

Yankees thump A's 10-3

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

After a rocky start to Tuesday's game, it seemed things could only get better for Brett Anderson.

They didn't.

The A's left-hander got tagged for 11 hits and nine earned runs, both career highs, as Oakland absorbed a 10-3 smackdown from the New York Yankees.

Anderson found trouble before many fans found their seats.

He allowed Derek Jeter's single to start the game and then served up a two-run homer to Curtis Granderson.

Granderson would later add a two-run single to cap his four-RBI night and Robinson Cano unloaded a two-run homer in the fifth.

"It just wasn't my game tonight all around," Anderson said. "It was just kind of, make a pitch, he gets a hit. Don't make a pitch, he hits it out. One of the two. It was just one of those nights."

The A's rode a four-game winning streak coming into this series and were feeling pretty good about themselves. But they've watched front-line starters Anderson and Trevor Cahill falter in the first two games, and they've now lost an Oakland-record nine straight to the Yankees going back to last season.

Anderson found trouble right away, just as Cahill did Monday. But whereas Cahill limited the damage after allowing three runs in the first, Anderson never found firm footing.

The Yankees increased their lead to 3-0 in the third on Alex Rodriguez's two-out bloop RBI single. The rally was aided by second baseman Mark Ellis' throwing error.

"You can't give those guys extra outs," Ellis said. "If you do, it's going to hurt you."

Anderson endured a frustrating string of events in the fourth when the Yankees scored two more to make it 5-1.

After a botched squeeze play left base runner Nick Swisher hung out to dry between third and home, Anderson had two outs with just one runner on. But Brett Gardner reached base on a hit by pitch -- it was originally called a foul ball before Yankees manager Joe Girardi argued and the call was overturned -- and Jeter's infield single loaded the bases.

Granderson followed with a two-run single to right field.

Cano belted a two-run homer deep to right that made it 7-1 in the fifth.

The A's got on the board on David DeJesus' run-scoring single in the third. DeJesus added a two-run homer in the fifth that briefly brought the A's to within 7-3.

DeJesus was batting in the No. 2 spot with slumping Daric Barton out of the lineup. And with manager Bob Geren hinting that Barton could sit for more games, it's likely that DeJesus sees more time hitting second.

Designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who hit .197 in May, also was out of the lineup and could see more time on the bench.

Geren said he would decide "day to day" on when to reinsert Matsui. Josh Willingham served as DH on Tuesday and Ryan Sweeney played left field.

Anderson snapped a string of five outings without a win in his previous outing against the Angels. But he found the going rough Tuesday.

He came in having allowed just four homers over 73 innings, an average of 0.49 per nine innings. That was the sixth-best mark in the American League.

Geren said he didn't think Anderson's stuff was all that bad.

"It just didn't seem to work for Brett. It wasn't his night."

Oakland A's update: G.M. Billy Beane tells catcher Kurt Suzuki not to block the plate

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

A's general manager Billy Beane has made it clear to Kurt Suzuki: He doesn't want his catcher suffering the same fate as the Giants' Buster Posey.

Beane has given Suzuki orders not to block the plate when there's the chance of a big collision. The decision comes in light of Posey suffering a season-ending ankle injury last week after a violent hit at the plate from the Florida Marlins' Scott Cousins.

"You've got to give the runner an avenue to the plate," Beane said in a phone interview Tuesday. "A guy of Kurt's size, to plant himself in front of the plate is not a good idea. Kurt's a good athlete, and he needs to use that athleticism instead of becoming a human wall."

An espn.com story reported Beane is the first executive to give such orders to his catcher.

Suzuki -- listed at 5-foot-11, 196 pounds -- said he agrees with the plan and that there are other ways to keep in position to make a tag.

"If I have a feeling it's going to be a bang-bang play, and I'm putting myself in a vulnerable position, I'm not going to stand in front of (the runner)," Suzuki said. "If I think he's going to slide, then I'll take my chances."

Daric Barton didn't start Tuesday night against the New York Yankees, and manager Bob Geren said he might give his slumping first baseman multiple days off to work with hitting coach Gerald Perry.

Barton is hitting just .206, and when he does return, Geren said he might drop Barton from the second spot in the order.

"I'm not feeling too comfortable up there," Barton said. "There's a lot of things that go on in your mind when you go through something like this. It's obviously tough, but it's part of the game."

Will sitting for a day or two help?

"Let's hope," Barton said. "I mean, I'm trying everything right now."

"You need to get back to basics," Geren said. "He's going to take time seeing pitches, bunting, get back to some specific drills."

Right-hander Rich Harden (side muscle injury) threw off the mound and should be facing hitters soon.

Infielder Adam Rosales will start a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento on Wednesday.

