

AL Wild Card Series: Tigers vs Guardians

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Progressive Field

Cleveland Guardians

Manager Stephen Vogt

Postgame Press Conference

Cleveland 6, Detroit 1.

Q. Coach, what do you make of Chase and his debut and also making the play in the fourth inning to cut down the run?

STEPHEN VOGT: That was a huge play. Obviously, great throw, great read. Chase, that was an unbelievable debut. I thought everything about it was great. His at-bats were outstanding. He could have easily let that play in the first inning rattle him and take him out of the rest of the day.

Tanner picked us up huge in the inning, get the three punch-outs. Impressed by Chase's quality and the outfield play after the sun ball in the 1st. It was outstanding.

Q. Is Cade going to be good to go tomorrow?

STEPHEN VOGT: We're going to see how he's feeling, obviously. Cade pitches a ton for us. But I'm sure he's going to be ready to go tomorrow. We'll have to obviously check. We always check with our guys before.

Q. We've seen it all year, Stephen. But to make that decision so quickly to ask for a review on that play there at 3rd base. Take us through that.

STEPHEN VOGT: It was Gunnar. Gunnar does an outstanding job with our replay. I have no eyes on it. I have full trust in what Gunnar tells us and he said challenge the play and the run hadn't scored. I went out to the umpires to tell them that run did not score. Can you make sure they check on that?

So, like I said, great throw, great tag. Outstanding job by Gunnar. He's been great all year.

Q. So you -- like, two challenges?



STEPHEN VOGT: No. When you challenge the play, because the call on the field was safe and two runs scored, you want to make sure they'll look at where the runner was and he had not touched home plate yet.

Q. Asking about Rocchio for weeks, months now. What does it say about him in that situation, being ready for that pitch?

STEPHEN VOGT: It was huge, an 0 of 2 count and he was ready to fire. The last couple innings was not easy to see. Our guys jumped on Melton pretty well and Bo with such an unbelievable bat off Hurter. For us, it was a frustrating day offensively for us. Two hits leading into the 8th. For our guys to explode and get separation felt good.

Q. You have a unique perspective because you played here and coached here. It seemed like latest in the game when the shadows got longest and it got harder and harder to see, you guys had your best offensive inning. Can you just pull back a little bit the layer of, like, how hard it is actually to hit in those situations when the shadows are like that?

STEPHEN VOGT: Yeah. When the shadows are like that, you can't see spin. So everything looks like a fastball coming in. Hopefully, you see something at some point between the pitcher and where you are that tips you off what pitch is coming.

But it is really difficult and it's all nearly impossible to hit at that time. But our guys stepped up huge. Our guys never talk about the shadows. They never talk about whether you can see or not. A lot of time that's what it takes. Everyone on the planet knows it's hard to see right now. We don't need to talk about it. Just go out and compete.

Q. Thoughts on Bibee's outing today?

STEPHEN VOGT: Oh, Tanner was phenomenal. Obviously, we give him the extra base in the first, but he gets the three punch-outs. Pitch count got up. Pitch count doesn't matter. As many outs as you can get, that's doing your job. Phenomenal by him, unbelievable job by our bullpen, no matter who it was. Timmy Herrin, player of the



game coming in and ending that threat like that.

Q. I was going to ask you about Herrin. Up and down season, and since he's come back the last time, he's -- seems like he's really settled in. What have you seen?

STEPHEN VOGT: Strikes. We talk about it all the time. Timmy has some of the best stuff. When he's throwing strikes, he's the best left-hander in baseball. We saw it today and have seen it a lot in the last few weeks.

Q. We've seen a lot from Tanner this year when it comes to his mental growth and maturity as well. For him to have a conversation after the first inning, blunder by Chase and calming him down, saying I've got your back, what does it show about his maturity and growth this year?

STEPHEN VOGT: Tanner is a leader in this clubhouse. We talked about the way these guys come together. Chase got here 48 hours ago, and they see the value in him being here and welcomed him and Chase helped us win this game today.

Q. What does it feel like in an elimination game, as one out ticks off, you erase one out off the board and you're getting closer and closer to the 8th inning.

STEPHEN VOGT: We didn't get much going offensively today. George hit the homer, and a couple homers that the wind knocked down early in the game. As our bullpen is keeping them off the board, we feel like we have a knack to do it late in the game. Whether we saw a five-run explosion coming or not, we felt like as our outs came off the board and their outs came off the board, we felt really good about it.

Rocchio kind of broke the tension with the homer and the boys let loose.

Q. You talked about young guys controlling the strike zone. Chase was able to do that. These young guys don't seem overwhelmed. Is that about controlling the strike zone?

STEPHEN VOGT: Swing decisions and scaring pitchers into the zone. Lay off the borderline pitches, they have to come after you. Before the game, you asked are you comfortable playing three guys who have been here for a week? Yeah, this is who we are. Couldn't be more proud of our guys. Back against the wall. Back's still against the wall tomorrow. We'll come out ready to go and so will they. It will be another dog fight tomorrow. I guarantee it.

Q. With the start time tomorrow up in the air based on

how the other games go today, does it somehow impact your timeline in prep for the game?

STEPHEN VOGT: We'll know by the time we go to sleep tonight, right? But it's one of those things, this is what we deal with, and like I said before the series started, weird they chose us to be the 1:00 start. We'll stand by and see what happens in the other games. Doesn't matter what time we start. Our guys will be ready to go.

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