

## A's News Clips, Tuesday, August 17, 2010

### Chris Carter's first impression hardly powerful for Oakland A's, who fall to Toronto Blue Jays

By Ben Enos, Oakland Tribune

By the numbers, Chris Carter's one-week stint with the A's didn't offer much of a glimpse into the future of the team's heralded prospect.

That's what the A's hope, anyway.

With Conor Jackson ready to come off the disabled list, Carter was sent back to Triple-A Sacramento on Monday. The A's offense didn't respond much differently, managing only one hit -- Jackson's solo homer -- in a 3-1 loss to Shaun Marcum and the Toronto Blue Jays at the Oakland Coliseum.

The move ended Carter's brief debut in Oakland, which lasted a week and six games. The slugger went 0 for 19 with nine strikeouts and reached base one time on a walk.

"He has his feet wet now, and he gets to go back and continue his progress and next time he comes back here, I think it'll be a lot easier for him," A's manager Bob Geren said before the game. "I think the, 'What is it like?' type syndrome is out of his head now, he knows exactly what to expect and what he needs to continue to work on down there."

Carter's demotion also served as a subplot to the A's recent struggles. They continued to lack any offensive rhythm, a trend compounded by Marcum's dominant performance. Marcum needed just 103 pitches to finish off his masterpiece, keeping the A's quiet after a six-game road trip that produced just 11 runs.

Their one-hit output also carried some history with it. The A's have collected just seven hits over the past three games, their fewest over a three-game span in team history.

"Granted, he's a guy that doesn't throw very hard but he's got a lot of movement, he's got a great changeup and he's going to come after you," A's outfielder Travis Buck said of Marcum. "Talking to the guys in the dugout, we felt like we were putting good swings on the ball, we just weren't finding the barrel."

Buck also was recalled before the game and went 0 for 3 in his first action with the A's since April 20.

Jackson offered the night's lone highlight for the A's, breaking up Marcum's no-hit bid in the seventh by driving the first pitch of the inning over the left-center field fence. It was Jackson's first home run in his 15th game with the A's since being acquired in June.

The lack of offense made a loser out of Brett Anderson (3-4), who allowed three runs (two earned) in six innings.

"It wasn't too bad, but it wasn't great by any means. My command was shaky at best," Anderson said. "To have a quality start with two earned runs in six innings on a day when your stuff is just OK, you'll take that."

Said Geren after the game: "The pitching is as good as it can get right now and unfortunately, we're collectively struggling offensively. It's tough, but that being said, we're still in the game. If we were to bust out, even just one inning, we could win these games."

While the A's were trying to find their offense, the Blue Jays waited until the fourth inning to do what they do best. Jose Bautista gave Toronto a 1-0 lead with his majors-leading 37th homer, and Edwin Encarnacion added two more with his home run to left an inning later. Jose Molina also tied his career-high with four hits for the Blue Jays.

### Oakland A's update: Injured Andrew Bailey feels he's close to returning

By Ben Enos, Oakland Tribune

Bailey feeling like he's close to returning

One day after throwing his first bullpen session since going on the disabled list July 30, A's closer Andrew Bailey had nothing but positive things to say about a potential return later this week.

"We're still a couple days away, but it's getting close," Bailey said. "Each and every day, (I'm) feeling better and now that I'm feeling good it's about getting it back into baseball and game form."

Bailey (rib cage strain) played catch before Monday's game, and said he would either throw a side session or some sort of simulated game today. Whether or not he would go on a rehab assignment had yet to be determined.

"It's just getting back into baseball shape. As soon as they feel that I'm ready to do that, I'll be out there," Bailey said."

Infielder Adam Rosales (stress fracture in ankle) visited the team during batting practice, sporting a boot on his right foot and clutching crutches.

"It's just nagging. That's probably the most frustrating thing," Rosales said. "It's so small, but it affects so much in your game. Your feet are everything. I've just got to be patient. I'm going to try to come back before the season's over, that's for sure."

Rosales left the team in the middle of its road trip last Friday to come back to the Bay Area and have his ankle evaluated. He said different

doctors have given him different timetables for a return, but that four to six weeks has been a common estimate. He added that he hopes to be back in less time than that.

Former Cal pitcher Brandon Morrow is scheduled to start today for Toronto, and he'll be making his first appearance since striking out 17 in a one-hit win over Tampa Bay on Aug. 8. He had the no-hitter broken up with two outs in the ninth on Evan Longoria's infield single.

Morrow, who enters today's game with a 4.45 ERA, threw 136 pitches in the win. That led the Blue Jays to skip his next start to give Morrow extra rest.

The deadline for major league teams to sign draft picks passed Monday at 9 p.m., and the A's announced that they agreed to terms with second-rounder Yordy Cabrera, third-rounder Aaron Shipman and fourth-rounder Chad Lewis. Baseball America reported that Cabrera, a high school infielder from Lakeland, Fla., signed for a bonus of \$1.25 million. With the signings, the A's inked each of their first 14 picks and 33 total from this year's draft.

## **Chin Music: Carter sent down as Buck, Jackson return**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/16/2010 5:50PM

Howdy everyone. Ben Enos filling in for Joe Stiglich today. It's been a busy day at the Coliseum, with roster moves abound for the A's.

Of most concern to fans probably is the decision to send Chris Carter back to Triple-A Sacramento to make room for Conor Jackson's return from the DL. Carter came up last Monday and went 0 for 19 in his brief stint with the A's.

"He's just going to play every day and get some more at-bats and keep refining his skills. He's such an incredible talent and he got a small opportunity here. He has his feet wet now and he gets to go back and continue his progress and next time he comes back here, I think it'll be a lot easier for him," A's manager Bob Geren said. "I think the 'what is it like' type syndrome is out of his head now. He knows exactly what to expect and what he needs to continue to work on down there."

Jackson was positive before the game, saying he felt 100 percent for the first time all season. He's hitting third in his first game back, a challenge he said he embraces.

"It was extremely frustrating. I was only here a couple weeks before this whole incident went down and it's been about seven weeks now," Jackson said. "Frustrating's probably not the word I'm looking for, it's probably something a little more. This hamstring's been bothering me all year and it feels good finally and it feels good to feel healthy."

Also returning to Oakland is Travis Buck, with Jeff Larish headed back to Sacramento. Geren said Buck will mix and match in the outfield as needed.

Also hanging around the cage during batting practice was Adam Rosales, who sported a boot on his right foot and crutches as he said hi to people. Rosales went on the DL with a stress fracture in his right ankle last week, and said the only real solution right now is rest.

"It's just nagging. That's probably the most frustrating thing. It's so small but it affects so much in your game. Your feet are everything. I've just got to be patient. I'm going to try to come back before the season's over, that's for sure," Rosales said.

And now, tonight's lineups.

