

## A's News Clips, Thursday, September 3, 2009

### A's Powell having a blast

By Joe Stiglich, OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Landon Powell knows he needs to squeeze the most out of whatever playing time he gets.

Perhaps that explains the production the A's are getting from their backup catcher.

Powell delivered his first career grand slam to highlight the A's offensive flurry in a 10-4 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday afternoon before a crowd of 13,920 at the Oakland Coliseum.

That gives the rookie switch hitter 27 RBI in the first 36 games of his career. Only Ben Grieve, who drove in 30 through his first 36 games (bridging the 1997 and 1998 seasons), had more RBI over his first 36 games in Oakland history.

Playing behind starter Kurt Suzuki, who leads American League catchers in innings caught, Powell had just 106 at-bats entering Wednesday.

But he's hitting .340 (16-for-47) with runners on base and .393 (11-for-28) with men in scoring position.

"It seems he's hitting .500," said winning pitcher Trevor Cahill. "It seems like whenever there's a situation, he gets a hit. You see he's hitting .250 (actually .255), and you say 'No way.' It always seems like he gets a couple of hits."

Just a night earlier, there appeared to be an invisible barrier preventing A's base runners from crossing home plate, as they stranded 11 and lost 4-3.

On Wednesday, the A's couldn't make contact in the early innings without the ball finding a hole. They scored in double digits for the first time since July 22.

Oakland scored three in the first off Royals right-hander Brian Bannister, who left after 11/3 innings with right shoulder fatigue.

The A's unloaded on Yasuhiko Yabuta for five runs on five hits in the second. Rajai Davis had a sacrifice fly, and the A's then loaded the bases with two outs for Powell.

He pounded a 3-1 pitch well over the elevated wall in right-center to make it 8-0.

Powell earned high marks for his hitting and defense coming through the A's system, but three knee surgeries set him off course. He made his first big league roster this season at age 27, and he's taking his minimal playing time in stride.

"It's not frustrating. I understand it's early in my career," Powell said. "We've got a great starting catcher who works hard and is one of the better players in the game."

Powell threw out David DeJesus trying to steal second in the first inning and has nailed seven of 15 attempted base stealers this season.

A's manager Bob Geren, a reserve catcher through most of his big league career, is impressed with Powell's ability to produce while playing sporadically.

"The backup catcher job is difficult," Geren said. "Your weaknesses usually stand out, and your strengths usually are not as strong as they should be every day. When a guy comes in and both parts of his game are sharp, that's exceptional. You don't see that very often."

Powell also did well to calm the nerves of reliever Brad Kilby, who made his major league debut with two shutout innings in relief of Cahill (8-12).

Kilby, from Elk Grove, estimated he had about 40 people in attendance Wednesday. Afterward he had the ball from his first strikeout, and a lineup card was headed his way as a keepsake.

"That's pretty cool, I'll probably frame it," Kilby said. "It was something I've been dreaming about for 20 years."

## **Cahill allows dubious record at home**

By Joe Stiglich, OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Cahill surrenders record 20th homer at Coliseum

Given the lopsided lead he was working with, rookie Trevor Cahill can probably live with a home run that gave him an unwanted spot in the record books.

The A's right-hander was handed an 8-0 lead Wednesday when he took the mound in the third. Looking to make the Kansas City Royals put the ball in play, he allowed his only three runs in a five-inning stint that earned him his second straight victory in a 10-4 A's win.

"I was just trying to throw strikes," Cahill said. "With an eight-run lead, I was almost (too much) in the mode of laying it in there."

Mike Jacobs connected for a solo homer on one of those pitches. It was the 20th homer allowed at the Coliseum by Cahill, establishing an Oakland single-season record for most home runs allowed at home.

If anything, the homer spotlighted how much Cahill has improved of late. Jacob's shot was the first long ball Cahill allowed in five starts.

He's posted a 2.81 ERA over his past five outings.

He left after five innings and 84 pitches, as the A's are mindful of the innings piling up for Cahill and fellow rookie Brett Anderson.

Cahill entered the day leading major league rookies with 1531/3 innings pitched.

Bobby Crosby was reinstated from the disabled list, and manager Bob Geren said Crosby is likely to start at third base sometime this weekend against Seattle, with the Mariners throwing left-handers Friday and Saturday.

Regular third baseman Adam Kennedy, who hits from the left side, hasn't recorded an extra-base hit in his past 17 games.

Kennedy did have two hits and reached base four times Wednesday. Ryan Sweeney was 2-for-5 with two RBI and two runs, and Rajai Davis was 2-for-3 with two RBI and a run.

First-round pick Grant Green has been transferred to Single-A Stockton after working out with the A's Phoenix-based rookie league team. He made his pro debut Wednesday night for Single-A Stockton, going 1-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts as the Ports' designated hitter in a 2-0 loss to Bakersfield (Rangers).

The A's claimed right-hander John Meloan, 25, off waivers from Pittsburgh and assigned him to Triple-A Sacramento. He's posted a 4.57 ERA in 41 Triple-A appearances (two starts) in 2009 split between the Cleveland, Tampa Bay and Pittsburgh organizations.

Radio play-by-play man Ken Korach is holding his second annual Winning for the Community Poker Challenge on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Warehouse Bar and Grill in Oakland. There's a \$35 buy-in, with prizes going to the winners. Proceeds benefit high school baseball programs of the Oakland Athletic League. To enter, call 510-451-3161 or e-mail [radio@oaklandathletics.com](mailto:radio@oaklandathletics.com).

## **Newhouse: A's reward disabled veteran's loyalty**

By Dave Newhouse, Oakland Tribune columnist

A HEROIC AIRLINE pilot has thrown out the ceremonial first pitch at an Oakland A's game. So has an Olympic swim champion, a famous tenor, inspirational military figures, good Samaritans, devoted A's fans, and an army of advertisers who've invested in the home team.

James Blaine Wines Jr. combined three of those qualities — military figure, good Samaritan, A's devotee — as he stood in front of the Coliseum pitching mound Monday night, ready to deliver the first pitch before the A's-Kansas City Royals game.

