

Oakland A's pitcher Vin Mazzaro shines against Los Angeles Angels

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Tuesday night's game was important for the A's as a team, but Vin Mazzaro had a lot riding on it individually.

Mazzaro, who finds himself in the rotation because of an elbow injury to teammate Brett Anderson, took a positive step to show he belongs there in the A's 10-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Mazzaro (2-0) allowed one run over five innings and looked capable of going longer, but the A's didn't want him to exceed the 90-pitch mark.

The A's bounced back after dropping the opener of a four-game series to the Angels, who had their six-game winning streak halted.

Kurt Suzuki tied a career high with four hits and had four RBIs, including a three-run home run in the seventh that chased Angels starter Jered Weaver (5-3).

The A's notched a season-high 18 hits, with half of them coming in the seventh and eighth innings, when they turned a 3-1 game into a laughter.

Jack Cust hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

But as plentiful as the offensive highlights were, Mazzaro's steady effort meant as much as anyone's.

"Vinny did a great job setting the tone, pitching like we know he can pitch," Cust said.

That's no small matter as Anderson is out indefinitely with elbow tendinitis. Despite Tuesday's parade of runs, pitching figures to hold the A's key to season-long success.

The Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday and reclaimed the lead in the American League West from the Angels. The A's crept

to within one game of first place.

Mazzaro was all the rage when he made his major league debut last season and won his first two starts without allowing a run. He finished 2009 with a 4-9 record and missed the last month with a shoulder injury.

He began this season in the minors and lasted just three innings in a spot start May 4 against Texas. He was promoted again May 20 in a relief role but made just three appearances over a 14-game span.

Now Mazzaro has a chance to re-establish himself.

He allowed five hits over five innings and didn't walk a batter.

"It was very important," Mazzaro said of his solid outing. "I was really excited to be back in the rotation. I wanted to take full advantage of it."

He allowed his only run in the fifth but did well limiting the damage after finding himself with runners on second and third with no outs.

Suzuki is now hitting .375 with four homers and 10 RBIs over his last nine games.

Cust connected for just his second homer in 20 games since being promoted from the minors.

A's manager Bob Geren was encouraged by Cust going deep to the opposite field off Trevor Bell. Cust also drove in a run with a first-inning single and is hitting .286.

"When he hits that ball (to left), it usually gets him locked in for a while," Geren said.

Eric Patterson went 3-for-5 in the leadoff spot in place of Rajai Davis, who is day-to-day with a left hamstring injury. Patterson was hit in the left ear by a throw while beating out an eighth-inning single, but Geren said Patterson should be OK.

Gabe Gross suffered a mild back injury on a slide into home in the seventh. His status for tonight is unknown.

TODAY:

Angels (Joe Saunders 4-6) at A's (Dallas Braden 4-5), 7:05 p.m. TV: CSNCA. Radio: 860-AM; 1640-AM

A's update: Right fielder Ryan Sweeney's brother is also second-round draft choice

Joe Stiglich, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Sweeney's brother is also second-round draft choice

Ryan Sweeney and his younger brother Kellen are different as ballplayers, but their careers now share something in common.

Kellen — a shortstop out of Jefferson High in Cedar Rapids, Iowa — was drafted in the second round Tuesday by the Toronto Blue Jays, the 69th overall pick in the amateur draft.

Ryan, the A's starting right fielder, was a second-round pick himself, drafted and signed by the Chicago White Sox in 2003.

Sweeney rarely has seen his brother play in recent seasons. But Kellen spent time at A's camp during spring training and sometimes visited Ryan in the minor leagues.

"He was always at the ballpark when he was little," Sweeney said. "He's got good instincts and learned at a young age how to play the game."

Sweeney was tall and lanky as a high school player — his 6-foot-4 frame has since filled out to 223 pounds. Kellen, who has a scholarship offer from the University of San Diego, is listed at 6-1, 190 pounds.

"He's an infielder," Sweeney said. "He's a lot stronger than I was, more put together at that age."

After they took University of Texas-Arlington outfielder Michael Choice in the first round Monday, the A's selected high school players with their first four picks on the draft's second day.

That marks the first time since 1978 that four of their first five picks were prep players.

Second-rounder Yordy Cabrera, a shortstop from Lakeland, Fla., has excellent power and one of the strongest infield arms in this year's class, according to Baseball America. The A's believe center fielder Aaron Shipman, the third-round pick from Quitman, Ga., has the speed and ability to hit leadoff.

Among their other picks Tuesday: Nebraska left-hander Ryan Hughes, who attended Foothill High; and USF catcher Ryan Lipkin.

Going into the draft's final day, the A's have taken 25 college players and just five high school prospects.

With Rajai Davis listed as day-to-day with a sore left hamstring, the A's called up Matt Carson to bolster their outfield depth. Reliever Henry Rodriguez was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento.

Carson, a right-handed hitter, was batting .293 with six homers and 19 RBIs for Sacramento. But he hit .405 with five homers against left-handers, and manager Bob Geren said Carson could draw some starts against lefties.

Chin Music: A's call up Matt Carson; Rajai Davis likely out a couple days

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 6/8/2010 6:07PM

Another day, another transaction for the A's ...

Outfielder Matt Carson was called up from Triple-A Sacramento and reliever Henry Rodriguez was optioned out. To this point, there's no discussion of Rajai Davis' hamstring injury sending him to the DL. But he's likely to miss a game or two, so the A's opted for more outfield depth and summoned the right-handed hitting Carson, who hit .293 with six homers and 19 RBIs in 33 games with the River Cats. He was on the DL from May 3-21 with a strained intercostal muscle. (Seriously, how often had you even heard the word "intercostal" before this season. The same type of injury has taken down Kurt Suzuki and Coco Crisp. I usually refer to it more as "rib cage" so readers know what part of the body we're talking about).

Anyway, Carson is hitting .405 with five of his six homers vs. lefties in the minors, and he's likely to see time against lefties up here, manager Bob Geren said. There's even a chance Carson and Adam Rosales, another right-handed bat, could play the outfield together. Carson has strictly been a center fielder this season ...

-You should have seen the players gathered around the TV in the A's clubhouse to watch Stephen Strasburg in his big league debut. Everyone's interested in what this kid's got ... But there were a couple of clubhouse guests who could have cared less — Seaver Sheets and Diego Chavez, the young sons of two of the more high-profile Athletics. They were much more interested in playing basketball than watching Strasburg, and I can report that Seaver shows nice potential with his jumper ...

