



**Streak ends:** The Browns make another fourth-quarter rally, but so do the Jets in a sloppy 17-12 loss. **c1**



**José Ramírez celebrates Saturday night’s win at Progressive Field, where his two-run homer proved to be the difference. Over the final three games of the ALDS, Ramirez batted .417 (5-for-12) with two homers, a double, seven RBI, five runs, a walk and a steal. Jason Miller, Getty Images**

MLB PLAYOFFS

REMEMBRANCE

A life in motion.  
A life of purpose.  
A life of Joy.

*Doctor, activist, cyclist and newsmaking rollerblader*  
*Joy Marshall leaves a legacy of service.*

**Lizzie Kaboski** lkaboski@cleveland.com

Joy Marshall rarely sat still. She biked to work, rode to the farmer’s market and rollerbladed through the streets of Cleveland Heights — once making headlines fighting a police ticket for it. Even in her 70s, she was still on her bike. During the last week of Marshall’s life, she stayed at a hospice center overlooking the lake. Her youngest daughter, Liza Frolkis, noted the weather on the day her mother died — a day Marshall would have wanted to be outside. “My family and I were like, well, it’s a gorgeous day. Joy would be so pissed at us if we weren’t outside,” Frolkis said. **SEE MARSHALL, A2**

Still standing guard

*Against all odds, Guardians shrugged off elimination and earned their shot in the AL Championship Series.*

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**J**ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. José Ramírez was supposed to be done for the season. The Guardians’ third baseman needed a winter to sit on the beach in the Dominican Republic and let the soothing waters of the Caribbean Sea heal the left hand he injured in June. Just a few days ago, the Guardians had lost the first two games to the visiting Chicago White Sox in the AL Division Series, 3-0 and 4-3. They headed to Chicago needing to win three games in a row — two in Chicago, one in Cleveland — to keep their season alive. In a best-of-five series, that’s usually a sign that it’s time to go home and start raking leaves. The Guardians barely shrugged. Ramírez came to life. Cleveland pitchers started striking out White Sox hitters at a historic rate. And the Guardians did win three in a row, culminating Saturday night in a dramatic 2-0 win in Game 5 at Progressive Field to send their fans into a frenzy. And now the beach will have to wait, because Ramírez and a dominant pitching staff have carried the Guardians into the American League Championship Series as one of four MLB teams still alive



**Guardians pitcher Gavin Williams blanked the White Sox over 5 ½ innings Saturday, striking out 12. He started the game two days after closing Thursday’s win. John Kuntz, cleveland.com**

in the playoffs. It can’t be real, but it was, and is. Starting tonight, the Guardians will play the Tampa Bay Rays in the best-of-seven series to decide the American League champion, starting at 8 p.m. at Tropicana Field. Baseball fans’ minds can wander while they try to keep track of one postseason series after another, but the AL Championship Series carries real juice. The first team to four wins goes to the World Series. Cleveland hasn’t been there since 2016 and, as everyone knows, hasn’t won it since 1948. The Guardians, who won 85 games in the regular season, are one of the four teams still alive, joining the Rays, and the National League’s Milwaukee Brewers and Los Angeles Dodgers. The New York Yankees, with their \$273 million payroll, the second-highest in

baseball, were eliminated, by the Rays, last week. But prevailing against all odds is just what the Guardians do. In 2025, they overcame a 15 ½-game deficit to win the AL Central on the final day of the regular season. This year, they moved into first place past the White Sox in the AL Central on the second-to-last game of the regular season. Then they overcame Chicago’s 2-0 lead in the ALDS. The ALDS comeback started Wednesday in front of 40,000 fans at Rate Field for Game 3 on Chicago’s South Side, where the Guardians won 9-3. They brought left-hander Foster Griffin out of the bullpen in the first inning. In his only appearance of the series, he struck out seven in just 2 ⅓ innings. Ramírez went 2-for-4 with a double, triple, two RBI and a stolen base. In Thursday’s Game 4, the White Sox still held the elimination hammer, but it was the Guardians who hammered them 9-5 to even the series. Ramírez homered, singled and drove in three runs. Cleveland fans have seen this version of the future Hall of Famer plenty of times in years past, but after he underwent surgery on his left hand in June and returned to the lineup on July 22, that hitter was missing. In his last 53 games of the season, he hit .229 (47-for-205) with two home runs. So, what changed? “Focus,” said Ramírez. “My focus never changes even if the results aren’t there.” Guardians manager Stephen Vogt showed some focus of his own in Games 3 and 4. **SEE GUARDIANS, A3**

COMMENTARY

Gas-tax holiday is a \$725M photo op

*Lawmakers rushed pre-election legislation worth a few dollars a week while bigger affordability problems went untouched.*

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I’ve gotta give Ohio’s Republican lawmakers some credit. When they decide something is an emergency, they really know how to move. They can summon the entire legislature back to Columbus, scramble to assemble the votes, find three-quarters of a billion dollars in the state budget and pass legislation at breakneck speed. All in a matter of days. And what extraordinary crisis recently demanded this display of urgency? The need to save the average Ohio motorist as much as \$55 over three months. **SEE ATASSI, A2**



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