

## A's news Clips, Tuesday, August 18, 2009

### Yankees are cast aside by Tomko, A's

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

It's safe to say A's right-hander Brett Tomko knew his opposing hitters Monday night better than he knew his teammates.

Released by the New York Yankees on July 29, the journeyman made his A's debut against the Yankees after being recalled from the minor leagues earlier in the day.

Tomko made fast friends with his new club, throwing five shutout innings as Oakland beat New York 3-0 in the opener of a three-game series before 24,409 at Oakland Coliseum.

"I don't have a lot of bad feelings (toward the Yankees), and I had friends over there," said Tomko, who's pitching for his ninth team in a 13-year major league career. "But it's definitely a weird situation. I've never faced a team in the same year that I left them."

The A's signed Tomko, 36, to a minor league contract Aug. 5. He was strictly a reliever in New York and hadn't built up his pitch count at Triple-A Sacramento. Manager Bob Geren said before the game he'd be happy to get five innings out of the veteran.

Justin Duchscherer's unavailability and an ankle injury to Dallas Braden left the A's in need of a starter. Geren said Tomko would get a second start the next time through the rotation, as Braden isn't expected back for at least a week.

"They're a very good baseball team, but he wasn't intimidated by anything," Geren said. "He's a veteran guy, and he's experienced."

Craig Breslow, Brad Ziegler and Andrew Bailey handled the final four innings to wrap up the A's sixth shutout of the season, and their first against New York at the Coliseum since Sept. 2, 2005.

The A's scored all three runs off 10-game winner A.J. Burnett in the fourth inning.

Rajai Davis doubled to center field with one out and stole third without a throw. Kurt Suzuki scored him with a single to center. Scott Hairston singled to left, and Ryan Sweeney's ground out moved runners to second and third.

Burnett, who signed a five-year, \$82.5 million deal with the Yankees last winter, then made a critical mistake with Mark Ellis at bat. He stopped midway through his delivery after getting crossed up by catcher Jorge Posada and was called for a balk, sending Suzuki home to make it 2-0.

Ellis, named the American League's Player of the Week earlier in the day, followed with an RBI double to right.

Tomko (2-2) won a big league start for the first time since May 16, 2008, while with Kansas City. He praised Suzuki's work behind the plate, especially since the two had never worked together.

That was key after Tomko walked Mark Teixeira to load the bases with one out in the third and Alex Rodriguez coming up.

On the first pitch, Rodriguez hit a comebacker that Tomko converted into a home-to-first double play to end the inning.

"We had the philosophy that (Rodriguez) likes the ball in," Tomko said. "Kurt called for a first-pitch cutter, and I said, 'That was a great call.'"

Suzuki said he knew a little about Tomko's repertoire.

"We talked a little before the game," Suzuki said. "I've watched him throw quite a bit on TV throughout the years. He said, 'I'll throw any pitch at any time.'"

Bobby Crosby started at first base in place of struggling Tommy Everidge, but Crosby left the game after the sixth inning with tightness in his left calf and is day-to-day.

## **A's beat deadline, sign No. 1 pick Grant Green**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The Oakland A's agreed to terms with their top three unsigned 2009 draft picks before Monday night's 9 p.m. deadline, including shortstop Grant Green, their first-round selection.

They reeled in one of their big fish earlier in the day, signing fourth-round pick Max Stassi, a catcher from Yuba City High School, to a record \$1.5 million bonus. That was the most ever given to a fourth-round selection.

They also announced the signing of left-hander Ian Krol, their seventh-round pick.

The team was expecting negotiations with Green to continue until the 9 p.m. deadline approached, and they did. Baseball Prospectus' Kevin Goldstein reported that Green signed for a bonus of \$2.75 million, which was well above Major League Baseball's recommended salary slot of \$1.656 million for the 13th overall pick, where the A's selected Green. Obviously, there was nothing prohibiting players from asking for above-slot bonuses, or teams from paying them.

The deadline to sign players who had not exhausted their college eligibility was Monday night and a flurry of signings were announced just in time.

Green hit a team-leading .374 with 19 doubles, five triples, four home runs and 32 RBI in 54 games for the University of Southern California this year. He was third in the Pac-10 in batting and earned All-Pac-10 honors for the second consecutive season. The 21-year old junior added 20 walks for a team leading .435 on-base percentage and also topped the Trojans with 26 multiple hit games.

Green earned NCBWA Preseason All-America second team honors after hitting .348 with six home runs and 21 RBI last summer for the Chatham A's of the Cape Cod League. He finished his USC career with a .359 batting average, 20 home runs and 102 RBI in 160 games and set a school record with 20 triples. Green was the 13th overall pick in the draft.

Stassi - who hit .538 with 11 homers as a senior --was considered by many to be the nation's top prep catching prospect.

Stassi had a scholarship to UCLA waiting, and it was known that it would take a seven-figure sum to sign him. That's one reason he fell to the fourth round.

Stassi's father Jim, the Yuba City High baseball coach, said negotiations went smoothly. He said the A's wanted Max to join their Phoenix-based rookie league team as early as Wednesday.

