

**A's reliever Brian Fuentes criticizes manager Bob Geren after loss to Angels**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The A's have a six-game losing streak on their hands.

They've also got a serious rift brewing between manager Bob Geren and interim closer Brian Fuentes.

Fuentes blasted Geren after Monday night's 4-1 loss to the Los Angeles Angels, in which Fuentes (1-7) faced two hitters in the eighth inning and took his fourth loss in his past four appearances. His seven losses lead all American League relievers.

Fuentes talked before the game about his frustration over being brought into a tie game in extra innings Sunday against the Giants, an unusual occurrence for a closer in a road game.

On Monday, he was called upon to relieve Josh Outman to start the eighth inning. He said he was shocked when the phone rang in the seventh inning and his name was called.

"I thought the games in San Francisco were some unorthodox managing, but I thought it was maybe the National League, maybe that had something to do with it," Fuentes said. "But tonight was pretty unbelievable."

Fuentes, who has 196 career saves and is filling in for injured closer Andrew Bailey, was asked his thoughts on how he's being handled in the bullpen.

"Pretty poorly," he replied.

How much communication does he have with Geren?

"Zero."

Fuentes, an 11-year veteran, said he didn't know if other relievers felt this way. But he added:

"There's just a lack of communication. I don't think anybody really knows which direction he's headed." It's by far the biggest verbal jab a player has taken on the record at Geren in his four-plus seasons managing the team. The A's are 22-26 and in last place.

They were tied 1-1 when Fuentes relieved Outman, who turned in seven innings of stellar work. Fuentes walked leadoff man Erick Aybar and got Bobby Abreu to hit into a fielder's choice.

Geren then replaced Fuentes with Michael Wuertz, who allowed Torii Hunter's go-ahead double and then a two-run single to Jeff Math.

Geren has made plenty of curious bullpen moves over the years that have invited scrutiny. He's said before that he doesn't like putting relievers in any one certain role but would rather have guys ready to be called on whenever needed.

"I could use anybody late in the game," Geren said. "It's been that way, everybody knows that. If there's a certain part of the lineup (that's good) to use (Fuentes) earlier, I'll use him earlier."

He also indicated he's reluctant to use unproven pitchers in crucial late-inning situations.

"He should share those comments with us rather than with you guys," said Fuentes, who has a 5.06 ERA and entered Monday tied for fourth in the AL with 22 appearances.

The A's mustered eight hits off three Angels pitchers but scratched out just a third-inning run.

Coco Crisp doubled in the third and came around to score on Hideki Matsui's sacrifice fly.

With Kevin Kouzmanoff sidelined by a groin strain and Andy LaRoche spelling Mark Ellis at second base, outfielder Conor Jackson made his first professional start at third base.

Jackson had made two appearances at third this season as a late-game substitute, and he's been taking grounders there during batting practice for the past month.

Reliever Jerry Blevins was designated for assignment to make roster room for Outman, but Blevins is reporting to Triple-A Sacramento and will remain with the organization.

### **Oakland A's update: Reliever Brian Fuentes questions the way he's been used by manager Bob Geren**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

ANAHEIM -- The manner in which A's manager Bob Geren uses his bullpen, particularly interim closer Brian Fuentes, has become a hot-button issue.

On Monday, Fuentes reiterated he was puzzled at being called upon in the 11th inning Sunday with the score tied against the Giants.

Fuentes wound up absorbing his third loss over his past three appearances. In each instance, he entered a tie game in extra innings.

It's common for a closer to be summoned in an extra-inning tie game at home, since his team can win the game in its next at-bat. It's less common on the road, as the A's were Sunday.

"The way the game usually plays out, you don't bring your closer in on the road," Fuentes said. "We called up three guys to help in relief (Friday). If you're not going to pitch them, don't call them up. That's kind of my mind-set."

Fuentes stressed that he takes full responsibility for his pitching.

After entering in the eighth inning Monday and absorbing another loss, he is 1-7 with a 5.06 ERA, allowing 18 runs (12 earned) in 211/3 innings. The seven losses are the most of any A.L. reliever. But he also entered Monday tied for fourth in the A.L. in appearances (22).

"I was 100 percent responsible for what happened in the game," Fuentes said of Sunday's outing. "I don't feel that by Bob putting me in that situation, that it's his fault, because it's not. It's just something you don't normally see."

Geren said his only other options Sunday were Jerry Blevins -- designated for assignment Monday -- and Fautino De Los Santos, who has yet to pitch in a major league game.

Geren hedged when asked if Fuentes was still his closer until Andrew Bailey comes off the disabled list.

"I could use anybody late in the game; it's been that way," Geren said.

Geren said right-hander Guillermo Moscoso will be called up from Triple-A Sacramento to start Tuesday.

Moscoso was 3-2 with a 4.02 ERA in eight games (seven starts) for Sacramento. He made 11 big league appearances with Texas from 2009-10, but this will mark his first start.

The A's added rotation depth by signing Lenny DiNardo, who pitched for them in 2007-08. He started Monday for Sacramento. He allowed eight runs (six earned) and six hits in 11/3 innings against New Orleans.

Bailey pitched a scoreless inning for Sacramento in a rehab outing. He allowed no hits, hit one batter and struck out one.

### **Chin Music: A link to A's story on Brian Fuentes controversy**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/24/2011 12:11am

Check out tonight's game story on the A's 4-1 loss, with [some harsh words from Brian Fuentes](#) regarding manager Bob Geren.

This was a bombshell coming out of an A's clubhouse in which there's usually very little boat-rocking. The focus is always on the A's lack of offense, or the mounting injuries, or .... whatever. Now there's some off-field drama to navigate through, and that's uncharted territory for this team in recent years.

