THU 26

— Home games at Dolphin Stadium. **Tickets/Info:** 1-877-MARLINS or www.floridamarlins.com

TONIGHT'S GAME

Braves at Marlins

7:05 p.m., Dolphin Stadium TV: (FSN). Radio: WQAM (560-AM), WEFL (760-AM), WQBA (1140-AM,





Davies

SCOUTING THE MARLINS

INF Jason Wood ended a major

league homerless drought of 7

Saturday. The last player to go

that long between homers was

Steve Trachsel, who hit one in

1998 and didn't go deep again

player who went that long between homers was Chad

the Braves April 13-15.

until last season. The last position

Mottola (1996-2004). Saturday's

start was Wood's first since Oct. 1,

1999.... The Marlins split a rain-

shortened two game series with

MARLINS RECAP

Nationals 0 0

HOW THEY SCORED

Marlins: Kearns in as center fielder. Snelling in as left fielder. Fick in as right

fielder. Willingham popped out to center

Borchard walked. Boone singled, Borchard

to third. Olivo doubled, Borchard scored, Boone scored. Amezaga safe at second on Lopez's error, Olivo scored. Obermueller

Marlins: Uggla flied out to center. Cabrera homered. Willingham infield single.

Borchard walked, Willingham to second.

Amezaga fouled out to third. Marlins 4,

Marlins: Obermueller doubled. Ramirez

Boone walked, Willingham to third,

Borchard to second. Olivo struck out

grounded out to third, Amezaga to third.

Ramirez flied out to left. Marlins 3,

Marlins

2ND INNING

Nationals 0.

3RD INNING

years, 8 months and 30 days

ON THE MOUND

LHP Dontrelle Willis (3-1, 5.88) vs. RHP Kyle Davies (0-0, 4.50). Willis beat the Braves in Atlanta on April 13, when he became the only Marlins starter to complete seven innings this season. In five career games against the Marlins, Davies is 0-2 with a 9.22 ERA, 10 walks and 10 strikeouts in 13²/₃ innings.

SCOUTING THE BRAVES

C Brian McCann is a .400 career hitter (14 for 35) in 12 games at Dolphin Stadium. Six of those hits have gone for extra bases... McCann entered Sunday's series finale against the Mets tied with Ryan Church (.429) for the second best road batting average in the NL behind Hanley Ramirez (.464).

... SS Edgar Renteria's .450 batting average after the sixth inning ranked fourth among NL hitters through Saturday.

PITCHING PLANS

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |

0 3 1 3 0 3 0 2 x 12 12 0

Tuesday — RHP Rick Vanden Hurk (0-1, 9.00) vs. LHP Mark Redman (0-3, 8.62); Wednesday — LHP Scott Olsen (2-1, 7.50) vs. RHP Tim Hudson (3-0, 0.62).

second, Uggla to second, On Williams' wild

pitch, Uggla to third. Willingham homered,

Uggla scored. Borchard fouled out to the

catcher. Marlins 10, Nationals 0.

Nationals: Wood in as first baseman.

single. Fick singled, Snelling to second. Flores doubled, Snelling scored, Fick

Boone in as third baseman. Snelling infield

scored. Jimenez pinch-hitting for Williams

Gregg pitching. Jimenez struck out. Lopez struck out. Belliard fouled out to the

Marlins: Cordero pitching. Ramirez safe on Wilson's error. Uggla homered, Ramirez

Willingham safe on Wilson's error. Borchard

second. Olivo lined out to second. Amezaga

singled, Willingham to second. Boone singled, Willingham to third, Borchard to

struck out. Marlins 12, Nationals 2.

Fick to third. Wilson walked. Restovich

out. Belliard struck out. Zimmerman

homered, Fick scored, Flores scored

pinch-hitting for Cordero, Restovich struck

Wilson scored. Young struck out. **Marlins**

catcher. Marlins 10, Nationals 2.

scored. Wood grounded out to third.

8TH INNING

9TH INNING

12. Nationals 6.

► FLORIDA

— JUAN C. RODRIGUEZ

7 4

DRAWS A 10 FROM JUDGES: Nationals second baseman Ronnie Belliard throws out Marlins pitcher Wes Obermueller at first in the sixth inning on a circus play. AP photos/Alan Diaz

Upper-deck shots set the tone early

MARLINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

landed two rows deep into the upper deck before caroming back onto the field. An inning earlier, the one Cabrera launched up there off Jerome Williams didn't come down. Ît bounced into the tunnel above the Paul Warfield sign on the Dolphins' Honor Roll.

