

## A's News Clips, Thursday, November 11, 2010

### Oakland A's trade pitcher Vin Mazzaro for Royals' David DeJesus

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

It didn't take long for the A's to move some of that surplus pitching they possessed.

They traded right-hander Vin Mazzaro and minor league lefty Justin Marks to the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday in exchange for veteran outfielder David DeJesus, who is earmarked to start in either left or right field next season.

The move comes on the heels of the A's winning bidding rights Monday to Japanese right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma, which gave them flexibility to deal from their deep well of young starting pitchers and obtain offensive help.

DeJesus, who turns 31 next month, hit .289 over eight seasons in Kansas City. He was a hot commodity at last season's trade deadline -- the Giants were very interested in him -- until he tore a ligament in his right thumb July 22 while crashing into the center-field wall at Yankee Stadium. DeJesus was hitting a career-best .318 at the time.

He had surgery July 26 and missed the final two months of the season, but he's expected to be fully recovered for spring training.

DeJesus is due \$6 million next season and then is eligible for free agency.

"We started on David as far back as August," A's general manager Billy Beane said. "One thing we like, other than he hit .318 last year, he's also a great defender and good baserunner."

But DeJesus doesn't help solve the A's most glaring need -- power.

Coco Crisp will play center field, and Beane said he envisions DeJesus and Ryan Sweeney, who's coming off knee surgery, manning the corner spots. He didn't indicate who would play where.

Where does that leave top prospect Chris Carter, who is the best power hitter in the outfield? He could slide to designated hitter if the A's let Jack Cust walk.

Beane said there's plenty of time to search outside the organization for power, and that he'll likely turn to free agency.

"I think the only thing you've got to be careful with is we can't look at everything in linear fashion," Beane said. "We have a need for power, but I think we have to be cognizant of team defense, which was a (positive) last year."

The A's have decisions to make by Dec. 2 -- the deadline to tender contracts to arbitration-eligible players. Beane said he sees Conor Jackson as part of the outfield picture. But Jackson missed significant time with injuries last season, and considering Jackson could be due a raise on his \$3.1 million salary from 2010, he'd be an expensive bench player.

Rajai Davis is arbitration-eligible, as is fellow outfielder Travis Buck and Cust.

Mazzaro was sent to Triple-A after rosters expanded in September -- an oddly timed demotion that suggested perhaps he landed in the doghouse.

"When you look at (starters) Gio (Gonzalez), (Trevor) Cahill and (Brett) Anderson, those are not guys we're gonna move," Beane said. "It was nothing Vin did. Just other guys had established themselves."

Notes: Various outlets reported Wednesday that the A's will sign highly rated outfielder Vicmal De La Cruz of the Dominican Republic. Baseball Prospectus is reporting that De La Cruz, who turns 17 this month, will get \$800,000. "... Beane said the A's hope to name a bullpen coach in the next week and a new head trainer soon.

## **Chin Music: A's trade Vin Mazzaro, Justin Marks to Royals for David DeJesus**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 11/10/2010 4:20PM

Well, it didn't take long for the A's to trade some of that surplus pitching. They shipped Vin Mazzaro and minor league left-hander Justin Marks to Kansas City in exchange for outfielder David DeJesus. The announcement came late this afternoon. After Monday's news that the A's won the bidding for Japanese right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma, it was logical to assume that they would then flip a pitcher(s) in return for a hitter. And Mazzaro has been a widely speculated trade chip for a while. DeJesus, 30, has been one of the top players in the Royals lineup for several years now, but (and you knew this was coming) he missed the final two months of the 2010 season after having surgery on his right thumb. And he doesn't provide an answer to the A's need for power, so I suspect this is just the first of the moves the A's make to address their offensive needs this winter. But he's an intriguing player to add to a crowded outfield mix. This move indicates to me there's an even greater chance now that outfielder Conor Jackson won't be tendered a contract. The A's must decide whether to offer contracts to all of their arbitration-eligible players by Dec. 2 ...

