but ultimately got down to the baseball talk.

Adam started off by talking about his offensive breakthrough and what caused it saying, “it’s part of the game you have to go through it to get to it…it’s something that you’ve done and you’ve done. I’m not a rookie, I’m a vet and I’ll figure it out like I always do.”

As for his approach at the plate lately Adam said, “I’m going up there and I’m letting it fly…the first pitch of the game, it’s no secret I’m going after it, why wouldn’t I?”

Dylan Bundy pitched a great game last night and Adam talked about what he’s seen from Bundy saying, “the thing I’ve told him and everyone else has to have told him I’m sure was just go compete…last night the ball was coming out hot and the change-up was to.”

Adam also talked about the atmosphere in Toronto, his involvement in the local community and his interaction with fans concerning culinary issues at stadiums.

Md. Boy Who Had Double Hand Transplant Throws First Pitch At O’s Game

CBS Baltimore
August 3, 2016

BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Zion Harvey, the Owings Mills boy who made headlines last year for being the first child in the world to undergo a double hand transplant, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at Tuesday night’s Orioles game.

Last summer, a surgical team of 40 at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia worked ten hours connecting bone, blood vessels, nerves, muscles, tendons and skin.

Zion, who lost both hands and feet to a severe infection as a baby, has been working since then to regain hand function through rigorous therapy sessions.

“Never give up on your dreams, it will come true,” he told WJZ last year. And just look at him now! He threw the pitch to Orioles outfielder Adam Jones, and the Orioles went on to win the game.
About a year ago, Zion Harvey became the first child ever to undergo a bilateral hand transplant. On Tuesday night in Baltimore, he used those new hands to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Orioles game.

The 9-year-old Harvey has spent the past year going through extensive physical therapy and training to get accustomed to the functionality of his hands. One of the tasks he's been practicing has been gripping and throwing a baseball.

On Tuesday, he got to throw to his favorite player, O's outfielder Adam Jones.

Harvey lost his hands and feet as result of an infection when he was very young, but has clearly grown up with an indomitable personality. Here's more on his story:
Showalter passes Richards for second on O’s wins list

By Dan Connolly / BaltimoreBaseball.com
August 3, 2016

Maybe you missed it during Bundypalooza last night, but Buck Showalter won his 518th game as an Orioles’ manager, putting him second on the all-time list behind only Hall of Famer Earl Weaver (1,480).

He passed Paul Richards, who managed the Orioles from 1955 to 1961.

In pure Showalter fashion, he joked that both Weaver and Richards are now dead.

“One of players told me today, ‘All those guys have passed away,’” said Showalter, who turned 60 in May. “I’m not far behind them from that standpoint.”

Showalter, who previously had the reputation of wearing out his welcome wherever he managed, won his first game as an Oriole exactly six years ago today, Aug. 3, 2010, when the Orioles beat the Los Angeles Angels. It’s been an impressive and rapid ride to second place on the managerial wins’ list.

“Paul Richards was a great baseball man. Gosh, we’d all like to be half the baseball guy he was,” Showalter said. “I remember reading his book growing up, and he was way ahead of his time. Special”

Now, Showalter has passed Richards as an Oriole and has passed Hall of Famer Wilbert Robinson on baseball’s all-time wins’ list for 28th place – he has 1,400 total wins. Showalter isn’t making a big deal of it. But his boss, executive vice president Dan Duquette, did.

“Terrific achievement. … To be able to do that, first of all you have to be in one place for a long time and Buck’s been able to do that. Secondly, you got to be a skipper of a club that wins a lot of games and Buck did that,” said Duquette, who knew Richards personally. “So, now he’s in rare company between Paul Richards and Earl Weaver. I remember the line, I thought it was a great compliment to Buck, during (Weaver’s) statue unveiling ceremony Weaver said, ‘I want to thank the sculptor for making me look like Buck Showalter.’

“The three greatest managers, easily in the history of the club, and Buck has passed Richards. And his place in Orioles history is really solidified by advancing beyond Paul.”
Dylan Bundy is making this starting thing look easy

By Dan Connolly / BaltimoreBaseball.com
August 2, 2016

It’s not supposed to be this easy.

I’m not supposed to be this off-base, at least this quickly.

But Dylan Bundy is proving me wrong and proving just how much he belongs in the Orioles rotation despite not pitching much since 2012.

He’s also showing why he was the No. 1 player teams asked the Orioles about at the recently passed trade deadline. And the 23-year-old keeps demonstrating why the Orioles say, “no thanks,” every time.

