



TODAY
ATL
7:05
TV: FSN

TUE 24
ATL
7:05

WED 25
ATL
7:05
TV: FSN

THU 26

FRI 27
PHI
7:05
TV: FSN

SAT 28
PHI
7:05
TV: FSN

SUN 29
PHI
1:35
TV: FSN

MON 30
NYM
7:10
TV: FSN

TUE 1
NYM
7:10
TV: FSN

WED 2
NYM
1:10
TV: FSN

THU 3

FRI 4
SD
7:05
TV: FSN

SAT 5
SD
7:05
TV: FSN

SUN 6
SD
1:05
TV: FSN

— 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), WFLA (760-AM), WQBA (1140-AM, Spanish).



Willis



Davies

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 13⅔ 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

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).

— JUAN C. RODRIGUEZ



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. It 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 sixth.

Obermueller threw more pitches (111) than any Marlins starter to date in winning his first



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 fourth.

Kevin Gregg tossed the final three innings for his second career save and first since a four-inning 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.

Juan C. Rodriguez can be reached at jcrodriguez@sun-sentinel.com.

MARLINS NOTEBOOK

Willis to become a father

Wife will be induced today

BY JUAN C. RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

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

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 dates.

“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 perspective.”

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 Nolasco** 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.

MARLINS RECAP

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | R | H | E |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|----|---|
| Nationals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Marlins | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | x | | 12 | 12 | 0 |

HOW THEY SCORED

2ND INNING

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 grounded out to third, Amezaga to third. Ramirez flied out to left. **Marlins 3, Nationals 0.**

3RD INNING

Marlins: Uggla flied out to center. Cabrera homered. Willingham infield single. Borchard walked, Willingham to second. Boone walked, Willingham to third, Borchard to second. Olivo struck out. Amezaga fouled out to third. **Marlins 4, Nationals 0.**

4TH INNING

Marlins: Obermueller doubled. Ramirez walked. Uggla homered, Obermueller scored, Ramirez scored. Cabrera grounded out to shortstop. Willingham grounded out to third. Borchard grounded out to first. **Marlins 7, Nationals 0.**

6TH INNING

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

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.**

7TH INNING

Nationals: Wood in as first baseman. Boone in as third baseman. Snelling infield single. Fick singled, Snelling to second. Flores doubled, Snelling scored, Fick scored. Jimenez pinch-hitting for Williams. Gregg pitching. Jimenez struck out. Lopez struck out. Belliard fouled out to the catcher. **Marlins 10, Nationals 2.**

8TH INNING

Marlins: Cordero pitching. Ramirez safe on Wilson’s error. Uggla homered, Ramirez scored. Wood grounded out to third. Willingham safe on Wilson’s error. Borchard singled, Willingham to second. Boone singled, Willingham to third, Borchard to second. Olivo lined out to second. Amezaga struck out. **Marlins 12, Nationals 2.**

9TH INNING

Nationals: Fick walked. Flores doubled, Fick to third. Wilson walked. Restovich pinch-hitting for Cordero. Restovich struck out. Belliard struck out. Zimmerman homered, Fick scored, Flores scored, Wilson scored. Young struck out. **Marlins 12, Nationals 6.**

► WASHINGTON

| | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | AVG |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|----|------|------|
| Flores ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .296 |
| Rauch p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| CCordero p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| Restovich ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .364 | |
| Belliard 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .268 |
| Zimmerman 3b | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | .241 |
| DYcung 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .273 |
| Kearns rf-cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .260 |
| Church cf | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .294 |
| Snelling lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .238 |
| Fick lf-rf | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .167 |
| Flores c | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | .222 |
| JeWilliams p | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| Jimenez ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .077 | |
| JoWilson ss | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .125 |
| TOTALS | 34 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 11 | |

| PITCHERS | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|-----------------|----|---|----|----|----|----|------|------|
| Williams L, 0-4 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 115 | 7.77 |
| Rauch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 5.56 | |
| CCordero | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 5.79 |

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. **RBI**s—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 up**—Zimmerman, Micabrera, Obermueller.

Obermueller pitched to 3 batters in the 7th. **Inherited runners scored**—Gregg 1-0. **WP**—JeWilliams. **Umpires**—Home, Eric Cooper; First, James Hoyer; Second, Mike Reilly; Third, Jeff Kellogg. **T**—2:39. **A**—18,443 (36,331).

MARLINS STATISTICS

► THROUGH SUNDAY

| BATTERS | AVG | OBP | AB | R | H | 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 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 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 | 0 | 0 | 11.1 | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | |
| Sanchez | 2 | 0 | 4.15 | 4 | 0 | 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 | 1 | 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 | |