



### **WHITE SOX HEADLINES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

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### **Sale roughed up in short outing vs. Phillies**

By Todd Zolecki and Evan Webeck / MLB.com | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA -- Phillies manager Pete Mackanin sat one of the hottest hitters in baseball Wednesday night because he did not want White Sox ace Chris Sale to mess with the hitter's mojo.

It turns out the Phillies did not need Odubel Herrera, who had hit .536 in the previous seven games. They hit Sale hard in a 8-3 victory at Citizens Bank Park, hammering seven hits and six runs against him in just four innings. It was the second-shortest start of the season for Sale, who lasted just 3 1/3 innings May 24 against the Indians.

"He didn't have it tonight," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said. "I think, control-wise, even the first inning you see the way he hits a couple guys, he wasn't really controlling the slider too much. They got some good swings on him. Usually there's a big difference between his fastball and changeup. Tonight it didn't seem like there was as much life on the fastball."

Phillies first baseman Tommy Joseph provided much of the damage, knocking in a run with a double in the first inning and hitting a two-run home run to left field in the third. Cameron Rupp added a two-run double in the first to hand the Phillies a 3-0 lead. Maikel Franco's two-out single made it 8-1.

"He's Chris Sale," Joseph said. "He's obviously in contention for the AL Cy Young every year. So it's a good confidence booster for us."

### **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

Tommy hits 21st: Joseph's 21st homer of the season moved him into a fourth-place tie with Scott Rolen (1997) for the most home runs by a rookie in Phillies history. If Joseph hits one more he will tie Ryan Howard (22 in 2005) for third place. Only Willie Montanez (30 in 1971) and Dick Allen (29 in 1964) have hit more. But only Howard has homered at a better rate as a rookie than Joseph (minimum 300 plate

appearances). Howard averaged a homer every 14.18 at-bats in 2005. Joseph is averaging one every 14.33 at-bats.

"Scott?" Joseph said about Rolen. "That's a pretty good guy to tie. Getting into that elite company there."

So long, Cy Young?: Sale entered Wednesday's game as the leading American League Cy Young candidate, per Bovada, at 1.6-to-1, ahead of Cleveland's Corey Kluber and Boston's Rick Porcello, both at 2-to-1. Facing a meager Phillies lineup, Sale had a chance to cement himself as the front-runner in the race. Instead, he gave up three runs before recording his second out. Nobody in the Phillies' starting lineup had ever faced Sale, and yet they prevented him from turning in his seventh straight start of at least eight innings, or even coming close.

"We're all entitled to have a bad night and tonight was mine, unfortunately," Sale said. "It would've been nice to sneak out of here with at least one win. But I was just godawful tonight." More >

Eickhoff strong again: Phillies right-hander Jerad Eickhoff is finishing up a strong first full season in the big leagues. He allowed six hits and three runs in seven innings to improve to 11-14 with a 3.75 ERA. It was just the fifth time this season Eickhoff received five or more runs of support in a start. He entered the game with a 3.59 runs support average, which ranked 75th out of 77 qualified pitchers in baseball. He also reached 187 1/3 innings, putting him within reach of 200 with two starts remaining.

"I think that would be a pretty cool benchmark to get to, being the first full year," Eickhoff said.

Sox sluggers: The White Sox weren't able to mount much of a threat against Eickhoff. But the damage they did do came with an exclamation point. Adam Eaton led off the game with homer that just cleared the right-field wall for his fifth leadoff home run this season and the ninth of his career. All three runs Chicago scored came on solo shots, including back-to-back dingers from Todd Frazier and Alex Avila to begin the seventh, Eickhoff's last inning. It was the seventh time the White Sox have gone back-to-back this season. Avila was a part of the last time, too, on Aug. 31 against the Tigers when he followed a Jose Abreu fourth-inning blast with one of his own. Frazier is now at 38 homers, tied for fifth in the AL, with 11 games left to play. His previous career high was 35, set last season.

