

Oakland A's down Baltimore Orioles behind jack-of-all-trades Adam Rosales' three-run home run

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Adam Rosales has played a variety of roles this season for the A's.

He made like a slugger in the first inning Wednesday night, bashing a three-run home run that sent Oakland on its way to a 6-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles to even a three-game series at Camden Yards.

That was part of a four-run rally, and Rosales' blast ended a seven-game homerless drought for the A's, their longest such streak since a nine-game spell in September 1983.

Rajai Davis went 3-for-5 and stole three bases from the leadoff spot, an encouraging sign considering Coco Crisp was placed on the 15-day disabled list as expected with a strained rib-cage muscle.

Throw in the performance of right-hander Trevor Cahill (3-2), who limited the Orioles to two hits and one run over six innings, and it was a nice rebound by the A's.

You could hear a pin drop in the clubhouse after Tuesday's 5-1 loss. Wednesday's postgame scene was more lively.

"We haven't hit too many (homers)," said Rosales, who had three hits and tied a career high with four RBIs. "To jump out and get a lead "... we felt pretty good after that."

Rosales, who has played all over the infield, drew a start in left field Wednesday. Manager Bob Geren said Rosales also could see time in right field to spell Ryan Sweeney.

"I'll play anywhere the team needs me to play," Rosales said.

Geren also indicated Rosales could be an option to hit leadoff, but Davis looked right at home atop the order Wednesday.

Davis led off the game with a single, moved to second on Daric Barton's sacrifice and stole third without a throw. Kurt Suzuki drove him in with a line single. Kevin Kouzmanoff walked, and after Sweeney's fielder's choice grounder, Rosales went deep off Orioles lefty Brian Matusz (2-5).

The A's hadn't scored as many as four runs in an inning since April 27 at Tampa Bay.

Davis ignited a two-run rally in the second with a bloop single. He stole second and took third after catcher Matt Wieters' throw skipped into center field. Barton went the opposite way with an RBI single to make it 5-0.

"That's what Davis did the second half of last year," Geren said. "He led the way and helped us win a lot of games. ... Those kind of at-bats, that kind of speed, generates some action."

Davis' team contributions began before the game. The unofficial team barber, Davis set up a chair in the visitors' clubhouse and gave reliever Cedrick Bowers a trim.

But it's his speed and ability to get on base that will be most crucial for the A's, who had been held to two runs in nine of their previous 17 games entering Wednesday.

Geren said there's no clear timetable for Crisp's return with the type of injury he has. Crisp is the prototypical leadoff man when healthy.

"If I can get in scoring position, we've got some guys that can drive them in," Davis said.

He even caused some grief for Orioles manager Dave Trembley, who's reportedly on the hot seat.

Davis beat out an infield single on a bang-bang play in the seventh, and Trembley came out to argue the call. So much for the home crowd supporting such fire. Trembley left the field hearing boos from the crowd of 19,153.

A's notebook: Baltimore Orioles pitcher Brad Bergesen gets first start against Oakland A's

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

BALTIMORE — Brad Bergesen's childhood included lots of trips to the Oakland Coliseum during baseball season.

But when the Baltimore Orioles right-hander faces the A's today for the first time, he says his heart won't be racing any faster than normal.

"I'll prepare myself just the same as if we were playing the Yankees or whoever," said Bergesen, a Fairfield native who attended Foothill High.

No matter the opposing uniform, Bergesen, 24, is just looking for consistency. He's 3-3 with a 6.10 ERA in eight starts in 2010, struggling at times but showing flashes of the form that made him effective last season as a rookie. Bergesen was sent to the minors after opening the season with three poor starts. He came back and won three straight starts but has allowed double-digit hits in his past two outings.

"As a sinkerballer, I pitch to contact," Bergesen said. "As long as you're keeping them in the ballpark and keeping them on the ground, that's the main thing."

Bergesen's brief big league career has included some misfortune.

His 2009 season ended in late July when he was struck in the shin by a liner against Kansas City. He was 7-5 with a 3.43 ERA at the time.

In December, he hurt his shoulder while throwing during a commercial shoot for the Orioles. The club since has announced that all future promotional shoots involving players will be closely supervised.

"It's really just as much my fault for (agreeing to throw)," Bergesen said.

Bergesen and A's pitcher Tyson Ross played against each other in high school. Ross, who attended Bishop O'Dowd, said Bergesen hit an opposite-field home run off him in 2004.

A's left-hander Brett Anderson (strained forearm) said he's confident he'll be ready to come off the 15-day disabled list and start Saturday at Detroit. He played long toss before the A's 6-1 win over the Orioles on Wednesday. He'll throw a bullpen session today as a final test. He threw three innings in a rehab start Monday for Triple-A Sacramento. "I was really rusty in Sacramento, but my arm felt good so I was happy with that," said Anderson, who hasn't pitched in the majors since April 27.

Catcher Landon Powell was called up from Sacramento to take the place of Coco Crisp (strained chest muscle), who joined the DL.

