Pedro Alvarez is now hitting over .200. He wasn't coming into the series. He did hit a few home runs, but he hit a few more that counted big time in the past two games. In other news, somebody kick me. I also dropped him from my fantasy team last week. So kick me again. It looks like Asdrubal Cabrera thinks you can take Paulie C's 'Lazy Sunday' literally.

June 17th, 2012

Pittsburgh Pirates - **9**

Cleveland Indians - **5**

W: Tony Watson (4-0) L: Jeanmar Gomez (4-6)

[BOXSCORE]

It's hard to really crucify Jeanmar Gomez when his shortstop makes THREE errors in one game. So let's crucify the shortstop before we get to Gomez.

I'm the first to puff my chest out and say things when **Asdrubal Cabrera** makes a breathtaking play. Many go around and claim that Asdrubal Cabrera is nothing more than your below average shortstop because they have a few statistics that the public is unfamiliar with that say so.

But excuse me if I don't take any stock into a statistic that says Jhonny Peralta is a better shortstop than Cabrera. I know what I see and regardless of what your stat says, Cabrera is a good shortstop and I'd take him over many people at the position.

However he gets lazy and he has his moments and everything reared it's ugly head at once in this game. Not just with the errors, but just...bad. And I'll be the first to pile on him as well as the first to praise him.

Two of his errors led directly to the two Pedro Alvarez three-run bombs. The first in the fourth inning when Casey McGehee grounded out with two outs. Cabrera misses the throw, runners safe and advance and Alvarez goes deep a hitter later.

Then it got even worse in the fifth inning when the bases were loaded and McGehee again grounded to shortstop, this time with one out and the bases loaded. Cabrera simply got lazy fielding the ball, kicked it around and not only did the double play not happen (it would have ended the inning), it set the stage for Alvarez's second three run homer. So essentially you have five runs in the fifth score because of Cabrera and all three in the fourth score because of Cabrera .

"You want them to make every single play," Tribe manager Manny Acta said of Cabrera, "But you also need to step back and know that this guy has won a lot of games for us with his glove. You just have to understand that those are physical errors. Those are easier to swallow than the mental error. He's going to make a lot of plays for us. He's one of our best fielders. You want everybody to make every play. It's impossible. He just showed his human side today."

Manny is right in one aspect. He showed his human side. And if anything, I'm glad he got it all out at once, however if he just made, say one of those mistakes, like in the fourth, then the game even then is still very much winnable. Heck, it was winnable even after the second mistake because the Indians were swinging well and within striking distance.

Jeanmar Gomez still gives up the home run to Alex Presley in the fifth, but he not only finishes the fifth inning, he doesn't give up eight freakin' runs.

And with the way the Indians swung the bat in this one? Granted five runs isn't a lot, but it's way more than the Pirates are normally capable of (worst offense in the MLB, remember?) and it is plenty to win the game. They even out-hit the Pirates, so that tells you the Pirates simply took advantage of the extra opportunities that the Indians Asdrubal Cabrera gave them.

So, about Gomez. What can you say? He got hung out to dry in this one. You simply cannot say anything to fault him because he did his job more times than not and kept getting put in these rotten situations. The way he threw the ball in the first three innings? He looked fabulous. He looked like the Gomez that was having much success early on in the season.

He was aggressive, he was hitting his spots, he was getting the hitters to do what he wanted them to do. This really looked like it was going to be a good game for the Indians. Gomez was going to cruise, the offense was going to obliterate a guy in Brad Lincoln who just was slowly leaking and giving way, the bullpen would take over with some sort of a lead and this would be a series win.

Then Asdrubal's wheels fell off and so did this game. He got lazy and he cost the Indians a game, which at this point is huge because of A) Where this team is in the standings and B) Who they were facing. The Pirates are not a bad team, but they are not offensively powerful and in these past two games they found a way to put 18 runs on the board. 18 runs! The team that is last in offense put 18 runs on the board in two games, right after they were shutout.

"It was a really bad day for me," Cabrera said. "That was a perfect ground ball you need for a double play. We lost the game right there on two errors by me."

I'm willing to move on though because again, I'll reiterate it. I'll take him at shortstop everyday of the week and he swings a solid stick. Bad days will happen, errors will happen. You hope the errors don't end up costing you a game and cause minimal damage, but today they were the reasoning for the loss. As Acta would go onto say, you just come out the next day and fight again. The fight wasn't the problem in this one, the production wasn't the problem. It was the mistakes and if you eliminate the mistakes, you easily beat a team like Pittsburgh.

Random Details...

Jason Kipnis, homer, steal, three hits, just another day in the life of the American League's All-Star Second Baseman. Don't make the last part of that sentence a lie people....

I'll keep championing for Asdrubal because despite the errors, he is still a big part of this team and ultimately, he just had a bad game. The laziness has to stop though and it was even more evident in his final at-bat when he rocketed a double off the wall in right. You can tell me all you want about Tabata fielding the ball perfectly and making a good throw, but Cabrera not only made that a close play, he made it an out.

Initially, he thought it was a home run, so he didn't hustle out of the box. In fact, he even took a second to look at it. I can take the second to look at it, but you do not slow up until you know that ball is gone. The stop, okay fine, but he started super slow out of that box and that is completely unacceptable. It will go down as a footnote because of the horrific game he had defensively, but it plays into his laziness and should be given equal attention. Manny was nice post game, but I hope he says something in private. I can handle errors to some extent, I can't handle stuff like this.

Let's end this Jose Lopez madness please. I don't care anymore. I'm done. You put him in your DH spot and hit him cleanup and what does he do? In his most important at-bat he weakly fouls out to the catcher on the first pitch with runners on and nobody out. On Friday he pinch-hit for Lonnie Chisenhall (against a left-hander) in a similar situation although late in the game. Two on and nobody out, he pops up weakly to second on the second pitch.

In this one, had he done his job and at least put in a decent at bat that advanced a runner, Brantley's fly ball to center scores a run instead of moves a runner over to third. But, whatever. Let's continue to run him out there at a high spot in the batting order. That's fine.

Lou Marson has another good game at the plate, reaching base three times. What have I been saying for the past week? Start him everyday against the lefties and mix and match with the righties. Call up Luke Carlin if you are worried about not having a catcher, give Santana the majority of starts at DH. Seriously.

Johnny Damon with two hits, two runs, stole a base. He was a regular spark plug. He's still hitting under .200 and has a long way to go though. More on this later.

Jack Hannahan was back in the lineup after sitting it out on Saturday. And of course Johnny Damon almost killed him running in from left and not calling for the ball. Super Jack is going to be in the lineup every other day for a bit to get him acclimated to playing everyday at third. Hannahan has been putting some real good swings on the ball if you ask me. On Friday he seemed to hit the ball hard to the outfield but it just happened to go to the people patrolling the outfield. I feel that he's close.

[redacted]