

## A's News Clips, Wednesday, September 1, 2010

### New York Yankees make quick work of Oakland A's starter Vin Mazzaro in 9-3 humbling

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Not long ago, work was tough to come by for A's relievers.

The bullpen is cranking back to life now, and that's bad news for the A's.

The A's took another Bronx bashing Tuesday night, this one a 9-3 defeat to the New York Yankees that provided plenty for a crowd of 44,575 to cheer about.

The A's starting rotation has played the starring role in so much that's gone right for Oakland this season. However, it's been cameo appearances the past two nights at Yankee Stadium.

Right-hander Vin Mazzaro (6-7) served up three home runs and was charged with nine runs (seven earned) in just 32/3 innings. He also allowed seven hits, walked three and hit a batter.

"Three walks, a hit-by-pitch. He gave up three homers," manager Bob Geren said. "It was not a good night for him."

The starters recently rattled off 24 consecutive outings of six innings or more, one off the Oakland record.

But they have failed to complete five innings in three of the past five games, and the A's have lost all three.

Over the past two games, Mazzaro and Trevor Cahill have combined to give up 15 earned runs and 16 hits (five homers) in just 72/3 innings.

Not that it's unheard of for good pitchers to struggle against the Yankees' power-packed lineup.

New York entered Tuesday with a major league-leading 708 runs, 50 more than the second-place Boston Red Sox.

"They pretty much did what they always do," A's catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "They wait for their pitch, and when they get their pitch, they hit it far."

Mazzaro -- a New Jersey native who had plenty of family and friends in attendance -- dug himself an early hole, though two of New York's three first-inning runs were unearned.

He allowed a leadoff single to Brett Gardner, then walked Derek Jeter and hit Mark Teixeira to load the bases. Second baseman Mark Ellis made a nifty pick to start a 4-6-3 double play that brought the first run home.

But Ellis was then charged with an error when he couldn't cleanly backhand Nick Swisher's grounder up the middle that scored another, a tough play but one the sure-handed Ellis usually makes.

Jorge Posada made it 3-0 with an RBI triple off the left field wall.

The A's loaded the bases in the top of the third against Phil Hughes (16-6) but plated just one run.

Then the homer parade began.

Mazzaro piped a 3-0 pitch that Swisher hit for a towering, two-run homer to right field in the bottom of the third.

"You still have to try to make a pitch," Geren said. "You're not going to intentionally walk anybody in that situation."

With the A's trailing 5-2 in the fourth, Curtis Granderson skied a solo homer deep to right, and Teixeira applied the backbreaker -- a three-run shot into the second deck in right field that made it 9-2.

Yankee Stadium hasn't been kind to Mazzaro. In two starts over eight innings, he's allowed 13 earned runs.

"It would have been nice to come out on top, but you don't always get what you wish," Mazzaro said.

So good had the A's rotation been lately that long reliever Boof Bonser had appeared in just three of 28 games since being promoted from the minor leagues July 31.

He surely was needed Tuesday, and Bonser responded with 4 1/3 shutout innings.

## **Oakland A's update: General manager Billy Beane has plenty of choices for whom to lock up next**

Joe Stiglich, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Who's next for long-term deal? Beane has options

NEW YORK -- The A's acted swiftly in signing left-hander Brett Anderson and catcher Kurt Suzuki to long-term deals earlier this season.

Now the question is which young players they might try to lock up next. There are some strong candidates, particularly in a starting rotation.

Trevor Cahill, 22, might head the list based on his development into an AL All-Star in just his second season -- Monday's disastrous start against the New York Yankees notwithstanding.

But fellow starter Gio Gonzalez, 24, has made major strides in his first full season, and two-time All-Star closer Andrew Bailey, 26, could be right behind him as players who merit consideration.

"You sort of take them one at a time," general manager Billy Beane said, without mentioning specific players the A's would consider. "... There are some young players here who are going to be in the big leagues a long time. To keep things going, we'll have to consider (signing them long-term) for cost-control reasons."

Cahill and Bailey won't be arbitration-eligible until after next season. But those players could get more expensive to sign long term if they have productive 2011 seasons.

"It's a fine line," said Beane, making a rare appearance on the road for this series with the Yankees. "You wait too long and you might not have the opportunity to get something done. Do it too early, and you might make a mistake."

Manager Bob Geren was mum on which players the A's might add today when rosters expand. But the University of Missouri Web site is reporting that reliever Justin James -- a Tigers alum -- will join the A's from Triple-A Sacramento. Ross Wolf, another reliever who's spent time with Oakland this season, is also a possibility for promotion. In another move, the A's re-signed first baseman Tommy Everidge and assigned him to Sacramento.

Legendary A's radio play-by-play man Bill King, who died in 2005, is again nominated for the Ford C. Frick Award, the baseball broadcasting version of Hall of Fame enshrinement. Fans can vote online at [www.facebook.com/baseballhall](http://www.facebook.com/baseballhall) through Sept. 30. The top three fan selections will appear on the final 10-name ballot for the award.

## **Chin Music: Mazzaro looks to restore order on mound for A's**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/31/2010 3:58PM

Checking in before Game 2 of A's-Yankees, with Oakland trying to bounce back after allowing double-digit runs last night for the first time since May 30 ... Local boy Vin Mazzaro takes the mound looking to get things back on track, and the New Jersey native is sure to have a big cheering section on hand. Pregame stat of the day: Mazzaro has lowered his ERA in each month that's he's been in the big leagues this season -- 5.40 in May, 3.90 in June, 3.78 in July and 2.56 through five starts in August (though he's 0-3 for the month). Pregame stat of the day, Part II: Mazzaro is allowing a .315 opponents' batting average through his first 45 pitches in a game, and .213 after that.