#### QUOTABLE

"I don't play this game for stuff like that. I'm here to win games, not win any trophies or whatever is else. I want to win games and I wanted to win tonight. It was a frustrating night." -- Sale on the Cy Young race

"You beat a guy like Sale today, maybe he wasn't at his best, but it doesn't matter to me. We beat him." – Phillies manager Pete Mackanin

#### SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

- Phillies' starting pitchers have allowed three earned runs or fewer in 18 consecutive starts, which is their longest streak since June 27-July 17, 1989 (also 18 games).
- Three of Sale's five starts this season in which he allowed at least five runs have come against the four National League opponents he has faced. Between starts against the Phillies, Cubs, Marlins and Braves, Sale is 0-4 with an 8.72 ERA.

#### GOEDDEL HIT IN HELMET BY PITCH, LEAVES GAME

Phillies left fielder Tyler Goeddel left the game in the sixth inning when Sox reliever Chris Beck hit him in the helmet with a 93-mph fastball. Goeddel lay on his back at home plate for a couple minutes before standing up and walking back to the Phillies' dugout. Herrera took his place at first base. It was the fourth Phillies batter hit by a pitch in the game, which tied a Phillies' franchise record for a single game (Sept. 14, 1904, vs. Brooklyn, and May 15, 1960, vs. Cincinnati). Sale hit three batters.

The Phillies had no update on Goeddel after the game, only saying he was "a little sore" and continued to be evaluated.

## INSTANT REPLAY

The Phillies challenged a call in the third inning that Roman Quinn was caught stealing third base. The replay official in New York ruled that Quinn beat Avila's throw and Frazier's tag to the bag and the call was overturned.

## WHAT'S NEXT

White Sox: After a day off Thursday, the White Sox begin a three-game set against the Indians at Progressive Field on Friday at 7:10 CT. Right-hander Miguel Gonzalez (4-7, 3.83 ERA) faces Trevor Bauer (11-8, 4.24 ERA) in the series opener.

Phillies: The Phillies begin their final road trip of the season Thursday night in the series opener against the Mets at Citi Field. Left-hander Adam Morgan (2-10, 5.49 ERA) faces right-hander Seth Lugo (4-2, 2.35 ERA) in an important series for the Mets, who are fighting for a National League Wild Card.

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## Sale's Cy Young campaign takes a hit

White Sox ace says 'godawful' outing had nothing to do with fatigue

By Evan Webeck / MLB.com | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA -- Melky Cabrera lurked behind the media scrum meeting with manager Robin Ventura before the White Sox 8-3 loss to the Phillies on Wednesday as the skipper was asked who he thought offered the best competition for Chris Sale in the American League Cy Young Award race.

"Guys like Chris Sale and Melky Cabrera should be at the top of the Cy Young," Ventura responded with a smirk, eyeing his left fielder.

After Sale's four innings in which he allowed six runs on seven hits -- and three hit batsmen, the first time he had ever plunked three in a game -- Sale's chances at his first Cy Young may have fallen closer to that of Cabrera's than actual candidates Ventura offered up: "some guys in Cleveland," "maybe someone in Texas," and Boston's Rick Porcello.

But Sale's mind wasn't on the award race after he was "just godawful" against the Phillies.

"We're all entitled to have a bad night and tonight was mine, unfortunately," Sale said. "I don't play this game for stuff like that. I'm here to win games, not win any trophies or whatever else. I want to win games and I wanted to win tonight. It was a frustrating night."

It was particularly frustrating -- and surprising -- coming on the heels of six straight starts where Sale went at least eight innings and didn't allow more than three runs. Over that stretch, he had a 2.16 ERA. Add in Wednesday's start, and that number spiked to 3.00, closer to his season mark that now sits at 3.23.

Entering Wednesday, Sale trailed only the Yankees' Masahiro Tanaka in the AL in ERA. After allowing six runs in four innings, he fell to eighth, a single point behind Justin Verlander's 3.22 mark.

