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**Rangers find no solution to A's Cahill
Oakland right-hander takes down Texas for third time
By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com**

OAKLAND -- Athletics pitcher Trevor Cahill isn't getting much mention for American League Rookie of the Year.

If he handled other teams like he does the Rangers, he'd be right up there with Texas shortstop Elvis Andrus or Oakland closer Andrew Bailey. With two straight strong performances against them, Cahill has done as much as anybody to put a serious dent in the Rangers' playoff hopes.

Cahill held the Rangers to one run in 5 2/3 innings in leading the Athletics to a 9-1 victory on Tuesday night at the Coliseum. Cahill has won four straight decisions in five starts for the Athletics, including his last two against the Rangers.

With the Angels and Red Sox falling on Tuesday, the Rangers missed a change to gain ground in the AL West and Wild Card races, remaining at 7 1/2 and seven games out, respectively.

Cahill pitched seven shutout innings in a 4-0 victory over the Rangers last week in Arlington. This one wasn't quite as dominating, but he is still 3-1 with a 2.45 ERA in four starts against Texas this season. Overall, he is 11-13 with a 4.45 ERA.

"He can pitch," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He's got something on his fastball, and he can move it around. He's got a good changeup, works fast and puts the ball in the strike zone. He's got good stuff."

"This was one of his better outings," Athletics manager Bob Geren said. "The last game in Texas was hard to top, but to come back and face the same team again the next start is impressive. They just saw him."

Brandon McCarthy, on the other hand, has lost two straight to Oakland and three of his four starts against them this season. He lost, 6-1, in Arlington on Aug. 15, when he allowed four runs in three innings. He also lost a head-to-head matchup against Cahill back on May 7 when the Athletics won, 9-4. He is 1-3 with a 6.38 ERA in four starts against Oakland.

"I can still command the strike zone, and I didn't tonight," McCarthy said. "Even if a team is hard for me, I still have to do a good job -- or do a better job than I did tonight -- of keeping us in the game."

Cahill's first Major League victory came against the Rangers on May 7. Texas has really made his season. He has two victories against the Royals -- the only other team he has beaten more than once.

"They are known as a pretty good team," Cahill said. "I just think I got lucky. I had some of my best stuff against them two or three times. Tonight I didn't have my best stuff but I got lucky and got some double plays."

McCarthy wasn't bad, but one crucial miscalculation by right fielder Nelson Cruz in the second inning cost him two runs. McCarthy set it up though with a one-out walk to Jack Cust.

With two outs, Daric Barton smacked a sharp line drive to right. Cruz came in and tried to make a diving catch and missed.

"I was just trying to make a play out there," Cruz said. "It just hit off the end of my glove. If I had turned my glove the other way, I would have had a better chance."

The ball got behind him, and Cust raced around to score. Second baseman Ian Kinsler's relay to the plate was up the line and got away from catcher Ivan Rodriguez, allowing Barton to come home as well.

"Normally I don't like to run past second," Barton said. "But he dove, I got to third and all I heard was, 'Go, go, go.' I had to get my legs going again. I was a little tired after that."

Washington deemed it the key play of the game.

"If we play the ball safely, it's still two outs," Washington said. "The next guy pops out, and we're out of the inning. If you go for that ball, you've got to get it. He tried to make a play and didn't make it."

A pair of leadoff singles by Ryan Sweeney and Kurt Suzuki and a two-out single by Barton in the fourth against McCarthy gave the Athletics a 3-0 lead.

Cahill's 12-inning scoreless streak against the Rangers came to end in the sixth inning when Andrus led off with a single, stole second and scored on a double by David Murphy. Then came another big defensive play. Marlon Byrd hit a fly to left-center that Rajai Davis ran down. Murphy tried to tag up, but Davis gunned him down with a terrific throw to cut short the rally.

"It still should have been 1-1 after six," Washington said.

That was Cahill's last inning, but the Rangers couldn't do anything against relievers Craig Breslow, Jerry Blevins and Brad Ziegler. The Athletics broke it open with five runs off Willie Eyre in the seventh.

Cahill allowed six hits and two walks, but the Rangers were 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position on the night. The Athletics are 10-7 against Texas season and have secured a season-series win.