--The A's are staying tight-lipped about who they might call up when rosters expand to 40 starting tomorrow. I'm not expecting too many reinforcements early in the month. Triple-A Sacramento looks like it's headed to the postseason yet again, and the A's usually don't like stripping the River Cats roster too much. Adding a reliever or two seems logical. And as I wrote last week, until the A's feel they're completely out of contention, they'll be promoting guys with an eye toward

helping the major league team, rather than promoting young players just to give them a look (that means don't expect Michael Taylor anytime real soon). Dallas McPherson, perhaps? His power could be useful for the A's. He'd have to be added to the 40-man roster, but there's a spot open ...

—Identical lineups as last night for both the A's and Yankees. Here ya go ...

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

Yankees — Gardner LF, Jeter SS, Teixeira 1B, Cano 2B, Swisher RF, Posada C, Thames DH, Granderson CF, Pena 3B; Hughes RHP.

## **Yankees beat up on A's once again, 9-3**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

The Yankees, specifically Mark Teixeira, are doing what the rest of the league could not most of the second half: They're knocking around the A's pitching staff.

In the first two games at Yankee Stadium, New York has piled up 20 runs against Oakland, with 17 of those coming against the A's starters. The final tally Tuesday night, Yankees 9, A's 3, with Vin Mazzaro allowing all of New York's runs.

Seven of the runs were earned, and all eight against Trevor Cahill on Monday night were earned. That's 15 earned runs off a rotation that had allowed a total of 42 earned runs in the previous 26 games in August. Entering the series, the rotation's August ERA stood at 2.13, and the staff as a whole had an ERA of 2.31 for the month. Despite the Yankees' eruption, Mazzaro argued that the A's staff has the edge on the Yankees' staff.

"They've got a good lineup, but we have better pitchers," Mazzaro said. "We have guys who can go seven, eight innings and dominate. We've just got to go out tomorrow and show what we can do."

The Yankees' offense, however, blows away the A's. Even without Alex Rodriguez, the lineup is formidable, and New York has the majors' best record.

Teixeira has paced the Yankees this series, going 5-for-6 with two homers, four RBIs and five runs. On Tuesday, he banged one of New York's three homers off Mazzaro, a three-run shot in the fourth.

"We're going to have to try to slow him down somehow," said A's manager Bob Geren, who noted that the switch hitter will turn around to bat right-handed the next two games, against Brett Anderson and Dallas Braden. "We'll try a game plan against him right-handed and hopefully have better success against him."

Curtis Granderson hit a solo shot in the fourth, and Nick Swisher rocketed a 3-0 pitch from Mazzaro to right in the third, a two-run shot. Geren said that everyone was motioning that Swisher would be swinging, there was no secret about that.

"I was trying to get it low and away and I just left it up there for him," Mazzaro said. "If you fall behind, these guys are going to punish you."

The A's have dropped seven of eight to New York this season and they've been outscored 47-20 in the process. Oakland starters are 1-7 with a 7.41 ERA against the Yankees, and New York has hit 11 homers and batted .292 in the eight games.

Oakland's best pitching performance to date against the Yankees probably came from Boof Bonser on Tuesday night - the long reliever worked 4 1/3 scoreless innings, allowing two hits. He walked one and struck out five.

"He did an excellent job," Geren said. "He was solid, really solid. Good curveball, he pitched aggressively. I liked the way he was throwing strikes."

The A's Daric Barton homered in the seventh, his third in five games. He has reached safely in his past 16 games.

## **A's call-up was in indie league 2 months ago**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

The A's will call up right-handed relievers **Ross Wolf** and **Justin James** when rosters expand today, according to several sources, and the latter is a particularly unexpected but interesting addition.

James, who turns 29 this month, was discovered in the independent Northern League in June, and he pitched well at Double-A Midland - and then even better at Triple-A Sacramento, with a 1.37 ERA and 28 strikeouts and nine walks, in 19 2/3 innings.

So in just more than two months, James, who spent time in the Blue Jays' and Reds' organizations, will have gone from the Kansas City T-Bones to the A's. He's not on the 40-man roster, but Oakland has an open spot after optioning **Matt Watson** to Sacramento.

Wolf was little used when up before, at one point going 21 days without an appearance, the second-longest such stretch in the majors this year.

**Everidge back in fold:** The A's re-signed first baseman **Tommy Everidge** and assigned him to Sacramento.

Everidge, who is from Sonoma, made a splash when he came up last year, hitting .295 in his first 12 games, prompting fans to bring signs reading "Tommy Time" to the Coliseum. He since had gone to the Mariners' organization and then to the Astros.

The River Cats needed reinforcements because **Chris Carter** is on the disabled list with a sprained thumb, Watson jammed a pinky sliding into second, and **Dallas McPherson** has hamstring tightness. Outfielder **Corey Brown** was promoted from Double-A Midland to help, too.

**AFL rosters announced:** Oakland will send some high-profile players to the Arizona Fall League to play for **Don Mattingly**, including outfielder **Michael Taylor**, a former Stanford player who was thought to be a possible contributor in Oakland this year.

Shortstop **Grant Green**, the A's top pick in 2009, also will go, along with James and fellow right-handers **Travis Banwart** and **Mike Benacka**, lefty **Carlos Hernandez** and infielder **Stephen Parker**.

## **A's leading off**

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle

**Chance to vote for King:** Bill King is back on the fans' ballot for Frick Award nominees, at [www.facebook.com/baseballhall](http://www.facebook.com/baseballhall).

The top three vote-getters will be on the final 10-name ballot. The winner is then decided by a 20-member panel.

