

A's News Clips, Friday, September 4, 2009

Long ball bites Tomko, A's

By Joe Stiglich, OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Brett Tomko doesn't make a secret of his philosophy on the mound.

He goes after hitters and isn't afraid of giving up the home run ball.

After delivering three fine starts upon joining the A's rotation, Tomko hit his first stumbling block in green and gold, as the Seattle Mariners teed off on the veteran right-hander in a 7-4 defeat of Oakland on Thursday before a sparse crowd of 10,297.

Tomko gave up a pair of two-run homers in the first inning and served up one more in the fourth, as the A's fell to 3-10 this season against the Mariners, the team directly above them in the American League West standings.

"Guys got on base, and I fell behind (on all three homers)," Tomko said. "When you fall behind guys and don't make a quality pitch, that's what's going to happen."

Today, the A's will call up right-hander Clayton Mortensen from Triple-A Sacramento to start in place of Vin Mazzaro. Mazzaro was examined by a doctor and found to have some tendinitis in his right shoulder.

Manager Bob Geren said it's possible Mazzaro may just be skipped for a turn to rest his shoulder. His next scheduled start is a week from today in Minnesota.

"He hasn't bounced back start-to-start as well as we'd like," Geren said.

Tomko found trouble immediately Thursday. Ichiro Suzuki led off the game with a single and Franklin Gutierrez turned on a 2-1 pitch and sent it well over the left field wall to put the Mariners ahead.

Tomko retired

the next two batters. But Adrian Beltre lined a ball that A's left fielder Eric Patterson broke in on. The ball sailed over his head for a double.

Bill Hall then drove a 1-1 pitch even deeper than Gutierrez's, clearing the first block of seats in the left field bleachers for a 4-0 Seattle lead.

Kurt Suzuki's two-run single in the bottom of the first made it 4-2, and Seattle gift-wrapped another Oakland run in the second, as Mariners shortstop Jack Wilson made an ill-advised and off-target flip to second base on Ryan Sweeney's two-out fielder's choice grounder.

The error allowed Adam Kennedy to score.

But Tomko surrendered another two-run shot to Kenji Johjima in the fourth that put Seattle ahead 6-3.

Tomko (3-3) had three seasons in which he allowed 30-plus homers in his days as a regular starter, but he'd allowed just two solo shots over his first three starts for Oakland since being promoted from the minors.

All three of Thursday's homers came on fastballs.

"It all happened quick," Tomko said. "You take that first inning away, I give up (Johjima's) two-run homer and we're still in the ballgame."

Daric Barton's solo homer in the eighth brought the A's to within 6-4, but Seattle has one of the stingier bullpens in the American League. The A's couldn't muster much off relievers Chris Jakubauskas, Mark Lowe and David Aardsma after Ian Snell (6-9) left the game.

"I know they have some good right-handed arms down there," the A's Mark Ellis said. "You definitely want to get to them early."

A's update: Rookie of the month Bailey might be headed for a bigger honor

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Rookie of month Bailey might land bigger honor

Andrew Bailey was named the American League Rookie of the Month for August on Thursday.

Now attention turns to whether the A's closer lands a much bigger award.

Bailey is considered a front-runner in the American League Rookie of the Year chase, and manager Bob Geren didn't hold back his thoughts on Bailey's candidacy.

"Hopefully (Rookie of the Month) will lead on to Rookie of the Year. He's had that kind of year," Geren said. "... I see him more than anyone, so he's got my vote."

Bailey's likely competition includes Baltimore Orioles outfielder Nolan Reimold, Chicago White Sox third baseman Gordon Beckham, Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus and Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Jeff Niemann.

Geren pointed out that voters have a challenge in determining the worthiness of pitchers versus everyday players.

The Rookie of the Year awards — like the MVP, Cy Young and Manager of the Year awards — are voted on by the Baseball Writers Association of America. And working in Bailey's favor is his selection to the All-Star team, which gave him some national visibility.

A recent New York Times story that broke down the ROY races listed Bailey as the AL favorite.

Bailey led rookies in both leagues with 21 saves before Thursday to go with a 1.88 ERA. That left him two saves shy of Huston Street's Oakland rookie record of 23 set in 2005. That season, Street became the A's sixth Rookie of the Year since 1986.

Bailey has been on a particular roll of late, converting 16 straight saves entering Thursday.

"You can't think about that stuff," Bailey said of Rookie of the Year talk. "Obviously if it happens, it's a great honor. It would be a dream season, I guess, if that happens. But it's not in the forefront of my mind."

Ryan Sweeney batted third for the A's for the second straight game and Kurt Suzuki dropped to fifth, as Geren looks for a hitter to produce consistently in the No. 3 slot. Oakland's No. 3 hitters have combined for a major league-low .216 average. Since 1974, the lowest average for a team's No. 3 hitters has been .217 by the 1976 Montreal Expos.

Geren has reworked the rotation with two days off next week. Brett Tomko will pitch on standard four days' rest, Trevor Cahill and Vin Mazzaro get six days' rest between starts and Brett Anderson and Gio Gonzalez get eight days' rest.

Tomko and Cahill will start two games in Chicago against the White Sox; Mazzaro, Edgar Gonzalez and Tomko take the ball in Minnesota; and Anderson, Gio Gonzalez and Cahill pitch in Texas.

Mazzaro's status could be iffy, as he's being skipped tonight with right shoulder tendinitis.

First baseman Chris Carter, who enjoyed a huge season for Double-A Midland, was named the Texas League's Player of the Year. Midland manager Darren Bush was named Manager of the Year.

A's ballpark in San Jose would bring \$130M a year in benefits to city, report finds

By Tracy Seipel, San Jose Mercury News

Major League Baseball has yet to decide if San Jose has the right to pursue the Oakland A's, but that hasn't stopped the city from touting the possibility as an economic grand slam.

Thursday, the City Council received an analysis outlining the economic impact of a 14-acre baseball park near Diridon Station. Perhaps not surprisingly, the city-commissioned report's initial figures appear promising: The development of a 32,000-seat ballpark with 81 home games and three non-MLB events a year would lead to \$130 million in annual spending throughout the local economy and \$2.9 billion over a 30-year period.

