

**Oakland A's have four-game win streak snapped by New York Yankees**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The A's proved once again Monday that their bats can turn frigid at the drop of a hat.

They managed just four hits off New York Yankees right-hander Bartolo Colon, who tossed his first shutout in nearly five years with a 5-0 victory before a sellout crowd of 35,067 fans in Oakland.

The A's season-high four-game winning streak was snapped, along with the offensive momentum they built over that stretch.

"That's the best I've seen him in a long time," A's manager Bob Geren said of Colon. "He shut us down, especially to see us the last two days. We were swinging the bats pretty well."

The A's know they have to win despite their offensive shortcomings. No matter how hot they get for a period, they have the potential to be dominated by any pitcher who is dialed in.

Perhaps a more immediate concern is the speed bump that ace right-hander Trevor Cahill has hit.

Cahill (6-3) gathered himself after allowing three first-inning runs, including Mark Teixeira's two-run homer. He lasted 62/3 innings and was charged with just one more run after the first.

But Cahill issued five walks for the second consecutive outing and has lost the comfort zone that led to his 6-0 start. He is 0-3 with a 3.51 ERA over his past four starts after going 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA through his first eight.

"I've just kind of been (struggling) with mechanics a little bit," Cahill said. "I feel like I haven't gotten consistent where I've been able to repeat myself. Especially in the first inning, however good you feel in the bullpen, a hitter gets in there and stuff can change."

Derek Jeter led off the game with a hard single. After Curtis Granderson flied out, Teixeira parked a 1-2 curveball into the right-field seats. Cahill walked Alex Rodriguez on four pitches, then allowed Robinson Cano's RBI double for a 3-0 Yankees lead.

Cahill has lost all three of his career starts against New York, giving up 18 earned runs in 162/3 innings.

"The couple times I've pitched against them, you walk a guy, make a bad pitch, and then it's a 3-0 game," he said.

Geren said he was impressed with how Cahill rebounded after the first. "I hate to even qualify that as a bad start," he said. "He had a rough first inning."

But catcher Kurt Suzuki acknowledged Cahill is trying to right the ship.

"It's like hitting," Suzuki said. "You get mechanical issues and you start thinking, trying to figure stuff out. Sometimes it gets worse. (But) I'm sure he'll be OK."

The A's had notched four straight games with double-digit hits, but they were no match for Colon, 38, who tossed his first shutout since July 2006 as a member of the Los Angeles Angels.

Colon is enjoying a resurgence after elbow and shoulder injuries sidelined him for part of 2009 and all of 2010. Major League Baseball reportedly is investigating an operation Colon underwent in the Dominican Republic, where he was injected with stem cells to aid his recovery.

Monday, Colon resembled his Cy Young form from 2005. He hit 95 mph on the stadium radar gun for his final pitch, when he retired David DeJesus on a fly out to left.

"He was able to put the ball wherever he wanted on the corners," DeJesus said. "He got it up to 95, and 91 with sink."

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

A's manager Bob Geren has considered moving Daric Barton from the second spot in the batting order but is still backing his struggling first baseman.

Barton went 0 for 4 with a strikeout in Monday's 5-0 loss to the New York Yankees and is hitting .206. He's 3 for 24 over his past seven games and is batting .177 (25 for 141) in his past 38.

"Yeah, I have," Geren said when asked if he's considered dropping Barton in the order. "(But) there was a stretch there in the last three, four, five days where he hit the ball pretty good and had nothing to show for it."

Barton ranked seventh in the American League with 31 walks before Monday. But he had the league's third-lowest slugging percentage (.270) among players with enough plate appearances.

His 39 strikeouts are second-most on the A's behind Josh Willingham (56), and he's the only major league first baseman with more than 75 at-bats who has yet to homer this season.

On Sunday, Barton reportedly jawed with a fan sitting near the A's dugout after he struck out and then made critical comments about the home fans after the game.

Barton declined to discuss the incident Monday, saying he had been told by someone in the organization not to address the topic anymore.

In honor of Memorial Day, the A's wore camouflage hats during batting practice. The team recently exchanged hats with an Army task force based in Kuwait.

Reliever Grant Balfour said he was moved by a conversation he had before the game with a veteran who lost both legs above the knee during combat.

"I just wanted to say thanks," Balfour said. "He put his life on the line. You look at him, and it takes some guts to do what they're doing."

Right-hander Tyson Ross (strained oblique) said he's hopeful he can start throwing sometime in the next week.

"I'm showing improvement. I'm happy with where I'm at," Ross said. "It's just certain motions, quick twisting, which is what caused the strain in the first place."

Geren said it was unclear when right-hander Brandon McCarthy (stress reaction in shoulder) would start throwing.

Infielder Adam Rosales (fractured right foot) will begin a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento soon, though Geren didn't have a timetable.

### **Chin Music: Cahill tries to set tone for A's vs. Yanks**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/30/2011 12:56pm

We have the ingredients for an entertaining afternoon at the Oakland Coliseum – Trevor Cahill on the mound, facing the Yankees, in front of a big crowd, with the A's riding a four-game winning streak. Will it live up to the billing? At the very least, the A's have picked the right time to start playing their best baseball, with their next six games against the Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the top two teams in the AL East.

Cahill's effort is a huge key to setting the tone for the A's in this series. You'll remember he got knocked around pretty good by the Yankees last season – once in Oakland and once at Yankee Stadium. Those were his first two starts against New York, and he gave up 14 earned runs in 10 innings combined. After starting the season on a six-game winning streak, Cahill has gone three starts without a victory.

–A's manager Bob Geren said before the game that he hadn't decided when Andrew Bailey would return to the closer's role. Geren wanted to wait until he talked to Bailey after the reliever played catch. A key in all this: Bailey has not yet thrown on back-to-back days, and I'm sure Geren wanted to see how Bailey's arm felt before knowing if he could count on him today.

–Infielder Adam Rosales will soon begin a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento, Geren said. Rosales has been playing in extended spring training games and has bounced all around the infield. So it looks like Rosales has a shot of returning by his goal of mid-June.

–I chatted w/Tyson Ross for a couple minutes before the game. He's hoping to start throwing when the A's are on their upcoming 10-game road trip. Ross still has some pain w/his strained oblique, particularly when he twists his body, but he says the injury is getting better.

–Nice touch by the A's during batting practice, as players celebrated Memorial Day by wearing camouflage hats given to them by an Army task force based in Kuwait.

Today's lineups:

A's – Crisp CF, Barton 1B, DeJesus RF, Willingham LF, Matsui DH, Suzuki C, Ellis 2B, Kouzmanoff 3B, Pennington SS; Cahill RHP.

Yankees – Jeter SS, Granderson CF, Teixeira 1B, Rodriguez 3B, Cano 2B, Posada DH, Swisher RF, Gardner LF, Cervelli C; Colon RHP.

### **Ageless Bartolo Colon, Yankees shut out A's 5-0**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Oakland had just gone on a roll, the team's best stretch of the year, when the Yankees arrived at the Coliseum.

New York promptly put a stop to the A's season-high four-game winning streak, so promptly that the game was all but over after one inning. The Yankees scored three times in the first Monday in an eventual 5-0 victory. New York's Bartolo Colon was superb in throwing his ninth career shutout (and his first since July 5, 2006).

The A's managed four hits off Colon and they drew no walks. Only twice did Oakland have a man in scoring position, getting leadoff doubles in the second (Josh Willingham) and ninth (Cliff Pennington).