In his last two starts, Bundy has been just about as good as a pitcher can be.

He retired the first 16 batters he faced against Colorado last week, before tiring and serving up two home runs and three runs in a loss.

On Tuesday, against an excellent Rangers lineup that added two more veteran hitters Monday in Jonathan Lucroy and Carlos Beltran, Bundy was even better.

He allowed the perfect game to go by the wayside in the fourth with a walk to Ian Desmond and lost a no-hit bid in the sixth on a two-out single by Elvis Andrus.

He allowed no other baserunners through seven innings, striking out seven. Rarely was a ball struck hard. Rarely did Bundy look like he wasn’t in complete control.

“He had some early contact, some early weak contact, and threw a lot of strikes. They never could box one of the pitches out,” Orioles manager Buck Showalter said. “When you give hitters three things to worry about, it’s a different approach for them. It’s really tough on them when you give them two things to worry about. Location was good. He threw a lot of quality strikes.”

Bundy’s fastball velocity was actually down a tick or two to about 94 mph consistently, and it didn’t matter. Because he located everything — up, down, inside, out — and kept an excellent Texas lineup off-balance throughout.

Don’t take my word for it, take Texas manager Jeff Banister’s.

“It was a special night for Bundy with how he was throwing the ball,” Banister said. “There are times you have to tip your hat to a guy when he has his stuff going like that.”

Bundy basically shrugged off the accolades. The former No. 4 pick overall in 2011 just expects to pitch this way, even against mighty lineups like Texas and Colorado.

“Every team in the big leagues has a good lineup. They are professional hitters for a reason, they are good at what they do,” he said. “I don’t look at it any particular way. I just go out there and try to compete and give the guys, six, seven innings if I can. And keep them in the game.”

The seven innings pitched wasn’t just a big-league high, it was a career high. His longest pro outing before Tuesday was 6 2/3 innings for the High-A Frederick Keys on Aug. 1, 2012.

That, of course, is the reason I questioned whether putting Bundy into the rotation now was the right thing to do, since he basically didn’t pitch in the majority of three seasons due to injury.

I knew Bundy had no fear. I knew he had tremendous talent. I was just concerned that he wasn’t stretched out enough to be a consistent starter and that, if he pushed it, he could do more damage to that tremendous right elbow and shoulder that he worked so hard to rehab.
Instead, Bundy is showing he can be efficient in his pitch count and go deep into games. Amazingly, he demonstrated that Tuesday in his fourth major league start.

So what’s next for this wunderkind?

“Mainly just getting deeper in games and getting my arm built up to do that stuff is the biggest part,” he said. “Still got to go above 90 (pitches), so we will see how it goes.”

He threw 88 pitches Tuesday, 60 for strikes. He lasted seven and said he would have loved to have gone eight.

He just keeps making it look easy. And, so far anyway, making people like me think that the Orioles and Bundy may have known what they were doing all along.

http://www.baltimorebaseball.com/2016/08/02/miley-likely-make-os-debut-thursday-rangers/

Miley likely to make his O’s debut Thursday versus Texas

By Dan Connolly / BaltimoreBaseball.com
August 2, 2016

Fans won’t have to wait long to see the Orioles’ new trade acquisitions playing for the club.

Manager Buck Showalter said Tuesday that infielder/outfielder Steve Pearce will start Wednesday – at a position not yet determined — and that left-handed pitcher Wade Miley most likely will make his debut by starting Thursday’s series finale against the Texas Rangers.

The Orioles initially had listed right-hander Yovani Gallardo as the probable starter for Thursday, but Showalter said he wanted Miley, who last pitched Saturday for the Seattle Mariners, to stay close to his rotation turn. That determination will be made after he has a workday today.

“Looking like Thursday. Just want to make sure,” Showalter said of Miley. “Pitched Saturday, threw 92 pitches, seven innings. I want to try and keep him on schedule.”

Showalter said he wasn’t sure whether Gallardo would be pushed back to Friday or another day. That, he said, will be depends on some other starters and their workdays. He said the club could consider going to a six-man rotation, but that’s not currently in the plans.

“We’re going to take a look at it,” he said. “There’s that potential, but right now, I don’t see it. But it could change.”

For Tuesday’s game, Showalter said Ubaldo Jimenez, who started last Thursday, will be in the bullpen in case he is needed.

As for Pearce, Showalter said he expects to use him all over the diamond, in the infield and the outfield. The right-handed-hitting Pearce will play against lefty Cole Hamels on Wednesday, Showalter said.