## **Chin Music: Starting at third base for the A's ... Conor Jackson**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/23/2011 7:04pm

Greetings from Angel Stadium, where there's a bit of a surprise in the A's lineup ...

With Kevin Kouzmanoff still out with a groin injury and Andy LaRoche spelling Mark Ellis at second base, Conor Jackson is making his first career start at third base. If Jackson looks somewhat comfortable there, I'd expect we might see more of him at third. Kouzmanoff has been a disappointment offensively and defensively, and LaRoche is mired in a 2 for 32 slump and is no sure thing with the glove either.

Jackson has been taking grounders at third for about a month, and he's made a couple cameo appearances there as a substitute. "It's not like I'm being thrown into the fire here," he said. But he'll certainly be tested over a full game, and I wouldn't be surprised to see the Angels drop a few bunts his way early on ...

—In a somewhat expected move, A's manager Bob Geren announced right-hander Guillermo Moscoso as his Tuesday starter. Moscoso will fill in for Tyson Ross, who went on the DL Friday. ... So Josh Outman starts tonight and Moscoso on Tuesday ... These two games will tell a lot about what kind of shape the A's pitching staff is in given the recent injuries.

—Jerry Blevins was designated for assignment to make roster room for Outman, though Blevins is still expected to report to Triple-A Sacramento.

Tonight's lineups:

A's — Crisp CF, Barton 1B, Sweeney LF, Matsui DH, Jackson 3B, DeJesus RF, Suzuki C, LaRoche 2B, Pennington SS; Outman LHP.

Angels — Izturis 2B, Aybar SS, Abreu DH, Hunter RF, Callaspo 3B, Trumbo 1B, Mathis C, Bourjos CF, Willits LF; Weaver RHP.

## **After A's lose, Brian Fuentes blasts Bob Geren**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

**(05-24) 04:00 PDT Anaheim --**

Brian Fuentes has been the A's closer all season. Now he doesn't know what he is. Thanks to manager Bob Geren.

"The games in San Francisco were unorthodox managing," said Fuentes, who criticized Geren after Monday night's 4-1 loss to the Angels for his in-game managing and communication skills. "I thought it was a National League thing. But tonight was pretty unbelievable."

After Fuentes was handed his seventh loss of the season, tops in the American League, he questioned how Geren has used him recently. Fuentes hasn't had a save situation since May 8, and he entered three straight games with the score tied in extra innings.

Including Friday and Sunday in San Francisco, both Fuentes losses.

On Monday, he was summoned in the eighth inning, again with the score tied, 1-1. Fuentes said when the call went to the bullpen and his name was called, "I thought he misspoke. I thought it was some sort of miscommunication."

No mistake. Fuentes hurried to get warm and began the eighth inning by walking Erick Aybar. The next batter, Bobby Abreu, forced Aybar at second. That was it for Fuentes.

Geren replaced him with Michael Wuertz, and Torii Hunter smacked an RBI double to right-center. Later in the inning, Jeff Mathis hit a two-run single.

Asked how he thinks Geren has handled him, Fuentes said, "Pretty poorly." How much communication does he have with the manager? "Zero."

Fuentes believes he's not the only player who has issues with Geren.

"I get up in the seventh inning," Fuentes said. "I have no idea. I didn't stretch. If there was some sort of communication beforehand, I'd be ready, which I was. I was heated up. I was ready.

"But there's just a lack of communication. I don't think anybody knows what direction (Geren) is headed."

Should there be a clear-the-air session with Geren?

"At this point, I have nothing to say," Fuentes said.

Asked how different Geren is from his previous managers, Fuentes said, "It's a pretty drastic difference."

After the game, Geren said if he had needed a closer - if the A's rallied to take the lead in the ninth - it would have been Grant Balfour. Before the game, Geren hinted he was considering a change.

"I've always said I've used a guy in the right situation," Geren said before the game. "The eighth inning is a good spot for Balfour. If there's a better spot in reverse (with Balfour and Fuentes flip-flopping), we could do that, too. It's about winning games."

Fuentes set an Oakland record for relievers by taking a loss in four consecutive appearances.

It was another bad ending to what was a feel-good story for seven innings. In the latest appearance for an A's pitcher overcoming Tommy John surgery, Josh Outman gave the A's a well-needed seven innings.

Outman, replacing injured Brandon McCarthy, took the mound for the first time since June 19, 2009, wearing No. 88 and green stirrups over his yellow socks. Outman had a right to be nervous and walked his first batter, Maicer Izturis on five pitches, Izturis advanced on a sacrifice and scored on Abreu's grounder up the middle.

Outman walked two batters in the first inning but was efficient the rest of the way, issuing just one more walk and preventing any Angels from reaching third base. Hunter doubled with one out in the sixth, but Outman retired Alberto Callaspo and Mark Trumbo on pop-ups.

**Deep-sixed**

A week ago tonight, the A's swamped the Angels 14-0. Since then, Oakland has lost six straight. In the losing streak, the A's have scored 10 runs, are batting .200 (41-for-205), and have hit all of one home run (by Josh Willingham on Sunday). A look at the dirty half-dozen:

Date	Opp.	Loss
May 18	Twins	4-3 (10)
May 19	Twins	11-1
May 20	Giants	2-1 (10)
May 21	Giants	3-0
May 22	Giants	5-4 (11)
May 23	Angels	4-1

### **A's Conor Jackson gets 1st start at 3rd**

[John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

**(05-24) 04:00 PDT Anaheim --**

In his first major-league start at third base, Oakland's **Conor Jackson** provided perfect defense.