O'Day letting numbers do the talking
Texas (82-68) at Oakland (72-79), 9:05 p.m. CT
By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Darren O'Day admitted he is superstitious. He doesn't want to talk about the great numbers he has put up.

"I'm having a good year," he said with a smile.

He is doing more than just having a good year. It may be the best performance by a relief pitcher in the American League and one of the best in Rangers history.

"We can't talk about that," O'Day said. "Maybe in two weeks."

The numbers are worth mentioning. O'Day has a 1.74 ERA in 58 games and 51 2/3 innings with the Rangers. Right now, that is the second lowest ERA ever posted by a Texas pitcher with at least 50 innings pitched.

Jim Kern had the lowest with a 1.57 ERA in 143 innings -- all in relief -- in 1979. Only five pitchers in Rangers history have thrown at least 50 innings and had an ERA under 2.00. Jeff Russell had a 1.91 ERA in '92 and a 1.98 ERA in 1989. John Wetteland had a 1.94 ERA in '97.

His 5.40 hits per nine innings is the fourth-lowest and his 8.88 baserunners per nine innings is the fifth-best mark in club history. He also has 51 strikeouts against 16 walks. His 3.19 strikeouts per walk ranks 12th in club history, and his 8.88 strikeouts per nine innings rounds out the top 25.

Not bad for a guy who was claimed on waivers on April 22 after the Mets designated him for assignment.

"He's done a great job," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said.

O'Day pitched three innings for the Mets early in the season and did not give up a run. So his ERA for the season is 1.65 - the lowest by any Major League pitcher with 50 or more innings pitched.

That's worth talking about.

Pitching matchup

TEX: RHP Tommy Hunter (8-4, 3.25 ERA)

Hunter is 2-2 with a 4.23 ERA in his last six starts and is 2-1 with a 3.08 ERA in six starts on the road this season. He has held right-handed hitters to a .203 batting average, while left-handers are hitting .263. Opponents are hitting .169 with runners in scoring position, including 3-for-37 when there are two outs. Hunter is 1-0 with a 3.65 ERA in two starts against the Athletics.

OAK: RHP Clay Mortensen (2-2, 6.12 ERA)

Mortensen, a rookie who came to the A's in July from St. Louis in the Matt Holliday trade, has won his last two starts against the Twins and Indians. In his last 11 innings, he allowed nine hits and five walks while striking out four. He lost his first two starts against the Royals and Mariners, allowing 12 runs in 11 innings. He gave up 14 hits, walked six and struck out six. Mortensen was the 36th overall pick in the 2007 Draft out of Gonzaga.

Tidbits

Kevin Millwood has a 3.79 ERA, and Scott Feldman has a 3.62 mark. Only twice in the last 12 years has a Rangers pitcher with enough innings to qualify for the ERA title ended the season with a sub-4.00 mark. Kenny Rogers had 3.84 ERA in 2002 and 3.46 in '05. ... The last time the Rangers had two pitchers finish under 4.00 ERA in one season was in 1993, when Roger Pavlik had a 3.41 ERA and Kevin Brown had a 3.59 mark. ... The Rangers, with a 10-1 victory over the Athletics on Monday, had scored 10 runs or more in four straight road games. That's been done just eight times in the Majors since 1954. The Braves did it five times in 2006.

Tickets

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Up next

- Thursday: Rangers (Scott Feldman, 17-5, 3.62) at Athletics (Brett Anderson, 10-10, 4.21), 2:35 p.m. CT
- Friday: Rangers (Derek Holland, 7-12, 6.17) vs. Rays (James Shields, 10-11, 4.09), 7:05 p.m. CT
- Saturday: Rangers (Kevin Millwood, 11-10, 3.79) vs. Rays (Matt Garza, 8-10, 3.70), 7:05 p.m. CT

Smoak dominating at World Cup

Rangers prospect putting strong finish on '09 campaign

By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Ever since the Rangers made Justin Smoak their first pick in the 2008 First-Year Player Draft, there has been speculation that he could be in the Major Leagues as early as a September callup this season.

That hasn't been the case. He is not with the Rangers. In fact, he is not even in the country. He's on some European vacation and apparently having a grand time.

Smoak has been tearing it up for Team USA in the International Baseball Federation World Cup in Italy. Smoak has set an American record with nine home runs and Team USA opened the final round with a 6-3 victory over Venezuela on Tuesday. The United States is 9-1 in the tournament and Smoak has three two-homer games.