## **Drumbeat: Justin James, Ross Wolf to be called up**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser in the Bronx , 8/31/2010, 3:05pm

I'd learned earlier in the afternoon that Triple-A Sacramento right-hander Justin James would be called up tomorrow when rosters expand, and apparently his college (Missouri) also found out, because there are reports out of there that he's coming up. I'm told that Ross Wolf also will be coming back to the big-league team.

James, a right-hander is a terrific story - he was signed out of the independent Northern League, where he played for the Kansas City T-Bones. He did well in 12 games at Double-A Midland, putting up a 2.29 ERA and striking out 21 in 19 2/3 innings, but he's fared even better with the River Cats, with a 1.37 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 19 2/3 innings. He's walked nine in that span and allowed 14 hits.

James turns 29 in September, but he's got even more reason to celebrate now: He's gone from the Kansas City T-Bones to the Oakland A's in just over two months.

Wolf, of course, already has been up, and barely used. He went 21 games at one point without an appearance, the second-longest such stretch in the majors this year.

Wolf is already on the 40-man. The A's have a spot open on the 40-man for James, though, after Matt Watson was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento.

Brett Anderson remains good to go for tomorrow night, and manager Bob Geren says he'll have no limitations, despite coming out of his last start after two innings because of a twisted right knee. Anderson took a bad step on the mound at Texas on Friday, hitting a stride mark left by Rangers starter Tommy Hunter.

Several of the A's starters remarked on the state of the mound that evening, and I'd presume that Anderson will be more careful about making sure there aren't sizable grooves that might trip him up. Manager Bob Geren said it's not an issue because all big-league mounds are so well-groomed, and while I'm sure that's the case, Anderson said today that he definitely stepped on the back of Hunter's stride mark. He found it unusual that Hunter has a longer stride than he does though Hunter is not as tall - the combination wasn't good, as it turned out, when it came to Anderson's landing point.

The A's announced their Arizona Fall League selections: RHPs Travis Banwart, Mike Benacka, Justin James; LHP Carlos Hernandez; IFs Grant Green, Stephen Parker; OF Michael Taylor. There'd been hope Taylor would be here by now, but the AFL does remain the spot for top prospects to get in some extra high-level competition, so this isn't a bad thing for Taylor by any means. He's still not far from the majors - and as you'll notice, James is coming up tomorrow and he's going to the AFL (that might always change should he get lots of work in the next month, which is unlikely considering how little the A's middle relievers get used.)

Here's the lineup: Crisp CF, Barton 1B, Suzuki C, Cust DH, Kouzmanoff 3B, Ellis 2B, Larish LF, Davis RF, Pennington SS

A quick mention for you Sonoma-types: Tommy Everidge is back in the organization. He was re-signed yesterday and assigned to Triple-A Sacramento today. Nice to see: He's a terrific guy, and local, and he showed some ability with the bat when he was first called up last year. Tommy Time!

## **Mazzaro done in by Yanks' homers**

## **Yanks' early damage against NJ native puts A's below .500**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- Mark Teixeira may not realize it, but the Yankees slugger-turned-A's nightmare is doing his best to help out his former Rangers team.

The power-hitting first baseman, who began his career with Texas, continued his season-long dominance over the A's on Tuesday with a two-hit night that included a three-run homer. His efforts, combined with a poor outing from Vin Mazzaro, led to a 9-3 A's loss to New York that stalled Oakland at 8 1/2 games behind Texas -- which lost to the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday -- in the American League West.

Teixeira has gone a combined 5-for-6 with two homers and four RBIs in the first two games of this four-game set, and he's now 9-for-29 with five home runs and nine RBIs when facing the A's this year.

"He's had a great series so far," A's manager Bob Geren said of Teixeira. "We're just going to have to try to slow him down somehow. We'll turn him around to the right-handed side the next few days, since we're throwing two lefties out there, and see how things go."

"The last two games have been good," Teixeira said. "I've been getting some pitches to hit, and I give Robinson Cano a lot of credit for that. Guys don't want to walk me or anyone in our lineup. Our lineup has been clicking on all cylinders."

The A's know all about it. Teixeira's three-run blast in the fourth inning, followed by a walk to Cano, put an end to Mazzaro's short but seemingly long night. The A's righty, looking to help his club bounce back from Monday's 11-5 pounding absorbed by Trevor Cahill, surrendered a season-high-tying seven earned runs -- nine total -- in just 3 2/3 innings.

And, just like Cahill, Mazzaro gave up three of those nine runs in the first frame -- only one of which was deemed earned, though. Brett Gardner led off with a single, and after Mazzaro walked Derek Jeter and hit Teixeira with a pitch, he allowed a run on a double-play grounder hit by Cano. Then, what appeared to be out No. 3 turned into a fielding error by second baseman Mark Ellis that allowed Jeter to score. A Jorge Posada triple brought home Nick Swisher and capped off the eventful first.

"I thought I made good pitches in that first inning, but when you get a guy 1-2, you can't hit him," Mazzaro said of plunking Teixeira. "You can't give up an easy baserunner like that."

The A's hurler garnered a 1-2-3 second inning, but the long ball proved troublesome the rest of the way, beginning in the third, when Swisher belted a two-run homer to the second deck in right field. A solo shot by Curtis Granderson in the fourth preceded a Ramiro Pena single and a walk to Gardner, and both made their way around the bases thanks to Teixeira's three-run shot, his 30th of the year.

"He's a good hitter," Mazzaro said of Teixeira. "His whole approach is good. I tried to go in on him, and I left it up and he got to it. He put a good swing on it."

"I battled. I fell behind a lot, and when you fall behind on those guys, they'll punish you. I tried too hard at times and left the ball over the zone."

"There's nothing really to say," A's catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "They pretty much did what they always do. When they get good pitches, they hit them far. They keep battling you and fouling you off until they get that pitch. I thought [Mazzaro] did a good job. He didn't have the command he would have liked, but you've got to give that lineup some credit."