Tested early and often, Jackson made a smooth play to field **Erick Aybar**'s first-inning bunt and throw him out and followed that with several other nice plays.

He had appeared at third twice this season and twice for Arizona in 2007, but Monday marked his first professional start at the position. Jackson did play third in college at Cal.

"He made every play. He was pretty athletic," manager **Bob Geren** said.

Jackson could start tonight at third, with **Andy LaRoche** giving **Cliff Pennington** a night off at shortstop.

"I wouldn't be afraid to put (Jackson) out there again," Geren said.

Jackson was moved to third Monday because **Kevin Kouzmanoff** remains out after leaving Saturday's 3-0 loss to [the Giants](#) in the eighth inning with a groin injury. Kouzmanoff also is mired in a 6-for-39 slump.

How does Jackson approach the switch?

"Just go out there and be athletic," Jackson said before the game, crediting infield coach **Mike Gallego** for guiding him at third base the past month.

**Briefly: Guillermo Moscoso**, who was 3-2 with a 4.02 ERA for Triple-A Sacramento, will be promoted to start for the [A's](#) tonight. He was acquired from the Rangers in a minor-league deal in January. ... The A's said lefty **Jerry Blevins** was designated for assignment and is returning to Sacramento. ... **Ryan Sweeney** went 0-for-2 on Monday. He's still a .355 career hitter (38-for-107) at Angel Stadium. ... In his latest rehab assignment, **Andrew Bailey** pitched a three-up, three-down inning for Sacramento on Monday night. The River Cats lost 14-1 to visiting New Orleans. The Zephyrs scored nine

runs in the second and five in the third. They got to **Lenny DiNardo** (eight runs, six earned) and **Joe Bateman** (six runs, all earned) for all of their runs.

### **A's leading off**

### **An Angel?**

John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

The man who made the final play of the 1989 World Series, an A's four-game sweep over the Giants, wore an Angels jacket and threw out the ceremonial first pitch Monday. It was Tony Phillips, an Angel in '95 and '97, invited back to Anaheim as part of the team's 50th anniversary.

### **Drumbeat: Is Brian Fuentes still the A's closer? Maybe not**

John Shea on the A's in the wake of five straight losses, including three to the Giants . . . 5/23/2011 6:13pm

Bob Geren had no problem giving Conor Jackson his first big-league start at third base, but the manager won't say Brian Fuentes still is his closer.

In the wake of Fuentes taking losses in his last three appearances -- including Friday and Sunday in San Francisco -- Geren was asked if he remains the closer.

"I could use anybody," Geren said. "It's been that way. Everybody knows that."

With Andrew Bailey shelved, Fuentes has been the main guy with 11 save opportunities, converting nine. But he has six losses, most among AL relievers, and often finds himself in non-save situations, including Sunday, when he entered with the game tied in the 11th.

Geren hinted he may give Grant Balfour a chance to close.

"I've always said I've used a guy in the right situation," Geren said. "The eighth inning is a good spot for Balfour. If there's a better spot in reverse, we could do that, too. It's about winning games."

Balfour had a 14-game, 14 1/3-inning scoreless streak snapped when he surrendered a pinch homer to Nate Schierholtz in the eighth inning Sunday.

After Sunday's game, Fuentes was asked about pitching in non-save situations and didn't exactly sound like he's 100 percent on board.

"I'm comfortable in any situation," he said. "You try not to rewrite the handbook of baseball or try to reinvent the game. But you try not to be critical of the manager's decision. If that's what he wants to do, that's what he wants to do."

Asked whether it's tough dealing with all the extra-inning games -- four of the past seven went extras -- Fuentes said, "We called guys up. We brought in some fresh arms. If we're going to call them up to sit on the bench, why call them up?"

Friday, the A's called up three relievers: Joey Devine, Jerry Blevins and Fautino De Los Santos.

Geren was asked about his use of Fuentes on Sunday and said the decision came down to three relievers. Geren mentioned that Jerry Blevins has struggled and De Los Santos hasn't yet pitched in the majors. Geren said the other option was Fuentes and added one reason he went to the lefty was his pitch counts hadn't been high of late.

Today's lineup has Jackson at third because of Kevin Kouzmanoff's groin strain and Mark Ellis' day off. Andy LaRoche is replacing Ellis at second with Jackson moving to third.

CF Crisp, 1B Barton, LF Sweeney, DH Matsui, 3B Jackson, RF DeJesus, C Suzuki, 2B LaRoche, SS Pennington. Josh Outman on the hill.

Right-hander Guillermo Moscoso will start tomorrow night's game.

### **Eckersley knows 'walk-off' has changed**

Ron Kroichick, San Francisco Chronicle

In modern baseball vernacular, the Giants produced their seventh "walk-off" victory of the season Sunday against the A's.

But the man who coined the term didn't give a hoot about hitters jumping around in exultation. The whole point was the pitcher's immediate, lonely, devastating walk off the field.

Dennis Eckersley was talking about a "walk-off" loss, not a win.

"It was a drag, man," he said Monday. "It really is a low feeling."

Eckersley, the Hall of Famer who grew up in Fremont (as a Giants fan) and became the game's best closer with the A's, called it a "walk-off piece." He meant a pitcher, on the road, relinquishing a game-ending home run in the ninth or extra innings.

It happened to Eckersley, most memorably, in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series at Dodger Stadium. He apparently first uttered the phrase — part of his ever-colorful vocabulary — earlier in the '88 season, before Kirk Gibson's famous home run.