"It's been great," Smoak said by e-mail. "Being over here and playing in Italy and Germany has been a lot of fun. Having success over here has been good because we have been winning games and you always want to do whatever it takes to win games."

The World Cup is proving to be a high-level venue for Smoak to finish an interesting season on a high note. He has had both highs and lows this season, but the World Cup may be showing that his confidence is back, his mechanics are sound, and his bat is lethal.

"It's encouraging," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "He continues to perform at various levels and against different competition. This is a big stage, representing your country."

Smoak, who was with the Rangers in Spring Training, started the season at Double-A Frisco and hit .328 with six home runs and 29 RBIs in 50 games. A rib cage injury set him back in midseason and kept him from participating in the Futures

Game during the All-Star break. He was promoted to Triple-A Oklahoma City and hit just .219 in July with a .306 on-base percentage.

But he improved that to .267 with a .413 on-base percentage in August.

"In Spring Training, you could tell he is a heck of a hitter and everything you look for," said Mike Boulanger, the Rangers' Minor League hitting coordinator. "But as good as he was, we knew he had some holes in his swing and some adjustments that he needed to make. He was able to get away with some stuff at Frisco that he couldn't at Oklahoma City."

Basically, Smoak was jumping out after pitches rather keeping his weight back and waiting on the pitch. That made him susceptible to getting pounded inside by fastballs and Triple-A pitchers took advantage of that before Smoak learned to adjust. When he did, the results started to pick up at Triple-A.

"The numbers don't reflect the adjustments he made. When the season was over, he got back to where he should be. I'm glad he went through that. There is still going to be a learning curve at the Major League level, but he shortened that by going through that. Experience is the best teacher."

Smoak will be back with the Rangers in big league camp this spring. He'll be there on a non-roster invitation since he doesn't have to be placed on the Major League roster for two more years. But it's clear the Rangers expect him to be ready long before that.

"I think you'll see him in big league camp," Daniels said. "Depending on how things shake out in the offseason, at some point, he'll get an opportunity. I don't think we're going to go in the year counting on him right away, but we know he could be an option if he continues to improve and we have a need."

Smoak is a first baseman, a position currently occupied by Chris Davis at the Major League level. Both figure prominently in the Rangers' future, although it's clear Davis is regarded as the superior defensive player. Smoak is still working on that part of his game.

"He's adequate," Oklahoma City manager Bobby Jones said. "He doesn't have much foot speed, but anything hit to him he catches. He does a good job turning the double play, making good throws. He's not a liability over there."

The Rangers need his bat more than anything. He is the best offensive prospect in a farm system that is strong on pitching but a little short on promising bats. His performance in Italy against tough international competition is a good sign for the Rangers.

"It has helped," Smoak said. "I'm trying to do the same thing here that I did this year, and that is trying to get better day in and day out."

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Rangers can't get it done against Athletics By JEFF WILSON

OAKLAND, Calif. — One thing that manager Ron Washington won't do is admonish one of his players for giving maximum effort while trying to make a play.

That's what Nelson Cruz was doing Tuesday night as he tried to get the Texas Rangers back in the dugout in the second inning.

A line drive was headed toward him in right field. A catch would end the inning. A dive and a miss, though, and Oakland would likely break a scoreless tie.

Cruz did miss, and the Athletics wound up with two runs on the play after an errant throw home. That sequence proved to be the key element in 9-1 loss at McAfee Coliseum.

Oakland scored five runs in the seventh to break open a 3-1 game that could have been a tied contest had the second inning played out differently.

"If we don't make that mistake there in the second inning, it's a 1-1 ballgame," manager Ron Washington said. "He tried to make a play and didn't make it."

Washington would have liked to have seen Cruz play it safe on the Daric Barton liner with Jack Cust at first base, but the All-Star raced in and tried to make a diving, backhanded catch.

The ball glanced off the base of Cruz's glove. Marlon Byrd backed up the play and threw the ball to cutoff man Ian Kinsler as Cust was trying to score. Kinsler's throw home was wild, and it bounded away far enough to allow Barton to come home.

