

DOMINGO GERMÁN

East. Much like his younger days in the Dominican Republic, Germán has gone from afterthought to sudden success.

This time, he's not surprised.

Germán made his first start of the 2019 season for the Yankees on April 1 against Detroit. The outing could be categorized as “effectively wild” — he got the win and allowed just one hit and one run to go with seven strikeouts, but he also issued five walks over five innings. Germán offered glimpses of the untouchable stuff he displayed as a rookie starter in 2018, but also the control issues that made him, in the minds of some, better suited for the bullpen.

The Yankees didn't have much of a choice, though. With Luis Severino on the injured list for what became most of the season, they needed someone to fill that void in the rotation. They would have to settle for whatever bad came with Germán's good.

It turns out there has been very little bad to come out of Germán's right arm this season.

After improving to 16-2 (.889) on Aug. 13, he became the major league leader in wins and winning percentage. Germán's 3.96 ERA, 112 ERA+ and 1.10 WHIP led New York's starting staff, as did his 7.9 H/9, 2.0 BB/9 and 4.77 K/BB ratios.

The number that surely pleased his coaches, however, was Germán's 26 walks, also best among Yankees qualifying starters. He yielded more than two walks in a game just one more time after the Detroit game back in April. Compared to last year, Germán's BB/9 rate and overall base on balls percentage were *significantly* down, while the percentage of pitches he was throwing for strikes had gone up. He's no longer effectively wild. He's just effective.

Germán's refined command is no accident. Well aware of his numbers last year — which included 3.47 BB/9 — he made it his “mission” to be more consistent



WHILE THE REST OF THE YANKEES' ROTATION FOUGHT THROUGH MYRIAD INJURIES AND INCONSISTENCY THIS SEASON, GERMÁN MATURED BEFORE EVERYONE'S EYES IN HIS FIRST SEASON AS A FULL-TIME STARTER. NOT EVEN PROJECTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE STAFF ENTERING SPRING TRAINING, THE 27-YEAR-OLD LED THE MAJORS IN WINS THROUGH MID-AUGUST.