"For a guy to have that much life on the ball is just incredible," said A's second baseman Mark Ellis, who went 0-for-3 and hit into a double play. "He knows what he's doing and he doesn't give in. The way he was locating was very impressive."

Before the game, A's manager Bob Geren said the key against New York would be to limit baserunners, because the Yankees score so many of their runs - nearly half - on homers. Better, Geren said, would be to not allow any homers, but that's a longshot with New York, which leads the majors with 80.

A's starter Trevor Cahill prevented neither baserunners nor homers in the first inning, unusual for him because Cahill's first inning is often his best. Entering the game, he'd allowed only one first-inning run in 11 starts.

Derek Jeter led off the game with a single to center, and with one out, Mark Teixeira walloped a 1-2 curveball for a homer to right to put New York up 2-0.

"I made one bad pitch and kind of paid for it," Cahill said. "Teams like this, you make a couple of mistakes and they put up a three-spot."

Cahill walked Alex Rodriguez and Robinson Cano doubled him home. Cano was nabbed going too far around second base for the second out. Cahill got Jorge Posada to fly out to the warning track, and he allowed only one hit the rest of his outing.

"Whatever issues he had with his command, getting the ball up, he settled in," Geren said. "That's good. It will build onto his next start."

In the seventh, Cahill walked No. 8 and 9 hitters Brett Gardner and Francisco Cervelli, the two pulled off a double steal and Jeter hit a sacrifice fly to shallow center field. Cahill walked five for a second straight start and he said he still might have some mechanical difficulties because he thinks he isn't consistently repeating his delivery.

Cahill, who started 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA, has lost three decisions in a row and allowed 10 earned runs in his past four starts, covering 25 2/3 innings. Still, that's a 3.51 ERA in that time.

"I'm sure he's OK," catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "Against a team like the Yankees, he kept us in the game."

The Yankees, who added a run off Brad Ziegler in the ninth, have won eight in a row against the A's.

### **Bob Geren might move Daric Barton down in order**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Nearly everyone in Oakland's lineup had trouble against **Bartolo Colon** on Monday, so **Daric Barton's** 0-for-4 was less glaring.

The A's first baseman, though, has yet to get on track, and although manager **Bob Geren** has shown extraordinary faith in Barton, continuing to bat him second in the lineup, Geren said after Monday's loss to New York that he might move Barton down in the order.

"That's worth trying to take a look at," Geren said, "especially if it gets him going." Geren has given Barton an occasional day off in an effort to kick-start his offense, but Geren had not wavered when it came to Barton's spot in the batting order - he has hit second in all 49 games in which he has played.

Before the season, there was speculation that **David DeJesus**, who primarily hit first and second with the Royals, might bat in the two-hole with Oakland. He's hitting .293 over his past 17 games.

Other options include backup outfielder **Ryan Sweeney**, when he's in the lineup (he's hitting .375 in May), and shortstop **Cliff Pennington**, who, like Sweeney, is among the team's hotter hitters, lifting his average to a season-high .260 over the past nine games.

Barton is hitting .125 over the past week, and his average stands at .206. He has not homered this season, and he has 13 RBIs in 55 games.

**Briefly:** Infielder **Adam Rosales**, who has been out all season after foot surgery in December, will start a rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento this week, according to Geren. ... Geren said that he had not spoken to reliever **Andrew Bailey** and pitching coach **Ron Romanick** about moving Bailey back into the closer role after his scoreless inning Sunday in his 2011 debut. ... **Rich Harden**, out all season with a muscle strain under his right arm, said he'll throw off a mound today. Harden will go on the A's three-city road trip, an indication that he might throw to hitters at some point.

## Leading off

**Pennington's a plus:** On a day when the A's picked up only four hits, shortstop Cliff Pennington extended his career-high hitting streak to nine games with a double in the ninth inning. He's 14-for-34 (.412) during that span.

### **Drumbeat: Yankees in town for Memorial Day, some A's pregame tidbits**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at the Coliseum 5/30/2011 12:24pm

The A's are expecting a crowd of 30,000-plus today, but so far, they must be tailgating. It's not real full, and the fans who are here largely appear to be wearing dark blue.

Not much to report pregame: Manager Bob Geren hadn't checked in with Andrew Bailey and pitching coach Ron Romanick about Bailey's potential earlier return to the closer role. Bailey's unlikely to work back-to-back games out of the gate, anyway, so this is probably a decision that can wait a day, but Bailey looked good enough yesterday that I wouldn't be surprised to see him working the ninth his next time out.

That's my speculation only, but he appeared ready, and obviously he knows what he's doing. He just can't work in consecutive games immediately.

Geren said that Adam Rosales will begin a rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento "soon," and that means this week sometime. That means that Rosales could be back by mid-June or so if his health is good and he's performing well.

Geren said again that there has been no decision yet about tweaking the rotation with an offday on Thursday. It would make a lot of sense, because the A's could then get Brett Anderson a start at Fenway Park against Boston, a team he has pitched well against.

Here's the lineup behind Trevor Cahill: Crisp cf, Barton 1b, DeJesus rf, Willingham lf, Matsui DH, Suzuki c, Ellis 2b, Kouzmanoff 3b, Pennington ss

### **A's manage just four hits in shutout loss**

#### **Cahill settles down after rocky first, but offense stymied by Colon**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com | 5/30/2011 8:42 PM ET

OAKLAND -- In a battle of youth vs. elderly disguised as youth, via a pitching matchup between right-handers Trevor Cahill and Bartolo Colon, the latter reigned supreme in Oakland in the first of a three-game set on Monday.

Cahill, 23, surrendered just four hits, but he also tied season highs in walks (five) and runs (four) and found himself in an early hole after allowing the Yankees to post a three-spot in the first inning. The 38-year-old Colon, meanwhile, boarded just four baserunners all day while tallying his first shutout of the season.

The resulting 5-0 Oakland loss in front of a sold-out Memorial Day crowd at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum meant an end to a season-high four-game winning streak for the A's and the continuation of all-around woes against a Yankees team that was 9-1 when facing Oakland last season.

Cahill knows those struggles against the pinstripes all too well, having experienced them on his own more than once, evidenced by an 0-3 record and 10.00 ERA in three career starts -- which have brought about a combined eight walks and five home runs.

The fifth long ball came Monday, when Mark Teixeira drove a 1-2 pitch to right field with Derek Jeter on first to hand the Yankees a quick two-run lead. It marked the first baseman's fourth homer in his past five games and seventh of his past 11.

"I just threw him a curveball, tried to throw him low and hopefully have him swing over it," Cahill said. "He didn't, and you see what happened."

"That's huge, because Cahill's one of the best pitchers in baseball," Teixeira said. "We didn't get a lot of hits off him, but we made them count. Scratching out a couple of runs early was big for us."

Following the homer, Cahill's seventh of the season and fifth in as many starts, the righty proceeded to walk Alex Rodriguez and offer up an RBI double to Robinson Cano before getting out of the inning and limiting the damage to three runs.

It proved plenty, though, as Colon never strayed from a steady supply of strikes -- 71 out of 103 pitches -- that consistently found the mid-90s zone on the radar gun all the way through the last pitch in his first complete game since July 5, 2006, at Seattle.

"He was good, really good," said Mark Ellis. "His ball was moving so much, and he was throwing the ball firm. He didn't make a lot of mistakes. I only got one pitch to hit, and I grounded into a double play. We knew it coming in, too, that he's been throwing the ball well. Sometimes you just get beat, and they beat us today, beat us good."