Tonight's lineups, w/Eric Patterson hitting leadoff for Oakland ...

A's: Patterson LF, Barton 1B, Sweeney RF, Suzuki C, Cust DH, Kouzmanoff 3B, Gross CF, Ellis 2B, Pennington SS; Mazzaro RHP.

Angels: Aybar SS, Izturis 2B, Abreu RF, Hunter CF, Matsui DH, Napoli C, Rivera LF, Ryan 1B, Frandsen 3B; Weaver RHP.

Chin Music: Quick review on Day 2 of A's draft

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 6/8/2010 5:39PM

The A's just wrapped up the second day of the draft, with one day left to go. A's scouting director Eric Kubota talked about the top four guys taken today, all drafted out of high school. Here's a quick sketch of those players:

-SS Yordy Cabrera (2nd round, 60th overall):

Kubota describes Cabrera, out of Lakeland High in Florida, as a "toolsy" player who runs well. "We considered taking him in the first round." Cabrera was born in the Dominican Republic but moved here as a teenager. His father was a prospect in the Tigers organization.

-OF Aaron Shipman (3rd round, 92nd overall): The A's see Shipman, out of Brooks County High in Quitman, Ga., as a center fielder/leadoff type with athleticism and speed. Like Cabrera, Shipman was rated high on the A's board and they were happy he fell to the 92nd pick.

-3B Chad Lewis (4th round, #125th overall): Lewis attends Marina High School in Huntington Beach, the alma mater of Daric Barton. "He's a classic corner athlete — good defense, power bat," Kubota said.

-RHP Tyler Vail (5th round, #155th overall): As A's scouts were tracking Vail, he called to mind another A's pitcher. "He reminds us of Vinny Mazzaro at the same age," Kubota said. Vail attends Notre Dame High in Bethlehem, Pa.

OK, so those turned out to be very brief sketches. But that's all I've got right now. I'll follow up with a post on the A's news of the day ...

A's rout Angels with season-high 18 hits

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

When his team outit the Angels on Monday night but fell in the opener of the four-game series, manager Bob Geren discussed the need to string hits together.

The A's did that and more Tuesday evening, with a season-high 18 hits, including a three-run homer by Kurt Suzuki in the seventh and a two-run, opposite-field shot by Jack Cust in the eighth. Oakland's 10-1 romp ended the Angels' winning streak at six games.

"It was everybody," Cust said. "It's nice when everyone gets into it."

That bumped the Angels from their one-day perch in first place in the AL West. The Rangers moved back on top and Oakland is in third, one game out.

The A's first run came with two outs in the first, when Ryan Sweeney, Suzuki and Cust stroked consecutive singles. In the second, Mark Ellis singled with one out and he stole second, putting him in position to score on Eric Patterson's two-out hit to left.

The next inning, Sweeney and Suzuki singled again, and with two outs, Gabe Gross knocked a base hit to right. Bobby Abreu's throw arrived at the plate before Sweeney, who was running from second, but the tag by Mike Napoli was high on Sweeney's arm. It was close, and Sweeney was ruled safe.

Suzuki cracked his team-high eighth homer off Jered Weaver after singles by Daric Barton and Sweeney; Sweeney has recorded three multihit games in a row and he's batting .324.

Trevor Bell replaced Weaver and with two outs, Ellis drove in Gross, who got in ahead of a hard tag from Napoli and came up limping a bit.

Gross had ice on his back after the game. He said he was sore but he believes he'll be available tonight if needed; he said Napoli's foot rolled over onto his own, stopping him short and catapulting him, creating almost a whiplash-like effect.

Suzuki, matching his career high with four hits, drove in Patterson in the eighth. "I felt good at the plate," Suzuki said. "My body is starting to feel good after coming off the DL (May 15)."

Vin Mazzaro, subbing for Brett Anderson (elbow tendinitis) and doing his best to hang onto the job, went five innings, allowing five hits and one run. It was Mazzaro's second career appearance without a walk.

"It's awesome," Mazzaro said with delight. "I'm actually impressed with myself for not walking anyone."

Oakland was without center fielder Rajai Davis, who is expected to miss two or three days with a left hamstring strain. The A's called up outfielder Matt Carson, who has six homers at Triple-A Sacramento, five of them off left-handed pitchers. He'll be in the lineup tonight against Angels starter Joe Saunders.

To make room for Carson, the A's sent down right-hander Henry Rodriguez, who hit 101 mph on the stadium radar gun Monday night and retired six of the seven men he faced.

Early picks on Day 2 are high schoolers

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Day 2 of the draft brought an initial rush of high school talent, and then a switch back to the college ranks for Oakland.

The A's second-round pick was third baseman **Yordy Cabrera** (Lakeland High School, Fla.) and their third-rounder was outfielder **Aaron Shipman** (Brooks County High, Ga.)

Scouting director **Eric Kubota** said the team had thought Cabrera might be gone in the first round and Shipman in the second. "We're very happy we could get them," Kubota said.

Kubota said that Cabrera (whose father, **Basilio**, is the manager of the Tigers' Gulf Coast rookie-league team) is extremely athletic and an exciting player. Kubota called Shipman a leadoff-type hitter and dynamic.

Then the A's took third baseman **Chad Lewis** from Marina High in Huntington Beach (the Orange County school **Daric Barton** attended) and in the fifth round, right-hander **Tyler Vail** of Notre Dame High in Easton, Pa.; Kubota compared Vail to **Vin Mazzaro** at the same age.

It was the first time since 1978 that Oakland took high schoolers with four of its first five picks.

Sixth-rounder **Tony Thompson**, a third baseman from Kansas, won the first Triple Crown in Big 12 history in 2009, when he hit .389 with 21 homers and 82 RBIs.

Among the A's other selections Tuesday were San Diego right-hander **Matt Thomson**, a 12th rounder from Santa Rosa, and Nebraska left-hander **Ryan Hughes**, who is from Pleasanton, in the 16th round. Catcher **Ryan Lipkin**, who hit a team-high .313 for USF, was Oakland's 24th-round pick this year and the A's 43rd-round pick last year.

