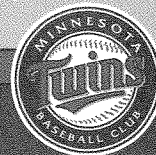


# Dugout Splinters

By Charlie Beattie of Minnesota Wild Examiner (www.examiner.com/minnesota-wild-in-st-paul/charlie-beattie)

provided by **GAME DAY**



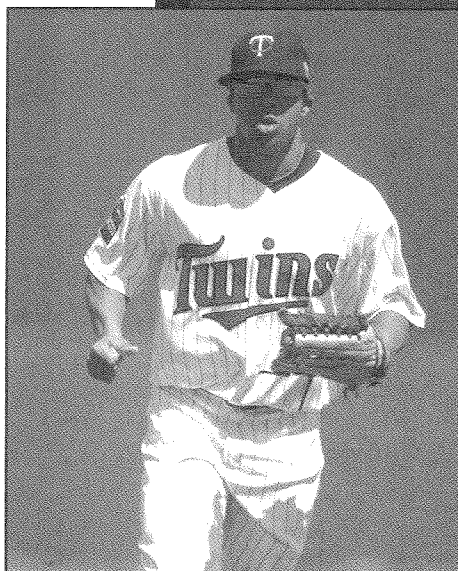
## The Big Picture

Just call them the champions of the West. The Twins come into their final series against Oakland with a 23-10 mark against the American League West as a whole, clinching a winning record against said division for the first time since 2007. That ties the Yankees, who are also 23-10 versus the junior circuit's smallest division (records through September 8th).

## What To Watch

Expect a close game. The Twins have met the A's six times this season and despite only losing once, they've done anything but dominate the team from the Bay area. Five of those six games have been decided by a single run, the only exception being a 2-0 victory on August 14th behind a complete game from Brian Duensing.

Offenses have been non-existent for both teams in the season series. The Twins have a slight edge while outscoring Oakland 23-17. While Oakland's offensive output has been a problem all season, a young, talented Oakland staff has been able to shut down a usually potent Twins' lineup. Several Twins' regulars have struggled against the A's, including Denard Span, Michael Cuddyer, Jason Kubel and J.J. Hardy, who are a combined 8-63 (.127) with four runs scored and three RBI between them.



## Revere's Ride to the Majors

It's that time of year again: rosters have expanded in the month of September. For the Twins, like all other pennant chasers, that means a few extra hands on deck to help with the playoff push. Some of these relative unknowns have already made their mark and left the club (see Fox, Matt), while others are familiar faces (Pat Neshek, Glen Perkins, Jose Morales). But one newcomer who had yet to see the spotlight of a major league game was outfielder Ben Revere, a name soon to be familiar to Twins fans.

Revere, a first round pick in 2007, was added to the 40 man roster when Matt Fox was designated for assignment to provide outfield depth for the stretch run. Revere came into the season ranked as the fifth best Twins prospect by Baseball America (though one player ahead of him, Wilson Ramos, was traded at the deadline) and has put together an impressive minor league resume in three-plus seasons. In 2008, while with the Beloit Snappers, he was named the Midwest League MVP after posting a .379/.433/.497 line.

Revere's greatest assets are his speed and ability to make consistent contact, but his lack of power (four homeruns in 1513 minor league plate appearances) places an added emphasis on plate discipline. Revere does not strike out much, but he does not walk much either. Since moving to High-A ball in 2009 and Double-A New Britain this year, he has walked about once every 13.5 plate appearances. By comparison, the Twins as a team have walked once every 11 plate appearances. As a result, his on-base percentage has settled to .371. For most prospects, the road to the Majors is paved with patience and judgment. For Revere, those traits must manifest themselves at the plate.

<<< Ben Revere. Also pictured: Michael Cuddyer and Jason Kubel.

>>> Content for Dugout Splinters is independently written by GameDay. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Twins organization. For pitching probables and updated notes for today's game, visit www.dugoutsplinters.com or www.twinsbaseball.com.

