

## A's News Clips, Monday, June 14, 2010

### Sweep glum news for A's team that's back below .500

By Curtis Pashelka, Oakland Tribune

Rajai Davis sat silently in front of his locker inside the visiting clubhouse at AT&T Park, conversations were held in hushed tones, and before long Jake Fox was shaking hands with some of his now-former teammates.

Such was the aftermath of an ugly 6-2 loss by the A's to the Giants on Sunday afternoon, one that completed a three-game sweep by the cross-bay rivals and pushed the A's four games back of the first-place Texas Rangers in the American League West.

In one of their more fundamentally deficient efforts of the season, the A's (32-33) committed two errors and stranded 10 base runners. For the series, they had four errors and were 4 for 23 with runners in scoring position while leaving 27 on base. They're below .500 for the first time since May 21.

"We made too many mistakes," A's manager Bob Geren said. "There were some positive things. But errors led to runs. ... It just wasn't a good series for us. It really wasn't."

After the game, Fox was designated for assignment. Since making the opening night roster, Fox had just 98 at-bats and was hitting .214 with two home runs and 12 RBIs. He'll be placed on waivers, traded or released within 10 days.

"I don't think they ever really saw what I could do, and I never really showed them," said Fox, who was acquired from the Chicago Cubs in December in a five-player trade. "Whether it was a fair shot or not, I know what I can do.

"They came and got me to do something, and I never really showed them I could do it. This was the right move from their perspective, I guess. I still think if they knew what they had, they wouldn't be doing this."

Fox's designation makes room on the roster for catcher Kurt Suzuki, who was on bereavement leave and will be back with the team in Chicago on Tuesday for the start of the three-game series with the Cubs.

Suzuki's presence should bolster an offense that managed 10 hits in the season finale against the Giants but left runners on base in all but three innings. The A's trailed 4-1 after six innings and despite the errors, could have avoided the sweep had they come up with one or two timely hits.

In the sixth, the A's had runners on the corners with one out when Giants starter Matt Cain struck out Adam Rosales and got Landon Powell to ground out. In the eighth with Cain out of the game, the A's loaded the bases with two outs but pinch-hitter Mark Ellis popped up to first on a high fastball from Giants reliever Santiago Casilla, ending the threat.

In the ninth, encapsulating the day, Ryan Sweeney lined out to center field and Davis was doubled off at second base to end the game.

"It's a bad baserunning mistake. It wasn't a bad read," Geren said of the play. "I'm not telling you anything I didn't tell (Davis) — the run means nothing, and you can't make that mistake. Period. At any level. Especially at the major league level. It's just a mistake that can't happen."

The A's are now 4-9 in June, going from first place in the AL West at the start of the month to third place behind the Rangers and streaking Los Angeles Angels. Nobody's pushing the panic button yet, but it's clear the A's can't afford to hurt themselves continually if they hope to stay in the race much longer.

"We have to worry about ourselves. We can't worry about other teams," said Jack Cust, who was 3 for 4 with a run scored. "We just have to try and go out and win ballgames."

### A's update: Vin Mazzaro has strong start, save for two-homer inning

By Curtis Pashelka, Oakland Tribune

Mazzaro's start is strong, save for two-HR inning

Two of Vin Mazzaro's sliders in the sixth inning Sunday caught too much of the plate and wound up as souvenirs at AT&T Park. The A's starter took the loss in a 6-2 defeat to the Giants, but A's manager Bob Geren said he wasn't discouraged by what he saw.

Mazzaro gave up three earned runs, all on homers — a two-run shot by Aubrey Huff and a solo homer by Juan Uribe — in six innings, but used just 57 pitches to get through the first five.

"The back-to-back homers obviously really hurt him," Geren said, "But he had good command of his fastball on both sides of his plate and his breaking ball was sharp. I've liked what I've seen from him lately."

Mazzaro was coming off a solid effort against the Los Angeles Angels last Tuesday, when he allowed just one earned run in five innings. He's gone from issuing eight walks in his first 10 innings for the A's this season to allowing just two in his past 14 1/3 innings.

After Jake Fox was designated for assignment, catcher Landon Powell figures to be the primary backup for Kurt Suzuki. But Powell's not taking anything for granted. From April 21 to June 4, Powell was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento on three occasions only to be sent back down each time. He was recalled again Friday after Suzuki took bereavement leave.

"One big thing I've learned this year with everything going on and getting sent up and down so many times is to never be comfortable," Powell said. "No matter if you're the superstar or the last guy on the bench."

Infielder/designated hitter Eric Chavez (neck spasms) told Geren he needs more time before beginning a minor league rehab assignment. Geren didn't know if it was a neck issue, saying Chavez "doesn't feel he's ready, and is taking a couple of days off for his body." Chavez, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list on May 22, will be evaluated again in a couple days. He wasn't at AT&T Park on Sunday.

Outfielder Coco Crisp (strained right rib cage muscle) likely will be on the field again in the next day or two. Geren said Crisp's rib cage feels good but that he's come down with a small case of the flu. Geren said when Crisp is feeling better, he'll play in Sacramento. If Crisp comes out of that OK, he'll likely rejoin the team on its road trip later this week.

The A's will start Trevor Cahill, Gio Gonzalez and Dallas Braden, in that order, for their series at the Chicago Cubs. "... Geren said Brett Anderson is scheduled to throw two weeks from the time he saw a doctor and was diagnosed with tendinitis in his left elbow. That would be this Friday.

#### **49ers' win at polls boost for A's move?**

#### **San Jose mayor, baseball co-owner heartened by vote**

By Tracy Seipel tseipel@mercurynews.com

Buoyed by local voters' overwhelming endorsement of a San Francisco 49ers stadium last week, supporters of a proposed baseball park in San Jose are optimistic about their plan's prospects — but focused on a critical next few months.

With city officials facing an Aug. 3 deadline to put a stadium question on the November ballot, Mayor Chuck Reed and Oakland A's co-owner Lew Wolff say the Niners' victory in Santa Clara proves the time is right for a similar measure in San Jose. But they and everyone else are waiting — and waiting — for a decision from Major League Baseball on whether the A's can relocate.

Other hurdles loom, including the possibility that ballpark opponents will sue if the City Council this summer votes to place a measure on the ballot.

Still, Reed was heartened that nearly 60 percent of Santa Clara voters approved a \$937 million stadium to bring the NFL to Silicon Valley.

"Their transaction was a lot more expensive and a lot more complicated than what we're looking at," Reed said.

"It bodes very well, because they had a terrific victory," Wolff added. "If they had lost, which I did not expect them to, I would have attributed that to not wanting to put in the public money."

The 49ers' measure included a \$114 million public contribution. By contrast, a proposed A's ballpark would cost about \$461 million, all of it paid for by the A's.

San Jose taxpayers would, however, be on the hook for at least \$74 million for land for the ballpark and related street infrastructure. And experts say the public's cost is likely to rise depending on details of the final negotiations between the city and the A's.

Those costs are a key reason Stand for San Jose, a group backed by the San Francisco Giants and their minor league affiliate in San Jose, argue a ballpark would drain dollars from city services such as parks and libraries.

The Giants hold baseball's territorial rights to the South Bay and have insisted they will not relinquish them. Stand for San Jose filed one of three formal objections to the environmental impact report city officials prepared for the A's stadium,

arguing — as did the San Jose Sharks and a resident near the site — that it grossly underestimated the proposed ballpark's impact on traffic and parking.

City officials since have come to an agreement with the Sharks, and it's widely expected the council on Tuesday will certify the report over the remaining objections.

Should Stand for San Jose sue, as many observers predict, it could gum up the process. Todd W. Smith, the group's attorney, would say only that its members are considering litigation as one of several options.

Reed, for now, is staying focused on the Nov. 2 ballot, when he hopes the city can put a ballpark measure before voters; their approval is needed before the city can provide land for the project.

To meet that timeline, the council must vote on the matter no later than Aug. 3. But even though the City Council does not meet during July, Reed said he could issue a memo to put a stadium measure on the council agenda as late as July 23.

It's been more than a year since baseball Commissioner Bud Selig appointed a committee to study the A's options. It would take a vote of three-quarters of baseball's owners to terminate the Giants' territorial rights.