Chin Music: Coco Crisp returns to DL; Landon Powell recalled; Brett Anderson expecting to start Saturday

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/26/2010 4:02PM

Coco Crisp was placed on the DL as expected today, making it 14 DL transactions for the A's through the first 46 games. They used the DL 17 times all of last year. In 2008, they set an Oakland record with 25 DL transactions. I'm no math whiz, but they're on a pretty good pace to obliterate that mark at their current rate.

An MRI showed Crisp indeed has a strained right intercostal muscle in his rib cage, and it's no guarantee that he'll be ready to return June 7 when he's eligible. A's manager Bob Geren said you can't really use Kurt Suzuki's recent injury (also an intercostal strain) as a potential timetable for Crisp. "Every one of those muscle strains is different, and take different times to heal," Geren said.

You can't over-emphasize how much the lack of a steady leadoff man has hurt this offense. Rajai Davis is back in the leadoff spot tonight with lefty Brian Matusz on the mound for Baltimore. Geren acknowledged the need for an effective presence atop the order. "The leadoff spot hasn't been real solidified since Opening Day," he said. "Hopefully that will start to happen." But how many other leadoff options do you see on this roster besides Davis and Cliff Pennington? I asked Geren if there was anyone else he would consider to hit leadoff. After a long pause, he mentioned Mark Ellis, but he's not an ideal solution either.

—Catcher Landon Powell was called up to take Crisp's roster spot and he got a warm reception from his teammates. It was sort of sarcastic, as this is Powell's third stint with the team. How would you like to have Powell's travel agenda so far this season? He started the year with Triple-A Sacramento. He was called up April 21 and sent back down two days later without appearing in a game. Then he was promoted again April 27 and started 12 games (catching Dallas Braden's perfect game)

before returning to Sacramento on Friday. Now he's back five days later. His presence gives Geren flexibility on the bench. He's DH'ing Jake Fox tonight, and now he can pinch-run for Fox and still have a backup catcher available if something happens to Suzuki.

–Brett Anderson is back with the team and threw long toss today. He'll throw a bullpen session tomorrow, but both Anderson and Geren fully expect him to be ready to come off the DL and start Saturday in Detroit.

–Dallas Braden is getting treatment for his sprained left ankle, and Geren said he expects the lefty to be ready for his next start Sunday.

The lineups:

A's: Davis CF, Barton 1B, Suzuki C, Kouzmanoff 3B, Sweeney RF, Rosales LF, Fox DH, Ellis 2B, Pennington SS; Cahill RHP.

Orioles: Patterson LF, Wigginton 1B, Markakis RF, Tejada 3B, Wieters C, Jones CF, Moore 2B, Atkins DH, Izturis SS; Matusz LHP.

Appeals challenge environmental impact report for proposed San Jose baseball stadium

By Tracy Seipel, Mercury News

Three newly filed appeals are challenging a decision by San Jose's Planning Commission to certify an environmental impact report for a proposed Major League Baseball park downtown.

The San Jose Sharks, Stand for San Jose (a coalition backed by the San Francisco Giants) and a resident who lives near the stadium site all allege that the report, which the commission approved last week, does not adequately analyze or disclose potential impacts from traffic and parking, among other issues.

The appeals will now go to the city council for review at its June 15 meeting. If the council agrees to uphold the appeals, city officials will have to revise the environmental report. If the council does not agree with the appeals, it will certify the report. Foes could still sue the city over the project, however.

Whether a stadium will be built hinges largely on whether Major League team owners remove the Giants' territorial claim to Santa Clara County. If that happens, Oakland A's owner Lew Wolff has said he will pay to build the \$461 million ballpark, provided San Jose voters give the team permission to build on city land. The council must act by late July to place such a measure on the November ballot.

A'S 6, ORIOLES 1

Rosales' HR sparks Oakland's solid win

Scott Ostler, Chronicle Staff Writer

In all the big leagues, the best example of combined power and speed might be an Adam Rosales home run.

The A's ultra-utilityman beat out another outside-the-park home run Wednesday night. He hit a two-out, three-run homer in the first inning of the A's 6-1 win over the Orioles and threatened to sprint past the baserunners ahead of him, Kurt Suzuki and Ryan Sweeney.

It was all the help needed by starting pitcher Trevor Cahill, who threw six innings of two-hit ball, helping the A's bust their six-game road losing streak.

Rosales also had two singles. He was the A's fill-in at second base until Mark Ellis returned from an injury, and the last three games, Rosales has been in left field, with Rajai Davis moving to center to sub for injured-again Coco Crisp.

Crisp went on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, retroactive to Sunday. He was/is supposed to be the A's answer at leadoff, but Crisp has played only two games of 47, and who knows when he'll be healthy? Until then ...

Anyone want to be the leadoff man?

It's a vital spot for the A's, who don't have an overpowering offense. Rosales' home run ended a seven-game homer-free drought. Clearly the A's are going to have to manufacture runs.

With Crisp out, leadoff has been an ongoing audition.

Davis filled the bill spectacularly Wednesday: three singles, three stolen bases, two runs scored. But in his previous 20 games at leadoff, Davis hit .220, with five walks and an on-base percentage of .264.

"Our leadoff spot hasn't been real solidified since Opening Day," manager Bob Geren said before the game. "We've given a few guys a try and had some sparks there, but it hasn't been consistent."