A's — Crisp DH, Barton 1B, Jackson LF, Suzuki C, Kouzmanoff 3B, Ellis 2B, Buck RF, Davis CF, Pennington SS  
Blue Jays — Snider LF, Escobar SS, Bautista RF, Wells CF, Lind DH, Hill 2B, Overbay 1B, Encarnacion 3B, Molina C

## **BLUE JAYS 3, A'S 1**

### **No offense, but this is a troubling trend**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

One night after the A's were hitless for seven innings in Minneapolis, two hitters were added to the roster and immediately inserted into the lineup. The A's responded by going hitless for six innings.

That's progress?

A new-look outfield included Conor Jackson in left and Travis Buck in right, but the offense remained unimposing other than Jackson, who ruined Shaun Marcum's no-hit bid by homering to open the seventh. That was Oakland's lone hit, and the Blue Jays won 3-1 before 10,136 at the Coliseum.

The A's have exactly seven hits in their past three games. That once was a day's work for Rennie Stennett. Since 1920, when records for this stuff started being tracked, the A's never before have had as few as seven hits in three consecutive games.

Asked if the non-no-hitter served as any gratification, Jackson said, "Not really. Listen, I've been on a team that got no-hit (his Diamondbacks against Florida's Anibal Sanchez in 2006), and a one-hitter is pretty similar."

Jackson said he was "bittersweet" about his home run, which broke a seven-game homerless drought for the A's. The last time the A's went beyond seven games without a homer was 1983.

They have 71 homers this season, compared with the Blue Jays' majors-leading 183. The Jays hit two off Brett Anderson, a solo homer by Jose Bautista and two-run shot by Edwin Encarnacion following a rare error by second baseman Mark Ellis on Lyle Overbay's grounder.

"We gotta get (the offense) turned around and match the pitching because it's something special," said manager Bob Geren, referring to a rotation posting a 1.98 ERA in nine games.

Coco Crisp was the designated hitter but will return to center field tonight with Jack Cust expected to be the DH. Rajai Davis played center Monday, and Geren said he'll "mix and match" his outfielders.

Jackson, acquired June 15 from the Diamondbacks, was shelved with a hamstring strain two weeks later. To complete his rehab, he went 2-for-22 in seven minor-league games but said he had several good at-bats.

Asked how he sees his future in Oakland, the old Cal Bear said, "Would I like to stay here? Absolutely. It's a great group of guys. I'm familiar with the area. I see myself a good fit here."

Buck went on the disabled list April 21 with a strained oblique and had a lengthy rehab in which he dealt with lower back and leg issues. In his last 15 games with Triple-A Sacramento, he hit .400 (24-for-60) with two homers and 10 RBIs.

"The biggest thing for me coming back is being healthy," Buck said. "I've felt healthy the last month, month and a half, and am getting treatment so a lot of nagging injuries won't happen again."

At first, Bautista's homer seemed an inside-the-parker. The umpires didn't properly signal that it cleared the wall, and Bautista sprinted around the bases as Oakland's defense froze. After the game, the umpires said they all saw the ball clear the wall, and Jackson said that's what he saw.

### **The hits don't keep on comin'**

The A's have scored all of three runs in their past three games. Their batting average in the three games? It's .083.

Day	Opp.	AB	R	H
Sat.	at Minn.	27	0	3
Sun.	at Minn.	29	2	3
Mon.	vs. Tor.	28	1	1
Totals		84	3	7

## **Beat: Carter not quite ready for prime time**

John Shea, Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writers

The future isn't now for **Chris Carter**, after all.

After going 0-for-19 with nine strikeouts in his first six big-league games, Carter was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento on Monday. The A's needed roster space for outfielders **Conor Jackson** and **Travis Buck**, and Carter and **Jeff Larish** departed.

"I'm disappointed. I wanted to stay, but it's all right," Carter said in a phone interview with The Chronicle. "I know Conor was coming back, and he'll play every day in left field, and they wanted me to keep playing there every day."

Manager **Bob Geren** said Carter will play mostly left field in Sacramento.

"His future obviously is as a hitter," Geren said. "Whether he plays outfield or first - or he might play both to keep his skills sharp - his future is as a hitter. Whatever position is best for the team, he'll play."

Geren added, "Next time he comes back here, I think it'll be a lot easier for him. The what's-it-like-type-syndrome thing is out of his head. He knows exactly what to expect."

Carter said of his first go-round, which included zero home games, "I got it out of the way." Before he was recalled from Sacramento eight days ago, Carter was hitting .262 with 27 homers and 89 RBIs in 113 games. He's expected back in Oakland in September.

**Briefly: Andrew Bailey** (intercostal strain) said he could rejoin the A's by the weekend. He'll throw off a mound today for the second time in three days. "I feel good. Now it's just getting back into baseball shape," he said. ... **Adam Rosales**

(stress fracture, right ankle) was walking on crutches as he visited the clubhouse and said his goal is to play again this season. "Doctors are saying four to six (weeks). I want to be optimistic and say more like two to three," Rosales said.

## **A's leading off**

John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

**Sign here:** The A's signed second-round draft pick Yordy Cabrera, a high school shortstop from Florida, for a reported \$1.25 million. They signed No. 1 pick Michael Choice on July 30. The third and fourth choices, outfielder Aaron Shipman and third baseman Chad Lewis, also signed Monday.

## **Drumbeat: Carter to Sacramento, Jackson & Buck in lineup**

John Shea at the Coliseum, where the A's will try to pad their 34-24 home record . . . 8/16/2010 6:10PM

Leo Durocher left a young prospect in the lineup despite an awful beginning to a big-league career. But that was Willie Mays. This is Chris Carter.

Carter was hitless in his first 19 at-bats with nine strikeouts, and the A's optioned him to Triple-A Sacramento today. Mays began his career 1-for-26 in his first seven games in 1951, and Durocher stuck with him.

The A's needed room for Conor Jackson, who came off the DL. Also, Travis Buck was recalled from Sacramento. Carter and infielder Jeff Larish were optioned.

"I'm disappointed. I wanted to stay, but it's all right," Carter said in a phone interview with Susan Slusser. "I know Conor was coming back, and he'll play every day in left field, and they wanted me to keep playing there every day."

Regarding his 0-for-19, Carter said, "I was looking for that (first hit), but it is what it is."

Manager Bob Geren the short experience in the majors will benefit Carter. Carter will play mostly in left with Sacramento.

"He's got to play every day, get some more at-bats, keep applying his skills," Geren said. "He's such an incredible talent. He got a small opportunity here to get his feet wet, and he gets to go back and continue his progress. Next time he comes back here, I think it'll be a lot easier for him. The what's-it-like-type syndrome thing is out of his head. He knows exactly what to expect."

Carter added, "I got it out of the way."