**Dave Newhouse: Retired editor was architect of Oakland's sports scene**  
**Ex-Tribune sports editor instrumental in making city a major-league town**

By Dave NewhouseOakland Tribune columnist

Two Tribune stories, three years apart, reflect Oakland's Mount Everest-like upward climb as a sports town, and one man's influence in that ascendancy.

Jan. 27, 1964: "Oakland has invited Charles O. Finley to move his storm-tossed Kansas City Athletics here to play the 1964 season in a rebuilt Frank Youell Field and to stay for 25 years in the \$25 million Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum."

Oct. 19, 1967: "CHICAGO — Oakland picked up a glove, laced on its spikes, and joined the 67-year-old American League last night."

Both stories were written by George Ross, Tribune sports editor from 1961-75 and a key figure in lifting his hometown from a minor league city into World Series, Super Bowl and National Basketball Association champions.

Another sign of Ross' impact in Oakland: He dug one of the first shovels of dirt at the May 15, 1964, groundbreaking of the Oakland Coliseum complex. To say that he moved earth would be no understatement.

He mother-henned the Oakland Raiders from ragamuffins into regal status. He convinced Finley to bring his future dynastic A's westward in 1968 — but not to play in high-schoolish Youell Field, the Raiders' first Oakland home. Lastly, Ross coaxed Franklin Mieuli and the Warriors across the Bay Bridge.

It all began with the Raiders in 1960, when the American Football League was formed. Without that first step "...

"It was the only step," said Ross, now 93 and living in Graeagle, a Plumas County resort town one hour west of Truckee. "There was no other franchise in sight. The (Triple-A baseball Oakland) Oaks had already folded up (in 1955)."

Finley was the second step.

"He had screwed up so badly in Kansas City," Ross said. "He went to the American League and asked to move. They said, 'Yeah, four years from now.' So he stayed as a lame duck owner in Kansas City for four years of purgatory."

When Finley finally received approval to move, Missouri Sen. Stuart Symington said, cryptically, "Oakland is the luckiest city since Hiroshima."

Ross advised Finley to leave his mascot mule in Kansas City because Oakland was "too cosmopolitan" for such gimmickry. Finley, who listened only to Finley, brought the mule. But it was the A's or nobody for Oakland.

"You can't choose — you're chosen," Ross said.

Mentally, Ross seems more like 33 than 93. He and the late Leonard Koppett are the most perceptive sportswriters I've known. Ross now uses a hearing aid and needs a cane or walker once he leaves his mobile trailer home. He had a heart attack six years ago and a stroke last September.

"Medication helps," he said May 27. "I'm ahead of the game. If the doctor's right, I'll get to 110."

Ross, a pilot, once owned a single-engine plane. He taught mineralogy after retiring to Graeagle in 1980. He lives alone after the death of his wife of 50 years, Helene. They had no children, and Ross' "family" now consists of raccoons, skunks, bears, deer, chipmunks and squirrels.

In the AFL's infancy, the Raiders were the league's stepchild before Al Davis became coach-general manager in 1963.

Davis and Ross then became personal friends. Ross knew he was being used. They dined together after games before Ross wrote his column. Ross convinced Davis that he didn't need the San Francisco press; the Tribune would be his primary media support system.

Then Ross learned that Davis had gone behind the back of the Raiders' principal owner, Wayne Valley, and cajoled the team's other owner, Ed McGah, into signing a rollover contract that legally bound Davis to the Raiders "... endlessly.

"McGah hated Valley anyway," Ross said. "Valley stuck it too him all the time. McGah was dumb, dumb. Davis used to laugh at him. And Davis hated Valley. Al knew he needed only one signature on the contract. Valley thought he needed two. I noticed that Al had become more cordial to McGah."

When Ross wrote the column — after McGah told him that he hadn't read the language on the contract before signing it — Ross' friendship with Davis ended.

"I can't trust you anymore," Davis told him.

Thirty-five years later, that breakup still haunts Ross.

"Oh, sure," he said. "I had an unusual relationship with Al Davis before it cooled. But it wasn't about trust. I was a reporter, and I had a story that was circulating nationally."

Oakland then landed a trifecta of the most eccentric owners in any one sports town — Davis, Finley and Mieuli.

"We treated them as news sources," Ross said. "Mostly it was workable. Finley was, independently, a (expletive). He treated his black players like they were converted slaves."

Because Ross worked aggressively to get the A's, is he upset by the idea of their moving?

"Professionally, no," he said. "Because when they built the Coliseum (in 1966), they didn't built it for either occupant. Al Davis prevailed on them to convert it for his needs, and baseball is less at home there than it should be.

"If the team moves and stays in the Bay Area — in Contra Costa County, Fremont or San Jose — it will still be part of the Oakland-area sports (scene)."

This is one time I must disagree with the brainy boss who hired me in 1964. The A's must remain in Oakland, which should make sure that they get first priority on a new place to play over the Raiders, who were rewarded with a renovated Coliseum, at the A's expense, upon returning to Oakland in 1995.

The Raiders left town; the A's didn't — not yet. Make sure they don't, Oakland.

### **Chin Music: Chavez needs more time; Ellis sits**

By Curtis Pashelka, Oakland Tribune, 6/13/2010 12:33PM

Eric Chavez will not start tomorrow for Sacramento, as Bob Geren said Chavez "doesn't feel he's ready, and is taking a couple of days off for his body." Chavez, who was not seen in the visitors clubhouse this morning, will be reevaluated early this week. Geren wouldn't say if Chavez is again having neck problems, but regardless, this doesn't exactly qualify as good news for the A's.

It remains to be seen when Coco Crisp will play again, but it'll probably be in the next day or two. Geren said Crisp's rib cage feels good, but that he's come down with a small case of the flu. Geren said when Crisp is feeling better, he'll play in Sacramento. Earlier, the plan for Crisp was to play a simulated game in Arizona.

Mark Ellis is not in the lineup today, as Geren said it was because it was a day game after a night game. The A's play two day games after night games on the upcoming trip, so we'll see if the same holds true for those dates. Adam Rosales starts at second, with Cliff Pennington at short.

Geren confirmed this morning that the A's will start Trevor Cahill, Gio Gonzalez and Dallas Braden, in that order, for the Cubs series, and Dallas Braden and Ben Sheets for the first two games of the Cardinals series — giving Dallas and Ben a bit more time to rest. Geren said Brett Anderson will begin throwing this Friday, which is two weeks from the time he saw a doctor and was diagnosed with tendonitis in his left elbow. Anderson, as of now, will not join the A's on their trip.

The lineups:

A's — Davis CF, Barton 1B, Sweeney RF, Kouzmanoff 3B, Cust LF, Rosales 2B, Powell C, Pennington SS, Mazzaro P.

Giants — Torres CF, Sandoval 3B, Huff RF, Uribe SS, Burrell LF, Posey 1B, Molina C, Downs 2B, Cain P.

## **POWER GAME**

### **Punchless A's send Fox packing**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Oakland has very little power, but the counterpart is that the A's typically give up few home runs.

That equation fell apart at times over the weekend, when Oakland got swept by the Giants. Minus cleanup hitter and team home-run leader Kurt Suzuki, the A's didn't muscle many out, and when they did it was with the bases empty. On the flip side, they served up enough to put two of the three games out of reach.

Following Sunday's 6-2 loss at AT&T Park, the A's designated Jake Fox for assignment. Though he was used only sporadically, Fox was one of Oakland's few hitters with some pop. The A's decided to risk losing the utility player/catcher in order to clear a spot for Suzuki, who will come off the bereavement list before Tuesday's game against the Cubs, Fox's former team, at Wrigley Field.

Fox wasn't surprised because, he said, "I don't think they ever saw what I can do. I don't think I showed what I can do."

He said he hopes to go somewhere - whether another team or Triple-A Sacramento - where he can get regular at-bats. If he's at Sacramento, Fox said, he believes he can show he can help the big-league club.

"I am a power hitter," he said. "I've shown that in my career."

With Fox gone, Landon Powell is the only backup catcher on the roster. But Powell isn't taking anything for granted - he already has been up and down four times this year.

"The one big thing I've learned this year is never to get comfortable, not if you're a superstar or the last guy on the bench," Powell said.

Suzuki's absence following his grandfather's death left Jack Cust as the team's only real power threat in the series, but the A's designated hitter had a pinch-hit infield single Friday, two walks Saturday and three singles Sunday. He has only four extra-base hits since being called up May 15.