Although Sale said the strenuous workload hasn't had an effect on him, Ventura saw a dip in fastball velocity and speculated it could be catching up to his ace.

"Usually there's a big difference between his fastball and changeup. Tonight it didn't seem like there was as much life on the fastball," Ventura said. "I think, control-wise, even the first inning you see the way he hits a couple guys, he wasn't really controlling the slider too much. ... With him, I don't think [fatigue] goes with the command part of it. But it could be a little with the velocity."

No matter how dominant -- and he had been dominant before Wednesday -- much of Sale's value was his ability to rack up innings, a true horse heading the rotation. He has thrown the most innings of any AL pitcher in one fewer start than anyone else above 200.

Sale is set to make two more starts this season. He surpassed his career-high in innings when he got Maikel Franco to line into a double play to end the fourth inning. To become the first White Sox pitcher to win the Cy Young since Jack McDowell in 1993, he'll have to erase Wednesday's start from voters' minds, all while pitching more than he has before.

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## **Chris Sale knocked out early as White Sox fall to Phillies**

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA -- Chris Sale's Cy Young chances took a hit on Wednesday night.

A slight favorite to win the award for the American League's top pitcher according to one oddsmaker, Sale had his worst start in two months and second shortest of the season as the Philadelphia Phillies pounded the White Sox 8-3 in front of 21,703 at Citizens Bank Park. Sale's six earned runs allowed in four innings were the most he has yielded since the Atlanta Braves tagged him for eight on July 8. The effort caused Sale's earned-run average to rise from 3.03 to 3.23.

"I don't know where it started, but I just never got rolling tonight," Sale said. "Couldn't find a groove.

"Bad night. Frustrating. Wish I could have been better. I wasn't. It would have been nice to sneak out with a win, but I didn't give them a chance from the first pitch."

Courtesy of a fantastic 11-run start since the All-Star break, Sale was listed as the favorite among the AL Cy Young candidates at 8-to-5 when Bovada released odds on Wednesday. Sale, who had a 2.52 ERA in that span, held a slight edge over Cleveland's Corey Kluber and Boston's Rick Porcello, both of whom were listed at 2-to-1. Toronto's J.A. Happ (10-to-1) and Detroit's Justin Verlander (20-to-1) rounded out the candidates.

But even with an early 1-0 lead provided by an Adam Eaton solo home run to start the game, Sale didn't look like much of a top nominee on Wednesday. The five-time All-Star allowed four of the first five batters he faced to reach base, including consecutive doubles to Tommy Joseph and Cameron Rupp to fall behind 3-1.

The damage continued against Sale, who entered Wednesday in the top five in Wins Above Replacement (5.2, first), ERA (second), Fielding Independent Pitching (3.32, third), wins (16, fourth), innings (210 2/3, second) and strikeouts (215, fourth).

Joseph tagged him again in the third inning, this time for a two-run homer and a 5-1 Phillies lead. Roman Quinn, one of three batters Sale hit on Wednesday, scored on Joseph's homer. Cesar Hernandez also tripled in a run in the fourth inning as Sale fell behind 6-1.

"I don't play for stuff like (the award)," Sale said. "I'm here to win games. Not to win any trophies or whatever else. I want to win games and I wanted to win tonight."

Sale received an endorsement from manager Robin Ventura before the contest. Ventura doesn't think his team's 72-80 record should be a factor in the vote, which will be revealed in early November.

"He comes to mind," Ventura said. "You start looking around the league, especially in our division, you can look at some guys in Cleveland. You can look at maybe somebody in Texas. There are enough guys that go around that have numbers. Porcello in Boston comes to mind.

"I'm partial (to Sale) because I see him all the time. I see what he does. I see how important he is. Regardless of where we're at record-wise, I realize how important he is."

Perhaps the most surprising part of Sale's start on Wednesday was its brevity.

Sale, who has four top-six Cy Young finishes in his career, had pitched at least eight innings in his last six starts, the longest such streak by a White Sox pitcher since Jack McDowell did it seven straight games in 1994.

He leads the majors with six complete games this season.