The analysis also shows that a new stadium would create 2,100 full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs in San Jose, of which 980 would be new jobs. That number does not include players but does include team personnel.

The conclusions left Mayor Chuck Reed elated.

"San Jose is ready to play ball," Reed said in a statement. "This report finds that it makes fiscal and economic sense to bring baseball to downtown. Our residents will benefit, our downtown businesses will benefit and surrounding communities will benefit."

A's owner Lew Wolff agreed with that assessment. "If we're able to get the go-ahead, I think we'll be as close to a private stimulus project as any could be."

The "go-ahead" remains in limbo because the San Francisco Giants are adamantly opposed to giving up their territorial rights to Santa Clara County. Major League Baseball has created a high-powered committee to study the Athletics stadium options. But Thursday, representatives of the Giants, MLB and the committee declined to comment on either the analysis or the status of the talks.

"There is no specific time limit that I've heard of," said Wolff.

Calls to experts who study the economics of ballparks were not returned by deadline, but at least one observer who has studied ballpark financing for almost 15 years urged caution.

"I would take it (the analysis) with a grain of salt," said Neil deMause, a stadium subsidy critic who runs the Web site www.fieldofschemes.com. "The numbers in these kinds of things are always sort of guesstimates, it could easily be off 50 percent either way. But it's a reasonable attempt with not enough hard data."

At its core, the 88-page analysis — prepared by a consulting firm for \$130,000 — establishes a set of negotiating principles that frame any possible agreement with the A's, including that the team — and not taxpayers — would be responsible for financing and building the stadium and financing all stadium operating costs.

"We've told them that that is our expectation — that they would agree to cover all costs in and around the stadium that relate to their activity," said Paul Krutko, the city's lead negotiator.

San Jose must be included in the team's name, the city insists. And the proposed stadium development must also, according to the negotiating principles, generate a "significant economic benefit" to San Jose and have a positive impact on the city's general fund. The analysis shows the estimated annual fiscal return to the city is \$1.5 million in net new general fund revenue, mostly from property and sales taxes.

"The city needs to be making some money on this transaction," Krutko said.

The analysis also indicates that Santa Clara County would receive \$948,000 annually in new property tax revenue, due to an existing agreement with the city to share property taxes from redevelopment areas. Local schools and related education programs would receive \$842,000 per year.

Another condition is that if the city or its Redevelopment Agency recommend a contribution to the project in the form of land or a financial contribution, a vote by the citizens of San Jose would be required.

Two parcels of the 14-acre proposed ballpark site remain to be purchased, said John Weis, the Redevelopment Agency's assistant executive director. He would not give an estimate of the value of the entire site.

Under the current proposal, if the A's are allowed to move to San Jose, Wolff would lease the land from the city, Krutko said. Construction of the ballpark would take place from 2011 to 2013, with operations beginning in 2014.

The proposed ballpark would cost Wolff about \$461 million in today's dollars, or \$489 million in 2011 dollars, the year construction would start. That's a relative bargain compared with other parks the consultants analyzed; the average adjusted construction cost for comparable ballparks is \$614.1 million.

Council members seemed cautiously optimistic about the report.

"I thought they were using pretty fair numbers," said Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio, whose district would be most impacted by the proposed ballpark. "But I want to know everything — the return on investment, what is being asked of the city — before I make a decision." Others said they want to ensure that Diridon area residents' concerns about traffic, noise and parking are addressed.

In their quest to avoid the disastrous budgetary issues in other cities that overreached in their initial economic calculations, San Jose officials say they assumed conservative estimates in almost every respect.

For example, in terms of attendance, the analysis assumes 24,300 people would attend each game, the same number that currently attend an A's game in Oakland. (Actually, the A's are averaging just over 18,000 fans a game this year. They haven't averaged more than 24,000 a game since 2006.) The analysis also assumes only a relatively small and temporary increase in the number of fans during the first few years at the new ballpark.

"Even if our attendance projection was off by 50 percent — let's say it was 12,000 a game — you could cut our revenue estimate proportionally to \$750,000 a year, and we would still be ahead in new money and not responsible for any of the costs they (A's) are generating," Krutko said.

And when it comes to how much fans will spend, the analysis counts only the spending by fans who are both from outside San Jose and whose primary purpose in visiting was to attend a baseball game. The analysis estimates that spending inside the ballpark, including tickets, food and beverage, merchandise and parking, would total \$49 a person per game. Estimates for spending outside the ballpark — for, example, lodging, entertainment, food/beverage, transportation and retail — would total \$47 a person, the study said.

The report, which was commissioned by the city's Office of Economic Development as well as the city's Redevelopment Agency, was prepared by Minneapolis advisory and planning firm Conventions Sports and Leisure International.

Tomko's charmed life with A's ends

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Brett Tomko's charmed string of starts with the A's came to an end Thursday night.

Tomko had turned in terrific work against division leaders New York, Detroit and the Angels, but he faltered against a club that has had Oakland's number, yielding three two-run homers in a 7-4 loss to the Mariners. Seattle's final run of the night came in the ninth on a bases-loaded squeeze bunt by Franklin Gutierrez - who had earlier hit a home run.

"When you fall behind and you don't make quality pitches, that's exactly what happens," Tomko said. "If you get too much of the plate, you're playing right into their hands. All three home runs were pretty much in the dead middle of the plate."

The Mariners have won five in a row against Oakland and 10 of 13 this season. The A's are 14-24 overall against the AL West and went 5-13 against the NL West. Oakland is 40-38 against clubs from the AL Central and East.

In his previous three outings since joining the A's on Aug. 17, Tomko had allowed a total of three runs in 162/3 innings. Thursday, he gave up more than that in the first inning alone.

Ichiro Suzuki singled to lead off the game, and Gutierrez followed with a homer to left center. With two outs, Adrian Beltre doubled and Bill Hall crushed a homer to left.

"It happened real quick," Tomko said. "If you take the first inning away, we're still in the ballgame. I wish I could re-do it."

In the fourth, Kenji Johjima hit his own homer to left with Hall at first after a single.

Tomko now has allowed five home runs over his past three starts. He had some minor rib-cage soreness after his previous start, so he had been pushed back one day, but he said Thursday he didn't feel the problem at all.

"I felt good the last couple of days," he said. "It wasn't a problem out there."