Wearing an A's jersey with "Wines" and "86" printed on the back — his 86th birthday is today — he lobbed the ball to A's outfielder Eric Patterson, who was standing in front of home plate and who then autographed the baseball for Wines.

"It looked real good," Wines said of his pitch afterward. "I was not nervous."

Nervous? After what he's been through in his life — growing up around more cattle than people, a World War II prisoner now disabled as a result, and a current caregiver to a handicapped daughter in Alameda — why should tossing a baseball make him nervous?

The oldest of six children (another died), Wines was born in a ranch house in the remote Ruby Valley near Elko, Nev. There were 50 horses and white Hereford cows on the ranch. Wines' grandfather had been a relief rider for the Pony Express, which crossed Nevada.

Wines and siblings attended a one-room schoolhouse. Wines rode to school on a horse. On the return trip home, the horse sometimes ran away with him aboard. The children's clothing came out of Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward catalogs.

"We went to town two or three times a year," Wines said, the town being Elko, which looked like New York City to him. "The family was all we had. We didn't even have a radio. Our sports activity was 'Kick the can'."

After high school in Elko, he spent a semester at the University of Nevada before heading off to war. Assigned to Philadelphia, he watched the A's play in their original home in 1942 and '43 and was hooked.

"It was Connie Mack, I guess," he said of that early attraction, referring to the legendary A's manager. "The straw hat. He managed the team, and I thought he was a forceful person."

Sixty-seven years later — after the A's moved from Philadelphia to Kansas City to Oakland — Wines remains a dedicated A's fan. Though living with wife Joni in Stateline, Nev., he has A's season tickets and often is accompanied by daughter Kelly, 54, a diabetic who uses a wheelchair. Wines (he goes by "Blaine") looks after Kelly year-round, staying in her Alameda home while Joni (who pronounces her name as "Johnny") comes down often from Lake Tahoe.

It's the disabled tending the disabled. If the 10,376 A's fans Monday noticed Wines limping, it's because the Germans rifle-butted him in the back repeatedly, damaging his spine, while he was a prisoner of war for three months in 1944 before being liberated by British military.

"We were forced to do labor, digging graves," he said. "When we marched, and I had to stop to relieve myself, that's when they beat me. All we got fed at camp was one can of soup a day. I weighed 160 normally, but wound up at 85 pounds. We were walking skeletons. I told myself the Germans weren't going to defeat me, and I was going to get home."

Kelly knows exactly how her father survived.

"It was being raised on a ranch," she said. "His family still owns it — the greatest place on Earth."

Wines graduated from the University of Colorado, married Joni in 1952, then they headed to Lake Tahoe and his job in building materials. His health deteriorated in 1996 after back surgery related to those POW beatings. Kelly took care of her father before her diabetic condition, which she contracted at 4, worsened. Then roles were reversed.

"He's everything," Kelly said. "It's amazing how caring and efficient he is."

"I think it's fantastic," added Joni about this special father-daughter bonding.

In Joni's Aug. 17 letter to the A's regarding her husband's love of the team, she suggested his throwing out the first pitch. That was arranged for Monday, and 16 members of Blaine and Joni's family — totaling six children, 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren — came from Nevada and from as far away as North Dakota for the big event.

"I got to meet (A's manager) Bob Geren and third-base coach (Tony) DeFrancesco," said Wines. "It was a very nice evening."

About perfect.

## **Cahill, Powell help A's crush Royals**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

One of the few drawbacks to having a catcher as competent and durable as Kurt Suzuki is that Landon Powell doesn't get much playing time.

Most teams aren't eager to spotlight their backup catcher, but in Oakland's case, Powell has demonstrated great power potential. On Wednesday, the rookie hit his first career grand slam in a 10-4 victory over Kansas City, giving him three homers and nine RBIs in his past six games.

"It seems like he's batting .500 or something," A's starter Trevor Cahill said. "Whenever there's a (RBI) situation, he gets a hit. You look at the scoreboard and see he's hitting .250 and it's like, 'No way.' "

In 36 career games, Powell has driven in 27 runs, the second most by an Oakland player in the first 36 games of his career - behind Ben Grieve's 30 over that span of games in 1997-98.

A's manager Bob Geren called backup catcher a very difficult job, and he's speaking from experience. To find a reserve at that spot who is good offensively and defensively is unusual.

"It's a situation here where the first catcher is an exceptional player, but Landon has done a super job," Geren said. "He threw a runner out, that was a big boost - and four runs with one swing, that's something we haven't seen a lot of."

Powell said he was just lucky to hit the 3-1 fastball from Yasuhiko Yabuta out to right-center, though it was a real blast.

Suzuki's 109 games started are the most in the league by a catcher, but Powell said his minimal playing time is "not frustrating. I understand it's early in my career, and we have a great starting catcher who works hard and is one of the better players in the game.

"As a player, you always want to play more. My goal is not to play 25 to 30 games a year. I want to help the team as much as possible and contribute. I was glad I could contribute today."

Cahill walked the first batter of the game, David DeJesus, and Powell threw him out. He has thrown out seven of 15 would-be base stealers.

Powell's slam came in the second, an inning in which Oakland sent nine men to the plate and scored five times. Cahill, who sat for a while during that rally, came back out and had his only poor inning, giving up a single and two doubles as well as a two-run homer by Mike Jacobs. Jacobs also went deep off Cahill in May.

Cahill said that with the big lead, he was just trying to throw strikes. Powell said Cahill lost a little aggressiveness after the A's big inning, but Cahill found it again his final two innings of work.

Though he hadn't allowed a homer in his previous four starts, Cahill has given up 26 home runs overall, including 20 at home. That's the most ever allowed at the Coliseum in one season. Catfish Hunter allowed 19 in Oakland in 1973.

The A's three left-handed call-ups from Tuesday all worked in relief of Cahill, with Brad Kilby throwing two scoreless innings and Jerry Blevins one. Dana Eveland allowed one run. That was the result of a poor play in left center by Rajai Davis, who called Eric Patterson off a ball that appeared to be Patterson's, then couldn't get to it himself. Davis had two hits and two RBIs, as did Ryan Sweeney. Adam Kennedy reached base four times and scored twice.