Geren wouldn't say if Carter will be back in September, but that seems automatic.

Jackson is in left field tonight, Buck right field -- sandwiching Rajai Davis. Coco Crisp is the DH and will return to center field tomorrow, Geren said.

"We'll mix and match with the outfielders," Geren said. "Some will need a break here and there."

Jackson, acquired June 15 from the Diamondbacks, was shelved since early July with a strained hamstring and went 2-for-22 on a seven-game rehab assignment. But he said he had a lot of good at-bats.

Buck was put on the DL April 21 with a strained oblique and had a lengthy rehab in which he dealt with lower back and leg issues. In his last 15 games with Sacramento, he hit .400 (26-for-60) with two homers and 10 RBIs.

Tonight's lineup: DH Crisp, 1B Barton, LF Jackson, C Suzuki, 3B Kouzmanoff, 2B Ellis, RF Buck, CF Davis, SS Pennington.

## **A's break up no-hit bid but fall to Blue Jays**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The bad times just keep on getting worse for the A's.

Coming off the heels of a dismal road trip that saw the team sputter in the batter's box, Oakland was one-hit by Toronto righty Shaun Marcum on Monday in a 3-1 loss.

"It just seems like lately it's been something different every night," A's manager Bob Geren said. "It's a combination of getting well-pitched games and guys struggling. I'm not going to say that he was that tough, but he had a pretty good changeup that he threw in any count and a cutter and sinker and mixed the three up."

The A's have just seven hits over their last three contests, the lowest total for any three-game stretch in Oakland history. It marked the first time since 1920 that the A's have been held to three hits or fewer in three straight games.

If it weren't for the return of Conor Jackson, things could have been even worse for Oakland. Jackson, who returned from the 15-day disabled list Monday, led off the seventh inning with a home run to left-center.

Asked if he felt any gratification for breaking up the no-hitter, Jackson said, "Not really. I've been on a team that's been no-hit before and it's no fun, but a one-hitter is pretty similar."

Jackson played for Arizona when it was no-hit by Florida's Anibal Sanchez on Sept. 6, 2006.

The 27-year-old outfielder, who missed more than six weeks with a strained right hamstring, nearly had a hit in his first at-bat, but was robbed of extra bases by left fielder Travis Snider, who made a nice diving grab in the left-center-field gap.

"I've always liked his approach," Geren said of Jackson. "He has a real consistent approach, he swings at strikes and he takes balls and he gets into good counts."

Other than Jackson's homer, the A's went largely silent. Cliff Pennington was hit by a pitch in the third before promptly getting caught trying to steal second. Pennington also reached first on an error by Toronto third baseman Edwin Encarnacion and Daric Barton drew a walk in the fourth inning, but that was it.

Marcum used 103 pitches, including 73 strikes, to toss the first complete game of his career.

"It was a good game," Marcum said. "It was one of those games where we were locating, getting ahead of hitters. For the most part when you get ahead of hitters and you're not pitching from behind in the count, you're going to have success."

Over its last eight games, Oakland is averaging 1.88 runs and batting .190 as a team. The poor offensive production has come at the cost of a pitching staff that has compiled a 1.63 ERA in the same span.

"It was a struggle tonight," Geren said. "We got to get it turned around and get that offense matched with what we're doing on the mound because it's something special."

On Monday, Brett Anderson played the role of tough-luck loser. The 22-year-old southpaw finished six innings, allowing three runs (two earned) on seven hits and a walk while striking out five.

After making nine starts without giving up a home run to start the season, Anderson's homerless streak came to an end at 53 innings with Jose Bautista's bizarre solo shot in the fourth. Encarnacion added another two-run homer in the seventh to give Toronto a 3-0 advantage.

"It wasn't too bad," Anderson said. "It wasn't great by any means, my command was shaky at best, but to have a quality start, two earned runs in six innings, on a day where your stuff is just OK, you'll take that as a pitcher."

Though he was stung by poor run support again, Anderson said he wasn't frustrated with the offense.

"As a pitcher, if their guy is going out there and throwing up zeroes, you want to be right there with him, step for step and inning for inning," Anderson said. "It puts the ultimate test on you to match him pitch for pitch and out for out. You just got to take what they give you and go from there."

While it wasn't odd to see Bautista hit a home run, his 37 dingers lead the Majors, the fashion in which it occurred Monday was peculiar. Bautista hit a fly ball that bounced off the left-field foul pole just above the fence and Jackson, playing left field, stopped pursuing the ball once it caromed. Bautista just kept on running until he got home, scoring without a play, while no umpires ever signaled for a home run.

The hit was originally ruled an inside-the-park home run, but official scorer Michael Duca said the ruling had been changed to a traditional home run after he discussed the play with umpires following the game.

"When I went out to catch it, it definitely hit the foul pole and I heard it," Jackson said. "I don't think a ball off the wall ricochets that far. Obviously, it didn't really matter, just kind of a weird play."

Jackson wasn't the only Athletic to return to Oakland on Monday, as Travis Buck was also promoted from Triple-A Sacramento earlier in the day. Buck finished 0-for-3 with a strikeout.

"Feels good," Buck said. "The biggest thing is I'm healthy. ... It doesn't really matter what uniform I'm wearing, I just want to finish out this season healthy."

## **A's seal deals with early-round picks**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- As the A's opened a three-game set against the Blue Jays on Monday, members of Oakland's front office were hard at work trying to sign their remaining 2010 First Year Player Draft selections before the 9 p.m. PT deadline.

At long last, more than two months after the Draft ended, the A's agreed to terms with their three highest remaining selections on Monday.

"It's certainly a relief," said A's director of scouting Eric Kubota. "I think at this point, that's the greatest emotion. It's nice, we're happy to have been able to get that all taken care of."

Roughly an hour into the contest, the A's announced they have signed second-round pick Yordy Cabrera, though the terms of the deal were undisclosed. Cabrera played shortstop at Lakeland (Fla.) Senior High School, but projects to be a third baseman or corner outfielder at the next level.

Cabrera, who batted .333 with three home runs, 19 RBIs and 12 walks in 16 games this season, is a power hitter with an above-average arm. Cabrera rose to prominence in 2009, when he won the home run derby at the AFLAC All-American game, a high school showcase.

"He's an exciting young prospect," Kubota said. "He's got power potential, he's athletic and he's got good bloodlines. Not only is he athletically-endowed, but he's been around the game his whole life."

Cabrera's father, Basilio, played Minor League ball in Detroit's organization, but had his career cut short due to injury. Basilio Cabrera has coached in the Tigers' organization since 1994 and has been the manager of the Rookie League Tigers since 2008.

Oakland inked first-rounder Michael Choice on July 30 with a deal that included a \$2 million signing bonus. Choice went hitless in three Rookie League games, but is batting .355 (11-for-31) with four doubles, a home run, four RBIs and five walks in eight games with Class A Vancouver.

