

## A's News Clips, Thursday, September 9, 2010

### Oakland A's Coco Crisp fights off knee pain to spark victory

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Coco Crisp's status for the A's come-from-behind 4-3 win over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday appeared to be a question mark because of his balky left knee.

But he found his name in the leadoff spot, then found a way to spark a rally in front of 15,180 in attendance at the Oakland Coliseum.

Crisp hammered a two-run homer in the third, then delivered the go-ahead single in the sixth. The latter completed the A's comeback from a 3-0 deficit and gave left-hander Gio Gonzalez his 14th victory, one that hardly seemed in the cards early.

Crisp entered the night 10 for 51 (.196) over his previous 13 games, but the first-year Athletic generally has been a catalyst atop the lineup after an injury-riddled first half.

"He's been an outstanding player for us in the second half," A's manager Bob Geren said. "It goes to show you how much we missed him in the first half."

Crisp didn't start Tuesday's 7-5 defeat because of his sore knee. He later delivered a pinch-hit, two-run single in the ninth inning, but his knee clearly was giving him trouble running the bases.

He didn't seem hindered Wednesday, going 2 for 4 with three RBIs and taking part in one of two double steals the A's had in the sixth.

Crisp is 10 for 22 against Seattle this year.

Asked if he had any doubt he'd be able to play, he said:

"I think I can go any day," he said when asked if he had any doubt he'd be able to play. "I'm not injured, I'm not on the DL, so it's not any big deal."

The A's took two of three from the Mariners and stayed seven games behind first-place Texas, which beat Toronto 8-1 to snap a five-game losing streak. The A's and Rangers each have 23 games left. Texas' magic number (the combo of Rangers wins combined with A's losses) is 17.

Gonzalez (14-8) won his fourth straight start after initially appearing to be in for a short night. Russell Branyan crushed a hanging curveball deep to right-center for a two-run homer in the first. In the second, Matt Tuiasosopo turned on a fastball and sent it sailing over the left-field wall to make it 3-0.

But Gonzalez discovered the feel on his curve, delivered a 1-2-3 third and retired 15 of his final 18 hitters. The lefty allowed just the three runs over 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, striking out nine and walking two.

"I was just telling myself, 'All right, don't lose focus,' " Gonzalez said.

In the third, the switch-hitting Crisp lined a two-run homer from the right side off Mariners starter Luke French (4-5), cutting Seattle's lead to 3-2.

Then the A's executed two double steals during their go-ahead rally in the sixth, giving them their first four-steal inning since June 12, 1990 against Texas.

Rajai Davis and Matt Carson pulled off the first one, then Jamey Wright relieved French and walked Steve Tolleson to load the bases with one out. Cliff Pennington's fielder's choice grounder -- on which Seattle shortstop Jack Wilson dropped the ball on a potential relay throw for a double play -- tied the game, and Crisp poked the first pitch for a go-ahead single to right.

Gonzalez left after Chone Figgins' double with two outs in the top of the seventh, having thrown 117 pitches. With today's day off, Geren said he'll give his lefty an extra day's rest, meaning the A's have to pick a starter for Monday at Kansas City.

## **A's update: Eric Chavez helps DVC players**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Eric Chavez isn't healthy enough to play, but he's stayed involved on the baseball diamond.

The six-time Gold Glove third baseman spent time earlier this week working as a special instructor with the Diablo Valley College baseball team in Pleasant Hill.

DVC's head coach is former A's pitcher Mike Neu, a teammate of Chavez's in 2003. The two remain close friends.

"I was just out there helping out the infielders, spending time with a few guys, trying to help out wherever I could," Chavez said before Wednesday's game against Seattle.

Sidelined since May with neck and shoulder problems, Chavez, 32, is holding out hope to play again. But he's acknowledged that retirement might be unavoidable because of his various injuries in recent seasons.

Chavez says he could see himself coaching. He'd dropped by DVC to help out twice before and was hoping to do so again before he flies home to Arizona on Saturday to continue his recovery.

"I wasn't real sure when I (retire) if I wanted to coach or what not, but I feel I'm pretty well-suited for it because I enjoy it a lot," Chavez said.

Manager Bob Geren officially declared infielder Adam Rosales out for the season.

Rosales went on the DL Aug. 13 with a stress fracture in his right ankle. At the time, he was hopeful of returning.

"I believe in the quote, 'It's not how you start but how you finish,' " Rosales said by phone. "I just wish I could have finished a little stronger."

The fracture is in his navicular bone, which he's been told is "a tough bone to heal."

No surgery is required, and Rosales said he should be at full strength for spring training. He's flying to Oakland on Monday for a follow-up appointment.

Reliever Craig Breslow was named the A's nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award, given to the player who best exemplifies sportsmanship and community involvement. "... An MRI on third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff showed no major damage with his back, Geren said. Kouzmanoff missed his third straight game. "... Joey Devine threw a 20-pitch simulated game. He'll throw in the fall instructional league along with fellow pitcher Josh Outman. Both are recovering from Tommy John elbow surgery.

## **Chin Music: Crisp back at CF for A's; Rosales officially out for season**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 9/8/2010 5:30PM

We've got overcast skies above the Coliseum for the second straight day. Definitely feels like fall, which is weird because it was uncharacteristically hot for Monday's game ...

-Coco Crisp is back in the leadoff spot and playing center field for the A's. A lot of you may have seen the replay of Crisp running gingerly last night on his sore left knee after pinch-hitting in the ninth inning. I didn't get a chance to speak w/him before the game, but obviously he's feeling well enough to give it a go.

Kevin Kouzmanoff's MRI didn't show anything seriously wrong with his lower back, according to manager Bob Geren. But Kouzmanoff remains out of the lineup for a third straight game. "He's getting better," Geren said. "There were no new findings (on the MRI)." Steve Tolleson draws his third straight start at third. This guy has produced pretty well wherever the A's have plugged him in. He had a career-high three hits last night and is 9-for-27 since he was recalled from the minors Aug. 13.