I'll have a full story on the DeJesus trade later ...

What are your initial thoughts on this move?

### **A's trade Mazzaro, minor-leaguer to K.C. for DeJesus**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

The A's primary need is power hitting, but so far this offseason, they've won the right to negotiate with a pitcher and they've traded for an outfielder who does not have a lot of pop.

On Wednesday, the team acquired David DeJesus from Kansas City in exchange for right-hander Vin Mazzaro, who less than two years ago was considered to be among the A's top pitching prospects, as well as minor-league left-hander Justin Marks. On Monday, the A's won the bidding to try to make a deal with Japanese pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma.

DeJesus, 30, hit .318 this year but was limited to 91 games because of a thumb injury he sustained in late July that required season-ending surgery. According to A's general manager Billy Beane, DeJesus was taking batting practice at the end of the season and he has no medical restrictions.

Beane said the A's began talking to Kansas City about DeJesus in August. He is a strong defensive player who generally hits around .300 and is capable of hitting 12-14 homers a year.

DeJesus' acquisition gives the A's more depth in an area where they've had many injuries; outfielders Coco Crisp, Ryan Sweeney and Conor Jackson spent time on the disabled list last season. Sweeney and Jackson are coming off surgeries.

"It could be frustrating for someone," Crisp said of the crowded outfield, which also includes Rajai Davis. "That could throw a monkey wrench in as far as playing time is concerned."

Beane said on a conference call that the team still plans to address its power needs via free agency or with trades. He said nothing will be ruled out except dealing starters Trevor Cahill, Brett Anderson, Gio Gonzalez and Dallas Braden.

DeJesus will earn \$6 million in 2011, the last year of his deal.

Mazzaro, 24, went 5-2 with a 2.84 ERA in his first nine starts in 2010, then 0-6 with a 5.60 ERA before he was sent down.

Mazzaro said he wasn't surprised at all to be traded, only that it happened so quickly.

"I feel pretty good right now," Mazzaro said by phone. "I think this is a good thing for me and my future."

**Briefly:** Baseball America reported that the A's have agreed to terms with highly regarded Dominican outfielder Vicmal de la Cruz, 16.

## **Drumbeat: More on DeJesus deal, including Beane, Mazzaro comments**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser 11/10/2010 7:45PM

Tomorrow's Chronicle story should be up on the Gate soon, but some quick updates to [the earlier post](#):

\*\*Vin Mazzaro tells me he's excited to go to Kansas City, he thinks it will be good for his career and he likes that there are some open spots in the rotation there - a little different than Oakland in that regard.

\*\* Billy Beane said on a conference call that he first called about DeJesus in August, when he was injured. The A's like him a lot, and it sounds as if he'll be in left, Ryan Sweeney in right, with Conor Jackson and Rajai Davis coming off the bench. Beane says there are at-bats for all of them, but I'm unconvinced - there are enough ABs only if someone gets hurt, and of course, maybe that's the A's thinking. Beane did use the phrase "gun shy" when it comes to outfield injuries.

\*\*Chris Carter doesn't appear to be in the mix in the outfield anymore. Where does that put him? At first base, presumably, should Daric Barton be traded for a big bat, but I find that scenario unlikely - this version of the A's is intent on defensive soundness around the diamond. For that, they need Barton, even if he doesn't have the kind of pop associated with first base. Does that make Carter the DH? Or will the team pursue someone like Lance Berkman, as ESPN's Jerry Crasnick suggests? I still think Hideki Matsui is a good possible fit, especially with the likely addition of Hisashi Iwakuma.

\*\*Beane said that the team will still go after power, either via free agency or trade - so this isn't going to be an all-pitching, defense, singles and doubles team.