Duchscherer surgery: Manager **Bob Geren** received a text from **Justin Duchscherer** on Tuesday saying that Duchscherer's season-ending hip surgery Monday in Nashville went well.

According to Geren, there was quite a bit of repair work that needed to be done, and Duchscherer was positive about the procedure.

A's leading off

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

Brother Blue Jay: Ryan Sweeney was excited that his younger brother, Kellen, was drafted by Toronto in the second round Tuesday. Kellen is a high school shortstop. Ryan said, "I was tall and lanky at that age; he's shorter and stronger."

NOTES

3 managers' sons picked on 2nd day

Associated Press

The sons of major-league managers Bruce Bochy, Jim Leyland, and Ozzie Guillen were among the players selected during a long second day of the baseball draft that involved Rounds 2-30.

All three managers' teams drafted in the family. The Giants selected Bochy's son, relief pitcher Brett, from the University of Kansas in the 20th round. Leyland's Detroit Tigers used their second-round pick on his son, Patrick, a 6-foot-2 catcher from Pittsburgh. The White Sox used their 22nd-round pick on Guillen's son, Ozney, a Florida high school outfielder.

Several other notable names were called on the second day, including: Cory Vaughn (Mets), son of Greg Vaughn; Dickie Thon Jr. (Toronto), son of Dickie Thon; Garrett Buechele (Texas), son of Steve Buechele; Kellen Sweeney (Toronto), brother

of A's outfielder Ryan Sweeney; Mel Rojas Jr. (Pittsburgh), son of Mel Rojas; Benjamin Gamel (Yankees), brother of Mat Gamel; Connor Narron (Baltimore), son of Jerry Narron; and Drew Cisco (Cincinnati), grandson of Galen Cisco.

Boozing boy? A video snippet from a Phillies telecast shows a little boy in the stands appearing to take a swig from a beer bottle, creating a fresh headache for a ballclub whose sometimes drunken fans have been drawing considerable attention. The fuzzy video, which began making the rounds online and on TV on Monday, shows the child, who appears to be about 4, putting the bottle to his lips at Sunday's game at Citizens Bank Park. No adults nearby appear to be paying attention to him. Phillies spokeswoman Bonnie Clark said it appears to be "a very brief event, probably involving an empty bottle."

3-year-old recovering: A girl whose skull was fractured by Russell Martin's line drive during batting practice at Dodger Stadium was scheduled for surgery Tuesday. The girl's injury Monday is not believed to be life-threatening.

Appeal for replay: President Obama says umpire Jim Joyce's call that cost Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game dramatizes the need for Major League Baseball to "take a look" at more instant replay but said he wouldn't prejudge a review by baseball of the replay policy. And he said he thought Commissioner Bud Selig "made the right call" in not awarding a perfect game after the fact.

Briefly: Orioles second baseman Brian Roberts will undergo more tests on his ailing lower back, after pain prevented him from playing in an extended spring training game last week. ... Red Sox outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, who has played in only nine games because of broken ribs, will be checked by Dr. Lewis Yocum in Los Angeles today. ... The Diamondbacks recalled right-handed reliever Blaine Boyer from Triple-A Reno and designated right-hander Saul Rivera for assignment. ... The Indians cut 15-year infielder Mark Grudzielanek.

Bay Area ballplayers

Players who attended Bay Area high schools or colleges in 2010 who were taken in the 13th round or higher on Day 2 of the MLB draft:

Rd.	Team	Player	Pos.	School
3	St.L.	Samuel Tuivailala	SS	Aragon HS
6	Balt.	Dixon Anderson	P	Cal
6	K.C.	Scott Alexander	P	Sonoma St.
6	Cle.	Nicholas Bartolone	SS	Chabot JC
6	LAA	Brian Diemer	P	Cal
7	S.D.	A.J. Vanegas	P	Redwood Christian HS
7	Fla.	Mark Canha	OF-1B	Cal
11	S.D.	Brian Guinn	INF	Cal
11	LAD	Joc Pederson	OF	Palo Alto HS
13	St.L.	Colin Walsh	2B	Stanford

Drumbeat: Davis is considered day-to-day, Carson called up

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at the Coliseum 6/8/2010 5:09pm

As expected, the A's sent a reliever to Triple-A Sacramento today to bring up a position player because center fielder Rajai Davis is out for two or three days with a hamstring strain. What wasn't necessarily expected was which reliever: Henry Rodriguez, who was still a topic of conversation in the Angels' clubhouse today, was sent back to Triple-A Sacramento after a nice outing last night in which he clocked 101 mph on one pitch.

Davis said his left hamstring, strained on a fifth-inning triple last night, is much improved, and the discomfort is limited to a small area.

Outfielder Matt Carson was recalled and he's likely to start tomorrow night against lefty Joe Saunders and on Saturday against Barry Zito, if still here by then. (Four days would be a reasonable time to make sure Davis is OK, though, if Carson's right-handed bat makes a difference in giving him an extra day.)

When I was in Sacramento last week, Carson hit two homers and looked terrific. I've always thought he'd be a good extra outfielder at the big-league level because he can hit left-handers well, he's a good defensive player and very fast, so he can pinch run. He's also got a great attitude, which is not true of every potential part-time player. I think he could handle limited time and do well, sort of like Gabe Gross, who's made a nice career of it.

Here's the lineup: Patterson LF, Barton 1B, Sweeney RF, Suzuki C, Cust DH, Kouzmanoff 3B, Gross CF, Ellis 2B, Pennington SS.

Manager Bob Geren says he got a text from Justin Duchscherer today saying his left hip surgery went well. There was a lot going on, and a lot of work needed, so Duchscherer was happy he'd had the procedure and was feeling positive about it, Geren said. Duchscherer is out for the rest of the season but he plans to try to sign with a team next year.

The A's made 29 more draft picks today, and took high school players with the first four of those: Yordy Cabrera, a third baseman from Lakeland, Florida; outfielder Aaron Shipman, from Brooks County, Georgia; third baseman Chad Lewis from Marina High School in Huntington Beach (Daric Barton's high school) and right-hander Tyler Vail of Notre Dame HS in Pennsylvania. It's the first time since 1978 that the A's took high school players with four of their first five picks.