While Wednesday's effort is his shortest of the season since May 24, when he went 3 1/3 innings at home against the Cleveland Indians, Sale has already established a career high for innings pitched. Sale has thrown 214 2/3 innings this season, surpassing his previous high of 214 1/3 (2013).

"He's better this year for me in a lot of ways than he has been in the past," Ventura said.

As long as he feels up to it, Sale could receive two more starts before the season is done. Earlier this week, Ventura said he would let his pitchers make their turns as long as they physically felt up to the task. Sale's next turn unofficially comes on Tuesday at home against the Tampa Bay Rays. He also could start on the final day of the season at home against the Minnesota Twins.

Kluber also started on Wednesday, allowing two earned runs and striking out nine in 6 1/3 innings.

"Whatever they got for me," Sale said. "I go when my name is called. However many that is I'll show up for them."

Todd Frazier and Alex Avila also homered for the White Sox in the loss.

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### **Offseason trip to Cuba 'very huge' for Jose Abreu and family**

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA -- He is ecstatic about next month's trip back to Cuba, but Jose Abreu is even happier for the rest of his family.

The White Sox slugger said Wednesday afternoon that he recently secured a green card that will allow himself, his wife and his parents to travel back and forth between Cuba. With 11 games left in the season, Abreu, who is hitting .300 with 25 home runs and 96 RBIs this season, said he wouldn't allow himself to think too much about the possibilities of the four-day vacation because he wants to stay focused on the regular season. But Abreu, who also returned to Cuba last offseason as part of a Major League Baseball goodwill tour, said the upcoming visit would mean everything to his parents, who haven't returned to Cuba since they joined him in the United States during his rookie season in 2014.

"I'm almost speechless," Abreu said through an interpreter. "I don't want to think about it now because I want to finish strong here and I don't want to lose my mind. But that's going to be something very, very huge for us because it's an opportunity, not just for me, but for my parents, too, to go back and be with their parents. That's something you can't describe. "I don't know (what the emotions will be like), but I very much believe it'll be something exciting for all of us."

Abreu said improved relations between the United States and Cuba are a big reason he is free to return home and visit much sooner than he originally expected. Players who defect from Cuba normally are restricted from returning for at least eight years.

But during the December trip Abreu learned he could return in the future as long as he received the proper documentation. Abreu did that with the help of his agent Diego Bentz, of the Independent Sports & Entertainment agency.

It's similar to a work visa Abreu's friend, comedian Luis Silva, received as part of a cultural exchange between Cuba and the United States that permits him to travel back and forth for work.

Abreu said President Barack Obama's visit in March -- when the Tampa Bay Rays played Team Cuba in Havana -- has helped the Cuban government realize players aren't trying to make political statements by leaving.

"Our goal is just to try and help represent our country and get the best we can in what we are doing," Abreu said. "That (visit) has helped to pave the way for us to come back."

A return trip home last December allowed Abreu to visit many people he wondered if he'd ever see again. He had a chance to reunite with his 6-year-old son, Dariel -- who also recently was granted a visa that allows him to travel to the United States to see his father -- as well as family and friends. Abreu can't wait for his parents to experience the same opportunity as he did.

"That will be the kind of interaction we can have now with our country," Abreu said. "We can go back. We can visit our family and we can return. That's good because all of our families are there and we need to see them, we need to visit them and we need to take care of them and now we can do it. But also we can come back here and that's something why we have to be grateful with this country, too. It's not just that they welcome us with open arms, it's that they are always working in the way to allow us to go back to our country, too."

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### **Bovado lists Chris Sale as current AL Cy Young favorite**

By Staff / CSN Chicago | September 21st, 2016

There's less than two weeks left in the regular season and Chris Sale is currently the American League Cy Young favorite, according to Bovada.

Sale comes in at 8/5, just ahead of Corey Kluber and Rick Porcello, who are both 2/1.

