

# No. 12 Tigers pose a big threat

Clemson a proving ground for Notre Dame WRs Chris Brown, right, and Will Fuller. **Page 3**  
**Plus:** College football viewer's guide, **Page 3**

MICHAEL CONROY/AP



### SATURDAY'S OTHER GAMES

- Minnesota at Northwestern, 11 a.m., BTN
- Northern Illinois at C. Michigan, 2 p.m.
- Nebraska at Illinois, 3 p.m., BTN
- Teddy Greenstein's picks, **Page 2**

Chicago Tribune

# CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

WHITE SOX 2, TIGERS 1

## Hahn: Ventura going nowhere

Manager to keep job through final year of contract in 2016; bench coach Parent let go

BY COLLEEN KANE  
 Chicago Tribune

Though he has managed the White Sox to three consecutive losing seasons and four straight without making the playoffs, Robin Ventura will return for the final year of his contract in 2016.

In an announcement controversial among some fans who are disgruntled after another failed season, Sox general manager Rick Hahn cited Ventura's communication skills and handling of his players as reasons for bringing him back

during a meeting with the media Friday in the U.S. Cellular Field press box.

While acknowledging a need for tactical improvement, Hahn said the organization believes Ventura capable of making the changes needed to win.

Ventura will do that without bench coach Mark Parent, who was fired Thursday night. The Sox also announced assistant hitting coach Harold Baines, at his own request, will move into an ambassador role with the team, which will include instruction in spring training.

The Sox hope to hire two coaches to fill their roles in the next few weeks, and the rest of Ventura's staff, including hitting coach Todd Steverson and pitching coach

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CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### Leaving his mark

Chris Sale breaks the Sox single-season strikeout record with his 270th. **Page 4**

RAIDERS AT BEARS  
 NOON SUNDAY, CBS-2

## Outlook on Cutler? Optimistic

QB listed as questionable, but practice reps tell story

BY RICH CAMPBELL | Chicago Tribune

The Bears listed quarterback Jay Cutler as questionable for Sunday's game against the Raiders after his strained hamstring limited him in practice for the third straight day Friday.

Cutler shared first-team reps with backup Jimmy Clausen this week, an indication the Bears are optimistic about his availability Sunday.

If they expected Cutler to sit out, they would have been best served by giving Clausen as much practice time as possible. Starting for Cutler last Sunday, Clausen completed only 9 of 17 passes for 63 yards in a 26-0 loss to the Seahawks.

Cutler injured his hamstring trying to make a tackle Sept. 20. The severity of the strain as originally diagnosed prompted the Bears to prepare to be without him for more than one game.

But Cutler is living up to his reputation as a quick healer. In 2013, he was expected to miss at least four weeks with a groin injury, and he came back in three.

Even if Cutler expects to play at this point, his status likely won't be finalized until Sunday. The Bears have a walk-through Saturday, and coach John Fox's sessions the day before a game are more strenuous than those of many other teams.

In determining whether Cutler will play, the medical staff will try to assess how well he can protect himself. As Cutler mentioned during his weekly media session Thursday, that can be difficult to predict because a player's instinctive movements during competition can't be replicated in a practice in which the quarterback is not allowed to receive contact.

Cutler's injury is one of three major ones facing the offense this week.

Left tackle Jermon Bushrod was ruled out with a shoulder injury and concussion, and Charles Leno is expected to start in his place.

Top receiver Alshon Jeffery is questionable with a hamstring injury. Jeffery worked off to the side with a strength coach Friday during the portion of practice open to media and was listed as limited.

rcampbell@tribpub.com  
 Twitter @Rich\_Campbell



MORRY GASH/AP

Jake Arrieta is in command against the Brewers on Friday. He picked up his 22nd victory, allowing two hits and lowering his ERA to 1.77.

CONTENDERS CUBS 6, BREWERS 1

# Cake for Jake

Arrieta cements his case for Cy Young consideration as Cubs win 6th straight



PAUL SULLIVAN  
 On the Cubs

MILWAUKEE — If it seems as though we have been waiting for the Jake Arrieta-Gerrit Cole matchup for months now, that's probably because it's true.

Manager Joe Maddon was asked in mid-August at U.S. Cellular

Field whether Arrieta would be his choice over Jon Lester for the potential wild-card game, as most Cubs fans already had decided.

"Just tell them to talk it through and give me their best advice, please," Maddon replied.

That was back when Arrieta was just a very good pitcher, not the most dominant second-half pitcher in baseball history.

Arrieta may have clinched the National League Cy Young award Friday night at Miller Park when he threw six shutout innings for his 22nd victory in a 6-1 tri-

### THE NL WILD CARD

**P** **PIRATES** (97-63)  
 ■ **Friday:** Won 6-4 (12 Inn.) vs. Reds  
 ■ **Saturday:** vs. Reds, 6:05 p.m.

Pirates' magic number for home field: 1

**C** **CUBS** (95-65, 2 games back)  
 ■ **Friday:** Won 6-1 at Brewers  
 ■ **Saturday:** at Brewers, 6:10, CSN

### BIG NUMBER

**0.75** Jake Arrieta's second-half ERA, the lowest ever recorded after the break. His overall ERA is 1.77.

umph over the Brewers, his final start before Wednesday's wild-card matchup against Cole and the Pirates.

He finished the second half 12-1 with an 0.75 ERA, the lowest ever recorded after the break.

And just think, Arrieta didn't even make the All-Star team.

As for his accomplishments this season, Arrieta said after Friday's victory "we don't have time to think about it. I'm obviously confident. Everything is where it needs to be (for Wednesday)."

Arrieta and the Dodgers' Zack Greinke are neck-and-neck for the Cy Young, and the vote may come down to which statistics the Baseball Writers Association of America voters value most.

Arrieta will lead the league in victories and likely will wind up tied for the lead in innings pitched (229) and complete games (four). Greinke will finish first in ERA at 1.68, though Arrieta's 1.77 ERA isn't too shabby either. He recorded the first sub-2.00 ERA for the Cubs since Grover Cleveland Alexander's 1.91 in 1920.

Greinke's 0.85 WHIP is a smidge better than Arrieta's 0.86, while Arrieta's opponents batting average against (.185) is a

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BLACKHAWKS

## Bickell placed on waivers

If winger clears, Hawks likely will reassign him to Rockford

BY CHRIS HINE | Chicago Tribune

After the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 2013, they rewarded one of the heroes of that playoff run, Bryan Bickell, with a lot of new money.

Bickell, who scored nine goals that postseason after scoring just nine during the regular season, signed a four-year deal that had an average annual value of \$4 million.

But after Bickell struggled in 2014 and went without a goal in the playoffs during this season's Stanley Cup run, the Hawks have been looking for a way out from a contract that has been an albatross to the team's efforts to rebuild amid tight salary-cap constraints. But they could find no trade partners willing to take on the remaining two years and \$8 million of cap hits.

On Friday, the Hawks stated they were willing to give Bickell up for nothing and placed the 29-year-old winger on waivers in one of two surprising roster moves announced Friday. The other was assigning promising young winger Marko Dano to Rockford.

Teams had 24 hours to claim Bickell from the time the Hawks placed him on waivers Friday morning.

If no team claims him, as was expected, Bickell can be reassigned to the Hawks' AHL affiliate in Rockford and under the collective bargaining agreement, the Hawks would gain \$950,000 of salary-cap room, precious space for a team counting every penny it is spending against the \$71.4 million cap.

"We had a lot of business decisions to

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