-Geren officially declared utility man Adam Rosales out for the season with the stress fracture in his right ankle. It appeared the injury could be season-ending when Rosales went on the DL Aug. 13, but he was hopeful at the time of possibly coming back. Probably a smart move that he doesn't try to push it. One note on Rosales: On the first homestand after his injury, he made a habit of coming out to watch batting practice, standing behind the cage wearing a protective boot on his foot. You don't see many injured players do that, but I get the feeling Rosales couldn't stand to be away from the team. Or perhaps he felt guilty that he couldn't be out there helping. Either way, the gesture reflects well on him. ...

–Joey Devine was feeling upbeat about the 20-pitch simulated game he threw. The plan is for him and Josh Outman to head to instructional league later this month in Phoenix and get some innings in before breaking for the offseason.

Tonight's lineups:

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

Mariners — Ichiro RF, Figgins 2B, Brayan DH, Lopez 3B, Moore C, Kotchman 1B, Tuiasosopo LF, Saunders CF, Wilson SS; French LHP.

## **75 Silicon Valley leaders endorse A's move to San Jose**

By Tracy Seipel, San Jose Mercury News

In a show of unity and a flexing of the region's political and economic might, 75 Silicon Valley CEOs have signed a letter to Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig urging the timely approval of moving the Oakland A's to San Jose.

The two-page letter, which was assembled by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, carries the signatures of well-known valley chief executives including Cisco Systems' John Chambers, Yahoo's Carol Bartz, eBay's John Donahoe and SunPower's Tom Werner, as well as venture capitalist John Doerr, a partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

It is the latest and perhaps most impressive appeal to Selig from a range of avid supporters including the city of San Jose, a local pro-baseball grass-roots group and ordinary citizens, all pushing Selig to give the nod to San Jose. The letter drives home the point that Silicon Valley can deliver a level of corporate support to baseball that no other city in the Bay Area can match. It notes that the more than 300 member companies in the leadership group employ more than 250,000 local workers and generate more than \$2 trillion in global revenue.

"I don't know that he's seen our roster of corporate folks here, and it's always good to remind him of the corporate support we have out here," San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed said of the letter.

The text of the letter says:

"We, the undersigned CEOs and senior executives, are committed to bringing jobs, revenue, a rich culture, and a thriving business climate to Silicon Valley. We believe that an intimate state of the art ballpark located on a prime downtown San Jose parcel, close to mass transit and major highways will be a catalyst for economic development in our region. We also believe downtown San Jose offers a compelling location for the advancement of Major League Baseball in the 21st Century."

Hurdles remain

Despite this list of powerful backers, the effort to bring a ballpark to downtown San Jose faces complications. A special committee appointed by Selig has been studying whether the A's can relocate to the South Bay -- long-deemed the San Francisco Giants' turf -- and that process has been dragging on for more than a year.

Selig, a fraternity brother of A's owner Lew Wolff, is awaiting a final report from the committee, which also will help baseball's 30 team owners decide whether the team can move to San Jose.

An MLB spokesman on Wednesday declined to comment on the letter, as did a spokeswoman from the San Francisco Giants. Corey Busch, a member of the special committee, also had no comment.

Leadership group President and CEO Carl Guardino and others said they can only hope for the best.

"We thought the CEOs of Silicon Valley ought to reach out to Commissioner Selig so he clearly understands -- in a respectful way -- that we think the Bay Area should remain a market for two Major League Baseball teams," said Guardino, referring to San Jose and San Francisco.

Corporate support

The letter is the second effort by the leadership group to make its case for the A's to move to America's 10th-largest city. Last year, the group released a survey of 121 leading valley technology companies in which 70 percent agreed that San Jose should be home to an MLB team. Almost as many of the respondents that currently sponsor, advertise or purchase game ticket packages said they would support both the Giants and the San Jose A's.

The new letter repeats that theme, saying "We strongly believe that both teams will thrive in a vibrant two team market anchored by San Francisco and the Bay Area's largest city, San Jose."

"It shows again a lot of support for baseball in Silicon Valley and San Jose," Wolff said about the letter.

"It also speaks favorably about the Giants, too, and we are looking to have a fun but competitive relationship with two nice venues. The Giants have theirs and we'd like to have ours."

Guardino said the letter was not a response to renewed efforts by Oakland boosters to keep the team there. Recently, 35 East Bay companies raised at least \$500,000 to spend on sponsorships and luxury suites if the A's commit to a new park in town.

Doug Boxer, head of the civic group Let's Go Oakland, which is aimed at keeping the team in town, said the letter "has no impact on Oakland's efforts, and our civic and corporate community remains committed to keeping the A's in Oakland in a new, baseball-only park."

## **Gonzalez warms to the task in win**

Steve Kroner, Chronicle Staff Writer

Gio Gonzalez began Wednesday night's game at the Coliseum about as cold as the teeth-chattering breezes that whipped flags, banners and tarps.

After the second inning, Gonzalez warmed to the task. He worked 6 2/3 innings and picked up his fourth consecutive victory as the A's downed Seattle 4-3.

In the first two innings, Gonzalez allowed three runs on four hits. Thereafter, he held the Mariners scoreless on two hits. Seven of his nine strikeouts came after the third inning.

Gonzalez (14-8) credited the encouragement he got from pitching coach Curt Young and teammates such as Dallas Braden, Kurt Suzuki and Cliff Pennington for helping him maintain his composure after the rough beginning.

The natural question: Could Gonzalez have kept the A's in the game if he hadn't heard those words?

"You can handle it on your own," he said, "but does it help when you have someone tell you something like that? I mean, of course.

"The confidence just goes up that they're pushing you to win this game. They want you, they need you to win this game."

Craig Breslow and Andrew Bailey combined to retire the final seven Seattle hitters in order. Bailey struck out two of the three men he faced to record his 22nd save.

Bailey has not allowed a run in six appearances since he returned from the disabled list Aug. 22.