Geren said his most logical leadoff candidates are Davis, Cliff Pennington and Ellis, but Ellis hasn't regained his hitting stroke and Pennington is slumping and was moved to the 9-hole Wednesday.

What about Rosales?

"Yeah, that's a good call," Geren said after the game, somewhat facetiously. "He really could play anywhere, and he could bat anywhere. That's a really good idea. Want me to do that tomorrow?"

Geren was kidding, but he did add, "He'll definitely be in the lineup tomorrow."

Davis would love the leadoff job, but doesn't get on base enough. Rosales has an on-base percentage of .344, and has zero steals.

Before the game, some wise guy threw out the name of Jack Cust for leadoff. Cust has a team-leading .438 on-base percentage. Very unlikely, but Geren said, "I like his at-bats, I really do. He's been very disciplined and if you make a mistake, he's right on it."

Cust works the count better than anyone on the team. Not exactly your classic speed guy for leadoff, but Geren said, "He's not as slow as people think. He's not. He runs OK."

What about Daric Barton, second-best on-base man on the team at .390, with easily the most walks, 31? Barton batted second Wednesday and contributed an RBI single.

There's no classic guy for the spot, except maybe Crisp. But Geren's trying.

Crisp on DL, Powell back

Scott Ostler, Chronicle Staff Writer

He's back. Again.

Taking **Coco Crisp's** roster spot is catcher **Landon Powell**, the human yo-yo. He was recalled from the minor leagues for the third time this season and arrived Wednesday before the game. Powell, hitting .167 at Sacramento and .231 for Oakland, is forever famous as the man who caught **Dallas Braden's** perfecto.

An MRI exam confirmed that Crisp has an intercostal muscle strain in his upper right ribcage. "It's a small muscle, but a slow-healing muscle," manager **Bob Geren** said.

The A's put Crisp on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to Sunday.

Rotation update: Brett Anderson, coming back from a sore arm, did some throwing before the game and told Geren he felt great. Anderson will throw in the bullpen before the game today and is tentatively set to return to the rotation Saturday in Detroit.

Braden, removed from Tuesday's game after four innings because of soreness from a two-weeks-old ankle sprain, underwent treatment and was kept off his feet Wednesday. Geren said Braden is expected to make his next start, Sunday in Detroit.

All-Star update: The A's are getting no love from the All-Star Game voters. In the early returns, no Oakland player cracks the top five at any of the four AL infield positions or catcher, and no Oakland player makes the top 15 in outfield voting.

Contributing factor: Tarps don't vote.

But anyone who tries to keep Braden off the All-Star squad will have to answer to the 209.

College scouting: Geren visited Johns Hopkins University on Wednesday. He wasn't seeking a cure for what ails Crisp, but was doing advance college scouting for his son **Brett**, who is a high school junior and undecided, college-wise. Geren's other son, **Bobby**, is a high school senior headed for Princeton.

A's leading off

Scott Ostler, San Francisco Chronicle 5/27/2010

Must-eat at Camden Yards: It's the crabcake, from local waters (or as natives say, "werters.") It's \$12, almost as big as a big muffin, has enough grease to lube a Chevy Tahoe. And good. SpongeBob, eat your heart out.

Drumbeat: Good start, good crab cakes

Scott Ostler, San Francisco Chronicle 5/27/2010 4:32PM

First inning, the A's hit the magic number: 4. When they score 4 runs or more the A's are 20-1 this season.

This is Scott Ostler, by the way, pinch-hitting for Susan Slusser, No. 1 in your hearts.

Susan knows the A's. I know ballpark food. Camden Yards, so pregame I went with the traditional Baltimore combo--crab cake and vegetarian hot dog.

Crab cake was sensational, small but two inches tall. If you squeezed out all the grease, it would have been a half-inch tall.

Rajai Davis back in leadoff spot and here we go: singles the first two innings, a steal each inning and scored both times.

A's great start gives them win vs. O's

Four-run first, strong Cahill outing prove telling in victory

By Pete Kerzel / Special to MLB.com

BALTIMORE -- It's baseball's spin on the chicken-or-the-egg conundrum: Does an early big inning give a starting pitcher more confidence, or does a quick-working pitcher keeping the opposition off the basepaths make it easier for his own offense to explode?

Whichever side of the argument he falls on, Oakland A's center fielder Rajai Davis is sure that his team's performance helped right-hander Trevor Cahill, who in turn shut down the Baltimore Orioles in a 6-1 victory Wednesday night, and gave his own offense a much-needed boost.

Adam Rosales homered and equaled a career high with four RBIs, Cahill allowed two hits over six innings and the A's improved to 21-1 when scoring four or more runs. The victory, Oakland's third in four games, also pushed the A's back on the good side of .500 at 24-23.

Davis, back in the leadoff spot after Oakland placed Coco Crisp on the 15-day disabled list with a strained right intercostal muscle prior to the game, was in the middle of two rallies, as the A's surged to a 4-0 lead after two innings. He singled three times, scored two runs and stole a career-best three bases.