Ryan Sweeney's brother, Kellen, was drafted in the second round by Toronto. Kellen Sweeney is a high school shortstop; Ryan Sweeney said he's very excited about his brother's selection and he's looking forward to working out with him in the offseason. There's a 7-year age difference, so Ryan hasn't seen his brother play since 2003, he said, when Kellen was still in middle school.

The A's watched Stephen Strasburg's debut today with as much interest as everyone else. The TV was tuned to Strasburg before and after batting practice.

Suzuki puts offensive charge into A's win

Catcher homers, tallies four of team's season-high 18 hits

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- This supposed lackluster A's lineup was never really projected to match up with that of the power-heavy Angels.

Yet the A's have never really paid much attention to expectations. Rather, they simply override them every once in awhile.

Such was the case Tuesday against the boys from Los Angeles, as that lackluster A's offense posted a season-high 18 hits, including four from catcher Kurt Suzuki and an even larger handful that led to 10 runs in a 10-1 victory at the Oakland Coliseum.

The 3-4-5 A's combo of Ryan Sweeney, Suzuki and Jack Cust combined for nine hits and seven RBIs, while the bigger 3-4-5 names of Bobby Abreu, Torii Hunter and Hideki Matsui put together a 1-for-12 showing.

Suzuki, who has hit safely in eight of the past nine games, tallied a career-high-tying four hits, one of which was a three-run homer in the seventh inning that broke open the game, giving Oakland a 6-1 lead.

The A's catcher launched a two-seam fastball from Angels starter Jered Weaver over the left-field wall to send the righty -- against whom he frequently played in college -- on his way to the dugout.

"When you're facing a guy like Weaver," Suzuki said, "he's good enough to where you won't see the same pitch again. He was pitching pretty well coming into tonight, but we were able to get hits up and down the lineup. Everyone put swings on his balls."

Not quite the way Suzuki did, though.

"He's gotten a lot better," Weaver said of the backstop with whom he's familiarized himself for years. "He's always been that guy who had a great work ethic. He had a great game tonight."

"From when he came into the league to where he is now," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said, "he's by far the most improved catcher -- and maybe player -- in the league. When he's receiving, calling a game like that, he's a heck of a player."

The A's are finding that they may have more than one of those on their seemingly underrated ballclub, which moved within one game of first place in the American League West. Suzuki's power trip, he insisted, was just one of several outstanding offensive performances that aided Vin Mazzaro's second win of the season.

Sweeney went 3-for-5 in his third consecutive multiple-hit game, a span in which he's compiled a .615 average -- numbers that have his batting average at .324, good enough for eighth in the AL. The A's outfielder scored two of the club's first three runs, all of which came before the fourth frame.

"Every one of his at-bats is quality," manager Bob Geren said. "He never gives in. He has a consistent approach, which leads to consistent at-bats."

Equally impressive was Jack Cust, who tallied a first-inning RBI hit before adding to the hit parade in the eighth with a three-run, opposite-field homer off Trevor Bell that capped an already explosive night for an A's team that scored just as many runs Tuesday as it did in its previous three games combined.

"When he hits that ball over there," Geren said, "that usually gets him locked in for a while. When I see him do that, just from past history, it gets him on a hot streak."

Cust isn't about to buy into that notion just yet, but he's hoping his manager may be onto something.

"I like hitting the ball that way," the slugger said matter-of-factly. "I felt good at the plate. I made adjustments tonight after facing Weaver. He's tough. He slows guys down, so I had to get my timing back in that final at-bat. Luckily I was able to get out on it a bit."

Weaver went six-plus innings, surrendering six runs on 12 hits with one walk and six strikeouts. Mazzaro, meanwhile, gave the A's five solid innings while making just his third start of the season in place of the injured Brett Anderson. The Oakland righty allowed just one run on five hits and walked none while fanning three en route to throwing 86 pitches -- just four beyond his limit, Geren said.

Perhaps more impressive than his strikeout total was his walk total -- or lack thereof. Mazzaro entered having previously struggled in the zone, where he offered up eight free passes in his previous three starts.

"That's awesome," Mazzaro said. "I was impressed with myself for that. I was just really working on filling the zone. I kept the ball down and could have gone another inning. I felt strong."

The young pitcher's win was backed up by a four-inning shutout performance from four relievers, which nicely placed the finishing touches on an all-around team victory.

"Vinny did a great job setting the tone by throwing the ball the way we know he can," Cust said. "And we were able to put together some big hits. It's fun to hit when guys are always on base like that. If we keep doing that, guys are going to have the opportunity to keep bringing in runs."

Starters' success coincides with Angels' rise

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

The trademark Angels' starting pitching is beginning to show as the club continues to improve in the American League West. The A's are right there with the Angels and have a new player to show off Wednesday night.

For the Angels, things have smoothed out on the mound. Even after Jered Weaver's rough outing on Tuesday night, the club has a 3.44 overall ERA (68 innings, 26 earned runs) in June. And during the team's six-game win streak that ended Tuesday, Angels starters were 6-0 with a 1.95 ERA.

Since inflating to a 5.23 ERA on May 6, Angels starters have fashioned a 3.77 ERA (186 1/3 innings, 78 earned runs) over their past 31 games. They've allowed three earned runs or less in 28 of their last 41 games and lead the AL with five complete games.

"We're starting to see some depth show up in our rotation," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

"Ervin Santana and Jered Weaver have been terrific. We're seeing Kaz [Scott Kazmir] now, and Joel Pineiro, even though he's had some rough spots. Joe Saunders has given us some good games. Our season is definitely going to be connected with what our starting pitching is going to be."

As for the A's, their outfield situation is in flux with a mild hamstring injury to Rajai Davis, so Matt Carson will get another shot to see what he can do Wednesday, when he'll likely get a start against the left-handed Saunders.

Carson was called up from Triple-A Sacramento and joins the A's for the second time this year, having already been with the club from April 22-29. The right-handed hitter was batting .293 with six home runs and 19 RBIs in 33 games with Sacramento, and after going homerless over his first 20 games with the River Cats, Carson homered six times over his final 13 games. That seemed to catch the eyes of the A's.

"He gives us more depth," A's manager Bob Geren said. "We felt, with the way things are right now, it was important to add a position player."