"It's really exciting to have this whole process come to an end," Jim Stassi said. "(But) I'm not so sure it's hit him yet. Maybe when he gets on that plane to Phoenix."

The A's have been increasingly aggressive in drafting and signing players they consider premium talents.

Last year, they signed Pepperdine right-hander Brett Hunter for \$1.1 million, a record for a seventh-round pick. Hunter was rated a first-round talent, but he slid down in the draft because of an elbow injury.

The A's signed or agreed to terms with 29 of their 49 selections from the draft, including each of the first eight and 15 of the first 18.

## **A's sign fourth-round pick Stassi to record deal**

Staff and wire report

The Oakland A's have agreed to terms with catcher Max Stassi for a reported \$1.5 million, which would be the highest bonus ever given to a fourth-round draft pick. Stassi, a former Yuba City High star, was Oakland's fourth-round pick in the 2009 draft.

Clubs have until 9 PDT tonight to sign players who have not exhausted their college eligibility. The A's first-round pick, Grant Green, a shortstop from USC, is still among those unsigned.

Stassi batted .538 with 11 home runs and 38 RBI this year and was named the Tri-County Conference Co-Player of the Year. The 5-10, 205-pound right-handed hitter finished his high school career with a .513 batting average.

The A's have now signed or agreed to terms with 27 of their 49 selections from the draft, including six of the first eight and 13 of the first 18.

## **Kudos to the A's for honoring their 1929 World Championship team**

By Gary Peterson, Contra Costa Times columnist

It has been acknowledged that the Athletics have a heritage few teams can match. It has been suggested they celebrate that heritage reluctantly, if at all. Well, credit where it's due. During Sunday's game against the Chicago White Sox, the A's paid homage to their 1929 Philadelphia forefathers, who not only won the World Series but endure as one of baseball's great overlooked treasures.

The celebration, as they might have said 80 years ago, hit on all sixes. Both teams wore throwback uniforms with high socks and back pocket flaps. A's manager Bob Geren took the lineup card to home plate wearing a dark pinstripe suit and fedora, a la 1929 A's owner/manager Connie Mack.

And what would Geren think about dressing like that for every game?

"Might get a little warm," he conceded.

Pikers in the crowd were pleased by discounted tickets and 50-cent bags of peanuts. Pregame festivities featured a parade of Model A jalopies, period music and dance, and ceremonial first pitches by Kathleen Kelly (Mack's granddaughter) and Jim Conlin (grandson of slugging first baseman Jimmie Foxx).

Public address announcer Dick Callahan, a real McCoy if there ever was one, broadcast from a seat behind home plate, as was the custom back when Herbert Hoover was in his first few months as President.

Video boards broadcast in black and white. Each player's mug shot included an old-timey nickname (i.e.: Mark "Hands" Ellis, Trevor "Chief" Cahill). Most of the White Sox seemed to be nicknamed Bugsy.

Go ahead, you can say it: It was the bee's knees.

Sure, it was a way to create a ducky diversion during a miserable season for the current club. But the '29 A's are deserving honorees. They were a keen collection of talent. Four players from that team - Foxx, outfielder Al (Bucketfoot) Simmons, catcher Mickey Cochrane and starting pitcher Lefty Grove - are in the Hall of Fame.

Along with their supporting cast of hard-boiled bimbos, they finished 104-48, outscoring their opponents by 286 runs and ending the Yankees' three-year reign as American League champs.

Those Yankees, led by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, are regarded by many as baseball's greatest team. But the A's trumped them by 18 games to win the pennant in '29, before whipping the Chicago Cubs in the World Series. The Mackmen left the Yanks 24 games behind while winning the pennant again in '30, and topped them by 13 1/2 games while winning a third consecutive flag in '31.

Thanks to the power of the New York press, those Yankees have always enjoyed a loftier reputation. In 1996 those A's got their due in a Sports Illustrated cover story by William Nack, "The Team That Time Forgot."

"Those A's," longtime Washington Post sports columnist Shirley Povich told Nack, "never got the credit they deserved."

Suggest as much to a Yankees fan, and he'd probably guess you were spifflicated on giggle water. But the numbers don't lie.

Grove, with a fastball as explosive as his temper, went 20-9 in '29 and retired with 300 wins. George Earnshaw won 24 games for the '29 champs, and Rube Walberg chipped in 18. Unheralded Howard Ehmke was Mack's confounding choice to start Game 1 of the World Series. He struck out a record 13 Cubs in a 3-1 win.

Offense? Losing 8-0 in Game 4 of the Series, the A's won on the strength of a nifty 10-run rally in the bottom of the seventh. Though they trailed late in Game 5, everything was copacetic. The A's gave the Cubs the bum's rush with three runs in the bottom of the ninth, sealing the Series on Bing Miller's walk-off double.

Simmons, the intense and pale-complected outfielder, drove in 100 runs in each of his first 11 seasons. Foxx, who shortened his uniform sleeves to showcase his titanic biceps, strung together 12 consecutive 30-homer, 100-RBI seasons.