"It seems like once we gain that momentum in the first inning, we didn't let it go," Davis said. "You see Cahill and it seems like he was going out there like it was easy. He was making pitches, not walking guys and attacking the hitters."

With Cahill throttling the Orioles -- he retired the first seven hitters he faced before hanging a curveball to Garrett Atkins, who hit a solo homer to left -- the A's hitters were able to relax, as well.

"We get to go back and hit, which is the fun part," Davis said. "When you hit the ball and you're scoring runs, it makes it a little more fun, and a lot less pressure is on the team, the defense and the pitchers."

Cahill (3-2) certainly responded well to the early advantage. He went six innings, walked three and struck out three.

"This whole season, the pitching has let us hitters be patient," Rosales said.

The A's got to Orioles left-hander Brian Matusz -- who beat them 8-3 in Oakland for his last victory on April 18 -- early and decisively.

Davis led off the game with a single, moved to second on Daric Barton's sacrifice, stole third and scored when Kurt Suzuki singled to center. After a walk to Kevin Kouzmanoff and a fielder's-choice grounder by Ryan Sweeney, Rosales ripped a 1-2 fastball into the left-field stands for Oakland's first homer in seven games and a 4-0 lead.

"We haven't hit too many of those, but to jump out and get the lead, our pitchers have been dominant this whole season, so it felt pretty comfortable with that lead right off the bat," said Rosales.

Rosales' fourth home run ended the A's longest long-ball drought since they went nine straight games without homering from Sept. 14-23, 1983.

In the second, Davis singled with two out, stole second, went to third on catcher Matt Wieters' throwing error and scored on Barton's single through the hole at short.

"[Rosales] has been doing a really good job this year. Raj gets in there and if he gets on base, it's a good chance he'll end up on third," Cahill said. "We haven't been hitting the long ball too much, but Rosey had the big blast in the first that kind of got us off to a good start."

Cahill's lone mistake resulted in Atkins' homer in the third, his first in 145 at-bats as an American Leaguer. It ended the second-longest dry spell -- by one game -- in his career. Atkins' blast was followed by a Corey Patterson drag bunt, but that was the only offense the Orioles could generate against Cahill.

"I got ahead, I was feeling pretty confident and throwing the new curveball I've been working on," Cahill said. "I hung it right down the middle."

Matusz (2-5) yielded six runs on eight hits over five-plus innings, walking one and fanning four. The left-hander, who exited after Rosales' RBI single made it 6-1 in the sixth, is 0-5 in his past seven starts.

"We got to [Matusz] early and then he figured us out late," A's skipper Bob Geren said. "Actually, it was kind of good thing we got him early, because when he settled in, got his changeup going and started painting inside with his fastball, he shut us down."

Geren was delighted to see Davis explode in the leadoff spot, which the speedy outfielder will occupy at least part of the time while Crisp heals. Geren said it was reminiscent of last year's second half, when Davis hit .325 and stole 30 bases over his final 71 games.

"[Davis] had many, many nights just like that. He led the way, helped us win a lot of games," Geren said. "That's what we're looking for from him. Obviously, the kind of night he had tonight is difficult to do every night. But those kind of at-bats, that kind of speed, generates some action."

The production came at a price. Davis was so drained by his energetic output on a muggy evening that he needed intravenous fluids after the game. He said he hopes Wednesday's performance helps make Geren's decision about the A's leadoff spot, in Crisp's absence, much easier.

"I'm extremely thankful just to get another opportunity to prove I can be a leadoff batter," said Davis. "I'm just looking forward to getting better and adding to what we've done tonight. ... I do see myself as a top-of-the-lineup guy who can contribute and help an offense."

Crisp placed back on disabled list

Outfielder has intercostal strain, returns to DL after two games

By Pete Kerzel / Special to MLB.com

BALTIMORE -- Outfielder Coco Crisp returned to the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, and the A's aren't sure how long it will take his strained right intercostal muscle to properly heal.

"It was confirmed with an MRI, and it's going to take some time to heal," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "It's a small muscle, but it's a slow-healing muscle and he's going to need the 15 days, for sure."

It's a tough break for Crisp, who had just been reinstated from the DL on Friday before the Interleague series against San Francisco, and had gone 2-for-6 with three RBIs as the A's leadoff hitter. A broken left pinkie landed the 30-year-old Crisp on the disabled list for the fourth time in his career on April 3, two days before the season started.

The injury is similar to the muscle strain that sidelined A's catcher Kurt Suzuki from April 24 to May 16, but Geren said Suzuki's recovery couldn't be used as a timeline for Crisp.

"Every one of those muscle strains are different. There are different degrees of severity and everybody heals differently," he said. "You have to take them on a case-by-case [basis]."

Catcher Landon Powell was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento to take Crisp's spot on the 25-man roster. Geren said outfielder Rajai Davis, shortstop Cliff Pennington and possibly second baseman Mark Ellis would get looks in the leadoff spot that the A's hoped Crisp would occupy.

"Missing [Crisp] is definitely a blow, but it's one we'll overcome, and we know we're going to get him back," said Geren.

