

## NOLAN RYAN

## Nolan in the NEWS

October 12, 1974

**The windup:** (No-hitter No. 3) Ryan Roars Into Feller's Class with 3rd Gem

**The pitch:** "No-hitters are almost becoming routine with Ryan. He has learned to take his telephone off the hook. He doesn't become excited after performing one of the rare feats in sports. 'I try to take it in stride,' he said simply.

"I felt like I might have a good game," he admitted later. "I warmed up well and the first pitch had good velocity." His first seven pitchers were strikes and he fanned the side in the first and second innings."

June 14, 1975

**The windup:** (No-hitter No. 4) Ryan's Pace: Four No-Hitters in Two-Year Span

**The pitch:** "The Angels' superstar tied Sandy Koufax's record with his fourth, when he beat Baltimore, 1-0, at Anaheim Stadium on June 1.

"Ryan has thrown a no-hitter once every 27.2 starts since getting the hang of it in his first no-no against Kansas City on May 15, 1973. The more overpowering figure in the game, Ryan has fired four no-hitters in 109 starts."

October 10, 1981

**The windup:** (No-Hitter No. 5) Coolest in Dome? No-Hit Ryan

**The pitch:** "Only one Astro remained completely unflappable. 'Shoot, I don't get emotional about these things anymore,' Ryan would say after becoming the first major-leaguer to pitch five no-hitters."

July 22, 1985

**The windup:** (Strikeout No. 4,000) Ryan Records Special K

**The pitch:** "Baseball's 4,000-strikeout club has its first member — Nolan Ryan."

September 4, 1989

**The windup:** (Strikeout No. 5,000)

**The pitch:** "Ryan made Oakland's Rickey Henderson victim No. 5,000 in the fifth inning August 22 before a crowd of 42,869 at Arlington Stadium. Ryan fanned Henderson with a fastball that was clocked at 96 mph on the Rangers' radar gun."

June 25, 1990

**The windup:** (No-Hitter No. 6) No. 6! The Rub on Ryan's No-Hitter: Could Back Pain Be A Signal That the End of a Long Career is Near?

**The pitch:** "Ryan, 43, extended the boundary of his legend out into baseball's stratosphere that night, using his fastball and a wicked changeup to overpower the defending world champion A's. He struck out 14 and walked two in becoming, among other things, the first major league pitcher to throw no-hitters in three decades (1970s, '80s and '90s).

"The thing I'll get chills about wasn't the last out or any out in the ninth," said Rangers Manager Bobby Valentine. "The scene I'll remember is Nolan on the bench with his son rubbing his back and patting him on the leg, giving him a pep talk. No one else could bear to talk to him. That was a wonderful sight."

August 13, 1990

**The windup:** (300th victory) Ryan's Song: Little Things Mean a Lot

**The pitch:** "While raw power and stubborn longevity mark Ryan as baseball's newest 300-game winner, it's little things that make the man. Little things like honesty and consideration. Little things like sincerity and generosity.

"People who read about him in newspapers or a book tell you he can't be that good of a person," said Dave Oliver, third-base coach of the Texas Rangers, for whom Ryan now pitches. "But if you're around him all the time, you know that's him."

January 7, 1991

**The windup:** TSN's Man of the Year

**The pitch:** "... the man who has done all of this never has been deemed good enough to win the Cy Young Award. It seems ludicrous.

"Since THE SPORTING NEWS is not into revisionist history, it can't undo any shortcomings of the past. But it certainly can decide that Lynn Nolan Ryan Jr. is most worthy of being named to receive its prestigious Man of the Year Award. And, for 1990, TSN did just that."

May 13, 1991

**The windup:** (No-Hitter No. 7) A day when crass gave way to class

**The pitch:** "A tip of his hat, a big, toothy grin and the 44-year-old righthander is mobbed by his teammates. After the game, Ryan discusses his latest feat.

"It was the most rewarding no-hitter of them all because it came in front of my fans on Arlington Appreciation Night," he says. "My career is complete now. I got one for the fans in Arlington."

on it too much and hits it out but foul, down the left-field line.

"That's what it was? Ninety-six?" Vaughn says. "I got lucky, I guess. But it didn't count, so it was a stupid swing. I think when you come in to face the legend, the adrenaline pumps a little bit extra. That's what I always do, anyway. The stupid thing about it was that I pulled it foul so it didn't count.

