

## A's News Clips, Saturday, August 14, 2010

### Oakland A's miss slew of opportunities in first visit to Target Field

Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

As impressed as the A's were with Target Field on Friday, they'll want to flush away the memories of their inaugural game at the Minnesota Twins' spiffy new ballpark.

The A's delivered quite the housewarming gift during a 4-3 series-opening loss with their inability to convert with men on base.

They finished 2 for 20 with runners in scoring position, the first time in Oakland history that they had as many as 20 at-bats with men in scoring position and got two or fewer hits.

They tied a season high by stranding 13 runners, answering the riddle as to how a team outhits the opponent 14-5 and still comes out on the losing end.

"In a one-run game, you definitely look back on opportunities," designated hitter Jack Cust said. "When you win a game like that, you kind of forget about it. But when you lose one it gets you a little more."

A's manager Bob Geren spoke well of Target Field before the game, but afterward he was left to talk about his team's missed opportunities.

"We swung the bats well, but we had a couple opportunities with runners on third and we didn't get the job done," he said.

The theme was set early as Coco Crisp and Daric Barton reached base to start the game but were left stranded.

Two errors and an early bout of wildness from left-hander Gio Gonzalez also contributed to the A's undoing.

Gonzalez walked three batters -- including Jason Kubel with the bases loaded -- during the Twins' two-run rally in the bottom of the first.

Those runs were unearned, as shortstop Cliff Pennington had Denard Span's grounder take a bad hop and kick off his glove for an error to start the inning.

Gonzalez (10-8) steadied the ship and lasted six innings, giving up just three hits and two earned runs.

"You can't give them any freebies," Gonzalez said. "They swing the bat and do their job."

The A's pulled even at 2-2 in the third as Barton tripled to right-center to score Pennington and Cust doubled deep to left to score Kurt Suzuki.

But those clutch hits have been few and far between for the A's, who recently suffered through an 0-for-35 streak with runners in scoring position.

Trailing 4-2, they squandered a bases-loaded, one-out situation in the eighth when Crisp grounded into a double play.

An inning earlier, they had runners at second and third with one out. Cust waved at a 3-1 pitch and took a 3-2 slider down the middle for the second out. Kevin Kouzmanoff then stung a liner that resulted in Twins shortstop Alexi Casilla making a diving backhanded catch.

"It's kind of been the story the last couple series," Cust said. "We've had a lot of guys on base but can't cash in."

The A's pulled to within 4-3 in the ninth against closer Matt Capps. With two outs, Casilla misplayed Kouzmanoff's grounder that allowed Suzuki to score. But with runners on first and second, Rajai Davis hit a game-ending fly to center.

The Twins helped their own cause with some sterling defense. Span made a diving catch in center to rob Pennington and strand a runner on second in the sixth.

Minnesota also executed, as Drew Butera laid down a successful suicide squeeze as part of a two-run fourth. That rally was aided when Davis let Delmon Young's base hit kick off his glove in right field, allowing Young to reach second.

## **A's top pitching prospect Michael Ynoa to have Tommy John surgery**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS -- Prized pitching prospect Michael Ynoa is scheduled to have right elbow surgery Aug. 24 and the A's anticipate he will need reconstruction of his ulnar collateral ligament.

That procedure, typically referred to as Tommy John surgery, likely would sideline Ynoa anywhere from 12 to 18 months.

Though the A's have lost numerous players to injury on their big league roster, this development has big ramifications for the future.

The A's gave Ynoa, 18, a \$4.25 million bonus when they signed him out of the Dominican Republic in July 2008. He was just 16 but already stood 6-foot-7 and had a fastball in the mid 90s.

The bonus is the highest a major league team has given an international amateur not from Cuba.

The A's envision a future ace, but Ynoa has been plagued with elbow problems since last season. He was shut down after just three starts in the Arizona Rookie League this season.

He'll have surgery performed by Dr. Lewis Yocum.

A's assistant general manager David Forst said the extent of the surgery will depend on what Yocum finds but added the A's "anticipate" it being a UCL reconstruction.

"It's a disappointing setback, but it's an issue that everyone is anxious to resolve," GM Billy Beane said in a text.

Veteran right-hander Ben Sheets underwent UCL reconstruction on Monday, but fellow A's pitchers Fautino De Los Santos, Joey Devine, Dan Giese, John Meloan and Josh Outman all have had Tommy John surgery since 2008.

Triple-A right-hander Tyson Ross has been sidelined recently with a strained UCL. He'll be out of Triple-A Sacramento's rotation for about four weeks, but Forst said an MRI showed no tear in the ligament.

The A's got more bad news as utility man Adam Rosales went on the DL with a stress fracture in his right ankle. He's scheduled to rest for four weeks, leaving open the possibility that the A's will shut him down for the season.

Forst said an MRI taken on the last homestand showed Rosales had a long-standing stress fracture that he was unaware of. He'd been playing with pain off and on for more than a year.

Infielder Steve Tolleson was recalled from Sacramento to take his roster spot.

Outfielder Conor Jackson (strained right hamstring) is now playing rehab games for Sacramento, and his return appears close.

## **Chin Music: Lineups and pregame updates**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/13/2010 4:50PM

Here's tonight's lineups:

A's — Crisp CF, Barton 1B, Suzuki C, Cust DH, Kouzmanoff 3B, Ellis 2B, Davis RF, Carter LF, Pennington SS; Gonzalez LHP.

Twins — Span CF, Hudson 2B, Mauer DH, Cuddyer 1B, Kubel RF, Young LF, Valencia 3B, Casilla SS, Butera C; Pavano RHP.

–Conor Jackson played nine innings with Single-A Stockton last night and will join Triple-A Sacramento tonight. Looks like his return is just around the corner. ... Andrew Bailey had another good day of long toss, but still no word on when he'll get on the mound.

That's all for now. The essential news of the day was in my earlier post ... First impression of Target Field is a strong one. It's built on a very small plot of land and there's a pretty cozy feeling inside. The stadium opens up in right field to display the downtown skyline. That always scores points w/me ...

## **Chin Music: Injury news continues for A's — Adam Rosales to DL, Michael Ynoa likely to have Tommy John surgery**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/13/2010 2:22PM

Here's an early post since there's news to report from Target Field, which still has that new ballpark smell to me ...

–The A's placed Adam Rosales on the disabled list with a stress fracture in his right ankle, and the plan is for him to rest for four weeks. Considering it's mid-August, it seems possible Rosales could be shelved the rest of the season, though assistant GM David Forst said it's too early to tell.