Anderson aims to return on Saturday

BALTIMORE -- Brett Anderson threw long toss in the outfield Wednesday afternoon and will go through a bullpen session Thursday in hopes of being named the A's starter for Saturday afternoon's game in Detroit.

"[Anderson] told me he felt great," manager Bob Geren said. "As of now, he's very positive about [starting] this weekend."

Asked if he shared Anderson's optimism, Geren said: "Yes."

The left-hander has been on the 15-day disabled list since April 27, retroactive to April 25, with left elbow inflammation and a left forearm strain. He pitched three innings in a rehabilitation start for Triple-A Sacramento on Monday, and that outing was enough to assure Anderson that he was ready to return to the Major League rotation.

"It felt good. A little wild, but it's kind of like riding a bike once you get back on," he said. "I didn't really know how I would feel, because I only had one bullpen [session] and facing hitters and adrenaline stuff, things change a little bit."

Throwing sliders without pain showed Anderson he was over the arm problems.

"I should be ready [for Saturday]," he said.

Braden takes break from baseball activities

BALTIMORE -- Left-hander Dallas Braden, who left Tuesday's game after four innings with a sprained left ankle, received treatment Wednesday and will take a break from baseball activities for a couple of days, said A's manager Bob Geren.

"What they're going to do is keep him off his feet today," Geren said. "He's not going to go out and do any shagging or anything during [batting practice]. He's just going to rest it, and he feels positive that with a few days off, he'll be fine for the next start."

Geren and pitching coach Curt Young noticed Braden favoring his left ankle during Tuesday's start against the Orioles, and the southpaw was pulled from the game after throwing only 62 pitches, with the score tied at 1.

Braden said the injury occurred two weeks ago in Texas, while he was running steps as part of his between-starts training routine. It flared up during the flight to Baltimore.

Powell returns for third stint in the bigs

BALTIMORE -- Catcher Landon Powell strolled into the A's clubhouse at Camden Yards just after 5 p.m. ET Wednesday, roller bag in tow, after touching down at Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport at 4:10 p.m. from Sacramento, and he was greeted with a welcoming serenade from pitcher Ben Sheets.

"When do we see you again?" Sheets sang, trying his best to remain on key, in a joking reference to Powell's on-again, off-again status with the A's.

Powell's recall from Triple-A Sacramento, to replace injured outfielder Coco Crisp on the 25-man roster, marked his third tour of duty with Oakland this season. As in his past tenures, Powell will be a third catcher, giving manager Bob Geren some added maneuverability.

"He gives us depth at [catcher]," said Geren. "Like today, [backup catcher Jake] Fox is DHing, so if something happens to [catcher] Kurt [Suzuki], I don't have to lose the DH. If Landon was starting, I could pinch-run for him and still have a full roster."

Powell can also DH or play first base. In 13 games with Oakland this season, he has hit .231 with three RBIs.

Gross ready to play in Crisp's absence

BALTIMORE -- Even before Coco Crisp went back on the 15-day disabled list on Wednesday with a right intercostal strain, Gabe Gross was ready to fill in. That's the role Gross envisioned when he signed with the A's as a free agent in February.

"The mentality for me ... is that the situation I was brought in for is to be ready at all times," Gross said. "You never know when you'll be needed and for how long."

Gross took Crisp's spot in center field on Tuesday night in the series opener, when sharp pains and shortness of breath precluded Crisp from playing. Rajai Davis will likely slide into Crisp's outfield position in most cases, but Gross will remain on standby should pitching matchups dictate he's needed.

Crisp's injury could also open up playing time in the outfield for utility man Adam Rosales, who started in left Wednesday night; Jake Fox, who has played left field five times while Crisp was out with a broken pinkie earlier in the season, and served as the designated hitter Wednesday; or designated hitter Jack Cust.

"I just try to be ready. If someone goes on the DL, no matter for how long, I just try to be ready, because that's what my job is," Gross said.

Cadaret to represent A's at Draft

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Greg Cadaret, a prominent member of the bullpen that guided the A's to a pennant-winning 1988 season, will represent the club when it makes the 10th overall pick at the First-Year Player Draft next month.

Drafted by the A's in the 11th round of the 1983 Draft, Cadaret played the first two and a half seasons of his 10-year career with Oakland, where he provided an effective left-handed relief option before being traded away in June 1989 along with two other players to the Yankees in exchange for Rickey Henderson.

MLB.com will offer live coverage and analysis of the entire First-Year Player Draft on June 7-9 on MLB.com/Live. The first round and Compensation Round A will be broadcast live from MLB Network's Studio 42 in Secaucus, N.J., on MLB.com and MLB Network on Monday, June 7, beginning with the Draft preview show at 6 p.m. ET.

MLB.com Draft expert Jonathan Mayo will join Greg Amsinger, Harold Reynolds, John Hart, Peter Gammons and Baseball America executive editor Jim Callis on Monday's broadcast.

Coverage for Rounds 2-50 will shift exclusively to MLB.com/Live, where Rounds 2-30 will be streamed on Tuesday, beginning at noon, and Rounds 31-50 will be streamed on Wednesday, starting at noon. Host Pete McCarthy will be joined by Mayo and former general manager Jim Duquette.