"You know, it's amazing, the stuff he still has for as long as he's had it. I know if I was a pitcher, I'd write him and ask him what he does to maintain and keep that stuff. I'd get to know him and pick his brain a bit. Too bad he's not a hitter. I could pick his brain that way."

Ryan throws 91 pitches tonight against the Brewers, and 57 are strikes. In the first three innings, his average velocity is 93 miles an hour. In the last three innings, it's 94 miles an hour. With two outs and nobody on in the sixth, Kennedy brings in Craig Lefferts, a lefthander, to face Kevin Reimer, who hits lefthanded, and, if necessary, B.J. Surhoff and Tom Lampkin, also lefthanded hitters.

The standing ovation and subsequent curtain call in Arlington Stadium are proof that Ryan is back from the oblivion of the strained hip. This stay on the disabled list, much more torturous than the others, finally is over.

Until tonight, Ryan has struggled with the weight of the possibility he may never pitch again. In 27 seasons, he has never faced an end to baseball that isn't related to the finish of a season.

"During the time I was off — all that inactivity — I didn't throw at all," he says. "I mean, I haven't even run. I couldn't do anything outside the weight room. I spent two months like that, and I've never done that before. Three weeks ago, a month ago, I was doubting if I was going to get to pitch again; and if I was, how it was going to be. When I went to throw 12 days ago, I was pathetic. It was the worst I've ever thrown."

It's as close as Ryan will get to admitting to the level of frustration he feels over the deterioration of his body. Never very reflective, Nolan presents an even keel on most every front. Especially on the mound, his composure is a constant, even if he isn't afraid to jaw with an umpire brazen enough to squeeze the strike zone.

In the wake of the Ventura fight in early August, after the infield brawl seen 'round the baseball world, Ryan's composure is such that he retires the next hitter, Steve Sax, on a ground ball and retires 13 of the next 14. He is rarely, if ever, ruffled. And yet, the great unknown of the hip injury ruffles him. To be unable to control his physical well-being after 26 years of some of the most rigorous training in the history of the game...

"I see what he goes through," Ruth Ryan says. "It's just been a real, real hard struggle. He has a lot of guts and a lot of determination. He didn't want to say, 'OK, I give in. The season is over for me.' He wanted to work his way back, and that's been really tough. Just trying to keep his workout schedule at the same time he's trying to let something heal is very difficult.

"He signed a contract for the year, so he never thought about just quitting. That's the type of person he is. He said, 'I made the commitment to pitch this year,' so he was determined to do whatever it took — pitching with pain, or whatever, just as long as he wasn't hurting the team."

The maddening aspect of the hip injury is that it shouldn't happen to an old man such as Ryan. It's a sports injury more commonly found in teen-aged runners, in whom the muscle rim hasn't yet totally fused onto the pelvic bone and thus can pull away under the pressure of training or competition.

Rangers physician Dr. John Conway has never seen the injury in an adult. Teen-agers normally take four to six weeks to recover from it, he says. Ryan takes six weeks to be able to throw a baseball again, 10 weeks to be able to face the Brewers.

"We didn't know how to treat it," Conway says. "It wasn't like anything I'd treated before, and nobody I knew had treated it before. We just had to play it by ear. He'd think he felt better, so we'd let him try to throw, and that would make it worse. So we'd back him off again until he felt better, and then he'd throw and it would get worse again. Finally, we just said, 'No throwing,' and gave him some time."

Telling Nolan Ryan he can't throw a baseball in June is like telling George Foreman he can't stop off for fried chicken or corn chips on the way home. It doesn't sit well, and neither does Ryan. Conway and team trainer Danny Wheat sidestep the question, but it's obvious from their looks that Ryan hasn't been their most docile patient when they're asked about his willingness to rehabilitate by doing nothing at all.

The rehab receives an unexpected boost, though, when Ryan slices open the bottom of his foot while on a water-skiing vacation with his family over the Memorial Day weekend in Gonzalez, Tex., near his ranch. It's easier to stay off your feet when one of them has seven stitches in it. Until then, Wheat and Conway don't see much improvement in the hip; by the time the last of the stitches comes out of the foot on June 13, the hip shows tangible progress.

By the time the Rangers finish off the Brewers tonight to stay three games behind the White Sox, Conway and Wheat are smiling more broadly than anyone in the Texas clubhouse.