Entering Wednesday's start, Sale has a 3.03 ERA with a 16-8 record and 215 strikeouts in 210 2/3 innings. Sale's ERA is currently second in the AL. Porcello leads the AL in wins (21) and in third in ERA (3.08). Kluber also has 215 strikeouts and is fourth in ERA (3.12). Yankees pitcher Masahiro Tanaka leads the league in ERA at 2.97, but is not listed as an available bet by Bovada.

In the National League, Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer is the heavy favorite according to Bovada with Cubs pitcher Jon Lester and Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner also in the running.

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### **Wednesday's recap: Phillies 8, White Sox 3**

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 21st, 2016

White Sox left-hander Chris Sale hadn't given up more than three earned runs in any of his previous six starts.

On Wednesday night at Citizens Bank Park, he gave up three earned runs in the first inning and six overall as the Phillies cruised to an 8-3 victory for the Sox's fifth straight loss.

Sale was pulled from the game for a pinch-hitter in the top of the fifth. His four innings were his fewest since he threw 3 1/3 against the Indians on May 24. It was the first time since Aug. 14 that Sale had not pitched at least eight innings.

At the plate

Adam Eaton hit his fifth leadoff homer of the season off Phillies right-hander Jerad Eickhoff for a 1-0 lead.

Todd Frazier and Alex Avila hit back-to-back homers in the seventh inning, the seventh time the Sox have gone back-to-back this year.

On the mound

After a leadoff single and a hit batter, Tommy Joseph hit an RBI double over Melky Cabrera's head. Cameron Rupp added a two-run double down the left-field line.

Sale hit Roman Quinn with a pitch to open the third, and Quinn reached third when a review overturned the call that he was caught stealing by third baseman Todd Frazier. On the next pitch after the review, Joseph hit a two-run homer to left field.

Hernandez added an RBI triple in the fourth inning that bounced by Adam Eaton in right field.

Scary moment

Sox reliever Chris Beck hit Tyler Goeddel in the side of the helmet with a pitch in the sixth inning. Goeddel fell to the ground but eventually stood up and walked off the field on his own.

It was the fourth Phillies batter hit after Sale hit three.

Beck stayed in the game and loaded the bases with two walks before Blake Smith gave up a two-run single to Maikel Franco.

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### **Losing ugly: 10 setbacks that broke White Sox season**

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 21st, 2016

On Oct. 2, the White Sox will finish their eighth straight season without making the playoffs, completing a turbulent year in which they gave fans brief glimpses of hope before crushing them with dreadful losses.

The Sox played a better brand of baseball, with fewer defensive and baserunning mistakes, than in the last three losing seasons. But an inconsistent offense that didn't give its pitchers enough cushion and a thin bullpen that leads the American League with 28 blown saves in 69 opportunities were the major culprits in the team's demise, with a fair share of starting pitching flops along the way.

While the Sox won some games they shouldn't have, here's a look at 10 of the most deflating losses of the season, ones that made fans bury their faces in their hands or wonder what might have been if they had avoided the monster collapses.

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### **Loss to Phillies an untimely blemish to Chris Sale's Cy Young resume**

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 21st, 2016

White Sox ace Chris Sale has been in resume-building mode over the last month while making a run at the American League Cy Young Award.

His start Wednesday night at Citizens Bank Park is one he probably would like to omit.

After giving up no more than three earned runs in any of his previous six starts, he gave up three in the first inning and six overall in an 8-3 loss to the Phillies.

J.B. Shuck pinch hit for him in the fifth inning so the loss marked just the seventh start of his career in which he pitched four innings or fewer. It also was the first time since Aug. 14 that Sale had not pitched at least eight innings.

"I just sucked," Sale said. "Everyone is entitled to have a bad night, and tonight was mine, unfortunately. I was just God-awful."

Sale said he is more concerned with winning than awards.

"I don't play for stuff like that," he said.

But in a tight Cy Young race that includes the Indians' Corey Kluber, Wednesday's showing was an untimely blemish.

Second in the American League with a 3.03 ERA entering the night, his outing pushed him out of the top five at 3.23. But he did hit a career high with 214 2/3 innings.