"He's looked solid ever since he's come back," manager Bob Geren said of Bailey, "but that was really impressive tonight."

The Mariners entered Wednesday's game with the fewest home runs (87) in the majors. The A's had hit only one more. Sure enough, three balls left the yard in the first three innings.

In the first, Russell Branyan took Gonzalez deep to center for a two-run shot, his 24th homer this season. Matt Tuiasosopo's solo shot in the second made it 3-0.

The A's got to Luke French (4-5) in the third. Coco Crisp lined a two-run shot just above the Rickey Henderson retired jersey in left. Crisp's eighth homer of the season - and second of the series - cut Oakland's deficit to one.

With the bases loaded and one out in the sixth, Cliff Pennington grounded a Jamey Wright pitch to second baseman Chone Figgins. It could have been an inning-ending double-play ball.

Figgins threw to shortstop Josh Wilson for the force. Had Wilson been able to make a throw to first, he might have gotten Pennington, but Wilson had the ball slip out of his hand. It was a 3-3 game.

Moments later, Crisp pulled an RBI single to right, giving Oakland the 4-3 advantage it maintained to the end.

## **A's beat: Cahill now expects to win**

Steve Kroner, Chronicle Staff Writer

Walking six hitters in six innings usually leads to about six runs. On Saturday against the Angels, **Trevor Cahill** issued a half-dozen free passes in his six innings - yet tossed shutout ball as the A's prevailed 3-1.

Asked Wednesday afternoon what he learned from that start, Cahill said, "It's a lot easier when you don't walk guys."

Hard to argue that. Actually, Cahill did take some solace from that wobbly-but-successful outing.

"It was kind of a disappointment," he said, "but also, kind of some inspiration that I was able to throw" shutout ball.

Cahill will start Friday night when the A's open a three-game series against the Red Sox at the Coliseum. Cahill, like Boston starter **Clay Buchholz**, owns a 15-6 record. Buchholz leads the AL with a 2.25 ERA. Cahill is third at 2.72.

After going 10-13 with a 4.63 ERA as a rookie last season, Cahill admits he's "a little bit surprised" by his success in 2010.

The 22-year-old right-hander began this season on the disabled list because of an injured left scapula. Cahill didn't make his first start with Oakland until April 30. He picked up his first win May 5 and put together a seven-game winning streak from May 21 through July 1.

Cahill said that streak gave him the confidence to "pitch with that chest out, expecting to get everybody out, expecting to get a win - as opposed to last year, I just worried about throwing a quality start."

**Briefly:** The A's pulled off two double steals (**Rajai Davis** and **Matt Carson**; **Cliff Pennington** and **Coco Crisp**) in the sixth inning Wednesday. It's the first time they've had two double steals in an inning since July 17, 1983, at Boston. ...

**Mark Ellis** hit two doubles in his four at-bats. He extended his hitting streak to nine games and is 15-for-35 (.429) in the streak. ... During batting practice, the A's video board showed clips of a Cubs-Phillies game from the early 1980s featuring the exploits of Chicago's **Tye Waller**, now the A's bench coach.

## **A's leading off**

Steve Kroner, San Francisco Chronicle

**High percentage:** Coco Crisp picked up his 24th stolen base Wednesday. He has succeeded on 24 of his 26 attempts (92.3 percent) this season. That ranks second in Oakland history for players with at least 20 steals; Stan Javier swiped 95.2 percent (20-for-21) in 1988.

## **Crisp drives A's to series win vs. Mariners**

### **Outfielder blasts homer, record three RBIs in victory**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The A's watched the Mariners pound out two homers Wednesday night.

They countered with two double steals. In one inning. And won because of it.

Welcome to Oakland, where four steals in the sixth inning of the rubber match ultimately erased an early Seattle lead and led to a 4-3 A's victory and subsequent series win, which put the club one game behind the .500 mark.

The well-earned victory, which combined with a Texas win to leave the A's seven games back in the American League West, marked quite the comeback effort following a 3-0 deficit, the result of lefty Gio Gonzalez finding himself in a hole after having some trouble with the long ball.

With one out in the first, the A's hurler surrendered a single to Chone Figgins, which was promptly followed by a two-run shot off the bat of Russell Branyan to hand the Mariners a quick two-run lead. Matt Tuiasosopo added on in the next frame by way of a solo home run, marking the first time since June 11 and just the second time all season Gonzalez has allowed two homers in one game.

At that point, Gonzalez did some talking -- not with the ball, as he's done once before, but with himself.

"I was telling myself to just keep us in the game," he said. "Don't lose focus. Keep grinding. Keep fighting."

The pep talk, combined with a dose of confidence sent his way from teammates, worked. The Mariners got nothing more against the southpaw, who cruised through his final innings while the A's put up a successful come-from-behind effort beginning in the third when Coco Crisp tallied a two-run homer to narrow Seattle's lead to one.

The long ball action was joined by a healthy serving of small ball, as Oakland left a handful of runners on base in the next two frames but came out swinging and running in the sixth against lefty Luke French. Mark Ellis led off with a double and advanced to third on a nicely placed bunt single down the third base line by Rajai Davis.

A fielder's choice grounder from Matt Carson forced Ellis out on the basepaths, but Davis and Carson remained at second and first and proceeded to combine for the club's first double steal. A walk to Steve Tolleson loaded the bases for Cliff Pennington, who grounded into an RBI forceout to tie the game.

The A's moved ahead, 4-3, following yet another double steal and subsequent run-scoring single off the bat of Crisp, who tallied three RBIs on the night.

"See the ball, hit the ball," Crisp said of his simple approach.

The A's had not compiled four steals in a single inning since 1990, and their season mark of 128 this year ranks third in the AL and the Majors. Furthermore, the two double steals in one inning represented the first time the A's had achieved such a feat since July 17, 1983, in the fifth inning at Boston.