The A's didn't have any trouble getting men on base in the initial stages Thursday, but Oakland didn't get the benefit of the early long ball the way the Mariners did. Four of the A's first five hitters singled or walked, and Oakland scored two in the first on a single by Kurt Suzuki. But with men at the corners, Ian Snell struck out Mark Ellis and got Eric Patterson to pop up. Ellis struck out three times.

The next inning, after Cliff Pennington hit into a double play, Adam Kennedy and Rajai Davis singled. Ryan Sweeney hit a hard grounder to short, and Jack Wilson's underhand toss sailed over Jose Lopez's head, allowing Kennedy to score. But with men at the corners, Jack Cust struck out to end the threat.

"We just need one more hit here or there," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "Every game we've played with them has been good, we just fell short in most of them."

Oakland recorded only one more hit off Snell in his five innings. The A's did not have an extra-base hit until Daric Barton's homer in the eighth.

Outfielder Scott Hairston was out for a second consecutive game with a sore left quadriceps. He said he would be surprised if he's unable to go tonight.

Shoulder shelves Mazzaro

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Rookie **Vin Mazzaro** was scratched from tonight's start against Seattle with shoulder tendinitis, manager **Bob Geren** announced after Thursday's game.

"He's had a little soreness in his arm and he hasn't bounced back from start to start as much as we would have liked," Geren said.

Clayton Mortensen will come up from Triple-A Sacramento to pitch against the Mariners. Mortensen gave up eight hits and eight runs in four innings at Kansas City last month in his only previous start for Oakland; the right-hander was part of the **Matt Holliday** deal with St. Louis in July.

After Mazzaro played catch Thursday, pitching coach **Curt Young**, bullpen coach **Ron Romanick** and Geren talked about pushing Mazzaro back. He might be skipped entirely; his next scheduled outing isn't until next Friday.

Oakland's six-man rotation already was going to have some tweaks because the team has off days on Monday and Thursday. Unless Mazzaro goes back in before Friday, **Brett Tomko** will go Tuesday at Chicago, followed by **Trevor Cahill**.

Bailey honored: Andrew Bailey was the American League Rookie of the Month for August, an honor that might raise his profile when it comes to the Rookie of the Year award.

Bailey, two shy of **Huston Street's** Oakland rookie record of 23 saves, went 2-0 in August and he converted all seven of his save opportunities while allowing four hits in 11 innings. He didn't walk a man and he struck out seven.

"Hopefully, that will lead on to Rookie of the Year," Geren said. "I think he's had that kind of year."

Economic report: A report commissioned by the city of San Jose and released Thursday says a 32,000-seat ballpark for a major-league team would generate \$130 million in new spending each year and create more than 2,000 jobs. The stadium would purportedly bring in about \$1.5 million to the city's coffers.

San Jose still has to obtain permission to pursue the A's, because the Giants have territorial rights to the city.

Tomko suffers first loss with A's

Righty allows six runs on three taters in opener vs. Seattle

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Breaking down his club's 7-4 loss to the visiting Mariners in the opener of a four-game series Thursday night was fairly simple for A's manager Bob Geren, so he quickly moved on.

What he moved onto was no more pleasant.

After patiently explaining the obvious, that veteran right-hander Brett Tomko had simply made three big mistakes in allowing three two-run homers against Seattle, Geren explained that rookie righty Vin Mazzaro -- one reason the A's have fairly high hopes for 2010 -- is being shut down for the time being with shoulder tendinitis.

Mazzaro, 22, hasn't gotten past the sixth inning in each of his past 15 starts, and he will be replaced as Friday's starter by rookie righty Clayton Mortensen, who will be called up from Triple-A Sacramento for his second spot start of the season.

"He hasn't bounced back from start to start as well as we'd like," Geren said of Mazzaro.

The A's bounced back nicely Thursday after Tomko put them in a big hole; he allowed no-doubt homers to Franklin Gutierrez and Bill Hall in the top of the first inning and trailed, 4-0, after 16 pitches.

Oakland's offense struck right back with a two-run single by Kurt Suzuki in the bottom half of the frame, and Seattle's lead was cut to one when Mariners shortstop Jack Wilson made an errant flip to second base with two out in the bottom of the second, allowing Adam Kennedy to score from second base.

Hall, however, got the visitors going again with a leadoff single in the fourth, and Kenji Johjima's homer with one out was the dagger that pierced Tomko's perfect record since joining Oakland in mid-August.

Tomko, who beat the Yankees in his first start, topped the Tigers in his second and left his third with a five-run lead against the Angels, saw his ERA with the A's jump from 1.62 to 4.40 in 5 2/3 innings.

"I fell behind all three guys," Tomko explained, "and when you fall behind guys and don't make quality pitches ... that's exactly what happens. I got too much of the plate. They're looking to drive the ball, and I played right into their hands."

"He just got hurt up on some pitches up in the zone," said Seattle skipper Don Wakamatsu, whose club is 10-3 against the team for whom he served as bench coach last season. "He's made many improvements, though. I've talked with some of his coaches, and he's making adjustments. But it's all about location, location, location."

Tomko's location on the three fateful pitches was low-rent.

"All three were right out over the plate," he copped. "I wish I could take those three pitches back."

Tomko allowed eight hits -- five for extra bases -- and walked one while striking out two, while Seattle starter Ian Snell picked up his fourth victory in five decisions since being acquired in a trade with the Pirates on July 29.

Snell wasn't dominant by any stretch, allowing three runs (two earned) on seven hits and three walks over five innings.

"They're a pretty patient bunch of hitters," Snell said. "I was trying to throw them fastballs down the plate, but it was moving too much. My sinker was out of control, and so was my changeup."

Yet Snell seemed perfectly in control amid constant traffic on the bases, leaving runners at the corners in the second inning and stranding a pair of runners in the fourth and fifth frames.

"We had a lot of opportunities [against Snell], myself included," said A's second baseman Mark Ellis, who went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts, including two with men on base. "We just didn't get it done."

The Mariners' bullpen ERA of 3.74 entering the game was the main reason for the pitching staff's status as the American League's stingiest, and just as they did during a three-game sweep in Seattle last week, the relievers ripped through Oakland's lineup in a hurry.