It costs a lot of rubes to maintain such a powerful, colorful club, even for a darb like Mack. He broke them up during the depths of the Great Depression. But they were together again Sunday, at least in spirit.

It was a great day to throw on your glad rags and get a wiggle on - doubly so when Ellis cracked a game-winning four-ply swat in the bottom of the ninth. He nailed it, as did the A's. Maybe they're not such flat tires after all.

## **Tomko to the rescue**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

A game that appeared headed one way in a hurry turned around entirely on one play, when Brett Tomko, improbably, got the better of Alex Rodriguez.

Tomko, dumped by the Yankees in July, was making a spot start for Oakland on Monday night with few expectations. When the Yankees loaded the bases with one out in the third and Rodriguez coming to the plate, Tomko looked to be in big trouble.

Instead, the right-hander got Rodriguez to hit a bouncer to the mound. Tomko went home for one out, catcher Kurt Suzuki went to first to retire Rodriguez and the A's went on to beat the major leagues' top team 3-0 at the Coliseum.

"I'm not a big fist-pumper," Tomko said of his reaction at the end of the inning, "but emotion gets in there. That could be a make-or-break time in the game."

After working Rodriguez inside his first at-bat, a flyout to left to end the first, Suzuki called for a first-pitch cutter in the third. Rodriguez was 4-for-8 lifetime with two homers against Tomko lifetime coming into the game.

"You don't want to make a mistake, but I was fortunate I made a good pitch," Tomko said.

Tomko, working on a limited pitch count, threw five scoreless innings, and the Oakland bullpen followed with four more. Tomko allowed five hits, walked one and struck out one. After his fine night Monday, he'll go the next time his turn comes in the rotation, manager Bob Geren said.

Tomko's outing ended the team-record streak in which 15 starts were made by rookies.

The 36-year-old said after the Yankees let him go last month that New York had not given him a fair shake; the A's signed him to a minor-league deal early this month.

After Monday's game, Tomko said there were no ill feelings, and he thanked the Yankees for the opportunity earlier in the year, but, he added, "There were definite emotions kicking around before the game."

"To have those feelings and then to execute like that - that's pretty good," A's third baseman Adam Kennedy said. "I've seen Brett throw well plenty of times, but he was very sharp tonight."

All of Oakland's runs came in the fourth inning against A.J. Burnett. Rajai Davis doubled with one out and stole third, then scored on Suzuki's single up the middle. Scott Hairston singled to left, putting Suzuki at third, and Suzuki came home when Burnett was called for a balk. Mark Ellis doubled in Hairston.

Bobby Crosby, who started at first base Monday, left before the seventh inning with calf tightness.

Tomko was needed because Dallas Braden (foot infection) still hasn't been able to throw off a mound. Braden won't be ready until September at the earliest, Geren said. There is still no word on what "non-baseball-related issue" rendered right-hander Justin Duchscherer unavailable this series, the second such episode in less than three weeks.

Outfielder Aaron Cunningham was sent to Triple-A Sacramento to create a roster spot for Tomko, who wasn't expected to work deep into the game. That meant the A's decided to keep all eight of their relievers.

Cunningham wasn't told of his demotion until after the lineup card was posted. The lack of communication left Cunningham a little perplexed; first-base coach Todd Steverson said he'd been unable to find the rookie.

## **A's Beat: Three draft picks signed**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

The A's cut it close, but the team signed its remaining high-profile draft picks. Minutes before the deadline, Oakland announced that top-pick **Grant Green**, a shortstop from USC, had agreed to a \$2.75 million signing bonus.

General manager **Billy Beane** said the deal came with 10 minutes to spare. "Right down to the wire, that's what (agent) **Scott Boras** and I expected," said Beane, who expects Green will report to the instructional league because he has not played much this summer. He'll also get an invite to big-league camp next spring.

The A's also gave catcher **Max Stassi** a \$1.5 million signing bonus, the highest ever paid to a fourth-round pick. Stassi had been considered a first-round-type player but he dropped on draft day because teams were concerned that it would take a hefty sum to keep Stassi from accepting a full scholarship from UCLA.

Stassi, 18, who hit .415 with 40 homers and 162 RBIs in four years at Yuba City High School, decided to grab the chance to play for a Northern California team.

"Oakland is always a team I've paid attention to, and (minor-league affiliates) Sacramento and Stockton," Stassi said. "I'm really excited about their minor-league system because they're a really young team and they develop a lot of players. I couldn't hope for a better organization."

Stassi said he expects to leave for Class A Vancouver on Wednesday and then play in the instructional league. He also will attend big-league camp next spring.

Seventh-rounder **Ian Krol**, a left-hander from Neuqua Valley (Ill.) High School, received a \$925,000 bonus.

**Briefly:** Rookie first baseman **Tommy Everidge**, hitless in his last eight at-bats, got what manager **Bob Geren** called a mental and physical night off, the first start Everidge has not made since he came to the big club July 28. He is working on some mechanical issues with his swing, Geren said. ... First baseman **Daric Barton** (hamstring) went 1-for-3 with a walk at rookie-league Arizona.