Kansas City starter Brian Bannister exited one batter into the second inning with right shoulder fatigue and Royals designated hitter Jose Guillen, just off the disabled list, left with a right hamstring problem.

## **A's beat: Recovered Kilby makes Oakland debut**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

**Brad Kilby** made his big-league debut Wednesday, less than a year after taking a line drive off his skull in a winter league game in the Dominican Republic.

"They didn't know if I'd play baseball again," Kilby said. "I was out of it for two months. I'd just wake up and sit on the couch.

"It was definitely scary. Three weeks ago, there was a line drive up the middle that didn't hit me, but I had a definite flashback. It shook me up."

Kilby's injury meant that the A's didn't place him on the 40-man roster to start the season. With no fanfare, he had the best overall season in Triple-A Sacramento's bullpen after making a mechanical adjustment, starting with his hands at his waist instead of higher up.

He put up a 2.13 ERA for the River Cats, and Tuesday he was called up. On Wednesday, with 40 or so friends and relatives on hand, he worked two scoreless innings, allowing one hit and striking out two.

"That was a cool moment," said **Landon Powell**, who caught Kilby in the minors.

"I was pretty much thinking, 'Don't hit the first guy,' " Kilby said with a smile. "But Landon came out to the mound and made me laugh, told me just to throw the first pitch down the middle and let them hit it, and that's what I did."

Kilby is from Elk Grove and he played at San Jose State. He said he'd wanted to be a big-leaguer since seeing **Will Clark** play for the Giants. Now he has the ball from his first big-league strikeout (**David DeJesus**) and the lineup card, which he'll have framed.

**Briefly: Bobby Crosby** (calf) came off the disabled list and he might start a game or two at third this weekend. ... Outfielder **Scott Hairston** was out with a sore left quad, but he might be available tonight. If he can't go by Friday, the A's probably would call up an outfielder.

## **A's leading off**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

**No cigar:** Close games aren't the A's strong suit. Their 4-3 loss Tuesday put their record in one-run games at 14-21, second worst in the league. Oakland hasn't had a losing record in one-run games since 1998.

## **Powell's slam powers A's past Royals**

### **Cahill picks up eighth victory with five solid innings**

By Adam Loberstein / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- If it seems like Landon Powell does something big every time he gets into the lineup, it's because he usually does.

He doesn't start too often, though. That's what happens when you back up Kurt Suzuki, who's played more games behind the plate than anyone in the American League.

Powell made his eighth start in Oakland's past 37 games on Wednesday. Once again, he didn't disappoint. Powell's two-out grand slam highlighted a five-run second, helping the A's to a 10-4 win in their rubber match with the Royals.

"He's done a great job. He really has," manager Bob Geren said of Powell. "He's in a situation where he's behind an exceptional first catcher. He's done a super job catching.

"Obviously, getting four runs with one swing is something we haven't had a whole lot of. It was a welcome change."

Powell has driven in nine runs in his past six games. He's hit seven doubles, five home runs and has 27 RBIs in only 36 games this season. The 6-foot-3, 260-pounder is slugging .455.

"It's not frustrating," Powell said of his lack of playing time. "You always want to play more, but I know I'm a young guy. I'm just glad I could contribute today."

"Being a backup catcher is a difficult job," Geren said. "Coming in and being sharp both offensively and defensively, that's very hard to do. You don't see that too often."

The A's jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first. Adam Kennedy walked, then Rajai Davis doubled to get things under way. Ryan Sweeney brought both of them home with a soft liner to center. Mark Ellis later scored Sweeney on a sacrifice fly to left.

Davis got the scoring started up again in the second, bringing in Eric Patterson, who had doubled and taken third on a single by Kennedy, with a sac fly to right.

After Sweeney singled and Jack Cust walked to load the bases, Powell delivered the big blow with his shot to right-center.

"With a guy on third," Powell said, "I just wanted to make sure to drive it. I got lucky and didn't miss."

Oakland got its first three runs off of Kansas City starter Brian Bannister, who left after just 1 1/3 innings with right shoulder fatigue.

The A's then tagged Yasuhiko Yabuta for five runs, chasing him after recording only two outs. They added a pair off of Bruce Chen in the third to get to 10 runs.

Trevor Cahill, meanwhile, allowed three runs in five innings, surrendering all three in the third. He gave up six hits, walked two and struck out three to improve to 8-12.

"He threw OK," Geren said. "He pitched good enough to win. You have to learn to pitch with a lead. ... It's nice to have some runs, because then you can make some mistakes."

Brad Kilby, selected from Triple-A Sacramento when rosters expanded on Tuesday, made his Major League debut in relief of Cahill. Kilby, 26, allowed only one hit in two scoreless innings. He had two strikeouts.

"He's deceptive," Geren said of Kilby. "He hides the ball very well. His velocity plays up a bit because of his sneakiness. He didn't look nervous at all.

"He really helped us. It was nice to give [Craig] Breslow, [Michael] Wuertz, [Brad] Ziegler and [Andrew] Bailey the night off and still win."

An Elk Grove native and San Jose State product, Kilby said he'd been dreaming of pitching in the big leagues for over 20 years.

"I was pretty much thinking, 'Just don't hit the first guy,'" Kilby said. "Having someone behind the dish that I've thrown to really made me feel comfortable."

"That was a cool moment," said Powell, who caught Kilby with Sacramento last season. "I looked at him and said, 'Look, the guys here aren't that different.' I just wanted to make sure he had confidence in himself."

## **Injury not slowing down A's Davis**

### **Oakland (59-74) vs. Seattle (70-64), 7:05 p.m. PT**

By Adam Loberstein / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Far more often than not, injuries do a lot more harm than good. For Rajai Davis, that hasn't been the case.

Davis, who has a small fracture at the tip of his right thumb, is batting .324 (12-for-37) with a home run, seven RBIs and six runs scored in nine games since learning of the injury on Aug. 24.

The reason? Davis' ailing thumb has forced him to shorten up his swing.

