

**Oakland A's, Brett Anderson lose 7-2 to Texas Rangers**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Brett Anderson's night was a washout even before the rain hit Tuesday night.

The A's left-hander has impressed this season, but the sight of a Texas Ranger digging into the batter's box brings out his worst.

Anderson was gone after 42/3 innings, and a 59-minute rain delay in the sixth inning did nothing to halt an A's 7-2 defeat before 31,655 fans at Rangers Ballpark.

"Yeah, the Rangers aren't my favorite team to face, that's for sure," Anderson said. "We don't play them again until like, July, so I've got a couple months to get away from them a little bit."

In two starts against Texas this season, Anderson in 92/3 innings has allowed 15 hits, 11 earned runs, four homers and eight walks. In six starts against every one else, he's allowed 38 hits, eight earned runs, four walks and zero homers. Call him the anti-Cahill.

A night earlier, teammate Trevor Cahill continued his mastery of the Rangers, ringing up his eighth victory in 11 starts.

So what gives with Anderson?

"For some reason, the Rangers kinda have my number right now," he said. "Maybe if I could turn into a right-handed sinker guy like Trevor, next time will be better."

A's second baseman Mark Ellis said: "(He's) got to face them a lot in our division. Either it's figure it out, or you keep going through it."

Anderson surrendered four runs and walked four. On a warm and muggy night, Anderson partially blamed his troubles on a slick grip, which he said made it feel like he was throwing "a wet cue ball," particularly in the fourth inning.

That's when the Rangers took a 2-0 lead. Anderson walked in a run but limited the damage somewhat.

The next inning, however, he allowed Michael Young's one-out double and then piped a fastball Adrian Beltre hit for a towering two-run homer and 4-0 Texas lead. A's manager Bob Geren called on David Purcey, who allowed one more run in the inning.

The A's cut it to 5-1 on Cliff Pennington's homer in the sixth. Then the rain hit, halting play for nearly an hour, and the A's got no closer. Rangers starter Colby Lewis allowed just one run over 71/3 innings, coming back out after the delay and staying sharp. But Geren thought his team had chances.

"(Lewis') stuff didn't look necessarily special at all," Geren said. "Especially after he came back from the rain delay, it looked even more hittable."

Ellis was a bit more diplomatic but also didn't heap praise on Lewis. "We scored one run. It's hard to say anything bad about a pitcher," he said.

Coincidental or not, the A's less-than-flattering comments came a day after Texas pitcher C.J. Wilson slammed Oakland's hitters.

Wilson, who walked five in the A's 7-2 win Monday, had this to offer on the A's offense.

"They take everything close," Wilson told [espn.com](http://espn.com). "If it's not called a strike, then they walk. It's lawyer ball. "... I have to make a bunch of mistakes and walk a bunch of guys because they're not that good of a hitting team."

Those words ended up being posted in the A's clubhouse before Tuesday's game.

"I'm sure he was frustrated at how he pitched (Monday) night," Jackson said before Tuesday's game. "But you know what, there's nothing you can do. (The comments) weren't the right way to go about the game."

## **A's update: Closer Andrew Bailey still feeling discomfort in elbow**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Closer Andrew Bailey, still out with a forearm strain, threw a 25-pitch simulated game Tuesday afternoon at Rangers Ballpark.

Does that mean he's close to a minor league rehab assignment, the final step before coming off the disabled list? Perhaps.

Everything is written in pencil regarding Bailey, who has been sidelined since March 14. He hinted that he'd likely throw one more simulated game before starting a rehab assignment but said he still feels discomfort in the "elbow area" when he pitches, part of the reason his return has been delayed.

The team lists his injury as a forearm strain, but the problem essentially rests in his twice-operated-on elbow.

"I do feel I'm getting there," Bailey said. "I'm not totally ready to go 100 percent. I don't know how to describe (the pain). It's not pulling or doing anything violent. It's just there."

Tuesday marked just the second time he's thrown breaking balls from the mound, and Bailey said his curve and cutter were sharper than last time.

"I think why it's taking longer than we originally planned is we want to make sure (the pain) is totally gone, so we don't have to battle this all year long," he said.

The A's didn't have an update on starter Dallas Braden, who received second and third opinions on his injured left shoulder Monday and Tuesday.

"Major League" was the pregame DVD of choice in the A's clubhouse Tuesday, and bullpen coach Rick Rodriguez took a special interest. He was pitching with the Indians in 1988 when scenes for "Major League" were shot at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

Rodriguez remembers a July game against the Mariners being halted and players being cleared from the field as a plane flew by to film overhead shots.

Rodriguez was pitching in relief, and the break in action didn't help him when he returned to the mound.

"I did my warmup pitches and the first hitter, Ken Phelps, hit a home run," Rodriguez said. "I was like 'Ahh, that movie!' "

Coco Crisp was out of the lineup -- a regular day off, A's manager Bob Geren said. Ryan Sweeney played center and hit in the No. 3 spot for the first time this season.

Sweeney entered 8 for 13 over his past four games and singled in his first two at-bats.

## **Chin Music: Rain delay in Texas with A's trailing Rangers 5-1**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/10/2011 7:21PM

UPDATE: The A's and Rangers are about to resume play at 9:45 p.m. local time, with the A's batting in the top of the sixth, trailing 5-1.

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We have a rain delay here at Rangers Ballpark with Texas leading the A's 5-1 in the top of the sixth. Cliff Pennington hit a solo homer to right field against Colby Lewis, and the skies immediately opened. Players were called off the field and a huge crash of thunder could be heard just outside the stadium.

If you weren't tuned in to the game, Brett Anderson didn't have his best day. He walked four and was pulled after serving up a two-run homer to Adrian Beltre in the bottom of the fifth. Anderson's totals in two starts against Texas this season: 9 2/3 IP, 15 hits, 11 earned runs, 8 walks, 4 homers.