It’s very possible Pearce will get starts in left in place of Hyun Soo Kim when the club is facing a left-hander, the way the team did when Joey Rickard was healthy. But Showalter wasn’t committing to that.

“I’m not sure where we’re at. We’ll use (Pearce) today off the bench. We’ll get our arms around him,” Showalter said. “He’s got a couple of nagging things. He’s played like five out of the last seven days. I know he’s going to get a little break off the (Tropicana Field) turf. I know he’s kind of excited about that. He’ll be in the lineup (Wednesday).”
To make room on the 25-man roster, the Orioles demoted relievers Tyler Wilson and Odrisamer Despaigne to Triple-A Norfolk. That gives the Orioles a four-man bench, but only a seven-man bullpen. He said he seriously considered keeping eight relievers, but decided against it.

“A lot. A lot. We really would have liked to (have 13 pitchers),” he said. “There are (ways) we could have stayed at 13, things (done) that we could have stayed at 12 (hitters). I think we know with the schedule the way it is, it’s going to be hard to stay at 12 (pitchers).”

There’s going to be one obvious move in the next few weeks. Miley’s wife is eight-months pregnant, so he’ll be going on paternity leave at some point. Showalter joked that maybe Miley and catcher Matt Wieters, whose wife is also expecting soon, could go on the leave at the same time for efficiency sake.
First Kid to Receive Dual Hand Transplant Throws First Pitch at Baltimore Orioles Game

By Katie Kindelan / ABC News
August 3, 2016

A 9-year-old Maryland boy who made history when he underwent a bilateral hand transplant threw the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles game Tuesday night.

Zion Harvey, of Owings Mills, threw the pitch to Orioles center fielder Adam Jones before the home team’s game against the Texas Rangers.

Maryland Boy Makes History as 1st Pediatric Dual Hand Transplant Recipient
It was a moment of triumph for Zion, who developed a serious infection at 2 years old that resulted in the removal of his hands and feet.

Last summer, Zion became the first child in the world to undergo a bilateral hand transplant in a nearly 11-hour procedure at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. A 40-person medical team, including 12 surgeons, attached steel plates and screws to Zion’s old and new bones. Surgeons then painstakingly reconnected Zion’s arteries, veins, muscles, tendons and nerves.

Zion wore an Orioles jersey and hat Tuesday night at Oriole Park and gave a wave to the crowd before throwing the ball over home plate.

He also brought the team good luck as the Orioles went on to defeat the Rangers 5-1.
Watch Zion Harvey, First Kid to Get a Double Hand Transplant, Throw the First Pitch at an Orioles Game

By Stephanie Webber / US Weekly
August 3, 2016

Way to go! Zion Harvey, the first child in the world to have a double hand transplant, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles game on Tuesday, August 2.

According to ESPN, Zion, 9, needed to amputate his arms and legs because of a life-threatening infection at the age of 2. He underwent the more-than-10-hour double hand transplant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in July 2015. He later had a kidney transplant.

Zion worked hard leading up to his big day. "He has spent the last year working to regain hand function," the game's announcer said, "and the ability to throw a baseball through rigorous hand therapy sessions."

The Children's Hospital documented Zion's progress in a moving YouTube video in July 2015. "When I get those hands, I will be proud of the hands I get," he said in the clip. "And if it gets messed up I don't care because I have my family."

His mom, Pattie Ray, also opened up about her brave son. "This is just another hurdle that he jumps. He's jumped so many hurdles," she said. "This isn't the first amazing thing that he's done. He's done so many amazing things since he's been sick. I don't know many adults that can handle half of his life on a day-to-day basis."

Watch Zion's pitch in the video above!
First Kid in the World to Get Double Hand Transplant Throws Out First Pitch at Baltimore Orioles Game

By Nicole Weisensee Egan / People
August 3, 2016

Zion Harvey, the first kid in the world to get a double hand transplant, got to show how well his new hands are working in a very public way Tuesday night.

He threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles-Texas Rangers game at Oriole Park.

The pitch was to Orioles center fielder Adam Jones. The 9-year-old did not do any media interviews.

Harvey, who lives in Owings Mills, Maryland, with his mother, lost his hands and feet to sepsis when he was 2 years old. His mother, Patti Henry, donated one of her kidneys to him when he was four.

He adapted to his life without hands, learning how to eat, write and play video games. Eventually, he got prosthetic feet.

Still, he was excited when he found out he was going to be the first kid in the world to get a double hand transplant.

"When I met Zion I said, 'Zion, why do you want new hands?' " Dr. Scott Levin, who led a 40-member team for the 10-hour surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia last summer, says in a video produced by the hospital.

