

## A's News Clips, Wednesday, August 26, 2009

### Ex-Athletic delivers knockout blow in 10th

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Ryan Langerhans wasn't with the A's long enough to build a lot of bitterness about being traded in 2007.

But he managed some payback anyway Tuesday night, launching a two-run, walk-off home run off Craig Breslow in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Seattle Mariners a 4-2 win over the A's in front of 17,661 at Safeco Field.

Langerhans was with the A's for just two games in 2007, being acquired from Atlanta on April 29 only to have the A's deal him May 2 to Washington for outfielder Chris Snelling.

He joined the A's for a two-game series at Boston and was traded before the team even left Beantown.

"I've had a lot of people since then asking me, 'What did you think of Oakland?' I say, 'I don't know. I never made it there,'" Langerhans joked.

Franklin Gutierrez singled with one out in the 10th, and Langerhans, who entered the game as a defensive replacement, worked the count to 2-2. Breslow then tried to go down and away with a breaking ball but left it over the plate, and Langerhans smacked the game-ender over the right-field wall.

It was his second walk-off homer in less than three weeks. This one capped a night that should have ended with Brett Anderson's eighth major league victory for the A's.

The rookie left-hander allowed one run and six hits over seven innings, striking out eight with one walk.

But with Oakland leading 2-1 with two outs in the eighth, third baseman Adam Kennedy tried to cut off Jose Lopez's slow bouncer. He stepped in front of shortstop Cliff Pennington and had the ball glance off his glove and scoot behind second base.

That allowed Gutierrez to score from second and tie it at 2-2.

"I'm trying to be real aggressive and not let anything get in the hole," Kennedy said. "I saw I could get to it and kept going."

Gutierrez had walked, then got into scoring position by stealing second as A's reliever Michael Wuertz struck out pinch-hitter Ken Griffey Jr. for the second out.

A's manager Bob Geren was asked if he thought Pennington would have had a play on Lopez if Kennedy hadn't gone for the ball.

"Possibly. Lopez is not real fast," Geren said. "But Adam has a play, too "..."

Anderson delivered one of his strongest performances as a big leaguer. His only mistake came in the second, when Russell Branyan smacked a letter-high fastball over the right-field wall for his 31st homer of the season. That tied the game 1-1.

Otherwise, Anderson had the Mariners swinging futilely at his slider, striking out the side in both the fifth and seventh innings.

"My (night) was pretty good. Obviously for the team it was not too good," Anderson said. "Those things are going to happen."

The A's scored a run off Mariners lefty Ryan Rowland-Smith in the first but didn't get to him again until the seventh. It was Kennedy who put the A's in front again, singling to right to score Mark Ellis and make it 2-1.

Seattle would tie it and set the stage for Langerhans, who still has his Oakland jersey as a keepsake.

Tuesday's homer was just his 27th in a major league career that began in 2002.

## **A's notebook: Return to A's is not in Crosby's future**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Return to A's is not in Crosby's future

SEATTLE — Bobby Crosby acknowledged Tuesday what most have already assumed about his playing future:

It won't include the A's beyond this season.

Crosby, eligible for free agency for the first time this offseason, said he couldn't envision any scenario where he re-signs with Oakland, the organization with which he's spent all nine of his professional seasons.

"They're obviously moving in a different direction, and I've made it very clear I want to play shortstop," Crosby said. "If the opportunity was given to me to play shortstop here, I'd have no problem coming back, but I know that's not going to be the case."

Crosby's comments came on the same day his father, Ed — a former scout for the A's and several other teams — blasted Oakland general manager Billy Beane in a story that appeared in the Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Ed Crosby unloaded on how he feels his son has been mistreated by the A's this season, which began with the team signing Orlando Cabrera to play shortstop and relegating Crosby to a utility role.

The elder Crosby accused the A's of stashing his son on the disabled list even though he wasn't injured enough to warrant it.

Beane said he wasn't aware of the story when contacted Tuesday afternoon, adding: "I don't feel the need to respond to his comments."

It's worth noting Beane was a strong defender of Crosby's in recent seasons, when several injuries sidetracked Crosby's career after he was the 2004 AL Rookie of the Year.

Crosby, a .238 career hitter, hasn't hidden his displeasure at being unseated at shortstop. But he's generally been a good teammate and has gone out of his way to help Cliff Pennington, the rookie who was promoted from the minor leagues to start after Cabrera was traded.

Crosby was placed on the DL on Friday with a strained left calf.

Although he considers it a minor injury, he said he understood the A's decision to DL him and get a healthy infielder on the roster.

Crosby discussed that point with his father after reading the Press-Telegram story. But he backed his father's decision to speak out.

"It's what he believes, and I'll always, no matter what, support that," Crosby said. "If someone calls him and asks him, my dad has never been one to sugarcoat things. People ask him questions because of his baseball background."

Rajai Davis was back in center field Tuesday against Seattle despite a fracture in the tip of his right thumb. "I was able to throw effectively and pretty accurate (before the game)," he said. The A's remain with just three non-pitchers on the bench.

## **Langerhans' HR in 10th tops A's**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Ryan Langerhans had one of the briefest stays with Oakland in team history, spending two days with the A's on the road in 2007.

On Tuesday night at Safeco Field, Langerhans entered the game late as a defensive replacement and wound up beating the club he'd barely even seen. Langerhans banged a 2-2 pitch from left-hander Craig Breslow over the right-field fence in the 10th inning to give Seattle a 4-2 victory.

The A's dropped to 3-9 in extra innings this year. Also this season: The Mariners have recorded three walk-off hits against Oakland, and it was Langerhans' second game-winning homer after beating Tampa Bay in the 11th inning earlier this month.