But ... perhaps this delay benefits the A's. If Lewis ends up getting yanked because of the delay, that leaves it up to Texas' shaky bullpen to close things out, and there's still plenty of ballgame left ...

Check back soon for an update ...

## **Rangers overwhelm Brett Anderson, A's**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Over the years, the A's have been known to play BillyBall, Bash ball, Moneyball and small ball. Now they're being accused of playing lawyer ball.

In their 7-2 loss to the Rangers on Tuesday night, their only offense was Cliff Pennington's home run and Conor Jackson's sacrifice fly. Oakland had five hits and drew three walks (two in the final inning when the game was in the bag), a far cry from Monday night's victory in which the A's scored seven runs on four hits.

That was an issue for Texas' C.J. Wilson, Monday's losing pitcher who said the A's look for walks more than hits. After walking a season-high five batters, Wilson told Texas reporters, "It's just only against their team that I do that. They take everything close. If it's not called a strike, then they walk. It's lawyer ball. That's how they roll."

Lawyer ball? That was a new one to most of the A's. Apparently, Wilson meant hitters were waiting for the judge (or umpire in this case) to settle the matter instead of resolving it themselves by swinging the bat.

"That's how they're going to beat me," Wilson said. "That's how they have to beat me. I have to make a bunch of mistakes and walk a bunch of guys because they're not that good of a hitting team."

The A's reaction? They sent Wilson a ball that read, "From the law office of" with some signatures.

"Just a comment from somebody who thought they could say that about a team that's not swinging the bat well," Mark Ellis said. "We laughed it off. No big deal."

David DeJesus, who signed the ball, said, "He could say what he wants. He lost twice to us. Good luck to him."

On Tuesday, Colby Lewis was more effective than Wilson, perhaps because he threw more strikes. Lewis remained in the game after a sixth-inning, 59-minute rain delay and pitched into the eighth. A's manager Bob Geren said, "His stuff didn't look necessarily special at all, especially when he came back after the rain delay. He looked even more hittable."

Asked for specifics, Ellis said, "It's hard to say anything bad about a pitcher when you score one run" off him, which was Pennington's homer. The other run came in the ninth.

Conversely, Brett Anderson got his quickest hook of the season (two outs in the fifth). He has had two rough games, both against the Rangers. On a hot, muggy night, the left-hander struggled gripping the ball and issued four walks, including one to load the bases in the fourth and another to force in a run.

His 97th and final pitch was a fastball to Adrian Beltre, who hit a two-run homer - "terrible, terrible pitch," said Anderson, who has a 6.62 ERA in seven career starts against the Rangers and suggested he might have better success if he were to "turn into a right-handed sinkerball guy like Trevor" Cahill, a noted Texas nemesis.

## **A's Andrew Bailey throws in simulated game**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Closer **Andrew Bailey** was encouraged by his 25-pitch simulated game Tuesday, saying he's "getting there" and hinting he'll throw once more before beginning a minor-league rehab assignment.

He also spoke of "achiness" in the "whole elbow area," and the A's are hoping it's nothing more than normal stiffness. He also said he was achy after his previous mound session.

"I'm pretty much full exertion," said Bailey, shelved since spring training with a forearm strain. "Just a little achiness, but you've got to learn how to deal with the way it's going to feel, knowing you are healthy and put all the work in to get to this point where you're able to let it go. I'll keep on going with it."

Facing **Kevin Kouzmanoff** and **Landon Powell**, Bailey threw 10 pitches, broke for two minutes and threw 15 more. He walked the first batter and didn't allow anything resembling a hit.

Defining achiness, Bailey said, "The flexor issue, it's not pulling or doing anything violent like it was in spring training. It's just kind of there. You just kind of feel it. It's like when guys are playing four or five days in a row, your body kind of feels heavy and worn down."

**Briefly:** Designated hitter **Hideki Matsui** began making throws from the outfield in anticipation of the interleague series at AT&T Park, May 20-22. "He played enough last year, so it's not that foreign to him," coach **Tye Waller** said of Matsui, who played 18 games in left field for the Angels. ... **Conor Jackson** played third base for two innings, the second time this season he has played the position. ... **Trevor Cahill** is the first A's starter to win his first six decisions since **Dave Stewart**, who did it in 1988, 1989 and 1990. Cahill, who has a 1.72 ERA, is also the first in franchise history since **Sam Gray** in 1925 to go at least 6-0 with a sub-2.00 ERA in his first eight starts, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

## **A's leading off**

John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

### **You make the call:**

Coco Crisp has been wondering what to do with all that hair. Keep it in braids, go with an Afro or shave it and go bald. He's considering all options. Maybe you can decide for him. A team spokesman said there's talk of polling fans on the A's website.

## **Drumbeat: Andrew Bailey still not quite ready for rehab assignment**

John Shea reporting from home of the World Series runners-up . . . 5/10/2011 4:13PM

Closer Andrew Bailey threw his first simulated game and hinted he'll throw another before beginning a minor-league rehab assignment. As he did after the previous time he pitched off a mound, he spoke of "achiness" in the elbow area.

Not enough to prevent him from resuming his rehab.

"I'm pretty much full exertion," Bailey said. "Just a little achiness, but you've got to learn how to deal with the way it's going to feel, knowing you are healthy and put all the work in to get to this point where you're able to let it go. I'll keep on going with it."

Facing Kevin Kouzmanoff and Landon Powell, Bailey threw 10 pitches, broke for 2 minutes and threw 15 more. He walked the first batter and didn't allow anything that would have been considered hits.

"It's not totally, totally 100 percent ready to go out there yet," said Bailey, shelved with a strained forearm, "but hopefully with one more of these, we'll be ready to go."

Bailey was asked to describe the achiness.

"The flexor issue, it's not pulling or doing anything violent like it was in spring training," he said. "It's just kind of there. You just kind of feel it. It's like when guys are playing four or five days in a row, your body kind of feels heavy and worn down. It's getting there."