"The opportunity was there, and that's always a plus," Crisp said. "If you get Raj, Penny and I on base, there's always a chance we can steal a base."

"Our players have really taken to the running game," A's manager Bob Geren said. "They've been well prepared and they've got the speed. We know we can't sit back and wait for homers, so we gotta do what we have to do to score runs."

Oakland's running game was just enough to keep Gonzalez in in the game. He went 6 2/3 innings, giving up three runs on six hits with two walks and nine strikeouts while utilizing 117 pitches and earning his 14th win of the season.

"He stayed with his game and didn't let the home runs affect him," Geren said. "It seems like we've talked about the way he's matured a lot this year, and that was just another example of how he didn't let anything affect him. He keeps calm about it."

"We know what kind of stuff he's got, and I've seen him for a couple of years," Mariners interim manager Daren Brown said. "He has a good arm, he's got a good breaking ball, and I think he went to his breaking ball a little bit more [after the second] and was throwing it for a strike.

"Once he gets into a groove he can be tough. I think when his command is not there and he leaves pitches in the zone, that's when you have to get him."

Lefty Craig Breslow followed his teammate's effort with 1 1/3 scoreless innings, and closer Andrew Bailey pitched a shutout ninth for his 22nd save of the season using just 10 pitches, eight of which were strikes.

"That's about the best he's looked," Geren said. "He was really impressive."

"That's the way our team is built," Crisp said. "Our backbone is our starting pitching and our bullpen. We have to play some team ball, small ball, and today we did that one through nine."

## **A's King gets another shot at Frick Award**

### **Famous Bay Area broadcaster overdue for recognition**

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- What would the Bay Area be without Bill King?

A figure so transcendent in the region's sports history has been shut out of Cooperstown thus far, but is up for the Ford C. Frick Award -- which recognizes excellence in sports broadcasting -- once again this year.

Truth be told, if he were alive, King probably wouldn't care much.

"He would be the first to tell you," said A's Spanish broadcaster Amaury Pi-Gonzalez, who worked alongside King for 25 years. "He was a very unassuming guy. If he was here, may he rest in peace, he would say, 'Ah, come on. What do you think about the Mariners?' He would try to change the conversation."

Part scholar, part sailor, part bohemian, part fine arts aficionado, King was anything but ordinary. About the only time he got dressed up was to go to the ballet or the opera, which he did quite often. Otherwise, he'd rather be barefoot in a T-shirt and shorts.

"To be honest, I don't know what kind of shoes he wore or if he even owned socks," said long-time A's employee Debbie Gallas.

On special occasions, like in Spring Training, King even stripped down to a speedo to catch some rays with a game.

By land, King was renowned for his versatility in the broadcast booth. With his unkempt hair, trademark handlebar mustache and unique tone, King's vivid imagery was always matched by his unwavering objectivity.

By sea, King was free. With his beloved vessel Varuna, King sailed to Hawaii, across the Black Sea and discovered heaven on earth with waterfalls of the Princess Louisa Inlet in British Columbia.

He spent many of his years living on a house boat in the avant-garde San Francisco suburb of Sausalito. Because he wouldn't spend more than a few hundred dollars on a car, he became notorious for his cache of run-down vehicles, all of which he drove into the ground.

He taught himself Russian, was well-versed in world affairs, loved Monet and painted impressionist pieces himself. While he was also a wine connoisseur, tales of King's gastronomy deserve Hall of Fame recognition in themselves.

Raw onions for breakfast. Peanut butter and tortillas. Fine dining at America's top restaurants. King's tongue knew no bounds. Something made all the more impressive given his small, skinny stature.

"His eating habits are notorious," said A's clubhouse manager Steve Vucinich. "His body should have been given to medical science to study how he survived so long."

The essence of a renaissance man, King was at his best behind the microphone.

"Bill loved broadcasting," said long-time partner Ken Korach. "He told me that there was nothing in his life that could ever replace the feeling of being on the air, doing a game."

King got his first crack at broadcasting with the Armed Forces Network at the end of World War II, but was introduced to the Bay Area in 1958. Together with Lon Simmons and Russ Hodges, King formed the San Francisco Giants' first broadcast team. Talk about an All-Star cast.

King signed on to be the play-by-play man for the NBA's San Francisco Warriors in 1962, a position he would hold for 21 seasons. In 1966, the Warriors moved to the East Bay, where King would write his legend. He also started broadcasting for the Oakland Raiders in '66, staying with the organization until 1992.

Among the most memorable moments in King's career include the Warriors' 1974-75 season, when they won the NBA championship, and his infamous Holy Roller call with the Raiders in 1978. Not to mention the time he was whistled for a technical foul during a Warriors game after voicing his displeasure to a referee.

But it wasn't until 1981 when King would call games for the A's. Together with Simmons and manager Billy Martin, King gave a face to a franchise in desperate need of one.

When it came to his craft, there was none more dedicated than King.

"It kind of bothered him when he got older that he needed like six hours of sleep a night," Korach said. "In his earlier days he could get by with four hours of sleep. That way he could live more."

About the only time King would take it easy during the season was with the advent of Interleague Play. A baseball purist, King could be stubborn and hold firm to traditions. Whenever the A's would make their annual Interleague road trip, King and his signature "Holy Toledo!" phrase would stay put in the Bay Area.

"He thought it was a sideshow," Korach said.

During his 25 seasons with the green and gold, King saw Billy Ball, the Bash Brothers dynasty and Billy Beane's Moneyball.

Unfortunately, King's inimitable and vigorous life was cut short in 2005 due to complications from hip surgery. King called his final game on Oct. 2, 2005 in Seattle, an 8-3 A's victory, just 16 days before his death.

He wasn't about the money and he most certainly wasn't about the fame, King simply loved the game.

"I envision a shadowy image out there sitting next to the radio. I'm his eyes," King told Sports Illustrated in 1975. "If I can choose the right words to move and excite him, to tie his stomach in a knot, I've done my job and there is a beautiful satisfaction."

