

Major League Baseball

Indians

■ **CONTINUED FROM 15** walked one and struck out four.

Arencibia broke the tie with another second deck drive to begin the bottom of the sixth, bringing Cody Allen out of the Cleveland bullpen to replace Brett Myers. One out later, Rasmus hit a solo drive to right.

Emilio Bonifacio followed with a groundball double to center, then scored on a throwing error by Reynolds, giving Toronto a 9-6 lead. Back-to-back walks loaded the bases for Adam Lind, but he flied out to end the inning.

Myers (0-1) gave up seven runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. He walked two and

struck out none.

Reynolds hit an RBI single off Esmil Rogers in the seventh and Kipnis cut it to 9-8 with an RBI double off Darren Oliver in the eighth. Cleveland loaded the bases with two outs but second baseman Bonifacio ended the inning by ranging into shallow center to throw out Santana.

Toronto added an insurance run off Matt Albers in the eighth when Reyes scored from second on Bautista's fielder's choice grounder.

NOTES: Cleveland placed LHP Scott Kazmir Indians on the 15-day disabled list with a strained right ribcage muscle, retroactive to April 2.

Major League Baseball

Reds

■ **CONTINUED FROM 15** could have gone either way.

Todd Frazier also had a solo homer off Blanton (0-1), and Chris Heisey's two-run shot put Cincinnati up 5-3 in the fifth. Blanton gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings during his Angels debut.

Blanton, who signed a two-year, \$15 million deal in December, didn't make many bad pitches. He didn't have much luck, either.

"Two of them were off mistakes, and I felt I made maybe a handful of them all day," Blanton said. "That happens sometimes in baseball. One of those things that just happened out of the gate."

Heisey's homer was his first as the full-time left

fielder. He's replacing Ryan Ludwick, who had surgery on Wednesday to repair torn cartilage in his right shoulder, an injury that will sideline him for at least the first half of the season.

"I've proven I can play off the bench," Heisey said. "I'm not feeling any pressure."

Bronson Arroyo (1-0) gave up three runs in six innings, including Josh Hamilton's two-run single that was his first hit for the Angels. Albert Pujols drove in a pair of runs with a sacrifice fly and a groundout.

Nobody enjoyed Choo's homer more than Arroyo. Choo has four career homers off Arroyo, his highest total off any pitcher.

The Reds got him from Cleveland in the offseason.

"Every time he goes deep for me, it's like a holiday," Arroyo said.

Left-hander Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth, converting his first save opportunity. Mike Trout led off with a single and was sacrificed to second, but Pujols flied out and Hamilton struck out.

The teams combined for seven homers and 63 strikeouts during the series. The Reds fanned 36 overall, a club record for the first three games of a season. The 36 strikeouts were an Angels record for a three-game series.

Their biggest hitters also have had a tough time getting started.

Pujols and Hamilton

were a combined 0 for 17 with six strikeouts before they finally put something together in the third inning. Pujols doubled for his first hit, and Hamilton followed with a two-run single; Pujols slid into home safely while catcher Ryan Hanigan missed his leg while attempting the tag.

Pujols also had a sacrifice fly and a run-scoring groundout, limping on his left foot after he'd run. Pujols is playing through pain from plantar fasciitis.

Choo got the Reds started with his sixth career leadoff homer. Frazier led off the second inning with a homer just inside the left field foul pole, and Heisey connected in the fifth.

Tennis

Tennis

■ **CONTINUED FROM 15** could have gone either way," Troy coach Mark Goldner said. "It was a good win over a good team."

Last year, Troy dropped a narrow 3-2 decision to Milton-Union in its home and season opener. Overall, the Trojans were 1-2 in matches decided by a 3-2 score.

They're already off to a better start this season.

Luke Oaks, a sophomore in his second season at first singles, continued his solid play by defeating Nick Pavlatos in convincing fashion, 6-0, 6-1. And at first doubles, the experienced duo of Matt Alexander and Ian Stutz defeated Peder Tune and Mitchell Dunlap 6-2, 6-1.