## THE BRAWL

Wednesday, August 4, Arlington



It is Ryan's great regret about 1993, even greater than the time he has missed while on the disabled list. But understand this about Nolan Ryan: If he could do it all over, he would do it exactly the same way. He would lock his left arm around Robin Ventura's head and he would apply the same six right up-percuts to Ventura's noggin.

He wouldn't back down — not ever, never. That's a lesson he learned in 1980, the only other time he was involved in a fight. That time, Dave Winfield charged the mound.

"After Winfield came out and I saw what his intent was when he took a swing at me, I told myself I was never going to put myself in that position again," Ryan says six weeks after the incident. "If Dave Winfield had hit me, he could have messed me up. I mean, really messed me up. I said to myself back then that I wasn't going to give anybody else that opportunity. If they come out to the mound, they come out with an intent.

"Now, if Robin would've come out there and stopped before he got to the mound, that's something different. I wouldn't have attacked him. But when he came out and grabbed me, I had to react to the situation. That's what I try to tell people, but it looks like I used him for a punching dummy when people play the clip. A lot of criticism came out of that tape."

By the end of the evening, even marginal baseball fans around the country know about the bench-clearing brawl that follows Ventura's rough-riding charge up the hill. By the end of the next few days, the tape of the scene — especially Ryan's fist-banging on Ventura's head — is familiar to nearly all Americans, whether or not they are fans of the national pastime.

Ryan's great regret is simply that it happened and that a lot of criticism came out of it. Not that a wired nation sees his hail of blows being unleashed on Ventura. Not that one of his fastballs hits Ventura in the elbow — the same elbow the Brewers' Cal Eldred hit 10 days earlier — to precipitate the brawl. He regrets that people criticize him for it.

He really regrets that people in the media criticize him for it. No, Ryan insists, he did not intend to hit Ventura. Only once in his 27 years of big-league pitching, he insists, has he intended to hit a batter, and it wasn't Robin Ventura in 1993.

It was Rick Miller, when Miller played for the Red Sox and Ryan pitched for the Angels in 1977, the season before Boston traded Miller to California and they became teammates.

"I intentionally threw at him," Ryan says. "This was in the early days of my career, when I was hitting spells where I was wild. They were yelling at me from the dugout — 'Throw harder' and things like that. Really riding me.

"I looked over there and thought it was Rick doing the yelling, so I said to myself, 'That's fine; he's in the lineup.' When he came up, I missed him the first three times, and then I finally hit him on the fourth pitch. Hit him in the ribs. He just got up and went to first base and didn't say anything. Come to find out the next spring that it wasn't him who'd been getting on me. But that's the only time I did it on purpose."

So when he hears in the days after the brawl with the White Sox that Peter Gammons on ESPN is saying Ryan threw intentionally at Ventura, when he hears that Norm Hitzges on Home Sports Entertainment (the Rangers' cable-television outlet) is saying the pitch was a beanball, Ryan feels wronged.

"Neither one of those guys was at that game," he says. "I confronted both of them and asked them why they took that approach. I just asked them what they said, because I'd heard it wasn't favorable. Then I gave them my side of the story. When people go out and take a stance against you, it puts you in a bad light."

Ryan, of course, is asking Gammons, Hitzges and the rest of us to believe he doesn't aim that heater at Ventura. We can choose to take his word for it, or we can choose to believe Ventura, Alex Fernandez, Gene Lamont, the rest of the White Sox and the other hit batsmen over the past 27 seasons who've felt the fury of a Ryan pitch in the ribs, shoulders, head, legs, arms or feet.

Only Ryan knows if he is using Ventura for target practice tonight in Arlington Stadium. The rest of us can't be certain. Chances are, Ryan understands that; in fact, he likely uses that knowledge to enhance the persona that has intimidated hitters for 27 seasons.

"When I was playing, he was conveniently wild," says Elrod Hendricks, Baltimore's bullpen coach and a catcher for the Orioles and the Yankees from 1968 to '79. "And he still can be. In one of our



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spring-training games he was pitching this year, he walked halfway up to the batter's box when one of our rookies was up and said, 'I think this would be a good inning to turn some helmets over.' And then he turned back laughing, but the kid at the plate didn't see that part of it. I mean, he was intimidated enough, the poor kid."