Meanwhile, the A's offense did little to combat New York's unstoppable run-scoring ways. A sacrifice fly off the bat of Suzuki against starter Phil Hughes put the A's on the board in the third inning, and an RBI groundout from Rajai Davis in the fourth rewarded a leadoff single by Kevin Kouzmanoff, who scored on the play.

Hughes went five innings for New York, giving up two runs on four hits while walking five and striking out one. His work was enough to land him his 16th victory of the season, while New Jersey native Mazzaro fell to 6-7 in front of a handful of family members and friends.

"It would have been nice to come out on top and have a good performance," said Mazzaro, who has allowed 14 earned runs in 13 career innings against the Yankees. "Just a tough outing."

Mazzaro's departure was met with the entrance of Boof Bonser, who provided the A's 4 1/3 shutout innings of relief, marking something of a bright spot for an Oakland team that lost its fourth game in the past six contests and closed out August with a 13-15 record. For Mazzaro, the month resulted in four losses, and he's now winless over his past seven starts.

Oakland's final run came in the seventh inning against former A's righty Chad Gaudin, who surrendered a solo shot to Daric Barton, his eighth of the year and third in his past five games. But the three runs did little against the impact of New York's three home runs off Mazzaro, a career high for the right-hander. The Yankees have 168 homers on the season, good for third in the Majors.

Fourteen of those homers have come against the A's, who fell below .500 on Tuesday at 65-66 and have now been outscored by the Yankees, 47-20, this season while compiling a 1-7 record against New York, with two games remaining. Oakland starters have a 3.47 ERA on the season, which ranks second best in the Majors, but it jumps to 7.41 against New York this year.

"The Yankees are a good-hitting team, but we just faced some good-hitting teams in Texas and Minnesota and pitched well against them," Geren said. "You just have to shake it off. Brett [Anderson] will be ready for his start tomorrow, and we'll turn the page."

## **A's likely to add arms to deeper roster**

### **Geren eager to bolster bullpen as opportunity arises**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- When Major League rosters officially expand from 25 to 40 men on Wednesday, the A's are expected to add a dose of pitching, manager Bob Geren said before Tuesday's game against the Yankees.

The A's skipper didn't specify which pitchers will be in uniform come Wednesday, but he noted the need to have some on hand given the circumstances surrounding scheduled starter Brett Anderson's last outing, in which the lefty hyperextended his right knee. Anderson, however, will not be limited in any way, Geren added.

According to a report from his alma mater, the University of Missouri, right-handed pitcher Justin James will be called up to join the A's. Signed out of the independent Northern League earlier this season, James was brought to Double-A Midland and posted a 2.29 ERA in 12 games before being promoted to Triple-A Sacramento. Since then, he's posted similar dominant numbers with the River Cats, including a 1.37 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 19 2/3 innings across 16 games.

Possibilities to join James are Cedrick Bowers and Ross Wolf, the latter of whom made four appearances with Oakland in July, posting a 2.45 ERA.

Unlike Bowers and Wolf, James is not on the club's current 40-man roster, but the A's have an open slot after outrighting outfielder Matt Watson last week.

### **A's tab prospect Taylor, others for AFL**

NEW YORK -- Official rosters for the Arizona Fall League were announced on Tuesday, and seven players within the A's organization will be part of the Phoenix Desert Dogs.

The team -- which also boasts members of the Braves, Dodgers, Marlins and Yankees -- will include right-handed pitchers Travis Banwart, Mike Benacka and Justin James, lefty Carlos Hernandez, infielders Grant Green and Stephen Parker and outfielder Michael Taylor.

Dodgers hitting coach Don Mattingly will manage the club and be joined by A's roving pitching coach and rehab coordinator Garvin Alston, who will serve as pitching coach.

### **King among nominees for Frick Award**

NEW YORK -- Legendary A's voice Bill King is once again on the ballot for the prestigious Ford C. Frick Award, and fans of the late Bay Area broadcaster will have a chance to give his name Hall of Fame recognition beginning on Wednesday, when online voting begins.

For 25 years, King -- widely known for his "Holy Toledo!" call -- was the lead radio play-by-play man for A's games before passing away from complications following hip surgery in October 2005. In addition to being the voice of A's baseball, King, at various times, called games for the NBA's Golden State Warriors and the NFL's Oakland Raiders.

Online voting for the award will begin at 7 a.m. PT on the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/baseballhall](http://www.facebook.com/baseballhall)) and conclude at 2 p.m. on Sept. 30. The top three fan selections from votes tallied will appear on the final 10-name ballot for the award.

The 2011 Frick Award winner will be selected by a 20-member electorate, with the recipient to be announced at baseball's Winter Meetings in December.

The award is presented annually to a broadcaster for "major contributions to baseball." Named after the late broadcaster, National League president, Commissioner and Hall of Famer, it has been presented annually since 1978. Frick was a driving

force behind the creation of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., and he helped foster the relationship between radio and the game of baseball.

### **Worth noting**

With Tuesday's start against the Yankees, Kurt Suzuki has caught 439 games in his career, moving ahead Jeff Newman for fifth in Oakland history. ... The A's entered Tuesday's contest with a combined .183 average against the Yankees this season. Their lowest single-season batting average against New York is .207, which was posted in 1975.

## **Rhythm has escaped Burnett all season**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

At long last, the Yankees are alone atop the American League East standings.

For the first time since Aug. 22, New York holds an advantage in one of baseball's best divisions. In order to pad their one-game lead over the second-place Tampa Bay Rays, the Yankees will have to rely on the recently unreliable A.J. Burnett.

