

Mets overwhelm Cardinals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fernando Nieve pitched six scoreless innings to extend his improbable stint with the New York Mets and recent callup Nick Evans hit a two-run homer in an 11-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday night.

David Wright tied a career best with four hits and Ryan Church had three hits and two RBIs in his first start as the cleanup hitter this season.

The injury-depleted Mets bounced back from a 4-0, two-hit loss to the Cardinals on Tuesday with their best offensive output of the season. Evans had two of the

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Mets' 16 hits against the NL Central leaders.

Nieve (3-0) won his career-high third straight start filling in for John Maine.

Red Sox 6, Nationals 4

David Ortiz got his 1,000th RBI, Nick Green played a scary game of dodge-the-bat, and the Boston Red Sox looked right at home again in the nation's capital in a victory over the Washington Nationals.

Red Sox Nation invaded Nationals Park for the second consecutive night, their fans stuffing the seats for a crowd of 41,530 — breaking the ballpark record by 13 set

in the series opener on Tuesday. So far, it's been worth the trip: Boston has won the first two games by a combined score of 17-7 in its first regular-season visit to Washington since 1971.

Ortiz and Jason Varitek homered, and Jon Lester (6-6) allowed three runs and six hits over six innings for the Red Sox, who have won 16 of 21. Jonathan Papelbon got his 17th save.

Rays 7, Phillies 1

Matt Garza shut down Philadelphia's offense and ex-Phillies slugger Pat Burrell homered for the first time in over two months to help Tampa Bay beat his former team.

The win, Garza's first since May 16, evened the rematch between the participants in last year's World Series at one game apiece. The Phillies, who defeated the Rays in five games in October, won the opener 10-1.

Garza (5-5) limited the Phillies to Greg Dobbs' fifth-inning single until Jayson Werth hit an opposite-field solo homer to trim Tampa Bay's lead to 2-1 and enable Philadelphia to remain the only team in the majors with an extra-base hit in every game this season.

Blue Jays 8, Reds 2

Aaron Hill, Adam Lind and Vernon Wells



Nick Evans of the New York Mets hits a two-run homer during the fourth inning of Wednesday night's game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Citi Field. The Mets roared to an 11-0 victory.

AP photo

homered in a five-run first inning and the Toronto Blue Jays again battered Bronson Arroyo, beating the Cincinnati Reds.

Toronto won its third straight game. Cincinnati lost its fourth in a row and dropped two games under .500 for the first time this season.

Marlins 5, Orioles 2

Hanley Ramirez and Cody Ross both drove in two runs and Ricky Nolasco had his fourth straight strong outing since being recalled from the minors as Florida beat the Baltimore

Orioles, the Marlins' fourth straight victory.

Ross had three hits, including two doubles, and Emilio Bonifacio and Dan Uggla both scored twice for Florida (37-36), which moved above .500 for the first time since May 12.

Pirates 10, Indians 6

Zach Duke allowed one run in six innings, Adam LaRoche drove in three runs and the Pittsburgh Pirates didn't wait to get into Cleveland's slumping bullpen to start scoring, roughing up struggling starter Carl Pavano.

Serena scores easy victory

From B1

Next up for Fish is a tougher test, No. 4 Novak Djokovic.

"I should have won more than twice here, but I didn't," said Williams, the 2002-03 champion. "And hopefully I can rectify that this year."

She lost two finals at the All England Club, including the 2008 battle against older sister Venus, and is seeded second this year.

"Wimbledon and Williams are here, and we want to be here this year, next year, and years to come," she said.

There have been those who wondered whether Williams pays enough attention to tennis, given all of her outside interests.

But that appears to be a criticism left in the past, considering that Williams has won two of the past three Grand Slam titles and worked her way back up the rankings.

She looked quite good against Groth, breaking serve five times and making only six unforced errors.

Yet here was Williams' postmatch assessment: "For me there's always room for improvement. I could have returned better, came to the net a little bit more. That's exciting — to think that I can do better."

Still, the match lasted all of 57 minutes, leaving the American plenty of time Wednesday for her myriad other pursuits.

An autobiography, which Williams is working on with a ghostwriter, is due out this year.

Then there's her venture into creating a television show. She's familiar with the medium after dabbling in acting; Her credits include "Law & Order."

"I'm writing my script. You'll be excited to know I wrote three parts already. I call it 'my treatment,' so I'm working on 'my treatment' now," the 27-year-old Williams said. "I was going to do it yesterday, but I started watching 'Dexter,' and I got a little sidetracked. You know what? Today's a good day. I can write."

Asked what the TV project is about, Williams said: "It's a mixture between some of my favorite shows, like 'Desperate Housewives,' and 'Sex and the City,' and, actually, 'Family Guy.' It's kind of those put together in one, if you can imagine."

Can you?

Much as Williams might have on her plate, she got a little upset this week about Wimbledon rules that prevented her from eating exactly what she had on her plate in the locker room.

She posted a complaint on her blog that, while snacking before her first-round match Monday, she was told she couldn't eat what she had.

There might have been some misunderstanding, because the All England Club bars players from bringing food from outside into the locker rooms.

Here's what bothered Williams: There is food provided for players — fruit, chocolate bars — and so eating anything should be allowed.

"I don't eat in the locker room. They told me not to eat. I try to abide by the rules," Williams said. "I'm just confused as to why do you supply something you consume if there's a sign that says, 'No consuming.'"