Cadaret, 48, will be among the many baseball luminaries present in Secaucus, as each team has tabbed at least one significant player from its past to sit at its Draft table.

A's end six-game road skid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Trevor Cahill pitched six innings of two-hit ball, Adam Rosales homered and drove in four runs, and the Oakland Athletics beat the Baltimore Orioles, 6-1, Wednesday night to end a six-game road losing streak.

Rajai Davis had three hits, stole a career-high three bases and scored twice for the Athletics, who came in with a major league-low five wins away from home. Oakland is 18-9 at home and 6-14 on the road.

Cahill (3-2) allowed one run, walked three and struck out three.

The only significant flaw in his performance was a solo homer by Garrett Atkins in the third inning after the A's had taken a 5-0 lead.

Jerry Blevins gave up one hit in two innings, striking out the side in the eighth. Brad Ziegler worked the ninth to complete the three-hitter.

The Athletics can earn their second road series win with a victory Wednesday night. Oakland has won 17 of its last 21 games at Camden Yards.

The A's took control with a four-run first inning against rookie Brian Matusz (2-5). After Davis led off with a single and scored on a single by Kurt Suzuki, Rosales hit a three-run homer to left field. As is his custom, Rosales hustled around the bases instead of breaking into a home run trot.

The drive ended a seven-game homerless stretch by the Athletics, their longest in 27 years.

Oakland made it 5-0 in the second when Davis singled, stole second and scored on a single by Daric Barton.

Atkins' homer was his first since signing with Baltimore as a free agent in December. The drive ended his homerless drought at 145 at-bats, one short of his career high.

The A's chased Matusz in the sixth. Kevin Kouzmanoff hit a leadoff double, Ryan Sweeney got an infield hit and Rosales followed with a run-scoring single. Rosales finished with three hits, and his four RBIs tied a career high.

Matusz gave up six runs and eight hits in five-plus innings. The left-hander has lost five straight decisions and has yielded at least six runs in three of his last four starts.

NOTES: The Orioles gave away Nolan Reimold bobbleheads to fans entering the ballpark, even though Reimold was optioned to Triple-A Norfolk on May 12. ... Davis has 18 stolen bases, one more than the Orioles. ... Baltimore's Frank Mata allowed one hit in 1 1-3 innings in his major league debut. ... Adam Jones extended his career-best hitting streak to 12 games with an infield single off Blevins.

Spander: Spring unkind to Bay Area teams

By: ART SPANDER , Special to The Examiner, May 26, 2010

NBA, MLB, NHL, SHARKS, GIANTS, A'S, NINERS, RAIDERS, 49ERS — The San Jose Sharks — they're not to be confused with the San Jose A's. The A's still are playing. So are the San Francisco Giants, unfortunately.

If it weren't for the Houston Astros, the Giants would have a losing record. If it weren't for the Giants, the A's would have a losing record. If it weren't for the Sharks, we'd have to rely on the Warriors' lottery selection for the story that never ends.

If it weren't for the Warriors ... hey, Larry Ellison: Buy the franchise already.

Eight days in May. The Giants nearly got swept. (They won a game in San Diego, of all places.) The Sharks did get swept. The Warriors lost three spots in the NBA draft order. Be upbeat.

To imagine the We-Don't-Want-to-be-in-Oakland A's were the only franchise around here that knows how to win defies logic, if there is anything logical in trying to figure sports.

One certain thing is that if you don't score, you can't win. Which is why the Sharks were in trouble, never getting more than two goals in any of the four losses to the Chicago Blackhawks.

And which is why the Giants still are in trouble, having been shut out five times and picking up a single run five other times in 10 of their first 43 games. Now Tim Lincecum is struggling. Are you allowed to say, "Wait till next year," before Memorial Day?

The A's, meanwhile, keep poking along in relative secrecy, although when the Giants went over to Tarpaulin Tech last weekend, there actually were people in many of the seats which didn't have covers over them.

In the spring, baseball mavens suggested the A's might be better than previously believed, and damn if they aren't right. The A's and the Giants have virtually the same record, which has to be a plus for Oakland and a very large minus for San Francisco.

But the Giants have recorded one notable achievement, unlikely to be duplicated for a while, by being involved in two one-hitters. One was by their own bad-luck pitcher, Jonathan Sanchez (yes, everybody who throws for the Giants is a bad-luck pitcher) and one by the opposition. They lost both games 1-0, of course.

The Giants faithful have decided it's all the fault of Bruce Bochy, who can't make out a lineup card properly, and either isn't giving Pablo Sandoval any rest or is giving Bengie Molina too much rest. Maybe Bochy isn't Joe Torre, but how do you manage a team that can't hit a pitched ball?

Brian Sabean, the GM, is also considered a culprit, but what was he supposed to do, steal Manny Ramirez from the Dodgers?

The probability that the Giants will have a worse record this season than last is poking us in the eyeballs. Meanwhile, the A's could continue their anonymous pursuit of respectability, unless Mr. Beane decides it is expedient to dispatch talent after the Summer Solstice.

Will Sabeen and the Giants, to the contrary, acquire someone who knows how to get a runner in from third? Probably not.