The A's announced they signed Aaron Shipman, an outfielder picked in the third round, and Chad Lewis, a third baseman drafted in the fourth round, moments before the 9 p.m. PT deadline.

The A's have now signed 33 of their 50 picks, including each of their first 14 and 27 of the first 30.

Kubota said the A's will send Cabrera, Shipman and Lewis to the organization's Rookie League team in Arizona.

"It's great to have the support of your bosses," Kubota said, "From [assistant general manager] David [Forst] and [general manager] Billy [Beane] on up to our owners, it's just great to have their support in allowing us to do this. We're very excited to get all these guys signed up and get them out there. We think they're going to add a lot to our organization which we already feel is in a good spot. These guys will only add to that."

## **Struggling A's face tall task against Morrow**

By Gina Mizell / MLB.com

It's no secret that the Oakland offense has struggled mightily in the past week, and Tuesday's opponent on the mound probably won't provide any relief for that lineup.

Blue Jays' righty Brandon Morrow will take the hill for the first time since he struck out 17 Rays and was one out away from a no-hitter when Toronto faces the A's in the second of a three-game set on Tuesday at Oakland Coliseum.

Morrow skipped a turn in the rotation after tossing 137 pitches in the one-hit effort on Aug. 8 and will be aiming to win his fifth start in a row. During that span, he is averaging 10 strikeouts per contest.

That's bad news for the A's offense, which has flirted with being a victim of a no-hitter for two consecutive days. After Twins starter Kevin Slowey did not allow a hit in seven innings before departing Sunday's game, the A's only mustered one hit against Toronto starter Shaun Marcum on Monday -- a leadoff home run by Conor Jackson in the seventh.

All told, the A's have scored just 12 runs in their past seven games, during which they have posted a 1-6 mark.

"It's important for us to get our offense going back to where we know we can swing the bat," A's manager Bob Geren said. "Our pitching was so impressive that the 1-5 road trip is not indicative of how we pitched. ... We just need to match some of those numbers with some offensive output, and it will equal a lot of wins."

The A's will counter with Dallas Braden, who, of course, is no stranger to no-hitters. He has also been successful since coming off the disabled list on July 20, posting a 3-1 record with a 2.83 ERA. That includes a complete-game win against Seattle on Aug. 11, when he gave up one earned run on four hits and struck out six batters.

Braden will be the second of three lefties in a row that the Blue Jays will face, which presents a unique challenge for Toronto's power offense. The Blue Jays tagged A's southpaw Brett Anderson for three runs in six innings on Monday.

"It's a little different," Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston said. "I think that's probably the first time I've ever been through something like that. I can't remember facing three left-handers in a row. Most teams don't have three left-handed starters."

### **Blue Jays: Toronto continues to fly high**

Even A's starter Brett Anderson, who hadn't allowed a home run all season, isn't immune to the Blue Jays' big boppers. Toronto hit two long balls off Anderson on Monday, including the 37th dinger off the bat of Jose Bautista. The Blue Jays have now hit a Major League-leading 183 home runs this season, which are 22 ahead of second-place Boston.

"That's the kind of team I thought we had, and it turned out to be that's what we have here -- a team with power," Gaston said. "I'd certainly like to mix in a few doubles here and there and then a home run. ... We lost games this year hitting six home runs. We kind of really depend on our power."

### **Athletics: Jackson returns with a bang**

Though the Oakland offense was quiet again on Monday against the Blue Jays, Jackson made an impact with his bat in his first game since returning from a six-week stint on the disabled list with a strained right hamstring.

Oakland also activated outfielder Travis Buck from the DL on Monday. He started in right field and went 0-for-3 with a strikeout. To make room for Jackson and Buck on the 25-man roster, the A's optioned outfielder Chris Carter and infielder Jeff Larish to Triple-A Sacramento.

"Frustrating is probably not the word I'm looking for, it's probably something a little more," Jackson said of his feelings about the injury before Monday's game. "This hamstring's been bothering me all year, and it feels good now, finally. I feel healthy and it's good to feel healthy."

### **Worth noting**

The Blue Jays have won eight of the last nine games against the A's, dating back to 2009. ... Bautista leads the Majors in home runs (13), RBIs (33) and extra-base hits (22) since the All-Star break. He's also batting .318 over that stretch. ... Adam Lind has posted a .409 average in his last 12 games with three home runs, four doubles, one triple and seven RBIs. ... The A's 71 home runs are the second fewest in the Majors. ... Oakland has stolen 35 bases since the All-Star break, which led the Majors entering Monday. The A's have stolen 100 bases overall this season. ... A's reliever Michael Wuertz has not allowed a run in seven career appearances against the Blue Jays (8 1/3 innings).



## **Jackson, Buck return to Athletics' lineup**

### **Carter, Larish optioned to Triple-A Sacramento to make room**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Chris Carter's first Major League tour of duty is over just one week after it started.

On Monday, the A's optioned Carter and Jeff Larish to Triple-A Sacramento to make room for outfielders Conor Jackson and Travis Buck. Carter, who belted 27 homers and drove in 89 runs before his promotion, went hitless in 19 at-bats over his six games played with Oakland.

"I don't think a handful of games is a real large enough sample size to say he struggled, to be honest with you," A's manager Bob Geren said. "They made some pretty darn good pitches on him."

In Carter's limited time in the big leagues, the opposition attacked him down and away in the zone, with sliders being responsible for several of his nine strikeouts. But it's safe to assume Carter will be back with Oakland in two weeks at the latest, as rosters expand to 40 men on Sept. 1.

"Next time he gets back up here, I think it'll be a lot easier for him," Geren said. "He knows exactly what to expect and what he needs to continue to work on down there."

Geren said Carter, who is a natural first baseman, will continue to play left field in Sacramento and that he proved he has the tools to play outfield at the Major League level.

"He made all the routine plays," Geren said. "He threw to the correct bases and he looked very athletic out there. Good athletes adjust to positions and learn how to play them rather quickly and I'd have to put him in that category."

Larish was called up from Sacramento with Carter on Aug. 9, but played in just one game and went 0-for-3. He was acquired off waivers from Detroit on Aug. 3 and promoted to Oakland after batting .417 with four homers and 15 RBIs in five games with Sacramento.

But with the loss of Larish and Carter, the A's received a couple of players who have long awaited their calls back to Oakland. Buck hasn't played with the A's since April 20, before he was sidelined by an oblique strain and subsequent leg soreness. Buck was reactivated from the 60-day disabled list on July 30, but was optioned to Sacramento.

For Jackson, it's been a grueling six-week wait since he played for the A's after being hampered by a strained right hamstring.