## **A's leading off**

Susan Slusser

**Ellis honored:** Mark Ellis was named the AL Player of the Week, going 12-for-21 (.571) with 11 RBIs. "It ended up on a good note, too," Ellis said of his game-winning homer Sunday. "That was a nice way to finish the week."

## **Former Yankee Tomko wins A's debut**

### **Three-run fourth off Burnett backs righty's five sharp frames**

By Adam Loberstein / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Brett Tomko insists it wasn't personal.

The Yankees didn't really give him a chance, though. The 13-year veteran started the year in the Minors, was used sparingly out of the bullpen once he was called up, then was released on July 29.

Tomko signed a Minor League contract with the A's a week later. On Monday, he was back in the Majors and back in a starting role, facing the same Yankees team that cast him away.

The 36-year-old right-hander held New York to five hits over five innings, leading the A's to a 3-0 series-opening win.

"It's been a long road this year," Tomko said. "It was kind of ironic that my first start here came against the Yankees. ... I had a lot of emotions kicking around before the game."

Those emotions, however, weren't the ones you might expect from a guy facing a team that cut him loose.

"To be honest," Tomko said, "I have no ill feeling toward the Yankees. They have some good guys pitching over there. It worked out well. I'm somewhere where I can get back going."

Yankees outfielder Nick Swisher caught up with his one-time teammate Monday morning before his start.

"He was like, 'Wow, it's just crazy getting that opportunity to face a team you were just with,'" Swisher said. "He did a good job tonight. You've got to tip your cap some nights, and tonight was one of those nights. I know I'm going to get a text message later tonight, no doubt."

Manager Bob Geren said he was hoping for five innings out of Tomko, whose pitch count is being monitored as he stretches from a reliever back into a starter.

Tomko, pitching for his ninth big league team, threw 78 pitches. His previous season high was 55, which came in his last start with Triple-A Sacramento on Wednesday.

"I was hoping for 79 [pitches]," Geren joked.

Tomko got into trouble in the third. Ramiro Pena and Derek Jeter opened the frame with back-to-back singles. After getting Johnny Damon to fly out to right, Tomko walked Mark Teixeira, loading the bases with Alex Rodriguez coming to the plate.

Tomko only needed one pitch, getting Rodriguez to ground into a 1-2-3 double play to end the threat.

A fist pump suggested Tomko was more than a little excited about that.

"I'm not a big fist-pumper," quipped Tomko. "It was exciting. ... It was a make-or-break moment in the game."

"He threw the ball well," Rodriguez said. "We have to do better than that. He gave us good pitches to hit and we missed them."

Tomko wasn't the only one stopping the Yankees. The A's bullpen held them at bay, too.

Craig Breslow retired six of the seven batters he faced, then Brad Ziegler struck out Jorge Posada looking to end the eighth, stranding runners on first and second. Andrew Bailey threw a perfect ninth, earning his 18th save.

"They did a pretty good job," Geren said of the bullpen. "Bailey's been terrific all year, Ziegler did a good job, another multi-inning appearance for Breslow -- they all did well."

Oakland struck for all three runs in the fourth. Rajai Davis got things started, delivering a one-out double. Davis, who extended his career-best hitting streak to 12 games with the knock, then swiped third base. Kurt Suzuki brought him home with a single up the middle against a drawn-in Yankees infield.

Scott Hairston followed Suzuki with a single of his own, then both runners moved up on Ryan Sweeney's groundout to first. A.J. Burnett balked in Suzuki before Mark Ellis plated Hairston with a double to right.

Burnett was the hard-luck loser as he dropped to 10-6. He went the distance, allowing six hits, walking two and striking out five.

Bobby Crosby was lifted in the eighth with tightness in his left calf. Geren didn't have a postgame update on his status.

"He doesn't even know how it happened," Geren said.

Dallas Braden's infected left ankle showed improvement Monday, but he's still a ways away from returning. Geren said he might not be back until September. Tomko will remain in the rotation in Braden's place.

## **A's sign two key picks before deadline**

### **Green inks in final minutes; fourth-rounder Stassi gets \$1.5M**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The A's traditionally don't do a lot of high-stakes gambling in anything they do, but they rolled the dice twice in the early rounds of June's First-Year Player Draft.

With their top pick, they selected Grant Green, a junior shortstop out of USC whose "advisor" was Scott Boras, the high-powered agent known as an unyielding negotiator who'll take talks to the wire.

In the fourth round, Oakland selected high school catcher Max Stassi, widely considered to be a first-round talent, but also looking for first-round money armed with some serious leverage in the form of a full scholarship to UCLA.

High risks, both, but the A's were rewarded Monday when they reached agreements with both players.

The players were handsomely rewarded, as well. Green got a signing bonus of \$2.75 million, and Stassi signed for \$1.5 million -- a record for a fourth-rounder.

Just minutes before the 9 p.m. PT deadline to sign Draftees who hadn't yet exhausted their college eligibility, Oakland announced that it had come to terms with Green, who was selected 13th overall in the first round.

