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Big League Stew

White Sox pull off strangest double play of season against Cubs



By **Mark Townsend**
20 hours ago
Big League Stew



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The [Chicago White Sox](#) were in the right place at the right time more often than not during Friday's 1-0 victory against the [Chicago Cubs](#). That's about the only possible explanation for pulling five double plays in one nine-inning game.

However, among those double plays was one without a logical explanation or plausible description. It was simply one of the strangest, most confusing double plays we've seen all season.

It happened in the third inning as the Cubs mounted one of their several threats against White Sox starter Carlos Rondon. With runners on first and second and only one out, [Jorge Soler](#) hit a line drive to right field that [Avisail Garcia](#) was able to grab with a dive.

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Or was he? That was the question.

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As Garcia went to the ground and tumbled over, the baseball squirted out of his glove leading to mass confusion on the field and especially on the basepaths.

The initial call on the field was a clean catch. However, the lead runner, pitcher [Kyle Hendricks](#), continued operating under the assumption that Garcia did not secure the baseball. He advanced to third without tagging up and then watched as chaos broke loose behind him.

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After corralling the baseball Garcia fired to first base where trail

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After catching the ball, Garcia tried to throw to first base, where runner [Addison Russell](#) was properly retreating. Of course, in keeping with the theme of the play, Garcia's throw ended up skipping past first baseman [Jose Abreu](#), seemingly giving all Cubs baserunners a reprieve.

Unfortunately for the north siders, they couldn't take advantage. Hendricks remained at third base throughout it all, and was ultimately doubled off to end the rally.

The original call of a clean catch was challenged by Cubs' manager Joe Maddon and upheld by replay officials. Therefore the bizarre 9-2-6 double play stood and the White Sox escaped unscathed, which would be another theme for the game.

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Indeed, it was quite a frustrating afternoon for the Cubs. As noted, the White Sox turned five double plays in the game, including one in each of the first four innings.

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The White Sox went on to score the game's only run on [J.B. Shuck](#)'s pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Both starters, Rodon and Hendricks, received no decisions. Rodon pitched six scoreless innings, allowing two hits while walking six. Hendricks pitched seven innings and extended his scoreless innings streak to 20.

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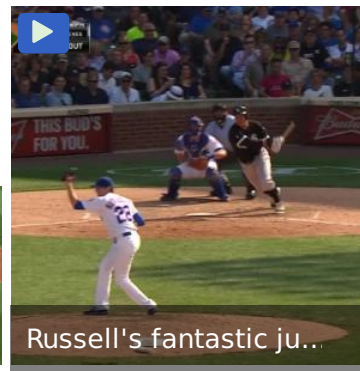
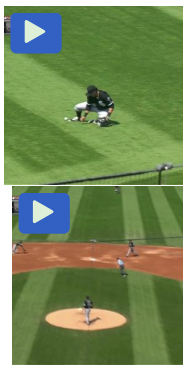
[Mark Townsend](#) is a writer for **Big League Stew** on Yahoo Sports. Have a tip? Email him at bigleaguestew@yahoo.com or follow him on Twitter! Follow [@Townie813](#)

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