"Frustrating is probably not the word I'm looking for, it's probably something a little more," said Jackson, who led off the seventh inning on Monday with a home run to break up Blue Jays starter Shaun Marcum's no-hitter. "This hamstring's been bothering me all year and it feels good now, finally. I feel healthy and it's good to feel healthy."

Before his injury, Jackson played in 14 games with Oakland after getting traded from Arizona for Minor League reliever Sam Demel on June 15. Jackson went 2-for-22 in seven games during his rehab stint, as he played three Rookie League games, before playing two games with Class A Stockton and two more with Sacramento.

"The games in Triple-A, the numbers don't really show for themselves," Jackson said. "I had good at-bats, I feel like I was hitting the ball hard, just nothing to really show for it. I feel comfortable up there and hopefully it will carry over."

Jackson and Buck were inserted into Monday's starting lineup by Geren, with Jackson playing left and batting third, while Buck played right and hit seventh. He went 0-for-3 with a strikeout. Jackson batted third in 10 of his 14 games with Oakland.

With his two new outfielders, Geren elected to use Coco Crisp as the designated hitter Monday, while Rajai Davis started in center.

## **Bailey could return by end of week**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Closer Andrew Bailey is progressing well in his recovery from a rib cage muscle strain and could return to the A's by week's end.

Bailey, who hasn't pitched in a game since July 20, threw a bullpen session Sunday and reported no setbacks. He played catch Monday and will throw a simulated game or bullpen session on Tuesday.

"We're still a couple days away, but it's getting close," Bailey said. "Each and every day you're feeling better and now that I'm feeling good, it's just about getting back into baseball and game form."

Bailey said he still doesn't know whether he will need a Minor League rehab assignment, saying the team will assess the situation on Tuesday.

"That's up to them," Bailey said. "I haven't talked to them too much about it. ... Hopefully by the weekend I will be good to go."

## **Rosales could miss 4-6 weeks**

OAKLAND -- Wearing a blue polo shirt and propped up on a pair of crutches, Adam Rosales rejoined his teammates in Oakland on Monday.

The valuable utility player has been out since Wednesday due to a stress fracture in his right ankle. It marked the 22nd time Oakland used its disabled list this season, three shy of the record 25 DL trips it endured in 2008.

"It's nagging, which is probably the most frustrating thing," Rosales said. "It's so small, but it affects so much of the game. Your feet are everything in the game."

Rosales said he first started experiencing discomfort in his ankle last season with Cincinnati and that he also felt it while playing winter ball in Mexico. But it wasn't until after this year's All-Star break that the pain became intolerable.

"I'm not sure if the rest helped it or hurt it -- just keep on going without taking four days off," Rosales said.

Rosales said he can't do anything but rest for the time being, and he will likely go home to visit his family at some point. There's a chance he could return by the end of the season, which has seven weeks remaining.

"Doctors are saying different things," Rosales said. "They're saying four to six [weeks], but I want to be optimistic and say only two to three."

## **Powell, A's to host Donate Life Night**

## **Special event will benefit Lucile Packard Children's Hospital**

By Adam Loberstein / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Landon Powell remembers the day all too well. It started like any other day, with Powell going in for a morning workout in January of 2009, fighting for a spot on the Oakland A's roster.

Soon thereafter, Powell was fighting for his life. Powell collapsed in the middle of his workout, and his body went into convulsions. He had to be rushed to the hospital, where his liver levels were found to be through the roof -- "astronomical," as Powell recalls.

"At that time," Powell explained, "the doctor said baseball was the furthest thing from his thoughts."

Some 18 months later, baseball is very much a part of Powell's life once again. It wasn't easy, though, and it still isn't. Powell lives with autoimmune hepatitis, a rare form of an autoimmune disease. The disease causes Powell's immune system to attack his own liver cells, which is slowly killing his liver in the process. With no known cure for the disease, doctors told Powell that he will need a liver transplant at some point in his life.

"[My doctor] feels that before I die, I'll need a liver transplant," Powell said. "He doesn't know if it'll be the next 10 years or 20 years, but he did tell me I needed to get on a liver transplant list."

Powell is currently in the process of getting on a transplant list near his home in Charleston, S.C. Fans, meanwhile, will have a chance to get their names on the donor list on Saturday, when the A's, in cooperation with the California Donor Transplant Network and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, will host Donate Life Night with the A's.

The event will feature discounted tickets, with \$4 from each ticket going to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

"Organ donorship is something that had never really been close to my life before I was diagnosed," Powell said. "I've always put down 'organ donor' on my driver's license, but never really thought much about it. Now I realize how much it affects people's lives. One day, my life might depend on someone donating their organs. It makes a huge impact."

For now, Powell copes with his disease as he continues with his playing career. He takes two forms of medication on a daily basis, both of which have a negative effect on him as an athlete.

The first is a catabolic steroid, which reduces Powell's liver inflammation, but causes him to retain water, affects his vision and dehydrates his muscles. The second is called imuran, which suppresses his immune system, making him more susceptible to diseases such as mono and ringworm.

"My immune system tries to kill my liver on a daily basis," Powell said. "It attacks my liver cells and is slowly trying to kill my liver. ... It's just something you deal with. It's either you deal with those things, or your liver dies. You take that medicine every day."

All those who sign up to be donors at Donate Life Night, as well as those who have previously registered, will be entered in a drawing to win a player jersey, A's tickets and an A's player meet-and-greet. The first 250 fans to sign up will receive an autographed player photo card of Powell. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.oaklandathletics.com/donatelife](http://www.oaklandathletics.com/donatelife).

"Spending that week in the hospital and seeing how many people were sick every day, how many rooms were filled with people who needed transplants, that affects you," Powell said. "It definitely puts it up at the forefront in your mind."

"Honestly, I was lucky to live when I collapsed that day, but my condition is just one of millions of sicknesses. There are so many people dealing with so much."

## **Major Lee-ague: With Jackson back in fold, who goes?**

Jane Lee, mlb.com 8/16/2010 1:49PM

**Conor Jackson** just told me that, as far as he knows, he'll be in Oakland today and activated from the disabled list, which means two things for this A's team:

- *Someone's gotta go.* Whether it be **Chris Carter** or **Jeff Larish**, I think it's pretty safe to say one of those guys will be optioned back to Sacramento. Both just got here, but Carter obviously hasn't found a groove at the Major League level and Larish obviously hasn't even been given the opportunity to find a groove. I'd hoped that Carter wouldn't have to do the whole back and forth thing between Oakland and Sacramento, but if he does go, you figure it's not a bad idea to let him keep swinging at Triple-A since he'll be back in less than two weeks when rosters expand. As for Larish, I'm willing to bet some of you are wondering who he is and when he even joined the team. When **Daric Barton** was held out of the lineup with shoulder spasms, Larish was given a start at first base, but he hasn't seen any action since - and that was a week ago. He was swinging the bat so well with Sacramento - lots of homers and RBIs - and when a guy's sitting on the bench for so long like that, it's easy to lose that consistent stroke.