## **Fan shows great effort going after home run ball**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Coco Crisp's all-out ways may have influenced the diving attempts of a fan looking to grab hold of one of the A's outfielder's home runs during Wednesday's contest against the Mariners.

Crisp's shot to left field off Seattle lefty Luke French in the third inning made its way toward the Coliseum barbeque terrace just over the left-field wall, where a male fan made quite the acrobatic leap over a railing and bounced off some seats before landing on the ground.

His efforts, shown nearly a dozen times via replay on the club's broadcast, were unfortunately met without a catch. But, he was later shown racing up the steps toward the concourse with a ball in hand, which combined with a 4-3 A's comeback victory for quite an eventful night in Oakland.



## **Right ankle injury ends Rosales' season**

### **Infielder frustrated by being sidelined during stretch**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- If Adam Rosales had it his way, he'd be back on the field within the next week, contributing to a team he says "still has an opportunity to make the playoffs."

But the injured A's infielder, who was initially hoping at the onset of his ankle injury to return to the club in the middle of September, has been ruled out for the rest of the season, manager Bob Geren confirmed on Wednesday afternoon.

"We want to give him ample time to heal," Geren said, "and make sure he's ready to go next year."

Rosales understands the notion, but that doesn't take away from the frustration that comes along with being sidelined on the disabled list, where he was placed Aug. 13 with a stress fracture in his right ankle. He said via phone from the East Coast on Wednesday that the ankle is healing well, but not quickly enough due to the bone (navicular) that was fractured.

"I feel pretty strong," Rosales said, "but they didn't want me to rush back. They want it to heal 100 percent, and this certain bone takes longer to heal than others.

"It's been a bummer. It's definitely disappointing because you want to be with the team and contribute to the team. But you have to do what the doctors say, and you can't go around it."

Rosales will visit with A's team orthopedist Dr. John Frazier in Oakland on Monday, when he expects to be sent home for the remainder of the season to simply rest. His ankle has been immobilized in a boot for nearly a month, and he'll likely keep that on awhile longer to avoid any type of procedure.

"It's tough being on the DL," he said, "but if you don't heal it correctly, you might be dealing with a worse situation."

Rosales was batting .271 with seven homers and 31 RBIs in 80 games for Oakland and was the first A's player since 1995 to start at least one game at six different positions. In his stead, Steve Tolleson has provided the A's with an everyday backup infielder and has started nine games at three different positions since his promotion.

### **A's getting good look at Larish, Tolleson**

OAKLAND -- An expanded September roster has allowed the A's to lend a long look to a handful of players, including the likes of Jeff Larish and Steve Tolleson, both of whom have been receiving a good chunk of playing time recently.

Larish, recalled by the A's on Aug. 20 for his second stint of the season, entered Wednesday's contest against the Mariners batting .211 with two home runs and eight RBIs in 11 starts since his promotion. Those numbers aren't up to par, he says, but that comes with consistent at-bats.

"If you talk to anybody who's not playing every day, you've got to find that routine, and I haven't found that routine," he admitted. "It's just one of those things you have to make some adjustments and find that comfort level at the plate.

"The only way to really get in a rhythm is playing every day. It's nice to get the opportunity to do that. I'm not quite where I want to be at the plate, but it happens over the course of the season. I'm just hoping to have consistent at-bats and finish strong."

Finishing with the big league club is something both Larish and Tolleson are thankful to be getting the opportunity to do, as this time allows them the chance to leave a lasting impression heading into the 2011 season.

"Any time you're getting an opportunity up here, you're trying to prove you belong here," Tolleson said. "Both Jeff and I, we've been given a pretty good chance, whether out of injury or out of necessity. We've both been playing a decent amount of time and hopefully we've proven we belong."

Tolleson and Larish will continue to platoon at third base in the absence of the injured Kevin Kouzmanoff, manager Bob Geren said Wednesday. Larish will also potentially see a few more starts in the outfield, where he hadn't played in the Majors until coming to Oakland.

"I knew that when they claimed me, I was going to get an opportunity, I just didn't know how much," said Larish, signed by the A's on Aug. 3 after being designated for assignment by the Tigers. "I've been trying not to worry too much about it

because this whole month, really, has been crazy for me. It's nice to get the opportunity to be out there and show them a little bit what I can do."

For Tolleson, finding a comfort zone at the hot corner has come rather easy, which he attributes to being thrown out there on a regular basis in Spring Training. On Wednesday, he was handed his fourth start at third base and entered the game coming off a career-high three-hit night against the Mariners.

"I was a little disappointed that the beginning of the season didn't go the way I wanted it to, so I knew I had to play well down there to show them I belong here," said Tolleson, who is batting .333 in 12 games since his promotion on Aug. 13. "Now that I've been given some chances, I hope to keep playing consistent baseball."

"I feel like I've done all I can with the opportunities I've been given. I'm putting together solid at-bats and have been hitting the ball hard and have been playing solid defense. I feel like I've contributed to the games I've played in."

"He's made all the plays," Geren said of Tolleson. "He looks confident out there. It's nice to have someone out there who can play all over the infield."

### **Worth noting**

Kevin Kouzmanoff (lower back) is continually improving, manager Bob Geren said, but there is still no timetable for his return. ... Right-hander Joey Devine threw 20 pitches in his second simulated game Wednesday. "It went very good," Devine said. "I feel phenomenal right now." The A's reliever said he noticed an upgrade in arm speed and hopes to see command improvement in his next simulated outing Sunday. ... Top hitting prospect Chris Carter (sprained thumb, ankle) was officially activated from the disabled list Wednesday, but assistant general manager David Forst said the move was only made to make him eligible for Triple-A Sacramento's playoff roster. Forst said it's not clear if or when Carter will be ready to play. ... Forst said righty Tyson Ross, nursing a sprained ulnar collateral ligament in his elbow, has not been cleared to begin throwing again. Ross appeared in 26 games with the A's this season before being optioned to Sacramento, where he was converted back to a starter before being shut down due to injury. ... During batting practice Wednesday, all eyes were on the Coliseum's JumboTron, which displayed clips of an old Cubs and Phillies game featuring A's bench coach Tye Waller playing for Chicago. ... A's radio broadcaster Ken Korach enjoyed a day off Wednesday, allowing former Major Leaguer and current scout Shooty Babbit to make his radio debut in Korach's place. ... Geren has plans to spend part of his Thursday off-day at the airport, where he'll see his eldest son, Bobby, off to Princeton University.