"And he said, 'I want to swing on monkey bars,' " Dr. Levin says. "That's sort of a milestone for a lot of kids and why shouldn't he be like another child? Our hope is over time that indeed he'll be able to do that."

"When I get these hands, I will be proud of what hands I get," he said in the hospital's video. "And if it gets messed up, I don't care because I have my family."

Harvey was released from the hospital last August and has been undergoing rigorous hand therapy ever since, which resulted in him being able to throw the baseball Wednesday night.
Zion Harvey, boy who received double hand transplant at CHOP, throws 1st pitch at Orioles game

By Emily Babay / Philly.com
August 3, 2016

Last summer, Zion Harvey was in a hospital bed at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, recovering from a double hand transplant.

This year, the 9-year-old who was the first child in the world to undergo the complicated surgery, is throwing pitches at Major League Baseball games.

Zion, who lives in the Baltimore area, threw the first pitch at Tuesday's Orioles game.

He received the 11-hour surgery at CHOP last July. At age 2, a bloodstream infection had required his hands and feet to be amputated. Before Zion, no child had ever received even a single hand transplant, but the young boy was an especially suitable candidate for the surgery because he was already taking antirejection drugs after a kidney transplant, which he underwent at age 4.

He was released from the hospital late last August, but is expected to undergo outpatient rehabilitation therapy for as long as two years.

9-year-old recipient of bilateral hand transplant throws out first pitch

WMAR
August 2, 2016

A 9-year-old from Owings Mills threw the first pitch at Tuesday's Orioles game.

Zion Harvey became the first child in the world to undergo a bilateral hand transplant last summer at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Harvey threw out the first pitch to Orioles center fielder Adam Jones.
WATCH: Zion Harvey, 1st child to receive double-hand transplant, throws 1st pitch at Orioles game

By Joe Giglio / NJ.com
August 3, 2016

The doctors at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia truly are amazing and the latest example caused a standing ovation at Tuesday night's Baltimore Orioles game at Camden Yards. Prior to the game, nine-year-old Zion Harvey threw out the first pitch to Orioles outfielder Adam Jones.

While a nine-year-old throwing out the first pitch would be a fun story on its own, Harvey's path to that moment made it special.

Roughly one year ago, Harvey—a Maryland resident—became the first child in history to undergo successful bilateral hand transplant surgery at CHOP in Philadelphia. When Harvey was two, he developed an infection that led to his hands and feet amputated. Years later, the doctors at CHOP helped remake his life and what happened in Baltimore on Tuesday night possible.

When the initial rehab began to take place post surgery, Harvey could barely grip anything—let alone pick up a baseball and throw it out for a first pitch, per CHOP:

Just a few days after the operation, Zion was already displaying his resilience and positive attitude as he adjusted to the incredible experience of having new hands. In daily sessions with CHOP physical and occupational therapists, he works hard, slowly gaining movement and strength in each hand, learning to pick up and hold objects.

On Tuesday night, he made the most-talked about pitch in any ballpark in America.

SEE IT: Nine-year-old Orioles fan with bilateral hand transplants throws out first pitch

By John Healy / New York Daily News
August 2, 2016

Tuesday was a night Orioles fan Zion Harvey won't forget.

The nine-year-old boy, who underwent a bilateral hand transplant, threw out the first pitch to Adam Jones before Baltimore’s game against the Rangers at Camden Yards.

Harvey developed an infection when he was two years old that required his hands and feet to be amputated.

He had the bilateral hand transplant a year ago, becoming the first child to undergo the surgery.

Harvey seems to be doing just fine if his smile at Camden Yards is any indicator.
Boy Who Received Double Hand Transplant Throws First Pitch

ABC 6 Philadelphia
August 2, 2016

The first child in the world to undergo a double hand transplant threw out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles - Texas Rangers game Tuesday night.

9-year-old Zion Harvey underwent the procedure last summer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

When he was two years old, he developed an infection that required his hands and feet to be amputated.

But on this night, he impressed everyone at Camden Yards with his pitch.

Way to go Zion!

Hand transplant patient throws out O’s first pitch (Video)

By Rick Massimo / WTOP
August 3, 2016

WASHINGTON — A Maryland boy overcame more than his share of challenges to throw out the first pitch at Camden Yards on Tuesday night.

The pitch was thrown by 9-year-old Zion Harvey, of Owings Mills, Maryland, who last summer was the first child to ever undergo a bilateral hand transplant.

