

GAME RECAP**IMPACT PLAYER Kenta Maeda, Twins**

Attempting to remain a starter in the postseason, Maeda allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. His eight strikeouts were one shy of tying his season high.

BY THE NUMBERS

13 Home runs by Twins rookies Edouard Julien and Royce Lewis. They both homered in the fourth inning.

105 Pitches from Maeda, the most he's thrown in a start since an eight-inning outing on Aug. 18, 2020.

8 The Twins' lead in the AL Central and their magic number to clinch the division.

BOBBY NIGHTENGALE

"With the minor league schedule, it's a little bit tougher grind than it is up here," Ober said. "Eight-hour bus rides and stuff like that. I feel good and I'm ready to throw."

Even if the demotion caught Ober off guard, the next couple of weeks are an important audition to show he deserves a spot on the postseason roster. Ober has a 5.85 ERA in eight starts following the All-Star break.

"I was a little surprised, but it is what it is," Ober said. "I try to take it day by day. Now I'm back here."

Rookie dress-up day

When **Royce Lewis** looked at his locker after Wednes-

day's game against the Rays, his clothes were gone and there was a package sitting on his chair.

"Honestly, I thought it was something from Adidas for me," Lewis said. "I ordered some warmer clothes because it's about to be freezing."

It wasn't quite athletic gear. It was a Dr. Evil costume from the "Austin Powers" films. **Pablo López** and **Kyle Farmer** picked out the costumes for their rookie teammates. **Edouard Julien** dressed as a Canadian Mountie. **Matt Wallner** was Buddy the Elf. **Louie Varland** was Scooby Doo. **Joey Casey**, the Twins' replay review guy, paired with Lewis

as Dr. Evil's Mini-Me.

López and Farmer spent a game chatting in the dugout about which costume each rookie should wear.

"When I was a rookie, we got dropped off in Times Square," said López, who dressed as a Minion from the "Despicable Me" films and Curious George in his two seasons with rookie eligibility. "There are millions of people looking at you. The exposure, it's part of the experience for them to remember."

After the team flight, the Twins took their rookies to a Chicago restaurant, Joy District, in full costume. "There were people smiling like, 'This is weird,'" Lewis said. "If I was at dinner, I saw a bunch of people dressed up in costume, it'd be kind of random."

Etc.

• **Carlos Correa** remained out of the lineup, his second consecutive day off as the shortstop continues to play through plantar fasciitis in his left foot.

• **Randy Dobnak** allowed nine hits and six runs in 5½ innings in the Saints' 9-3 road loss to the Iowa Cubs. **Jair Camargo** had three hits, including his 19th home run of the season.

2023 rookie dress-up day



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