## **Red Sox, A's clinging to postseason dreams**

By Jesse Sanchez / MLB.com

The gloves are off.

In what is sure to be a heavyweight throwdown, Boston's Clay Buchholz and Oakland's Trevor Cahill will take the mound Friday at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

And it's going to be a fight to the finish. Both clubs are hanging on to their postseason hopes. Both pitchers are candidates for the American League Cy Young Award.

Neither team will go down easy.

Ding, ding.

The White Sox made Buchholz work hard in his last start, but he avoided the knockout blow by allowing only two runs over five innings in the 95-pitch outing. The White Sox, led by John Danks, won the game, 3-1.

"They put together some good at-bats, fouled off some good pitches, [my] pitch count got up really quick," Buchholz said. "I got ahead in the count most cases. They battled off some good pitchers' pitches and found a way to get on base and score some runs."

Buchholz is 1-1 with a 1.47 ERA in his last three starts and 5-2 with a 1.93 ERA in his last 10 outings. He's struck out 41 and walked 19 batters during that span.

As for Cahill, he walked a career-high six batters on Saturday against the Angels but tossed six shutout innings to become Oakland's first 15-game winner since 2007. The right-hander has struggled to control his best pitch, the sinker, over his past two starts.

"The command wasn't there, but I got out of some jams -- that was the key," Cahill said after his last start. "My goal was to not walk anybody, and I think I set the new standard of walking everybody."

Cahill is still 6-2 with a 2.42 ERA in his last 10 outings.

### **Red Sox: Driving in runs**

Adrian Beltre came into Wednesday's game against the Rays with 999 career RBIs. He finished the contest with 1,001. The veteran also leads the Red Sox with 95 RBIs this season. ... Victor Martinez is batting .396 with five home runs and 12 RBIs over his last 12 games. ... David Ortiz hit his 29th home run of the season Wednesday, one more than he hit last season.

### **Athletics: On the mend**

The A's have used the disabled list 23 times this season, the second-most times in franchise history. They have used the disabled list 87 times since 2007, second only to Texas (97) in that category during that span. The team will set a club record for games missed on the disabled list this season. The current record in 1,259.

### **Worth noting**

Boston's Darnell McDonald is the only Major Leaguer with at least nine home runs and nine sacrifice hits this season. He is the first Red Sox player to do it since 1993. ... Oakland's Kevin Kouzmanoff (lower back) is improving but there is still no timetable for his return. ... Right-hander Joey Devine threw 20 pitches in his second simulated game Wednesday. ... Adam Rosales (right ankle) will visit with A's team orthopedist Dr. John Frazier in Oakland on Monday and expects to be sent home for the remainder of the season.

## **A's defeat Mariners, 4-3**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Coco Crisp homered and drove in three runs, including the go-ahead score in the sixth inning, to help the Oakland Athletics beat the Seattle Mariners 4-3 on Wednesday night.

Cliff Pennington also drove in a run for the A's, who won their fourth in six games.

Gio Gonzalez (14-8) matched his career-high fourth straight victory after allowing three runs and six hits over 6 2-3 innings.

He walked two and struck out nine.

Russell Branyan hit a two-run homer and Matt Tuiasosopo hit a solo shot for the Mariners, who fell to 6-12 since a three-game winning streak Aug. 17-20.

Luke French (4-5) lasted 5 1-3 innings, allowing four runs and seven hits. He walked two and struck out three.

Ichiro Suzuki had two hits to extend his current hitting streak to 10 games, the fourth time this season he has reached double figures. He moved into 168th place on the all-time hits list with 2,213. He needs one more to tie Joe DiMaggio for 167th.

Mark Ellis doubled twice and Rajai Davis had three hits as the A's beat the Mariners for the ninth time in 11 games at home.

Craig Breslow got four outs and Andrew Bailey pitched the ninth for his 22nd save. They combined to retire the final seven Mariners.

Seattle scored all three of its runs in the first two innings.

Chone Figgins, who had two hits, singled ahead of Branyan's home run in the first. Tuiasosopo hit a one-out homer in the second.

Gonzalez retired 11 of the next 12 batters he faced to give the A's a chance to rally.

Steve Tolleson singled ahead of Crisp's home run in the third.

The A's had two runners on in the sixth when French was replaced by Jamey Wright, who gave up Pennington's RBI groundout and Crisp's RBI single.

NOTES: The A's stole four bases in the sixth inning, matching their game-high. ... Suzuki has a hit in 19 of his last 20 games in Oakland. ... The Mariners matched their season-high five consecutive games with a home run. ... Crisp has been successful on his last 16 steal attempts, the longest streak for an A's player since Rickey Henderson swiped 17 straight between May 9-June 11, 1998. ... Ellis has a season-high nine-game hitting streak.

## **Silicon Valley leaders endorse A's San Jose move**

The Associated Press 9/9/2010

In an open letter to baseball commissioner Bud Selig, some 75 Silicon Valley leaders have endorsed moving the Oakland Athletics to San Jose.

The two-page letter assembled by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group is designed as a show of unity and corporate might. Signatures include such chief executives as Cisco Systems' John Chambers, Yahoo's Carol Bartz, eBay's John Donahoe and SunPower's Tom Werner.

Mayor Chuck Reed told the San Jose Mercury News that it's good to remind Selig of the corporate support in the area.