When Hendricks played, Ryan's wildness was legendary. Among his major league records are the marks for most wild pitches (277), most seasons leading the American League in wild pitches (4) and most seasons leading the major leagues in wild pitches (6). But over the seasons, his control has improved to the point that now, when he hits a batter, it may not be wildness. It may be pinpoint control.

The breadth of Ryan's reputation includes a slice that says he makes the hitter pay who hurts him in a ballgame. That explains Eddie Taubensee, after he takes Nolan to the wall in the first inning of the exhibition game in Houston in early April, saying, "I was scared. I didn't want him to do anything to me the next time I went up there."

The Orioles' Mike Pagliarulo, who hits a first-inning grand slam against Ryan in Baltimore later in August, is on deck in the fourth inning of that game when a rib-cage injury forces Ryan to leave. But Pagliarulo knows what was coming had he stepped into the box against the man he took deep three innings earlier.

"I'm getting hit," he says. "I'm going down. I'm thinking he's going to brush me back, at least, because I know about his competitiveness. And that's OK with me. If it isn't at my head, that's fine. He can brush me back or even hit me. That's OK with me, as long as we can do it, too. I've got no problem with that. But I would definitely have been ducking a pitch. I'm on my heels up there, just in case."

So what has Ventura done to deserve a Ryan fastball in the elbow tonight? Take your pick from any or all of these scenarios:

■ A night earlier, Ventura tries to steal second in the ninth inning, with the White Sox holding a five-run lead.

■ Two nights earlier, Rangers third baseman Dean Palmer is hit twice by pitches. Ventura plays third base for Chicago. Payback time.

■ In the second inning tonight, Texas' cleanup hitter, Juan Gonzalez, is hit by an Alex Fernandez curveball. Ventura hits cleanup for Chicago.

■ In the first inning tonight, Ventura's single drives in the first Chicago run of what is a 2-0 White Sox lead at the time of the brawl. The third inning is his next at-bat.

Or, maybe it dates all the way back to 1990, when Craig Grebeck and Ozzie Guillen, who aren't among Chicago's deep threats, hit back-to-back home runs against Ryan. Grebeck was hit by a Ryan pitch later in that game, and a Ranger was hit by a Chicago pitch after that. Several of the White Sox mention that game in the clubhouse tonight.

Whatever, Ventura takes Ryan's fastball in the elbow, hesitates a moment at the plate and then charges the mound.

"I don't care who it is," Ventura says. "I'm not going to let anybody throw at me."

When it is over, Ventura is ejected and Ryan stays in the game. Several weeks later, Ventura is suspended and Ryan remains active. And the issue is revived: Does Ryan get special treatment because he is a baseball icon?

"The whole world stops when that guy pitches," grouses White Sox ace Jack McDowell. "It's like he's a god or something. He's been throwing at batters forever, and people are gutless to do anything about it. I was glad Robin went out. Someone had to do it. He's pulled that stuff wherever he goes."

Fernandez, who shuts out the Rangers through five innings tonight but gives up five runs in the sixth and is the losing pitcher in the 5-2 decision, addresses it as well, and not only from the standpoint of the Ventura incident. Fernandez isn't happy with the umpiring in his matchup against Ryan.

"Why should he get a different strike zone than anybody else?" he says. "That happened today. You noticed that, didn't you? I didn't get any calls, and he got them all. I don't understand why it should be like that. We're all equal here. We're all playing the same game. It's the game of baseball. He's been in it longer than we have, yes. But it doesn't make him any better. It doesn't make him any different. We're all human beings here."

The majority of the postfight reaction isn't critical of either Ryan or Ventura, although the incident spawns another round of backlash against the growing number of brawls taking place in baseball in recent seasons. There is some wonder at the wisdom of Ventura challenging a legend 20 years his senior.

A few voices from teams other than the White Sox question why it hasn't happened sooner.

Nolan knows he wouldn't, couldn't, shouldn't do it differently, but the smidgen of criticism stings, nonetheless. For one of the very few times in the past 27 years, he isn't being perceived as baseball's perfect role model.

## THE MESSAGE

Saturday, August 21, Baltimore

This, finally, is the way Ryan envisions his final season taking shape. Suddenly, he is the Rangers' most reliable starter. In his three appearances thus far in August, he pitches 20 innings with an earned-run average of 1.80. And in his latest outing, last Sunday in Cleveland, he throws seven innings of two-hit baseball for his third consecutive victory. His ERA has dropped from 5.58 to 4.09, the lowest it has been since April 14.