"Home runs are a streaky thing," Cust said. "I know personally I can hit four or five in a week."

Oakland got solo shots in the series from Matt Carson and Adam Rosales, while the Giants hit six out, including three on Sunday.

Tied for the second fewest homers in the league, with 44, and relegated to more of a "small-ball" style this year, the A's have to be more precise in other areas, but they made two more errors Sunday, and Rajai Davis was doubled off second base to end the game when Ryan Sweeney flied out to center.

"That's just a bad baserunning mistake," A's manager Bob Geren said. "As I told him, you can't make that mistake at the major-league level. That's not a mistake you can make at any level."

There is always vague speculation about whether the A's should bring up one of their two power-hitting prospects, Chris Carter or Michael Taylor, but Carter reportedly missed Sunday's game after being hit by a pitch, and neither player is batting above .240.

### **Chavez's back not up to rehab stint after all**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

**Eric Chavez's** rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento, which was scheduled to begin today, is on hold for at least a few days, but there are no clear indications when Chavez will return to action.

Manager **Bob Geren** said that Chavez told him he doesn't feel ready to start playing in games, and Chavez said in a text to The Chronicle on Sunday that his neck is "just not feeling right."

Chavez has two bulging disks in his neck, and he has had two previous back surgeries. That led to speculation when Chavez went on the disabled list May 21 that the most recent injury might be career-ending, because Chavez had said before the season that if he had another major injury, he would retire.

Chavez made it clear, though, that he plans to do all treatment and rehab necessary, and will do his best to get back on the playing field. Chavez said Sunday that he was heading back to his offseason home in Arizona.

Outfielder **Coco Crisp** could start a Triple-A rehab assignment today if he has recovered from the flu.

**Out at home: Landon Powell** was thrown out at the plate in the fourth. Geren said it was a good decision to send him on **Cliff Pennington's** double to right, because the pitcher's spot was coming up.

The play was close, and, Powell said, "I was running as hard as I could. If the throw was off line a foot or so, I would have got in, but I think they had to call me out because the throw was there."

**Briefly: Kevin Kouzmanoff** extended his career-best hitting streak to 14 games. ... Powell said A's starter **Vin Mazzaro** made only three or four mistakes, but one was on a 0-1 fastball to **Aubrey Huff** in the sixth; Huff hit it out to right for a two-run homer. The next batter, **Juan Uribe**, went deep on an 0-2 slider. ... **Kurt Suzuki** returned from Hawaii but could not be activated because bereavement stays must last three days.

## **A's LEADING OFF**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

**Always in a hurry:** Adam Rosales had his best home-run trot time of the season Saturday - 15.47 seconds, according to Tater Trot Tracker. Rosales has the top four major-league times for non-inside-the-park homers this year.

## **Drumbeat: Chavez's rehab assignment gets delayed**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at the Coliseum 6/13/2010, 1:22PM

Eric Chavez's rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento will be delayed a few days because, according to manager Bob Geren, Chavez doesn't feel ready to start playing in games.

Chavez has been out since May 21 with two bulging disks in his neck, but the problem had bothered him since a spring-training collision during a pop-up drill. Chavez was not at the park yesterday or today.

Coco Crisp will start his rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento whenever he has recovered from the flu; Geren hadn't received a report on Crisp's illness today, but he said that the ribcage strain that put Crisp on the DL last month is entirely gone.

Here's the lineup: Davis CF, Barton 1B, Sweeney RF, Kouzmanoff 3B, Cust LF, Rosales 2B, Powell C, Pennington SS, Mazzaro P

Mark Ellis gets a start off, but as Geren showed last night, he's going to use the bench liberally at an NL park. I'd suspect we'll see Ellis fairly early as a pinch hitter.

Geren confirmed the rotation for the coming week. As expected, it's Trevor Cahill on Tuesday at the Cubs, followed by Gio Gonzalez and Dallas Braden, then Friday at St. Louis, it's Vin Mazzaro, with Ben Sheets going on Saturday.

Kurt Suzuki is back from Hawaii following the death of his paternal grandfather, but he cannot be activated until Monday (though the A's don't play again until Tuesday). Bereavement list stays must last three days.

Gee, think Landon Powell gets sent out again? He just drove in Oakland's first run, by the way.

Read more: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/athletics/detail?&entry\\_id=65677#ixzz0qpmxYJtE](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/athletics/detail?&entry_id=65677#ixzz0qpmxYJtE)

## **80 nominated for Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame**

Ben Fong-Torres, San Francisco Chronicle

Voting for the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame has begun and will go on through July 17.

The online Bay Area Radio Museum and the social group, the Broadcast Legends, put forth 80 nominees in seven categories; more have been added via write-in votes. **David F. Jackson**, operator of the museum site, said new nominees are suggested "by the public - usually, somebody will jab a finger in my chest or phone me and ask, accusingly, 'Why isn't (insert name here) on the ballot?'"

Last year, 11 broadcasters and one radio station were inducted. Voters are asked to choose one person in each category - a near-impossible task in many cases. Take "announcers." There are more than 20 listed, and almost all are worthy. Here we go:

Announcers (program host/disc jockey): **Scott Beach, Tom Campbell, Les Crane, Norman Davis, Jack Friday, Ward Glenn, Buddy Hatton, Johnny Holliday, Larry Ickes, Bob Jones, Greg Kihn, Jack Kulp, John McLeod, Dave Morey, Johnny Morris, Bobby Ocean, Bob Ray, Ron Reynolds, George Ruge, Don Sainte-Johnn, Tom Saunders, Rick Shaw, Bonnie Simmons, Dan Sorkin.**

News: **Helen Bentley, Jan Black, Stan Bunger, Clarence "Clancy" Cassell, Chet Casselman, Peter Cleaveland, Gene D'Accardo, Gil Haar, Herb Kennedy, Frank Knight, Bob Lazich, Dave McQueen, Bob Melrose, George Sampson, Jeff Skov, Barbara Taylor, Tony Tremayne** (real name **Mel Fritze**).

Sports: **Ralph Barbieri, Steve Bitker, Ken Dito, Ken Korach, Jon Miller, Amaury Pi-Gonzales, Gary Radnich, Hal Ramey**.

Pioneer broadcaster: **Evangeline Baker, Hilario "Lalao" Caballero, Wilda Wilson Church, Bouncin' Bill Doubleday, Floyd Farr, Sybil Herrold, Bud Heyde, Walt Jamond, Francis J. McCarty**.

Owner/manager: **Don Curran** (KGO), **Lewis Hill** (KPFA), **Al Leavitt** (KSFR), **Joe Levitt** (KXRX), **Lorenzo Milan** (KTAO), **Heber Smith** (KNBR), **Bill Weaver** (KLOK).

Specialty: **Warren Boggess** (traffic), **Ron Fell** (KNBR, Gavin Report, Raiders radio), **Ben Fong-Torres** (KSAN, Gavin, Radio Waves), **Bob Foster** (San Mateo Times), **Elma Greer** (KSFO music librarian, Gavin), **Louise Jorjorian** (KSFO promotions), **Isabelle Lemon** (KNBR promotions), **Al Newman** (KSFO PD), **Mike Pechner** (weather), **Pete Scott** (KSFO PD and DJ).

Engineering: **John Higdon, Howard Immekus, Shingo Kamada, Fred Krock, Art Lebermann, "Super Harlow" Meyers, Bill Ruck, Roy Trumball**.

Ballots are available at various Broadcast Legends and California Historical Radio Society gatherings, and online voting is at [www.barhof.com](http://www.barhof.com).

And, yes, I noticed that I'm nominated in the all-encompassing "Specialty" category, and am honored. But I'll be stuffing the ballot boxes with votes for several of my fellow nominees.

KGO's **Ronn Owens**, already in the Bay Area radio hall o' fame, has been nominated for the National Radio Hall of Fame, which is based in Chicago at the Museum of Broadcast Communications. Having written scripts for past inductions, I know how difficult it is to score even a nomination, so congrats to Owens, who's in the "Local/Regional" category and goes up against Chicago rock DJ **Terri Hemmert**, New York alt-rock DJ and programmer **Leslie Fram**, and **Luther Masingill**, going on 65 years as a radio host in Chattanooga, Tenn. Piece of cake, Ronn. Also nominated, in other categories: **Howard Stern** (about time), **Steve Dahl** of Chicago, Boston FM rocker **Charles Laquidara** and country radio icon **Ralph Emery**. The public is invited to vote, through August 1st, at [www.radiohof.org](http://www.radiohof.org) (registration is required). The new Hall of Famers will be inducted in November.