Daric Barton's solo homer in the eighth was one of two hits for the A's over four innings against Chris Jakubauskas, Mark Lowe and David Aardsma, with Aardsma picking up his 34th save.

"We had a lot of chances early," Geren said, "but after that, [the] relievers pretty much shut us down."

Added Ellis: "They have some really good arms down in the bullpen, so you definitely want to get to them early."

Mortensen, 24, was acquired in the July trade that sent Matt Holliday to the Cardinals, and he made his A's debut in early August at Kansas City, allowing eight runs on eight hits over four innings.

Mazzaro might not pitch again until next Friday at Texas.

"He won't start before the off-day [Monday], for sure," Geren said.

Geren touts Bailey for Rookie of Year

A's skipper thinks voters should take close look at closer

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Not long after his closer was named the American League's Rookie of the Month for August, A's manager Bob Geren on Thursday said right-hander Andrew Bailey should be getting a more prestigious piece of hardware after the season.

"Hopefully this leads to Rookie of the Year," Geren said before the opener of a four-game series against the Mariners at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

Conceding that Bailey is at a disadvantage among voters who value the daily contributions of position players over the lighter workloads of pitchers, Geren nonetheless suggested that Oakland's only 2009 All-Star deserves more than cursory consideration.

"It's hard to compare apples to oranges," Geren said. "If there was a Rookie Pitcher of the Year [Award], obviously he'd be the winner of that."

Bailey's gaudy August numbers -- 2-0 with an 0.00 ERA, seven saves in seven chances and 11 innings of four-hit work over 11 appearances -- support pitching coach Curt Young's theory that Bailey, a starting pitcher at Double-A Midland for the first half of last season, is the type of pitcher who gets stronger as the season rolls on.

"He's got that big, strong body," Young said of Bailey, a non-roster invitee to Spring Training who's listed at 6-foot-3 and 234 pounds. "And he's been conditioned to throw a lot of pitches."

Bailey, who posted an 0.92 ERA as a reliever at Midland after being moved into the bullpen, threw 110 innings last season. Through Wednesday, he had thrown 72 innings this year despite frequently being used for more than three outs, and he led AL rookies in strikeouts (76) and ranked second in games pitched (57).

With 21 saves through Wednesday, Bailey was two shy of Oakland's rookie record. Huston Street saved 23 games on the way to being named the 2005 AL Rookie of the Year. Bailey converted his 16th consecutive save opportunity Monday against the Royals.

"He's got my vote," Geren said.

Geren, by the way, does not have a vote. That's up to members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Slumping Hairston likely back Friday

Oakland (59-75) vs. Seattle (71-64), 7:05 p.m. PT

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Outfielder Scott Hairston was held out of the starting lineup for the second consecutive game Thursday as the A's opened a four-game series against the Mariners at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

Hairston has been battling a sore left quadriceps for some time now and didn't play Sunday in Anaheim, either, but he's expected to return to action Friday.

"I'd say he's probable," Oakland manager Bob Geren said during batting practice Thursday. "If everything goes well, he should be able to play tomorrow."

Not much has gone well of late for Hairston, who was acquired in a trade with the Padres on July 5. He batted .299 in 56 games with San Diego, but he's mired in a 7-for-47 (.149) slump over his past 11 games and is batting .240 in 45 games with the A's.

"I'm sure the [quad] has something to do with that," Geren said, "but overall I'm pleased with the way he's played since he came over. He's played hurt quite a bit, and he's still played well in the outfield. His hitting will come back around when he's feeling better -- I have no doubt about that.

"He's a good player, all the way around."

Hairston, who is eligible for arbitration this winter, will be facing Mariners left-hander Ryan Rowland-Smith if he's in the starting lineup Friday. Against lefties this year, Hairston is batting .333 (38-for-114).

With his next home run, Hairston will match his career high of 17, set with the Padres last season.

Pitching matchup

SEA: LHP Ryan Rowland-Smith (2-2, 3.95 ERA)

A lack of run support continues to haunt Rowland-Smith, who has experienced the feeling in his past two outings. The lefty held the Athletics to two runs over 6 1/3 innings on Aug. 25, but settled for a no-decision, and in his last start, a misplayed line drive led to three runs and a loss to the Royals and Zack Greinke, who pitched a one-hit shutout. Rowland-Smith threw 113 pitches -- 80 for strikes -- in a stellar, but losing, effort. Rowland-Smith is holding opponents to a .212 (7-for-33) average in the first inning. This will be the lefty's third start against the Athletics this season, and he has yet to record a decision.

OAK: RHP Clayton Mortensen (0-1, 18.00 ERA)



Acquired in the July trade that sent Matt Holliday to the Cardinals, Mortensen is making a spot start in place of rookie right-hander Vin Mazzaro, who has been temporarily shut down with shoulder tendinitis. Mortensen, a 24-year-old who has a 9-8 record with a 4.39 ERA in 23 starts at Triple-A this season, made his A's debut on Aug. 8 against the Royals and allowed eight runs on eight hits and three walks over four innings. He was sent back down after the outing.

Dribblers ...

Geren on Thursday announced his starting rotation through Tuesday, Sept. 15, and he's taking advantage of off-days on the schedule next Tuesday and Thursday to get some of his youngsters extra rest. Lefty Brett Anderson will start Saturday and get eight days between starts, as will fellow rookie southpaw Gio Gonzalez, who next starts Sunday in the series finale. Brett Tomko and rookie righty Trevor Cahill will work Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, in Chicago, while Mazzaro, Edgar Gonzalez and Tomko will handle the weekend series in Minnesota. ... The A's are starting to receive

new helmets from Rawlings, designed to withstand the impact of baseballs thrown at speeds up to 100 mph. ... Brett Wallace, acquired in the Matt Holliday trade with the Cardinals, went 2-for-3 as Triple-A Sacramento's designated hitter on Wednesday to raise his batting average to .302 in 39 games with the River Cats. ... Right-hander Henry Rodriguez, whose fastball has been clocked at 100 mph, threw a shutout inning Wednesday and struck out one batter, giving him 70 strikeouts over 41 2/3 innings for Sacramento this season. ... To the surprise of nobody, Chris Carter, now with the River Cats, was named the Texas League (Double-A) Player of the Year. Joining him on the TL Postseason All-Star team from Midland were Adrian Cardenas and Graham Godfrey. Rock Hounds skipper Darren Bush was named the TL's Manager of the Year.