Manager Bob Geren said he'll wait at least a day to confirm the next step. Meantime, Bailey is eager to pitch in a real game.

"I'm definitely itching to get back," he said, "but I have to understand that when I do get back, I have to be healthy so I don't have to battle this again. That's why it's taken a little longer than it was originally planned because we want to make sure it's totally gone so we don't have to battle this all year long.

"It takes time to make sure it's totally gone and push it when it needs to be pushed and scale back when it needs to be scaled back."

Today's lineup (Bob Geren says Coco Crisp simply getting day off: RF DeJesus, 1B Barton, CF Sweeney, LF Willingham, DH Matsui, C Suzuki, 2B Ellis, 3B LaRoche, SS Pennington. Anderson on the hill.

### **Anderson, A's sluggish against Rangers**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com | 5/11/2011 2:18 AM ET

ARLINGTON -- On a balmy night in Arlington, lefty Brett Anderson fell apart, and the skies followed suit.

Anderson's string of messy starts against the Rangers potentially appeared to take a turn for the better through three scoreless innings, but the southpaw surrendered four runs thereafter and ultimately found himself on the hook for a 7-2 loss to Texas.

A downpour and a loud clap of thunder forced a 59-minute delay with one out in the sixth inning -- just minutes after Cliff Pennington homered off Texas righty Colby Lewis in the form of a solo shot to right field.

But the break proved to be no help for a sluggish A's team that managed just five hits, only magnifying Anderson's struggles with Texas, against which he has a 6.62 ERA.

"It's weird. It's just one of those teams that has your number," Anderson said. "It's unfortunate, because they're in our division, so you have to face them more times than other teams."

This time didn't prove as troubled from the start, as Anderson struck out five over the first two innings while stranding three. A quick third frame had him thinking that perhaps he'd turned the corner against the Rangers.

It was wishful thinking, though. In the fourth, Anderson surrendered back-to-back hits to Michael Young and Mitch Moreland before recording an out, and walked the next two batters to send home a run and hand Texas a one-run lead.

"He was fighting himself a little bit, holding on to the ball tight," manager Bob Geren said.

The Rangers increased their lead on Craig Gentry's RBI single, and Anderson escaped the frame before further damage was done.

"It was all over the place," he said. "To limit the damage to two runs there, I felt like I did a pretty good job of correcting it."

Until the fifth inning.

Young hit a one-out double off Anderson and, after a Moreland flyout, Adrian Beltre launched a fastball down the middle to left-center for a two-run homer, extending the Rangers' lead.

"Today I had pretty good stuff early on and made some good pitches to get outs when I needed," Anderson said. "The fourth inning came, and I felt like I was throwing a wet cue ball -- just no control of where it's going. I had to harness it a bit, I kept us in the game, and then I made a terrible pitch to Beltre to open it up."

Beltre's long ball signaled the end for Anderson, who was tagged with four runs on six hits and four walks while dropping to 2-3 on the season and 1-4 lifetime against Texas.

Anderson has walked just 12 all season, but eight of those have come against the Rangers. The previous four were issued two starts ago, in Oakland on April 30, when the Rangers recorded seven runs and nine hits off the southpaw, who deemed the outing his worst since high school.

Tuesday's performance wasn't quite teenage-esque, but it wasn't pretty, either.

"I'm not making any excuses," he said. "I just don't pitch good against the Rangers."

Anderson potentially won't have to face the Rangers again until July, when the A's play a three-game set in Texas before the All-Star break.

"The Rangers aren't my favorite team to face, that's for sure," he said. "I already looked at the calendar. I have a couple of months to get away from them a bit."

Anderson was relieved by David Purcey, who served up consecutive hits to David Murphy and Mike Napoli, the latter making it 5-0 before Pennington's shot in the sixth -- his third of the season -- put the A's on the board.

A's lefty Jerry Blevins didn't fare much better, giving up a two-run triple in the sixth to Young, who fell a home run shy of the cycle.

Lewis, meanwhile, went 7 1/3 innings and breezed through an A's lineup that, just one night prior, posted seven runs but just four hits against Texas ace C.J. Wilson.

"Fastball location, that's it," Lewis said of his success on Tuesday. "That's the biggest thing. I knew against them I had to pound the strike zone."

"[Lewis] wasn't necessarily perfectly sharp, but he seemed to lose command in that one inning," Geren said. "He had real good command but wasn't throwing very hard. We had some over the middle of the plate, and our timing was a bit off. His stuff didn't look necessarily special at all, especially when he came back after the rain delay. He looked even more hittable."

Mark Ellis, who went 0-for-4, didn't downplay Lewis' night.

"We had chances, hit some balls hard and they didn't fall," Ellis said. "We just didn't get it done tonight. We only scored one run against him, so it's hard to say anything bad about the pitcher. We just didn't do anything."

Oakland's second and final run came in the ninth, when Ryan Sweeney reached base courtesy of a Beltre error at third and scored on Conor Jackson's sacrifice fly.

## **Bailey lets loose in simulated game**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- Right-hander Andrew Bailey let loose in his first simulated game on Tuesday afternoon in Texas, throwing both fastballs and breaking balls in an encouraging rehab session against teammates.

The two-time All-Star closer, who has been on the disabled list since March 30 with a forearm strain, threw a combined 25 pitches without use of the L-screen and noted that "everything went well."

"The hitters don't know what's coming," Bailey said. "It makes it more game-like, where you're really trying to execute pitches and not just feeling for how you feel physically but of getting guys out."

Though the team will wait to see how Bailey feels on Wednesday, he is likely slated to take part in one more simulated game before beginning a Minor League rehab stint.

Bailey threw a set of 15 pitches and, following a scheduled two-minute break, tossed 10 more to Landon Powell and Kevin Kouzmanoff. He walked one and, though there were no fielders, manager Bob Geren said none of the balls that came off their bats was a hit.

"I thought it went well," Geren said. "He's progressing as scheduled."