\*\*I ran the report about Vicmal de la Cruz by a source and couldn't get anything confirmed beyond the A's interest, so even if the team has come to terms with the 16-year-old Dominican outfielder, there still must be some of that massive paperwork and triple-checking left that happens with international amateur signings. Baseball America is reporting that terms have been reached, and the publication is as reliable as they come on amateur signings.

\*\*Beane said the team has options at fifth starter should Iwakuma fall through; that's why Bobby Cramer was brought up at the end of the year, to see what he can do, and he performed well. Plus, Beane said, Josh Outman is coming back, and Tyson Ross is expected to be healthy. Starting pitching remains an area of strength.

\*\*I just got a call back from Jackson, and he flew to Philadelphia today to get checked out after that sports hernia surgery he had near the end of the season, and he will start full baseball activity in the next two or three weeks. He's already been working out, so he will be entirely healthy for the start of spring training.

\*\*I asked Beane about Coco Crisp's comments about the A's now having the best-looking outfield in the league, and he laughed and said, "That was certainly part of the plan, but I might substitute Raj for Coco."

## **Drumbeat: A's get DeJesus from Royals for Mazzaro, Marks**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser 11/10/2010 4:17PM

The A's continue their apparent plan to acquire every outfielder in the game, today obtaining David DeJesus from Kansas City in exchange for starter Vin Mazzaro and minor-league left-hander Justin Marks.

This is an interesting move; the team needs power, and DeJesus isn't going to supply a ton of it - he's a 12-15 homer guy at best. He's a good defensive player, though, which is consistent with the A's recent theme, and he's usually around the .300 mark; he was among the league's top hitters last season before he went on the DL because he needed thumb surgery. (So that also fits in the A's MO - injured outfielder!)

Earlier in the week, the A's won the rights to a top Japanese starter, Hisashi Iwakuma, and they must feel confident about signing him, considering they moved Mazzaro, who was seen as the top fifth starter candidate despite clearly falling out of favor the final month of last season. Mazzaro has definite talent; many scouts liked him a lot and there was expected to be quite a bit of interest if the A's made him available.

So, with the likely addition of Iwakuma and today's acquisition, are the A's looking to go pitching, defense, speed, hitting and no power except what Chris Carter and Jack Cust (if he's retained) can provide? Or are there more deals in the works involving some of the other outfielders?

Because the A's have a bunch of them: Coco Crisp will be in center, DeJesus is clearly on one of the corners, and Ryan Sweeney, Rajai Davis, Conor Jackson, Carter (maybe) are also options. That's a lot of guys for at most five roster spots, and probably more like four. Does Davis get moved? Sweeney, who is coming off knee surgery, might not bring back as much as the A's might like; ditto, Jackson coming off surgery for a sports hernia. Jackson is a potential non-tender candidate, though GM Billy Beane has said consistently that Jackson is in the A's plans for next year.

I think it's more than safe to assume that Travis Buck, who has super-two status and is arbitration eligible, is a non-tender candidate, especially since he didn't get called up in October.

And what are the A's long-term plans with DeJesus? The Royals picked up his \$6 million option for 2011....will the A's talk extension with him? Is this a one-year thing, with the team hoping that DeJesus winds up a type-B free agent after next season?

Could the A's package up some more pitching and an outfielder or two and get another bat, or will they concentrate on the free-agent market to add power....or will they forgo adding more and go with the pitching model the Giants used with such good success? Although, of course, the Giants had some power, it was the guys on base they sometimes struggled with.

ESPN's Jerry Crasnick believes the A's will go after Lance Berkman now, which would make some sense because it doesn't appear New York has a regular spot for him.

Considering that every sign at the end of the season pointed to Oakland adding a big power bat or two and little else, these developments are fascinating: A pitcher (they hope) and an outfielder who hits for average and plays strong defense.

I spoke to Crisp, who was DeJesus' teammate in Kansas City, and he wows about him as a hitter and noted that he very rarely makes an error. Crisp also noted - and then later tweeted - that he believes the A's now have the best-looking outfield in the league.