"I've had a lot of people ask me how Oakland was," Langerhans said after the game. "I say, 'I don't know. I never went there.' ... They sent me a jersey, though, I thought that was cool."

Langerhans was acquired by the A's from Atlanta on April 29, 2007, and traded to Washington for Chris Snelling on May 2.

Brett Anderson turned in another slick outing for the A's and he left after seven with a 2-1 lead, but in the eighth, with Franklin Gutierrez at second and two outs, Jose Lopez tapped a roller toward short. Third baseman Adam Kennedy crossed in front of Cliff Pennington and the ball nipped his glove and carried into center. The error allowed Gutierrez to score.

"I went too far and it was in between hops," Kennedy said. "I just missed it. I was trying to be real aggressive and not let anything get in the hole and once I went, I saw I could get to it."

Kennedy has made a team-high 10 errors in 96 games.

The A's have made seven errors in the past 12 games, and 76 errors overall, putting them on a pace for 98. Oakland has made fewer than 100 errors in each of the past five seasons, equaling the longest stretch in major-league history.

It was the second time in three starts that Anderson left with the lead and the bullpen failed to nail down the win. On Tuesday night, it was Michael Wuertz who took the mound. He walked Gutierrez with one out, and though Wuertz then struck out Ken Griffey Jr., who was pinch hitting for Jack Hannahan, Gutierrez stole second.

Anderson has distanced himself from Oakland's other rookie pitchers with his polish and his strong second half. Anderson allowed only one run - a homer by Russell Branyan in the second on a high fastball - and he allowed six hits and a walk while striking out eight, one shy of his personal high.

The left-hander continued to get little run support. The team has scored no more than one run for Anderson in 10 of his starts, but when he gets a minimum of two runs, he is 7-2. Anderson, 21, has allowed no more than three runs in 10 of his past 12 starts.

"Time after time, he keeps getting better," Kennedy said. "He's pretty talented."

Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu told reporters that Anderson looked pretty special and like "he's going to be around a long time."

Oakland took a 1-0 lead in the first with a two-out double by Kurt Suzuki and an RBI single by Scott Hairston. It was slim pickings from then until the seventh, when Mark Ellis doubled and eventually came home on a soft single to right by Kennedy.

Rajai Davis was back in the lineup Tuesday despite a small fracture at the top of his right thumb; he had to prove he could throw before getting the OK to play and he did so without too much discomfort, Davis said.

## **Everidge now a pine- time player**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

One of the hardest adjustments for a young player is to go from playing every day essentially his entire life to sitting on the bench for extended periods.

Since **Daric Barton** came off the disabled list, rookie first baseman **Tommy Everidge** has had to learn a bench role. He'll be starting tonight, but he sat the first two games of the series, and he used that time by picking some of the veterans' brains. Everidge said he asked **Bobby Crosby** and, especially, **Nomar Garciaparra**, about handling a bench role. Garciaparra said told Everidge the key is "trusting yourself."

"It's a little different," Everidge said. "But if you're not playing, this (the majors) is a good place to do it."

Crosby is on the DL with calf tightness and he still has not started to run, so he is not close to going on a rehab assignment yet.

**Good Gray:** Manager **Bob Geren** was asked about right-handed reliever **Jeff Gray**, who is in his fourth stint with the team and has allowed one run in 82/3 innings in this go-round.

Geren said that he's seeing more movement on Gray's stuff this time, and apparently opponents agree. Geren said an opposing player recently said that the team's scouting report on Gray was "91 mph and straight" and what the players saw instead was "95 and sink."

"That's kind of funny," said Geren, who said Gray also was helped by a stretch as Triple-A Sacramento's closer.

**Briefly:** Third baseman **Eric Chavez** sat on the A's bench in the opener of the series and Geren said he looked great and should start baseball activity in January at the latest. Chavez had back surgery in June. ... **Gio Gonzalez**, the A's starter

tonight, is 3-0 on the road with a 3.74 ERA. ... Infielder **Jemile Weeks** and outfielders **Corey Brown** and **Grant Desme** are on the preliminary roster for the Arizona Fall League.

## **A's leading off**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

**Mad dad:** Ed Crosby told the Long Beach Press-Telegram that his son, Bobby, "has been messed around with ... Billy Beane has done a number on him." Crosby said his son is on the DL, but is not hurt. GM Beane declined comment.

## **Kennedy's error leads to 10-inning loss**

### **Infielder boots ball in eighth; Langerhans beats former club**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- After his blink-and-you-missed-it time with the A's ended in 2007, Ryan Langerhans, acquired by the Athletics from the Braves and promptly flipped to the Nationals, was asked what he'd remember most about his two-game tenure in green and gold.

"Oh, man. I don't know," he said. "So many moments to choose from."

He was playing along, of course, delivering with a mock deadpan. There was absolutely nothing memorable about his brief time with Oakland; he went 0-for-4 with a walk and two strikeouts.

He hasn't been with the Seattle very long, either, but Langerhans certainly has a couple of memorable Mariners moments.

Two innings after would-be hero Adam Kennedy swapped his cape for a pair of goat horns late Tuesday night with an error that allowed the hosts to tie the game, Langerhans launched a two-run homer into the right-field seats to give the Mariners a 4-2 victory in the second game of a three-game series at Safeco Field.

It was Langerhans' second extra-inning walk-off shot for Seattle since being acquired in late June.

Lefty reliever Craig Breslow, in his first season with the A's, had never before faced Langerhans, but he said his lack of information had nothing to do with the breaking ball that was blasted into the night.