Bailey is essentially throwing at full exertion now and, as a result, is experiencing "a little achiness" -- not the type he's used to feeling during a typical Spring Training but simply the kind that comes with nursing his elbow and flexor tendon back to health.

"I really don't know how to describe it, but it's just that flexor issue," he said. "It's not pulling or doing anything violent like it was in Spring Training, but it's just kinda there. It's like when [you] are playing four or five days in a row and your body is feeling heavy and worn-down. That's what it feels like, I guess."

"Hopefully, in another month, it will be totally gone and we won't have to talk about it anymore, but there's a fine line between going out there and feeling good and still having symptoms of being hurt."

Mixing in a handful of curveballs and cutters for the first time in game-like action, Bailey noticed a vast improvement in those pitches over how they were coming out of his hand during the past couple of weeks.

Though he feels good and admittedly sees "the light at the end of the tunnel," Bailey is not quite 100 percent ready for live action. One more simulated contest, he noted, just might help him get there.

"I'm definitely itching to get back, but I do understand that when I'm back, we have to make sure I'm healthy so I don't have to battle this again," he said. "I think that's why it's taken longer than we originally planned, or anybody planned. We want to make sure it's totally gone. For me, it's more important to take the time I need up front and push it when it needs to be pushed and scale back when it needs to be scaled back."

Bailey could return by the end of the month, but in the meantime, Geren will continue to rely on a bullpen that boasts the second-best ERA (2.70) in the American League and has allowed just one earned run or fewer in 18 of its past 20 games.

"They've done a nice job," Geren said. "Obviously, it will be good to have Bailey back, but they've done a super job in his absence."

## **Sweeney faces Rangers with Crisp getting a rest**

ARLINGTON -- Ryan Sweeney's hot bat found a way into the starting lineup against Texas righty Colby Lewis on Tuesday, with Coco Crisp handed the day off.

Sweeney, who was plugged into the No. 3 spot for the 101st time in his career, entered the game hitting .613 (8-for-13) in four May contests after batting just .222 in 16 April games. He also has a .359 mark against right-handers this season.

"He's swinging the bat well," manager Bob Geren said. "Having him hit third, we can keep everyone else where they normally would be."

Crisp has just three hits in his last 25 at-bats, numbers that follow a torrid streak at the plate, as he went 12-for-21 (.571) with four multi-hit games over his previous five contests. He also missed time last week because of a tight left quad, giving Geren all the more reason to rest him occasionally.

"We'll keep him fresh, keep him healthy," he said. "That's what we're trying to do with all of our guys. So far it's working."

### **Worth noting**

- There was no update on lefty Dallas Braden before game time on Tuesday. Braden was scheduled to see Dr. James Andrews in Florida on Monday and Dr. David Altchek in New York on Tuesday for second and third opinions on his stiff left shoulder.
- According to Elias, starter Trevor Cahill -- who improved to 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA with Monday night's win -- is the first A's pitcher to go 6-0 or better with a sub-2.00 ERA in his first eight starts of a season since Sam Grey went 8-0 with a 1.43 ERA in his first eight starts for Connie Mack's Philadelphia A's in 1925.
- Entering Tuesday's contest, Kurt Suzuki had gone 16 consecutive games without a strikeout, the longest streak by an A's player since Marco Scutaro in 2004.

### **A's, Rangers put lefties to the test in series finale**

By Doug Miller / MLB.com | 5/11/2011 2:12 AM ET

Two young left-handers in the American League West have been moving in opposite directions lately, and their teams have followed suit.

So when the A's play the Rangers in Arlington on Wednesday in the series finale between the two clubs, and Oakland southpaw Gio Gonzalez takes the hill against Texas lefty Matt Harrison, more will be at stake than the standings.

Gonzalez would like for things to continue the way they've been in May. So far he's 2-0 with a 2.63 ERA and .188 opponents' batting average through two starts this month. And in his most recent outing, against Kansas City, he pitched seven innings for the first time this season, limiting the Royals to two runs and striking out six.

"Gio was right on top of his game," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "A 94-to-96 mph fastball, real tight, a sharp-breaking curveball. He's a tough lefty."

And he can get better. For the season, he's averaging 8.45 strikeouts per nine innings, but also 20 walks. Gonzalez's manager, Bob Geren, has been most impressed with his ability to escape big jams, something he struggled with last year. He's allowed a .133 average with runners in scoring position, and opponents are 0-for-15 with RISP and two outs against.

Meanwhile, Harrison could approach similar success if he solves the first-inning woes that have troubled him of late.

Harrison has allowed a combined eight runs in the first inning in his last two starts, and 10 in his last three. He's winless in his last four starts after winning his first three, and walked a career-high five in a loss to the Yanks on Friday.

The first-inning trend continued in that start, when Derek Jeter singled to right to lead off the game and Curtis Granderson followed with a two-run homer.

But Harrison settled down and began to resemble the pitcher who'd opened the season with three consecutive victories. He worked out of a bases-loaded situation with one out in the top of the second, getting Mark Teixeira to pop out to first base and Alex Rodriguez to fly out to center field, and he allowed just a Rodriguez single in the next four innings.

"That," Rangers manager Ron Washington said, "should be a big confidence boost for him."



## **A's: It isn't just Gio**

A's starters have allowed just three home runs in 68 innings in May, and 14 for the season. Overall, Oakland pitchers have a 2.13 ERA in May, and its starters are 5-2 with a 2.51 ERA this month.

- As does teammate Trevor Cahill, Gonzalez boasts favorable career numbers against Texas. Overall, he's 4-1 with a 2.18 ERA in nine career appearances, seven of them starts, vs. the Rangers. He was the winning pitcher in his only start against Texas this year, allowing two runs while fanning seven in 6 2/3 innings in a 7-2 victory.
- Outfielder Coco Crisp is expected to return to the lineup on Wednesday after getting the day off on Tuesday.