"I don't put any pressure on [my thumb]. It's just my four fingers," said Davis, whose A's open a four-game set against Seattle on Thursday. "It's been a really good thing for me, because it's changed the way I hold the bat. It feels like the ball is coming at me slower than it actually is now."

"If it's shown him the importance of shortening his swing," manager Bob Geren said, "then it's a blessing in disguise. He just needs to remember to keep doing that when it gets better."

Davis said he feels like he's already better.

"It's not going to affect me," he said. "I can catch up to even higher velocities now. It's allowing my confidence to soar even more."

That's a bad sign for American League pitchers, seeing as Davis is already batting .329 with 13 doubles and 28 RBIs in 42 games since the All-Star Break.

### **Pitching matchup**

#### **OAK: RHP Brett Tomko (3-2, 3.62 ERA)**

In his first start with the A's, Tomko beat the team that had recently released him, the American League East-leading Yankees. His next time out, he beat the AL Central-leading Tigers. In his most recent outing, he held the AL West-leading

Angels to four hits and a walk while striking out five over 5 2/3 innings and left the game with a 6-1 lead, but the Halos stormed back to win and stick Tomko with a no-decision. He hasn't faced Seattle this season.




### **SEA: RHP Ian Snell (5-9, 5.29 ERA)**

Snell gave up three hits and two runs against the Royals in his last outing, but he left after five innings because of swelling in his right forearm after taking a line drive off the arm in the fifth. He finished the frame, but his day was done after just 68 pitches. X-rays were negative, and Snell should be ready to go for his next start. Despite the early exit, Snell still found his way to the win column for his third consecutive start, and he has now allowed just four earned runs in his past three outings. His only appearance against the A's this season was during the Mariners' last homestand, when he held Oakland to one run on four hits over six innings.

### **Tidbits**

Scott Hairston (strained left quad) was out of the lineup Wednesday. "He's day-to-day," Geren said. "He said he could play [Thursday], but should play Friday for sure." ... Geren said Bobby Crosby, activated from the DL on Wednesday, should spell Adam Kennedy at third base either Friday or Saturday. ... Tommy Everidge hit two home runs for Triple-A Sacramento on Tuesday, giving him 12 on the season. ... Sacramento's Chris Carter leads all Minor League players in hits (174) and total bases (301). He ranks second in RBIs with 113.

### **Up next**

- Friday: Athletics (Vin Mazzaro, 4-9, 5.32) vs. Mariners (Ryan Rowland-Smith, 2-2, 3.95), 7:05 p.m. PT 
- Saturday: Athletics (Brett Anderson, 7-10, 4.42) vs. Mariners (Luke French, 4-4, 4.62), 6:05 p.m. PT 
- Sunday: Athletics (Gio Gonzalez, 4-5, 6.07) vs. Mariners (Doug Fister, 2-1, 2.94), 1:05 p.m. PT 

## **Suzuki is A's Clemente Award nominee**

### **Catcher started fund to aid Adenhardt crash's lone survivor**

By Adam Loberstein / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Jon Wilhite's life changed forever on April 9.

On that day, a tragic car crash took the lives of Angels pitcher Nick Adenhardt, Henry Pearson and Courtney Stewart.

On that day, Wilhite was the accident's lone survivor, requiring an operation to reattach his skull and spinal column after a rare separation.

On that day, Kurt Suzuki took action.

Suzuki and his wife, Renee, founded the Jon Wilhite Recovery Fund in an effort to help Wilhite, a college teammate of Suzuki at Cal State Fullerton, pay off his medical bills. In just over two months, the Suzukis have already raised over \$61,000 to assist Wilhite.

For his efforts, Suzuki has been named the A's nominee for the prestigious Roberto Clemente Award.

The award recognizes the player who best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team. It is named in honor of the former Pirates outfielder. Clemente died in a plane crash while attempting to transport relief supplies to earthquake-stricken Nicaragua on Dec. 31, 1972.

"As a professional athlete," Suzuki said, "I have the resources and opportunity to host these fundraisers. ... I only hope that the money we raise will alleviate some of the costs that Jon and his family are being faced with during his long rehab process."

The Suzukis raised funds by selling over 450 autographed baseballs, running a three-day silent auction at Cal State Fullerton in May, hosting an online auction of game-used, autographed memorabilia on oaklandathletics.com in June, through the A's silent auction, a donation by the A's Community Fund and with donations made by fans through athleticsnation.com.

Additionally, the Suzukis hosted the Wilhite family on July 18 when the A's faced the Angels at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. Wilhite threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"Him throwing to me, it's kind of like the good old days at Fullerton," Suzuki said. "He's always worked hard ever since I've known him. That's contributed to where he is now -- always battling."



"A couple of months ago, who would have thought this would be possible? He's definitely exceeded [all expectations]. ... You can never really put in words what it means to all of us to have Jon here."

Suzuki is also a strong supporter of the A's charity efforts. He regularly attends annual charity events, ranging from FanFest and Dinner on the Diamond to visiting local schools on behalf of the team's Mathletics and Home Run Readers programs.

Fans can participate in the selection process of the overall winner of the award now through Oct. 4. The fan ballot winner will be tallied as one vote among those cast by a special selection panel of baseball dignitaries and media members. The panel includes MLB Commissioner Bud Selig and Vera Clemente, widow of the Pirates' Hall of Fame right fielder. The winner will be announced during the World Series.

Voting fans also will be automatically registered for a chance to win a trip to the 2009 World Series, when the national winner of the Roberto Clemente Award presented by Chevy will be announced.

## **A's activate Crosby from disabled list**

### **Right-hander Meloan claimed off waivers from Pittsburgh**

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The A's made a pair of moves Wednesday in advance of the finale of a three-game series against the visiting Royals, activating infielder Bobby Crosby from the 15-day disabled list and claiming right-hander Jon Meloan off waivers from the Pirates organization.

Crosby had been on the DL since Aug. 18 with a strained left calf. A free agent at the end of the season, he'll see time at first base against left-handed starting pitchers in the final month and occasionally spell regular third baseman Adam Kennedy.

The 2004 American League Rookie of the Year, Crosby, 29, lost his starting shortstop job this year and is all but certain he'll be moving on. Orlando Cabrera was the starting shortstop until he was traded before the July 31 deadline, after which Cliff Pennington was handed the job.