**Around the diamond:** Baseball fans now can hear and see pretty much any game they want, live, by way of satellite radio, MLB TV and the Internet. I've sampled enough out-of-town games to appreciate all the more the broadcasters we have for the Giants and the A's. I haven't taken notes as I've tuned into various games, but, oh, the homers. Not home runs, but announcers who sound as if they've been bought and paid for by their clubs - which, in many cases, they have.

But where our guys are measured, and let loose only when it's called for, there are guys in Chicago, for both teams there, who root-root-root their way through games. There are announcers who call their teams "the good guys." There's the Atlanta Braves announcer watching a deep fly ball: "Get up! Get up! Stay high enough!" Yes, we have "Grab some pine, Meat!" from **Mike Krukow**, but, mostly, he's an affable commentator alongside **Duane Kuiper**, who's cool until a Giant



slams one high, deep and "OUTTA here!" Equally relaxed and relaxing are **Jon Miller** and **Dave Flemming**, who also anchors an entertaining postgame show. Speaking of Kuip, it is seriously time for him to begin pronouncing **Juan Uribe's** name correctly: "Oo-ribe," not "Uh-ribe." It's also not "You-ribe," as **Gary Radnich**, among others, calls him. C'mon; it's the guy's name. Would he appreciate being called "Kwee-per"?

Across the bay, **Ken Korach**, **Vince Cotroneo** and **Ray Fosse** are also nicely balanced between a low-key presentation of info-packed play-by-play and high energy for key plays. We've got it good.

I'm always picking at cliché phrases and verbal tics, like the use of "a little bit," as in, "he's in a little bit of a slump," for a guy who's not hitting at all. I caught Houston pitcher **Bud Norris** in a postgame interview admitting, "I was all over the place a little bit tonight" ... And in a Giants pregame show at the Public House, KNBR's **Mychael Urban** hosted a "celebrity caller," name of "Cheetos." Urban informed listeners, "We call him Cheetos because ... well, because when he gets stoned, he eats Cheetos!" Cheetos didn't argue. Not even a little bit ...

**Back on the streets again: Mal Sharpe**, famous forever for his "Man on the Street" stunts, radio shows and albums in the '60s with the late **Jim Coyle**, hit the pavement again recently for a radio commercial for Armstrong Painting. It's his first on-the-street spot since he did one for United Airlines in '97. And Sharpe, who does a little radio on KCSM and a little jazz Saturday afternoons at the Savoy Tivoli, wasn't looking for the gig. He and the band Big Money in Jazz were stompin' at the Savoy, and Sharpe was doing his between-numbers shtick to get people to fork over tips.

**Howard Silver**, a KCBS sales rep in the crowd, recognized Sharpe's voice and thought he'd be a fit with Armstrong Painting. And, just like that, Sharpe was on the street again, chatting with passers-by for hours until he got the sound bite he wanted. Wait a minute: Hours? Yep. "It's a lot harder to be a man-on-the-street interviewer in 2010 than it was back in 1963," he says. "Hordes of my usual victims are walking around in a daze with their heads welded to cell phones." {sbox}

### **Mistakes send A's to third straight loss**

#### *Mazzaro pitches well until walk, homers in sixth inning*

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

SAN FRANCISCO -- Following his last outing, Vin Mazzaro rightfully expressed a sense of pride in the fact he didn't offer up a single free pass.

For it was control, more so than any other facet of his game, that had been missing much of the season. It was control that had the right-handed starter bouncing between Triple-A Sacramento and Oakland.

On Sunday, in the A's series finale against the host Giants in a dose of Interleague action, Mazzaro again did not walk a batter -- until the sixth inning.

And said batter, by the name of Pablo Sandoval, happened to represent the start of a Giants rally that led to back-to-back home runs, the results of which eventually left the A's on the losing end of a 6-2 contest -- and three-game sweep -- in the confines of San Francisco's AT&T Park.

It also represented the beginning of the end for an otherwise impressive showing from Mazzaro, who exited after that fateful sixth frame having surrendered four runs on six hits while fanning one.

"He made some mistakes, and they hit them," manager Bob Geren said. "But I thought he threw the ball extremely well. I like what I've seen from him. He'll be staying in the rotation and going every five days for us."

The rhythmic homers to Aubrey Huff and Juan Uribe officially broke open a 1-1 game that previously -- and surprisingly -- had pitching showdown written all over it. Mazzaro, making just his third start of the season, allowed an unearned run in the

second inning before retiring 12 consecutive batters. San Francisco starter Matt Cain, meanwhile, was forced to throw a large quantity of pitches in the early innings but, as advertised, was able to pitch out of jams and limit the A's to one run -- a fourth-inning RBI single to Landon Powell -- over seven frames.

"We felt like we played well against them over there, it just didn't work out the way we wanted to," Cain said. "We wanted to take some of the momentum we had on the road trip back home, and it worked out."

This is the Cain the A's expected -- the one who, in his last two starts against Oakland, tossed complete games, allowing just two runs (one earned) over a span of 17 innings. He was tagged for 82 pitches through the first five frames Sunday, at which point Mazzaro was at the 57 mark. But Cain forced the A's to strand three runners in his final two frames en route to handing his bullpen a 4-1 lead.

"He looked good," Jack Cust said of the Giants rightly. "I don't think he had his best stuff, but he's got such good stuff that even when he doesn't have his best stuff it's difficult to hit."

Stranding runners wasn't Oakland's only woe of the game, or of the weekend. For the second straight day, two errors -- plus an unofficial one -- clouded the club's path to potential victory. First, a second-inning throwing error by Kevin Kouzmanoff led to a run. Then, Powell tallied an error by missing a popup in foul territory. Finally, in the ninth, Rajai Davis was caught on the basepaths for the second out of a double play following a flyout to center field to end the game.

"That's just a bad baserunning mistake, not an error of judgment," Geren said. "You can't make that mistake at the big league level -- not at any level."

"It's frustrating when you do anything that leads to beating yourself. You have to play fundamentally sound baseball. There were too many things that went wrong in this three-game series for us to win. We made it hard on ourselves."

The home runs didn't help, either. Following Mazzaro, Brad Ziegler and Jerry Blevins combined for a shutout inning before lefty Craig Breslow was brought in for the eighth only to surrender yet another two-run blast to Huff.

The A's combined to leave 10 on base, one of which came in the fourth following Powell's run-scoring single. With the Oakland catcher on first base, Cliff Pennington notched his second double of the game, a hard-hit ball to right field that made its way back to the plate with just enough time for catcher Bengie Molina to tag Powell.

The slow-moving Powell had been waved around by third-base coach Mike Gallego -- a move that Geren very much supported after the game, especially considering Mazzaro's spot in the order was due up next.

"With your pitcher on deck," Geren said, "you gotta go. It was a matter of inches. If there's any chance of scoring, you have to try there. It was a tough call but a good call by the umpire."

The loss marked the third straight for the A's, who now face their first off-day in 20 days Monday before heading to Chicago and St. Louis to close out their Interleague travel schedule. Handing away three games across the Bay, however, was not the way they expected to push off the trip even though they already took the first three matches of the season series in Oakland last month.

"You lose three games," Geren said, "and you can't be too happy. It wasn't a good series for us."

"It's difficult," Cust said. "It was a tough series, now we just got to try and regroup. We faced some good pitching -- three guys that are Cy Young-caliber pitchers."

### **A's designate Fox for assignment**

By Jane Lee and Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

SAN FRANCISCO -- Even Jake Fox knew it was coming.

The always optimistic A's utility player, who has been shuffled around at three different positions this season, was designated for assignment by the club Sunday afternoon following a 6-2 loss to the Giants in San Francisco.

"I can't say I'm too surprised," Fox said. "I've had several discussions with [manager] Bob Geren about my role on this team. ... I don't think they really saw what I can do. I never really showed them. This was the right move from their perspective, I guess."

Said role was never so much clearly defined, other than as a jack-of-all-trades type of player -- a position Fox believes didn't lend him enough consistent at-bats. In 39 games with the A's, the 27-year-old Fox posted a .214 average with two home runs and 12 RBIs. He started 11 games at designated hitter, seven at catcher and six in left field.