## **Rangers: Borbon's streak continues**

Outfielder Julio Borbon extended his season-high hitting streak to 10 games on Tuesday. He is batting .353 during the streak, and .362 over his last 16 games since returning to lineup on April 24. He's raised his batting average, from .179 to .279, in the process.

- Mitch Moreland has five homers since April 18 and has not had consecutive games without reaching via a hit or walk all year. He has gone hitless in consecutive games only once this season. He went 2-for-5 on Tuesday.
- Closer Neftali Feliz has converted his last 17 save tries in the regular season since blowing a save on Aug. 11 of last year vs. the Yankees. He's three shy of his personal best, 20 in a row, achieved from May 17 to July 31 of last year, and he's eight shy of John Wetteland's club record of 25 straight from 1997-98.

## **Worth noting**

A's catcher Kurt Suzuki has gone 17 consecutive games without a strikeout, the longest streak by an Athletic since Marco Scutaro in 2004. ... A's outfielder David DeJesus needs three hits to reach 1,000. ... Texas has captured the season series from the A's in four of the last five years, holding a slight 52-49 advantage since the beginning of 2006. The A's are leading, 4-2, so far this year. ... The Rangers will hold a news conference with outfielder Leonys Martin on Wednesday at noon CT at Rangers Ballpark. The Rangers signed Martin to a five-year Major League contract on May 4. Martin, who batted .438 in five extended spring training games, will report to Double-A Frisco and is expected to be active when the RoughRiders open a four-game series with Corpus Christi on Thursday night at Dr Pepper Ballpark in Frisco.

## **A's lose to Rangers, 7-2**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Brett Anderson had all kinds of trouble in Texas again.

The Oakland Athletics left-hander lasted only 4½ innings Tuesday night in a 7-2 loss to the Rangers. He is 0-3 with an 8.62 ERA in four career road starts against Texas, and 1-4 with a 6.62 ERA in seven starts overall against the Rangers.

This time, Anderson (2-3) allowed four runs and six hits on 97 pitches at hitter-friendly Rangers Ballpark.

"Not making any excuses, I just don't pitch well against the Rangers," he said. "It's weird. It's just one of those teams that has your number, which is unfortunate because they're in our division and you face them more."

Anderson also struggled in a home start against Texas on April 30, giving up seven runs and nine hits in five innings of an 11-2 defeat.

On a muggy night in North Texas, Anderson never was able to get into a rhythm.

"He seemed to have trouble getting a grip on the ball," manager Bob Geren said. "It was hot, he was sweating, kind of holding onto the ball a little tight."

The Rangers loaded the bases in the fourth against Anderson on two singles and a walk, and Mike Napoli walked to force in the game's first run. Craig Gentry's two-out single, his first RBI this season and the fifth of his career, made it 2-0.

Anderson said he had no feel for the ball in the fourth, that it was like trying to "grip a wet cue ball."

In the fifth, Michael Young doubled and Adrian Beltre ripped a high fastball into the left-field seats for his eighth homer and a 4-0 lead.

"I made some adjustments in the dugout to dry out and get a little better grip, but it was a bad pitch to Beltre," Anderson said.

David Murphy greeted reliever David Purcey with a single and scored on Napoli's double for a 5-0 lead.

Colby Lewis (3-4) allowed one run and five hits over 7 1-3 innings. He walked one and failed to register a strikeout for the Rangers, who had lost seven of nine and 11 of 15.

The right-hander got 16 outs on balls hit in the air and threw a season-high 115 pitches.

Beltre was given a night off Monday and had gone 4 for 31 over his previous nine games. He batted sixth for the first time this season as manager Ron Washington revamped his lineup after the Rangers hit .231 in their previous nine games. Beltre's first 35 starts this season had been at cleanup.

Young, making the first start of his 12-year career in the No. 4 slot, went 3 for 4 with a two-run triple in the sixth.

The Rangers are without injured sluggers Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz, and Washington decided to shake up his batting order. He also moved regular No. 9 hitter Julio Borbon into the leadoff position, and normal leadoff man Ian Kinsler into the No. 3 hole.

Oakland's Cliff Pennington homered in the sixth before a 59-minute rain delay, and Conor Jackson added a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Lewis remained in the game after the sixth-inning delay, working out of a first-and-third jam when he retired Daric Barton on a lineout and Ryan Sweeney on a popup.

"He was still feeling good," Washington said. "He wanted to come back out. He came off the field and went back in the cage and kept his arm going. He wanted to save the bullpen, and he did. When he's able to command his fastball, that makes his stuff so much better. He looked good and strong."

## NOTES

Oakland RHP Andrew Bailey, on the 15-day DL all season with a strained right forearm, pitched his first simulated game of the season Tuesday at Rangers Ballpark.

Manager Bob Geren said his closer allowed one walk and no hits in 30 pitches to "six or seven hitters. It was decent for his first time out there like that." He threw all his pitches and he was throwing strikes." In Bailey's absence, Brian Fuentes, Grant Balfour and Brad Ziegler have all registered saves for the A's.

Anderson is 0-3 with an 8.62 ERA in four career road starts against Texas.

Lewis had his first start without a strikeout since May 22, 2007, a string of 37 straight starts.

CF Leonys Martin, the Cuban defector who signed a five-year, \$15.5 million contract with Texas, will report to Double-A Frisco on Thursday.

## **Giants, A's buck baseball attendance trend**

Eric Young, San Francisco Business Times, 5/10/2011

The Giants and A's are drawing bigger crowds than last year. Most of Major League Baseball's teams are not.

Seems the National Pastime is off to a slow start at the turnstiles -- except in the Bay Area.

Both the Giants and A's are drawing more people on average this season than last. ([Check out a sortable chart here.](#))

The Giants (World Freaking Champions!!!) are on average bringing in nearly 6,500 more fans per game.

The A's, meanwhile, are playing competitive ball and are up almost 2,170 fans per game on average.