Sox manager Robin Ventura said before the game he sees him at the top of the AL list of candidates.

"I'm partial because I see him all the time," Ventura said. "I see what he does. ... Regardless of where we're at record-wise, I realize how important he is."

Sale has thrown 118 or more pitches in five of his last six starts, and Ventura said the outing "could be" a sign of fatigue. But Sale said that wasn't a factor. He potentially could make two more starts, his last on the final day of the season.

Sale continued an uncharacteristic four-game stretch for Sox starting pitchers, in which Jose Quintana, Carlos Rodon, James Shields and Sale each gave up six earned runs.

The stretch has coincided with a five-game losing streak, two to the Phillies and three before that to the Royals that prompted Sox first baseman Jose Abreu and others to discuss the team's desire — or lack thereof.

Sale didn't want to enter into the conversation.

"I'm going to keep it to what happened tonight," Sale said. "Bad night. Frustrating. ... It would have been nice to sneak out with a win but I didn't give (my team) a chance from the first pitch."

Sale hit three batters, including one in the first before Tommy Joseph and Cameron Rupp hit run-scoring doubles.

Sale hit Roman Quinn with a pitch to open the third, and Quinn reached third when a review overturned the call that he was caught stealing by third baseman Todd Frazier. On the next pitch, Joseph hit a two-run homer. Cesar Hernandez added an RBI triple in the fourth.

In a scary moment in the sixth, Sox reliever Chris Beck hit Tyler Goeddel in the side of the helmet with a 93 mph pitch. Goeddel fell to the ground but eventually walked off the field on his own.

"You could tell by his reaction that one got away," Ventura said. "You hate to see it any time."

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### **Catcher Omar Narvaez 'pretty comfortable' in first major-league stint**

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune | September 21st, 2016

A year ago, Omar Narvaez had just wrapped up his season at Class A Winston-Salem.

After rocketing through the next two minor-league levels, the 24-year-old White Sox catcher now is finishing his first 2 1/2 months in the major leagues with the possibility looming that he could contribute here next year too.

"I've been super surprised because last year I was in high A and now I'm in the big leagues," Narvaez said before Wednesday's game against the Phillies. "It has been a big transition.

"I'm pretty comfortable with what I've been doing, and I'm a little lucky because all of these pitchers and my teammates are being good with me. They're teaching me a lot, so that makes it a lot easier every time I go to the plate to hit or catch."

Narvaez said learning how to call a big-league game has been the most difficult transition, but he said veterans such as Alex Avila and James Shields have helped him along.

"It's not the same hitters in the minors as in the big leagues," Narvaez said. "Here they make an adjustment pitch by pitch. Minor leagues, they don't do that. That has been a big adjustment."

Sox manager Robin Ventura said this month he likes how Narvaez has been "soaking everything up" and wants to see him improve a little each time out.

Narvaez has hit .253 with four doubles, a .357 on-base percentage, 14 walks and 12 strikeouts over 28 games with the Sox. The numbers aren't exactly where Narvaez would like them to be, but he is pleased with one aspect of his offensive game.

"I've been doing a pretty good job with pitch selection," he said. "Better than in the minors. I'm not striking out as much (here)."

Kahnle rolling: Hard-throwing reliever Tommy Kahnle has given up one run in his last 12 appearances over 13 1/3 innings. In his last 11 outings he has walked four and struck out 15.

Ventura said there is an obvious difference when Kahnle is able to locate his fastball and throw quality strikes.

"When you throw that hard, growing up, you're just letting it fly and you survive on velocity," Ventura said. "You get up here and it just doesn't happen. These guys can hit. It's the best pitch when located properly."

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### **Sale lasts four innings in White Sox' 5<sup>th</sup> straight loss**

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA — Even Chris Sale is susceptible to a dud, although the White Sox ace left-hander has had fewer than most during his five All-Star seasons as a starting pitcher.