Better yet, the Rangers are in a pennant race. It has been seven years since Ryan pitched in the postseason, but now, with the Rangers 4½ games behind Chicago, he has a chance to finish his career by extending it into October one last, glorious time. That's the way baseball's perfect role model would do it.

Still, though, he feels the sting of the media critics. Jeff Millar, apparently, has never perceived Ryan as a perfect role model, and he has an unusual forum for disseminating that point of view. Millar, with collaborator Bill Hinds, produces the syndicated sports-oriented comic strip, "Tank McNamara," which runs in newspapers across the country. Recently, the strip has poked fun at the number of commercial endorsements Ryan makes, suggesting he sells himself to the point of overexposure.

In fact, Ryan is one of the very few major-leaguers with national endorsement deals. He is contracted to Advil, Wrangler jeans, Justin boots, Southwest Airlines and Nike, and his name is associated with several other local promotions in Texas. Millar, who lives in Houston, has access to the local ads as well as the national commercials.

"This guy Millar is not a Nolan Ryan fan," Ryan says. "He's taken shots at me for 15 years. He's out of Houston, and he's been on my case ever since I signed there. I think a lot of it is that he has problems with athletes making the money that they do. He's real outspoken about saying that athletes shouldn't be role models. He even brings me into his speeches, in public. He did that one time in front of a tennis association when my wife was at the meeting, and it was quite embarrassing for her and the people who were there with her."

"I've never met him, so I was surprised by it. But there are certain areas of our society that resent athletes and the money they make and the recognition they get. And I can understand that. Our society puts more emphasis on sports and entertainment than it does some of the important things. I just am disappointed he's singled me out because he thinks I represent something, when the reverse of that is true. I do try to be a positive influence on kids. I do try to do as many things as I can to be a good role model for kids."

Hard to imagine someone questioning Ryan's sense of responsibility as a role model. He is the positive influence on kids we wish from all professional athletes. But what can he do about "Tank McNamara?" It's one thing to confront Gammons and Hitzges. How do you fight the funny papers?

Tonight, sadly, he is a role model for physical therapists again. In the first inning against the Orioles, he walks Mark McLemore, Ha-



Top honor: Ryan, THE SPORTING NEWS' 1990 Sportsman of the Year, receives his trophy from TSN Editor John Rawlings.



Lone star: You don't last 27 years in professional sports without staying fit. Ryan understood the price.

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TORONTO BLUE JAYS

W-L: 50-50 Place: 3rd

Escobar closes door on late-inning woes

The club has a new closer with a strange first name and a fearless approach. Kelvim Escobar, a 21-year-old rookie righthander from Venezuela, won his first two decisions and converted his first five save opportunities after his June 28 promotion from Class AA Knoxville. "He's getting the job done," outfielder Joe Carter says. "He's got a lot of composure, plus it helps that he's getting the ball up there at 94, 95 miles per hour with a good forkball." Before his Toronto debut, Escobar had made three relief appearances in 69 minor league outings. While Escobar would prefer to start, there's no doubt he has cooled a hot spot for the organization. Manager Cito Gaston is impressed by Escobar's consistency and poise, which he demonstrated against Kansas City. After walking two of the first four hitters he faced, Escobar came back from a 3-1 count to get a big out, then struck out Chili Davis for the save. "As far as a closer, I've never seen a rookie come in like that and take the bull by the horns," pitcher Robert Person says.

**End of a slump:** Ed Sprague collected his first RBI and extra-base hit of the month in consecutive games. A bases-loaded walk accounted for the RBI against Milwaukee—his first since June 27. Sprague's 26th double, also against the Brewers, lifted him into a tie for 10th-place in the league. He led the league in doubles before his long slump. ... Catcher Benito Santiago, whose playing time had dwindled to two or three games per week, hit a pair of home runs in a 6-5 victory over the Royals. ... Carter and catcher Carlos Delgado hit grand slams on consecutive nights. Delgado's slam was his club-record third of the season. ... Pitching ace Roger Clemens told teammates to stop worrying about where they'll be playing next year and concentrate on winning this year. ... Lefthander Omar Daal was claimed off waivers from the Expos and assigned to the 25-man roster.

**Prospect Watch: LUIS ANDUJAR, RHP**  
Andujar pitched well in a no-decision against the Royals, but the bottom line is his combined 1-10 record—0-5 with the parent club, 1-5 at Class AAA Syracuse. After his good outing, Andujar was returned to Syracuse to clear a roster spot for newcomer Omar Daal.