"His best pitch is the sinker and every time up I was looking for that pitch," said Cabrera, who appeared tentative his first time up after missing two games with a sore oblique. "My swing is there. It's just a matter of maintaining it....I have to go little by little."

Uggla had gone 66 at-bats without a homer until his three-run, fourth-inning blast.

After three hits and nine total bases, Uggla's average jumped 25 points to .260. His slugging percentage rose 98 points to .466. He also doubled his RBI total from his first 17 games.

"I've been antsy [about] getting hits," Uggla said. "I was happy that I also got a couple more home runs today because it always sucks anytime you go on a drought like that.... I was happy to get the first hit and the first home run out of the way, but it didn't matter. I still struggled after that."

Originally scheduled to start against the first-place New Orleans Zephyrs on Sunday, Obermueller looked like he might struggle after two batters. He issued two walks on 10 pitches before retiring the next three.

The Nationals didn't get their first hit off Obermueller until they had two outs in the third and the only runs they scored off him came on Jesus Flores' two-run double in the

Obermueller threw more pitches (111) than Juan C. Rodriguez can be reached at any Marlins starter to date in winning his first jcrodriguez@sun-sentinel.com.



111-PITCH PERFORMANCE: The Marlins' Wes Obermueller allowed just four hits in six innings in his first start since September of 2005.

game since May 17, 2005, at Washington. Obermueller also doubled and scored in the

Kevin Gregg tossed the final three innings for his second career save and first since a fourinning job in 2004 at Oakland as a member of the Angels. With two out, Gregg gave up a ninth-inning grand slam to Ryan Zimmerman as part of his 55-pitch outing.

to third. Borchard grounded out to first. Marlins 7, Nationals 0. **6TH INNING**

walked. Uggla homered, Obermueller scored, Ramirez scored. Cabrera grounded

► WASHINGTON

PITCHERS

4TH INNING

Marlins: Obermueller grounded out to second. Ramirez doubled. Uggla singled, Ramirez scored. Cabrera grounded out to

	AB	R	Н	BI	BB	SO	AVG		AB	R	Н	BI	BB	SO	AVG
opez ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.296	HaRamirez ss	4	3	1	0	1	0	.356
auch p	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	Uggla 2b	5	3	3	6	0	0	.260
Cordero p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	MiCabrera 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.327
estovich ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.364	Wood 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
elliard 2b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.268	Willingham If	5	1	2	2	0	0	.279
mmerman 3b	5	1	2	4	0	0	.241	Borchard rf	3	1	1	0	2	0	.230
Young 1b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.273	Boone 1b-3b	4	1	2	0	1	1	.333
earns rf-cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.260	Olivo c	5	1	1	2	0	1	.222
nurch cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.294	Amezaga cf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.205
nelling If	3	1	1	0	0	1	.238	Obermueller p	3	1	1	0	0	0	.333
ck lf-rf	3	2	1	0	1	0	.167	Gregg p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
ores c	3	1	2	2	1	0	.222	TOTALS	40	12	12	11	4	4	
Williams p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000								
nenez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.077	PITCHERS	ΙP	Н	RΙ	ER E	BB S) NE	ERA
Wilson ss	0	1	0	0	1	0	.125	Obermueller W, 1-0	6	4	2	2	4	5 111	3.00
OTALS	34	6	7	6	6	11		Gregg S, 1	3	3	4	4	2	5 55	3.86

E—FLopez (4), Zimmerman (4), JoWilson 2 (4). LOB—Washington 7, Florida 8. 2B—Flores 2 (2), HaRamirez (4), Olivo (3), Obermueller (1). HR—Zimmerman (1), off Gregg; Willingham (2), off JeWilliams; Uggla 2 (3), off CCordero, JeWilliams; MiCabrera (5), off JeWilliams. RBIS—Zimmerman 4 (8), Flores 2 (2), Uggla 6 (12), MiCabrera (14), Willingham 2 (12), Olivo 2 (9). SB—FLopez (3). Runners left in scoring position—Washington 3 (Belliard, Kearns 2); Florida 5 (HaRamirez, Amezaga 4). Runners moved

Obermueller pitched to 3 batters in the 7th. **Inherited runners-scored**—Gregg 1-0. **WP**—JeWilliams. Umpires—Home, Eric Cooper; First, James Hoye; Second, Mike Reilly; Third, Jeff Kellogg, T—2:39.