Harvey developed sepsis at age 2, the Orioles’ website reports, which led to the amputation of both hands and both his legs below the knee. He also needed a kidney transplant from his mother. But he kept fighting, and Tuesday night, after months of therapy to gain function in his new hands, he got to toss the first pitch to Adam Jones.

Jones told the Orioles’ site he’d been following Harvey’s progress for about a year, and called him “a trooper.” Jones homered in the Orioles’ 5-1 win.
9-year-old throws first pitch after first-of-its-kind hand transplant

By Liz Roscher / Yahoo Sports
August 3, 2016

Just over 12 months ago, Zion Harvey became the first child to receive a double-hand transplant. And on Tuesday, this phenomenal 9-year-old used one of those hands to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at Camden Yards before the Baltimore Orioles faced the Texas Rangers. Adam Jones was the lucky Oriole who got to catch Zion’s well-thrown pitch.

Watching Zion throw out that pitch on Tuesday night was amazing, but it’s just another step on his long journey. As a toddler, Zion contracted sepsis which resulted in organ failure and the amputation of his hands and feet. He uses prosthetics to walk (and is pretty active), and before the transplant he’d learned to eat and write using his forearms.

The surgery was long (11 hours), but it was no riskier than a kidney transplant, which Zion had undergone at age 4. That’s why his mother (who donated the kidney that Zion received) was willing to go forward with the hand transplant.

The operation took place at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and they put together a video about Zion’s surgery and his journey to get there.

Not only is Zion adorable with a killer smile, but he’s overwhelmingly positive, intelligent, and funny. He’s undergone extensive physical therapy in the past year, but it’s all paying off. His mother wanted him to get the surgery so he could one day “play monkey bars and football.” With his first pitch on Tuesday night, Zion is even closer to making those dreams a reality.

First Pediatric Dual Hand Transplant Recipient Throws First Pitch At Orioles Game

WBAL
August 2, 2016

(BALTIMORE) -- The first child to undergo a dual hand transplant threw the first pitch at an Orioles game Tuesday.

Zion Harvey was only 2 when he developed a serious infection that resulted in the removal of his hands and feet.

A year ago, the then 8-year-old made history at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia when he became the first recipient of a pediatric dual hand transplant.
1st Child to Undergo Bilateral Hand Transplant Throws Out 1st Pitch at O's Game

By Kyle Newport / Bleacher Report
August 3, 2016

The Baltimore Orioles pulled out a 5-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday, but the best moment of the night came before the game started.

Nine-year-old Zion Harvey had the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before the game, with Orioles star Adam Jones catching. What makes this different from your ordinary first pitch is that Harvey is about a year removed from being the youngest person to undergo a bilateral hand transplant.

Now, he’s throwing out pitches at a major league stadium:

For more on Harvey’s story, check out this video from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia:


9-year-old Zion Harvey throws marvelous 1st pitch a year after bilateral hand transplants

By Mark Sandritter / SBNation.com
August 2, 2016

Prior to every MLB game, someone throws out the ceremonial first pitch. Sometimes the pitches are amusing, but mostly they just serve as a brief distraction before the real game begins. Then there are times like on Tuesday when 9-year-old Zion Harvey threw out a first pitch that made the rest of the game inconsequential.

Harvey is no regular 9-year-old. A year ago, he became the first child to undergo bilateral hand transplant surgery. When he was 2 years old, he developed an infection that required his hands and feet to be amputated. He would also later need a kidney transplant. Six years later, he became a trailblazer as the first child to undergo the procedure. It was a very complicated process and Zion was in surgery for more than 10 hours. But, it was a success.

Now roughly a year later, Zion is slinging first pitches before MLB games.

It took a groundbreaking surgery and extensive physical therapy to get to that point. This is hardly the end, however. It’s only a chapter along an incredible journey.
9-Year-Old Zion Harvey Throws Out O’s First Pitch A Year After Bilateral Hand Transplant

By Harry Lyles Jr.

August 3, 2016

The story of 9-year-old Zion Harvey is a great one that will inspire many.

A year ago, Harvey was the first child to undergo bilateral hand transplant surgery. The surgery came after he developed an infection that forced doctors to amputate his hands and feet when he was two years old. Six years later, he underwent the procedure, and on Tuesday, he threw out the first pitch for the Baltimore Orioles.

It was absolutely awesome:

The bravery and strength shown by Harvey is awesome, especially for somebody his age. For some folks, his challenges might be too much to overcome, but he’s done it with a smile on his face.

Hopefully we can all be more like Zion, who is living life the right way.

Here’s more on Zion’s story: