

A's News Clips, Friday, September 25, 2009

A's continue offensive surge

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

With the A's scoring runs at their current pace, they have plenty of margin for error.

No pun intended.

Oakland turned in more shaky defense Thursday afternoon, but that was overshadowed by another high-powered offensive showing in a 12-3 victory over the Texas Rangers before an announced crowd of 11,124 at the Oakland Coliseum.

That capped a 6-2 homestand for the A's, who also have won 14 of their past 18 games as they hit the road for the season's final trip.

The A's chased Texas ace Scott Feldman after just 31/3 innings, beating the 17-game winner for the second time in 11 days.

Seven players in Oakland's lineup recorded hits, and six notched RBI.

"It seems like every game we're getting guys in position to score runs," said Eric Patterson, who spelled Mark Ellis at second base and had three RBI. "We're getting big hits when we need to and making plays when we need to."

The A's averaged 7.25 runs on the homestand and are hitting .301 in September. That's not far off the pace of the best single-month team average in Oakland history — .305 in August 1995.

"It's nice to have guys up and down the lineup swinging the bat well," A's manager Bob Geren said. "We have a lot of guys that can run now "... and a lot of different ways to score runs. We're utilizing every which way."

The A's, though, committed three errors for the second consecutive game, including two in the first inning.

Third baseman Adam Kennedy fielded Ian Kinsler's routine grounder to lead off the game and simply misfired to first. Kinsler scored from third when shortstop Cliff Pennington bounced a throw to first on Andruw Jones' grounder with two outs.

Making up for it with the bat, Kennedy went 3-for-5 with two runs and Pennington had a two-run triple.

Pennington also made two sparkling plays, ranging left to pick Marlon Byrd's sharp grounder and making a backhanded stop and strong throw to first to nip Elvis Andrus.

"That part of the game is to have amnesia and put that stuff behind you," Pennington said.

The A's patience paid off against Feldman (17-6), who walked five and was on the short end of some borderline calls. Daric Barton drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the third to pull the A's to within 2-1.

Patterson followed by hitting the first pitch he saw for a two-run single. Travis Buck hit a blooper just over the pitcher's mound that went for an RBI single and put the A's ahead 4-2.

They added three more in the fourth before Burlingame's Feldman got the hook. Kennedy led off with a double and scored on Rajai Davis' triple to the left-center gap. After Ryan Sweeney's sacrifice fly, Jack Cust homered to dead center, a towering blast that hit off the green facing just underneath the luxury suites.

That made it 7-2, more than enough cushion for rookie Brett Anderson (11-10), who went 52/3 innings to win his fourth straight start.

The A's open a six-game trip tonight against the Los Angeles Angels before heading to Seattle for three. The Angels visit the Coliseum next weekend for three games to close the regular season.

Oakland is 42-37 since June 29 and hardly resembles the team that struggled getting runners across the plate during the season's first half.

"It's different guys doing it up and down the lineup," Kennedy said. "That's the fun part about it."

A's rip Rangers to end homestand in style

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The A's concluded an impressive homestand with a 12-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Thursday afternoon, giving them a split of a four-game series.

Oakland finished its homestand 6-2 and scored at least eight runs in five of the contests. Thursday's offensive showing helped the A's offset their second consecutive three-error game. They chased 17-game winner Scott Feldman of Burlingame from the game after just 3 1/3 innings.

Eric Patterson, spelling Mark Ellis at second base, finished 2-for-3 and had three RBI. Daric Barton and Cliff Pennington each drove in two runs and Jack Cust mashed a deep homer to center, as the A's won for the 14th time in 18 games.

Left-hander Brett Anderson (11-10) was the beneficiary of all that offense, going 5 2/3 innings and winning his fourth consecutive decision. His third-inning strikeout of Craig Gentry gave him 142 for the season, setting an Oakland rookie record for strikeouts.

Rick Langford set the old mark of 141 in 1977.

All of young lineup contributes to win

Rusty Simmons, Chronicle Staff Writer

Though they've all moved on to other teams, posters of Orlando Cabrera, Jason Giambi and Matt Holliday still hang in the A's clubhouse.

The remaining youth-filled roster is making a case that it might be time to replace the experienced players' likenesses with some of their own.

On a Thursday afternoon that included hits from seven of the A's nine starters and an RBI from eight players, Triple-A Sacramento call-up Eric Patterson was the key component in a 12-3 victory over the Texas Rangers at the Coliseum.

Patterson, who hit his first home run in 53 games the night before, went 2-for-3 with two walks and three RBIs on Thursday. The only two A's who didn't get hits - Daric Barton and Landon Powell - each walked twice and scored two runs.

They showed patience in forcing Texas to throw 190 pitches in eight innings and drawing nine walks. They stole two bases and turned two routine doubles into triples with aggressive base running. And they got a home run from Jack Cust and timely hitting to the tune of eight two-out RBIs.

"It's nice to have guys swinging well up and down the lineup," manager Bob Geren said. "We have a lot of guys who can run, so the composition of the team is a little different. It's a fun, exciting, energetic group that can score runs different ways, and we're utilizing every which way."

That formula has the A's streaking, having won nine of their last 11 games and 14 of their last 18. They've collected 10 or more hits in 11 of their last 16 games and are batting .311 as a team over that stretch.

"Guys are getting on base, and we're getting hits when we need to," Patterson said. "Usually when you're winning games, it's because you're doing things like that. Obviously, we run the bases well, and we're getting ourselves into scoring position.

"It's a lot of fun to be part of it."

The A's used three walks and run-scoring hits from Patterson and Travis Buck to take a 4-2 lead in the third inning. They pushed the lead to 7-2 with three extra-base hits, including Cust's majestic shot to straightaway center, in the fourth.

That made a winner of Brett Anderson, who gave up three runs - one earned - in 5²/₃ innings and struck out six. When he got Craig Gentry swinging in the third, Anderson broke the A's rookie record for strikeouts, passing Rick Langford, who fanned 141 in 1977.

"It's pretty special considering some of the great guys who have made their debuts in this uniform," Anderson said. "To be in that category is pretty special."

The Rangers scored two runs in the first three innings against Anderson, but his offense picked him up against 17-game winner Scott Feldman. The Burlingame native and former College of San Mateo pitcher gave up seven runs on seven hits and five walks in 3¹/₃ innings.

"I just stunk today, pretty much to sum it up," Feldman said.

"Usually, guys are vulnerable when they have back-to-back long innings, but he's a good pitcher," Geren said of Feldman. "He's really developed into a frontline starting pitcher. When you see his name on the list of guys we're going to face and you think of him as one of the elite guys in the league."

Briefly: Scott Hairston reported no improvement in his sore hip and missed his third consecutive game. ... Eric Chavez, who is rehabbing from a second back surgery in San Diego, is expected to visit the A's on their road trip to Anaheim.

A's continue to play thorn in Rangers' side

Oakland tops playoff hopeful for fifth time in past 11 days

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- When the Rangers look back on September 2009 in the context of their tumble from contention, they'll surely have less-than-fond memories of the pesky A's.

Hoping to put together a strong finishing kick that would knock the crown off the kings of the American League West or, at the very least, get them into the postseason for the first time since 1999, they entered play on Sept. 14 six games behind the Angels in the division and four back of Boston in the Wild Card chase.

That was the day that the A's rolled into Texas for the opener of a three-game series.

Over the next 11 days, Oakland's carefree band of rookies, outcasts, journeymen and cagey veterans did nothing short of crush whatever remained of the Rangers' playoff dreams.

The Angels lost three in a row Sept. 14-16, so had the Rangers swept the A's in Arlington, they'd have cut their AL West deficit to three games with 2 1/2 weeks to play.

Instead, the A's pulled off the sweep, allowing one run in the process.

By the time Texas pulled into Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum on Monday for the opener of a four-game series, the Rangers essentially needed to win out to have any hope. Instead, the A's drubbed them twice, the second blowout coming in Thursday's finale, 12-3, to give the teams a series split.

"They're playing good baseball," Rangers manager Ron Washington said of the A's, for whom he coached 1996-2006. "I thought we had a chance to take three out of four from them, and we didn't do it. We split, and I'm not happy with that. We just didn't get it done."

The A's got it done in a variety of ways.

Left-hander Brett Anderson broke the Oakland rookie record for strikeouts in a single season, Jack Cust's solo homer punctuated the club's second beatdown of 17-game winner Scott Feldman in 10 days and the A's wrapped up their penultimate homestand of the season with their 14th win in 18 games.

"It's a little bit easier to play relaxed when nothing's really on the line," Cust said. "It helps that we've got a lot of young guys with something to prove for next year, too."

Anderson, 21, doesn't have much to prove for next year; he'll enter Spring Training competing for the Opening Day start based on what he's done down the stretch. He gave up one earned run on six hits without a walk over 5 2/3 innings while improving to 4-0 with a 2.92 ERA over four September starts, and he moved past Rick Langford's 141 strikeouts in 1977 by fanning Craig Gentry in the third inning.

"It's pretty special," Anderson said, "when you think of all the great names that made their debut in this uniform."

Adam Kennedy, the 33-year-old salty sea captain of the clubhouse, didn't put on an Oakland uniform until May, when he was plucked from the bargain basket in a Minor League trade with the Rays. The A's banged out 11 hits Thursday, including three from Kennedy, who raised his batting average to .290 with a single and two doubles.

"He's been so consistent offensively," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "He's been a real steadying force for us, one of those real professional veteran types for the young hitters to look up to."

The young hitters had their say in the victory, too, although not always by hitting. Oakland waited out nine walks, including two each from their greenish 5-6-7 hitters. Rookies Landon Powell and Eric Patterson and second-year man Daric Barton combined to score four runs and drive in five, with Patterson -- 2-for-3 with three RBIs -- doing the heaviest lifting.

"Scott didn't have his best stuff," Rangers catcher Taylor Teagarden said of Feldman, who couldn't get out of the fourth inning, "but I have to give their hitters a lot of credit. They really battled. They fouled a lot of pitches, worked some walks and got some timely hits."

And as usual, as they've been wont to do while closing out the season with some of the best baseball their fans have seen in some time, the A's got a little one-man show from Rajai Davis while leading 4-2 in the bottom of the fourth.

Davis, who was released by the Giants early last season but has developed into a force of baseball nature over the past few months, followed Kennedy's leadoff double with a triple into the left-center gap, then scored standing up on a lineout by Ryan Sweeney that Gentry caught in shallow right field.

"Some of the things he does are just ridiculous," Barton said. "He's a joke sometimes."

This is no joke: The A's might have bounced the Rangers with five wins in seven games over 11 days, but they've got their sights elsewhere.

"Trying to knock teams out is not our goal," Geren said. "We're just trying to take care of our own business."

He didn't specify what business that might be, but who cares if you're an A's fan? Right now, business is booming.

Kilby turning heads out of A's bullpen

Oakland (73-80) at Los Angeles (90-62), 7:05 p.m. PT

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- A's left-hander Brad Kilby gave up the first run of his 23-day big league career on Wednesday, but it was unearned.

In posting a 0.00 ERA in his first eight outings after being recalled from Triple-A Sacramento on Sept. 1, Kilby has earned only praise for his work out of the bullpen.

"All of his pitches are above-average," said Oakland manager Bob Geren, who'll give the rival Angels their first look at Kilby at some point during the three-game series that opens Friday in Anaheim. "He's tough against lefties and righties. He goes right after guys. He throws strikes. There's lot to like."

Kilby, a 26-year-old Northern California (Elk Grove, near Sacramento) native listed at 6-foot-2 and 230 pounds, was a 29th-round pick in the 2005 First-Year Player Draft out of San Jose State.

He went 4-2 with a 2.13 ERA in 45 appearances at Sacramento this season and stands out to a degree because of his deceptive delivery, in which he takes the ball out of his glove during his leg kick and puts it behind his back before slinging it homeward.

It's a decidedly funky look, but nobody's arguing with the results.

"He's got a very sneak fastball," said Geren, who likened the motion to that of former Mets star Sid Fernandez, another heavyset southpaw. "He throws it in the low 90s, but it 'plays up' because he hides it real well."

Kilby is auditioning for a roster spot in 2010, and Geren likes his ability to pitch on consecutive days and handle righties and lefties.

"It's a luxury to have [more than one lefty in the bullpen]," said the skipper. "But most opponents don't stack their [left-handed hitters] together; they kind of space them out, so it is nice to have a guy you can bring in maybe the sixth or seventh, and another for that big situation in the seventh or eighth."

"But [having two lefties] isn't necessarily an advantage unless they're fairly dominant against left-handers."

Kilby held left-handed hitters to a .234 batting average for Sacramento; righties hit him at a .150 clip.

Pitching matchup

OAK: LHP Gio Gonzalez (5-6, 6.15 ERA)

Gonzalez couldn't get out of the fourth inning for the second straight start his last time out; he's given up eight earned runs and 10 hits over his last 6 2/3 innings. A 23-year-old rookie with a plus curveball but iffy command, Gonzalez made one start against the Angels, giving up four runs and walking five in three innings on Aug. 27, 2008, in Anaheim.

LAA: RHP Jered Weaver (15-7, 3.87 ERA)



Weaver got an extra day between starts, and if anyone has earned it, he's the guy. The only Angels starter not to miss a turn, Weaver is coming off a solid six innings in Texas, yielding three earned runs on five hits and two walks while striking out four men. He reached 200 innings for the first time in his four seasons, a testament to his increased stamina and endurance. Weaver has been stellar at home (9-2, 2.89 in 16 starts) and has a strange history with the Athletics, going 2-2 in nine outings despite an excellent ERA of 2.93.

Dribblers ...

Outfielder Scott Hairston (left hip, back) missed his third consecutive start Thursday. ... The A's have secured their first winning month since June 2008. ... Third catcher Eric Munson recently spoke with third baseman Eric Chavez and said Chavez, recovering from back surgery, is "doing great." Munson and Chavez were high school stars together in San Diego. ... Geren on Thursday went out of his way to compliment the work of strength and conditioning coach Bob Alejo, particularly what Alejo has done to keep the team's young starting pitchers from wearing down late in the year. "They don't look tired *at all*," Geren said. ... Oakland's three errors on Thursday gave the club 96 on the year with nine games

remaining. The A's have made fewer than 100 errors in each of the past five seasons, matching the longest such streak in big league history. ... Oakland is 8-11-5 in road series this season.

Up next

- Saturday: Athletics (Dana Eveland, 2-3, 6.50) at Angels (John Lackey, 11-8, 3.56), 6:05 p.m. PT 
- Sunday: Athletics (Edgar Gonzalez, 0-3, 5.22) at Angels (Joe Saunders, 14-7, 4.63), 12:35 p.m. PT 
- Monday: Off-day

A's Powell plans to expand repertoire

Rookie catcher looking for other ways to get into lineup

By Mychael Urban / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- A's rookie catcher Landon Powell got his 28th start of the season behind the plate on Thursday, and he knows his number of starts won't dramatically increase in 2010 barring an injury to ironman Kurt Suzuki.

He knows that Suzuki, who turns 26 on the last day of the season (Oct. 4), is on pace to lead American League catchers in starts -- he's at 125 -- and is one of the best all-around backstops in the game, ranking second in the AL in assists (63) and on pace to become the second catcher in club history to lead the A's in RBIs.

In short, Powell knows that if he wants to get regular playing time, it'll likely have to come with another team or at another position. And given his production in limited playing time, his contact status and his injury history, Powell probably won't be on the move anytime soon.

- His 29 RBIs in the first 45 games of his career are the second-most in club history, behind Ben Grieve's 33 from 1997-98, and only six Oakland rookies have hit more than Powell's seven homers in their first 45 career games; five of them came in his 12 games prior to Thursday.
- He's under club control through 2014 and not eligible for arbitration until after '11.
- Having missed a ton of time with various knee injuries -- he's had two left ACL reconstructions -- since being Oakland's No. 1 pick in the 2004 First-Year Player Draft, Powell, 27, might be a tough sell in trade talks. He also has a rare condition called autoimmune hepatitis that prompts his immune system to attack his liver cells and will require daily medication for life.

So Oakland it is, and the A's are happy to have him. But playing on a regular basis is what makes Powell -- a freshly minted father -- happy professionally, so he's changing his offseason priorities.

If Powell is going to be a lineup regular in 2010, it's going to be at first base or at designated hitter.

"I'm going to be taking a lot of grounders at first base, and I'm going to focus more on the offensive side of things," he said before the finale of a four-game series against the Rangers at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

"I've always put catching first, and I'll still pay attention to it because you never know what could happen in this game, but I want to get out there and help the team any way I can, and if Kurt's healthy, obviously I'm going to have to find a way to do that at another spot."

Powell has made four appearances at first base, including four starts. That's a crowded house, though, because the A's are loaded with potential starting first baseman -- from Daric Barton on the current big league roster to top prospects Sean Doolittle and Chris Carter.

Oakland manager Bob Geren said he hasn't seen enough of Powell at first base to make any substantial evaluations, noting only that there's plenty of room for improvement, but he conceded that Powell is an option there and at DH.

Those knees might not be able to sustain regular time on the field, anyway.

"It's possible," Geren said of Powell being less of a backup catcher and more of lineup regular. "It depends on how the team shapes up. But he swings the bat well when he gets a chance, sure."

Powell said he was rarely used as a DH in the Minors because he was always catching, but he's certainly open to the idea.

"It'd be an adjustment, because as a catcher you're so involved in the game, tracking pitches," he said. "When you're a DH, the ball just seems like the pitch is right on you in that first at-bat. But it's something I'd definitely love to do if that's what it takes to get out there and help out."

A's win 12-3 to split series with Rangers

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

The Oakland Athletics and Texas Rangers have gotten to know each other better this month — as in seven meetings in 11 days.

Last-place Oakland won five of those games and put a big damper on Texas' wild-card hopes in the process.

Jack Cust homered to help rookie Brett Anderson win his fourth straight start, Cliff Pennington hit a two-run triple and the A's salvaged a split of their four-game series against the Rangers with a 12-3 rout Thursday.

Eric Patterson drove in three runs, Adam Kennedy doubled twice among his three hits and Rajai Davis had an RBI triple in a balanced offensive attack for Oakland, which sent the Rangers to just their second loss in their last seven road games.

The A's swept a three-game series at Texas from Sept. 14-16.

"It's nice to have guys up and down the lineup swinging the bat well," A's manager Bob Geren said. "There are a lot of guys in our lineup now who can run. It's fun, an exciting group. We're utilizing every different which way."

Anderson (11-10), who has struggled for run support much of the year, allowed three runs, one earned, and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. He improved to 8-3 over his last 16 starts.

It had to be nice to receive all that offense for a change.

"We're getting guys on base and we're getting hits when we need to," Patterson said. "Usually when you're winning games, it's because you're doing things like that."

Anderson's strikeout of Craig Gentry to start the third was his 142nd, moving him past Rick Langford for most by a rookie in Oakland history. Langford struck out 141 in 1977.

"It's pretty special considering some of the great guys who have made their debuts in this uniform," Anderson said.

Anderson also leads major league rookies in Ks. He received a standing ovation when he was replaced by Brad Ziegler with two runners on in the sixth.

David Murphy and Chris Davis each singled in a run for the Rangers, who couldn't do enough to back Scott Feldman on a day when the right-hander didn't have his best stuff.

"They're playing good baseball. We thought we had a chance to take three out of the four," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "Coming in that was the worst I felt we had to do."

The Rangers, who had won three of five following a five-game skid, were trying to earn consecutive wins for the first time since they won three straight from Sept. 8-9 at Cleveland, which included a doubleheader sweep.

"I really give a lot of credit to the A's and what they've had to do as far as the injuries and the way their hitters battle," Rangers catcher Taylor Teagarden said. "They're not necessarily going to beat you with the long ball but they get guys on base and they seem to get those runs in somehow."

Feldman (17-6) lost to Oakland for the second time in three starts. His home defeat to the A's — a 9-0 loss — on Sept. 14 ended his career-best seven-game winning streak.

On Thursday, he got through a 1-2-3 first on 11 pitches but didn't have another clean inning. He was done after 3 1-3 innings, leaving after Cust's solo homer.

Feldman also matched his career high with five walks — three of those coming in Oakland's four-run third.

"I just stunk today, pretty much to sum it up," Feldman said.

The A's committed two errors that led to an unearned run for the Rangers in the first.

NOTES: Anderson didn't walk a batter for the fifth time. ... Davis matched his career-best hitting streak at 12 with the fourth-inning triple, his fifth of the year. ... Anderson and Teagarden were Olympic teammates last year, earning a bronze medal for the U.S. team in the Beijing Games. ... Much of the A's top brass traveled to Phoenix for the funeral of Cheryl Polakowski, wife of longtime director of minor league operations, Ted Polakowski. She died Saturday at age 47 of pancreatic cancer. Cheryl Polakowski worked for the A's at their Papago Park minor league complex. ... Oakland has committed three errors in consecutive games for the first time since May 12-13, 2007, vs. Cleveland. ... Texas starters are 10-11 this month.

2009 A's In Review: The Draft, Rounds 1 - 50

Melissa Lockard
OaklandClubhouse.com

Sep 22, 2009

As part of our continuing review of the 2009 season for the Oakland A's organization, we take a look at this year's draft. In Part One, we review the A's picks in rounds one through 15.

Round 1: Grant Green - Green was considered a bit of a value pick for the A's at slot #13 in the first round. At the start of the collegiate season, there were some projected draft boards that had Green listed in the top-five. After the draft, A's Director of Scouting Eric Kubota compared Green to Milwaukee Brewers' Hall of Famer Robin Yount. The USC shortstop and Scott Boras client was expected to want more than slot money for the 13th overall pick, and he got it on the draft period's final day, signing with the A's for just under \$3 million. Since he signed late, Green got into only a handful of games and he was used exclusively as a DH, but he was impressive, collecting six hits in 19 at-bats for High-A Stockton. He is currently at the A's Instructional League camp and should open the 2010 season back with the Ports.

Round 2: No pick

Round 3: Justin Marks - The A's went with an organizational staple with their second pick, taking the collegiate left-hander Marks with their third-round selection. Marks came to the A's after a distinguished career at Louisville and is considered a polished pitcher with a strong, four-pitch mix. He signed a little late and, after impressing in bullpen sessions in Arizona, was unfortunately injured during his first pro start with the A's Rookie League team. He missed the rest of the Rookie League season and isn't on the Instructional League list for the fall.

Round 4: Max Stassi - If the Green pick was considered bold for the A's considering his price tag, the Stassi pick was considered way out of character for Oakland. Stassi, a high school catcher, was considered a sure fire first-round pick until he dropped on draft day thanks to whispers about a high price tag. Oakland took him with their first pick on Day 2 of the draft knowing full well that they would have to give him first round money to sign. The negotiations went until deadline day, but the A's and Stassi came to terms on a deal worth \$1.5 million. Early returns on Stassi were excellent. He appeared in 13 games for the A's short-season A team in Vancouver, collecting 14 hits in 49 at-bats (.286 BA) against pitchers often two or three years older than him. The 18-year-old is currently in Phoenix participating in Instructs.

Round 5: Stephen Parker - Parker, a third-baseman from BYU, was a quick sign after the draft. He spent much of the last three months of the season with the Kane County Cougars, where he played a lot of first base. Parker was inconsistent with the bat in his first pro season. The 22-year-old hit .244/.312/.362 with five homers in 254 at-bats. He finished off his year on an up-note, batting .294 with four walks and six RBIs over his last 10 games.

Round 6: Ryan Ortiz - Ortiz was the second catcher taken by the A's in the draft. Also an early sign, he reported almost immediately to Vancouver, where he would appear in 48 games for the C's. Ortiz hit only .258, but he walked 26 times in 151 at-bats, giving him an impressive .388 on-base percentage. The Oregon State alum also hit with authority, posting a .430 slugging percentage and hitting four homeruns in a difficult league for hitters. Behind the plate, Ortiz was the league leader in passed balls with 13, but he also led the league in put-outs and total chances and was second in the league in percentage of runners caught stealing (35 percent).

Round 7: Ian Krol - Krol was another high-risk pick for the A's. A high school left-hander out of Illinois, Krol was expected to be a top-two or three round pick in the draft before being suspended from his high school team for violations of the school's athletic code of conduct. Krol spent his senior year pitching in a showcase league in Wisconsin, but his stock took a hit by not being able to play the high school season. He had a strong commitment to Arizona, but the A's were able to get him to sign for just under a million dollars. Krol, like Stassi and Green, was a deadline day signing, and he joined Stassi in Vancouver after inking his deal. Krol allowed six hits and three earned runs in 3.1 innings spread over three appearances with the C's, walking one and striking out four. He is considered a raw prospect, but one with promising stuff. Krol is currently at the A's Instructional League camp.

Round 8: Robert Gilliam - Gilliam followed Marks as the second collegiate pitcher taken by Oakland in the draft. The UNC-Greensboro alum was considered one of the stronger arms available during the second day among the collegiate portion of the draft, but he was plagued by inconsistencies during his collegiate career. That pattern continued in his first pro season, which was spent in Vancouver's bullpen, for the most part (he tossed three scoreless innings for the A's Rookie League team). In 8.2 innings, Gilliam struck-out 11 batters, but he walked five, allowed nine hits and five runs. He is also at Instructs.

Round 9: Myrio Richard - The A's have never been shy about dipping more than once into a family tree, and that tradition continued with the team's ninth round pick, Richard, who is the younger brother of A's 2007 draft pick Michael Richard. Myrio, an outfielder, played at the same collegiate program as his brother – Prairie View A&M. After appearing in a handful of games with the A's Rookie League team, Richard was promoted to Vancouver, where he would appear in 53 games. Richard got off to a fast start with the C's, batting .329 in 22 July games. He slumped some in August, however, hitting only .198 in 25 games. On the upside, Richard walked 16 times in those 25 August contests. He finished the year with a .255/.348/.313 line for Vancouver and is currently in Phoenix at Instructs.

Round 10: Sam Dyson - Did not sign.

Round 11: Michael Spina - Spina, the all-time leading homerun hitter in the history of the University of Cincinnati, joined Parker as the first two position players from the A's 2009 draft to land on the roster of a full-season affiliate (Kane County). Spina manned third base for the Cougars and impressed in his first pro season. Despite having to overcome a scary beaming to the head in July, Spina put together an impressive .255/.352/.424 line with seven homers in 184 at-bats with Kane County. His defense is still a work in progress at third, as Spina was charged with nine errors in 42 games at the hot corner.

Round 12: Connor Hoehn - Hoehn was the first A's pick out of the community college circuit. The right-hander from St. Petersburg JC came to the A's with the reputation of having a power right arm, and that was what Hoehn displayed in his first pro season. The 20-year-old appeared in 15 games for the Vancouver Canadians and he allowed only two earned runs in 18 innings. He saved seven games and struck-out 25 while walking seven. Hoehn, whose fastball was clocked in the mid-90s, is also currently in Arizona at Instructs.

Round 13: Murphy Smith - Smith became the first pitcher from the 2009 class to join a full-season squad when he was thrust into the Kane County starting rotation in July. Smith acquitted himself well during his first tour of full-season baseball, posting a 4.75 ERA in 36 innings spread over nine starts. He struck-out 31, walked 17 and allowed two homeruns. Smith was actually better than his ERA would indicate for the majority of his time with the Cougars. In two bad starts on August 15 and 21, he allowed 11 runs in 6.1 innings. Over the rest of his seven outings, he allowed only eight runs in 29.2 innings. Smith is in Phoenix at Instructs.

Round 14: Drew Gagnier - Did not sign.

Round 15: Anthony Aliotti - Aliotti was a local pick, coming from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. The first-baseman spent his entire pro debut season with Vancouver. In 60 games, Aliotti hit .239/.351/.275. He walked an impressive 36 times in 218 at-bats, but struggled from a power aspect with the transition from metal to wood. He will be working on that aspect of his game with the A's coaching staff in Phoenix at Instructs.

Round 16: Josh Leyland - A relatively unknown baseball prospect early in his high school career, Leyland burst onto scouts' radars over the past year with an impressive display of power out of San Dimas High School. He shined at prospect showcases, both in batting practice and during tournament games, and put together an outstanding senior season. Before the draft, he was expected to be a tough sign, but the A's were able to sign him away from Washington State with their 16th round pick without paying much over slot. The well-built catcher was hampered by a few minor injuries after signing and appeared in only seven games with the AZL A's, collecting three hits and four walks in 20 at-bats. He is considered a skilled hitter despite coming from the high school ranks, but is raw defensively. Leyland is working with the A's coaching staff in Arizona at Instructs currently. If he stays at catcher, look for Leyland to start next season in short-season Vancouver. If he moves to first base, he could begin the year with Low-A Kane County.

Round 17: Pat Stover - Did not sign.

Round 18: Max Peterson - Peterson was the second A's draft pick taken out of a Bay Area college (in his case, San Jose State). The lefty went 7-1 with a 4.55 ERA as a starter for the Spartans in 2009. He signed with the A's quickly and, after tossing four shut-out innings with the A's Rookie League team, he was sent to Vancouver, where he spent the rest of the season. Peterson pitched mostly out of the C's bullpen, appearing in 17 games and making only one start. In 21 innings, he struck-out 25 batters, but struggled at times with his command, allowing 16 walks and 30 hits. Peterson's best pitch is his fastball, which sits at 89-91 but gets on hitters quicker than that. The A's are likely to work with Peterson on his secondary pitches during Instructs.

Round 19: Daniel Tenholder - Tenholder was selected by the A's out of Austin Peay State, where he was the all-time career saves leader. After signing with Oakland, Tenholder was assigned to the Arizona Rookie League, where he would stay for the rest of the year. He got off to a rough start with the AZL A's, posting a 10.03 ERA with 22 hits allowed in 11.2 innings in July. However, he finished up on a strong note, allowing only nine hits and two earned runs in 14 innings in August. He struck-out 17 and walked only four over that stretch. Tenholder utilizes a three-quarters arm slot that helps him induce groundballs, and the A's have always liked pitchers with unusual deliveries. He is currently in Arizona for Instructs.

Round 20: Tyler Bernard - Did not sign.

Round 21: Mike Faulkner - Did not sign.

Round 22: Ryan Quigley - Like Tenholder, Quigley was another collegiate draft pick that the A's chose to keep in the Arizona Rookie League for his first pro season. The lefty from Northeastern University appeared in 17 games for the AZL A's, all out of the bullpen. He came to Oakland with a reputation for having good stuff and deception, but inconsistent command, and that seemed to hold true during his first taste of pro ball. In 25.1 innings, he allowed 16 walks and 25 hits, but he struck-out 31 and didn't give up a homer. Quigley is continuing his work in Arizona at Instructs.

Round 23: Kent Walton - Walton was actually a re-draft by the A's, who took him in the 42nd round in 2008. The BYU outfielder was limited defensively in 2009 thanks to shoulder surgery that he had to correct a torn labrum in the fall of 2008. However, it didn't limit him at the plate, as he dominated for the Cougars and then hit .294/.344/.400 in 67 games for the Vancouver Canadians after signing with Oakland. He hit better than .300 for the majority of his time with the C's before a late season slump caused his average to dip a bit. Walton was limited to DH with Vancouver because of the shoulder, but he should be ready to move back into the field next season.

Round 24: Daniel Straily - After being selected by the A's out of Marshall University, Straily was sent north to Vancouver, where he would be one of the C's most valuable pitchers in 2009. The right-hander made 11 starts and five relief appearances for Vancouver, posting a 4.12 ERA with 66 strike-outs and 18 walks in 59 innings. Straily finished the season with a bang, earning the Northwest League's Pitcher of the Week honors for the season's final week, when he won two games and struck-out 15 in 11.2 innings. He was outstanding in general in August, posting a 2.59 ERA in six starts with a 39:8 K:BB ratio in 31.1 innings. Straily's fastball has been clocked in the low-90s and he has a solid four-pitch mix

(fastball, curveball, change-up and slider) that should allow him to stay in the starting rotation next season. He is looking to extend his solid August with a good performance at Instructs this month.

Round 25: Chris Mederos - Mederos was selected out of Georgia Southern University after going 11-1 for the Golden Eagles. The right-hander signed a little late, and he spent the season with the AZL A's, where he made 11 appearances, nine out of the bullpen. He acquitted himself well in the desert, posting a 2.14 ERA and striking out 26 while walking only two in 21 innings. The 22-year-old's best pitch is a cut fastball, a favorite of A's minor league pitching coordinator Gil Patterson. Patterson also noted during the season that Mederos' curveball was a solid pitch. Mederos, who is 6'3", 175, has a similar build to A's reliever Brad Ziegler. He has remained in Arizona for Instructs.

Round 26: Nathan Long - Long was selected out of the University of Texas – Arlington after he broke the UT-A single-season strike-out record. Long was a starter for UT-A, but he came out of the Vancouver bullpen in his first pro season. In 22 appearances, he had a 6.69 ERA and a 1-2 record. He allowed 45 hits and 14 walks in 36.1 innings and he struck-out only 25.

Round 27: Michael Gilmartin - Gilmartin, a switch-hitter out of Wofford College, spent his entire pro debut season with Vancouver. The infielder appeared in 60 games for the C's, batting .232/.320/.325 in 228 at-bats. Although his OPS was only .645, he did finish second on the team with three homers and third on the team with 34 runs scored. Gilmartin, who was the team's everyday shortstop, committed 13 errors, which tied him for second-most on the team. He is in Arizona at Instructs.

Round 28: Conner Crumbliss - Crumbliss came to the A's with little fanfare as a later round pick from tiny Emporia State, but he finished the year as one of the better known draft picks for the A's in 2009. The versatile Crumbliss earned team MVP honors with Vancouver by hitting .293/.425/.405 in 57 games with the C's. He also stole 11 bases and scored 40 runs. Crumbliss finished the season with Kane County, where he made a big impact in only 14 games. He hit .280/.438/.400 with 11 runs scored while batting at the top of the Cougars' line-up. Crumbliss isn't an imposing guy at 5'8", but he hit for decent power in two leagues not friendly to power hitters. His plate discipline was outstanding and he brought defensive versatility to the table by playing both in the infield and the outfield. He is currently in Arizona at Instructs.

Round 29: Michael Zunino - Did not sign.

Round 30: Royce Consigli - Consigli, like Leyland, was somewhat of a surprising sign for the A's. A high school outfielder from Welland, Ontario, Consigli had a commitment to the University of Pittsburgh and was believed to be leaning towards taking it. Instead, the A's were able to bring him on-board at the same time Leyland signed. Consigli, an outfielder, spent his pro debut season in Arizona, where he appeared in 26 games and got 94 at-bats. He hit only .202, but thanks to 16 walks, he sported a respectable .330 on-base percentage. He also stole three bases in three opportunities. Consigli has stayed on in Arizona, where he is participating in Instructs, and he is likely to play in his native country for Vancouver next year.

Round 31: Ian Texidor - Did not sign.

Round 32: Garett Claypool - Did not sign.

Round 33: Mike Bolsinger - Did not sign.

Round 34: Dylan Brown - Did not sign.

Round 35: Paul Smyth - The A's have had success taking relievers in the late rounds lately. Jeff Gray, Connor Robertson and Brad Kilby are all late-round picks by Oakland who made it to the big leagues over the past few years. Smyth may be the next in this line. The Kansas alum was thoroughly dominant in his first pro season, not allowing a run in 36.1 regular season innings for Vancouver and Kane County (he did allow a run in a playoff game with the Cougars). Smyth gave up only 14 hits and four walks and he struck-out 44 while saving 11 games. He isn't a hard thrower, but he uses a sidearm motion that is very effective against both righties and lefties. He is at Instructs now and could be a quick mover in the A's system over the next few years.

Round 36: Jeremy Wells - Wells was taken out of tiny Patten College in Oakland. The Chula Vista, California, native was assigned to the AZL A's, where he appeared in 45 games. A speedster, Wells hit .291/.398/.345 with 15 stolen bases in 18 chances. At 23, he was older than most of his competition in the desert, but if he can continue to get on-base and steal bags at a high rate, he'll find his way moving up the system. He is currently in Arizona at Instructs.

Round 37: Colin Bates - Did not sign.

Round 38: Tristan Archer - Did not sign.

Round 39: Ryan Lockwood - Did not sign.

Round 40: Chris O'Dowd - Did not sign.

Round 41: Justin Hilt - Did not sign.

Round 42: Blake Crosby - The younger brother of A's infielder Bobby Crosby, Blake was selected after a standout year at Sacramento State. He was assigned to the A's Rookie League team, and he appeared in 20 games with the AZL A's, batting .217/.295/.217. Crosby didn't appear in a game after August 4th.

Round 43: Ryan Lipkin - Did not sign.

Round 44: A.J. Huttenlocker - Huttenlocker was another surprise in the late rounds for the A's. A lefty from Missouri Western State, Huttenlocker began his pro career in the Arizona Rookie League, where he allowed four earned runs in 13.1 innings with 17 strike-outs and one walk. He was bumped up to Kane County in the middle of August, and became a valuable reliever for the Cougars. In 23 innings, he gave up only 13 hits and struck-out 28 while walking only three. Huttenlocker showed a good breaking ball to go along with his outstanding command.

Round 45: Anthione Shaw - Shaw was selected out of St. Augustine's College in North Carolina after winning the CIAA's Player of the Year award. He spent his pro debut season in the AZL, where he hit .199/.280/.270 in 43 games.

Round 46: Joel Eusebio - Eusebio was the lowest round pick by the A's to sign. A third-baseman, Eusebio is a native of the Dominican Republic and the son of A's Dominican scout Angel Eusebio. Joel spent his pro debut season with the AZL A's, with whom he appeared in 33 games, batting .189 with a homer and seven RBIs. He had the unusual distinction of walking more often than he collected hits (22 walks and 18 hits).

Round 47: Kyle Roller - Did not sign.

Round 48: Addison Johnson - Did not sign.

Round 49: Anthony Giansanti Did not sign.

Round 50: Tanner Biagini Did not sign.