Angels: Morales to have surgery Thursday

First baseman Kendry Morales' surgery to repair a fracture in his lower left leg will take place on Thursday, Scioscia said before Tuesday night's game against the A's. "I think he's over the shock of it," Scioscia said. "I think he's disappointed but has come to grips with understanding the process, the surgery. He's got to listen to the doctors. It's going to take time. Right now he's anxious to get the surgery and rehab aspect [started]. He's obviously disappointed." Morales suffered the fracture landing on home plate in the celebration following his game-winning grand slam against Seattle on May 29 at Angel Stadium.

Athletics: Sweeney on fire

A's outfielder Ryan Sweeney, who has put together four straight multiple hit games, now ranks in the top 10 in the AL for batting average at .324. ... Geren said he received a text from right-hander Justin Duchscherer, who said he "feels real positive" about the way his left hip surgery went Monday in Nashville. Duchscherer will miss the remainder of the season and is expected to need four to six months of recovery time.

Worth noting

Angels reliever Francisco Rodriguez has retired 21 of the first 25 batters he has faced in his career and has nine strikeouts and zero walks in 7 1/3 innings. ... The A's are 11-4 in one-run games, which is the best such record in the Majors this year. They went 15-23 in one-run games last year.

A's dip into high schools to open Day 2

Florida shortstop is first of four consecutive prep picks

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- In a departure from their recent Draft strategy, the Oakland A's on Tuesday selected four high school players to start Day 2 of the 2010 First-Year Player Draft.

Headlining the picks was second-round selection Yordy Cabrera, drafted No. 60 overall. Cabrera, 19, was a shortstop at Lakeland Senior High School in Florida who projects to be a third baseman or a corner outfielder in the professional ranks.

"Every year I've been here, we've always liked high school players," A's director of scouting Eric Kubota said. "It's just worked out that that's the way the board has fallen. This year, the board fell the other direction."

Cabrera bats right-handed and committed to the University of Miami before getting drafted. Listed at 6-feet-4, 190 pounds, Cabrera possesses a power bat and strong arm. Aside from his impressive physical tools, Cabrera features above average speed and good defensive range.

"Cabrera was a guy -- for much of the year -- that we scouted with the thought that he might be the 10th pick in the country, or at least under consideration," Kubota said. "We certainly thought he was a first-round talent."

Cabrera totaled a .424 average with eight home runs and 35 RBIs in his senior season at Lakeland, a school that has produced 28 MLB Draft picks and one Major Leaguer -- Pittsburgh first baseman Steve Pearce.

Chris Sale, the southpaw taken No. 13 overall by the White Sox on Monday, also attended Lakeland before heading to Florida Gulf Coast University. Lakeland catcher Eric Arce was taken by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 27th round.

Cabrera made a name for himself at the Aflac All-American High School Baseball Classic in San Diego last year, where he won the Home Run Derby by hitting five home runs in the final round at PETCO Park.

It was the earliest Oakland had drafted a high school player since it took catcher Max Stassi in the fourth round of the 2009 Draft. Trevor Cahill, drafted in the 2006 and now a starter in Oakland's rotation, was the last high school player the A's selected in the second round.

The A's hadn't selected four high schoolers by the fifth round since 2005, a group that included current Oakland pitcher Vin Mazzaro.

Oakland selected 14 consecutive college players in rounds 6-19, starting with University of Kansas third baseman Tony Thompson.

Round 2, Yondy Cabrera, 3B, Lakeland (Fla.) High School: Cabrera has a powerful bat and was a shortstop in high school. He hit .424 with eight home runs and 35 RBIs during his senior season and won the Aflac All-American High School Baseball Classic Home Run Derby last year.

Round 3, Aaron Shipman, CF, Brooks County High School, Quitman, Ga.: Shipman is a raw talent who also pitches, but figures to be an outfielder at the next level. Shipman, listed at 6-foot, 174 pounds, looks like a project player with a high ceiling who will have to improve his mechanics in the batter's box, as his swing under utilizes his lower half.

Round 4, Chad Lewis, 3B, Marina High School, Huntington Beach, Calif.: Listed at 6-3, 200 pounds, Lewis is a big, slugging third baseman whose greatest attribute is his power bat. Lewis also has the defensive tools to stay at third base and has shown a penchant for producing in high school showcases.

Round 5, Tyler Vail, RHP, Notre Dame High School, Easton, Pa.: Vail, a University of Maryland recruit, also played second base in high school. Vail is listed at 6-foot, 180 pounds and possesses a fastball that tops out in the low 90s.

Round 6, Tony Thompson, 3B, University of Kansas: Thompson, listed at 6-4, 220 pounds, recently finished his junior season at Kansas. After missing 19 games due to a broken kneecap, he batted .338 with six home runs and 38 RBIs in 40 contests, with a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 29-17.

Round 7, Jordan Tripp, CF, Golden West College: In 2010, Tripp batted .352 with eight homers and 31 RBIs for Golden West College, a two-year school in Huntington Beach, Calif. Listed at 6-4, 215 pounds, he also drew 31 walks in 38 games and stole 19 bases in 22 attempts.

Round 8, Blake Hassebrock, RHP, UNC-Greensboro: According to Baseball America, A's area scout Neil Avent once was an assistant coach at UNC-Greensboro. Hassebrock is a 6-5 right-hander with a power arm. He went 0-7 with a 7.15 ERA in 21 appearances (11 starts) in 2010. In 73 innings, he allowed 91 hits and 44 walks while striking out 61.

Round 9, A.J. Kirby-Jones, 1B, Tennessee Tech: Kirby-Jones hit 26 home runs -- tied for second most in NCAA Division I -- in 56 games this season. His 58 walks were sixth best in the country, and he batted .388 with 71 RBIs.

Round 10, Joshua Bowman, RHP, University of Tampa: Bowman went 8-5 with a 3.92 ERA as a starter. He struck out 85 batters in 85 innings, allowing 95 hits and 21 walks.

Round 11, Wade Kirkland, SS, Florida Southern College: Kirkland batted .329 with 12 home runs and 58 for FSC, a small four-year school in Lakeland, Fla. He committed 25 errors in 57 games and had 14 steals in 16 attempts.

Round 12, Matt Thomson, RHP, University of San Diego: The 6-4 Thomson went 1-3 with a 3.38 ERA in 27 appearances (one start) in 2010. He recorded seven saves, striking out 56 while walking 13 in 42 2/3 innings of work.