Only one-third of baseball's 30 teams are seeing increases in attendance this year.

Some of baseball's marquee teams - including the **Chicago Cubs**, **New York Yankees** and **St. Louis Cardinals** are down so far.

And which team has reported the biggest drop in average per-game attendance? The Dodgers, the franchise from La La Land that was taken over by Major League Baseball. Down 7,268 fans per game. (Good luck with that, Dodger Fan!)

No need to hit the panic button on baseball attendance just now. It's not yet summer, when it's easier to bring the kiddies to the yard.

### **Baseball needs to step up and establish a uniform drinking policy**

Ann Killion, SI.com

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It happened again last week.

A major league baseball player was arrested for drinking and driving. And was back in the starting lineup the next night. That makes six DUIs in baseball this year. And it's only early May.

While baseball has been focusing in recent years on keeping its players off performance-enhancing drugs, the oldest, most accessible drug is still a major problem.

Now Major League Baseball and the Players' Union are discussing adding alcohol-related offenses to the next collective bargaining agreement so that teams have the authority to effectively discipline players, something they lack now.

It's about time.

- Last week Cleveland Indians outfielder Shin-Soo Choo failed a sobriety test in Ohio and was arrested and released. He was in the starting lineup the next night.
- Choo's teammate Austin Kearns was arrested in February, a few days before his reporting date, and advised not to inform the Indians, who found out weeks later.
- Seattle's Adam Kennedy was arrested in January in Southern California.
- Oakland A's outfielder Coco Crisp was arrested during spring training in Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Atlanta pitcher Derek Lowe was arrested for being under the influence and racing on an Atlanta street in late April.
- Detroit's Miguel Cabrera was uncooperative when he was arrested during spring training in Florida.

These aren't kids making a mistake. These are grown men who, in some cases, make more than \$10 million a year. Surely enough for a \$25 cab ride.

The game has a longtime love affair with alcohol, from the coolers full of beer cans in the clubhouse to the excessive champagne celebrations to the game's major sponsors.

And it has a hard time extricating itself from that romance.

Over the past few years, more and more teams have banned alcohol in the clubhouse or on team flights. The Oakland A's were the first, making the decision in 2006 after Esteban Loaiza was arrested for being under the influence and driving up to 120 miles per hour on the freeway.

General manager Billy Beane made news -- and received some eye-rolls and grief from traditionalists -- for banning alcohol both in the home clubhouse and on the road.

"For me, it was just the realization, 'What are we doing?'" Beane said this spring. "I didn't want the responsibility for getting that phone call. I didn't want to be reacting after the fact. Why wait for something to happen?"

The policy was personal in many ways. Beane's oldest daughter, Casey, had just gotten her driver's license, a moment when parents become intensely alert to the dangers on the road and the risks of one individual's bad decision.

"Sure that was part of the decision," Beane said. "It was a Eureka moment. We're a community franchise, a part of the community. We need to control what we can control."

Some other teams thought it was a good idea and adopted the policy without provocation. Others didn't until tragedy hit.

In 2007, the St. Louis Cardinals had two incidents. First, manager Tony LaRussa was charged with DUI after falling asleep at the wheel at a red light during spring training. Two months later, reliever Josh Hancock was killed after his truck hit a utility pole. He was found to have nearly twice the legal limit of alcohol in his bloodstream.

Five days later the Cardinals banned alcohol in their clubhouses.

Now many teams ban booze, but it's still a team-by-team policy. And that kind of ban only goes so far: players will still drink and will think they're infallible when they do.

What will it take for the message to get through? Another tragedy?

Apparently the players have short memories: it was just two years ago that Angels pitcher Nick Adenhardt was killed by a drunk driver in a horrific crash in Orange County, California, not far from where Kennedy was arrested. Last December, his killer was sentenced to 51 years-to-life in prison in a courtroom before Adenhardt's distraught family members.

Do players need to hear testimonials from victim's families before they decide to take a cab?

The topic of a uniform policy on alcohol will come up when the five-year collective bargaining agreement expires. That's in December, which given the way this year has started, could mean 11 more incidents. That seems like a very, very long time from now.

As Beane said, why wait for something to happen?

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Memphis ends Sacramento 5-game win streak**

By Cassie Kolias / Sacramento River Cats

After a teeter-totter first six innings, a two-run seventh inning determined the game as the River Cats lost 10-8 at Autozone Park to Memphis on Tuesday night.

Memphis didn't waste time getting on the board. Former River Cats second baseman Freddie Bynum doubled on a fly ball to left field. Left fielder Andrew Brown walked, and third baseman Matt Carpenter doubled on a fly ball to center field to drive home two runs.

The River Cats had a five-hit second inning against Redbirds starting pitcher P.J. Walters. The inning began with an Anthony Recker solo home run on a fly ball to left center field. Designated hitter Adrian Cardenas doubled on a line drive to center, Wes Timmons singled, and outfielder Shane Peterson crushed a three-run blast to right field to collect his first homer of the season, and bring the River Cats over Memphis 4-2.

The Redbirds answered Sacramento's rally in the third inning. James Rapoport singled on a ground ball to second base, Nick Stavinoia drew a walk from River Cats starter Yadel Marti, and Carpenter hit his second two-run double of the night to bring home Rapoport and Stavinoia.

Designated hitter Ramon Vasquez singled to bring home Carpenter. Catcher Bryan Anderson singled to right field, and Vasquez was granted a run due to a throwing error by Peterson to bring the score to 6-4.

The River Cats would tie up the game in the fourth inning. Peterson singled to open the inning and Josh Horton knocked in Peterson with a double. Weeks singled, and shortstop Eric Sogard singled to bring home Horton.

The rest of the game was up to the bullpen, as Marti left after facing two batters in the fourth with the game tied at six. He allowed eight hits, seven runs (six earned) and dealt three strikeouts in 3.0 innings of work.