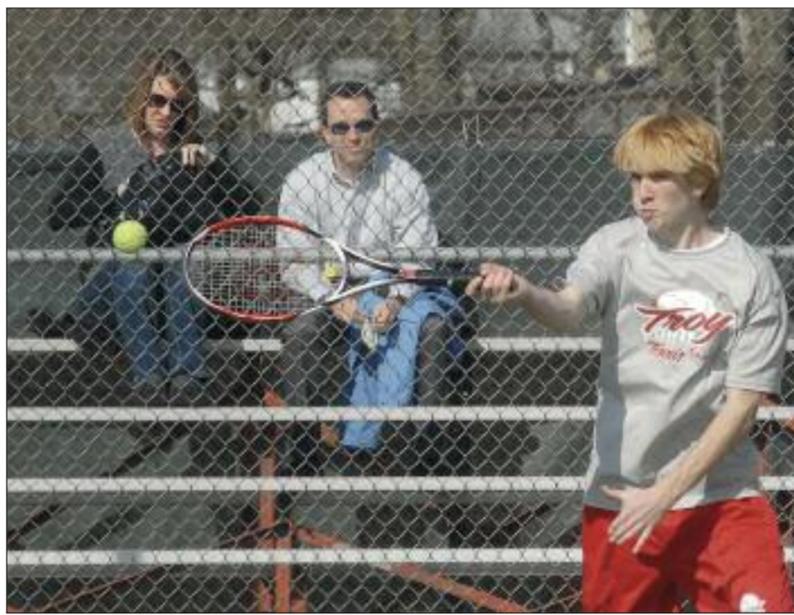
At second doubles, Hidekazu Asami and Jesse Wright defeated Humza Aamir-Khan and Rehan Syed in a three-set battle, splitting the first two sets and then winning a tiebreaker in the decisive third set to close out a 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5) victory.

At second singles, Humza Bashir defeated Chris Schmitt in three tough sets, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

At third singles, Sam Brounger defeated Matt Schmitt, who fought back after dropping the first set 6-0 but eventually fell 7-5 in the second.

"The match came down to second singles and second doubles," Goldner said. "Chris Schmitt played a very steady player and just came up short in a long two-and-a-half-hour match. Our second doubles team came back to split sets and forced the third set tiebreaker — which we pulled out 7-5 for the team victory. Luke and first doubles were in control of their matches, while Matt Schmitt played a good second set only to lose 7-5."

Troy improved to 2-0 on



Troy's Ian Stutz hits a forehand return during a match at first doubles Thursday against Springfield.



Troy's Chris Schmitt winds up for a forehand Thursday against Springfield.

the season with the win. The Trojans travel to Five Seasons Racket Club to face Bellbrook on Monday.

Tippecanoe 5, Bellefontaine 0

TIPP CITY — So far this season, Tippecanoe has only dropped a single game.

Faced with a short-handed Bellefontaine team on Thursday, the Red

Devils were simply overpowering in a 5-0 Central Buckeye Conference victory over the Chieftains.

With Bellefontaine only bringing six players due to spring break, the Devils tinkered with their lineup — and everything they tried worked. At first singles, Sam Bollinger won 6-0, 6-0. At second singles, Hailey Winblad won 6-0, 6-

0. After a forfeit at third singles, Michael Keller and Jacob Belcher won at first doubles 6-0, 6-0 and Adam Southers and Jon Lin won at second doubles 6-0, 6-0.

Tippecanoe (2-0, 2-0 CBC) travels to Urbana Monday.

Milton-Union 4, Piqua 1

PIQUA — Milton-Union had little trouble with Piqua Thursday, winning 4-1 in non-league play.