The bigger long-term concern for the A's came with today's news that prized pitching prospect Michael Ynoa will undergo elbow surgery Aug. 24, and the A's expect him to have ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction — or Tommy John surgery. Dr. Lewis Yocum will handle the procedure, and Forst said the exact work to be done won't be known until Yocum begins operating. Deja vu, wouldn't you say? Just two days ago, you read that Ben Sheets will have UCL reconstruction. This news regarding Ynoa, 18, obviously is troubling for the A's considering how highly touted he is and how much money is invested in him. The A's gave him a \$4.25 million bonus in July 2008, the biggest bonus a major league team had ever given an international amateur who wasn't from Cuba. The typical recovery time frame from this surgery is anywhere from 12 to 18 months.

Perhaps it's best for Ynoa and the A's that he's getting this out of the way now. Tommy John surgery is a rather common procedure these days and lots of pitchers recover from it fully (Andrew Bailey, for one, had it in college). But when will the parade of A's pitchers having Tommy John surgery end? Since the start of the 2008 season, Joey Devine, Josh Outman, Dan Giese, John Meloan, Fautino De Los Santos, Ben Sheets and Ynoa have either had the procedure or are scheduled to have it. That's a lot of arms on the mend ...

I'll have another update after Bob Geren gives his daily media address ...

## **Twins do little things better than A's, win 4-3**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

The Twins executed nicely with just a few men in scoring position Friday night, and Oakland did quite the opposite, with a lot of them.

The A's were 2-for-20 with runners in scoring position - the first time in Oakland history they had at least 20 such at-bats and got no more than two hits. They left 13 men on base, tying their season high.

Oakland also made two errors in its first-ever game at Target Field, leading to two unearned runs against Gio Gonzalez, and the A's fell 4-3.

"It's been the story the past couple of series - a lot of guys on base, and we couldn't cash in," A's designated hitter Jack Cust said. "We had a lot more hits than them, a lot more opportunities, and we couldn't get the big hit."

Oakland stranded runners at third in the first inning, the fourth, the seventh and the eighth. The most glaring was the seventh, when the A's had runners at second and third with one out. Cleanup man Cust struck out looking against left-hander Ron Mahay (Cust said he thought the pitch would break the way another had earlier in the bat, and it did not), and shortstop Alexi Casilla made a diving catch to his right on a low liner by Kevin Kouzmanoff to end the inning.

By the eighth, it was predictable: The A's loaded the bases with one out, and Coco Crisp hit into a double play.

It looked as if Kurt Suzuki would get stuck at second after a one-out double in the ninth, but an error by Casilla on a sharply hit ball by Kouzmanoff allowed Suzuki to score.

Gonzalez had trouble of his own making in the first, when he walked three, including one with the bases loaded, before settling down.

With the game tied 2-2 in the fourth, Rajai Davis let a base hit by Delmon Young past him, and Young scored on a ground-rule double by Danny Valencia. A sacrifice bunt moved Valencia to third, and he raced home as Drew Butera dropped down a suicide-squeeze bunt on a curveball that Gonzalez said was almost in the dirt.

The A's day started off routinely, for them: They placed a man on the disabled list. Adam Rosales was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his right ankle. A recent MRI exam showed what the A's thought was an old fracture, but that stress fracture never fully healed. Rosales will have to rest for a month, putting the rest of his season in doubt, although assistant general manager David Forst said, "Knowing what kind of guy Adam is, he'll make every effort to play."

Infielder Steve Tolleson was recalled. Oakland has used the DL 22 times, tied for second-most in team history.

## **Tommy John surgery for A's bonus-baby Ynoa**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

**Michael Ynoa** made headlines two years ago when he received the largest-ever signing bonus for an international player not from Cuba. He was 16 years old when the A's surprised much of baseball by outbidding many deep-pocketed teams, giving the Dominican right-hander \$4.25 million.

On Friday, A's assistant general manager **David Forst** said that Ynoa, who is 18, is expected to have Tommy John surgery (elbow ligament reconstruction) on Aug. 24. The procedure will be performed by Dr. **Lewis Yocum**.

Ynoa has pitched only nine innings in the A's organization. The team brought him along slowly, and then he began to have elbow problems last year.

"All the disappointments he's had the past year or so were all in his face when I saw him in Phoenix the other day," A's director of player development **Keith Lieppman** said. "He wanted to go out and show what he could do so much, but unfortunately it's going to be a little longer. He's definitely disappointed and unhappy."

Because of his age, Ynoa went through four or five rehab programs for the elbow before conceding to surgery. He will be out 12 to 18 months and will rehab in Arizona.

"He was constantly getting looked at," Lieppman said. "I don't know how many diagnostic studies were done. Especially because Michael was still growing, we wanted to do anything we could to avoid surgery."

Another promising pitcher, right-handed reliever **Justin Souza**, who impressed the A's during the spring, will miss the remainder of the season because of a stress fracture in his right elbow, Lieppman said. Souza will have the arm immobilized for several weeks but is expected to be healthy for spring training.

**Briefly:** The injury news is much better for closer **Andrew Bailey**, who threw at a distance of 140 feet and felt good. He's likely to throw off the mound Sunday. ... **Conor Jackson** went 0-for-3 with a strikeout and a walk at Triple-A Sacramento on Friday night. ... The A's did consider acquiring **Jose Guillen**, who was traded to the Giants on Friday, but decided he was not the right fit. Guillen played well for Oakland for half a season in 2003, including during the playoffs, when he went 5-for-11 despite a broken bone in his hand.

## **A's leading off**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

**Erratic:** Jack Cust, the A's cleanup hitter and designated hitter, doubled in the third inning Friday to give him his first RBI in 15 games. Over his 10 games before that, he hit .364 with six homers and 15 RBIs.

## **Drumbeat: Rosales to the DL: Tommy John surgery for Ynoa**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle 8/13/2010 12:20PM

UPDATE: Michael Ynoa, the Dominican hot-shot prospect the A's gave a record \$4.25 million signing bonus to two years ago when he was 16, is going to have Tommy John surgery on Aug. 24. Dr. Lewis Yocum will perform the procedure.

That's another big heaping of bad injury news for the A's, but one thing to keep in mind is that Ynoa is still only 18. He should be fully recovered and pitching in the A's system when he's 20. If he's the talent the A's believe, it's a setback, but it shouldn't be a career-ender, and he'll be on the level of a kid drafted out of junior college. Admittedly, with far less experience - he's played nine innings of real, organized baseball.