Memphis took the lead again in the fourth, as shortstop Pete Kozma singled, Rapoport singled and Bynum walked to load the bases with no outs. Left fielder Andrew Brown hit a sacrifice fly to score Kozma.

Once again the River Cats would tie up the game in the fifth in the back-and-forth 3-hour, 32-minute game. Hot-hitting Recker doubled on a line drive to left field, Timmons walked and stole his first base of the season, and Peterson hit an RBI ground out to score Recker.

Sacramento took its second lead of the night in the sixth inning as Steven Tolleson, who played left field Tuesday night, doubled on a fly ball to center. Matt Carson singled to score Tolleson and give Sacramento a 8-7 lead.

All nine River Cats collected at least one hit, combining for 13. The River Cats once again lost the lead in the seventh inning as the Sacramento bullpen consecutively walked three batters. Reliever Vinnie Chulk, who came in with the bases loaded with two outs, walked Vasquez and the tying run in. Rapoport had an infield single to bring the Redbirds on top of the River Cats.

The River Cats would load the bases in the eighth, but produce no runs.

Memphis added to Sacramento's deficit in the bottom of the eighth inning with three consecutive singles from Brown, Carpenter and Vasquez who knocked Brown home to bring the score 10-8.

The series continues in Memphis on Wednesday as Sacramento left-hander Josh Outman (2-1, 6.57) takes on right-hander Brandon Dickson (1-3, 4.15) at 5:05 p.m. at AutoZone Park.

## **Frisco continues RockHounds' slide**

Jordan Mason, Midland Reporter-Telegram

With an error and an 0-for-4 start nagging him at the start of the 11th inning Tuesday, Frisco third baseman Tommy Mendonca stepped to the plate with one goal in mind.

"I was just going up there to salvage the day," he said. "Put the barrel on the ball and just see what happens."

Mendonca not only salvaged the day for himself but for his team, hitting a solo home run off Mickey Storey that was the difference in the RoughRiders' 4-3 win against Midland in 11 innings Tuesday at Citibank Ballpark.

The win was Frisco's third in the four-game series and gave the RoughRiders their first road series win of the season.

Mendonca said he'd noticed a lot of off-speed pitches to the batters in front of him and came to the plate with that in mind. After swinging at one off-speed pitch in the dirt, Mendonca "stayed back for once" and launched the next off-speed pitch over the left-center field wall for the go-ahead run.

For the RockHounds it was the second time in as many days that they were unable to match the late game heroics of Frisco.

"Really we didn't have any poor performances," said manager Steve Scarsone. "Just a couple of breaks went their way and a couple of plays we probably should've made. But that's baseball."

The RockHounds appeared to be out of it heading into the final two innings thanks largely to an impressive performance by Frisco left-hander Martin Perez.

The Rangers' No. 1 rated prospect got off to a slow start in a 38-pitch first inning, but got out of a bases loaded jam by striking out Yusuf Carter to end the inning.

From there Perez allowed only two hits and no runs in six total innings of work.

Mike Bianucci supplied the hitting for Frisco early, blasting a Carlos Hernandez pitch to left-center for a solo home run in the second, then driving in Joey Butler on a single and scoring himself in the sixth to put Frisco up 3-0.

Once again it was Jermaine Mitchell coming up big for Midland, bringing home Tyler Ladendorf in the eighth with his second triple in as many days, then scoring on a double by Grant Green.

"He's been outstanding," Scarsone said. "Not just as your typical leadoff hitter and center fielder, but coming up in key situations and delivering the long ball, the extra base hit."

Green tied the game at 3 when he crossed the plate on a fielder's choice later in the inning.

Jared Lansford and Mickey Storey pitched well in relief of Hernandez as well to give the RockHounds a chance late. The two combined for 5 1/3 innings of work and only surrendered one hit between them.

That hit just happened to be Mendonca's 11th inning shot that gave Frisco the win.

But Scarsone was proud of his team's play in the series and was optimistic heading into an off day today before a home series against division-leading San Antonio.

"The day off should do us some good," he said. "Kind of rest their bodies a little bit and then clean our heads out a little and then come back on Thursday and go back to work."

'HOUND BITES: Midland pitcher Carlos Hernandez started off strong against Frisco, notching seven of his eight strikeouts in the first four innings...Tommy Mendonca's game-winning home run ended a string of 13 consecutive RoughRiders' retired...The loss to Frisco dropped the RockHounds (15-17) into a tie with the RoughRiders (15-17) for second in the Texas League South Division. Both teams are 7 games back of first-place San Antonio...The RockHounds begin a four-game home series against San Antonio just 10 days after completing a four-game road series against the Missions, in which they were swept by an average margin of five runs.

THURSDAY'S PROBABLES: The RockHounds host division-leading San Antonio in the first of a four-game series at 7 p.m. Thursday. Midland is expected to start Anthony Capra (0-1, 7.06 ERA) while San Antonio is expected to start Aaron Breit (1-0, 3.33 ERA)

### **Ports KO Nuts in Slugfest**

Stockton Ports

It was the night of the long ball at Banner Island Ballpark as the Stockton Ports and the Modesto Nuts combined for six home runs on Tuesday evening. The Ports prevailed, claiming four of the six homers of the evening to topple the Nuts by a staggering score of 14-8.

The Ports began the scoring with a Mitch LeVier RBI single in the first, one of just five runs scored by non-home runs. Conner Crumbliss, who now leads the Cal League with 27 walks, started the game by working the count, earning his first base on balls of the night. Crumbliss advanced to second on a wild pitch and then came home on the Levier single to right-center field.

The Ports really opened up the game, and began the slugfest, in the second. Nuts starter, Nick Schnaitmann gave up a double to Rashun Dixon and a single to Juan Nunez, before Dusty Coleman stepped up to the plate. Coleman would blast the first home run of the evening, a three-run shot over the left-center wall. The Ports bats weren't finished however. Three straight walks later from Schnaitmann, and Myrio Richard would step up to the plate. Richard would launch the first pitch he saw over the left field wall for a grand slam.