After Burnett suffered through a brutal August with an 0-4 record and a 7.80 ERA, manager Joe Girardi has considered a break from the starting rotation for the 33-year-old right-hander, who sported a 2.43 ERA in April but hit rock bottom in June, when he went 0-5 with an 11.35 ERA.

"We'll watch him to see how he's throwing, and hopefully, he gets on a roll and pitches a really good game," Girardi said. "There won't be a sense of panic on our part. We're going to let the guy pitch; we need him to pitch."

Girardi has repeatedly expressed the Yankees' need for Burnett to pitch well, especially with left-hander Andy Pettitte sidelined due to a left groin strain for a couple of more weeks. Behind ace CC Sabathia and 16-game winner Phil Hughes, the Yankees don't boast too much depth in their rotation.

Whatever wind the A's had in their sails heading into their four-game set with the Yankees has since floated on. Two losses have sorely hurt Oakland's chances to catch up to the first-place Texas Rangers in the AL West.

On Wednesday, A's lefty Brett Anderson will start for the first time since hyperextending his right knee on Friday in Texas. Anderson's injury, caused when he stepped in a hole created by opposing pitcher Tommy Hunter on the mound, forced the A's to remove the promising young lefty after just two innings.

Anderson, who has served a pair of lengthy stints on the disabled list this season, tossed a successful bullpen session on Monday.

"It went really well," A's manager Bob Geren said. "He should be good to go, no problems."

### **A's: Help on the way**

Though Anderson will have no pitch-limit restrictions on Wednesday, Geren said that the A's will be adding some arms when rosters expand to 40 men on Wednesday. ... Late radio broadcaster Bill King has been nominated for the 2011 Ford C. Frick Award, a Hall of Fame distinction. ... Outfield prospect Michael Taylor is one of seven A's players who will participate in the Arizona Fall League.

### **Yankees: Vazquez getting stronger**

Despite tossing 4 2/3 innings of effective relief for Dustin Moseley in Monday's series-opening 11-5 win, Javier Vazquez isn't being considered for a return to New York's starting rotation just yet.

"The last three or four times, [my fastball] has had more life," Vazquez said. "It's late movement. You can just feel that the ball has some at the end."

### **Worth noting**

Pettitte is scheduled to throw another bullpen session before Wednesday's contest. ... Before long, New York is expected to add Lance Berkman to its roster. ... In his previous four starts before Friday's outing, Anderson went 1-2 with a 2.33 ERA. ... Burnett gave up at least six earned runs in three of his five August starts. ... The Yankees are 7-1 against the A's this season.



## **A's lose to Yankees, 9-3**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — As the Yankees came back to the dugout after another long inning in the field, New York starter Phil Hughes made sure to thank them.

The Yankees' powerful lineup scored more than enough runs to get Hughes his 16th win, on a warm night when he struggled through five long innings and New York beat the Oakland Athletics 9-3.

"The thing that made us happy is he went out there and grinded it out," right fielder Nick Swisher said. "You want pitchers with heart."

Mark Teixeira hit a three-run homer and Curtis Granderson and Nick Swisher also went deep for the Yankees, who moved back into sole possession of first place. Tampa Bay, which lost to Toronto, and New York had spent eight days tied atop the AL East.

The Yankees, who came back from a three-run deficit to win 11-5 the night before, jumped on A's starter Vin Mazzaro right away.

Brett Gardner led off the first with a single, and the Yankees scored three runs in the inning, helped by second baseman Mark Ellis's fielding error and Jorge Posada's triple.

They added two more in the third when Nick Swisher homered on a 3-0 pitch one batter after Teixeira singled with one out.

Granderson hit a one-out solo shot in the fourth before Teixeira hit his 30th homer of the season.

Hughes (16-6) walked five but only gave up two runs and four hits in five innings.

"I just couldn't get my mechanics down. It was all over the place," Hughes said. "It's not fun to pitch like that."

The 24-year-old Hughes relies heavily on his fastball. On Tuesday night, he had no command at all, and it showed. He tied a season high with five walks, just as he did in his last start and his first of the year.

"No, he didn't really have his good stuff or his good command," Oakland's Rajai Davis said. "The problem was they got a lot more runs than we did."

Chad Gaudin pitched three effective innings in relief, giving up only Daric Barton's solo shot, and David Robertson finished the six-hitter for New York, which went 16-13 in August.

Lost in all the slugging was the end of Marcus Thames' home run streak. After six homers in five straight starts, Thames went 0 for 4. It wasn't pretty, either: He struck out three times and fouled out to the catcher his fourth time up.

Mazzaro (6-7) left after allowing nine runs, seven of which were earned, in 3 2-3 innings. He lost his fifth straight decision and hasn't gotten a win in seven starts since July 24 against the White Sox.

"I made some good pitches in that first inning. I got some ground balls, but they also hit some good pitches," Mazzaro said.

"Pitching from behind against these guys and they can punish you.

They have a good lineup."

The A's are 4-19 against the Yankees over the past three years — including 1-7 this season.

Oakland had an ugly first few innings. In addition to Ellis' first-inning error, he hit a ball about two feet up the line and then ran right into it for the second out of the third with a man on. Left fielder Jeff Larish badly misplayed the ball on Posada's triple. His drive caromed off the wall back behind Larish, and he slid into third ahead of the throw. It was the 10th triple of his career.

"Well, it's a play he can make," A's manager Bob Geren said.

"It is difficult and he got caught by going too deep. It's one of those things if you catch it, it's a good play, if you don't catch it, it's not a good play."

The breaks and extraordinary plays — among them, a 39-year-old catcher hitting an RBI triple — just seem to go Hughes' way when he starts. He's gotten just over eight runs of support for every nine innings pitched.

Despite his recent struggles, Hughes has won four of his last six decisions. The All-Star trails only teammate CC Sabathia (18-5) in the AL.