Round 13, AJ Griffin, RHP, University of San Diego: Griffin, listed at 6-5, began his college career as a closer but became a starter midway through his junior year in 2009. This season, he went 8-3 with a 4.47 ERA. He struck out 113 batters and walked 28 in 98 2/3 innings.

Round 14, JC Menna, RHP, Brookdale Community College: Menna, 21, this season went 6-3 with a 1.53 ERA for Brookdale, located in Lincroft, N.J. He allowed 32 hits and 16 walks in 59 innings, while striking out 64.

Round 15, Scott Woodward, 3B, Coastal Carolina University: Woodward is a left-handed-hitting third baseman who has major speed. He stole 54 bases in 61 attempts over 62 games this season, batting .330 with five home runs and 35 RBIs. He walked 47 times, raising his on-base percentage to .500, while striking out 48 times in 2010.

Round 16, Ryan Hughes, LHP, University of Nebraska: Hughes is a 6-6 southpaw drafted on potential. He threw 10 innings in 10 appearances this season, issuing 11 walks while striking out six. Hughes was picked by Arizona in the 16th round of the 2008 Draft.

Round 17, Drew Tyson, RHP, Reinhardt University: In 16 appearances this season, Tyson went 5-2 with a save and a 5.19 ERA in 52 innings. Reinhardt University, part of the NAIA, was renamed from Reinhardt College on June 1 and is located in Waleska, Ga.

Round 18, Jose Macias, RHP, Franklin Pierce U: Macias went 9-1 with a 0.87 ERA in 14 appearances (12 starts) for Division II Franklin Pierce this season. He struck out 118 batters and walked 22 while allowing just nine earned runs over 92 2/3 innings.

Round 19, Logan Chitwood, RHP, University of Texas-Tyler: Chitwood made 23 relief appearances in 2010, going 5-2 with a 3.12 ERA. In 34 2/3 innings of action, he struck out 53 batters while allowing 30 hits and eight walks.

Round 20, Eric Ramsey, CF, Chattooga High School, Summerville, Ga.: Georgia high school baseball is proving to be a fertile development ground for the 2010 MLB Draft. Oakland jumped on the bandwagon by picking Ramsey, a 6-foot, 175-pound outfielder.

Round 21, Michael Anarumo, LHP, Le Moyne College: Anarumo is a lanky 6-foot-4 reliever who made 11 appearances, going 0-1 with a 6.55 ERA. Over 11 innings, he struck out 11 while allowing 11 hits and five walks.

Round 22, Michael Strong, LHP, Oklahoma State University: Strong is a 6-foot right-hander who appeared in 16 games (11 starts) this season. He went 4-3 with a 4.48 ERA, allowing 61 hits and 36 walks in 64 1/3 innings, while striking out 66.

Round 23, Zachary Thornton, RHP, University of Oregon: In 17 appearances (12 starts), the 6-foot-4 Thornton went 9-0 with a 3.40 ERA this season. He struck out 73 while allowing 92 hits and 16 walks over 90 innings.

Round 24, Ryan Lipkin, C, University of San Francisco: The A's went local with their 24th round pick, as Lipkin is from nearby Vacaville. Lipkin led USF with his .313 average, while hitting seven home runs and driving 37 RBIs. The A's drafted Lipkin in the 43rd round of the 2009 Draft.

Round 25, John Whitaker, 3B, Kennesaw State University: Whitaker batted .336 with six home runs and 31 RBIs this season for the Owls, who compete in the Division I Atlantic Sun Conference.

Round 26, Jacob Brown, LHP, Georgia Southern University: Brown went 7-6 with a 4.32 ERA in 17 appearances (14 starts) this season. In 102 innings, he struck out 79 while allowing 109 hits and 19 walks.

Round 27, Seth Frankoff, RHP, UNC-Wilmington: Frankoff is a 6-foot-5 righty who moved to the bullpen in 2010. He went 5-1 with a 4.95 ERA in 26 appearances, striking out 68 in 56 1/3 innings, while allowing 54 hits and 27 walks.

Round 28, Ryan Pineda, 2B, Cal State Northridge: Pineda is a power-hitting middle infielder who hit .316 with 16 home runs and 66 RBIs in 2010. He struck out 50 times and walked 18 times.

Round 29, Zachary Hurley, RF, Ohio State: Hurley led the Buckeyes with his .385 batting average while totaling seven home runs and 39 RBIs. Hurley was drafted by Florida in the 45th round of the 2009 Draft.

Round 30, Jeff Urlaub, LHP, Grand Canyon University: Urlaub is a 6-foot-2 lefty who played at UNLV and Arizona State before ending up at GCU. The Marlins picked Urlaub in the 47th round of the 2008 Draft.

A's take two U of San Diego arms in Draft

Toreros teammates selected in the 12th and 13th rounds

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Sitting at his Bay Area home on Tuesday, Matt Thomson was hungry.

So as he got up to get a sandwich, unknown to him, his whole life had changed. From the time he walked from his computer to the kitchen and back, Thomson had been selected by the A's in the 12th round of the 2010 First-Year Player Draft.

But it's not like Thomson hadn't heard his name called before. In fact, Thomson was drafted in 2007 (22nd round by Toronto) and in 2009 (12th round by Detroit).

"I'm a lot more excited, because this time I know it's going to happen," Thomson said. "There's no maybes this time, or going backwards or going back to school. This is it."

Meanwhile, A.J. Griffin, Thomson's three-year teammate at the University of San Diego, was relaxing in Pacific Beach, Calif., waiting to hear his name called.

Funny thing, the A's drafted Griffin with their 13th-round pick, less than a half hour after they selected Thomson. Oakland should have no problems signing the two right-handed pitchers before the Aug. 16 deadline, as both just wrapped up their senior seasons.

"It's pretty neat, man," Griffin said. "It's like they had it all planned out or something. It's a pretty cool coincidence."

It was a banner day for the USD baseball program, as eight Toreros were selected on Tuesday. The group includes five pitchers, including lefty Sammy Solis, taken by Washington to start the second round, and righty Kyle Blair, who was drafted by Cleveland in the fourth round.

Thomson and Griffin pitched with current Baltimore Orioles starter Brian Matusz on the '08 USD staff.

"It's friendly competition," Griffin said of playing at USD. "We all push each other to rise up to the occasion and just get the job done. It's a good experience and it's good to have that type of group around."