SPRAGUE: Finally, a reason to smile.

PLAYING HARDBALL

After Joe Carter compared SkyDome's restrained atmosphere to a country club, the team began a six-game home winning streak. "Really, there's no home-field advantage for us here," Carter says. His point is well taken. Toronto crowds react nicely to action, but they don't encourage or anticipate the way crowds in American cities do. The multi-use SkyDome, which may be a technological marvel with its retractable roof, is kept sterile in a blue-chip, corporate kind of way.

For more on the BLUE JAYS check out [www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/bluejays](http://www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/bluejays)

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

W-L: 51-52 Place: 2nd

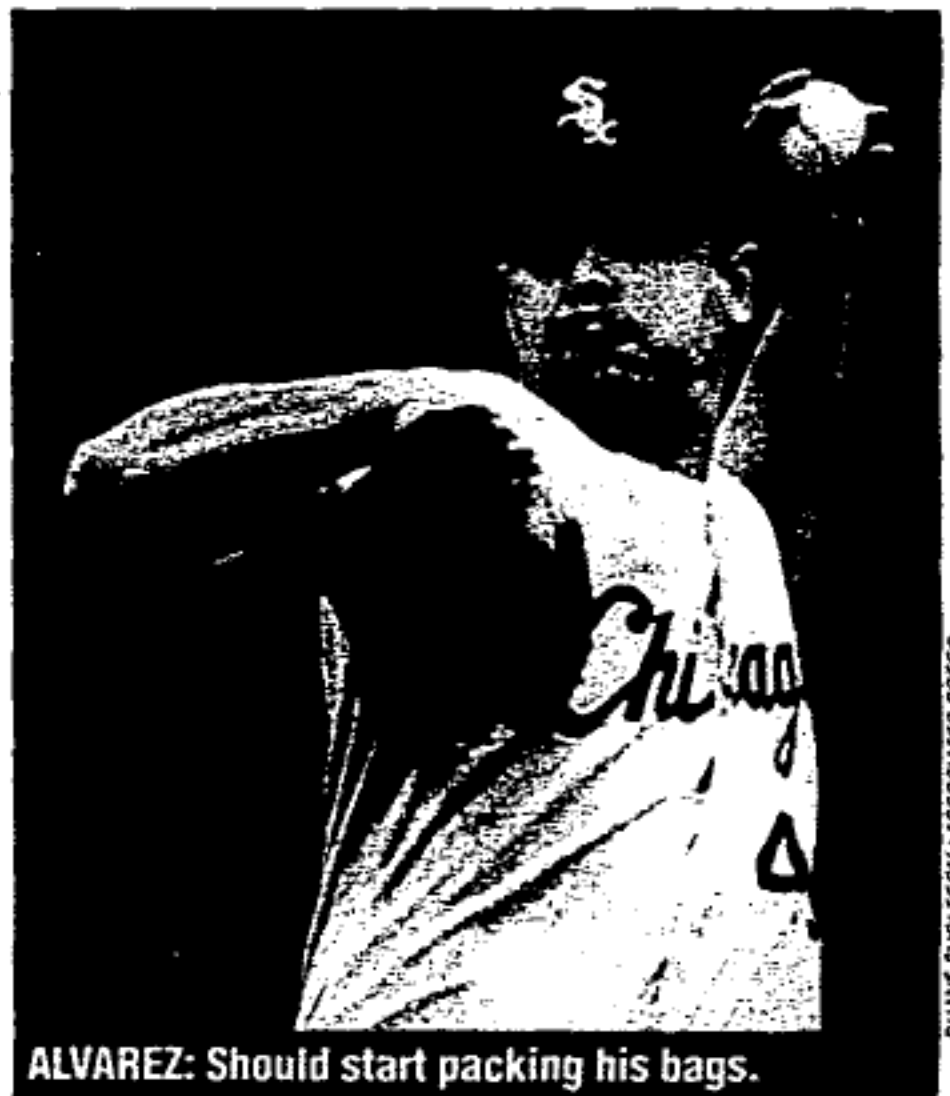
Ventura returns in a blaze of former glory

Robin Ventura missed the first four months of the season with a dislocated right ankle and broken lower leg. In his first game back against Texas last Thursday, it didn't take him long to make an impact. Ventura, a Gold Glove third baseman, hit a run-scoring double in the eighth inning to snap a 1-1 tie and lead the team past the Rangers. "It's something I'll remember for a long time," Ventura says. "Just to be able to contribute after missing all of that time was pretty special." Despite the seriousness of the injury, Ventura looked pretty good in his return to the game. To take some of the early pressure off, manager Terry Bevington batted Ventura second instead of his customary fifth spot. Ventura received a standing ovation from the Comiskey Park crowd of 25,899, and teammate Ozzie Guillen hired an airplane to fly over the stadium towing a banner that said: "Welcome back Robin—Guillen Family."