The highlight shows Gibson limping and fist-pumping his way around the bases. It doesn't show Eckersley walking slowly toward the firstbase dugout, head down, crushed. He made the trip several times in his career, 390 saves and all.

"There's nothing like it," Eckersley said. "It's so final.

And it centers strictly on you (the pitcher), unless it's a grounder between the third baseman's legs or something.

Ultimately, you're the one."

Tim Lincecum and other 21st century starters seldom experience the feeling because they rarely reach the ninth inning. Eckersley wondered if Roger Clemens or Pedro Martinez ever surrendered a walkoff piece. Cy Young had a ton of complete games (749), Eck mused, so he must have endured at least a few walk-offs.

Eckersley seemed amused by the notion that he invented a phrase now as ingrained in the game as "double play." He wishes it reflected better on pitchers, but he realizes most baseball fans view "walk-off" in a positive light.

"It doesn't sound so bad now," he said. "It sounds great."

### **A's fall late after Outman shines in return**

#### **Lefty duels Weaver for seven innings in first start since '09**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com | 5/24/2011 3:48 AM ET

ANAHEIM -- Rehab behind him and big league hitters finally in front of him, lefty Josh Outman fared quite well in his first Major League start in nearly two years on Monday.

The A's lefty, sporting a familiar stirrup look -- to hecklings of "Nice socks!" -- and a new No. 88, allowed just one earned run over seven innings against the Angels, marking his first big league appearance since June 19, 2009, when he succumbed to an elbow injury that ultimately required Tommy John surgery.

Outman's return was welcomed, no doubt, but it didn't make for a differing result around him. The A's scuffling offense provided just one run of support and the bullpen faltered, as the club dropped its season-high sixth straight contest, 4-1, in the series opener.

"It was quite an outing for his first time out," manager Bob Geren said. "When you lose a couple starters and have a guy come up and step up like that, that was quite impressive. It was just unfortunate we couldn't get runs for him. One run, you have to be absolutely perfect as a pitcher."

As if the losing element wasn't enough, Outman's grand efforts were also overshadowed by lefty Brian Fuentes' critical comments about Geren's "unorthodox managing" after the game, when the reliever essentially disapproved of the skipper's use of his arm and his lack of communication.

It was Fuentes, making his fourth straight entrance in a tied game, who took Monday's loss -- his career-high seventh defeat, which also ties for most among all Major League pitchers. The veteran southpaw was brought into a 1-1 contest in the eighth and watched his baserunner score the Angels' go-ahead run on Torii Hunter's double off righty Michael Wuertz.

Before that series of events, though, it was Outman who was the show-stealer. Getting the nod in place of the injured Brandon McCarthy, the lefty endured a shaky first inning, walking two and surrendering an RBI single to Bobby Abreu. But he found a groove, allowing just four more hits the rest of the way while fanning two.

"Any time you make it up here, you want to show the team that they made the right decision by bringing you up," he said. "I know in 2009 I did some good things for the team, and I needed those starts in [Triple-A] Sacramento to get where I needed to be up here.

"However long I'm here, I just want to keep working and showing this is where I belong. Hopefully, when McCarthy and Tyson [Ross] come off [the disabled list], I'll make the decision a little tougher."

"I thought he threw the ball well," Geren said. "He settled in nicely, used his changeup well, pitched inside well and showed some decent breaking balls against a left-hander. It was a great outing, and I'm looking forward to watching him again."

Up against him, though, was Angels ace Jered Weaver, who went seven of his own innings, giving up six hits with three walks and five strikeouts to an A's team that went 1-for-5 with runners in scoring position and stranded eight.

Oakland's lone run came in the third, when Coco Crisp doubled and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Hideki Matsui.

Andy LaRoche, Cliff Pennington and Crisp stroked three consecutive singles off Weaver in the seventh, but as LaRoche rounded third on Crisp's hit, Hunter unleashed a rocket throw from right field to catcher Jeff Mathis, who applied the tag to prevent a run.

"You gotta take your chances," Geren said. "The way it turned out, it was a pretty nice play by the catcher. It was close, but I was all for it."

"That was a heck of a play, by Torii and Jeff," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Once Torii got his balance, I think he felt very good that time was on our side. He wanted to give Jeff a chance to block the plate, and he beat the man by a solid stop."

In the eighth, after Hunter's go-ahead double, Wuertz intentionally walked Alberto Callaspo, who was called out at second on Mark Trumbo's forceout to put runners at third and first. With two outs, Mathis laced a two-run single to left field, breaking open the game.

"We gotta turn it around," Geren said, "and hopefully the next five or six days, we'll be getting that big hit."



Outman will again take to the mound in five days, "hoping to continue what I started here tonight."

"I feel good," he said. "I spent some time being nervous, spent some time being anxious, and I got it all out. This is where I think I should be. This is where I feel like I'm capable of competing and winning baseball games."

### **A's Fuentes vents frustration about his role**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

ANAHEIM -- A's lefty Brian Fuentes criticized Bob Geren's "unorthodox managing" after the club's 4-1 loss to the Angels on Monday and noted the skipper has "zero" communication with him, making for a "pretty drastic difference" when comparing past managers.

The 35-year-old veteran reliever, owner of 196 career saves on five Major League teams, suffered his fourth loss in as many appearances on Monday and his career-high seventh of the season when he was brought into a 1-1 game and watched his baserunner score the Angels' go-ahead run on Torii Hunter's double off righty Michael Wuertz.

It marked the fourth straight tied-game situation for Fuentes and the third consecutive on the road, the first two coming in San Francisco. He hasn't had a save opportunity since May 8.