The beating followed a healthy stretch of offensive production, as the A's entered the contest batting .286 over their last eight games, five of which resulted in victory. Thus, the club doesn't plan on losing much sleep over Monday's forgettable performance.

"We have been swinging the bats well, and letting the air out of the balloon, I'd hate to say one game can do that," manager Bob Geren said. "I think the guys on both sides of the field know how well [Colon] threw today, and so you just have to look forward to tomorrow."

"If the guy was average and really didn't have much and shut us down, then you maybe want to think a little more about what happened. But their guy was exceptional today."

Aside from doubles off the bats of Josh Willingham and Cliff Pennington, the A's couldn't manage much in the hit column. And the walks were missing, too, as Colon refused to offer up a free pass.

"He had a good feel for that heater and was throwing it starting at the front hip for left-handers and starting it outside at right-handers," Kurt Suzuki said. "He was tough to pick up today and kept the ball off the middle of the plate, and that's what good pitchers do."

More impressive it is, though, from a pitcher who has been around the league for nearly 14 years.

"For the guy to still have that much life on the ball is incredible," Ellis said. "He knows what he's doing out there, and he doesn't give in a whole lot. The way he can locate his fastball is very impressive."

Cahill's location was just as good, but only in innings not named the first. The young hurler admitted to losing sense of his mechanics a touch, as he did in his last outing, and noted that adjusting his arm slot when necessarily has presented the biggest problem.

Overall, the right-hander is 0-3 with a 3.57 ERA and .283 opponents average over his last three starts after going 6-0 with a 1.72 mark and .209 opponents average over his first eight outings.

"I've just kind of been toying with my mechanics a little bit," he said. "I feel like I haven't gotten it consistent where I feel like I can repeat myself. In the first inning especially, no matter how good I feel in the bullpen, when a hitter stands in there, stuff can change."

Previously, Cahill had allowed just one first-inning run for a 0.82 ERA and .139 opponents average in the first frame this year, and he had surrendered just six total in 41 first innings in his career.

"With Trevor, he's a rhythm pitcher, and sometimes it takes him a little bit to get in his rhythm," Suzuki said. "When you're facing Trevor, you got to get at him early, because once he's settled in, he's pretty good after that. They got those three runs in the first inning, and after that, he shut them down."

"I hate to even qualify that as a bad start," Geren said, "because he was just up in the first inning. I thought he threw the ball pretty well."

### **A's pay tribute to veterans on Memorial Day**

By Jane Lee and Tom Green / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Memorial Day is all about honoring the men and women who have served in the U.S. military. On Monday, the A's did their part to show respect.

The A's joined forces with two groups for Monday's series opener against the Yankees -- one close to home, and one halfway around the world. The team partnered with TroopsDirect.org, a California-based non-profit organization that provides necessities for troops deployed on the front line. The club also teamed up with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company Task Force 3/197th Field Artillery Soldiers, which is stationed in Kuwait.

The players recently exchanged caps with the members of the task force, also known as "The Night Riders," and the A's sported the military hats during batting practice and pregame warm-ups.

"There's been so much sacrifice to get us to the point where we're at now," reliever Brad Ziegler said. "There's been so much to give us the freedoms that we have and the great nation that we have. This is the day designed to really honor those who have died and served us."

Injured pitcher Dallas Braden, who is out for the season after undergoing surgery earlier this month, took it one step further. While the rest of the team exchanged caps with "The Night Riders," Braden exchanged his full uniform with Specialist Mark Braden, who is not related to the Oakland hurler. Braden then caught the ceremonial first pitch from U.S. Marine Sgt. Dayton McConnell moments after 10 future Marines took their oaths in front of Monday afternoon's crowd at the Coliseum.

During batting practice, the team also hosted a handful of wounded veterans and spent time with them, something that meant a lot to Ziegler, whose grandfather and grandfather's four brothers served in the military during the Korean War and whose brother-in-law is training to be a Naval aviator.

Ziegler, inspired by his family's military service and his own studying of war history, started Pastime for Patriots last year, a foundation that provides baseball tickets for families of troops. While Ziegler's organization is geared more toward Fourth of July, Ziegler did help spread word of TroopsDirect.org and the group's Memorial Day festivities through his Twitter and Facebook pages.

"This day means a lot," Ziegler said. "This is the day designed to really honor those who have died and served us. It's just something that I'm very passionate about. We can never thank enough those who have served and died in their service."

### **Willingham settling into nice groove at plate**

OAKLAND -- The A's, riding their longest winning streak of the season, are starting to heat up. So, too, is cleanup hitter Josh Willingham.

While the ballclub has strung together four consecutive wins behind double-digit hit totals, Willingham has been the sparkplug for the team's surging offense. Over the last four games, the slugger is 6-for-15 with seven RBIs and two home

runs, including a four-RBI performance in a 6-4 win Sunday against the Orioles, which resulted in the A's first three-game sweep of the year.

Factor in the first of the team's two wins against Anaheim last week, and Willingham has nine RBIs in Oakland's last five wins. It's a complete turnaround from his numbers while the team was mired in a six-game losing streak, when he was 2-for-11 in four games.

"Those streaks are going to come," Willingham added. "We'll have some cold streaks, but we're just trying to ride this one out as long as we can."

The left fielder said he's seeing the ball better lately and getting some better pitches to hit, adding that everything just seems to be clicking for both him and his teammates at the plate.

"He's driving the ball," manager Bob Geren said. "He's obviously showing some power lately. He's a mid-20 home run guy in the past, and when we acquired him, that's what we were hoping to get."

With the team's next six games against the top two teams in the American League East, Willingham's power surge couldn't come at a better time for the A's, who lost six in a row before reeling off five of their last six.

"He's a strong individual, and when he connects, we know when it's gone," first baseman Daric Barton said. "He's a strong guy, and as long as he keeps hitting like that, we'll be all right."

### **Foot better, Rosales nearing assignment**

OAKLAND -- A's infielder Adam Rosales is within a week of taking his rehab from the confines of extended spring training in Arizona to the Minor Leagues, where he'll take part in a rehab assignment as he continues to work his way back from right foot surgery.

"He's progressing just the way we'd like him to," manager Bob Geren said Monday morning.

Rosales, who underwent the operation in December, has been playing multiple positions around the infield for five innings and most recently played in back-to-back games for the first time.

Before the onset of his injury in August last season, the 27-year-old Rosales was batting .271 with seven home runs and 31 RBIs in 80 games and was the first A's player since 1995 to start at least one game at six positions. That super utility role proved a perfect fit for both Rosales and the club, which has handed Andy LaRoche those responsibilities this year.

LaRoche, who has started 27 games at four different positions this season, is batting just .196 through 22 games in May after compiling a .294 mark in 15 games in April. Given his .210 average against right-handed pitching, he's not likely to draw much playing time in the Yankees series this week with a trio of righties slated to start.

### **A's looking to keep Yankees in ballpark**

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com

The A's have the lowest ERA in the Majors and have given up only 30 home runs this season. The Yankees have out-homered the next-closest team by 20, with 49 percent of their runs coming via the home run.

On Monday, the Yankees got a win over the Athletics' vaunted pitching staff with a 5-0 victory. On Tuesday, Oakland left-hander Brett Anderson (3-4, 2.84 ERA) looks get the best of New York's offense and Freddy Garcia (3-4, 3.26 ERA) and tie the three-game series.