Just before noon, the A's had announced that Stassi was already in the fold.

"We're very excited," Oakland general manager Billy Beane said.

Green, 21, batted .374 with a .435 on-base percentage, both team highs, and hit 19 doubles, five triples, four home runs and 32 RBIs in 54 games for the Trojans this year, finishing third in the Pac-10 in batting and while earning All-Pac-10 honors for the second consecutive season.

He finished his USC career with a .359 batting average, 20 home runs and 102 RBIs in 160 games and set a school record with 20 triples.

Beane said he wasn't sure where Green would be assigned to play -- if at all -- for the remainder of the regular season, suggesting that his new shortstop of the future might get his first taste of pro ball in instructional league work in Arizona this fall.

The GM also had some fun, after being asked when the deal was finalized, with the notion that grinding out an agreement with Boras is akin to sucking on glass shards.

"It went right down to where me and Scott expected it to go -- 10 minutes [before the deadline]," Beane said with a smile. "I enjoy working with Scott, to be totally frank with you. I enjoy talking with him. He's extremely smart."

So, Beane said, is Stassi. That's part of the reason the 123rd-overall pick got the first-round money he'd been seeking. Chad Jenkins, a right-hander selected 20th overall in the first round, on Monday got a \$1.359 million bonus from the Blue Jays.

"Obviously signability was ... an issue," Beane said. "He's a good student, and UCLA was a very real possibility for him, so when we were talking about him, we knew it would take something close to first-round money to get him."

Ranked as the 30th-best prospect by Baseball America entering the Draft, Stassi -- a four-year star at Yuba City (Calif.) High -- batted .538 with 11 home runs and 38 RBIs this season at Yuba City and was named the Sacramento Bee's High School Baseball Player of the Year. He had a .513 average over the course of his high school career, belting 40 home runs with 142 RBIs.

Stassi's father and grandfather were catchers in the Minor Leagues, and his great uncle, Myril Hoag, played in the Majors with the Yankees.

Less than an hour before the deadline, the A's announced that they'd agreed to terms with left-hander Ian Krol, whom they drafted in the seventh round from Neuqua Valley (Ill.) High School.

Krol, Baseball America's 26th-rated prep player, saw his Draft stock drop because he didn't pitch this season; he was suspended from the team for the year after an alcohol-related incident.

He went 9-1 with an 0.94 ERA, a perfect game and two other no-hitters as a junior, enough to convince the A's that he was worth a signing bonus of \$925,000.

In all, Oakland came to terms with 29 of its 49 selections from the Draft, including each of the first eight and 15 of the first 18.

## **Everidge eyes improved swing**

### **Oakland (53-65) vs. New York (74-45), 7:05 p.m. PT**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Struggling rookie first baseman Tommy Everidge got most of the night off Monday, and it's unclear if he'll be in the lineup for the A's on Tuesday for the second game of a three-game series against the visiting Yankees.

New York is starting left-hander CC Sabathia, and Everidge is a right-handed hitter who is batting .316 (6-for-19) against southpaws and .204 (11-for-54) against righties.

Everidge, however, is in a 4-for-29 (.138) funk -- without an RBI -- over his past eight games, and Oakland manager Bob Geren suggested before Monday's game that he might keep Bobby Crosby at first base for a second successive game Tuesday and use Nomar Garciaparra at designated hitter.

Crosby and Garciaparra also bat from the right side, but Everidge had to enter Monday's game because Crosby was removed with tightness in his left calf.

"He's struggling a little bit," Geren said of Everidge, who batted .295 with six RBIs in his first 12 games after being promoted from Triple-A Sacramento on July 28.



Hitting coach Jim Skaalen, Geren offered, has identified "a few mechanical things" that Everidge needs to work on to increase his bat speed. Geren also termed Monday as something of a dual breather for Everidge, who went 1-for-12 with five strikeouts in the weekend series against the White Sox.

"It's a mental day [off] and a day to work on a couple of things in his swing," said the skipper, who didn't elaborate on what swing changes were being worked on.

Prior to Monday, Everidge had started all of Oakland's 19 games since his promotion, 17 at first base and two at DH.

Fellow first baseman Daric Barton, on the disabled list with a strained left hamstring since July 27, went 0-for-1 with a walk as the starting first baseman for Oakland's Arizona Rookie League affiliate on Sunday.

Geren said Barton is "getting close" to being sent to Sacramento to finish his rehab assignment, and it's likely that Barton -- a left-handed hitter -- and Everidge will share time at first base when Barton returns.

### **Pitching matchup**

#### **NY: LHP CC Sabathia (13-7, 3.64 ERA)**

Sabathia, an East Bay native, will be gunning for his fourth consecutive victory. Dominant his last time out, Sabathia limited the Mariners to one run on three hits in eight innings Thursday at Safeco Field, walking two and striking out a season-high 10. Over his past two starts, Sabathia has seemed to find a new gear, going 2-0 with an 0.57 ERA while striking out 19 and limiting opponents to a .100 batting average. Sabathia beat the A's on July 23 in New York and took a no-decision on April 22 against them.