"If he stays back and lets it bounce, we keep them at first and second," Washington said. "The next guy (No. 8 hitter Cliff Pennington) pops out, and we go into the sixth in a 1-1 tie."

Right-hander Brandon McCarthy (7-4) and Neftali Feliz kept the Rangers within striking distance, but because the Rangers were trailing, they opted to go with Willie Eyre instead of Darren O'Day to pitch the seventh.

Eyre, though, had his worst outing of the season. Six of the seven A's he faced had hits, five of them scored, and the only out he recorded came on a sacrifice bunt after allowing a leadoff double to Eric Patterson.

The wide final margin overshadows a better showing from McCarthy, who went 5 1/3 innings and allowed three runs (two earned). It was a nice rebound from his previous start, in which Oakland got him for four runs in three innings last week.

"Last time I wasn't good from top to bottom," said McCarthy, who fell to 1-3 against the A's this season. "I threw a little better. There were some bad pitches, but I was a little more competitive."

The Rangers' offense, which had scored in double-digits in four straight road games, struggled again against right-hander Trevor Cahill (10-12).

The rookie allowed only one hit over seven innings six days earlier, but the Rangers collected six hits against him Tuesday. Cahill, though, yielded only one run on a David Murphy double in the sixth.

Cahill survived thanks to three double plays, two of which he induced on grounders in the fourth and fifth. The last came in the sixth, when Murphy was thrown out at third on a close play while trying to tag up and advance on a fly-out by Byrd.

"If you can't do it in rhythm, you don't do it," Washington said. "He tried to make a play. It didn't happen."

That was a theme for the Rangers on Tuesday night.

How Rangers hitters fared: David Murphy had the Rangers' only extra-base hit, an RBI double in the sixth. He and Ivan Rodriguez each had two hits. Ian Kinsler went 0-for-4 and has only three hits in his past 30 at-bats. He hasn't homered in 19 games.

How Rangers pitchers fared: Brandon McCarthy and Neftali Feliz got the Rangers through six innings down 3-1, but the A's jumped Willie Eyre for five runs in the seventh. He faced seven batters, and six of them had hits. The lone out he recorded was on a sacrifice bunt.

In the long run, Texas Rangers did right by Millwood **By GIL LeBRETON**

I am searching for the right adjective to cover Kevin Millwood's pitching performance for the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

Millwood started and lasted 90 pitches, allowing no earned runs and only three Oakland hits.

Efficient? You'll get no arguments here.

Timely? Well, that depends.

Costly, since it carried a \$12-million price tag? Without question.

But I have a hard time believing the Rangers didn't do the right thing.

As Millwood neared his 180th inning of the season Monday, the workload that guaranteed him a fifth year on his contract at a salary of \$12 million, the only ethical and competitive concerns on the Rangers' part should have been the pitcher's health or whether there was someone better.

A baseball club shouldn't bench a player simply because it thinks it's already paid the player enough (Millwood has already banked \$48 million of owner Tom Hicks' money, so there's a good argument on that point.)

Nor should a club bench a player because it thinks it's going to need the extra payroll next season. (Though, again, that clearly has a chance to be true.)

"My only concerns throughout the process were health and performance," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Tuesday.

"Once we were sure that he was healthy, it was just a matter of him having some time to work with [pitching coach] Mike [Maddux] on the side. We were hoping that time with Mike would pay dividends, and that he would look like the guy he was for the better part of the season's first three months."

Through June, Millwood had an 8-5 record and a 2.64 ERA. In his five previous starts before Monday in Oakland, however, Millwood had gone 26 innings and allowed 22 earned runs and 35 hits.

The Rangers had every reason to bench him last week and this week, in other words. The dilemma was, who should have replaced him?

Nor could a convincing case be made that Millwood had some sort of season-ending injury. His glute muscle had been an issue, but there didn't seem to be anything wrong with Millwood lately than some profuse early inning perspiration. Loading the bases in the first inning will cause that, it's been noted.

Beyond those hazy concerns, however, Millwood's contract had the Rangers caught between a rock and, well, the rock that is currently the team's 2010 payroll.

Option years and incentive clauses are routine parts of baseball contracts. Incentives based upon plate appearances and innings pitched are standard procedure.

If a club pulls the rug out from under a player who's less than five innings away from his option year vesting, what player (or his agent) is going to trust that club when it offers an incentive clause again? Daniels' negotiating strength would have been cut off at the knees.