Up next

- 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 
- Monday: Off-day

A's announcer to host poker challenge

Proceeds from Saturday event go to high school programs

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Ken Korach, the lead play-by-play man on A's radio broadcasts, is hosting his second annual Winning for the Community Poker Challenge on Saturday morning, with all proceeds going to aid local high school baseball programs.

Determined to do something to keep the rich legacy of prep baseball in Oakland alive, Korach last season established the "A's Winning for the Community Program," which raised \$24,000 for the Oakland Athletic League high school baseball programs, helping to fund equipment, uniforms and field maintenance.

Funds were raised through donations made by Korach and the A's Community Fund for each Oakland win, in addition to fan donations and corporate sponsorship. Last year's poker tournament, Korach said, raised \$3,500.

Saturday's tournament, which starts at 10 a.m. PT at the Warehouse Bar and Grill in Oakland, will feature a Texas Hold-'Em format with a \$35 buy-in and the option for two \$20 re-buys.

"We have some wonderful prizes for the winners that have been donated," Korach said.

An all-you-can-eat barbeque will be offered for \$10, with all proceeds from food sales also going to the charity.

"It's all tax-deductible," Korach said, "and obviously for a very good cause. It's a really good time, too."

A's assistant general manager David Forst and Korach's partner, Vince "The System" Cotroneo, are among those from the organization expected to participate.

Bailey earns AL's monthly rookie honor

A's closer enters September with 16 straight saves converted

By Barry M. Bloom / MLB.com

Athletics closer Andrew Bailey has been voted the August recipient of the Gillette presents American League Rookie of the Month Award.

Bailey converted seven saves in as many opportunities, went 2-0 and allowed only four hits in 11 scoreless innings during August. He hasn't walked a batter in 14 consecutive appearances across 14 innings.

The only rookie to appear in this summer's All-Star Game at St. Louis' Busch Stadium, Bailey has now converted 16 save opportunities in a row, dating to July 17 -- two short of the franchise rookie record of 18 set by Huston Street in 2005.

Overall this season, Bailey is 6-3 with a 1.88 ERA and 21 saves. With his 21 saves, which lead all Major League rookies and have the right-hander tied for eighth overall in the AL, Bailey is two shy of the franchise rookie record of 23 set by Street in 2005, when he won the AL Rookie of the Year Award.

Athletics Owner Wolff Says He Wants to Move Team to San Jose

By Erik Matuszewski, Bloomberg 9/3/09

Oakland Athletics owner Lew Wolff said he'd like to move the Major League Baseball team to San Jose, California, which would get \$130 million a year in economic benefits from a new stadium, according to a study released today.

The A's, who dropped plans to move to Fremont, California, this year, have the second-lowest home attendance in the major leagues this season and have been seeking a new stadium to help generate more revenue from suites, luxury seating, parking and concessions. The Athletics have played in Oakland's Coliseum -- now the McAfee Coliseum -- since 1968, and are committed through 2010 under their lease agreement.

Wolff said San Jose is now the best option for the team's new home. The city, which has a population of more than 1 million and is the 10th-largest in the U.S., is about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Oakland.

"We've explored the Bay Area for a long time now and I think our only real option is downtown San Jose," Wolff, chairman of Los Angeles-based developer Wolff Urban Development LLC, said in a telephone interview.

Wolff, 73, said he's waiting to hear whether a move to San Jose would be allowed by Major League Baseball since the San Francisco Giants hold territorial rights to San Jose. Baseball spokesman Pat Courtney didn't immediately return telephone and e-mail messages.

"We probably should be sharing the entire Bay Area, just like the other two-team markets in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles/Anaheim," Wolff said. "They're looking into it. A lot of things have changed. It's really up to Major League Baseball to give us a direction."

A's Attendance

The A's are averaging 18,022 fans a game this season, ahead of only the Florida Marlins. The National Football League's Oakland Raiders also use the 63,000-seat stadium, which is owned by the city of Oakland and Alameda County.

The proposed 32,000-seat stadium in San Jose would be privately built and operated.

It would have the potential to generate 1,000 new jobs and more than \$5 million a year in revenue for local governments, according to a report issued today by industry consultant Conventions Sports & Leisure International. Over a 30-year period, the cumulative economic effect would be \$2.9 billion, with personal wages exceeding \$1.3 billion, the study said.

"All that is really important in these tough economic times and we'd get baseball as a bonus," San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed said in a telephone interview.

Reed, like Wolff, has encouraged Major League Baseball to waive the territorial rights issue. Giants spokesman Jim Moorehead didn't immediately return messages.

San Jose is the best option "to stay in northern California and that's what we want to do," Wolff said. "We haven't really explored other cities, nor do we want to."

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

Minor Leagues: Breaking out of obscurity

Players become prospects after strong 2009 seasons

By Benjamin Hill / MLB.com

Let's hear it for the overachievers.

First-round Draft picks and foreign-born phenoms may get the lion's share of the attention, but there are many others who deserve praise as a result of their unexpectedly high-caliber 2009 campaigns. These players have successfully

traveled that nefarious path from "suspect" to "prospect," thereby ensuring they won't be toiling in anonymity for much longer.

Chief among this year's crop of breakout players is Oakland A's farmhand Grant Desme -- currently the only 30-30 player in all of affiliated professional baseball. The 23-year-old Californian has split the season between Kane County and Stockton, putting up better numbers in the latter location despite its higher level of play. All told, Desme is batting .288 with 31 homers, 98 runs scored, 89 RBIs and 40 stolen bases in just 45 attempts. After finishing up the season in Stockton, he'll travel southward in order to play in the prospect-laden Arizona Fall League.

For Desme, the success of 2009 came down to one crucial component -- health. He was a highly regarded outfielder at Cal-Poly and was drafted by the A's in the second round of the 2007 Draft. But a litany of injuries limited him to just 14 games over his first two professional seasons.

"That was my only goal this season, to get through the whole year," said Desme. "Coming into the season, I had very little idea of what went on outside of the trainer's room."