Sale's four-inning outing in the Phillies 8-3 victory Wednesday night – his second shortest of the season – followed six starts in a row of eight innings or more and could not have come at a worse time as he makes a final push for his first Cy Young Award after finishing in the top six in voting the last four seasons.

Sale, who could boast the best five-season resume of any American League Cy Young candidate, had his 2016 ledger dinged with six runs allowed on seven hits. Included in the barrage by the Phillies, who have the worst offense in baseball, was a two-run double by Cameron Rupp in the first, a home run by Tommy Joseph in the Phillies' three-run third and an RBI triple by Roman Quinn in the fourth, on which Sale failed to back up third.

"Bad night all the way around," said a Sale, who, speaking an hour and a half after his night was over, hadn't cooled down after what was the Sox' fifth straight loss on a 1-5 road trip. "Gave up too many runs. Got hit around, left the ball over the plate and ... stunk."

Sale struck out five and did not walk a batter, but he also hit three batters. For support, the Sox produced three homers but all were solo shots. Adam Eaton (14th) went deep leading off the game and Todd Frazier (38th) and Alex Avila (seventh) hit-back-to-back homers against Jerad Eickhoff in the seventh.

The Sox dropped to 72-80 Sale's record fell to 16-9 while hiking his ERA from 3.03 to 3.23. After going from second in the AL in ERA being Masahiro Tanaka (2.97) to eighth behind Rick Porcello, Corey Kluber, Aaron Sanchez, Danny Duffy and Justin Verlander, he'll have one or two starts left to whittle it down again. Sale did reach a career high for innings pitched in a season (214 2/3), and it's possible he's beginning to tire on a recent heavy workload he has welcomed.

"It could be," manager Robin Ventura said. "I don't think that goes with the command part of it [which eluded Sale, Ventura said], but it could be with a little velocity."

"No. Just sucked," Sale said. "Everyone is entitled to have a bad night and tonight was mine, unfortunately. I was just god-awful tonight."

Before the game, Ventura said Sale, whom one oddsmaker on Wednesday listed him as a slight favorite over Kluber to win the Cy Young, belonged "at the top of the Cy Young."

"I'm partial because I see him all the time," Ventura said. "I see what he does. Regardless of where we're at record-wise, I realize how important he is."

But Sale, as usual, steered clear of Cy Young discussion.

"I don't play for stuff like that," he said. "I'm here to win games. Not to win any trophies or whatever else. I want to win games and I wanted to win tonight."

Sale, like Abreu, has grown weary of playing for a losing team year in and year out. Given a chance to weigh in on Jose Abreu's comments after an 8-3 loss to the Royals in Kansas City Monday – Abreu said the Royals have more desire than the Sox — Sale said "I'm going to keep it to what happened tonight on the field. Bad night. Frustrating. Wish I could have been better. I wasn't. It would have been nice to sneak out of [Philadelphia] with a win [in the two-game set] but I didn't give them a chance from the first pitch."

Sale could make two more starts, including the last game of the season next Sunday against the Twins at home

"Yeah whatever they got for me," he said. "I go when my name is called. However many that is I'll show up for them."

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### **Frazier: 'We're all frustrated' in disappointing season**

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times | September 21st, 2016

PHILADELPHIA – Toms River, N.J., where Todd Frazier was a Little League World Series hero, is 60 miles from here and there is an off day on the White Sox schedule Thursday.

But Frazier was taking the team charter to Cleveland Wednesday night, even though all that's left in a disappointing season after Wednesday's game against the Phillies was three games on the road and seven at home.

"I'm not staying at home [in New Jersey] tomorrow because I want to stick with the team and finish strong with the team," Frazier said. "In these last games, let's keep that mindset going of you have to battle. I want to get my numbers up, yes. And I want to win games."

While disappointed with his career-low .221 batting average and runners he left in scoring position, Frazier needed three homers and six RBI to record a 40 homer, 100 RBI season.

That would be a nice feather in his cap – it's been done 10 times in Sox history, including five times by Frank Thomas — but above that, "I want to win," Frazier said.