Daniels insisted Tuesday that that wasn't the issue with Millwood, that the concerns were always the pitcher's health and how well he was performing.

But both Daniels and club president Nolan Ryan had to know the future business ramifications if Millwood suddenly disappeared from the starting rotation. It wouldn't have gone over well with the upcoming free-agent class.

And fittingly for the way this Rangers season has gone, Millwood rose to the occasion Tuesday night.

Good timing? I don't know the answer to that. It reminded in a way, though, of rookie Derek Holland's performance on the night of the MLB trade deadline.

Millwood's future? Daniels gave a thoughtful answer about that.

"He's going to get the ball every fifth day for next year," the GM said, "and we're going to rely on him to be the veteran anchor on an otherwise very young, talented staff — kind of a stabilizer, of sorts."

"I think he showed his commitment this past off-season by getting himself in shape. I expect we'll see that continue this year. And I don't see why he couldn't have another strong season for us next year."

Overly optimistic? There we go, stumped for the right adjective again.

Millwood, from what I've seen, is as good a soul as you'll find in the Rangers' clubhouse. He's no Gandhi, but he has a reassuring outlook on life.

Whatever happened to him physically from July 1 to Monday night, he needs to investigate and do whatever he can to avoid a repeat in 2010. Otherwise, there won't be any more \$12-million bailouts.

Millwood was one of the prime reasons why the Rangers were the surprises of baseball in the first half. He is also one of the main reasons why they're going to come up short.

The Rangers just gave him 12 million reasons to make it up to them — and their fans — in 2010.

Crazy? They really didn't have much choice.

Rangers prospect shows his swing to the World

By JEFF WILSON

OAKLAND, Calif. — The rest of the baseball-playing world is getting a look at the player who is rated as one of the Texas Rangers' top prospects, and Justin Smoak is giving everyone quite an eyeful.

Smoak, the Rangers' first-round selection in 2008, has been making pitchers cringe this month at the Baseball World Cup in Italy, swatting nine homers in 10 games for Team USA.

Rangers personnel are taking note of the first baseman's performance, which is an extension of swing adjustments he made while struggling after his promotion to Triple A Oklahoma City.

But while encouraged by Smoak's performance, club brass says he still has work to do before they are ready to give him a crack at the major leagues.

"He's continued to perform at various levels against different types of competition," general manager Jon Daniels said Tuesday before the Rangers took on Oakland at McAfee Coliseum.

"But I don't think we'll go into the year [2010] counting on him. We know that he's an option if he continues to improve."

That's what Smoak, a switch hitter, has been doing since falling into a slump shortly after his promotion from Double A Frisco. Triple A pitchers were quick to find holes in Smoak's swing, and his average suffered.

But a few sessions with minor-league hitting coordinator Mike Boulanger helped turn Smoak around. His final Triple A numbers (.244 in 197 at-bats) don't show the improvement he made.

"As good as he was, we knew he had some holes in his swing and some adjustments that he needed to make," Boulanger said. "He was able to get away with some stuff at Frisco that he couldn't at Oklahoma City. When the season was over, he got back to where he should be."

The stretch in which he failed for the first time as a pro has given Smoak something he can recall the next time he slumps. The Rangers are glad that he went through it in the minors rather than at the big-league level as Chris Davis did this year.

Smoak, who is hitting .368 for Team USA, understands that his first full professional season was all about absorbing all he could about the game.

"It was a great learning experience for me," he said via e-mail. "I didn't really understand how long the season actually was until this year. I'm trying to do the same thing here that I did this year, and that is trying to get better day in and day out."

Daniels said that Smoak will most likely be in big-league spring training for a second consecutive year as a non-roster invitee. It will give Smoak another taste of his ultimate goal for 2010.

"Of course, it's to get to the big leagues," he said. "But that's something I can't think about, and I just have to go out there and be myself and work hard, and hopefully things will work out."

The timetable for that appears to be at some point in 2010. There's no doubting that Smoak has the skills to be a quality hitter in the major leagues.

"When we had him in spring training, you could tell that he's going to be a heck of a hitter," Boulanger said. "He's got everything that you're looking for. You don't have to see him play very much to tell the dude can swing the bat."

