

Silver still No. 1 pick for car color



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SPORTS

The Detroit News Friday, October 2, 2009 | Section B



Short camp leaves team eager but uncertain
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TWINS 8, TIGERS 3

Fight to the finish



Photos by John T. Grellick/The Detroit News

Tigers pitcher Jeremy Bonderman, rear, and catcher Gerald Laird, right, give home-plate umpire Angel Hernandez an earful after Bonderman was ejected in the ninth inning. Laird got tossed, too.

Detroit wastes first chance to clinch

Leyland, Bonderman, Laird ejected late in sloppy contest

BY TOM GAGE
The Detroit News

Detroit — Has a batter ever been hit by a pitch and charged his own pitcher?

Probably about as often as a team that's a victory away from clinching a division championship getting smacked with three ejections.

Tigers magic number

2

Henning: Twins-Tigers rivalry getting hotter. 7B

Not the end of the world, though. Just the end of a series that didn't decide anything.

In a bizarre non-clincher, a day on which the Tigers hit their first match-point serve into the net, oddities occurred.

Including Jeremy Bonderman hitting Delmon Young with a pitch in the ninth, getting ejected because both teams had been warned — but also Young pointing at his own dugout in anger and pain, instead of blaming Bonderman.

Young did nothing more than point at Jose Mijares, who'd thrown a pitch behind Adam Everett in the eighth, setting up Dmitri's kid brother as a target of retaliation in the process.

He didn't charge Mijares. Repeat, he did not charge his own pitcher — although it looked like he wanted to. But, in itself, his reaction was enough to qualify Thursday's game — an 8-3 Tigers loss — as a weird one.

"Never seen that before," Gerald Laird said.

Please see *Tigers*, Page 6B



Orlando Cabrera's three-run double in the eighth inning sent many Tigers fans for the exits. He later scored on Joe Mauer's single.

Deciding series

The Tigers and Twins each have three games left. Here are the scheduled matchups for the season's final weekend:

White Sox at Tigers

Jake Peavy (8-6, 3.75) vs. Edwin Jackson (13-8, 3.36), 7 tonight

Freddy Garcia (2-4, 4.78) vs. Alfredo Figaro (2-1, 5.74), 7 Saturday

John Danks (13-10, 3.69) vs. Justin Verlander (18-9, 3.45), 1:05 Sunday

Royals at Twins

Lenny DiNardo (0-2, 7.52) vs. Jeff Manship (0-1, 5.81), 8:10 tonight

Zack Greinke (16-8, 2.06) vs. Nick Blackburn (11-11, 4.08), 4:10 Saturday

Luke Hochevar (7-12, 6.24) vs. Brian Duensing (5-2, 3.69), 2:05 Sunday

Tigers still in good shape, but we can never be sure

Detroit

You wouldn't think twice about the Twins if you hadn't seen this before.

You'd shrug and do the math and put two (games up) and three (to play) together and come up with the obvious answer: The Tigers will win the American League Central.



JOHN NIYO

Won't they? Odds are, they will, one of these days.

But recent history — not to mention Thursday's division-clenching loss at Comerica Park, capped off by a bizarre game of bean ball — reminds us that odd things happen on the way to a sure thing for the Tigers.

Thursday's 8-3 loss was just the latest chapter, with five errors — four by the Twins, the best fielding team in the majors — along with three hit batters, two players ejected and one irrational home plate umpire. (Angel Hernandez, by the way, once ejected a guest singer of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" at Wrigley Field. And no, I'm not joking.)

Nate Robertson, the Tigers starting pitcher, called it "kind of a strange game." And strange as it might sound to some, Robertson did his part to keep the Tigers in it, allowing three earned runs in six innings Thursday before a sellout crowd of 40,533 at Comerica Park.

I'd call it an "anxious" crowd, but is there any other kind in Detroit these days? Admit it, Tigers fans: You're starting to have flashbacks, aren't you?

Please see *Niyo*, Page 7B

Troy Athens girl aces meet

It was just another typical girls high school golf match Wednesday until **Meg Richter** stepped to the eighth tee at the Oakhurst Golf & Country Club in Clarkston.

The Troy Athens sophomore hit a high 8-iron that landed just short of the green, took a high bounce, rolled toward the cup, paused, and fell in.

"Everyone was really excited," Athens coach **Dan Cooper** said.

Clarkston won the match, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits.



Mark Humphrey/Associated Press

Allen Iverson said he was told the Pistons wouldn't try if he remained a starter.

Iverson still kvetching about time in Detroit

Allen Iverson just won't let it go.

The Answer, who spent one very forgettable year with the Pistons, said he was lied to about his role and called it "the worst year of my career."

"They told me, straight up, 'Allen we would never disrespect you or your career like that' by making me come off the bench," Iverson, now with the Memphis Grizzlies, told ESPN.com. "Then, they came to me saying that they felt it would be in the 'best interest of the team' if I came off of the bench behind Rip (**Richard Hamilton**).



HAMILTON

"... After that, they told me that if I didn't come off the bench, the team was going to lie down on me."

Ex-Wing Shanahan announces retirement

Former Red Wing **Brendan Shanahan** left the New Jersey Devils after being told he would not be a part of their top three lines this season.

Contact us

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