Batter Stats

#	Player	Pos	Age	Bat	SO/BB	CS	CS	DRP	OPS	OPSvsRH	OPSvsLH	vs Anderson	vs Braden	vs Gonzalez	vs Bailey
1	Orlando Hudson	2B	32	B	75/44	7	3	.349	.387	.734	.739		0-3 0 HR	0-2 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
2	Denard Span	CF	26	L	66/55	21	4	.334	.351	.669	.713	1-4 0 HR	1-2 0 HR	4-10 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
5	Michael Cuddyer	RF	31	R	81/53	6	3	.336	.416	.687	.895	1-6 0 HR	0-2 0 HR	3-5 1 HR	1-2 0 HR
7	Joe Mauer	C	27	L	51/62	1	3	.401	.465	.973	.697	2-6 0 HR	2-4 0 HR	2-8 1 HR	1-3 0 HR
8	Nick Punto	3B	32	B	47/26	6	2	.327	.318	.629	.677	1-2 0 HR	0-0 0 HR	4-8 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
12	Alexi Casilla	2B	26	B	16/12	5	1	.331	.394	.708	.778			0-3 0 HR	0-0 0 HR
16	Jason Kubel	RF	28	L	104/52	0	1	.333	.437	.823	.656	1-3 0 HR	0-2 0 HR	2-6 1 HR	0-3 0 HR
18	Jason Repko	RF	29	R	29/8	2	2	.294	.361	.737	.525				
19	Danny Valencia	3B	25	R	31/15	2	0	.369	.438	.697	1.016			2-6 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
20	Matt Tolbert	3B	28	B	15/9	1	1	.321	.418	.919	.209	0-3 0 HR	0-1 0 HR	0-2 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
21	Delmon Young	LF	24	R	68/22	4	4	.331	.480	.772	.897	2-3 0 HR	0-1 0 HR	3-10 0 HR	2-3 0 HR
24	Trevor Plouffe	SS	24	R	10/0	0	0	.125	.258	.409	.000				
25	Jim Thome	DH	40	L	77/53	0	0	.407	.641	1.162	.749		2-3 1 HR	0-4 0 HR	0-1 0 HR
26	Jose Morales	C	27	B	5/2	0	0	.278	.200	.543	.000				
27	J.J. Hardy	SS	28	R	47/23	1	1	.315	.393	.774	.545		0-1 0 HR		
41	Drew Butera	C	27	R	22/2	0	0	.215	.289	.607	.386		0-1 0 HR	0-4 0 HR	

## Stats Attack

Expected Wins over a Replacement Level (WXRL) attempts to calculate the value of a reliever over a replacement level player (ex. a waiver wire pickup generally available to all teams) and then factors in the quality of the opposing teams' lineups. Here is a look at how the Twins trio of relievers with closing experience stacks up, plus one extra who may warrant consideration for the ninth inning come October.

Pitcher	WXRL	AL Rank
Brian Fuentes	2.675	8
Jon Rauch	2.074	15
Jesse Crain	1.873	18
Matt Capps	1.441	23

Pitcher Stats

#	Player	Pos	Age	Throws	G	GS	IP	H	W	L	SV	ERA	WHIP	BB	SO	K/9
15	Glen Perkins	RP	27	L	5	1	11	16	0	1	0	8.18	1.64	2	5	4.09
17	Pat Neshek	RP	30	R	7	0	5.1	3	0	0	0	5.06	1.31	4	4	6.75
28	Jesse Crain	RP	29	R	64	0	61.2	47	1	0	1	2.63	1.12	22	56	8.17
38	Scott Baker	SP	28	R	27	27	160.1	176	12	9	0	4.60	1.33	38	132	7.41
31	Alex Burnett	RP	23	R	36	0	42.1	47	2	2	0	4.46	1.54	18	30	6.38
44	Randy Flores	RP	35	L	7	0	1.1	7	0	0	0	6.75	6.00	1	1	6.75
47	Francisco Liriano	SP	26	L	27	27	172.1	161	13	7	0	3.24	1.24	52	182	9.50
48	Carl Pavano	SP	34	R	29	29	205	199	16	11	0	3.47	1.14	34	111	4.87
49	Jeff Manship	RP	25	R	9	1	24.2	22	2	0	0	2.92	1.05	4	16	5.84
50	Jose Mijares	RP	25	L	37	0	25.2	26	1	1	0	2.81	1.25	5	21	7.36
51	Brian Fuentes	RP	35	L	1	0	0.1	0	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0	1	27.00
52	Brian Duensing	RP	27	L	49	9	107	93	8	2	0	2.02	1.07	22	62	5.21
53	Nick Blackburn	SP	28	R	24	22	135.2	170	9	9	0	5.51	1.50	34	55	3.65
54	Matt Guerrier	RP	32	R	65	0	62.1	51	4	7	1	3.47	1.12	19	33	4.76
55	Matt Capps	RP	27	R	20	0	20	21	1	0	12	2.70	1.40	7	14	6.30
58	Kevin Slowey	SP	26	R	26	25	141.1	154	11	6	0	4.39	1.29	28	102	6.50
60	Jon Rauch	RP	31	R	51	0	51.2	57	3	1	21	3.48	1.35	13	41	7.14

It may come as a surprise that Capps, the current closer, ranks lower than former fan whipping boy Crain, who is in the midst of a fantastic second half. He is also lower than the man he unseated as the Twins' closer, as well as Fuentes, who was acquired far more cheaply than Capps. The point isn't that Capps shouldn't be the closer — it's that he has plenty of help in the bullpen to help hold the lead, no matter the inning.

Batter Stats

Pitcher Stats