"David is a handsome man," Crisp told me with a laugh. "You put him out there with Sweeney, me, Conor, Rajai - that should get some ladies to the stadium."

Crisp added later, "David's a pretty boy, a stylish cat. But he's a good baseball player, too. He'd established himself as one of the premier hitters in the game before he got hurt last year."

## **A's acquire DeJesus from Royals for Mazzaro** **Minor League left-hander Marks also headed to Kansas City**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Depth, never at the expense of downgrading in the talent department, has become just as significant in Oakland's game plan in recent years as speed, defense and pitching -- all of the above offsetting countless injuries and a soft offense.

On Wednesday, the club furthered its efforts to add to that makeup by acquiring veteran outfielder David DeJesus from Kansas City for a pair of young hurlers in right-hander Vin Mazzaro and left-handed Minor League prospect Justin Marks.

The move added to an already busy week for the organization, as it came just two days after it was announced Oakland won bidding rights to negotiate with Japanese right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma, with whom the A's must feel pretty confident regarding a contract if willing to let go of Mazzaro.

By packaging the pitching duo, Oakland received a speedy outfielder who hit .318 with five home runs and 37 RBIs in 91 games for the Royals before missing the final two months of the season after undergoing right thumb surgery. DeJesus, 30, should not be facing any restrictions come spring.

"Going to Oakland, they've got great pitching, and if we can get some bats over there, I think it'll be an exciting year," DeJesus said. "They play the game right, and it seemed like if they can get some bats, they could be right in it."

DeJesus spent time in all three outfield slots -- the most coming in right field -- and did not commit an error in 88 games this year. The left-handed hitter has a 241-game errorless streak dating to Sept. 15, 2008 -- numbers that speak volumes to an A's team that heavily focuses on defense.

"He's a guy we always liked," said A's general manager Billy Beane, who noted the club has eyed DeJesus since August. "He's a great defender and a good baserunner as well, and right now, the plan is to play him every day at the corners."

DeJesus figures to join an outfield that already boasts fellow speedster and former Royals teammate Coco Crisp. Also in the outfield mix for Oakland are arbitration-eligible players Ryan Sweeney, Rajai Davis and Conor Jackson, along with Chris Carter.

Wednesday's move signals thinking that one of them, likely Davis or Jackson, could be elsewhere by the start of the 2011 season. However, when speaking of his crowded outfield, Beane said he has no current intentions of parting ways with any of them, as he likes what each lends the team.

"If you look at all the outfielders we have," Beane said, "they're all interchangeable. I think DeJesus has been a well-respected guy, and he seems to do everything well. He'll be a good complement to everybody. He can play either corners, and I think he's just another good player to add to the guys out there."

Beane said Sweeney and DeJesus are both equipped with enough defensive ability to succeed in a permanent home in left field, so one could easily see a shift next season. Either way, Crisp likes what's around him.

"DeJesus is a really good player," Crisp said. "He can make any team better, defensively and offensively, when he's healthy. He goes 100 percent all the time and plays the game the right way. I like the way our outfield is looking."

DeJesus will make \$6 million in 2011, and while Beane said an extended contract has been discussed, it's important to first "get him over here, familiar with us and us with him."

In bolstering their versatility, the A's sacrificed one of their promising young starters in Mazzaro, who showed flashes of brilliance in the midst of an up-and-down season this year. He enjoyed a 5-2 mark and 2.86 ERA over his first nine starts but went 0-6 with a 5.60 ERA over his next eight, landing him at Triple-A Sacramento on Sept. 6. Mazzaro returned to the club later in the month but only in a relief role.

Overall, the 24-year-old righty was 6-8 with a 4.27 ERA in 24 games -- 18 starts -- during three stints with Oakland this year and was expected to be the front-runner for the fifth rotation spot in Spring Training.

However, Mazzaro's name was usually the first mentioned whenever trade talks surrounding Oakland emerged. Furthermore, there was speculation that Mazzaro had, in a sense, fallen out of favor with the A's front office, though Beane disputed the notion and called it "completely false."