"There's just no communication," he said. "Two games on the road, bring the closer in a tied game, with no previous discussions of doing so. And then, tonight, in the seventh inning, I get up. I haven't stretched, I haven't prepared myself. If there was some communication beforehand I would be ready to come into the game -- which I was, when I came into the game, I was ready. Just lack of communication. I don't think anybody really knows which direction he's headed."

Normally reserved for the most part, Fuentes said his unsettled feelings about Geren's managerial style surfaced just recently, as influenced by the happenings in San Francisco.

"I think the games in San Francisco were some unorthodox managing," he said. "I thought it was maybe the National League thing, that maybe that had something to do with it, but tonight was pretty unbelievable."

Fuentes has acted the part of closer in Andrew Bailey's absence this season, but before Monday's game, Geren was questioned about that role.

"I can use anybody late in the game," Geren said. "It's been that way. Everybody knows that."

Fuentes, though, has clearly been the go-to guy in save situations, having racked up nine saves -- good for fifth in the American League -- in 11 opportunities. And he directly made it known on Monday night that Geren told him at the beginning of the season that he is, in fact, the club's closer.

"Yes, from get-go, I've been closing," he said.

Thus, when asked what went through his mind when the phone rang in the seventh inning in Anaheim, Fuentes admitted thinking bullpen coach Rick Rodriguez "misspoke."

"I thought it was some sort of miscommunication, but he said, 'No, you're up,' so I got up and cranked it up," he said. "You can't try to guess along with them. Very unpredictable."

The lack of communication should change, Fuentes admitted, before adding, "It's not my decision."

"I can't predict the future," he said. "If he decides to take that step, then there will be communication. If not, I'll make sure I'm ready from the first."

Does the air need to be cleared with Geren?

"Some people might think so," Fuentes said. "At this point, I have nothing to say."

The southpaw's comments come in the midst of an already frustrating time for the A's, who have lost six straight games. Geren, who was addressed before Fuentes' briefing with reporters but not after, said he used the lefty in the eighth because the upcoming at-bats for Angels hitters Erick Aybar and Bobby Abreu were "perfect for a left-hander."

"You figure you go with him for a couple guys," Geren said. "If he gets them both out, maybe let him try to finish the inning. If not, you have your right-hander for Hunter."

### **Blevins designated to make room for Outman**

ANAHEIM -- Hoping to halt a season-high five-game losing streak, the A's on Monday looked to a familiar face on the mound in the opener of a three-game set against the Angels.

The club recalled lefty Josh Outman from Triple-A Sacramento to take the injured Brandon McCarthy's rotation slot and designated Jerry Blevins for assignment all the while keeping him on the 40-man roster.

It marks Outman's first Major League appearance since June 19, 2009, when he left his start with a strained left elbow following a solid showing via a 4-1 record and 3.48 ERA. The southpaw underwent Tommy John surgery later in the month and missed the entire 2010 season.

Outman, 26, was a potential fifth-starter option in camp this year after a lengthy rehab process but struggled with mechanics and command, which led to his demotion. He went 4-1 with a 4.78 ERA in eight starts for Sacramento, walking 27 and striking out 30 in 37 2/3 innings.

A's manager Bob Geren said Outman is stretched out enough to avoid any pitch-count limitations and noted he hopes to see the same successful results from the southpaw as he did from right-handed reliever Joey Devine, who traveled a similar Tommy John surgery rehab path and has tallied two shutout innings since his Friday promotion.

"I talked with Josh quite a bit today, and I talked to [Sacramento manager] Darren Bush about him," Geren said. "He's excited because it's been a long road for him coming back. He was somewhat healthy in the spring, but he needed to improve his game, and hopefully it's the same story we saw with Devine. He came up, after battling a long road, and threw the ball well for us."

Outman, sporting No. 88, represents one of two new additions to the A's rotation, as Geren announced on Monday that right-hander Guillermo Moscoso has earned Tuesday's start in place of Tyson Ross.

McCarthy (shoulder) and Ross (oblique) are expected to miss at least a handful of weeks, giving Outman and Moscoso plenty of time to prove their big league worth.

Blevins, meanwhile, made just one appearance in his three-day stint with the A's -- his second of the season -- before Monday's designation. The lefty is expected to return to Sacramento.

### **A's to recall Moscoso for start on Tuesday**

ANAHEIM -- The A's on Monday filled out 40 percent of their previously depleted rotation, calling upon Josh Outman to start their series opener in Anaheim before manager Bob Geren announced right-hander Guillermo Moscoso will get the nod Tuesday, marking his first Major League start.

Moscoso has not officially been brought on board, but the 27-year-old Venezuelan hurler is expected to join the 25-man roster on Tuesday, when the A's are likely to option a member of their eight-man bullpen to make room.

Moscoso, who is already on the team's 40-man roster, boasts big league experience in the bullpen, having made 11 appearances with the Rangers, including 10 in 2009 and one last season. Acquired from Texas for another Minor League pitcher this offseason, the righty compiled a 3-2 record and 4.02 ERA in eight games -- seven starts -- for Triple-A Sacramento.

"He's been pretty consistent," Geren said. "He's throwing strikes, and he's ready to go. He has a good breaking ball, and when he throws it at the right speed, it's pretty good. He throws a changeup any time and has pretty good command of his fastball. He's off to a decent start."

Moscoso will take the rotation spot of Tyson Ross, who suffered a left oblique strain just seven pitches into his start on Thursday.

### **Jackson makes first career start at third for A's**

ANAHEIM -- Conor Jackson's expected role as a reserve outfielder for the A's has already expanded immensely in the first two months of the season, and the latest proof was on display Monday, when he received his first career start at third base.