Texas Rangers veteran closer Guardado considering retirement **By JEFF WILSON**

OAKLAND, Calif. — A ho-hum ninth-inning appearance Monday night in a blowout victory put Texas Rangers left-hander Eddie Guardado in the same company as Cy Young.

But another day gone by in Guardado's 17-season career has possibly moved him closer to retirement.

Guardado said Tuesday that he is considering stepping away from a career that has included two All-Star appearances, 187 saves and 906 career appearances that are good for a tie for 21st all time with Young.

"I'm thinking about hanging it up," said Guardado, who turns 39 on Oct. 2. "I can't give you a definite, because when December comes you get that itch and Mama wants you out of the house. But I think it's maybe time."

He earned the nickname "Everyday Eddie" because of his work ethic and willingness to pitch day after day while developing into one of the game's top closers earlier this decade.

That approach has made an impression on the Rangers' young pitchers and is a legacy Guardado hopes he will leave behind when he is finished as a player.

"When you leave this game, you just hope you left a good impression on some of these young kids," he said. "Hopefully, they do it the right way, and respect the game and respect themselves and the people around them."

Guardado, who has had an inconsistent season that has resulted in a 1-2 record with a 4.46 ERA, said he wants to stay in the game in some capacity. That could be as a coach. Much of his value to the Rangers the past two seasons has been as a teacher by sharing his experiences in the game to a group of mostly young relievers.

Take, for instance, ending up next to Young in the record books. Guardado is honored by the achievement, but it also reinforces a message he often preaches.

"A guy like Cy Young, who has an award named after him, that's pretty special," Guardado said. "Just keep on truckin', you know? That's what I tell these other guys. You never know what's going to happen as long as you work hard and come to the ballpark every day and do your best."

Hamilton's progress

Josh Hamilton said he is ready to return to the lineup as the designated hitter after his most extensive day of baseball activities since suffering a pinched nerve in his back and a strained muscle in his lower back.

The two-time All-Star took 30 cuts during early batting practice, knocking several balls over the wall at McAfee Coliseum, and also ran and shagged fly balls.

"I told Skip I was ready to DH whenever he'd let me," said Hamilton, who hasn't played since Sept. 2. "I feel good enough. That's what it's all about."

Hamilton said if he feels as good this morning as he did when he climbed out of bed Tuesday, then he wants to play.

Manager Ron Washington, though, said Hamilton needs to go through more tests before jumping back into the lineup.

A weekend return seems more likely for Hamilton than playing against Oakland.

"He hasn't done anything in three weeks," Washington said. "To go out and take BP today, that's a start. If he continues to progress, Tampa Bay is realistic."

Young still a maybe

Third baseman Michael Young is still waiting for his pulled left hamstring to allow him to play before the season ends, and Ron Washington said there has been no talk of shutting Young down for rest of the year.

"There could be four games left. If Michael's ready to play in those four games, he's playing," Washington said. "The schedule isn't going to dictate whether we shut him down."

That goes for everyone on the roster. Washington said there have been no discussions about shutting down rookies Tommy Hunter, Derek Holland or Neftali Feliz to save some wear and tear.

Rangers go on 4-game road scoring spree

Win or lose Tuesday night at McAfee Coliseum, the Rangers were assured to have the third-best road record in the American League after a recent four-game run of success.

They entered the second of four games against Oakland with a 36-35 record, and only Los Angeles (45-33) and New York (43-33) had performed better away from their home ballparks.

The Rangers were on a four-game road winning streak in which they had scored at least 10 runs in each game. They had hit seven home runs while batting .375 in three wins at Cleveland and a 10-3 victory Monday against the A's.

That double-digit prowess has been matched only eight other times in the past 56 seasons, and the Rangers are the only club to have done it twice (also in 1994).

"We weren't playing very well on the road, but the last four games we've been playing very well," manager Ron Washington said. "I don't know why, but I'm very glad it's happened."

Players have to make adjustments on the road, where most games are played in different time zones and can follow a late-night arrival in a new city.

But the game doesn't change, even though the venues, climates and internal clocks do.

"As far as the game goes, just try to keep it simple," Washington said. "See ball. Hit ball. If the ball is hit to you, catch it. Replay everything before it happens. The mind-set doesn't change." — Jeff Wilson