"He gave us a chance to win," Swisher said. "That's the reason he's second in the AL in wins behind the big man."

Notes: Yankees LHP Andy Pettitte said he plans to throw in the bullpen on Wednesday as he recovers from a groin strain. He said he hopes to throw at full effort and simulate being in a game by sitting and resting during the session. ... Derek Jeter went 0 for 3 with a walk, and has two hits in his last 30 at-bats. ... Before the bottom of the seventh started, the A's made a double switch — rarely seen in the AL — sending in replacements at catcher and shortstop, swapping their places in the batting order. The move is almost always done to keep pitchers from having to bat in the next inning.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento adds Everidge, falls to Vegas**

By Annie Becker / Sacramento River Cats

With the bases loaded in the ninth inning, Sacramento's Travis Buck grounded out to first base for the final out as Sacramento fell 4-2 to Las Vegas before 10,528 fans on Tuesday night at Raley Field.

Tuesday marked the return of Tommy Everidge to the River Cats. Everidge, who went 0-for-4, was a huge part of the River Cats 2009 team that won the South Division. Last season with Sacramento, Everidge hit .368 with 12 home runs and 41 RBIs in only 52 games. Sacramento acquired Everidge on Tuesday as a free agent.

The River Cats fell behind early to the 51s, who dominated with starting pitcher Scott Richmond, who shut out the Cats through his 6.0 innings on the mound allowing just one hit.

Vegas came out strong in the second inning, putting up the first two against a struggling Sacramento offense. The pitching duel between Richmond and Sacramento's Bobby Cramer left both teams scoreless for the next four innings.

Vegas added one more to their lead in the seventh before Sacramento welcomed back Corey Brown, who got the Cats offense started with a solo shot home run over the right field wall on a 2-1 pitch in the seventh inning. Adrian Cardenas then singled to left field but was called out while trying to stretch it into a double. Michael Taylor stepped up and added a double and advanced to third on Tommy Everidge's sacrifice single. Taylor scored off a wild Vegas pitch and the Cats looked to be clawing back.

With two out in the ninth and trailing 4-2, Sacramento's Anthony Recker doubled into the right-field corner. After Corey Wimberly singled and Eric Sogard walked, Travis Buck came up with the bases loaded. However, the designated hitter grounded out to first base to end the game.

With Fresno also losing 7-6 against Salt Lake, the Cats remain 2.0 games up on the PCL rivals. The Cats' Magic Number moves to 4.

Sacramento and Vegas will meet again on Wednesday at 11:35 am.

### **Hounds Walk 14 In Loss**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

In the last of the first inning Tuesday night, San Antonio's lead-off hitter sent a routine ground ball between first and second. Jemile Weeks misplayed the ball ... a seemingly harmless error on a simple dropped ball. Simple, yes. Harmless, no. This game, like Freddy's Elm Street Nightmare, was not pretty.

The error lead to a pair of unearned runs in the first inning ... RockHounds pitchers walked 14 batters (two intentionally) and hit one ... a pop fly between third and short dropped (for a hit) within the reach of both defenders ... and the miscue led to a pair of runs, both of which scored on wild pitches. The Missions scored eight runs on seven singles, including the pop-up that dropped and three Texas Leaguers.

San Antonio's 8-3 win brings the Missions to within three games of the Rockounds in both the second half and wild card races.

The RockHounds' "magic number" to clinch a playoff spot is four (any combination of RockHounds wins and San Antonio losses toalling four), so two wins over San Antonio in the remaining three games of the series would "get it done," but not if there are additional Freddy Krueger Nights in the offing.

Personnel move: The Oakland A's have promoted Corey Brown to (AAA) Sacramento and outfielder Jermaine Mitchell from the (Advanced-A) Stockton Ports to the RockHounds. Corey was namd to the 2010 Texas League All-Star Team after hitting .320 in 90 games with the 'Hounds. Mitchell, who played in 30 games early in the season for the RockHounds, was hitting .309 for Stockton, with 10 HR, 32 RBI and 21 stolen bases. Jermaine hit .370 in July for Stockton.

The RockHounds play at San Antonio through Friday before returning to Citibank Ballpark for a 3-game Labor Day weekend series against Frisco.

The pennant race & the wild card: The RockHounds lead first half champion Frisco by two games in the South, with San Antonio now back to within three games of the top spot. Corpus Christi is six out with six to play.

If Frisco wins the second half, the wild card race takes effect. The RockHounds also lead San Antonio by three games for the wild card playoff berth with Corpus Christi on the verge of elimination, five games out.

There are six (6) games remaining in the 2010 Texas League regular season.

### **Ports Avoid Late Collapse, Win 8-7**

**MODESTO, Calif.** - Through the first six innings on Tuesday night at John Thurman Field, it looked as if the Stockton Ports would coast to an easy victory in the first game of their series with the Modesto Nuts. Modesto, however, staged a late rally, but ultimately fell short as the Ports went on to win by a final of 8-7. The Ports win, coupled with a Bakersfield loss, reduces the Ports magic number to clinch a playoff berth to two.

Stockton opened up a big lead early. David Thomas singled to open the ballgame and Grant Green was hit on by a pitch on the hand (Green would stay in the game to run the bases, but be lifted for pinch-hitter Brandon Pinckney in the second). Stephen Parker drove in the game's first run with a single to center to make it 1-0. Mike Spina followed with an RBI double to make it a 2-0 game. With runners at second and third, Jeremy Barfield grounded out to second to bring in Parker and move Spina to third. Spina would score on an ensuing passed ball to give the Ports a 4-0 lead after a half-inning.