"Like [manager] Robin [Ventura] said the other day, 'play for the day.' That's what all of us are doing. Let's add some positives to the end of the year, rest up for a month and then hit the weights.

"At the end of the day all you have is your team and 'what have you done lately? My high school coach Ken Frank had it on his desk, 'What have you done for me lately?' It's true."

Frazier was touching on the subject of desire, which Jose Abreu brought up Monday after yet another loss to the Royals. Abreu said the Royals had more desire to win than the Sox.

"The bottom line is, everybody on this team has the desire to win and everybody has the desire to do as much work as they can to be the best professional baseball player they can be and represent the White Sox," Frazier said.

"I wasn't there when the question was asked, but I think we're all frustrated. We all understand we shouldn't be in this situation (72-79 and in fourth place in the AL Central]. If we all look back at this year we're going to say it's a disappointing year. And if it is, then you didn't really give it your all."

Frazier, finishing his first full season with the Sox, said the team's mindset, preparation and work ethic are where they should be.

"Yes. Without a doubt," he said. "It starts with Robin. He's a good manager. He focuses on things you need to focus on, on and off the field. And our other coaches work their tails off to make us better every day."

Even with ace Chris Sale on the mound Wednesday, the Sox were headed to their 80th loss. Sale lasted four innings and left trailing the Phillies 6-1.

#### Leadoff power

Adam Eaton led off a game with a homer for the fifth time this season and ninth time in his career with season homer No. 14 against Phillies right-hander Jerad Eickhoff. Eaton was hitting .318 with 30 runs scored over his previous 36 games.

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### **Sale's Cy Young bid takes a hit as Chicago White Sox fall 8-3**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald | September 21st, 2016

Nearing the end of their eighth straight season without a playoff appearance, the Chicago White Sox certainly don't have much to play for as a team.

It's individual accolades or bust for the Sox, and that's about the only reason why anyone was paying attention to Wednesday night's interleague game at Philadelphia.

Earlier Wednesday, BovadaLV came out with updated Cy Young Award odds, and White Sox ace Chris Sale was the favorite at 8/5, followed closely by Cleveland's Corey Kluber and Boston's Rick Porcello, both listed at 2/1.

Kluber and Porcello pitch for first-place teams, but Sale took some impressive statistics to the mound against the Phillies.

Looking to become the first Sox pitcher to win the Cy Young since Jack McDowell in 1993, Sale faced Philadelphia with the second-lowest ERA (3.03) in the American League and the third lowest WHIP (1.02).

The 27-year-old lefty also ranked fourth in the league in wins (16) and strikeouts (215), and Sale was shooting for his seventh straight start pitching 8 or more innings. McDowell was the last White Sox pitcher to go 8-plus innings over 7 straight starts, in 1994.

The impressive run came to a screeching halt, as Sale (16-9) gave up 6 runs on 7 hits in just 4 innings, raising his ERA to 3.23. The Sox lost to the Phillies 8-3.

Kluber started for the Indians on Wednesday night and got the win after allowing 2 runs on 6 hits in 6⅓ innings. While improving his record to 18-9, Kluber lowered his ERA to 3.11.

Porcello is 21-4 with a 3.08 ERA for the Red Sox.

Sale consistently has said he cares more about team performance than individual achievement, and he stuck to that script after being shelled by the Phillies.

"I don't play for stuff like that," Sale told reporters. "I'm here to win games, not to win any trophies or whatever else. I want to win."

During his stretch of 6 straight starts working at least 8 innings, Sale averaged 118 pitches thrown. Did the heavy workload catch up to him Wednesday, when he totaled just 72 pitches?

"No. Just (bad)," Sale said. "Everyone is entitled to have a bad night, and tonight was mine. I was just godawful tonight."

So were the rest of the White Sox, and they now are a season-high eight games under .500 at 72-80.

Adam Eaton led off the game with a solo home run, and Todd Frazier and Alex Avila added solo shots in the seventh.