**Contract pitch:** Even though his agent wants to wait until the end of the season before auctioning off Wilson Alvarez to the highest bidder, the team's lefthanded starting pitcher is wondering about his future on the south side of Chicago. "I want to sign here, I want to stay here," says Alvarez, who will be a free agent. "But I want to be treated right." Alvarez says he would accept a four-year contract, which would cost the team about \$28 million. The club is expected to lose as much as \$15 million this year, and might go with a younger, cheaper team in 1998. Odds are, Alvarez is gone at the end of the year. ... He has been wildly inconsistent for the last three seasons, but righthander Doug Drabek proved he has something left after pitching seven shutout innings against Texas last Thursday. Since the team isn't expected to add a proven starter for the stretch run, Drabek has got to come through down the stretch. If he survives the first inning or two, which is hard-ly a given, Drabek usually finishes well.

Prospect Watch: EDDIE PEARSON, 1B

He has battled injury and weight problems, but Pearson is having a solid season at Class AA Birmingham. He has kept his average around .300 and is starting to show the power expected of him. But with Frank Thomas in the picture, Pearson is going to be stuck on the farm.



ALVAREZ: Should start packing his bags.

PLAYING HARDBALL

There was some magic at Comiskey Park last Thursday when Robin Ventura returned to the lineup, four months after suffering a horrible ankle injury. But it didn't take long for reality to rear its ugly head again. This is still a team that can't pull away from the .500 mark. And now there is some additional tension, with free agents-to-be Wilson Alvarez and Roberto Hernandez wondering about their futures. There is time to put a playoff run together, but Cleveland is still the class of the A.L. Central.

For more on the WHITE SOX check out [www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/whitesox](http://www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/whitesox)

BLUE JAYS BY THE NUMBERS

'97 Season to date

Vs. RH

Vs. LH

WEEK 17

Table with columns: G, AB, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, Avg., OBP, SB, CS, BB, SO, E, AB Avg, HR, AB Avg, HR, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, TB, SB. Rows include player stats for Green, Merced, Delgado, Nizant, Bito, Samuel, Carter, Gonzalez, Perez, R, Sprague, Garcia, Santiago, O'Brien, Burnfield, TEAM, and OPP.

Table with columns: W-L, ERA, IP, H, R, ER, HR, BB, SO, SH, G, GS, CG, SV, AB Avg, HR, AB Avg, HR, W-L, ERA, IP, H, BB, SO, SV. Rows include player stats for Escobar, Clemens, Quintill, Timlin, Spolanc, Hestgen, Plesac, Williams, Person, Finer, Daal, TEAM, and OPP.

\*ROOKIE \*LEFTHANDED #SWITCH-HITTER LEAGUE LEADERS IN BOLD ALL STATISTICS THROUGH SUNDAY'S GAMES, PROVIDED BY STATS, INC.

WHITE SOX BY THE NUMBERS

'97 Season to date

Vs. RH

Vs. LH

WEEK 17

Table with columns: G, AB, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, Avg., OBP, SB, CS, BB, SO, E, AB Avg, HR, AB Avg, HR, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, TB, SB. Rows include player stats for Ventura, Thomas, Barnes, Mouton, Belle, Cameron, Martinez, Guillen, Durham, Fabregas, Snopce, Pena, Lewis, Karkovics, TEAM, and OPP.

Table with columns: W-L, ERA, IP, H, R, ER, HR, BB, SO, SH, G, GS, CG, SV, AB Avg, HR, AB Avg, HR, W-L, ERA, IP, H, BB, SO, SV. Rows include player stats for Demons, Hernandez, Karchner, Alvarez, Castillo, C, McElroy, Danvin, Bakwin, Navarro, Castillo, T., Drabek, TEAM, and OPP.