

# TREANOR FINALLY A BIG HIT

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Of all the home runs hit at Dolphin Stadium, the one belted Thursday by Marlins catcher Matt Treanor was likely the shortest, a 334-foot shot that hit the foul pole in left. But, as Treanor could safely argue, his fence-scraper counted exactly the same as Andres Galarragas 529-foot upper-decker in 1997, which ranks as the longest ever hit at the stadium. "A layup is two points," said Treanor drawing an analogy to basketball. "A three-pointer [with the players foot] on the line, its still two points." Treanor also added a double Thursday, further lifting his once-sagging average and spirits. After going 0 for 2 on May 10 against the Dodgers, Treanors average stood at .105 and the oldest-tenured player in the Marlins organization -- he has been in the system since 1997 -- admitted he was "very down." "At the beginning of the season, not that I wanted to get out, but I'm going up there and basically I'm an out, " he said. "I want to contribute to the club offensively, and I was upset because I felt like I wasn't contributing." Treanor lost confidence. "It puts stupid thoughts in your head about what's going to happen, and you start thinking about all these other things except for what you're supposed to be doing on the field, "he said." There are thoughts like, 'Well, if I'm playing like this now, what's my situation going to be? I'm not going to get any time.'" In June, when the Marlins were in Chicago, Treanor consulted with Dr. Jeffrey Fishbein, the teams psychologist. "I decided that nothing was going to hurt me at that point," he said. "Fish basically told me it's a confidence issue, not a skill issue." Treanor also worked closely with Marlins hitting coach Jim Pressley. And the results are showing. Treanor has hit safely in nine of his past 11 games and raised his average to .273. During the past five games, he has gone 11 for 21. He had a double to go with his home run Thursday.

## GREGG REBOUNDS

Less than 24 hours after giving up back-to-back home runs in the 10th inning and taking the loss, Marlins closer Kevin Gregg was exactly where he wanted to be -- back on the mound in the ninth inning of a close game. Thursday, Gregg got the job done, preserving the win and stretching his streak of opportunities without a blown save to 15. And he put away one of the Pirates hitters -- Xavier Nady -- who haunted him Wednesday. Nady hit the first of the two home runs off Gregg in Florida's loss. "I want the ball every day, especially facing the same team and coming back to the same part of the lineup, "Gregg said." You can't ask for a better challenge than that." Gregg said he was able to quickly erase Wednesday from his mind. "After the game was over, I walked outside and my kids were out there waiting for me," he said. "It doesn't really matter to them how I did each day, so it helps me let go of the situation."

## 'A LITTLE BREATHER'

Josh Willingham is in the throes of a hitting slump and got the day off Thursday. "Just wanted to give him a little breather," manager Fredi Gonzalez said. Gonzalez revealed that Willingham jammed his right knee sliding into the bag at Tampa Bay in mid-May but did not feel it had affected his hitting. Willingham has only two RBI during his past 16 games and has gone 24 for 114 (.210) since the series against the Devil Rays in St. Petersburg. "I've just not been getting many hits," he said.