I hope this doesn't scare the team off continuing to scrap with the big boys for the top international prospects; it still is a very good means for building up what had become something of a stagnant organization. I know the A's are committed to their international ops; every pitcher who signs at any level is always a potential health risk. Throwing hurts arms. And I saw Ynoa work out last spring, and his mechanics looked smooth, his delivery nice and easy. Many scouts thought Tyson Ross might be prone to injury with his short stride, but there's nothing I saw with Ynoa that screamed injury. I've heard others say differently, however, and of course I only saw him work out briefly.

As I'm sure you are all know by now, like me through constant repetition, Tommy John surgery requires a 12-18 month recovery time but it usually is something pitchers come back very well from, sometimes even better than before.

Ynoa is one of the few A's drafted and developed (if we can say he's developed yet) players who has a torn UCL; most of the others (Devine, Outman, obviously Sheets) are from elsewhere. As I reported yesterday, Ross has a UCL sprain but requires only rest, not surgery.

ANOTHER UPDATE: Andrew Bailey threw from 140 feet, felt great, Curt Young says Sunday is likely for Bailey to throw off the mound. That meanshe could be back sometime next week, though I'd guess it would be toward the end of the week at the soonest. They're probably want him to throw at least two or three times off the mound, have a day off or two in there, and maybe work in a simulated game or live batting practice, if not a rehab game.

Here's the lineup: Crisp cf, Barton 1b, Suzuki c, Cust dh, Kouzmanoff 3b, Ellis 2b, Davis rf, Carter lf, Pennington ss

### ORIGINAL POST

You can't even get a cup of coffee without the A's putting someone on the DL - today, it's Adam Rosales, which I'd speculated would happen two days ago when he was sent back to the Bay Area to have his problem ankle checked out.

A specialist determined that what had appeared to be an old stress fracture on a recent MRI was, in fact, still not healed. Rosales has had ankle trouble for more than a year, and this means that he has probably been playing on a stress fracture all this time.

Rosales thought it was tendinitis - this is dating back to his time with the Reds, so don't point at the A's medical staff - and he said it started to bother him more after the All-Star break. On the last homestand, when he began to complain of pain, the MRI was done, but given Rosales' history and where the stress fracture was located compared to where he was feeling

discomfort, it was thought that the old fracture had healed. (As I'm sure most of you know, old fractures and new ones show up on X-rays and MRIs and stress fractures don't necessarily show at all on X-rays.)

When he could only play one inning on Wednesday after three days off, he was sent for a more thorough evaluation. Now, he must rest for a month in order to make sure the fracture heals completely.

That might mean the end of Rosales' season, given that it's mid-August. But assistant general manager David Forst said that "knowing Adam," he'll give it a good shot to be on the field before the end of the season.

As I'd speculated the other day, Steve Tolleson was recalled. He's been up once before this year, and he's also been Sacramento's most consistently good hitter all season. Plus, he can play second, third and shortstop. You couldn't draw up a more ideal replacement for Rosales.

The team's DL use is now up to 22 for the season, tied for the A's second most all-time. The record of 25 from two years ago remains within reach, but with just two weeks left before September, it's going to be tough. Not really a joking matter, I guess.

I'll post the lineup when I get out there.

## **Hits add up, but A's can't overcome Twins**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

MINNEAPOLIS -- Oakland stirred up quite the recipe for a series-opening loss in Minnesota on Friday.

All in all, it wasn't too tasty.

There were game-changing walks. There were game-changing errors. And, in line with a recent game-changing A's trend, there were one too many runners left in scoring position.

Thus, Oakland's first-ever game at shiny new Target Field -- a narrow 4-3 loss to the host Twins -- wasn't exactly one for the memory books.

Surprisingly, the A's actually out-hit the Twins by a fairly large margin of 14 to five. Yet, they left a season-high-tying 13 runners on base en route to going 2-for-20 with runners in scoring position -- marking the first time in A's history they tallied 20 or more at-bats with RISP and garnered two or fewer hits.

"We put a lot of guys on base, but we couldn't cash in," said Jack Cust, who collected two hits but also struck out looking with just one out and runners on second and third in the seventh. "A run here, a run there, it could be a different ballgame.

"Not only did we get a lot of hits, but we hit the ball hard for a lot of outs. That's frustrating for guys who are hitting the ball well but have nothing to show for it."

Lefty Gio Gonzalez also endured a dose of frustration, his coming quickly following a Cliff Pennington fielding error to kick off the first. Gonzalez walked Orlando Hudson and watched Joe Mauer ground into a fielder's choice after Pennington bobbled a potential double play ball to put runners on first and third with one out.

The A's southpaw proceeded to offer back-to-back free passes to Michael Cuddyer and Jason Kubel, the latter which scored a run. Minnesota added another run in the inning on an RBI single from Danny Valencia to make it 2-0 before Gonzalez escaped with 34 pitches already attached to his name.

"A walk always hurts," the A's hurler said. "I'm pretty sure any pitcher at the Major League level doesn't want to walk in a run like that."

"He had a very rough first inning," A's manager Bob Geren said. "When he finally did get command and rhythm, it was later in the game."

Following the first frame, four of Gonzalez's final five innings resulted in the Twins being sent down in order. But in the middle of those frames, after Oakland had tied the game, 2-2, thanks to a run-scoring triple from Daric Barton and an RBI single from Cust in the third, an eventful fourth changed all.

It began when Delmon Young singled and advanced to second on another A's fielding error, this time from Rajai Davis, who watched the ball go past him in right field. Valencia followed with an RBI double, and after Alexi Casilla moved him to third on a sacrifice bunt, he made his way home on a suicide squeeze play with Drew Butera tallying an RBI sacrifice bunt.

"I wasn't surprised," Gonzalez said. "I heard the guys, I even heard fans yelling, 'Squeeze!' It was a good squeeze, a great squeeze on a curveball that almost hit the ground."

Now down 4-2, the A's proceeded to leave a runner on second base in each of the next two frames before entering a big scoring opportunity in the seventh. It was in that frame when Oakland forced Twins starter Carl Pavano out of the game with one out, at which point Cust greeted Twins reliever Ron Mahay with a 3-1 count.

The A's cleanup hitter, who entered the game mired in an 8-for-41 slump, swung at what would have been ball four to set up a full count. The next pitch, however, left Cust frozen and was called for a strike and out No. 2.