#### **OAK: RHP Vin Mazzaro (4-8, 5.54 ERA)**

Mazzaro, a 22-year-old rookie who recently snapped an eight-game losing streak, picked up his second consecutive win Wednesday while allowing three runs on eight hits over 5 1/3 innings. He issued one walk and had one strikeout in his eighth straight start in which he has given up at least seven hits. He's faced the Yankees once this year, taking a loss after allowing six runs on eight hits and four walks while striking out seven over 4 1/3 innings in New York on July 23.

### **Dribblers ...**

GarciaParra has appeared defensively in one game since the All-Star break, getting a start at first base in New York on July 23. ... Geren was again mum regarding righty Justin Duchscherer, who had been tentatively scheduled to make his 2009 A's debut Tuesday before the A's on Sunday announced that he'd be unavailable due to "non-baseball related" reasons. Duchscherer was scratched from a July 31 start in the Minors for the same reason. ... Righty reliever Joey Devine, who underwent Tommy John elbow ligament replacement surgery in April, is quite a bit ahead of schedule in his recovery. He's throwing every other day and hopes to continue through early December, at which point he'll take a couple weeks off before heading to Arizona in early January to ramp up for Spring Training. ... Sunday's walk-off homer was the third of second baseman Mark Ellis' career. All three have come with two out. ... Double-A Midland's Chris Carter went 2-for-5 on Sunday, and entering Monday, he was leading the Texas League in batting (.329), hits (152), runs (103), doubles (40), total bases (262), walks (75), on-base percentage (.425), slugging (.567) and OPS (.993). He was tied for the league lead in homers (22) and third in RBIs (94) in 117 games.

### **Up next**

- Wednesday: Athletics (Brett Anderson, 7-8, 4.55) vs. Yankees (Chad Gaudin, 5-10, 5.13), 7:05 p.m. PT 
- Thursday: Off-day
- Friday: Athletics (Gio Gonzalez, 4-3, 5.88) vs. Tigers (Edwin Jackson, 9-5, 2.85), 7:05 p.m. PT 

## **Tomko gets his chance to show Yanks; he does**

Associated Press

OAKLAND – Brett Tomko pitched five scoreless innings to beat the New York Yankees less than a month after being released by them, winning his A's debut 3-0 on Monday night.

Kurt Suzuki and Mark Ellis had RBI hits in a three-run fourth inning against A.J. Burnett (10-6) in the Yankees' second consecutive loss on this West Coast trip.

Three A's relievers finished the shutout.

Tomko (2-2) knows well how powerful the Yankees can be, having spent more than two months with the team earlier this season. But it comes as a bit of a surprise that he managed to silence his former teammates' bats.

"I wasn't mad about it but I really wished I would have had the opportunity to show what I could do," Tomko said. "I realize the situation. It's about winning there. They had horses that were doing well. I understood that. That's why I didn't have bad feelings. I just feel like I didn't really ever get the chance to show what I could do."

The only real threat Tomko faced came in the third inning when the Yankees loaded the bases with one out. But Tomko induced Alex Rodriguez to hit a comebacker and started a 1-2-3 double play.

Tomko allowed five hits and one walk before leaving after 78 pitches in his first start May 26, 2008, for Kansas City.

Tomko started the season in the Yankees' organization and was called up to the majors in May. He went 1-2 with a 5.23 ERA in 15 relief appearances before being designated for assignment July 21.

The A's signed him to a minor league deal earlier this month and he made three appearances in the minors before getting the start against his former team.

The A's gave Tomko all the support he needed in the fourth inning. Rajai Davis started the rally with a one-out double and then stole third, his 25th steal of the season. Suzuki's single knocked in the first run.

With runners on second and third and two outs, Burnett stopped his delivery in the middle for a balk. Ellis' double knocked in the third run.

Tomko left an inning later in his longest major league outing since his last start.

Craig Breslow followed with two scoreless innings and Brad Zeigler struck out Jorge Posada with two runners on to end the eighth. Andrew Bailey pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save, finishing the A's sixth shutout of the season.

"It's frustrating to lose like that since A.J. pitched so well," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said of Burnett. "He deserved better. Our starter goes eight innings and we get shut out."

## **A's Walk-Off Win On Ellis' Homerun**

By Malaika Bobino, Oakland Post, 8/17/09

On this past Sunday, the Oakland A's hosted their "Turn-Back-the-Clock" celebration. In front of a sun-baked crowd of 20,241, the A's wore throw back jerseys to honor the 80th anniversary of the 1929 World Champion Philadelphia Athletics. A's manager Bob Geren even donned a navy pin-striped suit with a fedora instead of former A's manager Connie Mack's trademark straw hat. Known more in recent years for their penchant for playing "small ball", the A's turned back the clock to the "Bash Brothers" days when second baseman Mark Ellis hit a walk-off home run to give the A's a 3-2 victory and avoided a sweep by the Chicago White Sox.