Meloan has played in four different organizations this year, having started the season in Triple-A ball with the Indians. He was traded to the Rays organization July 2 and picked up off waivers by the Pirates on Aug. 12.

All told, Meloan has posted a 4.57 ERA in 41 games with three Triple-A teams this year. After claiming Meloan, the A's optioned him to Triple-A Sacramento.

## **Powell helps slam Royals as a backup**

### **Catcher throws out runner and hits grand slam**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Oakland backup catcher Landon Powell had another big day then prepared himself for a return to the Athletics' bench.

Making a rare start in place of starter Kurt Suzuki, Powell threw out a baserunner in the first inning then hit his first career grand slam in the second to help Oakland beat the Kansas City Royals, 10-4, Wednesday.

The four RBIs were a career-high for the A's rookie, who has driven in 27 runs over his first 36 games in the majors. Yet when Oakland hosts Seattle in a four-game series beginning today, the 27-year-old Powell is almost certain to go back to his customary spot on the bench.

"It's not frustrating, I understand it's early in my career," Powell said. "We've got a great starting catcher who works hard and is one of the better players in the game. As a player you always want to play more."

Suzuki leads the A's in RBIs and is second on the team with 11 home runs. He earned a day off from manager Bob Geren then watched his understudy put a hurting on the reeling Royals.

It's something Oakland is getting accustomed to seeing from Powell. He has thrown out seven of 15 baserunners trying to steal and is batting .393 with runners in scoring position.

Powell's 27 RBIs are also the second-most in franchise history by a player in his first 36 games. Ben Grieve drove in 30 in his first 36 games, though it was spread out over two seasons.

"A backup catcher's job is very difficult," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "Weaknesses usually stand out and strengths are usually not even as strong as they could be every day. He deserves a lot of credit for what he's done in the role he's done it."

Ryan Sweeney added two hits and drove in two runs, while Trevor Cahill won back-to-back starts for the first time in more than two months.

Powell homered off Royals reliever Yasuhiko Yabuta as part of Oakland's five-run second inning after Kansas City starter Brian Bannister left the game with shoulder fatigue.

Mike Jacobs homered for the Royals, who lost two of three against Oakland without manager Trey Hillman. Hillman, who left on Monday to be with his family following the death of his father-in-law, is expected to rejoin the team Friday in Kansas City.

"It was one of those series that we were fortunate to get away with one win," interim manager John Gibbons said. "They make you throw strikes that's the way they've always been here. If you don't do that you are under the gun the whole game."

Cahill (8-12) gave up three runs and six hits in five innings.

The A's right-hander had not won consecutive starts since mid-June and is only 3-7 in his last 13 starts.

He ran into trouble only once, in the third when Jacobs homered and David DeJesus and Alberto Callaspo added RBIs. Following Jacobs' solo home run, Cahill retired seven of the next nine to end his afternoon.

Brad Kilby gave up one hit in two innings during his major league debut while Jerry Blevins and former Oakland starter Dana Eveland pitched the final two innings to complete the nine-hitter for Oakland.

Bannister, who lives 30 minutes east of the Coliseum during the offseason, gave up three runs in the first inning then left after getting Cliff Pennington to pop out to second base leading off the second. Gibbons and assistant trainer Frank Kyte met with Bannister on the mound briefly before Gibbons signaled to the bullpen for Yabuta, ending the day for Bannister (7-12) after only 32 pitches.

"I went out there and didn't have much at all today," Bannister said. "I've been battling this for a month now and it's extreme fatigue and just soreness in the back and my shoulder. It's not sharp pain so I don't think it's anything serious."

After Bannister left, the A's batted around against Yabuta to break the game open. Rajai Davis' sacrifice fly drove in Eric Patterson, then Powell followed with his first career grand slam three batters later to make it 8-0.

Kansas City came back with three runs off Cahill in the third but Oakland scored twice in the bottom of the inning, one when Davis was hit by a pitch and the other on a double-play groundout by Jack Cust.

Sweeney had a two-run single in the first then singled and scored in the second.

The Royals, losers of 10 of 14, were in danger of being held to three runs or less for the 20th time since the All-Star break until scoring a run off Eveland in the ninth.

## **San Jose Major League Ballpark to Create \$130 Million a Year in Economic Benefits and a Thousand New Jobs**

SAN JOSE, CA -- (Marketwire) -- 09/03/09 -- A new Major League Baseball ballpark in Downtown San Jose has the potential to generate approximately 1,000 new jobs and \$130 million in ongoing economic benefit with a positive impact on the City of San Jose's General Fund.

According to a new report released today, "[Economic Impact Analysis: Proposed Major League Ballpark](#)," San Jose would see strong financial benefits from the construction and operation of a new professional baseball ballpark associated with the Oakland A's.

"San Jose is ready to play ball," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "It's great news that this privately built and operated major league ballpark will create nearly 1,000 jobs and generate over \$5 million dollars a year of revenue for local governments. San Jose would receive over \$3 million each year in new tax revenue. In addition, Santa Clara County, schools and other local agencies would receive over \$2 million a year in new revenue. That's good news for local governments in these tough budget times," said Reed. "As the largest city in Northern California and one of the most dynamic markets in the U.S., the time is right for professional baseball to turn its attention to San Jose."

Developed by Conventions Sports & Leisure International (CSL) -- a leading consultant in the convention, sport, entertainment and visitor industries -- and presented to the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, the report studied the economic impacts of a new MLB facility that would be built to house the A's and located in the Diridon Station neighborhood of Downtown San Jose.

With a fully operational facility in 2014, the ballpark would produce \$130 million in annual economic impact and approximately 1,000 new jobs paying wages of more than \$62 million, according to the report. Over a 30-year period, the cumulative economic impact would total \$2.9 billion and personal wages paid exceeding \$1.3 billion.

Local hotels, restaurants, stores, and nightspots would benefit as well, with the average ballpark attendee expected to spend \$47 at businesses outside of the MLB facility.