While the San Francisco Giants hold the territorial rights to San Jose, Selig could soon make recommendations on how to proceed. He formed a committee to study the issue and has regularly said the run-down Oakland Coliseum isn't a viable long-term option for the small-market A's.

## **3-year-old hero, firemen in spotlight at A's pre-game 9-11 ceremonies**

Glen Kahl, Manteca Bulletin, 9/8/2010

Manteca's 3-year-old heroine, who ran two blocks to a Louise Avenue fire station to get help for her dad recently, will be honored at the pre-game ceremonies Saturday for the Oakland A's tribute to firefighters and civilian heroes.

The team of firemen from Station 243 is scheduled to be on the field with Alesandra Tafoya who ran to the fire station telling crew members that her daddy was like ice and wouldn't wake up.

The team included Captain Robert Vilalovoz, firefighter Brian Swift and engineer Bob Jacobsen. As the captain and one firefighter walked the little girl back up the street hand in hand, she led them to where they found her father Frank Tafoya unconscious in a living room chair.

The third fireman jumped into a fire engine and drove up the street behind the trio. Doctors later commended the child, saying her dad would probably have died had it not been for her intervention in running to the fire station.

The story has touched many hearts and has reached countries around the world through the Internet connection. Alesandra and her fire buddies were all at the Manteca City Council meeting Tuesday night where the young girl received recognition for her quick thinking to get help for her father.

At the council meeting, members of the Seniors Assisting Fire Effort (SAFE) presented her with several pink toys including a doll and a stroller as well as read Alesandra their own proclamation that said, in part, "when you are much, much older SAFE would like to have you as one of its members."

The Oakland Athletics is honoring many firefighters prior to their 6:05 game against the Boston Red Sox at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum on the anniversary of the twin towers attack in New York City.

As part of the "Firefighter Appreciation Night, " the A's will pay tribute to more than 50 Bay Area firefighters during the special pre-game activities that begin at 5:40 on the field.

In addition to honoring Alesandra, the ball team has selected a Richmond man who forced his way into a burning building to save a trapped family, an Elk Grove man whose quick reaction to a fire igniting spark between his neighbor's home saved the two families' lives, and a group of high school students who are teaching fire safety tips to tenants of single-room-occupancy buildings in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Funds will be raised at the stadium Saturday night for firefighter charitable organizations in support of local burn foundations, fire safety and educational programs.

A portion of the proceeds raised through the A's silent auction set up behind section 120 from the time the gates open until the end of the fifth inning will benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation of Northern California.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento blows lead, trails series 1-0**

By Allie Mandel / Sacramento River Cats

The River Cats' 2010 Playoffs got off to a slow start Wednesday night at Raley Field.

Light rain through the first three innings slowed play of both teams and after 4 hours, 10 minutes, the Tacoma Rainiers came away with a 10-8 come-from-behind win.

The River Cats drew first blood, getting an early lead in the first inning, when infielder Corey Wimberly scored on a sacrifice fly from Tommy Everidge. The Cats then extended their lead on a two-run blast from outfielder Travis Buck.

The Cats furthered their lead in the second, tacking on four more runs, including two runs on two errors to bring the score to 7-1. Michael Taylor scored on a throwing error when Tommy Everidge hit a ball to third. Two plays later, Rainiers' outfielders Mike Carp and Greg Halman converged on a Matt Watson fly ball in left-center field, as the ball dropped between both players' outstretched gloves.

The Rainiers fought back to score nine runs over the next seven innings to secure the first win of the best-of-five series. Rainiers outfielder Halman hit a three-run bomb in the fourth inning to bring the Rainiers within one run of the Cats. They would then tie it up in the seventh with two runs on three walks, a hit and a groundout.

The River Cats struggled on the mound, as River Cats pitchers combined for 12 walks in the game, three short of a season record. Starting pitcher Clayton Mortensen threw five walks, including an RBI-walk to Tug Hulett in the second inning.

The Rainiers finally took their first lead of the night in the ninth, when designated hitter Brad Nelson hit a two-RBI double. The Cats then grounded out and struck out twice to drop the pivotal first game. This is the first time the Rainiers have won the first game of a playoff series against the River Cats. The Cats previously took Game 1 in the 2001, 2005 and 2009 playoff series.

The River Cats have a chance to tie the Thursday evening at 7:05 at Raley Field. The Cats were 4-4 at home against the Rainiers in regular season play.

### **Hounds Take Game One In Extra Innings**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

Behind Every Dark Cloud ...

... there is a silver lining. Cliche'? Yep. True? For the RockHounds Wednesday night, absolutely.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has been pounded by Tropical Storm Hermine ... three tornadoes were reported in the DFW area Wednesday ... and the odds of the RockHounds and RoughRiders even taking the diamond in Frisco were long.

Not only did the teams play, they went extra innings, with the RockHounds opening defense of the Texas League championship with a 4-3 win over the RoughRiders in 10 innings.

Jermaine Mitchell's line in the box score says 0-for-3 with two strikeouts, but the 'Hounds left-fielder also walked twice and used his explosive speed to score twice. Jermaine scored the game's first run after drawing a key walk with two out (and an 0-2 count) in the 3rd inning, scoring from second on Alex Valdez' single to shallow right field.

Val Majewski doubled leading off the 4th and Josh Horton brought him in with a single, increasing the lead to 2-0. Mitchell scored again after drawing his second walk, and his speed was the key. Jermaine scored from first on Archie Gilbert's "hustle double" to the gap in right-center in the 5th inning.

RockHounds pitching had only one real miscue, but it didn't come on a pitch. Mickey Storey's throwing error opened the door to a game-tying, 3-run Frisco 7th inning, with just one of the three runs being earned.

The clubs went to extra innings tied at 3-3 after Daniel Sattler escaped a 2-out jam in the last of the 9th with the winning run in scoring position. He walked Marcus Lemon and Guilder Rodriguez sent a slow roller through between third and short

to put the inning run at second base. "Satt" then got all-star second baseman Renny Osuna to ground out to shortstop Josh Horton, sending the game to extra innings.