"It's a really good test this series and the next when you have two high-powered offensive teams in the Yankees and the Red Sox," A's manager Bob Geren said prior to Monday's series opener. "What you need is to throw strikes and keep the pitch counts down so they don't wear you down, and try to keep the ball in the park. The Yankees have scored the majority of their runs on home runs, and it's almost impossible to say don't let the other team get a homer.



"But the thing you try to do is limit the baserunners in between, in case they do knock one out of the park. You want to make as many of them as you can solo, but obviously try to avoid them altogether, but minimize baserunners for teams like that."

The A's hope Anderson is the Yankees' kryptonite, as the left-hander has allowed just one home run this month and only four this season (three of which came in one start on April 30). Meanwhile, the Bombers have homered in 41 of the team's 52 games this season.

Although Anderson has allowed only two homers to current Yankees batters -- Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira -- he has struggled in his career against New York, going 0-3 with a 4.68 ERA in four starts. The 23-year-old left-hander is coming off one of his best starts of the season, holding the Angels to only three hits in eight shutout innings on May 26.

Backing New York's potent offense is Garcia, who has been impressive in eight starts. The 34-year-old has posted two consecutive quality starts and three in his past four outings. On Wednesday against Toronto, Garcia earned the victory, holding the Blue Jays to three runs on eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.

### **Yankees: Teixeira goes deep again**

With his two-run first-inning home run Monday, Teixeira continued his impressive hot streak and now has homered in seven of his last 11 games. During that stretch, Teixeira is hitting .261, with 16 RBIs and nine runs scored. Eleven of his last 16 homers have come with men on base.

- Despite Monday's 5-0 win, the Yankees have lost four of their last six series openers, going 9-10 in such games overall.

### **Athletics: Geren happy with progress**

Monday's loss snapped Oakland's four-game winning streak, during which it had recorded double-digit hits in each victory. Still, before Monday's game, Geren said he was pleased with how his club was playing.

"We're starting to put things together," Geren said. "Our pitching, our defense, our offense seem to be jelling at the same time. It's good timing when you have a series against the Yankees, followed by the Red Sox. It's a good test for us right now."

- The A's now are 3-1 on their current six-game homestead.

### **Worth noting**

- Jeter is hitting .429 (6-for-14) in his career off Anderson, while Teixeira is batting .500 (6-for-12), with six RBIs against the lefty.
- Yankees catcher Russell Martin was scratched from Monday's game with soreness in his big left toe.
- Monday's loss snapped a three-game Memorial Day winning streak for the A's.

### **Memorial Day stirs emotions across baseball**

### **Major League clubs from coast to coast honor armed forces**

By Tom Singer / MLB.com

On any given day in any ballpark, the national anthem and God Bless America can be heard.

On Monday, they were felt.

Some, like Kansas City manager Ned Yost, didn't need a special day to discover new meaning in the Star Spangled Banner.

"I always try to make a point every time during the national anthem that I remember [the military], that I'm thankful for their service and what they provide for us," Yost said. "The ability for us to go about our life we have."

Before the windups, the swings and the slides, Major League Baseball celebrated the dedication and memory of the armed forces, who through generations have protected the right for such activities to proceed in freedom.

Memorial Day 2011 stirred emotions from coast to coast, as grandstands of fans bowed their heads in silent reflection and raised their voices in thunderous salute, hoping their message of gratitude reached the military personnel on the field and in the adjoining seats.

And for some, it was not only moving, but deeply personal.

"I'm very appreciative of it. They need to be recognized," said Arizona manager Kirk Gibson, whose father, Robert, was on the USS Missouri in September 1945, when the U.S. and Japan signed a peace treaty to officially end World War II. "I know I stand there for the anthem every day and look at the flag and support those people that risk their lives for us every day so we can do what we do. I'm humbled by the whole thing; they're very courageous people."

Oakland pitcher Brad Ziegler, a student of war history and of his own family's military history, used the occasion to spread word on the foundation he started last year, Pastime for Patriots, which provides baseball tickets for families of troops.

"This day means a lot," Ziegler said. "This is the day designed to really honor those who have died and served us. It's just something that I'm very passionate about. We can never thank enough those who have served and died in their service."

In some ways, all the ballparks were linked by common threads: Players on all teams, for instance, wore Stars & Stripes caps, earmarked to be auctioned off as part of an MLB initiative in support of [Welcome Back Veterans](#), an organization that offers post-traumatic stress disorder treatment for returning veterans.

In many other ways, each home club honored the military in its own unique fashion.

In the nation's capital, Troy Yocum paused from hiking the nation to walk the bases at Nationals Park. Yocum is 14 months into his 7,800-mile hike to raise money for military families. The 360 feet around the bases enhanced the visibility of his project.

First-pitch ceremonies accorded a deserved stage for:

- United States Marine Corps Major General Richard Mills in Citi Field ...
- Commander Michael Jacobs, a United States Navy Senior Medical Officer, in Safeco Field ...
- Korean War veteran Army Commander Edward Slater in Kauffman Stadium ...
- Army officer Steve Martin in Chase Field ...
- Major General Robert Brown, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, in Turner Field ...
- Colonel Michael Thomas of the Michigan Air National Guard, former Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., president William Burnett and Disabled American Veterans senior vice commander Christopher Sardo, who shared the honor in Comerica Park ...
- And in Great American Ball Park, pitcher Paul Miller and catcher Chris Miller, a father and son with more than a half-century of combined Navy service, formed the first-pitch battery.

Before the first official pitch, and after the top of the seventh's final pitch, those pulse-accelerating verses "Oh, say can you see ..." and "... to the oceans white with foam ..." were delivered by ...

- The USO Liberty Bells in Citi Field ...
- Musician 3rd Class Sarah Reasner of the U.S. Navy in Safeco Field ...
- Technical Sergeant James Donaldson in Comerica Park ...

- And Naval officer Ruben Minor in Great American Ball Park.
- Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander Major Michael Smith and former Air Force Staff Sergeant D'Anthony Forte in Tropicana Field ...

The commemorations began long before the ceremonial tosses and the anthem chords.

In Oakland, the A's spent batting practice time socializing with wounded veterans.

In Detroit, active members of the Armed Forces and veterans were invited down to the field for a pregame ceremony. Additionally, a group of veterans from the John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Detroit and the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System, who sustained injuries while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, watched the game from Justin Verlander's luxury suite as part of the pitcher's Victory for Veterans program.

In Kansas City, Gonzalo Reyes, Kent Schroeder, Joe Liles and Lou Kadera -- all veterans of foreign wars -- were honored, and a three-volley salute acknowledged military personnel from Kansas and Missouri who lost their lives in recent overseas operations.

In Seattle, the colors were presented by the Todd Beamer High School AFJROTC in nearby Federal Way, Wash.

In Atlanta, the Braves hosted 1,353 military personnel and their families at Turner Field throughout Memorial Day weekend.

In Cincinnati, five members of the Cincinnati Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen were honored on the field during pregame ceremonies.

Then, as in churches and in fields and on stages across the country, Great American Ball Park fell silent as part of the Memorial Day National Moment of Remembrance, to honor Americans who sacrificed their lives while serving the country.

In Atlanta, a moment of silence was observed with members of the military wrapped around the four sides of the infield, standing shoulder to shoulder with Padres and Braves players. The silence was broken by a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps."

As ceremonies disbanded, players milled on diamonds with the honored military to exchange memorabilia, like in the Coliseum, where the A's swapped caps with their guests.