Fox, initially acquired via trade from the Cubs in December, will now be on the hunt for full-time work, something he hasn't necessarily seen much of in the Majors during his eight-year professional career -- six of which have mostly been spent in the Minors.

"I'm just going to go wherever it is I can play, whether someone picks me up or that's in the Minor Leagues," he said. "I'm going to play, and I'm going to have a fun time doing it. That's what I love to do. I love being out on the field."

Geren said the club is "hopeful" Fox will stay within the organization. The team has 10 days to trade or release Fox, who can also be put on waivers and -- provided he clears them -- outrighted to the Minors.

"We'll see where this goes the next few days," the A's skipper said. "We're finding out what's the best fit for our team. He did the best he could here. He has the power -- he just didn't link anything perfectly together.

"We just want to have the best 25 guys out there each day."

The transaction will likely be met with the removal of catcher Kurt Suzuki from the bereavement list. Thus, Landon Powell -- recalled Friday for his fourth stint with the A's this year -- will officially move into a full-time backup catcher role. Powell, however, knows job security is never a sure thing in the baseball world.

"One big thing I've learned this year -- in everything that's been going on, getting sent up and down so many times -- is to never be comfortable," he said. "No matter if you're the superstar or the last guy on the bench, don't be comfortable. I approach every day the same and prepare myself and play as hard as I can and just hope that I'm here at the end of the day every day."

### **Chavez taking time off to rest**

SAN FRANCISCO -- Sitting next to the front door of the clubhouse, Eric Chavez's locker was noticeably empty Sunday.

The ailing 32-year-old -- trying to recover from two bulging disks in his neck -- won't be making his scheduled return to Triple-A Sacramento on Monday.

A's manager Bob Geren said Chavez told him he didn't feel ready for baseball activities yet and that he'll take a few days off to rest. Chavez hasn't played since May 20 and was placed on the disabled list two days later. At the time, Chavez acknowledged his career might be over.

Geren said Coco Crisp, who was also scheduled to play in an intrasquad game in Arizona on Monday, is questionable to play because of a recent bout with the flu. Crisp was placed on the 15-day disabled list on May 26, retroactive to May 23, after straining an intercostal muscle in his ribcage.

"The good news is his injury's feeling really good," Geren said. "He's ready to play, he just had the touch of the flu yesterday that set him back."

Crisp, who signed a one-year, \$5.25 million deal this offseason, has only played in two games for the A's after missing the initial 42 contests with a broken left pinkie finger.

The plan is for Crisp to go on a Minor League rehab assignment later this week, and Geren said there is a chance Crisp could join the team as it continues Interleague Play in Chicago and St. Louis.

Geren gave A's second baseman Mark Ellis the day off Sunday, replacing him with Adam Rosales, who has played 38 games at second this season, his most at any position.

Ellis missed 28 games with a strained left hamstring earlier this season. Geren said he wanted to rest Ellis during a day game after a night game and said he liked how Ellis will get two days off with Monday's travel day to Chicago.

### **Kouzmanoff showing off hitting prowess**

SAN FRANCISCO -- When the A's traded for third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff this offseason, they knew they were adding some pop to the lineup.

In his three seasons with the Padres, Kouzmanoff averaged 20 home runs and 82 RBIs to go along with his .263 average.

During his current career-high 13-game hitting streak entering Sunday, Kouzmanoff has raised his average from .244 to .287. He's rattled off 23 hits in 51 at-bats (.451), including three home runs and 10 RBIs.

"He's not necessarily a streaky hitter; he's pretty consistent," said Oakland manager Bob Geren. "Right now he's seeing the ball real well, staying short."

Oakland also knew it was receiving a solid defender at the hot corner. Last season, Kouzmanoff toted a .990 fielding percentage -- tops in the National League -- after committing three errors in 311 chances. He's already doubled that total this season with seven errors in 179 chances.

"He's an excellent defender," Geren said. "He's had a couple throwing errors this year, but other than that, he's really doing well."

Kouzmanoff came over from San Diego with infielder Eric Sogard, who is currently batting .292 with Triple-A Sacramento. To get the pair, Oakland traded away outfielders Aaron Cunningham and Scott Hairston.

Cunningham was called up from Triple-A on Friday after batting .239 with four home runs and 22 RBIs. Hairston, meanwhile, is batting .220 with seven home runs and 15 RBIs in 42 games for the Padres this season.

### **Homer helps ease Carson's pain**

SAN FRANCISCO -- Four days later and his jaw still hurts.

A's outfielder Matt Carson, who became a bit of a celebrity after running full speed into the outfield wall Wednesday, said he's still getting a hard time about it.

"I've got plenty of texts about it," Carson said. "My brothers especially give me a hard time about it. It seems like everywhere I go, people ask, 'Oh, are you OK?'"

During Saturday's 5-4 loss to the Giants, Carson made some noise with his bat, recording his first home run of the year and the second of his career.

Throughout his Minor League career, Carson showed plenty of potential power. Drafted in the fifth round of the 2002 First-Year Player Draft by the Yankees, Carson never broke into the big leagues until last season with the A's.

After signing as a free agent with the Oakland organization following the 2008 season, Carson's power stroke peaked with Triple-A Sacramento last year. He hit 25 home runs and had 77 RBIs -- both career highs -- while batting .264.

"I feel like I have a little bit of power, but it's more just trying to put up good at-bats," Carson said. "I'm not trying to think about results. But that felt really good to knock that one out yesterday. I didn't know if I got enough of it, but it snuck out."

### **Worth noting**

Manager Bob Geren said outfielder Travis Buck has started to play in simulated games in Arizona and should be playing in Minor League games "relatively soon." Buck has been on the 15-day disabled list since April 21 with a strained right oblique muscle.

### **Cubs look to put up runs vs. A's**

By Matt Fortuna / MLB.com

Carlos Zambrano will be making his third start Tuesday since his return from the bullpen, but it's the bats behind him that are of bigger concern for the Cubs.

The Cubs entered Sunday's game against the White Sox just 5-for-37 with runners in scoring position in their previous five games. They went 1-for-1 with RISP in Sunday's dramatic 1-0 win against the Sox.

Overall, the Cubs' offense scored just seven total runs in three against their crosstown rivals, and they hope for more success at home against the Athletics.

"It's hard to play perfect games and when you're not scoring runs, and any little thing that happens on the field becomes magnified," manager Lou Piniella said before Sunday's nationally televised contest. "If you had seven or eight runs on the board, well, a guy missed a tag at second base."

Piniella was referring to the Cubs' final run surrendered Saturday. In the seventh inning, Juan Pierre avoided Starlin Castro's tag at second on a steal before Paul Konerko drove him home with a single. It proved costly, as it put the White Sox up 2-0 and the Cubs managed just one run in the ninth.

"We would talk about it tomorrow and get it corrected," Piniella said. "We did that today. The tarp was on the field but we did it out in the outfield and you correct the thing. Boy, when it costs you a ballgame, that's the play that you talk about or a ball falls somewhere or a play isn't made.

"Look, that's the way this game is. That's why I say if you want to put together something consistently winning wise, you have to score runs. I think we talk about this and we talk about that. Yesterday we were 1-for-10 with men in scoring position. Six strikeouts. When you're striking out, you're not advancing runners either."

The Cubs will look to do better against Oakland right-hander Trevor Cahill.

"You've got to score runs and when you're not scoring runs, you have to play perfect," Piniella said. "It's a tough game to play, I realize that. You've got to be a team that's well above .500 to do that with consistency."

#### **Athletics: Cahill looks for an encore**

Cahill is coming off one of the best performances of his young career. The 22-year-old went eight innings and gave up just one run on six hits and one walk while striking out four. He has six straight quality starts, going 2-1 with a 4.45 ERA during that span.

#### **Cubs: Zambrano goes for second win against Oakland**

Zambrano has just one career appearance against the A's, on June 20, 2004. He went 6 2/3 innings and gave up just one earned run on five hits while striking out eight in a 5-3 Cubs win.

#### **Worth noting**

Expect to see more of Tyler Colvin in the lineup for the Cubs. Chicago manager Lou Piniella has said the rookie outfielder will play more. Colvin went 0-for-3 Sunday. He is hitting .396. ... The Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks paraded around Wrigley Field on Sunday before the game. ... Oakland's Eric Chavez, who is trying to recover from two bulging disks in his neck, won't be making his scheduled return to Triple-A Sacramento on Monday because he is not ready. ... Oakland outfielder Travis Buck, who has been on the disabled list since April 21 with a strained right oblique muscle, has started to play in simulated games in Arizona and should be playing in Minor League games soon.