- *The lineup gets new life.* Sure, as I've said before, I don't think Jackson's return is going to all of a sudden put this team back into playoff contention. But, the way things are going for the offense, a different bat can't hurt. In fact, I think things are so bad for the offense right now - 6 hits over last 2 games - that it can really only get better. Day in and day out,

loss after loss, we've seen the same lineup thrown out there. Granted, there aren't many other options, especially in the No. 3-5 spots, but putting in a guy like Jackson (or even Larish) will at least mix things up, which is what the team needs right now.

So who goes? Geren said yesterday Jackson is "an everyday player," and I don't think the A's want Carter sitting on the bench. Even when Jackson does need a day off between now and September, the A's still have Gross, not to mention Steve Tolleson, who plays some left field. Thus, Carter's my guess, but you never quite know with this team. Either way, we'll likely find out in the next hour or so. I'm technically off today, but you can still get all your A's news at the A's website.

## **A's held to one hit in 3-1 loss to Blue Jays**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Shaun Marcum pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a home run to Conor Jackson leading off the seventh inning, and Jose Bautista hit a controversial inside-the-park home run to lift the Toronto Blue Jays over Oakland Athletics, 3-1 on Monday night.

The A's were held hitless late for the second straight day.

Minnesota's Kevin Slowey didn't allow a hit through seven innings Sunday before being pulled. Oakland got its first hit with one out in the eighth against Jon Rauch.

Edwin Encarnacion also homered for Toronto. Jose Molina matched his career high with four hits for the Blue Jays, who have won eight of the last 10 games between the two teams.

Marcum (11-6) missed most of last season after undergoing Tommy John surgery Sept. 30, 2008. He faced only two batters over the minimum before Jackson homered and finished for his first career complete game. Marcum also took a no-hitter into the seventh against Tampa Bay on May 7, 2008, before being lifted because of a high pitch count.

Prior to Jackson's homer, the closest the A's came to getting a hit came when Cliff Pennington hit a slow grounder to Encarnacion with one out in the sixth. The third baseman fumbled with the ball and threw late to first base, allowing Pennington to reach safely.

The play was ruled an error and the sparse crowd at the Oakland Coliseum booed.

Marcum, who was trying for the majors' sixth no-hitter this season, retired the first eight batters before hitting Pennington, the No. 9 hitter, with a pitch. Pennington was later thrown out trying to steal second. Daric Barton walked with one out in the fourth but was left stranded.

Jackson's home run, a towering blast over the wall in left-center, is his first since being acquired from Arizona in a trade on June 15.

Marcum retired the final nine batters after Jackson's drive. He finished with one walk and five strikeouts, rebounding nicely from his last outing when he gave up a career-high four home runs in a 10-1 loss to Boston on Wednesday.

Marcum's 11 wins lead the Blue Jays and are one shy of his career-high set in 2007.

In an intriguing follow-up, Oakland's Dallas Braden and Toronto's Brandon Morrow are scheduled to pitch against each other on Tuesday. Braden pitched the majors' first perfect game this year for the A's on May 9 while Morrow lost his bid for a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning against Tampa Bay on Aug. 8.

Bautista hit a 3-0 pitch from Brett Anderson that cleared the wall in left field but hit the pole and bounced back onto the field.

Third base umpire Tim Timmons pointed toward the turf, signaling the ball in play. Jackson, Oakland's left fielder, watched with his back against the wall as the ball bounced toward the infield as Bautista raced around the bases for what was ruled an inside-the-park home run.

It's Bautista's majors-leading 37th homer. The Toronto slugger also had an inside-the-park home run July 7 against Minnesota.

Encarnacion hit a two-run homer in the fifth, his 13th of the season.

The A's haven't had any sort of offense lately.

They entered the night coming off a road trip in which they hit just .209 and scored only 11 runs while going 1-5. Oakland has not homered in eight straight games, the team's longest power outage since a nine-game skid Sept. 14-24, 1983.

Anderson (3-4) allowed all three Toronto runs and gave up seven hits. Anderson, who struck out five, is 1-3 since returning from the disabled list July 30.

NOTES: LHP Jesse Carlson, called up from Triple-A Las Vegas following Toronto's 4-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday, was in uniform but did not pitch. ... The Blue Jays signed 15th-round draft pick LHP Zak Adams and 17th-rounder RHP Myles Jaye. ... The A's reached agreement with three of their draft picks, including second-rounder SS Yordy Cabrera. OF Aaron Shipman, a third-round pick, and 3B Chad Lewis, a fourth-rounder, also agreed to terms.

## **A's Go Over Slot To Secure Three**

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Melissa Lockard, OaklandClubhouse.com

Aug 17, 2010

The Oakland A's had a productive draft signing deadline day, inking their second, third and fourth-round selections just hours before the signing period would have expired. The A's wound-up signing their top 14 picks and 33 of their 50 selections.

It took until the draft signing period's final day, but the Oakland A's can now officially assess their 2010 MLB draft haul. Nearly a month after coming to terms with their number one pick, Michael Choice, the A's signed second-round selection Yordy Cabrera, third-round pick Aaron Shipman and fourth-rounder Chad Lewis. All three players were drafted out of high school and had commitments to four-year colleges.

The A's were looking to add power and athleticism in this draft, and Cabrera, Shipman and Lewis will bring the A's system just that.

Along with A's top pick Choice, Cabrera was considered one of the top power prospects in this year's draft class. He also rates highly for arm strength. A big, strong infielder, Cabrera is more than a full year older than most graduating high school seniors, but he had a college commitment to the University of Miami that he strongly considered. He is a native of the Dominican Republic and his father was a minor league prospect in the Tigers organization and he has served as a professional hitting coach.

After the draft, A's Scouting Director Eric Kubota had this to say about Cabrera: "He's another guy whose power is really his calling card. He is a very good athlete. He runs very well for his size. He's a big, strong kid who is only going to get bigger and stronger. He can really throw. We think he has a chance to play the infield and have very good power down the road."

Cabrera signed for \$1.25 million according to Baseball America.

Shipman, a Georgia prep outfielder, is highly athletic with plus speed and the instincts to play in centerfield. The A's see Shipman as a future lead-off man and, while he is considered a "toolsy" prospect, Oakland likes the polish that Shipman already has to his offensive game.

Kubota compared Shipman to Yankees centerfielder Curtis Granderson.

"He's just a really good athlete. A well above-average runner. A guy who can fill out and maybe come into some power. A true centerfielder," A's Director of Baseball Operations Farhan Zaidi told OaklandClubhouse after the draft.

"Our guys really like the swing. One of the phrases our scouting staff uses a lot is that they have a knack for the barrel and

manage to square up the ball with high frequency. This guy does that."