"It was supposed to be down and away, and I left it over the plate," said Breslow, who gave up a one-out single to Franklin Gutierrez ahead of Langerhans' shot. "The scouting report didn't come into play; I just didn't execute my pitch."

And that was the shame of it all, for A's rookie Brett Anderson executed virtually all of his pitches during a brilliant seven-inning stint that went unrewarded.

Anderson, Oakland's most consistent starter since the All-Star break, scattered six hits and a walk while striking out eight and lowered his ERA to 3.01 ERA over his past 11 starts.

"Time after time, he keeps getting better," said Kennedy, whose RBI single in the seventh gave the A's a 2-1 lead. "He's pretty talented."

"Very impressive," added Oakland skipper Bob Geren. "He threw the ball extremely well tonight. It was a very high-quality outing. It would have been nice to get him a win."

The A's jumped out in front before Anderson took the mound, as Kurt Suzuki doubled to left off Seattle starter Ryan Rowland-Smith with two outs in the top of the first inning before scoring on a single by Scott Hairston.

Seattle's Russell Branyan tied it up with two outs in the second, launching a belt-high fastball from Anderson into the right-field bleachers for his 31st home run of the year. It was one of the few mistakes made by Anderson, who wasn't around when Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu was Oakland's bench coach last season.

"Anderson, he threw one heck of a game," Wakamatsu said. "This kid is 21 years old, and he's awfully impressive. He's going to be around for a long time, be a special pitcher. You talk about the strikeouts and everything else, this kid's good."

Mark Ellis, who had singled earlier in the game and was joined by Hairston as the only two A's with more than one hit, doubled to open the seventh and moved to third on a single by Ryan Sweeney before Kennedy snapped the tie by dumping a single into right field.

Michael Wuertz took over for Oakland in the bottom of the eighth and struck out the side, but not before Gutierrez walked with one out, stole second while pinch-hitter Ken Griffey Jr. was striking out for the second out, and scored when Kennedy kicked a slow grounder off the bat of Jose Lopez.

Kennedy was moving to his left, with shortstop Cliff Pennington was moving to his right behind Kennedy, and Gutierrez flying toward third in front of both defenders. Kennedy said Gutierrez didn't obstruct his view or distract him, and he wasn't sure if Pennington would have had a play on Lopez.

"I got an in-between hop and just missed it," Kennedy offered. "I'm trying to be real aggressive there and not let anything in the hole. I didn't even notice [Gutierrez]."

The ball kicked off Kennedy's glove into no-man's land, allowing Gutierrez to scamper home. Geren called it a bad break.

"It took a strange bounce," Geren said. "It's unfortunate it kicked away that far."

Brayan hit a sky-scraper of a fly ball to deep right field with one out in the bottom of the ninth, but Sweeney caught it up against the wall, extending his glove over the wall after making the grab as if to show the fans exactly how close they'd come to heading home happy.

An inning later, Sweeney could only turn and watch.

"I really didn't know it was gone," Langerhans said. "I knew I hit it good, but the way Sweeney was going back on it, I thought he was going to have a chance on it. Heck, I thought Russell's had a chance the inning before."

## **Gonzalez composed heading into finale**

### **Oakland (55-70) at Seattle (65-61), 7:10 p.m. PT**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- A's rookie left-hander Gio Gonzalez has a 5.78 ERA for the year, but he's 3-2 with a 3.06 ERA in his past six starts.

A day before taking on the Mariners in the finale of a three-game series on Wednesday at Safeco Field, Gonzalez boiled his resurgence down to one word.

"Composure," he said after happily removing his iPod earplugs while lounging in the visitors' clubhouse before batting practice Tuesday.

"Definitely composure."

For much of his time with the A's, Gonzalez, a 23-year-old acquired in the January 2008 trade that sent Nick Swisher to the White Sox for a package that included outfielder Ryan Sweeney and righty Fautino De Los Santos, has had a reputation for being a little too high-strung for his own good.

The coaches knew it, the front office knew it, his teammates knew it, and Gonzalez knew it.

"When I came up, I was trying to do too much," Gonzalez said. "Too much emotion, too much everything. You could see everything that was going through my head out there on the mound because it was all on my sleeve."

A recent meeting set the wheels of change in motion.

"The coaches pulled me into a room," Gonzalez said, "and basically said, 'Look, man, you have *got* to calm down.' ... And they were right. It's easier said than done, but it's something that, like they said, *had* to be done."

Much of the talk about Oakland's future on the mound centers on 21-year-olds Trevor Cahill and Brett Anderson and 22-year-old Vin Mazzaro. Gonzalez said he's been studying their various in-game demeanors and found a common denominator.

"They look the same after a hit as a strikeout," Gonzalez said. "They're look relaxed. Poised. Calm. They give up a hit, 'Fine, let's get a double play.' You have to focus on what's in front of you, not waste energy on what just happened.

"That's what I want to be if I want to be part of that group. And that's what I've been over my last six starts. It's that simple."

### **Pitching matchup**

#### **OAK: LHP Gio Gonzalez (4-4, 5.78 ERA)**

Gonzalez continued his efforts in improving his command and pounding the strike zone in his last start but took a loss against a tough Detroit lineup. He lasted 5 2/3 innings, giving up three runs -- two courtesy of solo home runs -- on four hits, walking four while striking out a career-high nine batters. In his first start against Seattle this season, Gonzalez walked away with a no-decision after giving up three runs on five hits in five innings of relief work. He struck out one and walked four in that outing.