"When it was 3-1, I chased that ball," he said. "On a 3-2, I was just trying to see the ball. I saw it good, it just didn't break as much as I thought it would like the one earlier in the at-bat. That one stayed, kind of hit the outside corner."

Thus, Kevin Kouzmanoff was left to salvage a run with two outs. The A's third baseman quickly went after a slider and lined it toward left field, but Casilla made a diving catch to his right to end the threat.

"That was a tremendous play," Geren said.

"They threatened a lot of innings, these guys made some great plays behind me," Pavano said. "Our team definitely supplied ESPN with some web gems tonight because they made some great plays behind me."

By the time Pavano exited, Gonzalez was gone too, having surrendered just three hits while striking out seven but walking four in six innings en route to giving up four runs, only two of which were earned. His 66 walks this year represent the second most in the American League only to Rangers hurler C.J. Wilson's 69.

Meanwhile, it was more of the same for the A's offense the rest of the game, as Coco Crisp grounded into a double play with the bases loaded to end the eighth. In the ninth, Oakland scored on a fielding error by Casilla to make it 4-3 and had runners on first and second with two outs before Davis flied out to center on the first pitch he saw from Matt Capps, who sealed his third save with the Twins.

"A hit here, a hit there," Geren said, "could have made a difference. We just didn't get it done."

## **A's red-hot Cahill tries to silence Twins**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

Even without premier first baseman Justin Morneau, the Twins are rolling right along in their quest to win a third straight American League Central division title.

In 32 games since Morneau went down with a concussion on July 7, Minnesota is 21-11, averaging 5.7 runs per game and batting .303 as a team.

"The boys keep winning, that helps, but it's tough," Morneau said. "You have to think long-term rather than short-term. You want to be out there."

With Friday's 4-3 loss to the Twins came the latest reminder of why the A's are looking up at the Rangers in the American League West: their inability to win on the road and get hits with runners in scoring position.

Though the A's certainly had their chances Friday -- a couple more were wiped out by fine Minnesota defense. Oakland went 2-for-20 with runners in scoring position. At least they'll have the services of All-Star righty Trevor Cahill on Saturday to help shore up the road trip, as the A's have gone 1-3 in Seattle and Minneapolis so far.

"If I'm not going to strike guys out, I've got to go deep into games," Cahill said. "I think that's kind of what I didn't do last year, get ahead of a lot of guys. This year I'm able to get ahead of them and go deeper into games and save the bullpen."

The ever-reliable Cahill has looked superb in his last three starts, going at least eight innings in each, as he is 3-0 with a 0.00 ERA. He has faced the Twins once this year, allowing three earned runs on five hits and four walks over six innings on June 5 and was left with no decision.

Southpaw Brian Duensing will take the mound for Minnesota. Duensing is 2-0 with a 3.33 ERA in four starts since joining the Twins rotation after making 39 relief appearances to start the season.

### **Twins: Morneau playing thing safe**

Morneau is working out regularly at Target Field, but is still feeling post-concussion symptoms daily. Minnesota has scaled back his workout regimen and will proceed with caution, saying it wants to see Morneau progress until he's symptom-free for a stretch of a few days.

"The one thing we want to make sure is that we cover all the bases and do all the right things with this young man," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "One of the things the doctors have been saying is, a concussion you can deal with if you can get through it, but a concussion on top of a concussion is a really bad thing.

### **A's: Rosales sent to DL**

It seems like the only thing that could slow down Adam Rosales -- who sprints everywhere, even on home runs -- is a bum ankle. On Friday, Rosales was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a stress fracture in his right ankle, after it was initially diagnosed to be tendinitis. He's expected to miss a month.

"All indications were that it was an old fracture," said A's assistant general manager David Forst, "so it was hard to tell if the pain in his ankle was really stemming from that. The pain he was feeling was in a different spot."

### **Worth noting**

The A's outthit the Twins 14-5 on Friday, but still lost 4-3. ... Minnesota lefty reliever Jose Mijares is expected to miss a month after an MRI revealed a torn meniscus in his right knee. ... A's outfielder Conor Jackson played for Triple-A Sacramento on Friday, perhaps signaling he is close to joining the big league squad after missing roughly six weeks with a hamstring injury.

## **Injury bug taking bites out of A's**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

MINNEAPOLIS -- The A's injury bug is seemingly doing its best to make its way from the Major League level all the way down to the Minors, where highly regarded pitching prospect Michael Ynoa will shut things down and undergo surgery Aug. 24.

Although the extent of Ynoa's elbow issues won't be known until the time of the procedure, A's assistant general manager David Forst said Friday that the club anticipates ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) reconstruction -- otherwise known as Tommy John surgery, which typically requires more than a year's worth of recovery time.

The surgery, to be performed by Dr. Lewis Yocum, represents a major setback for Oakland's young phenom, who was signed as a 16-year-old to a then-record \$4.25 million signing bonus in 2008.

"He's very young, very talented," A's manager Bob Geren said. "I'm sure he'll bounce back fine. It's been a very successful surgery in our industry."

As a pro, Ynoa has pitched just nine innings due to various injuries throughout his brief career. In that time, he's struck out 11 but has also given up five runs on six hits and four walks.

### **Ankle injury forces A's Rosales to DL**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Adam Rosales isn't one to ever really slow down, but Oakland's ultra utility man will have to do just that for the next month after learning he has a stress fracture in his right ankle.

A's assistant general manager David Forst confirmed the diagnosis Friday, when the club placed Rosales on the 15-day disabled list and recalled infielder Steve Tolleson from Triple-A Sacramento.

According to Forst, Rosales initially had an MRI last week that showed his old stress fracture, first suffered during his time with the Reds nearly a year ago.

"All indications were that it was an old fracture," Forst said, "so it was hard to tell if the pain in his ankle was really stemming from that. The pain he was feeling was in a different spot."



Thus, Rosales was simply given a couple days to rest before being inserted into the starting shortstop spot Wednesday in Seattle, where he played just one inning before the ankle forced him to exit the game. The 26-year-old Rosales was subsequently sent to Oakland to see a specialist, who finally determined the pain he was enduring was, in fact, the result of his old stress fracture.

"The only way to treat that is really to rest," Forst said. "Our best guess, at least from what the doctor said, is that we should assume he'll need four weeks or less."

The move represented the 22nd time the A's have used the disabled list this season, which is tied for second most in Oakland history only to the mark of 25 set in 2008. The club currently has a season-high-tying 11 players on the DL.

"It's frustrating," Forst said. "Obviously, there are some injuries that are more frustrating than others. With Rosales, this is just an overuse injury. There's no way to prevent something like this. So this is something he'll be able to deal with and then move on."