In addition to the economic impacts to the local economy, the report found that the ballpark would generate \$1.5 million per year new tax revenues for the City's General Fund, more than \$1.5 million for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, and more than \$2 million for other local agencies including Santa Clara County and the San Jose Unified School District.

The report delved into the fiscal impacts to the City of San Jose, both in terms of taxes collected and in expenses to the City's General Fund. The most significant costs resulting from ballpark operations would be event day activities (primarily traffic management and security), facility operations, and ongoing maintenance. The San Jose City Council has stipulated that both event day and operations costs are to be fully borne by Major League Baseball team. The report determined that the remaining day-to-day costs for public services during non-event times would be relatively minimal at around \$50,000 a year.

"A new ballpark would be a crown jewel for Downtown San Jose, and providing much-needed boost to nearby businesses, and with the new high-speed rail and BART stations planned, will have phenomenal access to the whole Bay Area," said Harry Mavrogenes, executive director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. "Creation of a ballpark will transform a blighted area and encourage further investment in this critical area of Downtown."

Construction of the MLB ballpark is proposed for a 14-acre site located in the Burbank/Del Monte Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Redevelopment Project Area. The site is bounded by San Fernando Street on the north, Park Avenue on the south, Autumn Street on the east and Caltrain railroad tracks on the west. The venue would house 32,000 seats, including 80 corporate-sponsored suites, and play host to approximately 81 MLB games per year as other non-MLB events. Total annual attendance is estimated to be 2.1 million.

According to Paul Krutko, San Jose's chief development officer, results from the "Economic Impact Analysis" demonstrate the importance of a city's sports and entertainment offerings.

"With more than a million residents and nearly 7,000 of the world's most important technology companies, San Jose now is hands down the economic powerhouse of the Bay Area. Major league teams, leagues, and sporting events are looking to San Jose to reach the best audience in the nation, a diverse, innovative and highly-educated community with one of the top median incomes in the U.S.," Krutko said. "Sports organizations also want to take advantage of the economic opportunity to build, grow and diversify their fan base among residents who embrace an active, healthy energetic lifestyle."

The report will be discussed by the San Jose City Council at its September 15, 2009 meeting.

"This report quantifies that it makes fiscal and economic sense to bring baseball to Downtown San Jose," Mayor Reed said. "Our residents will benefit, our Downtown businesses will benefit, and surrounding communities will benefit. I look forward to the day when the ballpark is completed and families from throughout our community can enjoy a warm afternoon or evening at the Downtown ballpark."

ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California, with more than a million residents, and the Capital of Silicon Valley -- the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

#### ABOUT THE SAN JOSE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit [www.sjredevelopment.org](http://www.sjredevelopment.org).

#### ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The OED guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art, sporting and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, [www.sjeconomy.com](http://www.sjeconomy.com).

#### ABOUT CONVENTIONS, SPORTS & LEISURE (CSL)

Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL) is a leading advisory and planning firm specializing in providing consulting services to the convention, sport, entertainment and visitor industries. CSL was established for the specific purpose of providing a source of focused research and expertise in these industries. Services include new/expanded event facility feasibility studies, organizational reviews/performance enhancement studies, destination masterplanning, industry benchmarking, negotiation assistance and related services. For more information, please visit, [www.cslintl.com](http://www.cslintl.com).

## MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

### **Byrnes topples former club**

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

So much for being a fan-favorite.

Eric Byrnes, whom the River Cats made a 10th Season Bobblehead of earlier this year, stung his old team by scoring the go-ahead run for the Reno Aces in Sacramento's 5-4 loss Wednesday night.

Byrnes, who was adorned in Sacramento for his hustle and charisma from 2000-02, opened the bottom of the eight inning with a double to center. He then scored on Josh Whitesell's double down the left-field line to hand the River Cats their second consecutive loss in Reno after the Cats won eight consecutive road games.

Sacramento fell behind early, 4-1, but tied the game with a fielder's choice RBI by Eric Munson in the sixth and a Brett Wallace two-run double in the seventh. Michael Benacka allowed the go-ahead run in the eighth, suffering his first loss as a River Cat.

Sacramento starter Jerome Williams went 6.0 innings, allowing seven hits and four runs while striking out three. Reno starter Daniel Cabrera countered that by allowing only two runs over five innings.

Sacramento has already locked up the Pacific Coast League South Division title, and is waiting for a winner and first-round opponent from the North Division. With a victory on Wednesday, Colorado Springs maintains a two-game lead over Tacoma while Salt Lake was eliminated with their loss. Tacoma finishes with a four-game home series against Colorado Springs, which will determine Sacramento's first-round opponent.

Sacramento concludes its four-game series with Reno on Thursday before heading to Salt Lake for a four-game series to end the regular season.

## **Hounds Fall 9-5 Against The Missions**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

According to "the book" ... not available in stores ... allowing the opposition's lead-off batter to reach base is a dangerous proposition, one in which that base runner will come around to score better than half the time. Perhaps the book should be available in stores, because it was right on the money Wednesday night.

The RockHounds allowed San Antonio's lead-off batter to reach base in each inning, and six of them came around to score. The Missions also escaped 'Hounds rallies in the sixth and seventh innings, allowing only a pair of runs as the RockHounds stranded five base runners, and went on to a 9-5 win at Citibank Ballpark.

Frisco edged Corpus Christi in 11 innings, 1-0, pulling back to within two games of the first place RockHounds with five to go in the regular season.

Corey Wimberly and Jemile Weeks went a combined 7-for-8 ... Corey was 4-for-4 and Jemile 3-for-4 ... and Josh Donaldson drove in three runs, albeit in a losing cause for the 'Hounds.

San Antonio got outstanding production, with eight players scoring and/or driving in at least one run. Five Missions had multi-hit games, led by Lance Zawadzky who had a three hits, including a triple.

Frisco evened its series with Corpus Christi with a 1-0 win on Chad Tracy's walk-off home run in the 11th inning. The undermanned Hooks won Tuesday's opener and battled Wednesday despite losing three key players. Among them are Houston's # 1 prospect, Jason Castro, and Drew Locke, who leads the league in hitting and was a challenger for league player of the year honors. Castro is taking part in the World Cup and Locke is out with a broken hand.