Oh, well. Look at it this way: The Niners and Raiders open camp in two months.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWSs

Veteran Halama dominates in River Cats debut

By Abbie Ellis / Sacramento River Cats

Michael Affronti and Matt Carson both hit home runs in the River Cats' 8-1 win over the Nashville Sounds on Wednesday afternoon at Raley Field.

Veteran left-hander John Halama pitched 7.0 scoreless innings in his River Cats debut. The 38-year-old Halama, who has a 56-48 record over nine major league seasons, was signed by the Oakland A's organization earlier this week. He allowed six hits, struck out five and walked three to earn the win.

Sacramento demonstrated their hitting power in the third inning when they knocked in six runs. Affronti hit his first home run of the season, a fly ball to left field. After Corey Wimberly reached on a bunt single, Eric Sogard tripled to right-center field. Catcher Josh Donaldson extended his hitting streak to four with a single to score Sogard. Carson made his first home run of the season count, knocking a three-run homer to left center field on a 1-0 pitch that scored Donaldson and Chris Carter.

The Cats put more numbers on the scoreboard in the eighth inning when Corey Brown tripled down the right-field line, scoring Carson and Anthony Recker.

One strike away from ending the game, Sacramento looked like it was going to pick up its third shutout of the season. With the bases loaded, reliever Brad Kilby struck out back-to-back batters. Then, on a full count, Kilby walked Patrick Arlis and the Sounds picked up their first run. The Cats sent in Edwar Ramirez for the final out, and the game was over on a pop fly by Norris Hopper.

The River Cats will close out their series against the Sounds on Thursday at 7:05 p.m.

Ports Slay San Jose Giants, 13-3

STOCKTON, Calif. - The Stockton Ports (20-27) won their second straight game of the homestand, slaying the San Jose Giants (29-18) by a final of 13-3. The Ports set a new single-game season high for runs scored and tied a single-game season high with 16 hits in the contest. Each Stockton starter collected a hit in the game, with Mike Spina and Jeremy Barfield each totaling three hits in the game. Todd Johnson extended his hitting streak to 12 games, finishing 2x5 with a three-run home run.

Harvard product Shawn Haviland picked up his fourth win of the year, throwing 7.0 shutout innings with five strikeouts. Brett Hunter tossed a scoreless inning of relief, and Andrew Carignan allowed three runs on three hits in the ninth inning. Kyle Nicholson picked up the loss for the Giants, allowing 10 runs on 12 hits with a walk and six strikeouts in 3.2 innings.

The Ports collected their first run in the first inning. Left fielder Shane Keough led off with a single toward third base, and he moved to second on a balk. He came around to score on an RBI single by first baseman Mike Spina.

The Ports added five runs in the second inning on five hits. Barfield led off with a single to center field and catcher Petey Paramore followed suit. Designated hitter Michael Richard also singled, loading the bases with no out. Keough then hit into a fielder's choice, and Barfield came running home. Grant Green collected his lone hit of the game next, an RBI single to score Paramore. Johnson then stepped up to the plate and dropped his second home run of the year into right field to give Stockton a 6-0 lead.

Stockton piled on four more runs in the fourth inning to cruise to a 10-0 lead. Keough led off and on the first pitch he saw in the at-bat, hit a towering shot to right field, for his first home run of the season. After Green grounded out, Johnson singled. Spina collected his second RBI on the night with a double to right-center field. Then Nicholson hit third baseman Stephen Parker with a pitch to put two on with one out for Tyler Ladendorf. Ladendorf singled to load the bases.

While Paramore was at-bat, all three runners advanced on a passed ball by Giants catcher Johnny Monell. Paramore then reached on an error by first baseman Brandon Belt, and Parker came around to score the Ports' tenth run. Paramore advanced to second on a throwing error by Belt. Keough then struck out looking to end the inning.

But the Ports weren't finished yet, as they added three more runs in the eighth frame. With one out, Parker singled to get things rolling. Ladendorf added a single for his second hit on the night. Barfield then smacked an RBI double to right field to score Parker. A wild pitch to Paramore allowed Ladendorf to score another Stockton run. Paramore collected an RBI on a sacrifice fly to left field to bring home Barfield to make it 13-0.

Carignan then entered the game for the Ports, and the Ports saw their shutout victory fade away. He gave up a leadoff double to designated hitter Ryan Lormand. Francisco Peguero stepped up to the plate and reached on a fielding error by Green. The bases became loaded on a single by Brandon Belt, his second in the contest. Monell then grounded into a force out, but Lormand came around to score and erase the San Jose goose egg on the scoreboard. Second baseman Charlie Culberson then grounded out, which allowed Peguero to score. An RBI single by third baseman Drew Biery made it 13-3. Carignan then struck out left fielder Wendell Fairley to end the game.

The Ports will take on the Giants in Game 2 of the four-game set at 7:05 p.m. PST. RHP Murphy Smith (3-4, 6.64) will start for Stockton, while RHP Eric Stolp (3-3, 3.74) will take the hill for the Giants. Fans can tune into KWSX 1280 AM or Comcast Hometown Network (Channel 104 for Comcast customers) to follow the game live.

