

Cleveland debate offers no clear winner

by UPI

CLEVELAND -- U.S. Democratic presidential hopefuls stayed on the campaign trail, as Hillary Clinton tried to reclaim the front-runner tag Barack Obama snatched from her. With less than a week to go before four primaries, including critical ones in delegate-rich Ohio and Texas, the senator from New York needs to shore up a faltering campaign that saw Obama chip away then overtake her as the favorite to become the party's 2008 nomination, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday. Latest polls indicate Clinton is in a virtual tie in Ohio with the freshman senator from Illinois after once holding a comfortable lead. She attempted to cut into Obama's momentum Tuesday during a 90-minute debate in Cleveland, but one observer said her performance may have missed its mark. "No runs, no hits, no errors," Bill Carrick, a Democratic political strategist not aligned with either candidate, told the Times. "They both drew blood, but they did it cautiously. That was perfectly fine for Obama, but Hillary needed something more dramatic. She didn't get it." Obama has won every primary or caucus held since Super Tuesday.

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