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

The RockHounds are home at Citibank Ballpark through Labor Day, in the regular season's final home stand. The RockHounds host first half champion San Antonio Thursday & Friday ... Frisco comes to town for a possible pennant showdown Saturday, Sunday & Labor Day.

Game times: Games in the final home stand of the regular season begin at 6:30 p.m., with two exceptions: Friday, September 4th at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 6th at 6:00 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 Citibank Ballpark Thursday evening is 6:15 and 5:15 p.m. on Friday.

## **RockHounds lose to Missions, lead drops to 2 games**

by Staff Reports, Midland Reporter-Telegram

The RockHounds didn't receive a warm welcome back to Citibank Ballpark on Wednesday.

The 'Hounds lost the second game of a four-game series with the Missions, 9-5. At the same time, Frisco beat Corpus Christi 1-0 in 11 innings on Wednesday to pull within two games of Midland in the South Division second half standings.

The RockHounds took an early 1-0 lead Wednesday, but the Missions scratched across single runs in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings before going off for three in the seventh to put the game out of reach.

Corey Wimberly led off the bottom of the first with a single and scored later in the inning on a Josh Donaldson groundout. However, the 'Hounds didn't score again until the sixth.

RockHounds starter Tyson Ross made it through the first two innings relatively smoothly, but he started to unravel in the

third. The Missions scored on him the next three innings and he left after five innings. He ended the game having allowed three runs on four hits and four walks while striking out two.

Dewon Day entered in relief of Ross and didn't fare any better. In an inning of work, he allowed four runs, two earned, on five hits. By the time the 'Hounds came to bat in the seventh, they trailed 7-2.

The 'Hounds scored on a Jemile Weeks RBI single in the seventh and added two runs in the ninth on RBI singles from Wimberly and Josh Donaldson, but that was as far as their rally went.

Wimberly led the RockHounds offense, going 4-for-4 with three runs while Weeks was 3-for-4 with an RBI and Donaldson was 2-for-5 with three RBI. The rest of the order combined for three hits.

## **RockHounds: Godfrey's turnaround key part of 2nd half success**

by Shawn Shroyer, Midland Reporter-Telegram

Three starts into his 2009 campaign, RockHounds right-hander Graham Godfrey was 0-2 with an 8.49 ERA. If there was a weak link in the RockHounds' starting rotation, it was him.

From that point on, though, Godfrey has been the ace of the 'Hounds' staff, and one of the best starters in minor league baseball. However, this isn't a tale of a pitcher sticking with what got him to Double-A and finally breaking through. Rather, it took a sit-down with pitching coach Scott Emerson and a decision to break down Godfrey's delivery and start all over that led to his resurrection.

"I wasn't in a good place," Godfrey said. "I had to change something. That's when (Emerson) said I had nowhere to go but up."

Since that conversation, Godfrey has gone 11-6 with a 2.34 ERA, been named a mid-season and postseason Texas League All-Star and on Wednesday he was honored as the RockHounds' Pitcher of the Year.

"Graham's been outstanding," RockHounds manager Darren Bush said. "I'm proud of him. He's well-deserving of everything he's gotten. There aren't many players you'll find who put in more work than he does."

But what Godfrey feels best about isn't the accolades he's earned following his first three starts of the season. It's how assured he feels in his approach when he goes into a start. The delivery he switched to is completely different than he's ever pitched. It felt, as he called it, "awkward" at first. Not any more.

"It feels great," Godfrey said. "It adds to my confidence and now I know every time I go out there I have a chance to win."

Now, as the RockHounds head down the home stretch of the regular season, fighting tooth and nail to earn a playoff berth, they do so with a bona fide go-to starter.

With his last start coming Aug. 29, it's likely Godfrey will start tonight's game against San Antonio. If he's to start again this season after today, it will have to come in the playoffs.

Whether that start comes or not, Godfrey couldn't be happier with how the season has gone, both for him and the 'Hounds.

"It's gone much better than I ever could have imagined," Godfrey said. "I had to overcome a lot of obstacles, but I feel like I've helped the team win."

**ROCKHOUNDS AWARDS:** While Godfrey took home Pitcher of the Year honors for the 'Hounds, recently-promoted first baseman Chris Carter earned the RockHounds' Player of the Year award.

Carter, who was also named Texas League Player of the Year, led the Texas League in slugging (.576), on-base percentage (.435), extra-base hits (67), doubles (41) and walks (82) -- most of which by a wide margin. He was also second in the league in average (.337), home runs (24), hits (165) and third in RBI (101).

With likely one more regular season start to go, Godfrey is 11-8 with a 3.64 ERA.

**PLAYER OF THE MONTH:** If only every month could be August for Chris Carter. In addition to wrapping up Player of the Year honors and earning a promotion to Triple-A Sacramento, Carter was named Player of the Month for August in the Texas League.

Carter hit .424 in the month with a .528 on-base percentage and .800 slugging percentage. The only vacancy left on Carter's trophy case this season is Minor League Player of the Year, which may come his way considering he hasn't cooled off at Sacramento.

**LOW PROFILE MANAGER:** RockHounds manager Darren Bush, who was named Texas League Manager of the Year earlier in the week has also continued to earn the praises of his players. As the 'Hounds cling to their second half division lead, his players give him, pitching coach Scott Emerson and hitting coach Webster Garrison full credit for keeping the clubhouse in an upbeat, confident mood all season.

"It's been great," Godfrey said. "Having Bush for part of last year and this year has been awesome. Add in Emerson and (Garrison) and this is one of the best staffs I've played for, if not the best."

The 'Hounds held a commanding first half lead before Tommy Everidge was promoted and they were eventually surpassed by San Antonio. But whether ahead or behind in the standings, the RockHounds say Bush has remained the same all season.

"I appreciate it. I'm grateful for it," Bush said. "We accept adversity and just go through it. We've learned to accept adversity because you know you'll get through it. There's no such thing as pressure."

And his success as a manager hasn't been lost on the front office.

"(The Oakland Athletics) have taken a lot of our talent, but we're still winning," RockHounds general manager Monty Hoppel said.