The Nuts would respond in kind the very next inning, hitting their first home run of the evening in the third. After Delta Cleary Jr scored on a Kent Matthes single, and with Josh Rutledge on base, Kiel Roling stepped up to the plate and absolutely drilled a 2-2 pitch that broke his bat over the left field wall, to cut the Ports lead in half.

The Ports had an answer of their own in the third, tacking on five more runs, including two more home runs. Dixon started the inning off with a solo shot over the Jackson Rancheria Back Porch. Nunez followed with a single, and Crumbliss earned his second walk of the evening, to bring Coleman back up to the plate. Coleman laced a double to center field, sending both Nunez and Crumbliss home. Michael Choice then stepped up and blasted a ball out of Banner Island Ballpark for the final Ports home run of the evening.

The Nuts would score four more runs in the game, one in the fourth, and three more in the fifth. Angelys Nina hit his first home run of the season, a solo shot in the fourth to end the home run derby. Two singles, a double, a triple and a sac fly from the heart of the Nuts order would add three more runs in the fifth, bringing the Nuts scoring to a close.

The Ports would add one more run in the sixth on a Dixon single to bring home Anthony Aliotti. The Ports 14 runs represented a new season high for the Boys of Banner Island, and only Michael Gilmartin didn't cross home plate for the Ports.

The Ports look to repeat the slugfest tomorrow at a special 11:05 a.m. start time. Righty Rob Gilliam will face off against Nuts lefty Tyler Matzek.

### **Chiefs Sting Bees with Walk-Off Win In 11**

By Alan Fuehring / Peoria Chiefs

**Peoria, IL** - The Peoria Chiefs continued their winning ways at home with a 2-1 11-inning walk-off win against the Burlington Bees on Tuesday night. Richard Jones notched the game-winning RBI in the bottom of the 11th with his fourth hit of the contest. Peoria improves to 18-14 on the season and 6-1 on the homestand.

After Burlington stranded two runners in scoring position in the top of the first, Peoria grabbed a 1-0 lead with a two-out rally in the bottom of the inning off Bees' starter A.J. Griffin. Rubi Silva and Jones hit consecutive singles into right field before Micah Gibbs walked. With the bases loaded, Elliot Soto hit a hard ground ball to Bees' first baseman Josh Whitaker, who couldn't field it cleanly to allow the unearned run to score.

The Bees answered in the fourth with a two-out rally of their own, courtesy of a couple of Chiefs' errors. Wade Kirkland singled on a fly ball into left field and rounded first base with a head of steam before he advanced to second on a throwing error by Chiefs' left fielder Anthony Giansanti. On the same play, Kirkland moved to third on a throwing error by Peoria's

second baseman Pierre LePage ahead of Douglas Landaeta who brought the runner home with a RBI double to right-center field. Ryan Pineda followed with a single to left but Giansanti threw out Landaeta at the plate to keep the game tied at one.

After Peoria left the bases loaded in the seventh and tenth innings, the Chiefs ended it in the bottom of the 11th. The inning began with a walk to Matt Szczur, and after a pitching change, LePage drew a walk. Silva reached safely on a sacrifice bunt in which the throw went to third instead of first to load the bases for Jones. With no outs in the frame, Jones ripped a grounder down the first base line to score the game-winning run and give the Chiefs their fifth straight win.

Starter Hayden Simpson was replaced after the first inning after throwing just 22 pitches. He allowed two hits and a walk in his only inning of work while also striking out one hitter. Eric Jokisch gave up just one run on six hits with two walks in a career-high 6 2/3 innings pitched. He also tied a career high with five strikeouts. Casey Harman allowed just one hit in 2 1/3 innings of work and also recorded a career-high four strikeouts. Yohan Gonzalez (1-2) pitched the final inning and recorded his first win of the year. He allowed just one hit and struck out one batter.

Casey's General Store Player of the Game - Richard Jones (1B) - Jones drove in the game-winning run with his RBI single in the bottom of the 11th as part of a 4-for-5 performance from the plate. He recorded three singles and a double for his first four-hit game of the season to improve his average to .302 on the year. Jones also drew an intentional walk, his second of the homestand.

Notes: The Chiefs had a season-high 17 runners left on base...Jones joins Smally Borges as the only Chiefs' hitter to record four hits in a game this season...Gibbs' single in the 10th extended his hit streak to a season-high 13 games, which is also the longest in the Midwest League this season...Last year, Jae-Hoon Ha had the longest Chiefs' hit streak of the season at 14 games...Greg Rohan pitch hit for D.J. Fitzgerald in the bottom of the tenth, his first appearance since April 30 at Beloit (10 games) and drew a walk...Peoria is 2-3 in extra-inning games and 1-1 in extras against the Bees this season...The Chiefs now have two walk-off hits this season...Jones has two three-hit games this season...Szczur's caught stealing in the fifth was the first of his career...Peoria was 2-for-12 with runners in scoring position...Jokisch pitched the longest outing for any Chiefs' reliever this season...Peoria has committed 14 errors in eight games this year when facing Burlington, but just 18 errors in 24 games against the rest of the league...Peoria is 2-6 against Burlington this season, with five 1-run games...Szczur has hit safely in 11 straight home games and has a seven-game hit streak overall...Simpson was replaced after just 22 pitches for the shortest start of his career...The homestand continues Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. against Burlington...Wednesday is Salute to Sponsors night as well as another \$1 Night...Fans can purchase hotdogs, soda, and ice cream sandwiches for just \$1 each...The Chiefs will start LH Austin Kirk (2-1, 1.86) against Burlington RH Josh Bowman (4-0, 3.34)...The broadcast can be heard, starting with the pre-game show at 6:10 p.m. on [www.peoriachiefs.com/listenlive](http://www.peoriachiefs.com/listenlive) which also has downloads for an iPhone/iPad app and a Droid app.