That wasn't enough for Dallas Braden, who exchanged his full uniform with Specialist Mark Braden, no relation. The Oakland Braden then caught the ceremonial first pitch from U.S. Marine Sgt. Dayton McConnell.

Then it was time to *play*, but on this day even the routine was treasured.

"I've got a lot of pride in this country," said the Cardinals' Allen Craig. "It's definitely cool to be out there and play America's game."

### **Are Matsui's best days behind him?**

Lowell Cohn, Santa Rosa Press Democrat

OAKLAND - If the Oakland A's were a TV melodrama instead of a baseball team, the announcer would have come on after the A's got shut out by the Yankees 5-0 on Memorial Day and intoned, "Is this the end of Hideki Matsui?"

The question surely is melodramatic but pertinent. Is this the end of Matsui?

After going hitless on Monday, he is batting .222. That is very bad. He came to bat in the bottom of the second, the A's already down 3-0. Josh Willingham stood on second with a leadoff double, perhaps the beginning of a comeback. But Matsui popped out in foul territory to Alex Rodriguez. It was a sad little at bat.

The A's brought in Matsui for power, to bat fifth, to be a force in their lineup and a fright to opponents. Before the game — and this is according to the A's game notes — he was batting .206 this May and had a .194 average this May and last May combined. The numbers are even lower now. For T.S. Eliot April is the cruelest month. For Matsui it's May all the way.

Matsui is almost 37 and the A's have to wonder if his body is used up. After the game, A's manager Bob Geren did not rule out the possibility of dropping him in the batting order.

Matsui has been a great player. He is an icon in Japan and he hasn't been far from iconic in the United States. Take his performance for the Yankees in the 2009 World Series — not so long ago. He was named MVP, batted .615 with three home runs and eight RBIs — six of those RBIs, a World-Series-tying feat, came in the deciding game. Icon.

Now he's playing like a former icon. Of course, he suddenly could start hitting like Babe Ruth, but the burden of proof is on him.

After the game, he walked quietly to his cubicle and put on his clothes. He has a personal interpreter, Roger. When Matsui was dressed and ready to talk, Roger led me to him. Matsui greeted me. It wasn't an athlete-to-writer greeting. It was gentleman to gentleman. Matsui has a big chest and a regal bearing and great dignity. To speak to him is to rise to his level.

"Are you frustrated with how you're hitting?" I asked.

As I spoke, he nodded his head and made low grunting sounds in his throat. I could not tell if he understood me or was being polite. Roger translated. Matsui spoke to Roger in Japanese and Roger spoke to me in English, all very formal.

"When the results aren't quite there, certainly it's frustrating," Roger said for Matsui. "But the only way to resolve that is to get the results out there (on the field). That's the only way to turn that around."

"Are you close to turning it around?" I asked.

More translating and nodding and low grunting. "I think I've been feeling pretty good during practice. I think it's a matter of applying that to the game. In that sense, I think I'm moving positively."

I mentioned he has slow Mays. I guess I was trying to give him an out.

"It certainly seems to have been the pattern in the past," Roger translated, "but there's never a guarantee that the same pattern will repeat itself. The important thing is to keep making adjustments every day."

Matsui refused to take the way out. I would have taken it.

"You are a proud man," I said. "Does this not hitting hurt your pride?"

Matsui and Roger spoke a long time. Finally, Roger translated, "I don't really think about that. Certainly, it's frustrating when the results aren't there, but I don't think that has anything to do with pride. The important thing is keep working, keep looking forward, not really looking at the past and at what you've done."

I thanked Matsui for his time and he nodded cordially. As I left the clubhouse, I heard the announcer in my head: "Is this the end of Hideki Matsui?"

### **Gutierrez: A's Cahill taken to school by Yanks in first inning**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

OAKLAND -- He has a detached cool about him that belies the notion he ever gets rattled.

A 23-year-old who warms up to the hypnotic strains of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit?" Too cool for school.

Looking over into the opposing dugout and seeing Jeter and A-Rod and Posada (no, he did not beg out of the lineup) and Teixeira and the iconic interlocking "NY" adorning their caps? School, rather, is in session.

And A's ace Trevor Cahill was taken there Monday by those marauding New York Yankees. Early, and often, in New York's eventual 5-0 defeat of Oakland that snapped the A's season-high four-game winning streak.

"They've got quite a few of the best hitters in the game," Cahill said, in what will surely be in the running for understatement of the year.

"It kind of happened quick. I can't really remember what happened. You walk a guy, give up a base hit, next thing you know, it's a 3-0 game."

And with Bartolo Colon and his magic-healing fat stem cells acting as a fountain of youth for the 2005 American League Cy Young Award winner, that was essentially the ballgame.

A hard-hit single up the middle by Derek Jeter to lead off the game was followed by a Curtis Granderson fly out before Mark Teixeira took advantage of Cahill's anxiousness.

"He sure doesn't seem like it," A's manager Bob Geren said, when asked if Cahill was especially more amped up to face the Yankees. "On the outside."

The way to tell, then, is by Cahill's pitch location. The less control he has, the more tightly-wound he is. And the higher his pitches sail.

On a 1-and-2 count to Teixeira, Cahill tried to bury a curveball into the dirt. Instead, it hung. And Teixeira pounded the ball into the right-field stands for a two-run home run.

Then Cahill walked Alex Rodriguez before Robinson Cano doubled into the right-center gap. Three-to-nothing, Yankees, and Cahill had yet to break a sweat.

"You just try to execute one pitch at a time," Cahill said.

One batter at a time.

Getting knocked around by the first five hitters he faced seemed to actually settle the youngster. Cahill allowed only one hit the rest of his afternoon, though he did walk four more batters, including two in the fateful seventh.

Those figurative saucer-eyes that Cahill was sporting in the first inning? Long gone by the end of the sixth. He even appeared to twice buzz Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli with knockdown pitches under the chin after he stole second base in the second inning. But more impartial observers thought the balls just got away from Cahill, and that Cervelli is seen as a drama queen, of sorts, who hangs out over the plate and dives out of the way on anything close.

"Trevor is still very young and he continues to get better," Geren said.

Except, Cahill has gotten progressively worse after starting out 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA in his first eight starts. Since then, he is 0-2 with a 3.51 ERA in four outings.

His numbers against the Yankees in his career, though, are downright gruesome in going 0-3 with a 9.72 ERA in three starts against them.

Weariness and related poor mechanics that resulted in a different arm slot did him in come the seventh.

"I paid for it," he said. "It's about getting comfortable and confident."

Still think they're not in his head? At the risk of giving the Yankees and their bought-and-paid-for mystique too much credit, they most certainly should be.

They have a \$207-million payroll. Twenty-seven World Series championships. And, as one A's player told me he felt about the Yankees when he first came up to the bigs, "They're men."

To his credit, Cahill settled down. But it was too late. Especially with the A's bats going back into hibernation.

Now, if only the A's could inject some of Colon's fat stem cells into their bats.

### **Ratto: A's must change to either contend or entertain**

Ray Ratto, CSNCalifornia.com

OAKLAND -- It's never entirely fair to take one game and make sweeping generalizations about a baseball team – not when there are 161 others that could mislead a body.

And yes, the A's are no more a failure after being suffocated by Bartolo Colon Monday than they were pennant contenders after sweeping the Orioles over the weekend. Their strengths were displayed against Baltimore, their crushing weakness against New York.

But frankly, and we speak here only as people who crave entertainment, the A's need another internal problem to get our attention.

