

ASTROS: Berkman ends drought with homer

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in the ninth.

"Roy Oswalt is the story of the game," Pence said. "He came out and pitched an unbelievable game. He kept us in it. The offense took awhile to get started. His outing is the reason we were able to win."

Hitting 94 mph as late as the seventh inning, Oswalt matched Johnny Cueto's impressive outing, proved it's too early to discount him and, more importantly, helped get the win.

Gives bullpen break

Oswalt held the Reds to one run on six hits and two walks with two strikeouts over seven innings. He also gave a taxed and injured bullpen a break before a crowd of 12,365.

"He was solid tonight," Astros manager Cecil Cooper said. "And this is the way Roy's going to be pitching for us all year. That's what we anticipate."

Cueto also didn't fare in the decision despite holding the Astros to seven hits and one run (on a homer by Lance Berkman) with five strikeouts and one walk over seven innings. With closer Jose Valverde unavailable, Tim Lincecum pitched two-thirds of a scoreless inning, and Chris Sampson added 1 1/3 scoreless



DAVID KOHL: ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIMELY DELIVERY: The Astros' Hunter Pence watches his tiebreaking two-run double in the ninth inning.

innings to earn the victory.

"Tonight was what we ordered, just what we ordered," Cooper said. "We needed Roy to go deep in the ballgame tonight, and he did a great job, and then Tim Byrdak and Chris both pitched well for us at the end and closed it out. That's what we need: clutch hits and some good pitching."

Berkman gave the Astros a 1-0 lead with a leadoff home run to left in the sixth, snapping an 0-for-16 slump.

Berkman's homer was his 20th at Great American Ball Park, the most by an opponent since the stadium opened in 2003.

Puma loves Cincy

"It's kind of funny," Berkman said. "When I'm struggling, I'll start feeling better, and I'll look up at the schedule and we'll have a trip coming in here."

Oswalt, who remains 23-1 in his career against the Reds, was cruising until Laynce Nix

hit a two-out double to left field in the sixth inning. After Joey Votto refused to chase a 2-2 off-speed pitch, Oswalt threw a 3-2 curveball that was poked for a game-tying single to center.

Brandon Phillips followed with a double toward left fielder Carlos Lee, who has been playing with an injured right Achilles' since Friday. Oswalt intentionally walked Jay Bruce to load the bases. Then Edwin Encarnacion stranded the runners with a dribbler in front of the plate.

"Actually I was thinking about going back out for the eighth," Oswalt said. "I noticed in the last two innings my ball started coming up in the zone. Guys were taking a little better swings."

"I went as hard as I could as long as I could, and that's all I had."

Lee led off the ninth with a bloop single to shallow right field off Francisco Cordero. After Jason Smith was sent to run for Lee, Miguel Tejada singled through the left side.

Pence followed with a two-run double, taking third on Bruce's error. Geoff Blum added a sacrifice fly to right, giving the Astros a 4-1 lead.

"The team won," Oswalt said. "That's all we're looking for."

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NL BOX SCORES

Mets 7, Marlins 1

Florida	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Bonifacio 3b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.266
Jo.Baker c	2	0	0	0	2	0	.294
Ha.Ramirez ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.289
1-Gload pr-rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Cantu 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.321
Uggla 2b	4	0	0	0	2	2	.217
Hermida lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.258
C.Ross rf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Amesaga cf-ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.231
A.Sanchez p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
b-Carroll ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.091
Meyer p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Pinto p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
c-Helms ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Totals	29	1	2	1	6	6	

Phillies 13, Nationals 11

Washington	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
A.Hernandez 2b	5	2	3	0	1	1	.262
N.Johnson 1b	5	2	1	2	1	1	.359
Zimmerman 3b	4	3	2	3	2	1	.295
Dunn lf	4	2	3	2	1	1	.311
Maxwell lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.375
Dukes cf	3	1	1	2	2	0	.304
Kearns rf	4	1	1	0	1	0	.255
Flores c	4	0	0	0	1	1	.302
Alb.Gonzalez ss	3	0	0	1	1	0	.244
Martins p	3	0	1	1	0	0	.250
Tavarez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Hincley p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Willingham ph	1	0	0	0	1	1	.129
Bellard ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Totals	38	11	12	11	10	7	

Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 2

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
C.Soriano lf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.303
Theriot ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.314
Fukudome rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.348
Re.Johnson cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Hoffpauir 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.321
Soto c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.119
Fontenot 3b	3	1	1	1	0	0	.241
Miles 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.182
Lilly p	1	0	1	0	0	0	.143
Gathright ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Patton p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Bradley ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.042
Samardzija p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Totals	30	2	3	2	0	10	

Giants 5, Dodgers 4

San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
F.Lewis lf	4	1	1	0	0	3	.339
Renteria ss	4	2	2	0	0	0	.234
Winn rf-cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.219
Aurilia 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Rowand cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.278
Valdez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
b-B.Molina ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.328
Sandoval c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.294
B.Wilson p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Uribe 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Burriss 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.169
Zito p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Torres cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Schlerholtz rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.308
Totals	33	5	8	5	1	7	

Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 2

Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 2. Phillies' Victorino hit a home run in the 7th, and the Phillies won. The game was suspended in the 9th.

San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 1

San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 1. The Giants won. The game was suspended in the 9th.

Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 3

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