MARLINS STATISTICS

IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA

► THROUGH SUNDAY

BATTERS	Α	VG	OBP	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS E
Ramirez		356	.457	59	19	21	4	2	3	5	10	11	5	1 3
Boone		333	.353	30	4	10	3	0	1	5	2	12	0	0 0
Cabrera		327	.424	55	11	18	4	0	5	14	9	7	0	0 2
Ross		314	.368	35	8	11	4	0	2	7	3	8	0	0 0
De Aza		303	.314	33	4	10	3	1	0	3	1	4	1	0 0
Jacobs		286	.385	56	9	16	5	0	2	7	9	11	0	0 1
Willingham		279	.347	68	6	19	4	1	2	12	6	14	1	0 0
Uggla		260	.341	73	14	19	6	0	3	12	7	20	0	0 0
Borchard		230	.329	61	11	14	0	0	3	10	8	20	0	0 0
Olivo		222	.258	63	4	14	3	1	0	9	3	15	1	0 1
Amezaga		205	.255	44	2	9	1	2	0	3	3	7	0	1 0
Wood		200	.294	15	2	3	2	0	1	3	2	4	0	0 0
Treanor		182	.308	11	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0 0
Reed		000	.200	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0 0
Hermida				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
TOTALS		271	.346	639	99	173	41	8	22	93	70	148	8	2 8
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV		IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
Messenger	0	0	0.00	10	0	0		10.2	7	0	0	0	2	4
Owens	0	0	1.64	9	0	1		11.0	7	2	2	1	5	4
Pinto	0	1	1.69	10	0	0		10.2	7	2	2	0	8	12
Lindstrom	0	0	2.16	9	0	0		8.1	7	2	2	0	4	8
Tankersley	0	0	2.45	4	0	0		3.2	5	1	1	1	2	2
Obermueller	1	0	3.00	1	1	0		6.0	4	2	2	0	4	5
Gardner	0	1	3.60	8	0	1		10.0	14	4	4	0	1	8
Gregg	0	1	3.86	9	0	1		14.0	11	6	6	1	7	17
Mitre	0	2	3.97	3	3	0		11.1	16	9	5	2	4	9
Sanchez	2	0	4.15	4	4	0		21.2	27	11	10	2	12	9
Willis	3	1	4.88	4	4	0		24.0	32	16	13	3	6	21
Olsen	2	1	7.50	4	4	0		18.0	22	15	15	2	15	10
Vanden Hurk	0	1	9.00	3	2	0		11.0	15	11	11	3	6	13
Julio	0	2	19.06	7	0	0		5.2	15	13	12	1	11	2
Nolasco	0	0	20.25	1	0	0		1.1	3	3	3	1	1	1
TOTALS	8	10	4.73	18	18	3		167.1	192	97	88	17	88	125

AROUND THE MAJORS

Struggling Sheffield gets day off

WIREREPORTS

DETROIT • The Tigers hope a day off will help Gary Sheffield turn around his poor start.

The nine-time All-Star hit just .119 through the first 17 games this season, his first with Detroit, and is hitless in his past

"He'll start fresh on the West Coast, he'll be back in [today], Tigers manager Jim Leyland said Sunday before the series finale against the Chicago White Sox. "It's a new team and he wants to do it so bad because the fans have been great.

"He's probably pressing, but his timing is just not right.

The Tigers open a two-game series tonight on the road against the Los Angeles Angels before traveling to play the White Sox on Wednesday and Thursday.

Detroit acquired Sheffield from the Yankees shortly after last season for three pitching prospects. His previous contract called for him to make \$13 million this year and his new deal will pay him \$28 million over the next two seasons.

In Sheffield's first 59 at-bats of the season, he had 15 strikeouts with only one homer, one double and five RBI. He is among AL leaders with 13

walks. "It's all mental, because I can



Gary Sheffield has struggled in his first 17 games with the Tigers.

have bad mechanics and hit home runs," he said. "I'm not really a mechanically sound guy, so it's just really between my ears."

He was limited to 39 games last year because of wrist prob-

"Physically, I feel great. My wrist is not an issue at all," he said.

Sheffield began the season as a career .297 hitter with 455 homers and 1,501 RBI. He received MVP votes each season from 2002-2005 — finishing second just three years ago at New York, and third at Atlanta four years ago.

► AROUND THE AL

ATHLETICS: CF Milton Bradley left the game against the Rangers in the sixth inning ith a left hamstring strain. He is day to day Nick Swisher, who started the game a first, moved to center and **Todd Walker** took over at first base.