Shane Peterson opened the 10th with a single to left, and Lemon (who otherwise had a brilliant game) bobbled the ball, with "Pete" coming to second. With one out, Archie Gilbert was hit by a pitch, putting runners at the corners. Val Majewski then delivered his third hit of the game, an RBI single to right-center, scoring Peterson.

A walk to Horton loaded the bases, but the 'Hounds couldn't add to the lead. Matt Sulentic and Frisco reliever Tyler Tufts had a major battle with the bases full. With the count 2-0, Sulentic took a pair of big swings but came up empty, evening the count at 2-2. Tufts would strike Sulentic out, but the "K" came on the 10th, 2-2 pitch of the at bat, after the RockHounds DH fouled off nine 2-strike deliveries.

RockHounds pitchers allowed 11 hits in 10 innings, but walked just three and allowed only one earned run. Graham Godfrey went 5.0 shutout innings to open the game, and four relievers combined to pitch the last 6.0 with Daniel Sattler went 2.0 scoreless innings (the 8th and 9th) for the win and Neil Wagner slammed the door in the 10th with a 1-2-3 inning, striking out the side.

Weather remains an issue, although Thursday's forecast is much more encouraging than Wednesday, when the chance of rain was (accurately) listed at "100%." The clubs are scheduled to play game 2 at Frisco Thursday before the series moves to Citibank Ballpark for games 3, 4 and 5 as needed this weekend.

The 2010 Texas League Playoffs come to Citibank Ballpark on Friday night.

## **Scahill Outduels Haviland As Nuts Take Game 1**

**MODESTO, Calif.** - The first game of the best-of-three mini-series between the Stockton Ports and Modesto Nuts lived up to its billing in terms of the pitching matchup. Ports starter Shawn Haviland (0-1) and Nuts starter Rob Scahill (1-0) shined the better part of the contest. By night's end, however, it was Scahill shining the brightest as the right-hander threw a complete game (his second in 2010) and held the Ports to just a single run as Modesto handed Stockton a 3-1 loss at John Thurman Field.

Stockton's lone run of the night came to break the ice in the third. After wasting singles in each of the first two frames, Tyler Ladendorf-who'd hit just five home runs on the regular season-took the first pitch of the inning out to left-center to give the Ports a 1-0 advantage. Scahill, who struck out five through the first two innings, would go on to retire the next nine hitters he faced after Ladendorf's blast.

Haviland, meanwhile, was perfect through the first three innings. He made the mistake of walking the leadoff hitter in the fourth and it was one that cost him. Erik Wetzel drew the leadoff walk, and then advanced to third when Tim Wheeler singled to right. After a wild pitch put Wheeler at second (Wetzel held at third), Haviland struck out Mike Zuanich. As he was pitching to Ben Paulsen, though, a pitch in the dirt skipped through the legs of Yusuf Carter-a wild pitch that scored Wetzel and made it a 1-1 game. Haviland would go on to get Paulsen to ground out and strike out Joe Sanders to preserve the tie.

Modesto took the lead by manufacturing a run in the sixth. David Christensen led off with a double to left. Wetzel laid down a sac-bunt to advance him to third and Wheeler hit a sac-fly to right that plated the go-ahead run and gave Modesto a 2-1 lead.

The Nuts tacked on an insurance run in the eighth. With Christensen at second and two down, Ports skipper Steve Scarsone elected to bring in Trey Barham from the bullpen to go after Wheeler. Wheeler, however, took Barham's first pitch into right-center field to plate Christensen and make it a 3-1 ballgame.

Haviland would go 7.2 very strong innings, but would take the loss after allowing three runs on four hits while walking one and striking out nine.

Offensively, Stockton couldn't figure out Scahill. After Ladendorf's big fly, Scahill retired 21 of the last 23 Ports hitters to close out the ballgame. The two that reached base-David Thomas in the sixth and Mike Spina in the seventh-both led of their respective innings with singles and made it as far as third base.

Scahill picked up the win, tossing a complete game and allowing five hits while striking out 11, more than he struck out in any regular-season performance.

The Ports will try and extend their season on Thursday night as the series shifts to Banner Island Ballpark for Game 2 and Game 3 (if necessary). Justin Murray (10-4, 3.67 ERA) will head to the bump for Stockton, opposed by Modesto right-hander Juan Nicasio (12-10, 3.91 ERA). First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

## **Cougars Fall in Playoff Opener** **Smith loses pitcher's duel to Quad Cities ace Miller**

**GENEVA, III.** – The Kane County Cougars opened the 2010 Midwest League playoffs Wednesday night but suffered a 4-0 loss in Game 1 against the Quad Cities River Bandits at Elfstrom Stadium. Murphy Smith pitched six innings of one-run ball, but the Cougars' offense mustered just three hits, and the team fell in its eighth straight playoff defeat. The Cougars now face a must-win situation in Game 2.

Smith (0-1) gave up a fourth-inning run for the game's first tally. He yielded a one-out single to Colin Walsh and uncorked a pair of wild pitches to put Walsh at third. Then Devin Goodwin singled to right to make it 1-0. Smith lasted six innings and gave up four hits, walked none and fanned six in the loss. The Cougars were stymied for seven innings by Bandits starter Shelby Miller (1-0), who gave up two hits, walked one and struck out 13 in the win.

The Bandits doubled their lead in the seventh with a run off Rob Gilliam and doubled it again at 4-0 with two in the ninth versus Connor Hoehn. The Cougars' pitching trio gave up 11 hits in the contest.

The best-of-three series now shifts to Quad Cities for Game 2 on Thursday night at 7 CT. Jonathan Joseph (2-5, 3.33) will pitch for the Cougars, and Michael Blazek (8-4, 2.71) will go for the Bandits. The game will be broadcast on WBIG 1280-AM and [www.kccougars.com](http://www.kccougars.com) with pre-game coverage starting at 6:45 p.m.