In the meantime, Tolleson will likely be given a longer look than was given during his first stint with the A's this year, which saw him appear in just three games. He collected one hit -- his first one as a Major Leaguer -- in four at-bats during that time.

The 26-year-old utility player was batting .332 with nine home runs and 43 RBIs in 80 games with Sacramento. Furthermore, he left the River Cats having hit safely in each of his last nine games, going 17-for-39 (.436) over that stretch.

"He's swung the bat great, and he's been a big part of the offense down there," Forst said. "We're hopeful he comes in and can give some guys a day off here and there, because we know he can play all the infield positions. That's something we'll need as we get down to the grind of the last couple months of the season."

"He's done a fine job with Triple-A," manager Bob Geren added. "We'll get him some action."

### **Jackson heads to Triple-A, should return soon**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Recovering outfielder Conor Jackson is slated to join Triple-A Sacramento on Friday night, a sign that the injured A's player may soon be making his return to Oakland.

Jackson, initially placed on the disabled list with a strained right hamstring July 5, was stationed in Arizona for a handful of weeks before joining Class A Stockton on Wednesday and Thursday. With the Ports, he went 2-for-7 with a double and two RBIs in two games, playing left field in both games.

According to manager Bob Geren, Jackson is scheduled to play nine innings for Sacramento, where he likely won't be much longer if all continues to go well with his rehab work.

### **Worth noting**

Andrew Bailey (strained ribcage-muscle) threw from a distance of 140 feet on Friday. According to manager Bob Geren, all went well, but there is still no return timetable for the A's closer. ... Hurler Tyson Ross, who started the season in Oakland's bullpen before being optioned to Triple-A Sacramento to transform back into a starter, has landed on the disabled list with a strained ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow. According to assistant general manager David Forst, Ross will need four weeks of rest before being reevaluated again.

## **A's place Rosales on DL, call up Tolleson**

By Alden Gonzalez / MLB.com

The Athletics placed infielder Adam Rosales on the 15-day disabled list on Friday with a stress fracture in his right ankle. To fill the open spot on the active roster, the club recalled infielder Steven Tolleson from Triple-A Sacramento.

A's assistant general manager David Forst said his "best guess" is Rosales will need at least four weeks of rest.

Oakland has now used the DL 22 times this season, which is tied for second most in franchise history and three short of the record, 25 in 2008. The A's currently have 11 players on the DL.

Tolleson, who went 1-for-4 in his first stint with the club earlier this season, was batting .332 with nine homers and 43 RBIs in 80 games for Sacramento. While there, he appeared in 54 games at shortstop, 13 at third base, six in left field and five at second base.

Rosales was batting .271 with seven homers and 31 RBIs in 80 games for Oakland and was the first A's player since 1995 to start at least one game at six different positions.

## **Major League: Postgame quick hits: An absent offense**

Jane Lee, mlb.com

**Jack Cust's** struggles were mentioned in my previous post, but he's not the only one battling at the plate right now, as evidenced by tonight's three-hit showing against Minnesota's Brian Duensing. Cust's troubles just happen to stand out more because of his lack of run-scoring production, not to mention 28 strikeouts over his last 16 games. He's obviously in a funk, but here's a look at some other slumping players:

- **Cust** may be streaky, but **Kevin Kouzmanoff** may be even streakier. He's hitting just .136 (6-for-44) in August, which follows a combined .306 mark in June and July after hitting .244 in April and May.
- **Kurt Suzuki** is hitting .192 (10-for-52) over his last 14 games after going 17-for-42 over his previous 11 contests. Overall, his season average is down to .255 -- not exactly what the A's are looking to get out of their catcher. He also hasn't hit a home run since July 28, and Oakland as a team is currently in a six-game homerless stretch.
- **Mark Ellis**, aside from his three-double day Thursday, has also been racking up outs lately. He's batting .219 over his last 21 games but has still managed to maintain a .270 season average. Needless to say, his production's been average this year, but you can't discount his value to the team given his defensive ways -- he's committed just one error at second base all year.
- **Chris Carter** came up empty again tonight, and he's now 0-for-16 with seven strikeouts in his first five games. He really just needs one hit, I think, to get into a groove of sorts. In order to do that, though, he's got to lay off those sliders, which aren't exactly making him look good up there.

The good news? Tomorrow is a day game, and we all know how much the A's like the sun. They've won 11 of their past 12 day games and are a Major League-best 28-11 (.718) during the day.

## **Pavano good enough to win 15th as Twins top A's**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Carl Pavano pitched into the seventh inning for his 15th win, Danny Valencia had two hits and two RBIs and the Minnesota Twins held on to beat the Oakland Athletics 4-3 on Friday night.

Pavano (15-7) allowed two runs and 10 hits over 6 1-3 innings and matched the Yankees C.C. Sabathia and the Rays David Price for the most wins in the American League.

Matt Capps allowed an unearned run in the ninth, but held on for his third save with the Twins and 29th overall. He got Rajai Davis to fly out to end the game with runners on first and second.

Minnesota took a 3-2 lead in the fourth inning when Valencia's ground-rule double scored Delmon Young. Valencia advanced to third on Alexi Casilla's sacrifice bunt and scored on Drew Butera's squeeze to make it 4-2.

Daric Barton and Jack Cust had the A's RBIs. Mark Ellis had three hits for Oakland, which outthit the Twins 14-5 but matched a season high with 13 runners left on base.

Twins reliever Jesse Crain got Coco Crisp to ground into a bases-loaded double play to end the eighth inning.

With runners on second and third and one out in the seventh, Ron Mahay relieved Pavano and struck out Cust. Casilla made a diving catch deep in the hole at short off the bat of Kevin Kouzmanoff to end the threat.

Denard Span made a sprawling catch in center field on Cliff Pennington's sinking liner to save a run and end the sixth inning.

A combination of bad defense and control problems cost A's starter Gio Gonzalez (10-8) in the first inning.

Span reached on an error to start the first and scored when Gonzalez walked Jason Kubel with the bases loaded. Valencia made it 2-0 with an RBI single later in the first.

The Twins continue to win without the services of All-Star first-baseman Justin Morneau. The former MVP has been out since July 8 with a concussion and said before Friday's game that there is no timetable for his return.

Minnesota also will have to play the next four weeks without left-handed reliever Jose Mijares, who needs surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee.

Gonzalez allowed four runs, two earned, and struck out seven over six innings. It was the first time in six games that an A's starter has failed to pitch at least seven innings.