Modesto got a run back in the bottom of the first off Ports starter Ian Krol. Erik Wetzal singled to start the frame and then stole second. Two batters later, Mike Zuanich reached on an infield single to first. Spina, Stockton's first baseman, fielded the ball and attempted to throw to Krol covering the bag, but the throw got away and Wetzal came in to score to make it a 4-1 game.

It was the only run allowed by Krol who was outstanding and left the game with a chance to win. Krol went five full innings, allowing just the one run on three hits while walking two and striking out six.

The Ports scored two more runs off Nuts starter Parker Frazier in the second. With the bases loaded and nobody out, Parker hit a two-run single to right to make it a 6-1 contest.

Frazier would receive a no-decision thanks to Modesto's late comeback. He tossed four innings and allowed six runs on six hits while walking two, hitting two and striking out two.

Stockton made it a 7-1 lead in the fifth with back-to-back doubles from Todd Johnson and Tyler Ladendorf off Nuts reliever Stephen Dodson. Dodson allowed just the one run in three innings of relief.

The Nuts started to rally in the sixth. With two on and two out, Ports reliever Mike Hart gave up an RBI single to Ryan Peisel to make it a 7-2 game.

Modesto would take advantage of two Stockton errors in the seventh to tie the game at seven. Dustin Garneu reached to start the inning on a throwing error made by Parker at third. After a strikeout of Chandler Laurent, Hart yielded back-to-back singles to Wetzel and Tim Wheeler that loaded the bases. Hart then hit Zuanich to bring in Modesto's third run of the night. A.J. Huttenlocker (1-0) was summoned from the bullpen and, with the bases full, hit Ben Paulsen to make it 7-4. After a strikeout of Joe Sanders, Peisel singled to right to score two runs. Barfield opted to try to throw out Paulsen, who was headed for third, but the throw went wide and Paulsen came across with the tying run. Huttenlocker would strike out pinch-hitter Jimmy Cesario to end the inning and preserve the tie.

Stockton snatched the lead back in the top of the ninth. With Kurt Yacko (6-5) on the hill, Spina started the inning with a double to right-center. He'd score three batters later on a one-out single from Johnson to put the Ports in front 8-7. It was the only run allowed by Yacko in his lone inning of work as he'd be tagged with the loss on the night.

Huttenlocker would pick up the win after allowing a run in 1.2 innings of relief.

Paul Smyth (SV, 28) picked up the save in the ninth. Smyth allowed a two-out double to Paulsen, but got Sanders to fly out to center to end the game.

Stockton and Modesto resume their series with a matinee game on Wednesday. Left-hander Fabian Williamson (4-1, 4.24 ERA) will head to the hill for the Ports, opposed by Nuts right-hander Ethan Hollingsworth (10-8, 3.43 ERA). First pitch time is set for 3:30 p.m. PDT.

## **Cougars Lose Finale in Wisconsin** **Kane County falls in Appleton but gets help in playoff race**

**APPLETON, Wisc.** – The Kane County Cougars never led Tuesday night and suffered their most lopsided loss of the season with a 16-4 defeat against the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers at Time Warner Cable Field. Though the Cougars had to settle for a split of the four-game set, they got some help in the playoff race. With Clinton's loss in Peoria and Beloit's loss to Burlington, the Cougars remain 1.5 games behind Clinton for the top playoff spot and 1.0 game ahead of Beloit for the Wild Card spot with six games remaining in the regular season.

Aaron Larsen (0-1) suffered the loss in his Cougars debut. He gave up six runs -- two earned -- during a rough second inning. Kenny Smalley gave up two runs in three innings, Max Peterson yielded four runs -- three earned -- in 1 1/3 innings and Connor Hoehn ceded four runs in 1 2/3 frames. Ryan Doolittle also worked in the eighth inning and gave up two of the Rattlers' 15 hits.

All of the Cougars' runs came during a fifth-inning rally against Jake Odorizzi. Tyreece House notched a sacrifice fly, and Leonardo Gil belted a two-run triple and scored on an error to cut the deficit to 6-4, but that was as close as the Cougars could get.

The Cougars (34-29, 66-66) play all six of their remaining regular season games at Elfstrom Stadium and open a three-game series with the Peoria Chiefs (31-31, 69-62) on Wednesday night at 6:30 CT. Murphy Smith (7-2, 3.93) is scheduled to face major leaguer Carlos Silva, who will be on a rehab assignment from Peoria's parent-club Chicago Cubs. The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and [www.kccougars.com](http://www.kccougars.com) with pre-game coverage starting at 6:15 p.m.

## **Oakland A's MLN: AFL Roster & Other Moves**

Melissa Lockard, [OaklandClubhouse.com](http://OaklandClubhouse.com)

Aug 31, 2010

The Oakland A's AFL contingent will feature a mix of high-profile prospects and feel good stories. We take a closer look at the seven A's prospects heading to the desert this fall, as well as some other moves that were made within the system, inside...

### **A's Announce AFL Seven**

The Oakland A's announced their 2010 Arizona Fall League contingent on Tuesday. This year pitchers [Travis Banwart](#),

[Michael Benacka](#), [Carlos Hernandez](#) and [Justin James](#) will join position players [Grant Green](#), [Stephen Parker](#) and [Michael Taylor](#) as members of the Arizona Fall League's Phoenix Desert Dogs' roster.

The Arizona Fall League is a prospect showcase that features some of the games rising young stars. Last year, the A's sent [Jemile Weeks](#), [Corey Brown](#), [Grant Desme](#), [Mickey Storey](#), [Sam Demel](#), [James Simmons](#) and [Justin Friend](#) to the AFL. From that group, Demel has since graduated to the major leagues.

The A's 2010 AFL class features a mix of high-profile prospects and lesser-known names. Michael Taylor and Grant Green both began the year ranked among the A's top-five prospects and Stephen Parker and Travis Banwart are recent top-five round picks. Michael Benacka, Carlos Hernandez and Justin James might be lesser known names for those who don't follow the A's farm system closely.