Perhaps not surprisingly, given his lack of experience, 2009 started out on a rocky note. Desme went hitless over his first 20 at-bats of the season, and he had compiled a .226 average through May 15.

"I didn't feel comfortable, and was missing a lot of pitches," he said. "But all I needed was repetition, because that gave me the chance to fine-tune my approach."

Indeed. In each month of the season, Desme improved on the one that came before. In August, he hit .344 with eight home runs and eight stolen bases. He joined the 30-30 club with a home run against Rancho Cucamonga on Aug. 27, and it remains to be seen whether anyone else will join him.

"Early on, that wasn't on my mind at all," he said. "It wasn't something I was setting out to do, especially because I had never really stolen many bases before. ... Basically, my coaches just kept giving me the opportunity to run."

Going forward, Desme's main goal is simply to prove that this season wasn't a fluke.

"Once this year's over, it's over," he said. "I've just got to be consistent."

Desme's not the only Minor Leaguer to cement his prospect status with a monster 2009 campaign, find out who else has made names for themselves this season:

**Koby Clemens (Astros)
Lancaster JetHawks**

Clemens has always received a certain degree of attention -- the inevitable result of being Roger's son. But this year marked the first in which he made a name for himself above and beyond his famous father. His 119 RBIs aren't just the most in the California League -- they're the most in all of Minor League Baseball. And with five games left in the season, Clemens has an outside shot at the batting title as well. His .345 average is just three points behind Alex Liddi, the league leader.

**Alex Liddi (Mariners)
High Desert Mavericks**

Speaking of Liddi... prior to 2009, the 21-year-old third baseman was perhaps best known as the only Italian-born position player in the Minor Leagues. After putting up mediocre numbers in each of the past two seasons as a member of the Class A Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, everything came together for Liddi in High Desert. His .348 average leads the California League, and he ranks in the top five in hits, doubles, home runs, RBIs and runs scored.

**Matt McBride (Indians)
Kinston Indians/Akron Aeros**

McBride was selected as a catcher in the second round of the 2006 Draft, but shoulder surgery during the 2007 offseason necessitated a switch to the outfield. That experiment didn't last long, as McBride was told that he'd open the '09 campaign as Kinston's first baseman. He adapted well to his new surroundings and hit a sizzling .405 over 31 games before receiving a much-deserved callup to Akron. McBride cooled off somewhat in Double-A, but has still managed to drive in 61 runs over just 94 ballgames.

**Sam Deduno (Rockies)
Tulsa Drillers**

Deduno made up for lost time in 2009. The 26-year-old Dominican right-hander put up mediocre numbers with Tulsa in 2007 (5-8, 5.44 ERA over 21 starts), and then missed all of 2008 due to Tommy John surgery. He's always had a lively

fastball and the ability to strike out batters, but this season he clicked on all levels. With a 12-4 record, 2.57 ERA and 123 strikeouts, Deduno is currently in line to win the Texas League's pitching Triple Crown.

Bradley Meyers (Nationals)

Potomac Nationals/Harrisburg Senators

It is often said that the jump to Double-A is the hardest in all of professional baseball, but Meyers has taken it in stride. The lanky right-hander earned the callup to Harrisburg after posting a 1.43 ERA over 88 1/3 innings with Class A Advanced Potomac. Meyers has gone 4-1 with a 2.30 ERA over eight starts with the Senators, holding Eastern League batsmen to a .215 average against him. The two impressive marks make an even more impressive number when combined -- the best ERA for a starting pitcher in Minor League Baseball (1.71). This is a dramatic improvement for a pitcher who just last year got knocked around in the Class A South Atlantic League to the tune of a 4.79 ERA and a .299 average against.

Rudy Owens (Pirates)

West Virginia Power/Lynchburg Hillcats

Owens, 21, couldn't have asked for more in his first full season. After posting a mediocre 4.97 ERA over 15 appearances in the New York-Penn League in 2008, Owens opened '09 with the Class A West Virginia Power. He proceeded to blaze through the competition, posting a 10-1 record and a 1.70 ERA over 19 starts en route to being named the most outstanding pitcher in the South Atlantic League. Even more impressively, he yielded just 71 hits and 15 walks over 100 2/3 innings. With nothing left to prove in the Sally League, Owens received a promotion to Class A Advanced Lynchburg. There, he has gone 1-1 with a 3.10 ERA over five starts.

Travis Wood (Reds)

Carolina Mudcats/Louisville Bats

Wood struggled in the Double-A Southern League last season, posting an unsightly 7.09 ERA over 17 starts. But the 22-year-old lefty changeup specialist showed he can hang with the competition this season, as he posted a staggeringly low 1.21 ERA over 19 starts with the Mudcats. This warranted a callup to Triple-A Louisville, where he has continued to shine (albeit not quite as brightly). Wood has gone 4-2 with a 3.30 ERA over seven starts with the playoff-bound Bats, holding opponents to a respectable .228 average against him. He has also shown a consistent ability to pitch deep into a ballgame, as his 162 2/3 innings pitched are the sixth-most in all of Minor League Baseball.

Garrett Parcell (Dodgers)

Jupiter Hammerheads/Jacksonville Suns

Parcell got a late start to the season due to injury and made two appearances with Class A Advanced Jupiter before getting a callup to Jacksonville. It's a contradiction of terms, but with the Suns he has been lights out. The 25-year-old right-hander has allowed just one earned run over his 21 relief outings -- good for a microscopic 0.27 ERA. He has not allowed a run over his last 20 innings pitched, and opponents have managed to hit just .130 against him.

Dan Remenowsky (White Sox)

Kannapolis Intimidators

Signed by the White Sox as an undrafted free agent in July of last year, Remenowsky has paid huge dividends thus far. One would be hard-pressed to find a more astronomical strikeouts-to-innings pitched ratio, as the 23-year-old closer has whiffed 106 batters over just 61 1/3 frames. Meanwhile, he has walked just 15 batters while allowing 38 hits. Remenowsky's 23 saves rank third in the South Atlantic League, and only one Kannapolis pitcher (Charles Leesman) has exceeded his win total of seven.