Rather, he reiterated the club's large stock of pitching as the reason why he was allowed to let some of it go. After all, the A's are already proud owners of starters Trevor Cahill, Brett Anderson, Gio Gonzalez, Dallas Braden and the rehabbing Josh Outman, not to mention September surprise story Bobby Cramer and a strong possibility in Iwakuma.

"We're not going to comment a whole lot on the negotiations [with Iwakuma] until hopefully it's completed," Beane said. "If, ultimately, the negotiations with him are successful, we should be in pretty good shape. Pitching was an obvious strength for us. Using pitching depth to acquire a position player was something we set out to do at the beginning of offseason."

It's highly expected that the club is also set to bring in power, something Beane confirmed is still a focus -- likely in the form of free agency now, as he said he is not looking to trade away Cahill, Anderson, Gonzalez or Braden.

"I don't think we can look at anything in a linear fashion," he said. "We certainly have a need for power, but I think we also have to be cognizant of our defense, which was a major part of our success last year. There's a lot of offseason left, and there's certainly a mindset of making power a part of that."

Marks, the other name in Wednesday's deal, spent the 2010 season with Class A Kane County and Class A Stockton and combined for a 6-13 record and 4.87 ERA in 25 games, 24 of them starts. The 22-year-old southpaw was originally drafted by the A's in the third round of the 2009 First-Year Player Draft.

## **A's reportedly ink 16-year-old talent de la Cruz**

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

The A's continued a busy offseason by reportedly signing Vicmal de la Cruz, a sought-after center-field prospect from the Dominican Republic.

According to Baseball America, the A's came to terms with the 5-foot-11, 170-pound left-handed hitter, who turns 17 on Nov. 20. De la Cruz, who lives in Santo Domingo, D.R., and has been training at the La Academia complex in his native country, possesses raw skills but "some of the best all-around tools of any prospect from this year's international signing class," Baseball America wrote, citing the comments of scouts.

The agreement with de la Cruz marks Oakland's second major international free-agent signing this year. The A's also inked third baseman Renato Nunez of Venezuela in early July for \$2.2 million and signed top Venezuelan catching prospect Argenis Raga later that month.

## **Veterans Day magnifies Ziegler's national pride** **Oakland righty set to visit soldiers stationed abroad in December**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

It's often been said that it takes a tragedy to spark a sense of patriotism in America.

And, usually, that tragedy unfortunately slips away in the distance with time -- until another tragedy or a holiday makes it relevant again.

So on Thursday, Veterans Day, many around the country will find significance in patriotism, possibly for the first time in a while. But for A's pitcher Brad Ziegler, the annual holiday will only magnify a passion for national pride he exudes on an everyday basis.

"There's just not that sense of pride for the freedoms we have," Ziegler said. "There are very few people who feel that passion. I wish people didn't take our country for granted the way they do, because I feel we're so blessed in this nation."

It's a nation he'll soon leave, but only to sojourn to ones in which American troops are stationed, to converse and swap stories with them, to tell them they're appreciated.

Ziegler, who has several relatives with military backgrounds, is slated to spend a week's time with troops in the Middle East around the second week of December -- a time that was carefully mapped out by the A's reliever.

"I've requested the time slot specifically because it's halfway between Thanksgiving and Christmas," he explained. "I feel like those are the two times out of the year it's really difficult to be away from your family. I really can't imagine being half a world away and risking your life all the time while your family is sitting at home, having these times of gathering, and you're not there."

Sure, Ziegler knows all about separation from family -- every Major League baseball player does as a result of a schedule that calls for 162 games, half of them on the road. But Ziegler also knows he's rather lucky, too. His time in other cities never comes without safety. In fact, the norm is luxury.