Griffin was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies last season in the 34th round, partly due to financial reasons. Griffin said he was looking for more money than teams wanted to offer, so he slipped down draft boards before deciding to return to USD for his senior season.

Griffin said he had little idea that the A's were interested in his services, and that he barely talked to the Oakland organization.

"Griffin is a proven college performer," said A's director of scouting Eric Kubota.

Thomson, meanwhile, had been on the Oakland radar since 2007, when he played at Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College, about an hour north of the Oakland Coliseum.

"We've seen a lot of him," Kubota said. "We've seen him in junior college, at USD and in the Cape Cod League. He's got a strong arm with a good slider."

A Santa Rosa native, Thomson said he's been a fan of both the A's and the Giants growing up. He said he used to love going to Oakland games on Wednesdays, when tickets and hot dogs were only a dollar each.

Both Thomson and Griffin alike said they were excited to join an organization that has done a good job of developing young pitchers. Currently, the A's have the youngest pitching staff in the Majors, with an average age of 26.6 years.

"Over the years -- just from being in the Bay Area -- I know all the great pitchers that have come through the organization," Thomson said. "I want to go out there as soon as I can and start pitching."

A's Take Game Two Behind Mazzaro

Malaika Bobino, Oakland Post, June 9th, 2010

Oakland, CA – It didn't take long before the Oakland A's found the pieces to the puzzle in their past defeats. Closing out games and getting runs have been challenging but tonight it all came together. The A's completely dominated the Anaheim Angels 10-1 and tied the series 1-1.

Vin Mazzaro got an opportunity to prove he is worthy of being back in the rotation after replacing injured Brett Anderson. Mazzaro allowed one run over five innings and gave up no walks. He notched his second win of the season and it came at the right time.

"I'm excited to be back in the rotation," said Mazzaro. "I feel I did pretty well, I gave no walks so I impressed myself!" "My pitch count was at 90, I could've gone another inning but they're just building me back up."

Bouncing back from the loss yesterday, Oakland had a season-high 18 hits that put them back within game of first place in the American League West. Texas reclaimed first place in the division after beating the Seattle Mariners. As a team, the A's put up runs behind great pitching.

"Vinny did a great job setting the tone," said Jack Cust. "Guys got big hits today and it's fun to be out there when guys are on base." "If we keep doing that, we have the opportunity to keep bringing in runs."

Kurt Suzuki and Ryan Sweeney produced big hits for the ball club. Suzuki tied a career-high four hits and had four RBI's that included a three-run home run in the seventh inning. He is now hitting .375 with four home runs and 10 RBI's over the last nine games.

"I'm feeling much better out there now," Suzuki said. "The main goal is to keep improving individually and as a ball club." "Everyone is doing their job and we're bonding well as a team." "When your facing a guy like Weaver, he's good enough to where you won't see the same pitch again." "He was pitching pretty well, but we were able to get hits up and down the lineup."

Sweeney went 3-for-5 and scored the first three runs for the ball club. He has back-to-back multiple hit games and is now batting .324 for the season. Now ranked eighth in the American League, Ryan continues to be a consistent player that this team needs.

"Everyone of his at-bats is quality," manager Bob Geren said. "He has a consistent approach which leads to consistent at-bats." "He stays in the zone and has been doing a great job for us."

Jered Weaver went six plus innings allowing six runs on twelve hits, one walk and six strikeouts. Weaver lost for the third time in eight decisions and gave no earned runs in his previous 14 innings. The Angels ended their six game winning streak.

"We got beat tonight," said manager Mike Scioscia. "Your going to battle and sometimes your going to to have a game where the other team does things well." "They did a lot of things well but you turn the page and get onto tomorrow's game."

Suzuki gets four hits in A's 10-1 win over Angels

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Kurt Suzuki went 4 for 5 with a homer and four RBIs to help Vin Mazzaro get the win in his second start of the season, and the Oakland Athletics snapped the Los Angeles Angels' six-game winning streak with a 10-1 victory Tuesday night.

Ryan Sweeney added three hits and scored three times, and Jack Cust hit a two-run homer for the A's, who had lost six straight home games to their AL West rivals before breaking through against Jered Weaver (5-3) and the bullpen.

The strong outing by Mazzaro (2-0) in place of the injured Brett Anderson was a big reason for Oakland's success. Oakland put the game away with four runs in the seventh and three in the eighth.

Mazzaro faced little trouble until the fifth when the Angels put runners on second and third with no outs. An RBI groundout by Kevin Frandsen scored one run, but Mazzaro retired the next two hitters to end the threat and keep the A's on top 3-1.

That was it for Mazzaro, who had pitched out of the bullpen since being called up from the minors on May 20. He gave up one run, five hits and no walks in five innings in his second start of the season for the A's. He lasted only three innings in his first start, getting a no-decision in Oakland's 7-6 win over Texas on May 4.

Jerry Blevins struck out Erick Aybar with two runners on to end the seventh. Suzuki's homer in the bottom half broke the game open, giving Oakland a 6-1 lead.

Cust hit his second homer off Trevor Bell in the eighth following an RBI single by Suzuki. That was Oakland's 12th homer this month after hitting just 15 each in April and May.

Weaver allowed six runs and 12 hits in six-plus innings, after not giving up a single earned run in his previous two starts. He gave up two-out RBI singles to Cust, Eric Patterson and Gabe Gross in the first three innings and nothing else until Suzuki hit his eighth homer of the season in the seventh.

Gross, getting the start in center field in place of the injured Rajai Davis, snapped an 0-for-13 slump with his third-inning single to right field that scored Sweeney. Bobby Abreu's throw home beat Sweeney, but plate umpire Bill Miller ruled Sweeney slid into home before Mike Napoli could slap on the tag. Napoli immediately argued the call and manager Mike Scioscia bolted out of the dugout to complain, but the run still counted.

NOTES: Patterson was involved in a couple of odd plays. He reached on a single in the fourth when his popup landed between three Angels between home plate and the mound. He had another infield single in the eighth but was hit in the ear on the throw from second by Frandsen. ... This marked the 17th straight start that Mazzaro failed to go more than six innings, extending his Oakland record. ... Oakland RHP Justin Duchscherer sent manager Bob Geren a text saying the season-ending surgery on his left hip went well. ... Players on both teams gathered around TVs in the clubhouse before the game to watch the debut of Washington phenom Stephen Strasburg.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

Watson's ninth-inning blast knocks off Fresno

By Nick Hunte / Sacramento River Cats

Matt Watson's ninth-inning home run provided the winning margin for Sacramento in a 2-1 victory Tuesday night over the host Fresno Grizzlies.

