Twins visit Fort Wayne's world

By Jim Saturday Special to the Star Tribune

Fort Wayne, Ind.

The Twins collected 13 hits Thursday, including two-run homers by Derek Parks and Jeff Reboulet, in an 8-4 exhibition victory over the Fort Wayne Wizards, their Class A Midwest League affiliate.

Shane Mack continued his hot hitting since coming off the disabled list, knocking two 400-foot triples off the center field wall.

The Wizards scored a run off Carlos Pulido in the first and finished the seven-inning game with nine hits off Pulido and minor leaguers Dan Naulty and Rich Garces.

"We got some guys who can swing the bat, and I know they were pumped up to play," said Wizards manager Jim Dwyer, a former Twin.

Twins' linescore

Twins 8, Fort Wayne 4

"I was just hoping we'd play good defense against these guys, and we did."

Parks' homer off Class AA pitcher Jon Henry in the second inning put the Twins on top 2-1. Chuck Knoblauch singled home Pat Meares later in the second to make it 3-1. Reboulet homered off Henry with Meares aboard in the fourth to make it 5-1.

"I really needed these at-bats," said Mack, who went 4-for-5 in Milwaukee this week after being activated from the disabled list. "I feel good. I worked hard and swung the bat well all spring. I just couldn't throw. My arm's starting to stretch out a lot more. [Trainer] Dick Martin has me on a good program, strengthening and a lot of stretching, and that's really seemed to work out the scar tissue on my arm."

The Twins were impressed with \$6 million Memorial Stadium, completed in 1993, just in time for the relocation of the franchise from Kenosha, Wis.

Knoblauch, who played in Kenosha, said, "This is a lot different. This is great. Kenosha was fine at the time, but if you've got a place like this, you've got to be happy about it. These guys probably don't realize how good they have it, because there's not a whole lot of minor league parks or stadiums that are like this."

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