"I feel like I get to interact with my family a whole lot more than they're able to," he said. "I know they get to talk on the phone and video chat, too, but not near the level of freedom I have. At any point I could buy a plane ticket for my family to come and see me, whereas they don't have that option. They know, when they're shipped overseas, they won't have any personal interaction with their family for a long period of time."

Ziegler understands his presence won't make up for all that's been lost by the soldiers -- Christmas-tree shopping with the family, talk of school and work and dreams at the dinner table, birthdays and even births. He simply wants to lend them a boost of morale, whether that be through a game of catch or other activity.

"Whatever makes them happy, whatever brings a smile to their face," Ziegler said. "I want to give them a sense of back home. I feel it can be beneficial to them, and I know it will be very emotional for me. It's something I'm very honored to do because of the respect I have for the people who are serving for our country."

"I hope some of them can open up about their family, because I want to know some of the emotions they're going through so I can get a little better understanding of what it's like from their perspective."

This is not the first time Ziegler's reached out to troops. The 31-year-old pitcher has been active in his support for the military since his big league arrival in 2008. Those efforts took a large step forward this season when he created the foundation Pastime for Patriots, through which he's distributed thousands of A's tickets to military personnel and their families.

By way of the charity, Ziegler plans on making his purchase of baseball tickets for these families an ongoing endeavor, one he hopes expands through several other Major League parks as quickly as possible.

December's initiative, aided by the Armed Forces Entertainment organization, will mark Ziegler's first significant overseas trip. Other than his days spent in Toronto when the A's have played guests to the Blue Jays, Ziegler's only other experience out of the country was a short trip to Aruba for a baseball tournament years ago.

"The people I'm seeing, these are people who are doing what they're doing to protect our freedom, to protect our citizens," he said. "It's a whole lot more than a vacation to Europe -- not that we can't have fun, but there's a different tone to this trip. I think that's what makes it so surreal."

Ziegler's seemingly charmed life as a professional ballplayer will never stray from the belief system on which he was raised by parents Greg and Lisa. That very structure includes a strong dose of pride for a country in which he's grateful not only for his Christian religion but also just for the chance to believe in such.

"The opportunities we have as Christians are kind of parallel to opportunities we have as Americans," he said. "A lot of what we have in America when it comes to religious freedoms is because of our soldiers. I know religion is kind of a touchy subject with a lot of people, and I don't want to be a brow-beater on the subject at all, but the fact that we can make choices in that area is something a lot of people in other countries don't get."

So, Ziegler will thank the troops for that opportunity, and for the countless others. On Thursday, he'll do so when watching Veterans Day parades on television. Every day after and then some, he'll do so through his charity efforts. And in December, he'll do so in person.

"This is so far above and beyond anything I've ever done or dreamed of," he said. "It's something I've never done and likely won't get to do ever again. Because of that, I'm going to try to make the most of this one opportunity."

### **Major Lee-ague: A's give up Mazzaro in exchange for DeJesus**

Jane Lee, mlb.com, 11/10/2010 4:42PM

*More on this to come soon at the A's site. Billy Beane is slated to talk about his new outfielder on a conference call shortly.*

The A's continued quite the busy week Wednesday by acquiring outfielder David DeJesus from Kansas City in exchange for young hurlers Vin Mazzaro and Justin Marks.

The move came just two days after it was announced Oakland won bidding rights to negotiate with Japanese right-hander Hisoshi Iwakuma, with whom the A's must feel pretty confident regarding a contract if willing to let go of Mazzaro.

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DeJesus, 30, spent time in all three outfield slots -- the most coming in right field -- and did not commit an error in 188 games. The left-handed hitter, who will make \$6 million in 2011, has a 241-game errorless streak dating back to Sept. 15, 2008 -- numbers that speak volumes to an A's team that heavily focuses on defense.

He figures to join an outfield that already boasts fellow speedster and former Royals teammate Coco Crisp. Also in the outfield mix for Oakland are arbitration-eligible players Ryan Sweeney, Rajai Davis and Conor Jackson, yet Wednesday's move signals thinking that one of them could be elsewhere by the start of the 2011 season.