With Kevin Kouzmanoff nursing a right groin strain and veteran Mark Ellis in need of a day off after starting 10 consecutive games, manager Bob Geren inserted Andy LaRoche at second base while giving Jackson the hot corner.

Jackson is no stranger to the position, though, having made four Major League appearances there in late innings, including twice this season and twice in 2007 with the D-backs. Even more, he's been warned that his presence might be needed there.

"I've been out there the past four weeks, knowing that a situation like this could come up," he said before Monday's game. "Especially with Kouz out and Ellis playing quite a few games recently, it seems like if there's any time to do it, this is a perfect time.

"It's not like I'm being thrown into the fire here. I've had time to take ground balls, and I'm going to take it like any other position. It's a little anxiety, more than anything. But I'm sure once I get that first ground ball, I'll be fine."

Jackson has started 23 games at four positions -- including 13 in right field, five in left field and four at first base -- and is realizing that his versatility has led to a good chunk of playing time after being limited to just 90 games over the previous two seasons because of illness and injury.

"The chance to be able to play more than I expected is really nice," he said. "It's hard to sit for a few days in a row, and obviously we've got a great group of bench guys."

"He's worked hard the past month for the possibility that this would happen," Geren said. "Once you get into the game, that's where the real experience comes. He's played first and played extremely well over there, and it's pretty much the same thing, he just has to throw the ball this time. And he throws the ball well anyway. He has a good arm."

Kouzmanoff, Geren said, was not available for Monday's game, but he took a handful of ground balls and participated in batting practice earlier in the day.

### **Worth noting**

- Right-hander Andrew Bailey (forearm), making his second rehab appearance for Triple-A Sacramento on Monday, struck out one and hit a batter while throwing 13 pitches -- eight strikes -- in a scoreless seventh inning.
- Ryan Sweeney drew a start in left field over regular Josh Willingham on Monday because of his exceptional career numbers against Angels starter Jered Weaver, manager Bob Geren said. Sweeney entered the game 7-for-20 lifetime against the right-hander.

### **Major Lee-ague: Fuentes criticizes "unorthodox managing"**

Jane Lee, mlb.com, 5/24/2011 5:54am

*Fuentes' communication with reporters following tonight's game:*

What did you think of the situation you were placed in tonight?

**Fuentes:** It's surprising yet not surprising all at the same time.

How do you feel with the way the manager has handled you as a reliever?

**Fuentes:** Pretty poorly.

How much communication do you have with him?

**Fuentes:** Zero.

Why is it pretty poorly?

**Fuentes:** There's just no communication. Two games, on the road, bring the closer in a tied game, with no previous discussions of doing so. And then, tonight, in the seventh inning, I get up. I haven't stretched, I haven't prepared myself. If there was some communication beforehand I would be ready to come into the game -- which I was, when I came into the game, I was ready. Just lack of communication. I don't think anybody really knows which direction he's headed.

How much different is this compared to past managers?

**Fuentes:** It's a pretty drastic difference.

What goes through your mind when the phone rings in the seventh tonight?

**Fuentes:** I thought he misspoke. I thought it was some sort of miscommunication, but he said, 'No, you're up,' so I got up and cranked it up. You can't try to guess along with them. Very unpredictable.

At the beginning of the season, did he tell you that you were the closer?

**Fuentes:** Yes, from get go, I've been closing.

In regards to communication, is that something that oughta change?

**Fuentes:** It should. It's not my decision. I can't predict the future. If he decides to take that step, then there will be communication. If not, I'll make sure I'm ready from the first.

Does there need to be a "clear the air" meeting?

**Fuentes:** Some people might think so. At this point I have nothing to say.

Has this been boiling up or is it just recent?

**Fuentes:** Just recent, really. I think the games in San Francisco were some unorthodox managing. I thought it was maybe the National league thing, that maybe that had something to do with it, but tonight was pretty unbelievable.

## **Fuentes adds to A's futility**

*ASSOCIATED PRESS*

*Published: Monday, May 23, 2011 at 3:00 a.m.*

ANAHEIM — Torii Hunter threw out the potential go-ahead run at the plate in the seventh inning and doubled home the tiebreaking run in the eighth, leading the Angels over the skidding Oakland Athletics 4-1 on Monday night.

Bobby Abreu grounded into a fielder's choice after former Angels closer Brian Fuentes (1-7) opened the inning by walking Erick Aybar. Hunter greeted Michael Wuertz with a double to the wall in right-center on a 2-2 pitch, easily scoring Abreu.

Jeff Mathis capped the rally with a two-out, two-run single off Wuertz, who came in holding opponents to a .103 batting average — the best mark among AL relievers.

Fuentes has been charged with the loss in each of his last four appearances, setting an Oakland record. The A's have dropped six straight overall.

Scott Downs (2-1) worked a scoreless eighth, retiring David DeJesus on a groundout after giving up two-out singles to Hideki Matsui and Conor Jackson. Rookie reliever Jordan Walden pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

Angels ace Jered Weaver failed in his fifth attempt to become the majors' first seven-game winner — this time with a hard-luck no-decision after four straight losses.

The right-hander, whose previous victory was a shutout at Oakland on April 25, allowed one run and six hits over seven innings with five strikeouts and three walks against a starting lineup that had seven players batting .255 or lower.

Weaver, the AL pitcher of the month for April, has one more chance to get his first victory in May. A loss or a no-decision next Saturday at Tampa Bay would make him the first major league starter to win at least five games without a loss one month — and then lose four or more the following month without a win — since July-August 2003, when current teammate Joel Pineiro did the swift about-face with St. Louis.