Oh, the Brian Fuentes-Bob Geren-Huston Street dance mix was diverting enough, but as you knew he would, Billy Beane raced to quell the disturbance before it became, well, a disturbance.

That is because Beane is a well known pooper of parties, no scatology intended. He hates when players speak up, and especially hates it when they speak up for a manager he likes (as opposed to, say, Ken Macha).

And Daric Barton, the stealth two-hitter who snapped at an abusive fan Sunday afternoon, might do so again. I mean, a fella can hope, right?

Still, as it can now be reasonably inferred that the A's will rank among the worst in baseball at generating offense through power, thoroughly mediocre at generating it through speed, and unlikely at generating it through misdirection or trickery, the A's need such diversions for the masses to keep us from forgetting them in the summer to come.

(You'll notice here that we are not going to go into an attendance rant. That's a tired old chestnut that has been hashed out a hundred times in eight dozen different ways, and is unworthy either of these fingers or your eyes).

Still, when the big payoff for the Elephants' attempts at audience-wrangling center around "Well, the rest of the division is lousy, too," there is no big payoff at all.

Someone, you see, will come out of this division with 90 wins. Someone has to. Well, someone's surely going to. Only 15 American League teams since 1969, the first year of playoffs, have reached the postseason with fewer than 90, and that's out of 56 possible spots (we excluded the two strike years), and twice, in 1987 (Twins, Yankees) and 1998 (Indians, Rangers), have two sub-90s made it in the same season.

In short, unless this is a much worse year than we believe, the A's are going to have to defy some extraordinary odds to find themselves playing that elusive 163rd game.

As of today, they will have to pick up the pace to score 600 runs. Only one AL team, the 1972 Tigers, got to the postseason scoring fewer, with 558 in 156 games, pro-rated to 579. The A's current pace is 580.

In short, they are very much a National League team ... a National League team from the mid-60s. The 1968 Pirates, in fact, who finished 80-82, 40-41 both home and away and averaged less than a homer every two days.

And that means they are bland without the hope of being a dynamic team in any other way save manager sniping.

Now maybe we're overselling the Rangers or Angels here (you can't oversell the Mariners as much as they are overselling themselves now), but we doubt it. It's hard to advance with as few wins as the A's are projecting, so they'd better have something else to go with, and no, holding their breaths until they get a new stadium won't do it ... unless there's a hypoxia promotion scheduled for later this year.

So we think lashing out at someone looks like the way to go. Media members don't raise the hackles, so it'll have to be fans, the manager, the general manager, the owners, players on players, an umpire. You know, something a little closer to the action. I mean, we did have fun with the Geren-Fuentes thing, we really did. Sure it sort of sucked for Geren and Fuentes, but you can't have an omelet without throwing eggs against your breakfast partner's face.

Or maybe they can figure out a way to work the Buster Posey Kennedyesque-tragedy angle the Giants' fan base has flogged so well this last week. I don't know how they'd do it, but a mere broken leg clearly won't be enough.

Otherwise, they'll remain as they are – a study in earnest inertia. Pitching well, hitting barely at all, fielding well below the norm and watching others have all the fun in September. And that's if there are NFL and NBA lockouts.

This, kids, is no way to go through the summer. No way at all.

### **A's lineup in need of a dramatic makeover**

Glenn Dickey, San Francisco Examiner

The A's have the best pitching in the majors, with an ERA a half-run lower than the Giants, but inconsistent hitting has kept them mired around .500. Since a big trade is highly unlikely, here are two suggestions to improve their hitting with the current roster:

- Quit trying to pretend that Daric Barton is a major league first baseman.

Barton was a highly touted young hitter when he came to the A's in 2004 with Dan Haren in a deal that sent Mark Mulder to the St. Louis Cardinals. He hit well as he moved up in the minor leagues, but he has been largely a bust with the A's, from a .226 average as a rookie to .273 last year, but with only 10 home runs. This year, he's been barely over .200.

Corner infielders are supposed to provide power for a team, but the A's are getting virtually nothing from Barton and Kevin Kouzmanoff at third. There is some hope that Kouzmanoff is just in a slump because he's 29, in his prime and has been a decent power hitter in the recent past. He hit as many as 22 homers in a season at San Diego, which has the worst home run park in baseball, and had 16 for the A's last year.

But there's little hope Barton will ever develop power, and he's not even hitting for average this year. Yet, manager Bob Geren keeps him in the No. 2 slot in the batting order, day after day.

My solution: Put Conor Jackson at first base. Jackson, who played some third base at Cal, has been plagued by injuries throughout his career, but when he's been healthy he's shown some signs of power. He's trying to hit the ball out, too, instead of just taking pitches, as Barton does, sometimes through strike three.

Then David DeJesus could be moved into the No. 2 slot, so the A's would get some production there.

- Give up on the Hideki Matsui experiment. Matsui has had a great career in Japan and in the U.S., but he's a liability for the A's, not hitting for either power or average. Lately, he hasn't played at all when the A's face a left-handed pitcher.

Josh Willingham was the DH in Sunday's game against the Orioles, and his three-run homer was the difference in the A's 6-4 win. Willingham is on a pace to hit 27 home runs this season, which is phenomenal for the current A's. He's not much defensively, so keeping him as the DH would allow Geren to play an outfield of Ryan Sweeney in right, Coco Crisp in center and DeJesus in left, which would be a great defensive outfield.

That would also give the A's more flexibility because, though they had Matsui work in the outfield before the interleague series with the Giants, he's really not capable of playing out there now. The A's didn't even try it that weekend.

It probably won't even take 90 wins to win the AL West this year. The A's certainly have the pitching to do it, but they need to make these changes to beef up their hitting.

### **Colon throws a complete game to shutout A's**

Malaika Bobino, Oakland Post

Oakland, CA – One mistake proved costly and there was no way to recover from the damage that had already been done. Trevor Cahill is one of the best pitchers on the rise but against the New York Yankees his struggles continue.

The A's four game winning streak came to an end at the hands of Bartolo Colon who shutout Oakland 5-0. Colon hadn't pitched a complete game shutout since July 5, 2006, when he was pitching for the Anaheim Angels at Seattle.

"Trevor got into trouble in the first, obviously the homer," manager Bob Geren said. "I thought he settled down which was good but offensively not much there."

Things went awry for Cahill early as he allowed three runs in the first frame which included Mark Teixeira's two-run homer followed by Robinson Cano's double to give the Yankees a 3-0 lead. Not the best way to start against a power hitting team especially when he's had no success in the past.

Trevor has an 0-3 record facing New York and a 10.00 ERA in three career starts which combine eight walks and five home runs. The first loss came in a 6-1 decision in Oakland on July 6, snapping his career best seven-game winning streak. The other was on August 30 in New York when he allowed a career-high tying eight runs in 4.0 innings.

"I've just kind of been toying with my mechanics a little bit," said Cahill. "I feel like I haven't gotten it consistent where I feel like I can repeat myself." "In the first inning especially, no matter how good I feel in the bullpen, when a hitter stands in there, stuff can change."

Cahill managed to calm down for the next five innings but was pulled in the seventh after giving up back-to-back walks which resulted in the Yankees next run. Derek Jeter's sacrifice fly to center field brought in Brett Gardner who previously stole both second and third base.

The A's managed only four hits and the only base runner through the first five inning came on Josh Willingham's leadoff double in the second frame. Cliff Pennington hit a double to leadoff the ninth but New York's defense shut any chances of pulling off a miracle behind Barolo's stellar pitching.