#### **SEA: LHP Luke French (3-3, 3.83 ERA)**

In his last start -- against the Indians -- French's offense gave him a 7-1 lead in the fourth inning, and he didn't let them down, controlling Cleveland through six innings in a 9-4 win. He allowed eight hits but stayed away from the big rally, as the Tribe scored one run in each of the second, fifth and sixth innings. French struck out six, tying a career high, and credited an improved slider for the swings and misses. French is 2-1 with a 4.43 ERA in four starts since being acquired from the Tigers for left-hander Jarrod Washburn on July 31.

### **Dribblers ...**

Rookie Tommy Everidge, batting .135 with one RBI over his previous 11 games through Monday, didn't start Tuesday but is expected to get the nod at first base Wednesday. ... Geren said left-hander Dallas Braden (infected left foot), might join the A's in Anaheim. Oakland takes on the Halos in the opener of a four-game series on Thursday night. ... Bobby Crosby (left calf) has been doing some hitting, throwing, infield drills and agility work, but he hasn't yet done any running. ... Through Monday, Triple-A Sacramento third baseman Brett Wallace, acquired in the Matt Holliday trade, had hit safely in nine of his past 10 games, batting .372 (16-for-43) with five home runs, nine RBIs and 10 runs scored during that span. ... Max Stassi, Oakland's fourth-round pick in June's First-Year Player Draft, made his professional debut with the Class A Vancouver Canadians on Monday, a week after signing. He went 1-for-2.

### **Up next**

- Thursday: Athletics (Trevor Cahill, 6-12, 4.86) at Angels (Ervin Santana, 7-6, 6.13), 7:25 p.m. PT 
- Friday: Athletics (Brett Tomko, 3-2, 3.69) at Angels (Trevor Bell, 1-1, 9.49), 7:05 p.m. PT 
- Saturday: Athletics (Vin Mazzaro, 4-9, 5.32) at Angels (Jered Weaver, 13-5, 4.03), 6:05 p.m. PT 

## **Gray trying to strongarm role for 2010**

### **Fireballer looking strong in bid for spot in next year's 'pen**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- A's reliever Jeff Gray is listed in the club's media guide at 6-foot-3 and 196 pounds. Tall and trim, a he-man he looks not.

Yet Gray might be the strongest man -- pound-for-pound -- in the organization, and since being recalled from Triple-A Sacramento on Aug. 6 for his fourth stint with Oakland this season, he's been making a strong bid for a regular role in the team's 2010 bullpen.

"I'm seeing more movement on his fastball," A's manager Bob Geren said Tuesday before the second game of a three-game series against the host Mariners at Safeco Field.

Opponents are seeing it, too. Gray, a 27-year-old right-hander who won the organization's Strongman Award last season for excelling in a series of weight-training exercises, threw 1 2/3 scoreless innings on Monday to lower his ERA to 1.04 in seven outings since his return.

"We get comments from players on other teams, and guys on our team are seeing the same thing," Geren said. "One guy, I forget who he was, but he got on base and said, 'Our reports said he was 91 [mph] and straight, but he's 95 with movement. Our guy was way off.'"

Gray, for the most part, has been on all year. In 10 games with the A's, he's allowed one run on seven hits without a walk while striking out five over 10 1/3 innings.

"Every time you come up, you're that much more comfortable," said Gray, a 32nd-round pick in the 2004 First-Year Player Draft out of Southwest Missouri State who made his big league debut last September. "And the more comfortable you are, obviously, the better your chances of succeeding."

Gray has enjoyed a great deal of success with Sacramento this season, posting a 2-2 record with 16 saves and a 1.54 ERA while allowing 30 hits and six walks while striking out 22 over 40 innings in 37 games.

He was 16-for-17 in save opportunities, and his opponents' batting average was .200.

"The experience as a Triple-A closer has helped him a lot," Geren said. "The mentality of coming in when the game's on the line, that experience, is huge. ... Each time he's come up here, he's come with a little less pressure. He's not tip-toeing around. He's pitching well and trying to win himself a job."

Gray, who had a 7.71 ERA in five games during his late-season callup last year, doesn't dispute that closing for the River Cats has helped his development.

"It's nice to pitch when it really means something, when there's pressure and a sense of urgency," Gray said upon being called up. "But for now, we have a great closer [in Andrew Bailey] and a really good bullpen, so I'm happy with whatever they want to give me."

"It's up to me to do something with the opportunity."

## **Davis back in lineup with fractured thumb**

### **Outfielder playing through pain, misses just one game**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- A day after learning that the pain in the tip of his right thumb is a small fracture, A's outfielder Rajai Davis accomplished his primary goal for the day.

Davis, who didn't start Monday for the first time in 24 games, convinced the team's athletic trainers and coaches that not only did he not need to be placed on the disabled list, but that he was ready to get right back into the starting lineup.

He did it by showing up early, as usual, hopping on the 2 p.m. PT bus to Safeco Field. By 2:30, he was on the field, throwing. By batting practice at 5:15, his name was on the lineup card, starting in center field and batting second.

"I'm feeling great," Davis said before the second game of a three-game series against the host Mariners. "I'm amazed and thankful at the same time that I'm able to continue playing and stay in the lineup, really with no severe pain."

Davis, who injured the thumb on a bunt attempt on Sunday, entered Tuesday's game batting .340 over his previous 26 games, 24 in which he'd hit safely.

"He came in and gave me the big thumb's up," said A's manager Bob Geren, smiling at his own little joke. "He did some throwing and went in the cage and took some swings, and that went well."

"That's good news. He's playing extremely well, and that would have been a big loss."

Tied for fifth in the American League with 27 stolen bases, Davis wore a protective covering over his thumb for most of the day on Monday, but he didn't wear any extra padding during batting practice. Rather, he cut much of the thumb off his right batting glove to give it "room to breathe."