At first singles, Zach Blevins defeated Andrew Lamphar 6-1, 6-0. At second singles, Craig Hollis defeated Joey Hsiang 6-3, 6-0. At third singles, Jake Blevins defeated Joline Hsiang 6-0, 6-1. At second doubles, Mitch Gooslin and Cole Wallace defeated Luke and Josh Hanes 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Milton-Union's lone loss came at first doubles, where Trey Barnes and Will Rice lost 6-2, 6-4 to Layne Patrizio and Devon Parshall.

National Basketball Association

Scott's future with Cavs in question

INDEPENDENCE (AP) — As the Cavaliers descend to the bottom of the standings in the final days of another depressing season, questions have mounted about coach Byron Scott's future.

No doubt, he's in trouble.

And while there are plenty of excuses — injuries and a lack of talent are atop the list — for Cleveland's awful record, Scott's not using any of them.

But one day after Cleveland was embarrassed at home by Brooklyn for its 10th

straight loss, second-year Cavs forward **Tristan Thompson** decided it was time to defend Scott, who is just 62-160 in three seasons and may not be back for a fourth.

"All the rumors about coach Scott and hot seat and all that crap, that's bogus," Thompson said following Thursday's practice. "It's up to us to come out and compete and play hard because we're the ones out there. When he was out there playing, he won championships. So it's up to us to come out there and play."

The Cavs regrouped following Wednesday's ugly loss, when they fell behind by 30 points at halftime and were throttled by the Nets, who were missing two starters but pushed around a Cleveland team that appeared to have called it a season with two weeks left.

Following a game that looked like many other

losses this season, Scott couldn't explain why his young team had played with little energy or effort. And for the first time, Scott was asked the uncomfortable question of whether he was worried about losing his job.

"Not really," he said. "I've always had the attitude, 'Whatever happens, happens.'"

With eight games left, there's no telling what could happen in the weeks ahead. Scott is under contract for next year after the club picked up his option for 2013-14 in October.

General manager Chris Grant has not publicly commented on Scott's future.

Owner Dan Gilbert, too, has been quiet on the subject.

Scott was handed a difficult situation when he was

hired in 2010, taking over the Cavs shortly after they were ousted from the NBA playoffs and before LeBron James decided to leave Cleveland as a free agent. Scott was charged with rebuilding a young team around point guard Kyrie Irving, but to this point, progress has been minimal.

Injuries to Irving, Anderson Varejao and Dion Waiters have made things infinitely more challenging, but Scott's critics argue that the Cavs don't play defense, his substitution patterns are scattered, and if the team isn't playing hard, that's a reflection on the coach.

For the most part, Scott has chosen not to assess blame.



Baseball

Roundup

■ **CONTINUED FROM 15** innings for the win, striking out seven, walking two and only giving up three singles. But his pitch count was rising so he didn't get a complete game, and three walks and two errors in the top of the seventh for Troy gave Beaver Creek a little hope before the Trojans finally put it away.

"We just didn't finish it," Welker said. "That's the only negative from today. We're trying to get some of our young pitchers' feet wet, and it was good experience for him. But we've got to not walk batters. Still, we're happy with an 8-3 win."

Troy hosts Tippecanoe and Miamisburg on Saturday, kicking off the day against the Red Devils at 10:30 a.m.

BCreek000 000 3 — 3 4 2
Troy203 120 x — 8 7 2
Anders, Hayes (4) and Hoffman. Kendall, Lavy (7) and Nadolny. WP — Kendall. LP — Anders. 2B — Sanders (T). 3B — Cascaden (T). **Records:** Beaver Creek 2-2, Troy 4-1.

Milton-Union 12,

Covington 2

WEST MILTON — After dropping their third straight game to start the season on Wednesday, 10-0 at Madison, the Milton-Union Bulldogs not only picked up their first win but also handed Covington its first loss in a 12-2 run-rule victory Thursday at Milton-Union.