**HOMESTAND PROMOTIONS:** The RockHounds will give away Lee- and Midland High-colored mini-footballs on Friday and first pitch Friday is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to better accommodate the football crowd. If the 'Hounds make the playoffs, they would play San Antonio with the only guaranteed home game being Game 3 on Friday, Sept. 11. That game would also start at 5:30 p.m. with half-price drinks being served. Game 4 would be played at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12 and include postgame fireworks. The fifth and final game, if necessary, would be played at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12 and include \$1 concessions items.

## **Blaze hand Ports their ninth shutout loss**

## **A's 2009 First Round draft pick Grant Green collects first professional hit in debut**

**STOCKTON, Calif.**— The Stockton Ports (58-77) continued their offensive woes on Wednesday, as the Bakersfield Blaze (71-64) handed the Ports their ninth shutout loss of the season.

The Port totaled just five hits in the contest, including a single by designated hitter Grant Green. Green, the Oakland A's First Round draft pick (13<sup>th</sup> overall) from the 2009 First Year-Player Draft, made his professional debut on Wednesday night with the Stockton Ports.

The University of Southern California product was activated prior to the game on Wednesday. Green struck out in his first at-bat in the second frame and singled in the fifth inning. He finished Wednesday's game 1x4.

Shane Keough provided the lone extra base hit with a double, and Michael Richard led the team with two hits. The Ports left eight stranded in the contest.

Right-handed pitcher Hector Garcia made his Ports debut after joining the team on August 29. He allowed one earned run (a solo home run) on three hits in 5.0 innings. He struck out two and didn't walk a batter. Despite a terrific outing, Garcia picked up the loss. Derrick Gordon and Nick Walters tossed two innings apiece in the game.

The two teams remained scoreless until the top of the fifth. First baseman Ian Gac put the Blaze ahead 1-0 with a solo home run to left field. It was his 20<sup>th</sup> home run of the year and his second in as many games. Gac finished the contest 1x3 with two strikeouts.

Bakersfield added their second and final run in the sixth inning. Gordon came on to pitch for the Ports. He gave up a leadoff double to second baseman Matthew Lawson. Gordon then walked center fielder David Paisano. Shortstop Davis Stoneburner laid down a bunt single to load the bases with no out. Right fielder Joey Butler then smacked a sacrifice fly to right fielder Todd Johnson, allowing Lawson to score. Gordon retired the next two batters to get out of the jam.

The Ports bullpen kept the Blaze to just one hit in the last three frames, to keep Stockton in the game. The Ports offense mustered just one hit and one base runner in the last three innings.

The Ports will work to avoid the sweep on Thursday at 7:05 p.m. LHP Pedro Figueroa (2-4, 3.19) will start for Stockton, while LHP Richard Bleier (7-10, 4.61) will take the hill for Bakersfield.

## **Cougars Fall in Opener in Peoria**

## **Kane County begins final regular-season stretch in losing fashion**

**PEORIA, III.** – After enjoying their final off day of the regular season Tuesday, the Kane County Cougars were back in action Wednesday night in Peoria and fell to the Chiefs, 3-2, in the opener of a three-game set at O'Brien Field. Steve Parker had two hits and an RBI, and Kenny Smalley gave up one run over five innings in a no-decision.

Smalley yielded his only run in the third. He scattered four hits, walked three and fanned two. He had lost his previous four starts but ended Wednesday with a no-decision. It is scheduled to be his final regular-season appearance, which means he ends the year with nine victories.

Parker tied the game in the third with an RBI single that plated Conner Crumbliss, but Peoria added a run in the sixth and another in the seventh against A.J. Huttenlocker (1-2) to provide the difference. The Cougars rallied for a Jeremy Barfield sacrifice fly in the ninth to make it 3-2, but they stranded Mike Spina at third when the game ended. Kevin Kreier recorded his fourth save for the Chiefs.

The Cougars (31-34, 72-63) and Chiefs (41-23, 79-54) continue the series Thursday night at 6:30 CT. Murphy Smith (1-2, 4.94) is scheduled to face Justin Bristow (5-7, 4.31).

## **Rick Magnante to manage #300 Thursday**

By Rob Fai / Vancouver Canadians

(Memorial Stadium - Everett, WA) - In a season where 76 games are played in 79 nights, it is easy to miss the odd accomplishment that can get lost somewhere between a bus ride, batting practice or bottom of the sixth.

As the 2009 season works its way toward an inevitable conclusion, Canadians **Manager Rick Magnante** was told that Thursday's game in Everett would mark his *300th* game as Manager of Vancouver's professional baseball team.

"Boy, I can't remember them all, that's for sure," says Magnante just moments after a 12-6 victory in Everett, Washington.

That might be fair as since 2006, Magnante has been at the helm of the C's for 299 games through Wednesday as well as Managing the South African National Baseball Union at three World Championships and a pair of World Baseball Classics. Don't forget Magnante's commitments to the Oakland Athletics as a scout in one of North America's hottest baseball hotbeds (Central California) and it is easy to see how one number can get lost in the shuffle.



But don't knock the lofty number. No Manager in Vancouver Canadians Class-A Short-Season history comes close. Dennis Rogers 152 games is a distant second to Magnante's nearly four full seasons in Vancouver.

Heading into Thursday's 300th game, Magnante carries in a 144-155 (.482) record as the 'Skipper' of the Canadians, putting him sixth on Vancouver's All-Time Wins list, some 114 victories behind Vancouver Mounties (1957-59) Manager Charlie Metro.

But, Magnante is all alone as the winningest Manager in Vancouver Canadians Class-A Short-Season history at 144, some 67 wins more than Dennis Rogers stint out at Nat Bailey Stadium (2003-04).

What lies ahead for Magnante?

"I love Vancouver and if I had it my way I would manage here until the day I died," says Magnante who is days away from completing his fourth tour of duty as the face of the Canadians.

For those who have seen the development of players like Travis Buck, Corey Brown, Jeremy Barfield, Paul Smyth and Conner Crumbliss - here's hoping that Magnante's wish of managing right through to the end holds true.