The score was tied 1-all in the seventh when Adam LaRoche and Cliff Pennington singled against Weaver with two outs, and Coco Crisp lined a single to right field on a 1-2 pitch. Hunter charged the ball while third base coach Mike Gallego frantically waved LaRoche around, but Mathis slapped the tag on LaRoche while falling backward.

Josh Outman allowed a run and five hits in seven innings after getting recalled from Triple-A Sacramento to make a spot start for injured Brandon McCarthy in the opener of a four-game series between the AL West rivals.

Outman, making his first big league appearance since June 19, 2009, made 16 previous starts for Oakland before missing last season recovering from Tommy John surgery. The 26-year-old left-hander won his last four starts with the River Cats before getting recalled.

After four straight games in which each of their starting pitchers allowed only one run, the A's fell behind 1-0 in the first on an RBI single by Abreu. Matsui, who spent last year with the Angels, tied it in the third with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly — his first RBI against the Angels this season after 22 fruitless at-bats.

Athletics right-hander Guillermo Moscoso, who began the season in Sacramento, will make his first big league start Tuesday night in place of injured Tyson Ross. Ross was filling in for Dallas Braden, who underwent season-ending shoulder surgery last week.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **New Orleans pounces on Sacramento early**

By Mike Morris / Sacramento River Cats

It wasn't a warm welcome for Lenny DiNardo in his first return to Sacramento.

The New Orleans Zephyrs scored eight runs off the River Cats left-hander in the first two innings and came away with a 14-1 win to open the four-game series at Raley Field. It was the largest margin of defeat for Sacramento this year.

DiNardo, who went 2-5 with a 3.40 ERA for Sacramento in 2010, was signed earlier in the day to a free agent contract. He faced off against right-hander Chris Sampson, as both pitchers were making their first Triple-A starts of 2011. By the second inning, it was apparent DiNardo would have to wait until his second game to get his first win. Sampson allowed six hits through 6.0 innings, allowing just one run on the night. DiNardo allowed six hits through 1.1 innings, allowing six earned runs and eight overall.

The Zephyrs struck early, scoring nine runs in the second inning as DiNardo opened the inning with a walk, followed by a fielding error by third baseman Steve Tolleson. DiNardo then allowed four hits and a walk before getting pulled. Joe Bateman would relieve DiNardo and allow six runs before being taken out after 2.2 innings.

Four of those runs came on a Josh Kroeger grand slam. It was his seventh home run of the year and his first grand slam this year.

The only bright spot for Sacramento was the relief pitching past the third inning. Trystan Magnuson, Andrew Bailey, Vinnie Chulk and Fernando Cabrera closed out the game allowing allowing no hits while striking out four.

The River Cats have lost five of eight, but look to string a few wins together to close out the homestand. Sacramento now stands at 28-17, holding on to their first-place division lead.

Graham Godfrey (4-1, 2.70) will get the start Tuesday night against fellow right-hander Elih Villanueva (4-4, 6.18).

### **Haviland Shuts Down Hooks**

05/24/2011 8:25 AM ET

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

Whataburger Field ... Corpus Christi, TX

The first three games of this series were much like scenes from the Bill Murray movie "Ground Hog's Day," meaning the same day over and over.

The RockHounds score in the first ... the Corpus Christi starter turns into Tim Lincecum, shutting the 'Hounds down the rest of the way ... and the Hooks get a big swing of the bat to win.

Monday, the 'Hounds scored twice ... in the first. They didn't get another hit against starter Dallas Keuchel until the sixth, and wouldn't score again until the ninth.

This time, though, RockHounds pitching said "no" to a Hooks rally, with Shawn Haviland, Justin Souza and Jon Meloan combining on a 4-hit shutout.

The 'Hounds also said "goodbye" to a 500-pound gorilla, breaking an 8-game losing streak.

Jermaine Mitchell (2-for-5) and Tyler Ladendorf (3-for-4) collected five of the team's eight hits, and (along with Stephen Parker's RBI single) got the 'Hounds on the board in the first. Petey Paramore drove in the insurance run in the ninth.

- The seven losses on the road trip came by a combined 11 runs, including five, 1-run games.

- In the Corpus Christi series, the RockHounds scored a total of 12 runs ... eight of them in the first inning.

- Haviland was outstanding, going 6.1 innings, allowing three hits and two walks while striking out four, while Souza lowered his ERA to 0.93 in six appearances.

- Jermaine Mitchell has now reached base in 18 consecutive games, and is hitting .403 in that stretch. He is second in the league in batting (.362) and slugging percentage (.650) and leads the league in on-base percentage (.493), hits (59), runs (47), walks (41) and triples (11).

### **Giants Sweep Stockton**

05/23/2011 6:30 PM ET

What began looking like another potential shut out for the Stockton Ports this afternoon turned into a much closer ball game. The San Jose Giants would ultimately sweep the series with their 12-9 victory today, but the Ports would not make it an easy win.

The Ports' first big chance to score came in the bottom of the 3rd. Second baseman Conner Crumbliss drew a one-out walk, and went on to steal second. Shortstop Michael Gilmartin singled, followed by a walk for centerfielder Michael Choice. First basemen Anthony Aliotti had a big RBI opportunity, but grounded into a double play to end the inning.

The Giants managed a much more productive offensive inning in the 4th. Second baseman Ryan Cavan and third baseman Chris Dominguez both singled, to put runners on for right fielder Jarrett Parker. Parker grounded into a force but beat out what should have been a double play, allowing Cavan to score. Back-to-back doubles by catcher Tommy Joseph and first baseman Luke Anders brought in two more runs to give the Giants a 3-0 lead.