Daniel Runzler (Giants)

Augusta GreenJackets, San Jose Giants, Connecticut Defenders, Fresno Grizzlies

Entering the season, Runzler was a 24-year-old reliever who had never pitched above Class A. He sure made up for lost time this season, as he climbed up the Giants' Minor League ladder with amazing rapidity. Combined, he went 5-1 with an 0.76 ERA and 17 saves over four levels of play in the Minors, and then got called up to San Francisco on Wednesday. Being a southpaw -- that most precious of commodities -- may have attributed to Runzler's lightning ascent. But by any measure, his 2009 season has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Cats' bats silent in defeat

By Andrew Hazard, rivercats.com

Thursday night's game was a series of unfortunate events for the Sacramento River Cats as starting pitcher Hector Ambriz was a king among aces on the mound for Reno. A combination of Ambriz's seven innings of scoreless work and a controversial home run in the fourth forced Sacramento to fold quickly as they fell to the Aces 6-0. The River Cats are happy to leave Reno after losing three games in a row.

The game unexpectedly turned into a bullpen game for the River Cats, as Clayton Mortensen was a late scratch.

Sacramento was forced to use five pitchers in the game.

Typically a relief pitcher, Chris Schroder had a gutsy three innings of work to replace Mortensen. Schroder faced the limited amount of batters he could face over three innings.

The fourth inning started well for the River Cats. The always-dangerous left fielder Trent Oeltjen led off the inning with a hit down the left-field line off Scott Patterson. Oeltjen got greedy and tried to stretch out the hit into a triple. Left fielder Chris Denorfia got a great jump on the ball and was able to sling the ball to Brett Wallace at third to throw out Oeltjen in his second consecutive at bat of the game.

Oeltjen was thrown out in the first inning by right fielder Aaron Cunningham trying to turn a single into a double.

With a runner on, former River Cat Eric Byrnes reached first safely on an error by Wallace. Then first baseman Josh Whitesell made Sacramento pay for the mistake with a bases-clearing double to left. After right fielder Cole Gillespie flew out to center fielder Matt Carson, it seemed like the River Cats averted disaster. With two strikes against him, shortstop Ed Rogers took Patterson deep to left field. The hit was ruled a two-run home run, and Patterson did not agree. The livid Patterson was ejected immediately, and the Sacramento dugout got angry. Manager Tony DeFrancesco was also immediately ejected once he left the dugout, so he gave the umpires a piece of his mind with catcher Anthony Recker trying to hold him back. All nine Reno starters went to the plate in the inning as the River Cats trailed 5-0.

Ambriz was in the zone for the Aces. He retired eight of the 10 last batters he faced before getting replaced with Travis Blackley in the eighth inning. Sacramento started to threaten the Aces' lead in the inning. Denorfia hit a leadoff single, and then center fielder Matt Carson hit a line-drive shot to center field. Just like that any momentum the River Cats had gained was lost when Wallace grounded into a 4-6-3 inning-ending double play.

Oeltjen made up for his running mistakes with an RBI double to make the score 6-0 in favor of Reno. Blackley stayed in the game to pitch the ninth inning. Blackley struck out three of the four batters he faced with ease to close out the win.

Patterson (3-4) had a rough night. He only pitched two-thirds of an inning, but gave up four hits, four earned runs and walked one before he was ejected.

Recker had a solid night at the plate. He went 2-for-3 with a walk. Sacramento had eight hits and two errors on the night.

The River Cats (85-54) travel to Salt Lake to take on the Bees (69-70) in their final series of the regular season. The four-game series begins Friday at 6:05 p.m.

Horton's Homerun and Godfrey's Pitching Leads Hounds

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

Bill Schonley, long-time radio voice of the Portland TrailBlazers, used that phrase to describe a three-pass fast break. The RockHounds did a little "bingo-bango-bongo" of their own Thursday night, breaking a scoreless tie with three, consecutive hits and went on defeat San Antonio, 3-1.

Archie Gilbert doubled to left and Corey Brown singled to right, with Gilbert flying home to score the game's first run. Josh Horton then sent a drive onto the grass berm in right for his fifth home run. Horton's shot would be the eventual game-winning swing as the Missions scored once in the ninth.

While he didn't figure in the decision, Graham Godfrey completed his all-star season with another quality start. Godfrey went 6.0 shutout innings, allowing four hits and two walks with one strikeout. Three starts into the 2009 season, Graham was 0-2, with an 8.49 earned run average. In his last 25 starts (Thursday was his final regular season start), the right-hander went 11-6 with a 3.11 ERA.

Selected to the Texas League Post-Season All-Star Team, Graham completes the regular season 11-8, with a 3.50 ERA. He will finish among the league's top 10 pitchers ... will likely lead the league in innings pitched (159.1) and will be among the top five in strikeouts. He whiffed 110 while walking just 51.

Mickey Storey, who is having a breakout season while pitching at four levels in the Oakland organization, earned his first Double-A win with two scoreless innings (three strikeouts). Jon Hunton pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

At Frisco ... the RoughRiders waited out a 90-minute rain delay and defeated the Corpus Christi Hooks, 3-2. Frisco stays two games in back of the first place RockHounds with four to go in the regular season. The RoughRiders host Corpus

Christi Friday night before traveling to the Permian Basin for the 3-game Labor Day weekend series, opening Saturday night.

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 Friday ... and 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 Friday is 5:15 p.m..

Ports Capitalize on Blaze Errors, Win 7-5

Grant Green collects 3 RBI in Ports victory

The Stockton Ports (59-77) avoided the sweep Thursday night, scoring six runs on four Bakersfield Blaze (71-65) errors. The Ports edged the Blaze, 7-5, at Banner Island Ballpark.

Matt Smith and Grant Green led the team with two hits apiece. Green finished the game with three RBI and a double. Gabriel Ortiz also brought home two runs in the game.

Ports starter Pedro Figueroa collected his first decision in his last five starts, picking up his third win of the year. He allowed five runs on eight hits with nine strikeouts in 6.1 innings. Lance Sewell tossed 1.1 scoreless innings, and Jason Ray collected his fourth save, pitching 1.1 scoreless innings as well. Richard Bleier took the loss for the Blaze.

Bakersfield took an early 1-0 lead. Shortstop Davis Stoneburner singled and stole second. Designated hitter Ian Gac slammed an RBI double to left field to bring home Stoneburner. Figueroa struck out the side to end the inning.