## **Weeks highlights cast of AFL-bound A's**

### **Second baseman to showcase skills starting on Oct. 13**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- Second baseman Jemile Weeks, Oakland's first pick in the 2008 First-Year Player Draft, headlines the abbreviated list of A's prospects who have been tabbed to play in 2009 edition of the prestigious Arizona Fall League.

Weeks, who missed much of his first year of pro ball with a hip injury, is currently playing for Double-A Midland of the Texas League, batting .224 with a .373 on-base percentage in 16 games through Monday.

The 18th annual Arizona Fall League season begins on Oct. 13 and runs through Nov. 19 with the Rising Stars game on Nov. 7 and the Championship game set for Nov. 21. Every game can be followed live on Gameday on MLB.com and MLBFallBall.com.

A product of the University of Miami and the younger brother of former AFL participant and Brewers second baseman Rickie Weeks, Jemile Weeks opened the year at extended Spring Training before joining Class A Stockton. In 50 games with the Ports, he batted .299 with seven homers, 31 RBIs and a .385 OBP.

Also selected from the A's organization for AFL duty with the Phoenix Desert Dogs were outfielders Corey Brown and Grant Desme. Through Monday, Desme was batting .299 with 17 homers, 47 RBIs and a .389 OBP in 59 games at Stockton. Brown was batting .263 with eight home runs, 38 RBIs and a .339 OBP at Midland.

The A's also will send four pitchers to the AFL, but the names of those players have not yet been released.

### **Langerhans' HR tops A's in 10**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Defensive-replacement Ryan Langerhans homered off Craig Breslow with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning to send the Seattle Mariners to a 4-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night.

Franklin Gutierrez's singled with one out in the 10th off Breslow (5-7), who entered the game tied in losses among AL relievers. It was Gutierrez's fifth hit and seventh time on base in the two games he's been leading off while Ichiro Suzuki rests a tight calf muscle.

Then Langerhans, who entered for defense the inning before, smacked a 2-2 pitch into the first row of seats beyond right field.

It was his second game-ending home run as a late-game substitute in three weeks.

Mark Lowe (2-6) pitched the 10th for the win.

Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. got the small, quiet crowd on its feet with a pinch-hitting appearance with a man on and one out in the eighth against Michael Wuertz. Griffey was 4 for 6 with two home runs against him, but the 39-year-old slugger struck out waving over a 2-2 pitch in the dirt.

Gutierrez stole second on that pitch. Then Jose Lopez chopped a ball to the right of charging third baseman Adam Kennedy. Gutierrez slowed his run to third, veered onto the infield grass and almost looped around the ball, seemingly obscuring Kennedy's view of the ball until it clanged off his glove for a game-tying error.

Lopez then stole second on a play in which replays appeared to show he was out. But Mike Sweeney, who spent last season with Oakland, struck out on a full-count pitch to end the inning and keep it tied at 2.

Kennedy's single that scored Mark Ellis in the seventh inning had put Oakland up 2-1.

That was the last pitch thrown by Seattle starter Ryan Rowland-Smith, who allowed nine hits and two runs in 6½ innings.

After reliever Shawn Kelley got Rajai Davis to ground out, Kurt Suzuki flied out to strand runners at second and third and keep the Mariners close.

A's rookie Brett Anderson allowed one run and six hits with eight strikeouts in seven impressive innings. The 21-year-old left-hander, Oakland's centerpiece in the trade that sent Dan Haren to Arizona following the 2007 season, leads major league rookies with 117 strikeouts.

A two-out double by Kurt Suzuki and an RBI double by Scott Hairston put Oakland up 1-0 in the first.

Russell Branyan tied it in the second with his 31st home run.

Branyan extended his career high in homers and ended an 0-for-13 skid since he last home run on Saturday in Cleveland.

### **Yankees Dominate A's in Series**

By Malaika Bobino, Oakland Post, August 24, 2009

Oakland, CA—With the A's only winning 7 of the last 21 games against the Yankees over the last three seasons, any rivalry that exists is solely in the mind of the fans. Throughout this three-game series that began on Monday, August 17, the "Yankee Nation" showed up in full force to support their beloved Bronx Bombers. The stands at the Coliseum were an interesting mix of green and gold versus navy and grey, with Yankee fans attempting – unsuccessfully – to drown out the cheers of the hometown faithful. Unfortunately, the Yankee fans had more to cheer about this time around with the Yankees taking two of three games from the A's.

In game one, A's pitcher Brett Tomko was able to exact a bit of revenge by leading the A's to a shutout victory over the Yankees, who had released him less than a month before. The 30-year-old right-hander was sharp against his former team, allowing just five hits and one walk in five scoreless innings.

The A's scored all of their runs in the fourth inning. Rajai Davis extended his career-best hitting streak to 12 games as he got things rolling by doubling with one out and stealing third base. Kurt Suzuki brought him in with a single to center. After a single by Scott Hairston and a ground out by Ryan Sweeney advanced Suzuki to third, Yankee's pitcher A.J. Burnett made a critical mistake by being called for a balk, sending Suzuki home to make it 2-0. Mark Ellis doubled and Hairston crossed the plate to give the A's a 3-0 lead.

The bullpen was able to shut the Yankees down. Reliever Craig Breslow retired six of the seven batters he faced. In the eighth inning Brad Ziegler allowed a leadoff single to Derek Jeter and a two out walk to Alex Rodriguez, but he got out of the jam by striking Jorge Posada out looking. Andrew Bailey sealed the win with a perfect ninth inning. The first game was a huge win for Oakland, but it wouldn't be long before the Yankees took control of games two and three.