"A pretty solid performance from Colon," Geren said. "The best I've seen in a long, long time, pretty good job to shut us down."

The 38-year old walked none, struck out six in what seemed like perfection. An easy decision for manager Joe Girardi to leave him in for nine innings. With a five run lead, Girardi had no reason to bother with the bullpen especially the way the defense had been playing throughout the game.

"With a leadoff double in the ninth and they [A's] didn't score any more runs shows you how on he was today," he explained. "He told me he had two more [innings] in him and I told him I don't want to go two more, I want this to be it. He said he was great and we were going to send him back out."

### **Colon, Yankees blank A's, 5-0**

By JOSH DUBOW, ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Bartolo Colon pitched a four-hitter for his first shutout in nearly five years and Mark Teixeira homered in the first inning to help the New York Yankees beat the Oakland Athletics for the eighth straight time, 5-0 on Monday.

Robinson Cano added an RBI double in the three-run first against Trevor Cahill (6-3) and Derek Jeter recorded his 2,981st career hit and drove in a run for the Yankees, who have won 22 of 26 games against Oakland since the start of the 2008 season.

The offensively challenged A's were shut out for the sixth time this year, getting only four baserunners against Colon (3-3) to snap a season-longest four-game winning streak.

Colon allowed no walks and struck out six to snap a five-start winless stretch with his first shutout since blanking Seattle 4-0 on July 5, 2006, with the Angels.

This marked the latest step in a remarkable comeback season for the 38-year-old Colon, who was out of baseball a year ago and was brought by the Yankees to spring training on a minor league deal. Colon earned a spot in the rotation early this season and has maintained it with a 3.26 ERA in the opening two months of the year.

The Yankees have now won back-to-back games behind strong starts from Colon and CC Sabathia after losing the first two games of their nine-game West Coast trip.

Cahill was shelled in two starts against the Yankees last year, allowing 14 runs in 10 innings in two losses. He started this game much the same way with a three-run first inning.

Jeter got it started with a leadoff single and scored with one out on Teixeira's 16th home run and seventh in the past 11 games. Alex Rodriguez then walked and scored on Robinson Cano's double. Cano was caught on the play rounding too far past second and Cahill settled down after that. He retired Jorge Posada to get out of the first and then gave up just one hit and no runs over the next five innings.

The Yankees then added an insurance run in the seventh. Brett Gardner and Francisco Cervelli walked and pulled off a double steal. Gardner then scored on Jeter's shallow fly to center field when Coco Crisp's throw home was far off target. Cahill allowed four runs, four hits and five walks in 6 2-3 innings and is winless in his last four starts.



That proved to be more than enough the way Colon was dealing against Oakland's struggling offense, which has the third fewest runs in the majors.

After allowing a leadoff double to Josh Willingham in the second inning, Colon retired the next 12 hitters. Kevin Kouzmanoff broke that streak with a leadoff single in the sixth.

Kurt Suzuki reached on an infield hit in the eighth before being erased by a double play. Colon then pitched around Cliff Pennington's leadoff double in the ninth to finish his ninth career shutout. He hit 95 mph on the radar gun on the final of his 103 pitches, getting David DeJesus to fly out to left to end the game.

**Notes:** Yankees C Russell Martin was scratched before the game with a sore left big toe.

His replacement, Cervelli, became the first Yankees catcher to steal two bases in a game since current manager Joe Girardi did it June 27, 1996, against Baltimore. ... Monday marked the 16th anniversary of Jeter's first career hit. ... A's starters have allowed four runs or fewer in 28 straight starts, the longest streak for the team since a 32-gamer in 1980-81.

### **Tulare band makes impression at Oakland A's game**

Luis Hernandez, Tulare Advance Register

Tulare Community Band members endured rain, strong winds and Bay Area cold while waiting to perform the National Anthem at the Overstock.com Coliseum before the game between the Oakland A's and Baltimore Orioles Saturday.

Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, playing the "Star Spangle Banner" right before a Major League Baseball game was quiet an experience for band members, Director Bill Ingram said.

"I think it's a feather in their cap," he said. "It's a memory that will stay with them for a long time. They talked about it the whole way back home."

The band was picked earlier this year to play at the Coliseum after sending an audition tape at the beginning of the year, Ingram said. Ingram wanted a game that included a fireworks show afterwards.

Ingram chose wisely. "It was a first-class show," he said.

Ingram said 35 band members, ranging in age from 15 to 84, made the trip. An additional 15 people accompanied the musicians.

The weather threw a curve ball to band members. Typically, a sound check is performed about three hours before game time. On Saturday, the sound check wasn't completed until 5:15, a little less than two hours before first pitch. A rain delay forced the National Anthem Performance about 30 minutes after originally scheduled. No matter. Community band members hit the right notes during their performance, Ingram said.

### **Interacting with players**

During the sound check, Oakland A's players were taking batting practice, Ingram said. One of the players walked over to the band and started playing the timbales.

"I wish I could tell you who the player was," Ingram said.

Later in the evening, while walking by the Orioles' dugout, band members were congratulated by one of the players from Baltimore.

"Good job," Ingram said the player told the band members.

### **Frequent music visitor**

Saturday was a return trip for Ingram. Previously, while band director at Tulare Union and Mission Oak marching bands, Ingram also took local musicians to Oakland and play the National Anthem before an A's game.

When he took Union, Ingram took more than 100 musicians. When he went with Mission Oak, Ingram took 45 musicians. The most recent trip was his smallest ensemble. Still, the A's organization members were pleasant to work with, Ingram said.

"They treated me good," he said.

The weekend performance could lead to future appearances in Oakland, Ingram said. "We've got our foot in the door," he said.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento nets split with Highway 80 rival**

By Mike Morris / Sacramento River Cats

While many were off work on this Memorial Day, the River Cats were busy hammering away at Aces Ballpark. Sacramento scored 12 runs in the last four innings en route to a 16-5 win.

Heading into the final game of the four-game Reno road trip, the Aces had a chance to be the first team this season to win a series at home against Sacramento. Through the first four innings it looked like the Aces would knock off the River Cats for the first time this year, but luckily for the River Cats it's not how you start but how you finish.

After a lead-off triple in the first inning by Jemile Weeks and a walk from newest River Cat Scott Sizemore (acquired from Detroit in David Purcey trade), Matt Carson hit a home run to score three early. The River Cats would score one more before going through the order making it a 4-0 lead for Sacramento.

The Aces scored two in the bottom of the first after a two-run homer by Wily Mo Pena, His 17th home run of the season.

Pena had a lead-off double in the fourth that put Reno in position to tie the game and take the lead. However, Reno was only able to put two runs on the board, tying the game until the sixth inning when Sacramento took the lead and didn't look back.

Shane Peterson hit his fifth home run of the season to start the inning and Anthony Recker brought in Sizemore to give the River Cats their third two-run lead of the game. The River Cats scored five in the eighth and five more in the ninth to seal the win.

Carson (six) and Peterson (three) combined for nine RBIs in the game. Carson hit a ground-rule double early in the eight and he hit his second home run of the night in the ninth inning. Sizemore showed us why he was worthy of being acquired, going 3-for-4 on the day. Sizemore scored four runs and walked twice.

The River Cats as a team only struck out three times and walked nine. They combined for 19 hits, one shy of 20, the most they have had this year. However, the 16 runs are the most by the Cats this season.

With Sacramento winning and Las Vegas losing, the River Cats extend their first-place lead to two games in the division.