#### **Huff, Cain lead way as Giants sweep A's**

#### **Huff homers twice, Cain throws seven strong innings in Giants' 6-2 win**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Aubrey Huff backed Matt Cain with two big swings, and cracked on the surging right-hander after another Giants win.

Huff hit a pair of two-run homers, Cain powered his way to his fourth consecutive win and San Francisco beat the Oakland Athletics 6-2 on Sunday to complete a three-game series sweep.

"I already stole your thunder Cain," Huff joked as the pitcher spoke with reporters in the clubhouse.

"That's the answer to all your questions," Cain laughed in response.

Huff signed a one-year deal with the Giants in the offseason and got off to a sluggish start. He batted .247 with two homers in April but has been a tear since then, hitting .336 since May 1.

The veteran slugger, who had 15 homers with Baltimore and Detroit last season, has six homers and 13 RBIs over his last 16 games alone.

"The first month of the season I really tried to beat it and got in a lot of bad habits," Huff said. "I just got to a point where I stopped caring and just started seeing the ball and hitting it. If it goes, it goes. If it doesn't you take your doubles and triples."

The Giants, who were swept by the A's last month in Oakland, improved to 8-4 in June after scuffling to a 14-14 mark in May.

They moved a season-high eight games over .500 and pulled within 1 1/2 games of first-place San Diego in the NL West.

Manager Bruce Bochy altered his lineup before the game, moving Pablo Sandoval into the No. 2 slot while dropping Juan Uribe to fourth in the order.

The changes worked nicely.

Sandoval walked in the sixth and scored on Huff's ninth homer.

Uribe, batting cleanup for only the sixth time this season, followed with a drive to left to make it 4-1.

Sandoval also walked in the eighth before Huff hit a 2-2 pitch from Craig Breslow over the wall in right for his 10th career multihomer game.

"We got shut down at their place and we certainly wanted to return the favor," Bochy said. "There's no getting around that.

We wanted to get even with them and guys played well."

Cain (6-4) allowed one run and eight hits over seven innings. He is 4-0 with a 0.55 ERA in four starts since his last loss May 22 at Oakland, when the A's got an unearned run off the hard-throwing righty in a 1-0 victory.

"I'm just trying to get guys to swing early," Cain said. "I think I'm locating both sides of the plate a little better. That carries into being able to get other stuff working as well."

Jack Cust had three singles for Oakland, which dropped its sixth straight game at AT&T Park.

"We made too many mistakes," A's manager Bob Geren said.

"There were some positive things but there were errors that led to runs. It wasn't a good series, it really wasn't. We had too many things go wrong in a three-game series to overcome."

Vin Mazzaro (2-1) pitched a season-best six innings for Oakland, yielding four runs, three earned, and six hits.

Cain ran his scoreless streak to 16 innings before Landon Powell hit a two-out RBI single in the fourth. Cliff Pennington then doubled to right but Powell was thrown out trying to score, ending the inning.

Cain pitched out of another jam in the sixth. With one out and runners at the corners, he struck out Adam Rosales and retired Powell on a bouncer to second.

San Francisco's bullpen nearly let Cain's latest gem get away.

Reliever Dan Runzler's throwing error set up Kevin Kouzmanoff's RBI single in the eighth. Guillermo Mota then came in and walked two batters to load the bases before Santiago Casilla got pinch-hitter Mark Ellis to pop up for the final out of the inning.

The Giants grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second. Pat Burrell singled, took second on a throwing error by third baseman Kouzmanoff and scored on Bengie Molina's single.

## Minor League News

### Oakland A's Front Office Q&A: Farhan Zaidi P2

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Melissa Lockard, OaklandClubhouse.com

Jun 14, 2010

In part two of our conversation with Oakland A's Director of Baseball Operations Farhan Zaidi, we discuss some of the A's struggling prospects, whether the team will add at the major league level at the deadline, the impact of Ben Sheets in the clubhouse and more...

*\*Note: this conversation took place on Thursday morning, June 10*

For Part One of this interview, please click [here](#).

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*OaklandClubhouse: It has been a strange year in the system with all of the injuries and some of the underperformances by some of the top prospects. Are you disappointed with how the season has gone thus far in the minor leagues or is it too early to make that sort of designation?*

**Farhan Zaidi:** I do think it is early and I think every year you have a mix of guys who perform beyond your expectations and maybe other guys who, because of injuries or other factors, don't quite match up to your expectations. I do think that there is plenty of time for that to change. I think that is kind of the reality of the game. You come in every year and you have a set of expectations for players and some guys have really good seasons and some guys, unfortunately, don't have those really good seasons that they expect from themselves or that we were hoping for.

I think it always winds up being a mixed bag. I think the injuries this year are a little more than you would expect in a normal year. But I wouldn't say that it is an overall level of disappointment or anything like that. I think that the players that we have that have struggled a little bit are all players that we are optimistic will get back on the right track.

*OC: Two of the A's top prospects, [Chris Carter](#) and [Michael Taylor](#), have struggled at times this season, Carter to hit for average and Taylor in general. Are you worried at all about their performances?*

**FZ:** I've had a chance to watch Carter a few times, both on the Minor League Baseball website and in Sacramento and when you see him actually in person, and I don't know whether I've just gotten good looks, but he doesn't look like a guy who is hitting .230. He makes a lot of hard contact. He has really good at-bats. To be honest, he's a guy who I am not worried about the performance at all because I don't think the batting average is indicative of his overall batting performance.

As for Michael, there is always a transition, I think, coming into a new organization. He had a lot of expectations put on him and he obviously hasn't been physically 100 percent. He's a guy who was actually up in Triple-A last year [in the Phillies' organization] for 100-150 at-bats and he did very well. I don't think that we have any doubts that he is ready for this level and can flourish at this level. It's only been a few days since he has been back [from the disabled list for a calf strain] and they have been working him back into the line-up. I feel pretty good that at some point he is going to get it going and get his numbers to the level we think they should be.

*OC: [Corey Brown](#) and [Adrian Cardenas](#) were both recently sent down to Double-A from Triple-A. What do they need to show on the field to get another chance at the Triple-A level?*

**FZ:** I think at some point performance does matter. We are an organization that generally takes pride in having success at the minor league level and winning games. That's not just an ego thing for us where we like looking at the boxscores and seeing our teams are winning games. I think we view it, and I've always viewed it, as a critical part of development to put players in successful, winning environments. There's always got to be a balance between development and performance. Unfortunately this year we have losing records at basically every level. Guys are given some leeway from a player development standpoint, but, at some point, if we think a) that they would benefit from moving down a level to regain confidence and then come back and get another shot at it, and secondly, if we think that their struggles are having an effect on the overall team's performance then I think that is where sometimes you are compelled to make a move.

It's a very delicate balance and those are subjects of pretty extensive internal conversations. I don't think anyone is down on Corey or Adrian as prospects. We still think that they factor very much into a major league future. Neither of them are guys that, quite frankly, have a ton of Double-A at-bats, let alone Triple-A at-bats. For them to go back, and what Corey is doing since getting there is terrific [hitting nearly .400 with three homers] and I fully expect Adrian, when he gets in the line-up there [note: as of Thursday when this interview was conducted, Cardenas had not yet reported to Midland] to perform, as well. Our hope is that these guys will be back in Sacramento at some point this year and be back in big league camp next spring and still very much be part of the equation for the big league club going forward.

*OC: Turning to the major league team, it's fairly tight in the division right now, maybe as a lot of people expected that it would be. If in a month, it is still the same deal and the top three teams in the division are all still within a few games of each other, do you think the A's are in a position where you would make some moves to make a push or is it one of those things where if, say, [Brett Anderson](#) isn't back yet, the assessment might be even if you are only a couple of games out that it is not really going to happen this year?*

**FZ:** I do think that the division is playing out like how a lot of people anticipated and what we anticipated, as well, quite frankly. We did think that we were going to be competitive going into the year and we thought that the other three teams in the division could make cases for being the strongest team in the division. The standings and where we are is right around

where we expected.