In game two, the A's had the Yankees on their heels early. After A's starting pitcher Vin Mazzaro beamed Yankee slugger Alex Rodriguez in the top of the first, Yankee starter C.C. Sabathia appeared to retaliate by throwing a fastball behind Suzuki, drawing a warning for both benches from home plate umpire Jerry Layne. Suzuki responded by belting the next pitch over the left field wall to put the A's on top 1-0. The Yankees responded quickly after an error by Adam Kennedy allowed Melky Cabrera to cross the plate and tie the score at 1-1 in the top of the second. But the A's wrestled the lead from the Yankees again in the bottom of the second on a solo home run by Tommy Everidge.

Unfortunately, that was all the scoring the A's could muster as

Sabathia showed the form that made him a prep star at Vallejo High School. He looked calm and unfazed as he dominated the A's lineup, giving up just five hits and striking out seven in eight innings. The Yankees gave Sabathia plenty of run support, tying the game in the top of the third and breaking it open with a five-run sixth inning to coast to a 7-2 victory. The A's didn't help themselves by committing three errors in the game.

The deciding game three was played in front of a sold out crowd of 35,067. Unfortunately, the A's squandered seven impressive innings by 21-year-old rookie pitcher Brett Anderson with multiple missed scoring opportunities. The A's stranded 10 men on base, and it was the Yankees who walked away with a 3-2 victory.

Known for their power hitting, the Yankees jumped out to an early 1-0 lead by giving the A's a taste of their own medicine: small ball. Derek Jeter led off the game with a single to center field, stole second, advanced to third on a Johnny Damon ground out, and scored on a ground out by Mark Teixeira. A's third baseman Adam Kennedy might have prevented Jeter from scoring had he tried to throw him out at home, but he opted for the sure out at first base instead. The A's had a chance to do some damage in the bottom of the inning, loading the bases with only one out, but they were unable to bring any runners across.

The Yankees struck again in the fourth inning when Teixeira homered with Damon on first to make it a 3-0 game. Again, the A's appeared ready to match the Yankees in the bottom half of the inning when they got runners on first and third, but again they failed to score.

Jack Cust's solo home run in the sixth snapped a career high 23-game streak without driving in a run and finally got the A's on the board. Mark Ellis brought the A's within one on a two-out single in the seventh inning to score Rajai Davis,

who had singled and stolen second base. The A's came close but just didn't have enough to stop the Yankees from taking two out of three in the series.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento tops Portland; Cats can clinch Wednesday**

By Jordan Moore, [rivercats.com](http://rivercats.com)

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Sacramento River Cats had the Portland Beavers outfield chasing balls all night, as they crushed three homers and totaled 15 hits in a 10-7 victory.

Matt Carson hit two bombs over the left-field fence. His first, a two-run shot in the first inning, would bounce on the roof of the clubhouse. Travis Buck also went deep, hitting his fourth homer onto Home Run Hill in right-center field.

Overall, the final game between Portland and Sacramento this season saw six homers and 26 hits. Carson now leads all River Cats with 21 home runs and 69 RBIs on the season. Gregorio Petit went 4-for-4 on the night, scoring two runs and an RBI with one double. For the Beavers, Valentino Pascucci went 4-for-5 with four RBIs, including a three-run homer.

Sacramento starter Shawn Chacon earned his eighth win for his 5.0 innings on the mound. During that period he allowed seven hits and five of Portland's six runs. Chacon has earned a win in his last four appearances. The bullpen would take over in the sixth and hold the Beavers to four hits and one run for the remainder of the game.

Portland right-hander Josh Geer earned his fourth loss, allowing eight hits and six earned runs in 3.2 innings.

With the victory, Sacramento avoided getting swept for the first time since July 7-9, 2006, extending its streak to 117 consecutive series with at least one victory.

The River Cats are now 81-49 on the season, moving their magic number to two and putting them in position to clinch the division Wednesday. A Sacramento victory and a Reno loss Wednesday would clinch the Pacific Coast League South Division for the River Cats, giving them eight titles in 10 seasons.

Sacramento opens a five-game series against Fresno at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday, welcoming top Giants prospect Buster Posey to Raley Field for the first time. Reno is scheduled for a 7:05 p.m. first pitch at Las Vegas.

### **Hounds Defeat Hooks; Carter Promoted**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

In the top of the first inning Tuesday night at Corpus Christi, Chris Carter drove in his 99th and 100th runs of the season, ripping a 2-run home run down the left field line. He would finish the game 3-for-5, raising his average to .335, adding a double and an RBI single. The game would be Chris' last at the Double-A level ...

#### **The Oakland A's have promoted Chris Carter to Triple-A Sacramento.**

Chris departs for the next level ranking among the Texas League's top three batters in every offensive category except triples and stolen bases, and leads the league in seven of those categories. He is (with Corpus Christi's ' Drew Locke and Frisco's Chad Tracy) one of the three top candidates for Texas League Player of the Year.

The RockHounds defeated a travel-weary Corpus Christi team, 11-6, Tuesday night in the first of a 7-game road trip. Frisco also won, 5-1 at San Antonio, so the 'Hounds lead in the South Division remains three games.

The Hooks returned home from Springfield, Missouri, where they had played Monday night, arriving home at about two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. It seemed important for the RockHounds to "jump" on the Hooks early, and Carter's 2-run shot did just that, with the 'Hounds building an 11-0 lead, then holding off a late-innings charge by the Hooks. Speaking of challenging schedules, by the time the 'Hounds return home next Tuesday, they will have played 17-of-23 games on the road.

Arnold Leon was outstanding again, going 5.0 shutout innings in his fifth career start. He earned the win, and is now 2-1 for the season with a 3.31 ERA. In his five starts, Arnold is 1-0 with 0.42 ERA.

