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Publicado por hongwei28 - 09 Ene 2019 01:10

The NFL said Thursday it will investigate whether the Oakland Raiders violated the "Rooney Rule" when they hired Jon Gruden as coach.

The Fritz Pollard Alliance called for the investigation on Wednesday out of concern that Raiders owner Mark Davis came to an agreement with Gruden before the team interviewed any minority candidates as required by the NFL since 2003.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said in a statement that the NFL will "look into this."

The Fritz Pollard Alliance is dedicated to promoting diversity and equality of job opportunity in the coaching [Authentic Johnny Townsend Jersey](#) , front office and scouting staffs of NFL teams.

Davis said Tuesday at the news conference introducing Gruden as the team's new coach that he had been trying to make the move for six years and finally believed it would happen after a meeting in Philadelphia on Christmas Eve, the day before Gruden worked a game between the Raiders and Eagles on ESPN.

"I felt pretty confident that he was all-in," Davis said. "And that's the term that we were using in our discussions and everything, are you all-in? And I never wavered from all-in. And this time he didn't waver, either."

Davis fired Jack Del Rio a week later and the team officially hired Gruden on Jan. 6. Davis also said he wouldn't have fired Del Rio if he didn't believe Gruden would sign on as coach.

"I believe that I would've sat down with Jack and we would've figured out coordinators and assistant coaches and things like that and try to figure out how to reinvigorate the franchise through Jack," he said.

Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie said Tuesday he interviewed two minority candidates before Gruden's hiring was announced. Those candidates were Oakland tight ends coach Bobby Johnson and Southern California offensive coordinator Tee Martin.

The Raiders haven't commented on the request from the Fritz Pollard Alliance.

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Trevor Bauer turned from pitcher to politician to prize fighter.

If the weather was going to finish him, Bauer was going down swinging.

Bauer pitched seven scoreless innings before a rain delay ended his night, and Jason Kipnis homered to lead the Cleveland Indians to a 6-2 win over the sliding and sloppy Chicago White Sox on Monday.

Bauer (6-5) allowed just three hits, struck out eight and was in line to potentially pitch his first career shutout. However, after the game was halted in the seventh for 35 minutes, manager Terry Francona pulled the right-hander following the delay.

Not before Bauer pleaded his case.

"Carl Willis was lucky he didn't come tell me [Authentic Ryan Switzer Jersey](#) ," Bauer said, referring to Cleveland's pitching coach. "I told him any one but Tito and I was throwing fists."

Bauer was joking, of course, but Francona liked how his right-hander fought to remain in the game.

"Boy, I give him credit, man," Francona said. "Even during the rain delay he was politicking. It just doesn't make sense. But I gotta tell you, if you're going to get into a little bit of a push and shove, I like it that he wants to stay in. I respect the hell out of that. I just didn't think it made sense. I don't have any doubt he could have done it, too. "

Roberto Perez drove in two runs off Dylan Covey (3-2) as Cleveland improved to 15-4 in its last 19 home games against Chicago.

The White Sox committed three errors – one by Covey – in the first three innings, lost their fifth straight and dropped a season-high 23 games under .500.

Matt Davidson homered in the ninth for Chicago.

White Sox manager Rick Renteria felt Covey deserved better.

“Believe it or not even though Dylan did have a few walks [Authentic Adrian Clayborn Jersey](#) , he didn’t throw the ball as badly as the numbers might show,” he said. “We didn’t defend for him. A lot of sloppy play out there to be honest. We just didn’t catch the ball and pick him up when we could have and he still ground out five innings.”

Chicago’s hitters couldn’t get anything going against Bauer, who struck out 12 in a tough loss against the White Sox and Covey last week. Bauer was bidding to tie a club record held by two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber with his fifth consecutive game of at least 10 strikeouts.

Bauer got to eight, but was denied any more because of a line of storms off Lake Erie and Francona’s decision not to push him further. Bauer has thrown at least 100 pitches in all 16 starts this season.

The enigmatic starter is crediting his success to some new pitches and a “tunneling approach” in which he divides the plate into quadrants.

“The more I’m able to execute those spots, with given pitches, the more confusion there is in the hitters because they see the same look over and over, and the ball goes different ways at different speeds and what not,” he said.

Perez’s two-run, ground-rule double highlighted Cleveland’s three-run second inning, which was set up by Chicago second baseman Yoan Moncada’s fielding error.

MARSHALL PLAN

Indians reliever Evan Marshall left in the eighth after complaining of elbow soreness. Francona said the

team will likely have an update on him Wednesday.

MORE THAN A NAME

Looking for bullpen help, the Indians signed veteran reliever Marc Rzepczynski to a minor league deal and assigned him to Triple-A Columbus. The left-hander previously pitched for Cleveland from 2013-15 [Kenny Clark Jersey](#), appearing in 145 games.

The club currently needs a lefty reliever with both Andrew Miller and Tyler Olson on the disabled list. Rzepczynski could be an option.

"It's a guy we know," Francona said. "We're down to one lefty right now, so it's a guy that certainly could come here and help. He didn't sign to stay in Triple-A."

Francona joked that he still has trouble spelling the lefty's last name.

"I've got it in my phone: Z-E-P," he said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

White Sox: Renteria said OF Avisail Garcia (strained right hamstring) is progressing well on a rehab assignment at Triple-A Charlotte. Garcia's status will be reassessed after he plays Tuesday and Wednesday. He's been on the disabled list since May 24.

Indians: OF Bradley Zimmer will undergo an MRI on his right shoulder. Zimmer felt discomfort while throwing after he initially strained the shoulder while doing drills after being sent to Columbus to work on his game. "I don't think he thought it was anything, and it just didn't feel good. So, we're going to go ahead and get him looked at," Francona said.

UP NEXT

Indians RHP Mike Clevinger will face the White Sox for the second straight start. He set a career high with 11 strikeouts and held Chicago to one run over seven innings last Thursday. Carlos Rodon will start for the White Sox.

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