Baseball America had Shipman's bonus at \$500,000.

Lewis is a graduate of Marina High School in Southern California, the alma mater of former A's draft pick Justin Sellers and current A's first-baseman Daric Barton. Lewis, like Sellers and Barton, is an infielder. Lewis is a third-baseman with a powerful build and a line-drive stroke. A top performer at many of the high school showcases, Lewis had a commitment to San Diego State University.

"[Lewis is] a guy that we saw in the summer showcases and we've seen a lot of him. He's got profile corner, third base tools. He's got power potential," Kubota said after the draft.

"He's a very good athlete and he's a very good defender."

Lewis' bonus was reportedly \$300,000 according to Baseball America.

All three players will report to the A's minor league complex in Phoenix and could see game action with the AZL Athletics in the coming days.

## **Seeking officiating perfection in an imperfect sports world**

An ESPN study of close calls in major league games this year found that umpires got it wrong 20% of the time. Should baseball increase its use of replay, to NFL-type levels? There's no consensus.

By Lance Pugmire, LA Times, 8/16/2010

Any baseball game can hinge on a close call — the rapid movement of a line drive off the bat or a 200-pound body shifting in front of an umpire's line of vision.

Is the ball fair or foul? Is the runner safe or out?

For years, the call — whether perceived as good or bad — was considered part of the game, a human element as wholly ingrained in baseball's fabric as a misplayed ground ball or errant throw.

But now Major League Baseball is tussling with another kind of close call: Should it stick to tradition or consider leaning more on technology, as the NFL is already doing?

MLB currently uses instant replay only if there is a debate over a home run. There has been discussion, though, about whether to take that a step or two further, and use television replays to assure that other situations are judged correctly.

To that end, Little League has upped the ante on the big leaguers, announcing in advance of its World Series showcase later this month that it was installing a replay system to address close calls in a variety of situations.

Then, on Sunday, ESPN piled on to that, reporting in an "Outside the Lines" segment the results of a two-week study of 184 major league games that found that 20% of the rulings on 230 close calls were incorrect.

So who has it right, baseball or football?

Carl Johnson, who is in his first year as the NFL's vice president of officiating, says the use of replay technology has made games "better . . . for our fans."

"At the end of a game, the fans don't want to talk about a call that decided the game," Johnson said. "They want to talk about how well a game was played."

In baseball that hasn't happened in at least a few recent instances.

A bad call on a slide at home plate cost the San Francisco Giants a July 18 victory in a game they ended up losing. About two weeks later, the Florida Marlins lost a game on a ground ball hit over third base that was erroneously ruled foul.

Such calls are tough on fans who are tethered emotionally to their favorite teams. But beyond that, pro sports is a billion-dollar industry, with wins and losses shaping a team's fate. The Giants, for example, are in a pennant race, and that loss could be the difference between the team's making or not making the playoffs.

"What's the acceptable level of mistakes? There is none," said Mike Pereira, a Fox Sports analyst and former head of officiating for the NFL. "Look what's invested in the game — the dollars of the owners, the work by the coaches, the interest in fantasy sports and, for goodness' sakes, even gambling.

"You eliminate the huge mistakes, your game is going to be better."

On the flip side, purists say, we should remember how we start out in sports — on dusty ball fields, in stuffy school gyms and over gopher-holed gridirons, playing games officiated by volunteers or low-paid individuals motivated mostly by the kindness of their hearts.

In the pursuit of officiating perfection, they ask, have we become entirely intolerant of human imperfection?

"If mistakes are unintentional, human error is acceptable," said Rich Jarc, executive director of the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles. "We should be more understanding when these officials make a mistake. They're human beings. None of us are perfect."

Yet, impatience with sports officials also gets ingrained in us quickly. Think of the boisterous parent barking at the single youth umpire responsible for monitoring the entire field of play.

"The pressure we should be exerting [in youth sports] is not about winning at all costs, but just doing your best," Jarc said. "Just think how much better our world would be if we all gave our children that example of how to react to hurt feelings [caused by a bad call]. Because when we get into the real world, believe me, you're going to have to deal with hurt feelings.

"It's important to strive for perfection, but it's an unrealistic demand."

Perhaps the most poignant illustration of Jarc's point was the June 2 baseball game when Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga was one out away from a perfect game and induced a grounder that should have clinched his rare feat. Instead, umpire Jim Joyce erroneously called the baserunner safe at first.

Joyce, minutes after the game, apologized profusely that he "kicked the call," and a day later was handed the Tigers' lineup card by a forgiving Galarraga, bringing tears to the veteran umpire's eyes.

Former Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda said tough calls are "the name of the game," assessing that over the course of a 162-game season, "sometimes you get the break, sometimes not.

"If you bring in replay, you know how many close calls you'd have to be looking at?" he added. "Let the game stay the way it is."

In an ESPN survey of major league players, a majority agreed with Lasorda. Seventy-seven percent said they didn't want replay expanded to safe-or-out base calls, and 62% said they didn't want it extended to fair-or-foul calls.

"We prepare ourselves, we position ourselves, we look at plays closely, we want to get the play right," said Barry Mano, president of the National Assn. of Sports Officials. "But there's a limit to seeing, isn't there? And what's the alternative? Guessing? No one will go on the record and say they'd rather we guess if we haven't seen a play clearly. Joyce got it wrong, there it is. He shouted [obscenities] at himself. He hated it. We want to be right, but we all have to accept a certain level of inaccuracy."

The umpires were right on 66% of the close calls in the ESPN study. Another 14% were inconclusive.

Mano said officials "are in favor of getting the play right, as long as it's in sync with how the game is played. We wouldn't want to spend 18 minutes looking at a play, or have six-hour games."

He added, however, "To leave it the way it is is archaic. Doggone it, if the fans can see things, we need to see the same things."

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento loses three of four to Omaha**

By Abbie Ellis / Sacramento River Cats

Omaha was a Royal pain for Sacramento on Monday night, knocking off the River Cats 3-2 at Raley Field to take three of four in the series.

Omaha starter Matt Herges slowed down the Cats' bats, allowing one hit over his first 5.0 innings. Dallas McPherson made the one hit count and smacked his 16th homer of the season to tie the score 1-1 in the fourth inning.

A Corey Wimberly single in the sixth inning was only Sacramento's second hit of the night. Eric Sogard walked to advance Wimberly to second. With Matt Carson batting, Sogard ended up taking the out after Wimberly got caught in a run down after taking off for third too early. A Carson strike out left Wimberly stranded.

Sacramento's late rally in the bottom of the ninth came up short. Jeff Baisley doubled to score Carson and bring the River Cats within one run. Chris Carter made his first appearance since returning from a six-game stint in Oakland. Carter came in to pinch hit for Adrian Cardenas but struck out looking. Michael Taylor was the Cats' last chance, and grounded out to end the game.