RockHounds' early lead too much for Drillers

By Oscar Leroy, Midland Reporter Telegram

It has been awhile since Anthony Capra felt this good on the mound.

A month in fact, and that can be an eternity for a pitcher.

But on Wednesday, the Midland RockHounds lefthander put his previous four tough outings behind him when he threw five solid innings to help the RockHounds to a 3-2 victory over the Tulsa Drillers at Citibank Ballpark.

The RockHounds' offense backed Capra with 13 hits and the bullpen was once again stellar as Midland opened a six-game homestand on a good note.

"I felt good finally," said Capra, who improved to 3-6 on the year. "Everything kind of came together at once and that was nice. When you've been scuffling you need a game like this, so hopefully I can build on it and keep a level head and go from there."

Capra said the biggest difference for him on Wednesday was attacking the strike zone. And for the most part he did that rather well as of the 73 pitches he threw, 47 of them went for strikes. He also struck out six and walked just one.

"The thing I've been talking to (pitching coach Scott Emerson) and other people is that I was trying to be too perfect and trying to do too much instead of trusting myself," Capra said. "I just went out there with the mentality of here it is, and if you hit it let it do what it may do."

Added Midland manager Darren Bush about Capra, "He was more aggressive. He went at 'em, he went at 'em, he went at 'em and he got soft contacts early, which is good."

An example of his turnaround from his previous outings came in the first inning when Anthony Jackson hit a leadoff double

to left field and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Scott Beerer. Instead of getting frustrated, Capra settled down and retired nine in a row.

"I wasn't real comfortable in that first at-bat, but once (Jackson) got to third, I kind of conceded that run in my mind," Capra said. "I said let's lock it in from here and everything felt good after that. I got comfortable right away and finally had a good changeup. That's been my bread and butter for my entire time in pro ball. When I knew I was going to have that tonight, it relaxed me a lot."

The RockHound hitters responded to Tulsa's run with two runs in the bottom of the first inning against Tulsa starter Christian Friedrich (0-2), who is the No. 2-rated prospect in the Colorado Rockies organization by Baseball America. The first three RockHounds reached and then Jeff Baisley had a sacrifice fly to score J.C. Holt. Two batters later, Shane Peterson singled home Josh Horton.

Midland added another run in the second when Horton singled home Matt Sulentic for a 3-1 lead.

The RockHounds chased Friedrich after just four innings with the lefty giving up 10 hits in that span.

"(Friedrich) left some pitches up and we didn't miss them," Bush said. "The guys knew that he threw strikes, so they were ready to hit."

The Drillers pulled to within 3-2 with a run in the fifth inning but the RockHounds' bullpen of Justin Friend, Beau Vaughan and Jared Lansford held Tulsa to just three hits over the next four innings.

NOTEBOOK

'HOUND BITES: INF Matt Whitney has been added to the RockHounds roster from Single-A Stockton, while INF Steve Kleen has been reassigned to Single-A Stockton. Whitney is a former first round pick by Cleveland in 2002 and was hitting .279 in 12 games with the Ports. ...This was the first meeting of the year between the RockHounds and the Drillers. ...An interesting observation was in the press notes for Wednesday's game. Corpus Christi broadcaster Matt Hicks via RockHounds radio voice Bob Hards discovered that in the Texas League South, which includes Midland, none of the four teams is over .500 at home but each is .500 or better on the road. Midland is 11-11 on the road but 10-13 at Citibank Ballpark this season.

TODAY'S PROBABLES: Midland will send RHP Travis Banwart (4-2, 3.88 ERA) against Tulsa RHP Bruce Billings (3-3, 3.77). Game time is 7 p.m. at Citibank Ballpark.

Cougars Lose 8th in a Row **Kane County unable to cash in outing by Krol, drops 8th straight**

GENEVA, III. – For the fourth time during what has become an eight-game losing streak, the Kane County Cougars were unable to take advantage of a quality start. Ian Krol gave up one run in six innings Wednesday night and got a no-decision, as the Cougars lost to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, 2-1, at Elfstrom Stadium. The Cougars last lost eight straight games in April 2007.

Juan Nunez belted a solo homer off Eric Arnett in the fourth inning to give the Cougars a 1-0 lead, but Krol yielded his only run in the next half inning. With two outs and the bases empty, the southpaw hit a batter and served up consecutive singles to make it 1-1. The Cougars have led for only 3.5 innings out of 69 during the skid. Krol gave up four hits, walked none and fanned six.

The game-deciding run came in the top of the ninth against Jonathan Joseph (0-3), who issued a two-out walk and ceded a triple to Cutter Dykstra that was nearly caught by a diving Myrio Richard. Jon Pokorny (3-1) got the win, and Andre Lamontagne posted his fifth save. The Cougars out-hit Wisconsin, 8-5, and stranded nine runners.

The Cougars (20-27) and Timber Rattlers (18-28) conclude the three-game series Thursday night at 6 CT. Dan Straily (4-1, 3.92) is scheduled to oppose Kyle Heckathorn (2-3, 3.34). The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and online at **www.kccougars.com** with pregame coverage starting at 5:45 p.m.