The win was much-needed for Sacramento, which lost the first three games of the series and now sit 11.5 games out of first place.

Watson's home run, the left-hander's fifth of the season, came off of a 3-2 pitch by right-hander Waldis Joaquin (1-1, 2.51 ERA) and sailed over the right-field fence.

In addition to Watson's home run, Sacramento's pitchers had strong performances in this low-scoring game. Right-hander Clay Mortensen (8-2, 3.97 ERA) picked up the win and pitched eight solid innings for the River Cats. He gave up eight hits but only one earned run (a home run by left-fielder John Bowker in the bottom of the fourth) and threw four strikeouts.

Sacramento scored its first run in the top of the sixth inning from a line-drive single by Josh Donaldson, who played third base instead of his usual catcher position.

The River Cats will have a day off and then travel to Portland on Thursday for the fifth game of their current road series.

Ports Defeat Blaze, 4-3

STOCKTON, Calif. - The Stockton Ports (26-33) handed the Bakersfield Blaze (25-32) their fifth straight loss, defeating the Blaze by 4-3 on Tuesday night on Banner Island Ballpark.

Ryan Ortiz collected two of the five Ports hits, and three of the five Stockton hits were doubles. Southpaw starter Ben Hornbeck picked up his first win of the year and his first career win against the Blaze. He struck out seven batters in 5.0 innings, but also hit some rough patches as he walked two, hit two batters and had two wild pitches in the appearance. Scott Hodsdon and Trey Barham pitched scoreless middle relief, each earning a hold, while Paul Smyth collected his ninth save of the year. Wilfredo Boscan collected his eighth loss of the year for Bakersfield.

The Blaze were the first to score, plating a run in the second frame, to make it 1-0. Third baseman Tommy Mendonca singled to lead things off. He advanced to second as left fielder Erik Morrison grounded out to Hornbeck. Right fielder Mike

Bianucci then hit the ball to left field, and Shane Keough bobbled the ball. Bianucci reached first on the hit and advanced to second on the fielding error by Keough. Mendonca scored on the play. Shortstop Andres James popped out to end the inning.

The Ports pulled ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the third. Ortiz singled to get the offense rolling, and advanced to third on a double to left field by Keough. Centerfielder Jermaine Mitchell then walked to load the bases with no out for shortstop Grant Green. Green hit a long sacrifice fly to center field, which allowed Ortiz to score. Third baseman Stephen Parker then came up to bat, and hit into a fielder's choice which allowed Keough to score.

Bakersfield tied the game in the top of the fourth. With one out, Hornbeck walked Mendonca, and then hit Morrison with a pitch. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch while Bianucci was at-bat. Bianucci then grounded out to second baseman Tyler Ladendorf, which allowed Mendonca to score the second Bakersfield run of the game. Ladendorf was later ejected at the bottom of the fourth inning for arguing a called third strike. He was replaced in the field by Michael Richard.

The Blaze made it 3-2 and took their second and final lead of the game in the top of the fifth, as second baseman Davis Stoneburner scored on an RBI double by designated hitter Chris Gradoville.

But the lead didn't last long as the Ports added two runs to the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth inning. Ortiz led things off with a double off the left field wall. Keough then grounded out. The Blaze then walked Mitchell for the second time to put runners on first and second for Green. Green flew out to right fielder Bianucci. Parker then hit into a fielder's choice, but the runners ended up safe at all the bases as Stoneburner bobbled the ball as he tried to put out Mitchell at second. Ortiz scored on the play. Ports right fielder Jeremy Barfield next hit an RBI single to bring home Mitchell. Johnson then hit into a fielder's choice to end the inning.

But the Ports had their 4-3 lead, and that was all the Ports pitching staff needed. Hodsdon allowed just one hit in 2.0 innings, and lefty Barham allowed one walk in his 0.2 innings of work. Barham was replaced in the bottom of the eighth as the Ports called on right-handed pitcher Smyth to face the right-handed hitter Morrison. Smyth struck out two and allowed one hit for 1.1 scoreless frames.

The Blaze also clamped down on the Ports offense in the last few innings, as only one of the last 10 Stockton batters was able to reach base.

The victory ensures that the Ports will have a better first-half record this season than they did in 2009, when they finished 25-45 in the first half.

The Ports and Blaze will face off in Game 3 of the four-game set at 7:05 PM on Wednesday at Banner Island Ballpark. RHP Michael Madsen (0-1, 4.50) will take the hill for Stockton while RHP Michael Main (2-2, 4.20) will start for Bakersfield.

Cougars Return Home, Keep Rolling

Kane County knocks out 21 hits en route to 5th win in last 7

GENEVA, III. – After a 4-2 record on a road trip that ended Sunday and a day off Monday, the Kane County Cougars returned home Tuesday night for a six-game homestand and pounded the Fort Wayne TinCaps, 12-5, in front of 5,859 at Elfstrom Stadium. The Cougars knocked out a season-high 21 hits, and eight of their nine players had multiple hits. Murphy Smith posted a quality start in the win, and the Cougars claimed their fifth game out of the last seven.

The Cougars built an 8-0 lead through four innings and a 9-1 lead after five frames. By that point, Leonardo Gil and Kent Walton already had two RBIs each. The Tincaps rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh, but the Cougars responded with three in the bottom half. Anthony Aliotti notched a sacrifice fly, and Gil belted a two-run homer to finish a triple shy of the cycle.

Smith (2-0) gave up three runs on four hits, walked two and fanned eight over 6 1/3 innings, and Jose Guzman posted his fifth save. Gil had four hits and four RBIs, and Conner Crumbliss and Tyreace House each had three hits and combined to score five runs. Jerry Sullivan (5-3), who had won four straight outings, suffered the loss for the visitors.

The Cougars (27-32) and TinCaps (29-30) continue the three-game series Wednesday night at 6:30 CT. Justin Marks (2-6, 5.84) will face Mike Watt (2-4, 4.45). The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and online at www.kccougars.com with pregame coverage starting at 6:15 p.m.