I think that we've shown in the past the willingness and ability to go out there and make additions that we think would help the team if we were in this sort of position. I think it is going to be a constant process of evaluation. We have to evaluate our needs. We have to see what is available. We have to judge whether the price for making those additions would be worth what we would be giving up.

There are a lot of close divisions around baseball and there are going to be a lot of buyers around the deadline. If we are there and we are one of them, we certainly won't rule it out, but we also don't want to make an addition for the sake of making an addition and then ultimately realize that we didn't really improve the team that much in the process. Our plan was to be competitive this year.

That was the same thing that happened last year and what we didn't anticipate was the Angels being as good as they were and really running away with the division. As we sit right now, the Angels are playing well and the Rangers are now five games above .500 [as of Thursday morning], but it doesn't look like there is going to be that runaway team this year. I think it is going to be something that we continue to look at over the next month and a half.

*OC: What about Ben Sheets? Performance aside, it seems from the outside that he is a positive clubhouse influence and maybe fits into the team a little better than Matt Holliday did last year. Do you see Sheets as having a positive impact on the clubhouse?*

**FZ:** I think they are different personalities. I think that Matt really led by example. He was maybe the hardest working player that we've had here. Certainly as hard-working as anybody else. So I think that Matt led in his own way. I think that Ben is more vocal. He's a guy who, if you are in our clubhouse for any period longer than 30 seconds, you will probably hear him.

I think that is a good thing. We have a good clubhouse but it has been a relatively quiet clubhouse for the past few years. We don't have a lot of rah-rah guys. We have great guys, but that is not necessarily their personality. Sheets is a guy who has a lot of energy and enthusiasm. He's a prankster. And he's been around a long time and we don't have a lot of experience on this team. I think that gives him a lot of credibility with the other players, certainly with the other pitchers.

And you make a good point. I do think that he has really embraced being here. Seeing what a competitor he is, you can tell that he really missed the game last year when he was away from it. I think he has embraced being here, he's embraced being back on the field and he's definitely brought a positive energy to the team and the clubhouse which isn't lost on us. I think we've all noticed it. The coaching staff has noticed it and appreciated it and the players definitely love having him around.

### **Pitcher McBeth collects two hits in River Cats loss**

Sacramento River Cats

Despite two hits from pitcher Marcus McBeth, Sacramento couldn't hang on to an early lead and fell 7-6 to the host Portland Beavers on Sunday afternoon.

McBeth, who was drafted by Oakland as an outfielder before moving to pitcher while in Single-A, was inserted into Tony DeFranco's starting lineup Sunday because of a lack of available position players. First baseman Chris Carter was nursing a sore elbow after being hit by a pitch Saturday.

McBeth, batting ninth as the designated hitter, hit an RBI single in the second inning and doubled in the sixth for Sacramento. The River Cats scored six runs in that second inning for a 6-0 lead, but wouldn't score the rest of the way.

Portland answered with four runs in the fifth to chase Sacramento starter Graham Godfrey and three in the eighth to take the lead. Jonathan Hunton took to loss for the River Cats, allowing all three runs in the eighth.

### **'Riders get back in win column**

Frisco bounced back after a tough loss on Saturday night, beating Midland 7-2 on Sunday night at Dr Pepper Ballpark. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the fourth inning, the 'Riders were able to score three runs when RockHounds center fielder, Corey Brown, dropped a routine fly-ball off the bat of Renny Osuna with two outs and the bases loaded. Frisco center fielder, James Tomlin, then doubled down the left field line to score Osuna, giving the 'Riders a 4-1 lead that it would not give up.



Martin Perez (2-3, 5.32) started for Frisco and pitched four innings, allowing one run on one hit. He walked three and struck out six. It was his first start since being placed on the disabled list on June 3rd.

Andrew Laughter (1-0, 0.00) picked up the win for Frisco after being called up from High-A Bakersfield on June 12th. He pitched two scoreless innings, giving up one hit while striking out two.

Frisco (35-25) and Midland (29-32) will play the second game of a four-game series on Monday night, with first pitch scheduled for 7 PM.

### **Ports Drop Series Finale, 10-5**

**STOCKTON, Calif.** - Another late inning collapse cost the Stockton Ports (29-35) dearly, as they allowed nine runs in the last three innings to drop Sunday afternoon's game, 10-5, to Modesto (34-28). The Ports had a 5-2 lead before giving up six runs in the eighth and two runs in the ninth. The Nuts collected 15 hits off Ports pitchers, and tagged the Ports bullpen for eight runs. Only three of those runs were earned however, as the Ports committed three errors in the eighth frame.

Paul Smyth picked up the blown save and loss for Stockton, while Michael Marbry collected the win for the Nuts. Southpaw starter Ben Hornbeck gave the Ports a good start, allowing just two runs with six strikeouts in 6.1 innings. Jermaine Mitchell went 3x5 with a pair of doubles, while Mike Spina went 3x4 with two RBI for Stockton. The Ports totaled 13 hits in the game, but could only muster five runs as they stranded nine runners.

Stockton took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Centerfielder Jermaine Mitchell doubled to left field to lead off the inning. Stephen Parker was hit by a pitch to put two on with one out. Mitchell scored the first run of the game off a single by right fielder Jeremy Barfield. Petey Paramore followed suit with a single toward first that allowed Parker to score, and Mike Spina collected his first RBI on the afternoon with a single. Modesto starter Dan Houston then retired the next two batters to end the threat.

The Ports pulled ahead 4-0 in the third inning, as left fielder Shane Keough singled to bring home Paramore.

Modesto chalked up their first run in the top of the fourth. First baseman Ben Paulsen singled to left field to start the inning. He moved to second on a single by catcher Jordan Pacheco. Jimmy Cesario hit a bunt single to load the bases with no out for third baseman Ryan Peisel. Peisel hit into a double play, as Parker tagged third to put out Pacheco and threw the ball to second baseman Gernaldo Castillo to put out Cesario at second. Paulsen scored on the play. Radames Nazario grounded out to end the inning with the score 4-1.

Modesto scored their second run in the top of the seventh inning on a sacrifice RBI by Paulsen to make it 4-2. But the Ports added an insurance run in the bottom of the frame. Parker led off with a double to right field. He came around to score on an RBI single by Spina. The Ports would get two on with two out before left fielder Shane Keough struck out to end the inning.

The Ports had a 5-2 lead going into the top of the eighth. Lance Sewell was on the hill for Stockton, and gave up a leadoff single to Cesario to begin the eighth inning. The Ports replaced him with Smyth, who surrendered a double to center to Peisel. The hit scored Cesario to make it 5-3. Smyth then walked Nazario, who is only batting .133 on the year, to put two on with no out. Scott Robinson then hit a sacrifice bunt to Smyth, who mishandled the ball for the first error of the inning.

All runners were safe for centerfielder Mike Mitchell. He struck out swinging for the first out of the frame. Right fielder Tim Wheeler then stepped up to the play and hit the ball toward third. He reached safely on a force out, as Parker committed a throwing error. Peisel scored on the play to bring the Nuts within a run.

Shortstop Thomas Field came up to the plate and put the Nuts ahead with a grand slam over the left field wall on a 0-1 pitch. It was his tenth home run of the year, and gave him 38 RBI on the season. It also gave Modesto an 8-5 lead. Paulsen then grounded out to Spina for the second out of the inning. But Spina then committed a fielding error with Pacheco at-bat to put another runner on. Cesario, who started the inning, came back and popped out to Richard to end the inning. Only one of the six runs were earned for Ports relievers.

Kurt Yacko retired the Ports in order in the bottom of the eighth, and the Nuts came right back to score another pair of run in the ninth. The Ports called on Scott Hodsdon to pitch the ninth. He gave up a leadoff double to Peisel, who came around to score on an RBI single by Robinson. Robinson stole second while Mike Mitchell was batting, and a single to right by Mitchell allowed Robinson to cross the plate for the tenth Modesto run.

Modesto called on Adam Jorgenson to pitch the ninth inning, and he retired the side to seal the win and the series victory for the Nuts.

The Ports will head to Bakersfield for their last road trip of the first half. RHP Michael Madsen (1-1, 1.86) will start for Stockton, while RHP Michael Main (2-3, 4.04) will start for Bakersfield on Monday. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Sam Lynn Ballpark.