"It feels good not to get swept at home. They're playing good baseball right now and it was a big win for us today," said Ellis after the game. "I knew to swing early on the fastball. I thought it was going to be a double... when I saw the ball go over the fence it was a great feeling." Ellis, who has been one of the A's hottest hitters lately, tied an Oakland record with a career high five hits on Monday, August 10 against the Baltimore Orioles.

In Sunday's game the White Sox took the lead 2-0 in the top of the 6th inning, a rally that included doubles by Scott Podsednik and former Athletic Mark Kotsay. The A's responded in the bottom of the 7th with a leadoff single by (DH) Nomar Garciaparra, who advanced to third base on shortstop Bobby Crosby's double and scored on Ellis' sacrifice fly to center. In the bottom of the 8th centerfielder Rajai Davis extended his hit streak to 11 games with a single. He has hit successfully in 18 of the last 19 games, which is the longest streak by any A's player this year. Davis then stole 2nd base, prompting fiery White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen to rush out to argue the call.

"I came out to the field to question the umpire's call...I wanted to know if my second baseman dropped the ball," said Guillen. "But [on] plays like that the umpire has a better view than we do." The steal turned out to be pivotal as right fielder Scott Hairston doubled and brought Davis in to tie the score at 2-2. "I figure if I'm on base, my game is to get into scoring position," said Davis. "The closer I get makes all the difference, and for Scott to hit the double behind me was clutch! With the game on the line you can't give up. I have faith that the guys behind me are going to get the job done as well."

The game remained tied going into the 9th inning. White Sox 2nd baseman Jason Nix hit a grounder to shortstop Bobby Crosby and was ruled safe at 1st base. Geren came out to argue the call, and from the replay it appeared he had a legitimate beef. Nix then stole 2nd base and again he appeared to be out on the replay. Geren came out a second time to argue the call and was ejected. Fortunately, no runs scored for the White Sox in the inning, and by the time

Geren was back in his office Mark Ellis had hit the walk-off home run to lift the A's to victory. No better way to win the game and honor the 1929 champion Philadelphia Athletics.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento powers up in extra innings**

[rivercats.com](http://rivercats.com)

Chris Denorfia and Brett Wallace hit back-to-back home runs in the top of the 10th inning Monday night to lift Sacramento to a 5-3 victory over the host Memphis Redbirds.

Adrian Cardenas got the late-inning power surge started with a solo homer in the ninth inning to tie the game at 3-3. The River Cats are now 15-4 in extra-inning games this season, including 9-3 on the road.

Brad Kilby kept Sacramento in striking distance, pitching two hitless innings in the eighth and ninth. Jerry Blevins tossed a scoreless bottom of the 10th to earn his second save of the season. In all, the River Cats' bullpen tossed four scoreless innings in relief of Dana Eveland, improving the bullpen's record to 38-17 this season.

Jeff Baisley homered in the second and Anthony Recker smashed one out in the fifth, as all five Sacramento runs came off of solo homers.

With Fresno's victory in Nashville on Monday, Sacramento remains 10.5 games ahead of the second-place Grizzlies in the Pacific Coast League South Division standings. The River Cats' magic number to clinch the division is now 11.

Sacramento now travels to Nashville for a four-game series against the Sounds. The River Cats then return to West Sacramento for a nine-game homestand with Portland and Fresno.

### **Texas League: 'Hounds drop series finale, return home Wednesday**

Midland Reporter Telegram, 8/18/09

TULSA, Okla. — The Midland RockHounds come back home today with a series victory, but with no offensive momentum.

After winning the first two games of their series at the Tulsa Drillers, the 'Hounds had their bats go silent Monday night, losing 3-0 in the final game of a three-game series. The 'Hounds are off today before opening a three-game series Wednesday at Citibank Ballpark against Northwest Arkansas.

Midland collected only four hits, all singles, as Tulsa ace Samuel Deduno (12-2) pitched seven shutout innings, allowing only two hits.

The Drillers scored all the runs they needed in the bottom of the first off Midland starter Tyson Ross (2-3), manufacturing a run as Anthony Jackson walked and eventually scored on a groundout. They added two more runs in the bottom of the fourth, but that was all they could manage against the 'Hounds, who gave up only five hits.

Midland threatened in the top of the ninth against Tulsa reliever Andrew Johnston, as Chris Carter and Matthew Spencer began the inning with singles. But Shane Peterson grounded into a double play, and after Josh Donaldson walked, Archie Gilbert grounded out to end the game.

## **Hounds Close Out Road Trip 7-3**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

Tuesday is the last off day of the 2009 Texas League season. Beginning Wednesday, the eight clubs will play 20 games in 20 days.

How to spend an off day (there are only 11 of them all season, April through early September) is an individual choice. After an all-night bus ride home from Tulsa, one thing will likely be on the "off day agenda" of every RockHound: Laundry.

The RockHounds are bound for home after an 11-day, 3-city, 10-game road trip ... one of the longest ever for the franchise, at least in the 18 seasons your humble broadcaster has been with the club!

The next game ... can it be? A home game, and it's no misprint! The RockHounds begin the stretch run of the second half pennant race with a 6-game home stand, hosting the NW Arkansas Naturals and Tulsa Drillers.