MARINERS: Seattle, which has finished last in the AL West in each of the previous three seasons, is off to a 5-9 start. The Mariners, who lost their sixth straight Sunday are on their fourth losing streak of six or more games during the past two seasons,

including an 11-game skid in August. ORIOLES: It was suggested that 2B Brian Roberts could play Sunday. The pale color ing in his face and droopy eyes told a different story. The flu-like symptoms hadn't subfield, so Chris Gomez took over at second again and **Jay Payton** batted leadoff in his

RANGERS: Closer Eric Gagne got one out in the ninth before leaving with a ter throwing a pitch to Oakland's Mark Ellis. He eventually limped off the field and Akinori Otsuka came into the game Gagne is day to day and his status will be re-

► AROUND THE NL

ASTROS: Carlos Lee, in his first games at Miller Park after the Brewers traded him to the Rangers midway through last season, went 2 for 12 in the three-game series. Lee signed with Houston as a free agent in the

CARDINALS: Ace Chris Carpenter, placed on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to April 2 with persistent swelling in his ight elbow, has been increasing his rehab work and has reported no problems. "He's been working every day," manager **Tony La Russa** said. "So far, no setbacks. He's startng to amp things up little by little.

CUBS: Manager Lou Piniella said he still hasn't decided what to do with an outfield that is jammed with five players. With Alfonso Soriano slated to move to left field from center when he returns to the starting lineup today, the Cubs could stick with rook ie Felix Pie in center. That means Matt Murton, Cliff Floyd and Jacque Jones

DIAMONDBACKS: LHP Randy John son will be allowed to go about 100 pitches in his season debut Tuesday, when the Big Unit will come off the disabled list after re-

overing from October back surgery. **PIRATES:** Pittsburgh optioned LHP **Juan** Perz to Triple-A Indianapolis and activated LHP John Grabow off the DL. Grabow on Saturday, working one scoreless inning.

MARLINS NOTEBOOK

Willis to become a father

Wife will be induced today

By Juan C. Rodriguez

MIAMI GARDENS • Dontrelle Willis will make a significant departure from his pre-start rou-

Before pitching against the Braves tonight, Willis must tend to the business of fatherhood. His wife, Natalee, is being induced today.

"As long as the baby is healthy and she's all right, I'm good," Willis said. "I'm trying to be poised for her. The more she sees me like that, the better it is. . . . I'm excited, but it's been 10 months. As soon as I heard she was pregnant I was ready to

have the baby." Willis didn't realize his wife's scheduled inducing coincided with today's outing until five days ago. He said he never considered reworking his start

"That's just how it played out," Willis said. "She has her whole family here. It might have been different if we were in Milwaukee, but everybody she needs is in town so she just told me to go out there and be happy.

"I never had my father in my life, so it's a little different mindset for myself than other people I guess. I've already been through crappy times without having a father in my life, so I'm thinking about just being there for the kid.... It's life changing. It's already been life changing.

MIND WORK

On the disabled list with a calf injury, struggling reliever Jorge Julio is working on the mental side of his game.

Julio has met with **Dr. Jeffrey** Fishbein, the Deerfield, Ill.based sports psychologist who has served as the Marlins' performance enhancement consultant the last four seasons.

"He's a good guy," Julio said. "Sometimes you need somebody to talk with. It helps relax your mind. They help you reflect. You look for a little support and sometimes you just want to relax your mind with someone. In baseball, it's not just interacting with your teammates. Sometimes you need to talk with other people and they give you a different perspec-

tive." Just about every team, and a growing number of individual players, have a sports psychologist or performance enhancement coach on the payroll. Julio said he worked with the Mets' consultants as well.

"Going well, going bad, they would always come and get to know you," he said.

Eligible to come off the DL May 3, Julio will throw two bullpens this week before pitching in a game for the Gulf Coast League Marlins on Thursday in Jupiter.

SHORT STAY

Right-hander Scott Tyler's first big-league call-up was a brief one. He was with the club two games and did not pitch in either before the Marlins optioned him back to Double-A Carolina to accommodate Wes Obermueller.

Tyler warmed up Saturday, but the Marlins opted to stay with Randy Messenger for a second inning in the ninth.

Though he didn't pitch, Tyler was compensated well. Two days in the majors at the prorated league minimum comes out to \$4,153...

Sidelined starter Ricky Nolas**co** will make two appearances for Class A Jupiter today and Thursday with an eye toward a May 1 start against the Mets at Shea Stadium..

Anibal Sanchez, who left after five innings Saturday with cramps in his right hamstring and calf, felt fine Sunday...

Mike Jacobs' swollen thumb hasn't shown much improvement. He'll likely miss a few more games.