Benacka and James both have a lot in common. In addition to being relievers in the Triple-A Sacramento River Cats' bullpen, Benacka and James are graduates of the independent leagues.

Benacka was signed by the A's out of the independent Frontier League in 2008. He had never played affiliated baseball before signing with Oakland as a 26-year-old. Benacka has done nothing but excel since signing with the A's. In 2008, he posted a 2.39 ERA and struck-out 37 in 26.1 innings for High-A Stockton. He moved up to Double-A Midland in 2009 and posted a 2.74 ERA in 65.2 innings before earning a late-season promotion to Sacramento, for whom he posted a 1.98 ERA in 13.2 innings. Benacka has spent the entire 2010 season with the River Cats and has overcome a bout of vertigo to post a 3.77 ERA and strike-out 60 in 43 innings.

James signed with the A's this season after beginning the year in the independent Northern League. He was originally assigned to Double-A Midland, where he had a 2.29 ERA in 19.2 innings before being promoted to Sacramento. In 19.2 innings for the River Cats, James has a 1.37 ERA and four saves. According to Susan Slusser, James will be promoted to the big leagues when rosters expand on Wednesday. This will be James' second go-around in the Arizona Fall League. He was a 2007 participant while with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Hernandez was a 35th round pick of the A's in 2006, although he didn't sign with Oakland until just before the 2007 draft, as he was one of the last draft-and-follow signings the A's made before the August signing deadline rule was instituted. The Santa Clara lefty has done nothing but win since signing with the A's. Since 2008, Hernandez has won 31 games, almost all as a starting pitcher. Last season, he led all A's minor league starters with 15 wins. This year, he has pitched exclusively with the Double-A Midland Rockhounds, posting a 9-3 record with a 4.45 ERA in 123.1 innings. Hernandez was a mid-season All-Star in the Texas League this season.

Banwart, the A's fourth-round pick in 2007, was also a Texas League mid-season All-Star this year. The right-hander from Wichita State had a 2.92 ERA in 83.1 innings for the Rockhounds before being promoted to Triple-A Sacramento. He has a 4.97 ERA in 67 innings with the River Cats, although he has allowed only six runs over his last 23 innings.

Banwart's Sacramento teammate Taylor will head to the desert for his first AFL action. Taylor was acquired by the A's for [Brett Wallace](#) during the off-season and entered the year as one of the A's top prospects. He has had an up-and-down season for Sacramento, batting .264/.343/.381 in 120 games, so he will be looking to redeem himself with a strong fall.

Green and Parker figure to be among the least experienced players in the AFL, not having played above A-ball. The Stockton infielders have had strong seasons offensively. Green, the A's top pick last season, is batting .315/.359/.517 with 19 homers and 83 RBIs in 125 games, while Parker, the A's fifth-round pick in 2009, is batting .291/.388/.503 with 20 homers and 89 RBIs in 132 games.

The Arizona Fall League season is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, October 12. A's roving minor league pitching coach/rehab coordinator Garvin Alston will serve as the Phoenix pitching coach. Other teams sending prospects to the Phoenix roster are the Braves, Marlins, Dodgers and Yankees.

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## **Brown, Everidge Return To Sacramento**

Corey Brown had a rough first time through Triple-A, but he will get another crack at the league this week, as the outfielder has been promoted from Double-A Midland to Triple-A Sacramento.

Brown spent much of the first six weeks of the season with the River Cats, but he hit only .156 with a 482 OPS in 34 games. He excelled with the Rockhounds, however, batting .320/.415/.502 with 10 homers and 19 stolen bases in 90 games. Brown was named to the Texas League's post-season All-Star team and leaves Midland with the league's second-highest batting

average.

First-baseman [Tom Everidge](#) returns to Sacramento after being released by the Houston Astros in late July. Everidge, who was in the A's organization from 2004-2009 and played with the A's in 2009, began the year in the Seattle Mariners chain. He was traded to the Houston Astros mid-season and was released at the trade deadline. Everidge was batting .250 with 12 homers and a 733 OPS in 95 PCL games this season. He hit .368 with 12 homers in 52 games with the River Cats last season.

Replacing Brown on the Midland roster is outfielder [Jermaine Mitchell](#), who had a big impact with the Sacramento River Cats in a brief three-game stay. Mitchell drove-in the game-winning run for Sacramento on Sunday in the contest against Fresno that gave the River Cats a one-game lead in the division. Mitchell then doubled home a run in Sacramento's 3-2 win on Monday over Las Vegas. He spent most of the year with the Stockton Ports, for whom he hit .309/.413/.523 with 10 homers and 21 stolen bases in 78 games. Mitchell did appear in 30 games with the Rockhounds earlier this season and he hit .234 with a 651 OPS.

[Jared Lansford](#) has been activated from the Sacramento disabled list, while Justin James and [Ross Wolf](#) were placed on the inactive list. Susan Slusser reported that James and Wolf will be promoted to Oakland on Wednesday when rosters expand.

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### **Macias To DL, Larsen To Rotation In Kane County**

2010 18th-round pick [Jose Macias](#) has been placed on the Kane County DL with a strained right shoulder. Macias allowed five runs in seven innings with the Cougars after allowing only two runs in 14 innings with the AZL A's. This is Macias' first full season of pitching after converting from shortstop in college.

Replacing Macias in the Cougars' rotation is left-hander [Aaron Larsen](#), the A's 34th-round pick this season. Larsen becomes the third player (after Macias and [Matt Thomson](#)) to advance past the short-season level from the 2010 draft class. Larsen was 5-2 with a 2.89 ERA and 31 strike-outs in 37.1 innings for the AZL A's this season.