Barton, Crisp and Kurt Suzuki each had two hits for the A's.

NOTES: In other Twins injury news, manager Ron Gardenhire said shortstop J.J. Hardy (wrist) was available on Friday and should return to the starting lineup soon, reliever Jon Rauch (toe) is healthy and infielder Nick Punto (hamstring) is on pace to return soon. ... The A's placed infielder Adam Rosales on the disabled list with a stress fracture in his right ankle, and recalled infielder Steve Tolleson from Triple-A Sacramento to take his spot. ... A's reliever Andrew Bailey, out since July 21 with a right intercostal strain, threw from 140 feet on Friday and might throw of a mound by Sunday. ... A's prospect Chris Carter was 0 for 4 on Friday and is 0 for 13 with six strikeouts since being called up on Monday.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento all shook up against Omaha**

By Robbie Enos / Sacramento River Cats

Entering Friday, Sacramento had outscored opponents 93-80 in the second inning this season. But in the series opener against Omaha, Sacramento was better off just skipping that period.

The Royals scored six runs in the second, their only production for the night and the only runs they needed to come away with a 6-2 victory before 11,010 Raley Field faithful. After a Travis Buck homer in the first, Omaha answered in the second against River Cats starting pitcher Clayton Mortensen. Mortensen gave up a leadoff double to short stop Ed Lucas, and then watched his first pitch to Scott Thorman sail over the right field fence.

Mortensen gave up a third consecutive hit to the catcher Lucas May, a single up the middle, and then walked Jai Miller before getting a visit from pitching coach Rick Rodriguez on the mound. Irving Falu's sacrifice bunt barely made it into fair territory, and allowed catcher Anthony Recker to gun down May at third.

Nine spot hitter Marc Maddox singled to right field, loading the bases for Jarrod Dyson. Dyson capitalized on the situation, sending the first pitch from Mortensen deep to center field, and over the fence for a grand slam. It was Dyson's first professional home run in nearly 1,000 at-bats. Mortensen worked out of the inning despite allowing another hit, giving Omaha six runs on six hits through the first two innings.

"I think (Mortensen) just left too many pitches up in the zone," said Omaha manager Mike Jirschele. "We hit them. You still have to hit them, but I think he left too many balls up. The rest of the game he settled down."

Having a great outing for Omaha was starting right-hander Luis Mendoza, who pitched seven innings of two-hit baseball.

"I thought he changed speeds well," Jirschele said. "He had the hitters off stride. He was effectively wild. He threw a lot of pitches around the plate, but threw enough strikes to get through."

Mendoza's only mistakes were the Buck jack in the first, and a leadoff double to Matt Carson in the fifth.

"We had an off day yesterday, which was the first time in a while," Carson said. "The guys got to relax a little bit, but sometimes you lose that edge. He came out throwing strikes and was throwing a two-seamer that was running pretty good. We hit some balls hard, but it just didn't go our way tonight."

It was Sacramento's eighth loss in their last 12 games. This sudden skid comes out at a bad time for the Cats, who are in the middle of a divisional chase against the Fresno Grizzlies. The River Cats have given up 88 runs in that span.

"I tip my hat to Mendoza," Carson said. "They got up on the board early, and we've had our share of comebacks lately, but after a while it kind of wears on you a little bit. It's just one of those games. Tomorrow we'll come back and swing the bat better."

Sacramento got off to a great start with the Buck home run in the first. Mendoza's 3-1 pitch was sent over the fence in right-center, giving the Cats the early lead. For the season Sacramento has actually been outscored 82-64 in the first inning, so it was a good sign to see them get off to a hot start.

The Royals continued to grind out at-bats. May worked a 3-2 walk, followed by a Jai Miller 3-2 single to put runners on the corners. Mortensen managed to work out of trouble, getting Falu out on a fly ball and getting Maddox out on a pop-up into shallow right. But the disciplined approach was paying off, as Mortensen had thrown 76 pitches in just three innings.

Through the first four innings, Buck's solo shot was the only blemish on Mendoza's record. But Carson showed some fight in the fifth, smoking a bullet into the right-center gap for a leadoff double. An Eric Sogard ground ball moved Carson to third. Carson scored on a pass ball against the catcher May, closing the gap for the Cats.

"I think it was something that he did rather than what I did," Carson said of his double. "He left a ball over the plate. Before that I hadn't seen anything over the plate, but that time he made a mistake."

Despite the disappointing start, Mortensen collected himself and finished through six innings without giving up another run. He allowed seven hits and three walks in the outing to go with two strikeouts. Ranking fourth in the PCL in innings pitched, the right-handed workhorse threw 107 pitches. He was not his usual sinkerballing, ground-ball machine self, getting nine outs through the air and seven on the ground.

Edwar Ramirez replaced Mortensen on the mound in the seventh. Ramirez collected two quick outs, but then gave up a two-out walk to Lucas. Thorman singled up the middle, putting runners on the corner. May pounded a deep fly ball to the warning track in center, finishing the inning up without any harm.

Ramirez and Fernando Hernandez finished the final innings without any further damage from the Omaha offense. Sidewinder Louis Coleman pitched two shutout innings to end the game for the Royals, cleaning up an excellent pitching performance against a team that ranks third in the PCL in runs scored.

Conor Jackson, a midseason acquisition this year by the Oakland Athletics, played his first game as a River Cat tonight as part of a rehab appearance. He was the only batter in the River Cats lineup to draw a walk against Mendoza, showcasing what he believes is his greatest strength as a player.

"I think that my biggest attribute is my ability to see pitches," he said. "I want to control the strike zone. I've never been much of a big power guy, but I pride myself on walking more than I strike out, and that's what I bring to the table."

The River Cats will take on Omaha again Saturday at 7:05 p.m. Sacramento remains 2.0 games behind the Fresno Grizzlies in the South Division race.

"Any time you're playing for something it brings a little more excitement and little more intensity to the game," Jackson said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

## **Weeks leads Hounds past Drillers**

Oscar LeRoy, Midland Reporter-Telegram

It has been a while since Jemile Weeks felt this good at the plate.

The Midland RockHounds second baseman was swinging a hot bat early in the season before a left hip injury in late April sidelined him for a big chunk of the season.

But on Friday night, Weeks was back to his old self again as he was a spark plug for the offense by going 4 for 5 with two runs scored as the RockHounds rolled to an 11-5 victory over the Tulsa Drillers in front of an announced crowd of 4,374 at Citibank Ballpark.