San Jose went on to increase their lead in the 5th. Centerfielder Gary Brown doubled before Chris Mederos came in to replace starting pitcher Murphy Smith, who went 4 innings, allowing 4 runs and 7 hits. Shortstop Brandon Crawford continued things by doubling, followed by a home run by designated hitter Hector Sanchez brought their run total to 6.

But this game was not a done deal. In the bottom of the 5th began to look very much like the 3rd had, with a walk for Crumbliss, a single for Gilmartin, and a walk for Choice. This brought Aliotti up with no outs. Not about to leave his teammates stranded again, Aliotti drove a grand slam to center field to make the Ports contenders in the game once again.

With their lead shrinking to two runs, the Giants brought in Jake Dunning to pitch, after Zack Wheeler went 4 innings, giving up 4 runs and 5 hits. Dunning gave up a walk and a single, but prevented the Ports from doing anymore damage.

In the top of the 6th, the Giants were able to get a run back. Anders doubled and scored on another double by Brown.

In the bottom half, Chuck Lofgren came in to replace Dunning on the mound for the Giants. Lofgren would allow a double by third baseman Leonardo Gil, and RBI single by Crumbliss, and a walk for Gilmartin before the Giants brought in Hector Correa, who pitched his way out of the inning.

Connor Hoehn came in to pitch in the 7th inning, after Mederos allowed 3 runs on 5 hits in 2 innings. Sanchez hit another home run to begin the inning. Dominguez walked and stole his way to second, but was picked off before Hoehn retired two more to finish the inning. Deciding that their 8-5 lead wasn't enough, the Giants scored four more in the 8th on singles by Brown, Crawford and Cavan, and the third home run of the day for Sanchez. The Giants brought in Mitch Lively to pitch after Correa went 2 innings, giving up no runs and no hits. Lively retired the Ports quickly in the 8th and the Giants went into the 9th with a solid 12-5 lead.

Jose Guzman came in to pitch for the Ports for the final inning, Hoehn having allowed 5 runs on 5 hits in 2 innings. Guzman held the Giants at 12 runs, so that the Ports could make their last offensive effort.

The Ports began the inning facing Jose Valdez, Lively having gone 1.0 inning. Back-to-back walks for Aliotti and Ortiz and a single by designated hitter Myrio Richard loaded the bases for right fielder Rashun Dixon, who hit an RBI single. With the bases still loaded, Crumbliss walked in another run, and San Jose brought in Heath Hembree to close. Gilmartin singled off of Hembree to bring in two more runs, but Choice would strike out to end the game.

The Giants had 12 runs, 17 hits and no errors, while the Ports had 9 runs, 11 hits and no errors. Dunning was the winning pitcher today, while Smith took the loss. The Ports get a much needed day off tomorrow before heading out on the road once more for the final road trip of May.

The Ports start the trip in Visalia for a four-game series before returning to San Jose to take on the Giants for the third time this month.

### **Brown the Latest Bee Heading West**

By Jon Versteeg

BELOIT, WI- The Oakland A's, in conjunction with the Burlington Bees, is pleased to announce the promotion of LHP Jacob Brown to Advanced "A" Stockton in the California League. Brown joins RHP Chris Mederos and RHP A.J. Griffin as the third pitcher in less than two weeks promoted from Burlington to Stockton. To take Brown's place on the roster, RHP Jose Macias joins the team from the Athletics' extended spring training program in Arizona. He will start the opening game of a three-game series in Beloit on Tuesday evening.

Brown leaves the Bees fifth in the Midwest League with a 4-0 record and a 1.62 E.R.A. Macias split time last year between the Arizona Rookie League A's and the Kane County Cougars of the Midwest League. He went 3-1 with a combined 3.00 ERA at both stops. Macias was selected in the 18th round by the Athletics in the June 2010 First Year Player Draft out of Division II Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire.

The Bees and Snappers' series begins Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Macias will make the start for Burlington while Beloit sends Adrian Salcedo (3-2, 3.06) to the mound. Pre-game coverage starts at 6:10 p.m. on AM Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at gobees.com

### **Timber Rattlers Win 4-3; Take 4 of 5**

By Jon Versteeg, burlingtonbees.com

GRAND CHUTE, WI-The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (25-19) got a two-run home run from 1B Mike Walker (1-3) in the sixth inning to earn a 4-3 win over the Burlington Bees (30-14) before 4,430 fans at Time Warner Cable Field on Monday afternoon.

Burlington scored a single run in the first inning. CF Tyreace House (1-4) singled and 2B Nino Leyja (0-4) reached on a fielder's choice. LF Douglas Landaeta (2-3) ripped a double off the wall in right centerfield to score House for a 1-0 Burlington lead.

Wisconsin scored a run in the third inning. 2B Nick Shaw (1-3) singled to score 3B Greg Hopkins (1-3) from second base for a 1-1 tie.

The Bees re-took the lead in the fourth inning. SS Yordy Cabrera (2-2) singled and went to third base on a single by 1B A.J. Kirby-Jones (2-3). RF Jose Rivero (0-3) grounded into a double play and Cabrera scored for a 2-1 lead.

The Timber Rattlers scored a run in the fifth inning to tie the game at 2-2. RF Robbie Garvey (3-4) singled and went to second base on a groundout by SS Yadiel Rivera (0-3). Hopkins hit an RBI single to score Garvey.

Burlington pushed a run across home plate on a wild pitch by Wisconsin RHP Austin Ross in the sixth inning. Cabrera singled and went to third base on a double by Kirby-Jones. The wild pitch allowed Cabrera to score and make it 3-2.