Let me get this straight: we win the game with the Fausto Carmona - Johan Santana matchup, but lose the game with the C.C. Sabathia - Carlos Silva matchup? We score twice as many runs off Santana as Silva and Scott "Home Run" Baker combined? We win a game because Ryan Garko was too fast to be doubled up? Have I been taking crazy pills?

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1) Miniscule Ball

I am on the record as saying that I find stolen bases to be generally not worth the effort and bunts to be repugnant. However, both things have their place on a team like Minnesota's, which generally lacks guys who can mash. Now, it should be pointed out that of the four bases the Twins stole Friday, nary a one had any value whatsoever: Jason Bartlett stole second and third and Nick Punto stole second behind him, but they were both stranded when Michael Cuddyer flew out to end the inning. It could be argued that Bartlett's steal prevented a double play ball by Castillo, but Castillo is fast in his own right and there's no guarantee, but look: zero runs is zero runs. Carmona threw a few extra pitches, but he wasn't going the distance anyway, and Jason Davis and Raffy Betancourt threw 2 2/3 scoreless innings before Tom Mastny botched the ninth. (The Twins didn't steal any more bases over the weekend, and one has to ask if Fausto at age 22 is worth a Vice Presidency at holding runners on.)

Bunting, however, was of great value to the Twins. Their first run off Sabathia was a direct result of a sacrifice (subsequently scored on a groundout), and their run off Sikorski scored after Redmond singled in Castillo from second. (The next guy singled, so that's of dubious credit, but that's just hindsight.) In the big third Sunday, Mauer actually singled on his bunt with Punto on first, and both runners advanced on a groundout to the pitcher, subsequently scoring on a single. In Friday's game, Minnesota had 15 baserunners with ZERO extra-base hits (7

singles, 8 (!) walks). Saturday, 15 baserunners, 2 XBH. Sunday, 16 baserunners, 1 XBH. That's 46 guys who reached base, and 43 of them stopped at first unless the defense fumbled the ball. They left 30 guys on base over the weekend series: Cleveland had 32 baserunners TOTAL (they left 16 on).