The River Cats will be back in Sacramento on Tuesday as they will start a home series against Salt Lake with, "The Cuban Professor," Yadel Marti (2-0, 4.72) going against Bees left-hander Ryan Ketchner (2-2, 4.20).

### **Hounds Take Series With Memorial Day Win**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

Citibank Ballpark

Memorial Day and the national pastime are something of a Norman Rockwell painting ... a classic. Monday's game at Citibank Ballpark saw a worthy match-up, with a "home team home run" breaking a 2-2 tie in a well-played game (in front of a good and "into the game" Memorial Day crowd of 3,690).

Adam Heether belted a 2-run home run to left in the last of the fifth inning, breaking a 2-2 tie that had stood since the first inning, and the 'Hounds would hold that 4-2 advantage the rest of the way.

Heether finished 3-for-4 with two singles, the home run and three RBI to lead the way. His homer followed a "hustle double" by Tyler Ladendorf in the 'Hounds fifth inning. Ladendorf went 1-for-3 with a walk and scored twice filling in at the top of the order with Jermaine Mitchell being given the day off.

The RockHounds turned three double plays, each a significant turning point in the game, but one was "something you don't see every day."

Nick Van Stratten narrowly beat Grant Green's' throw to first for a single with one out in the fifth. Derrick Robinson then singled on a flair toward the right field line, and tried to stretch it into a double. Jeremy Barfield threw to Green, who caught Robinson in a short rundown between first and second. Van Stratten then rounded third and took a few steps toward home. Green ran straight at Van Stratten, who broke for home. Green took the ball the ball all the way to the plate, tagging Van Stratten out at home for a MOST unusual, "9-6" double play.

- The RockHounds split their 6-game home stand, but took 2-of-3 from Northwest Arkansas.

- Jermaine Mitchell was out of the line-up Monday, ending the month of May with a 23-game on-base streak (in which he is hitting exactly .400). The streak matches the longest on-base streak (reaching base via hit, walk or hit by pitch) in the Texas League this season. Entering Sunday's play, Jermaine led the Texas League in batting (.366), on-base percentage (.489), hits (68), runs (52), walks (44) and triples. His 13 triples lead all of minor league baseball (no other TL hitter has more than four) and he is tied for the minor league lead in runs scored.

- The home stand finale was the "exception to the rule," with just six total runs scored, one-third of the runs the 'Hounds and their opponents (Tulsa and NW Arkansas) had averaged in the first five games (18 per game).

- Tuesday is a league-wide travel day, with the RockHounds now facing the same two clubs they have hosted ... Tulsa and Northwest Arkansas ... a a pair of 3-game road series'. The 'Hounds are at Tulsa Wednesday, Thursday & Friday ... then travel to Springdale, Arkansas for a Saturday-through-Monday set with the Naturals.

### **Giants Win 11th Straight; Beat Ports 5-3**

05/30/2011 5:00 PM ET

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** - The San Jose Giants are on pace to do something that hasn't been done in the 24-year history of their franchise-win 12 straight games. For the seventh straight time, the Giants bested the Stockton Ports on Monday afternoon, this time by a final count of 5-3. The Ports are now nine games back of San Jose in the North Division with 19 games left to play in the first half.

The Giants scored early against Ports starter Jake Brown (0-1). Gary Brown, who went 3-for-4 on the afternoon, singled to start the bottom of the 1st. With Brown at third base and two down, Chris Dominguez hit a soft flair toward right field that fell in just off the extended glove of second-baseman Conner Crumbliss, giving the Giants a 1-0 lead.

San Jose added a pair of runs in the 2nd. With one out, Luke Anders hit a solo home run to right-center to make it a 2-0 lead. Two batters later with two down, Carter Juirica singled to left, stole second, and then scored on an ensuing single from Brown to give the Giants a 3-0 advantage.

Brown would settle down nicely for Stockton, holding the Giants scoreless in innings 3-5. Brown recorded the first two outs in the 6th before allowing a double to Anders that ended his afternoon. Brett Hunter came in from the bullpen and Hunter allowed a single to center to Nick Liles to make it a 4-0 Giants lead.

Brown took the loss for Stockton, going 5.2 innings and allowing four runs on seven hits while striking out two and walking one.

Hunter pitched the 7th inning for Stockton and would be tagged for a run. With one out, Brown singled to center, then stole second and third to force the infield in with one out. With the shallow infield, Wendell Fairley hit a slow roller to the right side that found its way through, scoring Brown and giving the Giants a 5-0 lead.

Hunter allowed just the one run in his 1.1 innings of work.

The Ports did get on the board in the 8th, ending what was a 17.2 inning scoreless streak for Giants pitching. With two down in the 8th, Crumbliss singled to right and came home on an ensuing triple from Michael Gilmartin to make it a 5-1 game.

Gilmartin would score on an ensuing fielding error made by the shortstop Jurica on a ball hit by Michael Choice to make it 5-2. The two runs (one earned) were charged to Hector Correa who pitched just the one inning for San Jose.

Giants closer Heath Hembree (SV, 17) came on to pitch the 9th. With one out in the inning, Hembree allowed a solo home run to Anthony Aliotti to make it 5-3. It was the first home run allowed this season by Hembree and the first run he'd allowed since April 13th. Hembree, however, would complete a strikeout of the side with back-to-back K's of Myrio Richard and Dusty Coleman.

The Ports will try and salvage the final game of their three-game set with the Giants on Tuesday night at Municipal Stadium. Dan Straily (3-3, 4.45 ERA) heads to the bump for Stockton, opposed by San Jose right-hander David Mixon (2-0, 2.65 ERA). First pitch is set for 7 p.m. PDT.

### **Quad Cities Takes Two From Burlington**

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BURLINGTON, IA-The Quad Cities River Bandits (27-24) scored five runs in the eighth inning to earn an 8-3 over the Burlington Bees (36-16) in game one of a doubleheader at Community Field on Monday afternoon. In game two the River Bandits won 3-2 to complete the doubleheader sweep.

In game one of the double header Burlington opened up the scoring in the second inning on a two-run home run by LF Douglas Landaeta (1-3). DH Josh Whitaker (2-3) led off the inning with a double and scored on a two-run home run over the left field wall for a 2-0 lead.

The Bees pushed across another run in the third inning. RF Royce Consigli (2-4) singled and moved to second base on a wild pitch by Quad Cities LHP Anthony Ferrara. Whitaker singled home Consigli for a 3-0 Bees advantage.

Quad Cities scored two runs in the fifth inning to get within one run at 3-2.

The River Bandits tied the game in the seventh inning on an RBI double by C Robert Stock (2-3) for a 3-3 score and sent nine men to the plate in the eighth inning. A three-run home run by Stock rounded out the scoring at 8-3.

In game two of the twin-bill, RF Royce Consigli (2-3) singled and moved to second base on a wild pitch. 1B Josh Whitaker (0-3) reached base on an error and Consigli scored. Whitaker stole third base and scored on a throwing error by Quad Cities C Cody Stanley for a 2-0 lead.

The River Bandits scored a run in a throwing error in the third inning and took a 3-2 lead in the fifth inning when C Cody Stanley (2-3) smacked a two-run home run against Bees RHP Blake Hassebrock (3-1).

The Bees head to Midland, Michigan to begin a series with the Great Lakes Loons, the Midwest League Affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers. RHP Red Patterson (4-3, 3.35) gets the start for the Great Lakes against RHP Josh Bowman (5-1, 3.19) for Burlington.