It was probably greedy to hope for a sweep at Tulsa, considering the Drillers' starter was the league's top pitcher, Samuel Deduno. The 26-year-old right-hander looked the part, going 7.0 shutout innings, allowing just two hits and two walks and seven strikeouts. Deduno improved to 12-2 with a 2.56 ERA, each a league-leading stat. Andrew Johnston got out of a ninth inning jam to record his league-best 29th save.

Matt Spencer extended his hit streak to 15 games, going 2-for-4, and Shane Peterson drew a walk, reaching base in his 19th straight game. "Spence" and Chris Carter continue to provide a remarkable 1-2 punch for the RockHounds, each hitting above .400 in his last 30 games.

### **Road Trip**

The RockHounds finished their 10-game sojourn with a 7-3 record. The 'Hounds swept a 4-game series at Corpus Christi ... went 1-2 at NW Arkansas ... and won the series at Tulsa, 2-games-to-1. In a very well-balanced Texas League, the RockHounds have the TL's top overall record at 66-54.

The club began the trip with a one-game lead over Frisco ... and returns home with a 3-game lead over the RoughRiders. Corpus Christi has now moved to with five games of the 'Hounds, with first half champion San Antonio seven games back.

Kyle Middleton has been named the Texas League Pitcher of the Week for August 10-16. The right-hander won both his starts, defeating Corpus Christi and Tulsa, allowing 10 hits in 15.0 innings, walking four and whiffing 11, with a 1.80 earned run average. How good as he been in five starts for the 'Hounds? The 1.80 ERA that helped him capture the league's weekly top honors is .30 points higher than his season number of 1.50. Signed by Oakland out of independent ball, "K-Mid" could easily be 5-0, leaving each of his five starts with the lead. Originally selected by Kansas City in the 49th round of the 1999 draft out of Jefferson Davis CC (Brewton, Alabama), Kyle pitched in the Texas League from 2004-06 with the Wichita Wranglers and the last two seasons in the Astros organization (Corpus Christi and AAA Round Rock). He opened 2009 pitching in his home town of Pensacola, Florida for the independent club (the Pelicans) of the American Association.

## **Cougars' Offense Lights up Bees**

### **Parker, Spina Lead Kane County's 16-hit attack in victory**

**BURLINGTON, Iowa** – Steve Parker had four hits and four RBIs, Mike Spina had three hits and Nino Leyja and Franklin Hernandez had two each as the Kane County Cougars knocked off the Burlington Bees, 7-5, Monday night at Community Field. While the offense was pounding out 16 hits, Anivioris Ramirez tossed his fourth quality start in six outings as a Cougar to pick up the win, and the Cougars snapped a three-game skid with the victory.

Parker hit a pair of game-tying shots. His RBI single in the third made it 1-1, and his two-run double in the fifth made it 3-3. Then Leyja singled home Dusty Napoleon in the sixth for a lead the Cougars never gave back. Spina led off the seventh with his seventh homer, and Parker collected his fourth RBI with an eighth-inning single that plated Chris Berroa. All nine players had at least one hit, and the team was 6-for-15 (.400) with runners in scoring position. The Cougars had hit just .120 in those situations during the three-game losing streak.

Ramirez (3-2) gave up three runs -- two earned -- on four hits over six innings. Jose Guzman posted two scoreless relief

frames, and Justin Murray yielded two unearned runs in the ninth in a non-save situation. Sam Runion (3-11) suffered the loss for Burlington.

The Cougars (24-27, 65-56) and Bees (22-28, 51-69) conclude the four-game series Tuesday night at 6:30 CT. Mathieu Leblanc-Poirier (3-6, 4.20) will face Tim Melville (4-7, 4.25). Then the Cougars are off Wednesday before they start a four-game set Thursday in Beloit.

## **C's struggle vs. Tri-City on Monday night**

By Rob Fai / Vancouver Canadians

(Nat Bailey Stadium - Vancouver, BC) - A 13-hit assault by the Tri-City offense was too much for the Canadians to absorb on Monday as Vancouver was pounded 10-3 by the Dust Devils in front of 4,134 fans out at Nat Bailey Stadium.

The Canadians got behind early as Tri-City scored a pair of runs in the top of the 1st inning while starter *LHP Wes Musick* retired the first nine Canadian hitters he faced.

Vancouver would rally late for a pair of runs as **2B Conner Crumbliss** would hit his 9th double of the season and come home on **SS Michael Gilmartin's** 7th double of the season. Gilmartin would score on a ground ball off the bat of **DH Kent Walton** to cut the Tri-City lead to 10-3.

For a complete box score from Monday night's loss to Tri-City, please click on the link at the top of this story.

The Canadians (26-31) and Tri-City Dust Devils (34-23) wrap up a five-game series out at Nat Bailey Stadium on Tuesday, August 18th at 1:05pm.

Vancouver will send **LHP Julio Ramos** (4-5) to the mound as the C's try and snap a two-game losing streak. This will mark the final weekday 'nooner' out at the ballpark this summer.