The loss went to Bobby Cramer, who pitched 6.0 innings for seven hits, two runs (one earned), and eight strikeouts.

More hits lead to more runs, and the Royals managed to find the sweet spot on the ball more often. The Royals had 10 hits overall. Two River Cats throwing errors didn't help much either.

Sacramento caught a break as their PCL South division rivals, the Fresno Grizzlies, lost to the Iowa Cubs 5-3. Sacramento looks to claw its way back in the division standings when they take on Iowa on Tuesday at 7:05 p.m.

### **Peterson's RBI single completes 'Hounds comeback**

Shawn Shroyer, Midland Reporter-Telegram

Entering the bottom of the eighth, the Midland RockHounds trailed by five runs and looked dead in the water as an offense.

But when the Northwest Arkansas Naturals turned to their bullpen, the RockHounds caught fire at the plate, scoring six runs the last two innings in a 7-6 victory at Citibank Ballpark on Monday. Shane Peterson's single with no outs in the ninth brought in Jemile Weeks to end the dramatic game.

With the victory, the RockHounds finished their 10-game homestand at 5-5 and take a three-game lead over the San Antonio Missions in the Texas League South second half title chase. The homestand may have come with its share of disappointments for the RockHounds, but it couldn't have met a more climactic end.

"Oh yeah, everybody will be getting on the bus with a relaxed feeling," said RockHounds second baseman Jemile Weeks, who scored the game's winning run. "It's definitely a good way to head into a road trip."

When Weeks stepped to the plate to lead off the eighth inning, he'd had an otherwise quiet night to that point with one hit in three at-bats. He saved his best for last.

With the RockHounds trailing 6-1, Weeks stepped in to face Naturals reliever Barry Bowden, who had just replaced starter Everett Teaford. Weeks worked a full count before driving the ball into the right field corner for a double. Two batters later, Shane Peterson doubled to the right-center gap and bring Weeks home for the club's first run since the second inning.

Little did Weeks realize the rally he jump started.



"(Your mindset is to) do what you have to do to get on. I just wanted to have a good at-bat," Weeks said. "I didn't think the odds were high, but this team can hit. If you can get the leadoff man on, the odds are good."

Bowden was pulled in favor of Henry Barrera to face Corey Brown and Brown sent the first pitch he saw from Barrera to the right-center gap for an RBI triple. Two batters later, Alex Valdez singled with two outs to bring Brown home and cut the Naturals' lead to 6-4.

Josh Horton came up next and fell behind 0-2, fouling off the first five pitches he saw. On the sixth, Valdez was on the move and came in to score when Horton went to the opposite field, depositing a double just inside the left field line.

"He had two strikes on him and the pitcher was slow to the plate, so we decided to put him in motion and hope that Horton found a gap," Midland manager Darren Bush said.

Matt Sulentic finished off the rally with a single up the middle on the first pitch to bring Horton home for the tying run.

"I was thinking we needed something like what happened," said Bush, whose club had compiled just one run on four hits through seven innings. "We needed to string together some hits, get some big hits, and we were able to do that."

One batter into the ninth inning, though, it appeared the RockHounds' efforts in the eighth would all be for naught.

Naturals slugger Eric Hosmer led the inning off with a triple off Justin Friend to left-center. But with the go-ahead run just 90 feet away, the Naturals couldn't find a way to bring him in.

Clint Robinson followed with a pop out to third base and Friend was replaced by Fautino De Los Santos (1-2), who retired the next two batters to end the inning.

"Friend gave up the leadoff triple, but jammed the next hitter to allow us to get out of the inning," Bush said. "Friend did just what we asked of him."

Weeks led off the ninth, as well, and tripled to right-center off Brandon Sisk (4-6). Right fielder Nick Van Stratten fumbled the ball at the wall, nearly opening the door for Weeks to dash home and end the game then and there. But Bush held Weeks up at third and Weeks abided, not wanting to force it with no outs.

J.C. Holt worked a full count on Sisk and was walked to bring up Peterson. Peterson fell behind in the count, 1-2, but sent Sisk's next offering right back up the middle to plate the winning run.

The dramatic victory may have set the foundation for some thrilling meetings to come between the RockHounds and Naturals over the final month of the season.

The two teams meet up again this week in Springdale, Ark., and a rematch of last year's Texas League championship could be in the works if the two clubs play their cards right.

"It was a good game," Bush said. "Both sides swung the bats well. It was a good come-from-behind win."

## NOTEBOOK

**ROCKHOUND BITES:** Lost amid the RockHounds' late-inning comeback was a brilliant pitching performance by Naturals starter Everett Teaford, who made his bid for his 12th victory of the season. He went seven innings, struck out seven and held the RockHounds to one run on four hits and three walks. He departed with a 6-1 lead before the RockHounds jumped all over the Naturals' bullpen. "A lot was just his location," Weeks said. "He was locating well, so when you mix in offspeed pitches you have a chance to be successful." ... RockHounds starter Graham Godfrey lasted just four batters and 11 pitches before coming out. Clint Robinson's RBI single in the first deflected off Godfrey's pitching arm and by the time manager Darren Bush and trainer Justin Whitehouse reached him on the mound, his arm was already turning black and blue, so he was removed as a precaution.

## **Cougars Suffer Sweep vs. Peoria** **Kane County skid hits five**

**GENEVA, III.** – The Kane County Cougars' offensive woes continued Monday night, as the team suffered its fifth straight loss with a 4-0 defeat against the Peoria Chiefs in front of 6,246 at Elfstrom Stadium. The Cougars entered play Monday averaging 5.8 runs per game in August but have scored 13 runs during the five-game skid, the club's longest since May.

Murphy Smith (7-1) notched his sixth straight quality start but was handed his first loss this year as a Cougar. He gave up two runs in the second and two more -- one earned due to an error he committed -- in the fifth for the 4-0 score. He scattered seven hits, walked two and fanned six before Connor Hoehn handled the next three frames with shutout relief.

The Cougars' offense had six hits -- all singles -- and stranded seven. It went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position and is hitting .132 in those spots during the losing streak. Conner Crumbliss moved his hitting streak to a Cougars season-high 16 with a pair of hits, and Jason Christian chipped in two. Jeff Antigua (4-3) got the win for the Chiefs (23-24, 61-55).

The Cougars (27-22, 59-59) are off Tuesday and start a three-game series in Iowa on Wednesday night at 6:35 CT against the Cedar Rapids Kernels (27-22, 70-47). Jonathan Joseph (1-4, 4.09) is scheduled to face Tyler Kehrer (4-4, 4.92). The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and at [www.kccougars.com](http://www.kccougars.com) with pre-game coverage starting at 6:20 p.m.