## **Texas League South**

The South is, for all intents and purposes, a two-team race with the RockHounds leading Frisco by three games with 13 to go. Corpus Christi and first half champion San Antonio are each nine games out. Of the 13 games remaining, the 'Hounds play three at Corpus Christi ... four at home against San Antonio and play home-and-home series against Frisco, each a 3-game set.

## **Popcorn, Peanuts, Fresh Cut Grass**

The 'Hounds are on the road this week (at Corpus Christi and Frisco) ... then back home at Citibank Ballpark September 1-7 for a critical, 7-game stay hosting San Antonio and Frisco.

Reminder: RockHounds Monday-Saturday home games in August and September will start at 6:30 p.m..

For tickets, groups, picnics, youth teams of the night and more ... call the RockHounds office at 520-2255. The Citibank Ballpark box office will be open all day, and through the games, each night of the home stand.

## **RockHounds Radio**

The 'Hounds' new radio home is Jack-FM (102.1-FM). RockHounds broadcasts are also available online. Look for the link to Jack-FM on the RockHounds' web site ... then click "Jack On The Box." Broadcast time from Whataburger Field in Corpus Christi is 6:50 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

## **Blaze Break Out On Offense, Rout Ports 10-2**

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** - One night after a thrilling 2-1 win in 14 innings, the Stockton Ports came out completely flat on Tuesday night at Sam Lynn Ballpark. The Bakersfield Blaze brought across 10 runs on 12 hits in handing the Boys of Banner Island a lopsided 10-2 loss. The Ports now find themselves eight games back of the Blaze for the final wild card playoff spot in the North Division.

It was Stockton who ended up drawing first blood in the ballgame. With one out in the fourth, Grant Desme and Frank Martinez knocked back-to-back singles. Desme went to third on Martinez' single, and on the throw to third Martinez took second. Kala Ka'aihue wound up hitting into a double-play that scored Desme from third, giving the Ports a 1-0 lead.

Stockton's early lead would be short-lived, and a mistake in the bottom of the fourth proved to be the turning point in the ballgame. After Ports starter Carlos Hernandez (9-7) recorded the first two outs of the inning, Mike Bianucci hit a ground ball toward third. Steve Kleen attempted to field the ball, but it got behind him and into left field for an E-5. The next batter, Timmy Rodriguez, ended up being hit by Hernandez on a two-strike pitch to extend the inning further. Jose Felix followed with a bouncing-ball single into right, scoring Bianucci and knotting the game at one. On the play, Ka'aihue attempted a diving stop at first, but came down awkwardly on his shoulder. Ka'aihue would have to be removed from the ballgame and Michael Richard was brought in to play second, with Frank Martinez moving to third and Kleen moving to first. Jake Kaase came up next and doubled to left, scoring both Rodriguez and Felix and putting the Blaze up 3-1. Matt Lawson followed with an RBI single to left, scoring Kaase to make it 4-1. Lawson would end up being caught in a run-down and thrown out to end the inning.

Hernandez' troubles would carry into the top of the fifth, when David Paisano led off with a solo homer to left, putting the Blaze up 5-1.

Hernandez would take the loss, going five innings and allowing five runs (one earned) on six hits while striking out seven.

Blaze starter Tanner Roark would go six full innings, allowing just the one run on three hits while striking out three.

From the bottom of the fourth inning on, it was all Bakersfield. The Blaze scored in each of the final five innings. In the sixth, Paisano brought in another run with an RBI single to right to make it 6-1. After a one-out triple from Davis Stoneburner in the seventh, Bianucci brought him home by fouling out deep in right-field, a sac-fly to make it 7-1. The knock-out blow came in the eighth. With two on and two out, Joey Butler hit a three-run homer to center to give Bakersfield a 10-1 edge.

All five Blaze runs from the sixth through the eighth scored off Ports reliever Jamie Richmond. Richmond went three innings, allowing five runs (four earned) on six hits.

Bakersfield's bullpen, working with a big lead, shut Stockton's offense down. Adalberto Flores pitched a scoreless seventh and eighth. In the ninth with one out, Christian Vitters homered to right off Justin Miller to make it 10-2. It was the only run Miller allowed while pitching the ninth inning.

The Ports and Blaze will play the rubber match of their three-game set on Wednesday at Sam Lynn Ballpark. In a battle of southpaws, Anthony Capra (2-0, 2.62 ERA) will take the hill for Stockton, opposed by Tim Murphy (8-10, 7.23 ERA) for Bakersfield. First pitch is set for 7:15 p.m. PDT.

## **Oakland A's Prospect Q&A: Anthony Capra, P**

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Melissa Lockard  
OaklandClubhouse.com

Aug 25, 2009

Only a year-and-a-half into his professional career, Stockton Ports left-hander Anthony Capra is already establishing himself as one of the bright spots from the Oakland A's 2008 draft class. The Wichita State alum has posted a 3.08 ERA in 134.1 innings for the A's two A-ball affiliates, with an A's system-best 148 strike-outs this season. We caught-up with Capra on Saturday for a Q&A...

Shortly after the Oakland A's selected [Anthony Capra](#) with the team's fourth-round pick last season, A's Director of Scouting Eric Kubota described the lefty as a "proven winner" with "moxie...[and the] ability to pitch." So it is no surprise that when Capra was pitching well but not getting wins for the Low-A Kane County Cougars earlier this season, the lefty was frustrated. Capra's fortunes in the win column eventually took a more positive turn and he is one win away from evening up his season record (which currently stands at 6-7). More importantly, however, Capra has shown that he is the polished collegiate product that the A's expected they were getting when they took him out of [Wichita State](#).