The start time for Saturday's game at Boston has been changed from 4:10 p.m. (PT) to 10:10 a.m. It will still air on CSNCA.

Chin Music: Slumping Daric Barton to get day(s) off to figure things out

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 5/31/2011 8:55pm

Daric Barton did not start Tuesday, and A's manager Bob Geren said he might give his slumping first baseman multiple days off to work with hitting coach Gerald Perry.

Barton was hitting .206 entering Tuesday night's game against the New York Yankees. When Barton does return, Geren said he might drop him in the order from the second spot.

Conor Jackson started at first Tuesday.

"I'm not feeling too comfortable up there," Barton said. "I've never really had problems feeling comfortable. There's a lot of things that go on in your mind when you go through something like this. It's obviously tough, but it's part of the game."

Does he think sitting for a day or two will help?

"Let's hope," Barton said. "I mean, I'm trying everything right now. It's good to relax for a day and not have to stress myself out."

Designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who came in hitting .197 in May, also sat.

Geren said he'll go "day to day" on deciding when to re-insert Matsui.
Geren wants to give Barton time to work with Perry and clear his head.

"When you're not getting hits, you start thinking a lot," Geren said. "You need to step back, get back to basics. He's going to take time seeing pitches, bunting, get back to some specific drills."

-A's general manager Billy Beane said in an espn.com story that he's instructed catcher Kurt Suzuki not to block the plate so as to avoid injury.

The story claims that Beane is the first executive to give such orders to his catcher in light of the season-ending ankle injury to Giants catcher Buster Posey.

"I said to him, 'I don't want you planting yourself in front of the plate waiting to get creamed. You're an Athletic catcher — be athletic,'" Beane told ESPN.

-Right-hander Rich Harden, sidelined all season by a side muscle injury, threw off the mound for the second time. He should be facing hitters soon.

Starting pitcher Brandon McCarthy tested his injured shoulder by playing catch for the first time since going on the DL.

-The start time for Saturday's game against Red Sox has been changed from 4:10 p.m. (PT) to 10:10 a.m. It will still air on Comcast SportsNet California.

-Infielder Adam Rosales will start a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento on Wednesday

Yankees, feeling at home in Oakland, win 10-3

Ron Kroichick, Chronicle Staff Writer

Reggie Jackson wandered the premises Tuesday night, wearing Yankees garb in his role as a special instructor. That seemed fitting, because the Yanks still hit home runs in numbers befitting the franchise historically known as the Bronx Bombers.

They smacked two more Tuesday night, in another steamrolling of the A's. Curtis Granderson and Robinson Cano each went deep as the Yankees coasted to a 10-3 victory before 22,581 spectators at the Coliseum.

The A's brought a four-game winning streak into this series, but they've since crashed to earth with a loud thud. New York has led after every inning in winning the first two games, outscoring the A's 15-3 overall and leaving little doubt about the superior team.

The disparity starts with pure, raw power. The Yankees lead the majors with 82 home runs and the A's languish near the bottom with 31. Or put it this way: Granderson and Mark Teixeira, the Nos. 2 and 3 hitters in New York's lineup, have more homers between them (33) than the entire A's team.

"Power is huge, especially in today's game when guys aren't banging out 40 and 50 homers like they used to," Oakland second baseman Mark Ellis said. "We still feel like we can compete, with good pitching, but it's a huge advantage when they can hit two- or three-run homers."

The Yankees struck quickly against A's starter Brett Anderson, much as they did Monday against Trevor Cahill. This time, Derek Jeter ripped Anderson's first pitch of the game for an infield single - his one-hopper handcuffed Ellis - and Granderson followed with a ringing home run into the right-field seats.

This latest display of pinstripe power did more than push the Yankees ahead 2-0. It also created an unmistakable here-we-go-again feeling, as if the outcome spun in little doubt.

"You face one guy and then the next guy is an All-Star and potential Hall of Famer," Anderson said.

The A's didn't exactly help themselves. They trailed 3-0 when Kevin Kouzmanoff opened the bottom of the third with a hit down the left-field line. Kouzmanoff ran at much less than full speed toward first base, apparently not sure the ball would be fair, and then abruptly shifted into gear as he rounded the bag.

New York left fielder Brett Gardner scurried into the corner, gathered the ball and made a perfect throw to second base. Kouzmanoff was out easily. His mistake proved costly when the next batter, Andy LaRoche, tripled.

The game soon careened out of control. The Yankees stretched their lead to 5-1 in the fourth - on Granderson's two-run, two-out single - and then added two runs in the fifth (on Cano's homer) and three more in the sixth.

Anderson relinquished 10 runs (nine earned) and 11 hits, both career highs. His earned-run average soared from 2.84 to 3.68.

