

SPORTS

TAMPA BAY 5, TWINS 2 (18) 7:10 p.m. today at Chicago White Sox (FSN)

Marathon has different ending

Twins lose in 18 innings after beating Boston in 17.

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Kyle Gibson said it was about the 12th inning that he and his Twins teammates had that feeling that they were in another marathon game.

That "not again" feeling. "Really, about the 12th," he said. "That starts up early. Especially with the 17 innings so fresh."

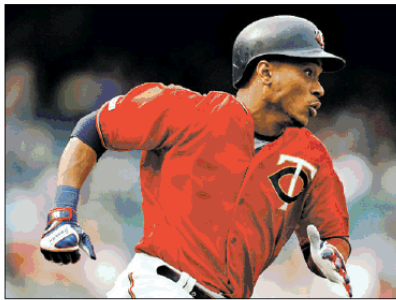
Nine days after winning a 17-inning game over Boston, the Twins grappled with Tampa Bay for 18 innings Thursday,

another bullpen-depleting, concentration-challenging game at Target Field that tested the patience of fans and the resilience of the two teams.

The endings weren't the same, however, as the Rays scored three runs in the 18th off Ryne Harper to pull out a 5-2 victory.

For the Rays, they managed to avoid being swept in the three-game series but still lost seven of 10 on their road trip. For the Twins, they have to find the right path to help them move forward after striking out 22 times — setting a club record for both the Twins hitters and Rays pitching staff.

See **TWINS** on C5 ▶



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Jorge Polanco went 2-for-7 and scored one run in the loss. It wasn't all bad news, though, as the Twins shortstop was named an All-Star starter late in the game. Story, **C5**

Fix Sano's swing, and he's back to fearsome

JIM SOUHAN



Miguel Sano walked to home plate seven times Thursday. He made seven outs. He hit one ball out of the infield and struck out three times.

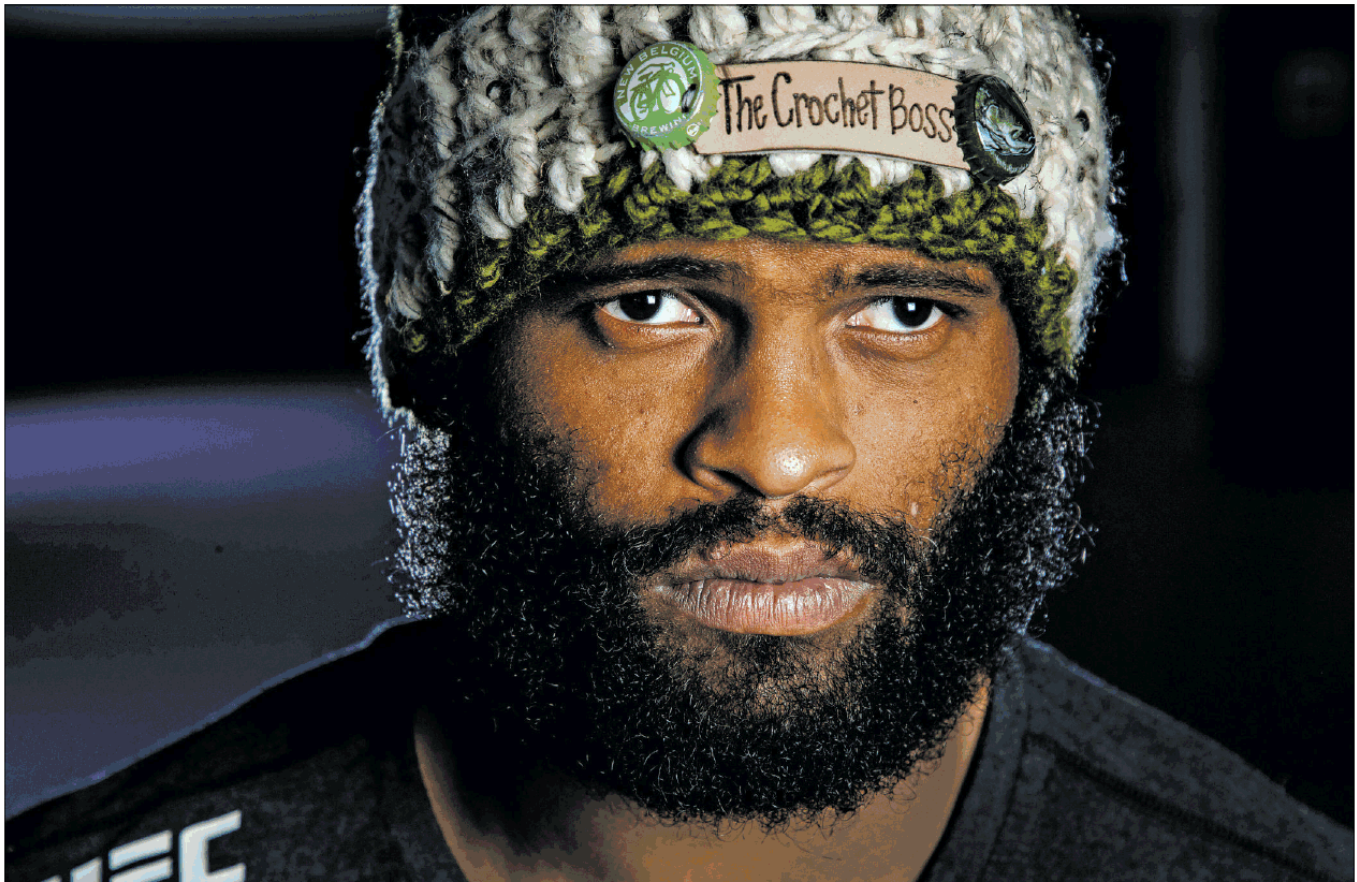
Sano is striking out in almost half his at-bats. His failures at the plate Thursday likely kept the Twins from winning a game they lost 5-2 in 18 innings, making it the longest game in Target Field history.

This means, of course, that it is time for the Twins to release or demote Sano, right? Nope, and nope.

Sano is desperately in need of a reset. If the Twins roster wasn't shredded because of injuries, they might have already temporarily benched him or sent him to the minors to work on his swing.

But the injuries are real and present. The Twins are without Byron Buxton and Eddie Rosario, and Max Kepler is playing through a bruised elbow. Outfield

See **SOUHAN** on C4 ▶



When UFC heavyweight Maurice Greene — aka "The Crochet Boss" — isn't stalking opponents in the Octagon, he might be found relaxing by turning yarn into stocking caps. CARLOS GONZALEZ • cgonzalez@startribune.com