Capra has been a workhorse in his first full professional season. After throwing 125 innings for Wichita State and Kane County in 2008, Capra has thrown 134.1 innings in 24 starts for the Cougars and High-A Stockton in 2009. The Colorado native has posted impressive statistics at both levels. For the Cougars, his win-loss record was 4-7, but he allowed only 70 hits in 100 innings (a .197 BAA) and he struck-out 103 while walking 40. He has done even better since being promoted to the Ports, despite the fact that he moved from a pitchers' league to a hitters' paradise. In six starts with Stockton, Capra is 2-0 with a 2.62 ERA. He has held opposing batters to a .230 average and he has struck-out 45 while walking 17. Capra recently had a run of three starts with Stockton during which he struck-out 29 in 18 innings.

For the season, Capra is 6-7 with a 3.08 ERA and 148 strike-outs against 57 walks in 134.1 innings. He is currently tied with Ports' teammate and fellow lefty [Ben Hornbeck](#) for the lead in strike-outs for the A's minor league system.

We spoke to Capra before the Ports' game versus San Jose on Saturday about his move to the California League, his best pitch this season, his strike-out tendencies and more...

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*OaklandClubhouse: How has the transition been from the Midwest League to the California League?*

**Anthony Capra:** It hasn't been bad. I feel like I kind of hit the ground running out here. I had played for Nieck [Stockton manager Aaron Nieckula] and Schulzie [Stockton pitching coach Don Schulze] before, so that kind of made it easier. I knew what I was getting into with them. I had heard some things about the league, that it was a good league. I just wanted to come out and throw well and so far it has worked out.

*OC: At the beginning of the year with Kane County, you were pitching well but not getting the results maybe you wanted in terms of wins. Was that frustrating to work through?*

**AC:** Yeah. I had about a month and a half or so where it was really frustrating. Gil Patterson, the pitching coordinator, came to town and we had a sit down. We both got some things off of our chests. We basically just cleared the slate and from there I just ran with it and put together some good starts, moved up here and have had some good starts here.

*OC: What has been your best pitch so far this year?*

**AC:** I would say my change-up has been my best pitch this year. I picked it up in Instructs [last fall]. Ben Hornbeck also throws it. Me and Gil were working together one day and he kind of offered it up to me and I threw one and it was really good, so I said, 'let's go with it.'

*OC: You had a teammate from Wichita State who was taken by the A's the year before in almost the same spot as you. Was [Travis Banwart](#) able to give you a heads up on what the organization was when you were drafted?*

**AC:** Yeah. He was one of the first people I called after the draft and I asked him 'what can I expect?' and that sort of thing. He did a good job of telling me what I could expect from the coordinators and the coaches. It's good to have someone ahead of you who can tell you those kinds of things.

*OC: You've had a lot of strike-outs this year. Have you always been a strike-out pitcher or is that something kind of new?*

**AC:** I guess I have had a lot of strike-outs in the past, but I don't really know why. I don't have overpowering stuff. I like to think that I can hit my spots and hopefully I can get them off-balance with two-strikes and go from there. But I don't necessarily try for them. They are always nice. I like them, but I don't see myself trying for them.

*OC: Wichita State is obviously a great college baseball program. Did it help you in your pro career to come from a good college program like that?*

**AC:** Yeah definitely. I was drafted in the 49th round out of high school and I wasn't ready for pro baseball. Getting those three years with Coach Kemnitz [Shockers' pitching coach] was great. I think he is probably the best pitching coach in the country. He did a great job of getting me ready for pro ball. That is what they told me when I was coming into the program that 'it's our job to get you ready [for pro ball]. We want you out of here in three years. As much as we'd like to have you for four, we want you to be ready to pitch pro ball in three years.' That really worked out for me.

*OC: Are you going to Instructs this year?*

**AC:** Yeah. I'm going to Instructs again.

*OC: Anything in particular that you are going to be working on?*

**AC:** I'm assuming that I am going to go there and work on the breaking ball more. I have kind of improved that this year, but I think I have a little bit of a ways to go with it and maybe work on holding on runners at first base and my pick-off move, stuff like that.

*OC: Is it hard to get training in during the off-season in Colorado with the snow and everything?*

**AC:** It's difficult at times. I have access to some pretty good facilities and I go back to Wichita at times, so I have access to those facilities as well. So I get my work in.

## **Cougars Claim Third Straight Victory**

### **Kane County fueled by Parker and Crumbliss in victory over Beloit**

**GENEVA, III.** – The Kane County Cougars won their third straight game Tuesday night, a 6-4 victory over the Beloit Snappers at Elfstrom Stadium. Steve Parker had two hits and three RBIs, Conner Crumbliss drew three walks and belted an RBI double and Trey Barham improved to 4-0 on the mound. The Cougars clinched a winning season series against Beloit, their first against the Snappers since 2004.

Parker nailed a two-run double in the third to give the Cougars a 2-1 lead. After Beloit got two in the top of the fifth, Parker delivered an RBI single in the bottom half to make it 3-3. Beloit scored once in the sixth, and the Cougars rallied for three unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth for a permanent lead. Petey Paramore collected one RBI, and Crumbliss doubled him home to make it 6-4.

Starter Shawn Haviland gave up four runs on seven hits in 5 2/3 innings in a no-decision. Barham (4-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings of shutout work, Paul Smyth logged a flawless eighth in his Cougars debut and Daniel Thomas worked the ninth for his fourth save.

The Cougars (27-31, 68-60) and Snappers (24-34, 51-77) play Game 3 of the four-game set Wednesday night at 6:30 CT. Murphy Smith (0-2, 5.88) will face Daniel Osterbrock (6-9, 5.42).