The Blaze made it 3-0 in the fourth frame. First baseman Mauro Gomez led off with a double to center field. After Gac flew out, third baseman Tommy Mendonca singled to score Gomez. Mendonca moved to third on a single by left fielder Timothy Rodriguez. Center fielder David Paisano hit into a fielder's choice, which put out Rodriguez at second and allowed Mendonca to score. Catcher Jose Felix lined out to second baseman Frank Martinez to end the inning.

The Ports blew the game wide open by scoring six runs in the bottom of the fifth to take a lead they would not relinquish.

Martinez led off the fifth with a single. He moved to second as shortstop Michael Richard reached on an error by second baseman Matthew Lawson, who bobbled the ball in an attempt to get a double play. Smith loaded the bases with no out on an error committed by Stoneburner. Green stepped up to the plate for his second at-bat of the game and ripped a two-RBI double. With runners on third and second with no out, Ortiz singled to bring home Smith and Green. Lawson committed his second error of the game, allowing Jermaine Mitchell to reach first. Left fielder Shane Keough batted next, and Ortiz and Mitchell successfully turned a double steal during his at-bat. Keough hit the ball toward third, and Mendonca made a throwing error. Keough rounded first and second on the error, as Ortiz and Mitchell scored. Keough went to third, but was thrown out on a 3-2-5 play. Ports first baseman Steven Kleen then took first as he was hit by a pitch. It was the second time he was hit by a pitch in as many games. Todd Johnson struck out and Martinez grounded into a fielder's choice play to end the inning.

The Blaze added a pair of runs in the seventh to pull within one run of Stockton. With one out, Paisano walked, and was followed on base by Felix, who singled. Paisano scored on an RBI single by Lawson. Stoneburner followed with a single to load the bases with one out. Ports manager Aaron Nieckula then pulled Figueroa in favor of Sewell. Sewell struck out right fielder Joey Butler, but then gave up an RBI single to Gomez. With the bases still loaded, Sewell got Gac to fly out to Mitchell to get out of the jam.

The Ports added an insurance run in the ninth to make it 7-5. Martinez led off the inning with a walk and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Michael Richard. Green knocked an RBI single to score Martinez.

The Ports will face Visalia in the final series of the season. The Ports and Rawhide will square off at 7:05 p.m. on Friday. LHP Ben Hornbeck (5-4, 3.72) will take the mound for the Ports, while LHP Pat McAnaney (10-7, 4.40) will start for the Rawhide.

Cougars Pound Chiefs, Even Series

Kane County's Parker enjoys birthday with big offensive contribution

PEORIA, Ill. – Steve Parker went 3-for-3 and reached base five times on his 22nd birthday to lead the Kane County Cougars to an 8-4 victory Thursday night against the Peoria Chiefs at O'Brien Field. Conner Crumbliss also had three hits and scored three times, and Murphy Smith picked up his second straight win on the mound. The Cougars evened the three-game set with the Chiefs and clinched a winning season set against them.

Parker drove in Crumbliss in the top of the first off Justin Bristow (5-8) for a 1-0 game. After the Chiefs tied it in the second, Carlos Arrieche led off the third with a homer, and Crumbliss scored on an error to make it 3-1. Then Franklin Hernandez connected for an RBI fielder's choice in the fifth for a 4-1 Cougars lead.

Smith (2-2) gave up one more run in the sixth but was helped by Trey Barham, who entered with a bases-loaded no-out jam and minimized the damage to one run. Smith tossed five-plus innings of two-run ball for his first road win. The Cougars broke open the game with a four-run seventh. Jeremy Barfield and Petey Paramore nailed consecutive two-out RBI singles, and Tyler Ladendorf smashed a two-run double for an 8-2 score. Jose Guzman allowed two runs in 1 2/3 innings before Justin Murray finished the game with his 12th save.

The Cougars (32-34, 73-63) and Chiefs (41-24, 79-55) wrap up the three-game series Friday. Anivioris Ramirez (4-2, 3.06) will face Austin Bibens-Dirkx (7-1, 1.66). The Cougars return home Saturday for the final three games of the regular season before they start the playoffs next Wednesday in Burlington against the Bees.

C's save the best for last on Thursday

By Rob Fai / Vancouver Canadians

(Civic Stadium - Everett, WA) - It has been a long road to 300 games for Canadians **Manager Rick Magnante**, but Thursday night's victory may have been one of his sweetest moments as his C's scored two in the top of the 9th inning to come from behind to beat Everett 4-3.

Canadians starter **RHP Ricardo Penalba** went three solid innings scattering four hits before leaving the game trailing 1-0 through three innings. Penalba's only blemish was a solo home run off the bat of CF Matt Cerione in the bottom of the 1st inning.

Vancouver got on the board in the top of the 4th inning when **RF Myrio Richard** singled to center off of Everett LHP Jon Hesketh (Langley,BC) then stole second base and came around to score on an RBI single from **C Ryan Ortiz** to tie the Aquasox at 1-1.

The Aquasox regained the lead in the bottom of the 5th inning when 3B Mario Martinez singled off of Canadians reliever **RHP Nathan Long** and scored on a double off the bat of CF James Jones to give Everett a 2-1 lead.

Vancouver drew even in the top of the 8th inning when **RF Jose Crisotomo** doubled to right, advanced to third base on a single from **1B Rodney Rutherford** and scored on a double off the bat of **3B Wilfredo Sosa** to tie the game at 2-2.

Everett took the lead for a third time in the bottom of the 8th inning when James Jones took Canadians **LHP Maxwell Petersen** over the right field fence to give the Aquasox a 3-2 lead.

The Canadians refused to go away as Vancouver got RBI singles from **1B Rodney Rutherford** and **3B Wilfredo Sosa** to come from behind for their 35th victory of the season by a score of 4-3.

For a complete box score from Thursday night's victory, please click on the link at the top of this story.

The Vancouver Canadians return home to open their final homestand of the season vs. Everett starting Friday, September 4th out at Nat Bailey Stadium starting at 7:05pm. **RHP Ronny Morla** (1-5) gets the start for Vancouver.

Tickets to Vancouver Canadians Baseball can be purchased by calling (604)872-5232 or by clicking on the link at the top of this story.