In bolstering their lineup, the A's sacrificed one of their promising young starters in Mazzaro, who showed flashes of brilliance in the midst of an up-and-down season this year. He enjoyed a 5-2 mark and 2.86 ERA over his first nine starts

but witnessed a 0-6 record and 5.60 ERA over his next eight -- the latter results which landed him at Triple-A Sacramento on Sept. 6. Mazzaro returned to the club later in the month but only in a relief role.

Overall, the 24-year-old righty was 6-8 with a 4.27 ERA in 24 games -- 18 starts -- during three stints with Oakland this year and was expected to be the frontrunner for the fifth rotation spot in Spring Training if still around.

However, Mazzaro's name was usually the first mentioned whenever trade talks surrounding Oakland emerged. After all, the A's are already proud owners of starters Trevor Cahill, Brett Anderson, Gio Gonzalez, Dallas Braden and the rehabbing Josh Outman. With Iwakuma also possibly in the fold soon, the club seemed pretty set on using its surplus of pitching to upgrade a rather weak offense.

Marks, the other name in the deal, spent the 2010 season with Class-A Kane County and Class-A Stockton and combined for a 6-13 record and 4.87 ERA in 25 games, 24 of them starts. The 22-year-old southpaw was originally drafted by the A's in the third round of the 2009 First-Year Player Draft.

## **Wednesday's AFL roundup**

### **Jays' Rzepczynski continues dominance in the desert**

By MLB.com

#### **Javelinas 8, Rafters 5**

Marc Rzepczynski tossed six scoreless innings for the second consecutive start for Peoria. The Blue Jays left-hander improved to 3-0 with a 0.69 ERA in five starts for the first-place Javelinas. Converted outfielder Adam Loewen (Blue Jays) slugged a two-run homer and Red Sox catching prospect Ryan Lavarney hit a solo blast and scored twice. Cardinals Minor Leaguer Tony Cruz reached twice and scored a pair of runs for Surprise.

#### **Scorpions 11, Saguaros 1**

Brandon Belt went 3-for-4 and fell a homer shy of the cycle, in Scottsdale's rout. The Giants prospect drove in a pair of runs while extending his hitting streak to seven games. First overall Draft pick Bryce Harper smacked a pair of triples and plated two runs, while fellow Nationals farmhand Derek Norris was 3-for-6 with a homer and three RBIs for the Scorpions. Sammy Solis (Nationals) earned his first fall win after allowing a run on two hits over five innings.

#### **Desert Dogs 9, Solar Sox 6**

Michael Taylor had four hits, including a pair of doubles, and drove in four runs for visiting Phoenix. The Athletics prospect is 7-for-13 with six RBIs over his last three games. Matt Wallach (Dodgers) snapped an eighth-inning tie with a solo homer and Braves prospect Cory Harrilchak was 3-for-4 with three runs scored for the Desert Dogs. Former Cubs first-round pick Josh Vitters had two RBIs in a losing effort for Mesa.

## **BASEBALL NOTES**

### **Steinbrenner, Martin on veterans' ballot**

Associated Press 11/9/2010

Longtime Yankees owner George Steinbrenner will be on the Hall of Fame veterans committee ballot next month with former New York manager Billy Martin.



Steinbrenner owned the Yankees from 1973 until his death in July, and the team won seven World Series championships, 11 AL pennants and 16 AL East titles during his reign.

Martin had five stints as Yankees manager under Steinbrenner, who fired him four times and let him resign once.

Former union head Marvin Miller, former A's and Giants pitcher Vida Blue and former Dodgers and Padres first baseman Steve Garvey also are on the 12-man ballot.

**Briefly:** Mets general manager Sandy Alderson hired Paul DePodesta as vice president of player development and scouting. Alderson and DePodesta each used to work for the A's. ... The Blue Jays hired Don Wakamatsu as their bench coach.