### **Cougars Rally to Stun Captains**

### **Kane County uses 8-run 8<sup>th</sup> to claim 4<sup>th</sup> straight series**

**GENEVA, III.** – The Kane County Cougars pulled off an improbable 8-6 victory Sunday afternoon against the Lake County Captains, scoring eight runs in the bottom of the eighth inning after it looked like they might suffer a rain-shortened 5-0 loss. Kent Walton's three-run triple put the team ahead, and Jose Guzman posted his seventh save with a scoreless ninth. The Cougars' finished their six-game homestand with a 4-2 mark, winning both series. They have won four straight sets overall.

The Cougars trailed, 6-0, entering the bottom of the eighth. Conner Crumbliss drilled a two-run double to score Myrio Richard and Mike Gilmartin and make it 6-2. Then Crumbliss scored as pitcher Nick Sarianides (5-2) threw away Tyreece House's bunt down the right-field line, allowing House to take third. After Anthony Aliotti's RBI single made it 6-3, Max Stassi singled and Rashun Dixon walked to load the bases. Leonardo Gil popped out, but Walton pulled a three-bagger down the left side to put the team ahead, 7-6. Richard, the 10th batter to hit in the frame, singled in Walton for the 8-6 score.

Starter Murphy Smith gave up five runs in the first inning before settling down to last six innings. A.J. Huttenlocker worked a perfect seventh and began the eighth inning by allowing a single before a 1-hour, 17-minute rain delay interrupted the contest. After the delay, Max Peterson (2-2) let the inherited runner score but ended up with the victory thanks to the Cougars' rally. Guzman had runners at first and second before he induced a game-ending double play to wrap it up.

The Cougars (30-34) are off Monday and return to action Tuesday night at 7 CT in the Quad Cities with the opener of a three-game series against the playoff-contending River Bandits. Justin Marks (2-6, 5.37) will be on the mound for the Cougars against Justin Smith (3-0, 1.98). The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and online at [www.kccougars.com](http://www.kccougars.com) with pregame coverage starting at 6:45 p.m.

### **Oakland A's Prospect Q&A: Michael Gilmartin**

David Malamut, OaklandClubhouse.com

Jun 13, 2010

Michael Gilmartin, the Oakland A's 27th round draft pick in 2009, has been a regular in the Kane County infield this season. The switch-hitter is hitting .279 in June and has driven-in 24 runs in 60 games. David Malamut spoke to the Wofford alum over the weekend.

*David Malamut: How has the season gone so far?*

**Michael Gilmartin:** It's gone good. It's been fun. I get a lot of work in and get better every day. Kind of ups and downs. I just kind of stay on an even keel the whole year.

*DM: What do you have to work on defensively?*

**MG:** Slow rollers and back hands are my two main things. On slow rollers I tend to be too quick sometimes. I've just got to trust my ability and trust my arm.

*DM: How about offensively?*

**MG:** Working on getting on top of the ball, hitting hard line drives and ground balls, putting balls in gaps.

*DM: What's your mentality at the plate?*

**MG:** Less than two strikes I'm just trying to get a good pitch to hit, and hit it hard somewhere. After the ball leaves the bat you have no control of where it is going to go, so I'm just trying to put a good swing on the ball.

*DM: What did you learn playing at Creps High?*

**MG:** Learned a lot of stuff. They have a good coach over there. We had a pretty good team over there too. We had Trevor Plouffe, 20th overall pick for the Twins the year before me, and a kid by the name of Ollie Linton. He is in Double-A right now. So we had a pretty good group of core guys there. I just learned how to go out and have fun and just play the game the right way.

*DM: What was it like playing for Wofford and UC-Irvine?*

**MG:** It was a good experience for me. I red-shirted my freshmen year [at UC-I], so I kind of sat in the dugout and watched and just tried to soak up as much information as possible, and then at Wofford it just gave me a chance to play, and that's all that I was looking for was a chance to play, learn how to go out there every day and hopefully make a good career for myself and make a good name for myself. I didn't want to go the junior college route and sit out a year. It's a good academic school. They're not known for their sports as much, but it's a good athletic program and it gave me a chance to play and things worked out fairly well for me.

*DM: How was the Cape Cod League?*

**MG:** It was the best summer of my life so far, besides this one right now. It was fun playing against the top competition every day. Cape Cod is a really nice place to go vacation and just on our off days my host family was really nice. We went out and had a boat and we went out on the boat. It was really nice. I think I learned how to play with wood in the summer time in the Cape and all those kind of places, so it's not that big of a deal, right now. There isn't difference at all since I've been using it all the time now, once you first start transitioning from metal to wood it's kind of hard when you just start out, but once you get used to it you will be fine.

*DM: How was draft day?*

**MG:** It was good. It was a little nerve-racking. I mean, I wasn't sure exactly where I was going to go, or who I was going to go to, so it was kind of nice to just hear my name. It was kind of a relief after it all happened. I listened and then I saw it on the draft tracker on the computer. Playing in Oakland system, it's a real good system. They do a real good job in teaching their younger guys and developing players through their system. It's a real good environment to just go out there and learn and get better every day.

*DM: You pitched in high school and college?*

**MG:** Yeah I was the number two pitcher in high school and did ok there, and in college I was kind of a closer because we really didn't have anybody else, so I kind of did that a little bit. I had a fastball, changeup and slider.

*DM: Did any of the pitching help by being able to know what might be coming at you as a hitter?*

**MG:** A little bit. Basically at the plate I'm just trying to see the ball and hit the ball, and once I start thinking at the plate I've tried that a couple of times and right now the best way for me to go at the plate is 'see the ball and hit the ball,' and I try to keep it as simple as possible. The pitching has helped me kind of think along a little bit, but I try to keep the thinking to a minimum when I'm in the box.

*DM: How was Vancouver?*

**MG:** Fun. It was the first time I've been to Canada. The people were really nice, I had good host parents there. It was a good short season experience for me, the first professional start to my career, so it was good for me.

*DM: A history major?*

**MG:** I don't actually have my degree yet. I've got to go back and get it. I have about a semester and a half left. My aunt she is a history major so she kind of influenced me on that one a little bit. Eventually one of these off-seasons I'm going to go back. After baseball I'm going to become a pro golfer. I'm ok. If I practice and play every day, I can be good, right now I haven't played in awhile so if I went out there I would probably shoot close to 100 right now.

*DM: How has your experience being in the Midwest League been?*

**MG:** It's fun so far, a lot of fun. Kane County is an excellent place to play. We get good fan support. I've never actually been to the Midwest. This is my first time in the Midwest, so going to Iowa and Illinois and all those kind of places, Dayton, Ohio, just seeing what's around in the Midwest and seeing what's here. The weather in April was a little brutal. I'm not a big cold weather guy, playing in the cold with wood bats is no fun at all. The road trips have been good so far. We haven't had any really too long ones yet. I mean Bowling Green was our furthest one and that's only like seven hours, so that's not too bad at all. It's a lot better than the Northwest League. We took a trip to Boise and our bus broke down, and we had to stay in a Walmart parking lot for the night. None of those experiences so far this year.

*DM: If you were not playing baseball what would you be doing?*

**MG:** Probably playing golf.

*DM: Besides golf and baseball what do you like to do?*

**MG:** That's about it, just hang out, not much. Just do whatever.

*DM: Top 5 artists in your iPod?*

**MG:** I'm a country guy, Eric Church, Jason Aldeine, Brad Paisley, Jake Owen.

*DM: Who was your biggest influence growing up?*

**MG:** I'd say my dad and my mom, my whole family. They are real close as a family, and they always used to come to my games. They taught me to do things the right way and I think it's paying off for me now in a big way.

*DM: Baseball hero growing up?*

**MG:** I like Chipper Jones. I'm a big Braves fan because he is a switch-hitter.

*DM: Did you always switch-hit?*

**MG:** I started my freshman year in high school. I would always toy around with it in the back yard a little bit. I'm a natural left hander. I'm getting used to it a lot more, there are not a whole lot of lefties around the league, so it's kind of hard to get your reps in right-handed so that stays on par with your left-hand side.

*DM: This being your first full pro season what did you do last off-season to prepare?*

**MG:** Worked out every day, did running, throwing and hitting all that kind of stuff. Just tried to get myself in the best physical condition to go out there in spring training and win a spot.

*DM: How about spring training?*

**MG:** Spring training was good. A fun experience, my first one. I talked to a couple of people so I knew what to expect a little bit. Other than that it was a good experience for me.