Jesse Simpson homered, Alex Gunston was 2 for 2 with a double and a triple and Wes Biser — who also was the winning pitcher — was 2 for 4 as the Bulldogs (1-3) put the game away with a nine-run third inning.

Kyler Deeter was 3 for 3 for Covington (3-1), which travels to Lehman for a doubleheader Saturday. Milton-Union, meanwhile, hosts Carlisle today.

Cov010 10 — 2 4 4
M-U109 11 — 12 10 1
WP — Biser. LP — Williams. 2B — Gunston (M). 3B — Biser (M). HR — Simpson (M). **Records:** Covington 3-1, Milton-Union 1-3.

Versailles 10,
Miami East 2

CASSTOWN

— Versailles capitalized on a number of Miami East mistakes — both in the field and on the basepaths — in a 10-2 victory Thursday.

The Vikings only gave up two earned runs in the game, but they also hurt themselves by getting thrown out at home plate on sac fly attempts or even picked off of third base.

"I should have warned him not to go too early, but that just shows that coaches can make mistakes, too," Miami East coach Barry Coomes said. "We've just got to learn from these and get better."

Miami East is off until Tuesday, when it travels to Newton.

Softball Miami East 11, Versailles 6

CASSTOWN — For the second day in a row, Miami East took an early lead, only to see it evaporate.

And for the second day in a row, the Vikings responded once it did.

Paige Mullen punctuated a huge day at the plate with a two-run home run in the fifth inning, putting the Vikings back on top for good in an 11-6 victory over Versailles Thursday.

Mullen was 4 for 4 with a double, the homer and five RBIs on the day — none bigger than her fifth-inning two-run shot after the Tigers had taken a 6-5 lead in the top of the fifth, though.

"Paige really came through for us in the fifth," Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. "And she also had two RBIs in the first inning that got us going."

The Vikings jumped ahead 3-0 after one and built that lead to 4-0 before Versailles tied the game with four in the top of the third. But Miami East put up three runs in both the fifth and sixth innings to put the game away.

Madison Linn was 2 for 3 with two RBIs, Sarah O'Neal and Sam Denlinger both doubled and Christine

Bowling was 2 for 3. Denlinger got the win, finishing off the game in relief of Paige Kiesewetter.

"We ran into some defensive issues in the third inning. We're still working on playing seven solid innings defensively," Kadel said. "But the girls showed character and responded every time Versailles scored."

Miami East travels to Milton-Union for a doubleheader Saturday.

Ver004 020 0 — 6 13 2
ME310 133 x — 11 12 3
McEldowney and Kremer. Kiesewetter, Denlinger (5) and O'Neal. WP — Denlinger. LP — McEldowney. 2B — Monnin (V), Mullen (M), O'Neal (M), Denlinger (M). HR — McEldowney (V), Mullen (M).

Covington 10, Coldwater 0

COLDWATER — Casey Yingst and Morgan Arbogast combined on a one-hitter, Connor Schaffer homered and the Buccaneers stole eight bases in a 10-0 rout at Coldwater Thursday.

Schaffer homered and drove in two runs, Cassidy Cain was 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs, Haley Adams was 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs and Jessie Shilt tripled as the Buccs (5-0) took it to the Cavaliers offensively.

And it came from a little of everybody, too.

"We've just been hitting the ball hard lately," Covington coach Dean Denlinger said. "We got 15 of our 18 girls in today, and we played all 18 the other night. We can put anyone into the game at any time and not miss a beat."

Yingst and Arbogast, meanwhile, combined to punch out 11 Coldwater hitters.

Covington travels to New Bremen today before hosting Centerville for a Saturday doubleheader.

Cov123 40 — 10 8 0
Cold000 00 — 0 1 2
Yingst, Arbogast (4) and Schaffer. WP — Yingst. 2B — Adams (Cov), Cain (Cov). 3B — Shilt (Cov). HR — Schaffer (Cov). **Records:** Covington 5-0.