Weeks probably saw what Tulsa's Anthony Jackson did at the top of the order for his ball club the previous two nights and was inspired to do the same. One thing's for sure, the RockHounds like their offense when Weeks is producing at the top of the order.

"It had been a long time since I felt this good at the plate," Weeks said. "I was seeing the ball well and I just wanted to be that spark for my team. Anything to help this team win, that's what I want to do. It had been tough at times since my injury but I'm getting back to where I was before."

The win also gave the RockHounds (25-22 in second half) a two-game lead over San Antonio for the lead in the Texas League South as San Antonio lost 3-2 to Arkansas.

Whatever funk the RockHounds had been experiencing at the plate is now a thing of the distant past. After getting 13 hits the night before in a 7-4 victory, the RockHounds pounded out 19 hits to take the series from the Drillers, 2-1.

Several RockHounds joined Weeks in having a good offensive night. Shane Peterson was 3 for 5 with a double, triple, three RBI and two runs scored; Corey Brown went 3 for 5 with a triple, two RBI and two runs scored; J.C. Holt scored three runs; Josh Horton was 3 for 4 with two RBI; and both Alex Valdez and Val Majewski each had two hits.

"We swung the bats well," Midland manager Darren Bush said. "We're patient, we got good pitches to hit and we didn't miss. That's baseball. When you start getting pitches to hit, you start hitting them and not missing. The next thing you know, it's contagious."

Added Weeks, "It seemed like everybody had a good night. When you get 19 hits, that's a pretty good night."

The RockHounds got things started early against Tulsa starter Brandon Durden (4-10) with single runs in the first and second innings.

The RockHounds got two unearned runs in the fourth as an infield error by Jason Van Kooten paved the way for Corey Brown's RBI single and Josh Horton's bases-loaded walk for a 4-0 lead.

Two more runs in the fourth not only gave the RockHounds a 6-0 lead but more than enough cushion for Midland starter Ryan Edell (8-4) who was very sharp on this night. He started the game by pitching four scoreless innings before Tulsa

struck with two runs in the fifth. And other than a solo home run by Kiel Roling in the sixth to cut it to 8-3, it was tough for the Drillers to get anything going against the lefthander.

Edell went seven innings and allowed three runs on six hits. He also struck out six and walked one and threw 109 pitches on the night. RockHounds pitching coach Scott Emerson said usually 110 pitches is the team's base limit and since Edell had less than 95 pitches going into the seventh inning, it was decided to leave Edell in the game.

"He uses both sides of the plate, he's aggressive with his fastball and he uses a lot of fastballs," said Emerson of his starter. "He also makes you put the fastball in play and had a good changeup going. Anytime you can keep the hitters off-balanced and guessing what pitches you're going to throw, you're going to have a successful night."

Combine Edell's start with the RockHounds swinging the bats very well, it turned out to be a very good night.

## NOTEBOOK

'HOUND BITES: RockHounds SS Josh Horton has really been swinging a good bat lately. In his last two games, Horton is 6 for 7 with a double and three RBI. CF Corey Brown has been just as hot at the plate, going 6 for 9 with a home, run, triple and three RBI. ...Tulsa LF Anthony Jackson, who had been the spark for his team in the previous two games went 0 for 3 on Friday with a sacrifice fly. He was hit by a pitch and stole his 29th steal of the season. For the series Jackson went 6 for 11 at the plate and stole four bases. ...Midland is now 5-4 against Tulsa and 31-29 overall at Citibank Ballpark this season.

TODAY'S PROBABLES: The RockHounds welcome Texas League North Division leader Northwest Arkansas for a three-game series at 7 p.m. today. Midland is expected to start RHP Matt Wright (4-2, 2.66 ERA), while the Naturals should start LHP Mike Montgomery (4-1, 2.35), who is one of the top pitching prospects in all of Minor League Baseball.

## **Seventh Heaven For Ports In Rancho**

**RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif.** - For the first time in over three years, the Stockton Ports are winners of seven straight games. After beginning their six-game road trip with a sweep of the Inland Empire 66ers, the Ports took the first of three games from the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes by a final of 3-1. Stockton's last seven-game winning streak took place April 14-21, 2007. With Visalia defeating Bakersfield, the Ports remain two games back of the Rawhide in the wild card while moving to within two games of the Blaze in the North Division standings.

Stockton's biggest performance of the night came from starter Justin Marks (2-1). Marks worked through a first-inning jam and for the most part, barely broke a sweat for the remainder of his outing. With runners at first and second with one out in the first, Marks picked Alberto Rosario off second. After walking Gabe Jacobo, Marks got Dillon Baird to ground to first to end the inning. Baird became the first of 10 in a row retired by Marks to take him through the fourth inning.

In a low-scoring affair, the Ports got two runs on one swing of the bat from Grant Green. Green, with one on and two out in the third, homered to right off Quakes spot-starter Kyle Hurst (1-3) to give the Ports a 2-0 lead. Those were the only runs allowed by Hurst in his three innings of work as he'd take the loss. Quakes scheduled starter Matt Shoemaker was a late scratch.

The Ports added a run in the fourth off Manaurys Correa. With Mike Spina at second and one out, Tyler Ladendorf singled to right to drive home Spina and make it a 3-0 Stockton lead. It was the only run allowed by Correa in two innings of relief.

Ladendorf's single in the fourth was Stockton's final hit of the contest. Quakes pitching combined to retire 17 of the final 18 Ports hitters. Chris Scholl went three scoreless innings for the Quakes and struck out seven. Eddie McKiernan tossed a 1-2-3 ninth.

The Quakes only run came in the fifth. Angel Castillo doubled to begin the frame and two batters later, Jon Townsend hit a fly ball to deep right. Jeremy Barfield, as he turned to go back for the catch, slipped and fell, resulting in a double for Townsend and a run for the Quakes. Marks would go on to retire the next two batters to end the frame and his final five batters to complete his outing.

Marks earned the win in his strongest Cal-League showing, going six innings and allowing just one run on four hits while striking out five and walking one.

After Townsend's double, Ports pitchers combined to retire 14 of the last 15 Quakes batters to end the night. Trey Barham allowed an infield single while tossing a scoreless seventh. Scott Hodsdon pitched a perfect eighth and Paul Smyth (SV, 21) earned his 21st save of the year with a perfect ninth while recording two strikeouts.