Sabathia says he's ready to go

ATLANTA (AP) — New York Yankees ace CC Sabathia threw in the bullpen before Wednesday's 8-4 victory against the Atlanta Braves and said he'll be ready to start the opener of a weekend series against the New York Mets.

Sabathia threw 27 pitches after leaving his last start with tightness in his left biceps.

"I'm good," he said. "I threw all of my pitches. I'm looking forward to pitching on Friday," when the Yankees open an interleague series against their New York rivals.

Sabathia, who is 6-4 with a 3.67 ERA, left last Sunday's game against Florida in the second inning, and manager Joe Girardi was worried the left-hander wouldn't be able to make his next scheduled start.

"I guess everybody else made me nervous the last couple days," Sabathia said. "I kind of felt like I'd be able to pitch."

Kyle Busch and Brian Ickler make ride sharing work

Associated Press

NASCAR star Kyle Busch and relative unknown Brian Ickler share a friendship and a ride.

The two are splitting the driving chores in the No. 51 Toyota that is leading the owner points in the Camping World Truck Series.

The 23-year-old Ickler is the hand-picked co-driver for team owner Billy Ballew, chosen by his 24-year-old teammate and driving buddy.

"It was all Kyle," Ickler said about getting the truck ride. "We went down and raced the Snowball Derby in Kyle's Late Model and became closer friends. He talked about how he would like to help me move up the ladder more and drive some more."

"Then he texted me one day and told me he got me in his 51 truck when he's not driving it. It was mostly Kyle."

The deal has worked out well for all concerned.

Busch has managed to drive in seven of the 10 truck races so far this year, with two wins and three runner-up finishes. Ickler, who drives Ballew's No. 15 entry when he's not in the 51, has added a fifth-place finish in three starts in the top truck and had a career-best third two

AUTO RACING

weeks ago at Michigan in the 15.

Three-time series champion Ron Hornaday Jr., driving for Kevin Harvick Inc., leads the driver standings, but the combination of Busch and Ickler has a 37-point lead over the No. 33 Chevrolet truck in the owner standings.

Ickler will be back in the 51 this week, racing Saturday night at Memphis Motorsports Park. He said he doesn't feel any additional pressure when he replaces Busch, who also races in Sprint Cup and Nationwide

and will be busy driving in both those series this weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

"Once you start trying to compare yourself to Kyle Busch ... that's pretty much impossible," Ickler said. "I really think it's an advantage because Kyle has run in the truck and the truck has run up front. It's a huge boost for my confidence to know it can be done."

"Every change we make on the truck, you can text or ask Kyle what he thinks about it and he can tell you what he would do," Ickler added.

Busch is Ickler's biggest booster, doing everything he

IRL headed to Brazil for '10 opener

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The IndyCar series is taking its season-opening race to one of its best training grounds next season — Brazil.

Terry Angstadt, president of Indy Racing League's commercial division, confirmed Tuesday the series intends to race next March in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, about 200 miles from the capital of Sao Paulo. A date is not expected to be announced until late July, when the entire schedule is released.

Although final details are still being worked out, Angstadt is confident the series, which split from CART in the mid-1990s, will make its first foray into South America next year.

"We thought we were off the radar screen too long when we started in April this year, and that was one of our goals, to start in March," Angstadt said. "It's a great economy down there. Has the world economic crisis affected them? Yes, but not as much as the U.S."

Murphy in quarters

From B1

Nineteenth-seeded Michael Dadlani of Oak Hills fell out after a 3-and-2 loss to Vaccari, No. 20 Liam McDevitt of Longshore dropped a 2-and-1 decision to No. 13 Philip Perry of Black Hill, and 28th-seeded Norwalk resident T.J. Trimboli, playing out of Race Brook, lost 5-and-4 to fifth-seeded Mike Ballo Jr. of the host club.

In addition to the Murphy-Cook matchup, the quarterfinal matchups find No. 32 Jeff Hatten of Farmington — who prevailed over qualifying medalist and top seed Kevin Josephson of Timberlin on the 19th hole — facing ninth-seeded David Pastore of Griffith Harris.

Ballo will take on Perry, and second-seeded Tom McCarthy of Twin Hills will face No. 10 seed R.J. Zielinski of Golfers Warehouse.

Major champions



Rotary defeated Monker Grotto in the final contest to claim the 2009 Norwalk Little League Major Division championship. Members of the title-winning team were, back row, from left, coaches Dave Evans, Susy Evans, Bruce Love and Rich Mejia. Middle row, from left, Ricky Mejia, Kevin Love, Ryan Evans, Nick Calabrese, Thomas Henderson and James Henderson. Front row, from left, Philip Uva, Ryan Searles, Eddie Marcarelli, Alex Marcarelli and Robert Curran. Missing from the photo was Brandon Cruz.

Contributed photo

5-mile race set for Saturday

The Lightfoot Running Club and Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department will conduct a five-mile road race beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday at Cranbury School, Knowalot Lane.

The entry fee is \$7 or \$5 for those 14 and under. Online registration is available at www.active.com. Water stops and post-race refreshments will be available for participants.

The race is the second in the 32nd annual Summer Road Racing Series.

Ensuing races include a seven-miler July 11 beginning at Brien McMahon High School; the Ian Eaccarino Memorial nine-miler on July 25 at Calf Pasture Beach; an 11-miler Aug. 15 at Silvermine School, and the Sam Elpern Memorial Half-Marathon Sept. 12 at Fox Run School.

The first race of the series, a three-mile event, was held June 13.