The Ports and Quakes will play the second game of their three-game set on Saturday night at The Epicenter. Left-hander Fabian Williamson (3-0, 3.47 ERA) will head to the bump for Stockton, opposed by right-hander Garrett Richard (1-0, 5.06 ERA) for Rancho Cucamonga. First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

## **Cougars Drop Road Trip Finale**

### **Kane County goes 4-2 on trip but loses final pair**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa** – The Kane County Cougars finished a six-game road trip Friday night with a 4-2 mark, but it ended on a sour note after a 6-3 loss against the Cedar Rapids Kernels at Veterans Stadium. For the second night in a row the Cougars scored first, missed on other scoring changes and lost their lead in the middle innings. After winning three in Burlington, the Cougars dropped two of three in Cedar Rapids.

The Cougars had eight hits but also had stranded nine runners by the end of the fifth inning. In the top of the first, Mitch LeVier singled in Conner Crumbliss against Stephen Locke (7-5) to make it 1-0. After Jean Segura homered off Chris Mederos (4-5) in the bottom half, the Cougars regained control in the fourth. Tyreace House's infield single scored Jose Crisotomo, and Leonardo Gil added a fifth-inning sacrifice fly to make it 3-1.

Mederos yielded a run in the fifth and departed in the sixth with the lead, but Ryan Doolittle allowed two inherited runners to score and gave up one of his own during a game-changing three-run Kernels rally. Mederos gave up four runs on five hits, walked four and fanned four in 5 1/3 innings. Bo Schultz also logged a scoreless eighth. The Cougars' offense did not have a hit past the fifth inning, though it did bring the tying run to the plate in the ninth before Johnny Hellweg struck out three straight hitters to post his 15th save.

The Cougars (27-19, 59-56) return home Saturday night at 6 CT when they open a three-game series at Elfstrom Stadium against the Peoria Chiefs (20-24, 58-55). Dan Straily (8-7, 4.73) is scheduled to face Frank Batista (2-4, 4.24). The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and at [www.kccougars.com](http://www.kccougars.com) with pre-game coverage starting at 5:45 p.m.

## Oakland A's Prospect Q&A: Ryan Doolittle

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David Malamut, OaklandClubhouse.com

Aug 13, 2010

After missing all of last season, RHP Ryan Doolittle has been a great comeback story in 2010. In 29 innings this season for Kane County and Vancouver, Doolittle has allowed only two earned runs and he has walked one while striking out 28. The younger brother of Oakland A's prospect Sean Doolittle, Ryan talks about the influence of his brother, his road back from injury and more inside...

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

**Ryan Doolittle:** So far it's been great. I got up here a couple of weeks ago. It has been fun. It's a long season. I make my pitches, and it's great to be up here.

*DM: What do you throw?*

**RD:** Fastball, sinker, cutter and a change-up.

*DM: What are you working on?*

**RD:** Just throwing strikes. Attacking hitters. Going right after 'em and throwing to my strengths.

*DM: What's your mentality on the mound?*

**RD:** Just be aggressive, pitch to my strengths. Do what I can and try not to think about numbers. Just go out there and make them hit the ball.

*DM: What did you learn at UNC-Wilmington?*

**RD:** I learned a lot. We had a great coach. I learned a lot about pitching. I went there as a catcher, and they wound up putting me on the mound. They taught me just about throwing strikes and staying within yourself and not trying to do too much.

*DM: Did the catching help you?*

**RD:** Yeah I think to a degree, with calling the game and situational type things. My sophomore year I played first and short.

*DM: How about Cumberland Junior College?*

**RD:** There I was more of a pitcher. I played short a little bit.

*DM: How was draft day?*

**RD:** It was awesome. It was great. A lot of phone calls. It was very exciting for the whole family. I talked to my brother [[Sean Doolittle](#)] for awhile. It was a big day. It is always exciting when you find out something like that. I was driving home, I was at Virginia taking summer school, and I got the call, and I had to pull off to the side of the road because I had so many people calling me.

*DM: How bout being drafted by Oakland?*

**RD:** It was perfect. Having my brother being on the same team, it is a pretty cool thing. I really didn't know who or when I was going to get picked up, just being picked up is a pretty big deal.

*DM: You went to A's games as a kid?*

**RD:** Yeah, we actually had season tickets when we were little. We lived in California, so we were big A's fans when we were little.

*DM: What did your brother tell you about Oakland?*

**RD:** That it was a great organization. Great guys, great coaches. I'm going to learn a lot. Just be a sponge just soak up everything. It is great having him in the same organization. I can kind of use him for some help.

*DM: How was playing with Arizona A's?*



**RD:** I liked it. It's hot. It's good, you learn a lot. We had a good coaching staff. It's a good place to get your work in and pick up a lot of things.

*DM: How much did the injury effect you last year, mentally/physically?*

**RD:** Not too much. It was more a mental thing. It definitely takes a mental toll on you. I got better, rehabbed and now I'm playing this year. It's not in the back of my mind anymore. It's all taken care of. I feel great so now I'm just out here playing.

*DM: How was Vancouver?*

**RD:** Very fun. I liked it a lot. Once again great coaching staff there, great guys, great atmosphere to play in for my first pro ball experience. I loved playing there.

*DM: How was it coming back from the injury?*

**RD:** It was great to play again. You take a year off and you really miss the game. Then you get out and playing in front of some people is great, and just going out there and playing baseball is fun. I stopped throwing [last year] in May and I didn't start again until January.

*DM: How is playing with Kane County?*

**RD:** When I found out the news it was very exciting. It was great to hear. I pitched well in Vancouver, and now I'm up here just trying to do the same thing.

*DM: What besides baseball do you like to do?*

**RD:** In the off-season there is a lot of downtime. I just hang out, spend a lot of time with my brother, play a little video games, just hang out, nothing too crazy. Go to the beach, stuff like that.

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

**RD:** I'd probably get into sports science, and exercise science, maybe be a strength coach, be around sport some how some way.

*DM: Is that your major?*

**RD:** No I was actually an education major. When I go back to school I will go back for exercise science.

*DM: Top 5 artists in your iPod?*

**RD:** Avenge Sevenfold, Dream Theater, Bullet for My Valentine, all country, AC/DC

*DM: Biggest influence growing up?*

**RD:** My brother. Just looking up to him. He has always been there to teach me. I've learned a lot from him, and having him growing up it's been great. I can kind of pick his brain, and now having him on the same team, I can now understand the game a little better, get the hitter's perspective.

*DM: Baseball hero growing up?*

**RD:** I was a big Pudge Rodriguez fan, from catching he was my guy. I looked up to him just the way he went about the game.