"It's just a good lineup, one of the toughest in baseball," Anderson said of the Yankees. "We've got the Red Sox coming up (starting Friday), so it's not going to get any easier."

A's put slumping Daric Barton on the bench

Ron Kroichick, Chronicle Staff Writer

One day after suggesting he might drop **Daric Barton** from his customary No. 2 spot in the order, manager **Bob Geren** went a step further - he kept Barton out of the lineup entirely for Tuesday night's game against the Yankees.

Barton's average dropped to .206 after he went 0-for-4 on Monday. Geren hinted Barton also might sit out today, potentially giving him three consecutive days off (the A's don't play Thursday) entering Friday night's game in Boston.

"We're trying to get him right," Geren said. "Maybe a day or two away from the lineup, working with **Gerald (Perry)**, will get his mind right."

Barton and Perry, the A's hitting coach, have been analyzing video of Barton's swing when he was hitting better.

Shortstop **Cliff Pennington** also didn't start Tuesday night, despite a nine-game hitting streak. Pennington had played the past 18 consecutive days, and Geren said "his body needed a rest."

Beane's orders: A's general manager **Billy Beane** apparently initiated a conversation with catcher **Kurt Suzuki** in the wake of **Buster Posey's** season-ending injury. The message: Don't put yourself in harm's way.

"I said to him, 'I don't want you planting yourself in front of the plate waiting to get creamed,' " Beane told ESPN's **Buster Olney**.

According to Olney, Beane said he told Suzuki, "You're an Athletic catcher - be athletic. I don't subscribe to the theory you should be a crash-test dummy. I don't want to lose you for six months."

Briefly: Geren said there's a "strong possibility" the A's will rearrange their rotation after Thursday's off day. They could skip **Guillermo Moscoso's** turn, allowing **Brett Anderson** to face Boston on Sunday. Anderson is 4-1 with a 2.08 ERA against the Red Sox. ... Saturday's game time at Fenway Park has been moved to 10:10 a.m. PDT. ... **Adam Rosales** will begin his rehabilitation assignment tonight at Triple-A Sacramento.

A's leading off

Not his mound: Mark Teixeira was nearing second base when his first-inning pop-up landed just foul down the right-field line. Teixeira's path back to home plate would have taken him over the pitcher's mound, but he trotted around the dirt. Alex Rodriguez watched from the on-deck circle.

Drumbeat: A's pregame: Barton sits

Ron Kroichick, San Francisco Chronicle 5/31/2011, 5:17pm

A's manager Bob Geren didn't just drop Daric Barton in the batting order -- he took him out entirely.

Barton is not in the lineup for tonight's game against the Yankees. One day earlier, Geren had suggested he might move Barton from his customary No. 2 spot in the order, given his season-long struggles at the plate (he's hitting only .206).

Now the plan is for Barton to take a break from playing altogether. If he doesn't play Wednesday, then he would have three consecutive days off (the A's don't play Thursday) heading into Friday's road trip opener in Boston.

"We're trying to get him right," Geren said. "Maybe a day or two away from the lineup, working with Gerald (Perry) to get his mind right, is probably best for him."

Other pregame nuggets:

**Pitcher Rich Harden (muscle strain under right arm) threw a side session in the bullpen and probably will do so again Friday at Fenway Park.

**Infielder Adam Rosales (foot surgery) stopped in Oakland on his way to Sacramento, where he will begin a rehabilitation assignment Wednesday.

**Shortstop Cliff Pennington is sitting tonight because he's played "17 or 18 days in a row," Geren said, "and his body definitely needs a rest."

**The lineup tonight behind Brett Anderson, against Yankees right-hander Freddy Garcia: Crisp CF; DeJesus RF; Jackson 1B; Willingham DH; Sweeney LF; Suzuki C; Ellis 2B; Kouzmanoff 3B; La Roche SS.

Forgettable night for Anderson as A's fall

By Jane Lee / MLB.com | 6/1/2011 2:25 AM ET

OAKLAND -- The A's don't like to enforce the idea that the Yankees represent something of the big, bad monster sort.

Those pinstripes, they're just another Major League team, they say.

Maybe so, but the monster theory seems to be rather applicable when the Yankees are playing the A's, who on Tuesday dropped a 10-3 contest to a visiting New York team that has now won 11 of its past 12 games against Oakland.

Taking the most recent brunt of the Yankees' loaded lineup was lefty Brett Anderson, who was tagged for a career-high 11 hits, including two homers, and nine earned runs -- 10 total -- in just 5 1/3 innings, dropping to 0-4 with a 6.58 ERA in five career starts against New York.

The A's southpaw had surrendered a combined 10 earned runs and just one homer in his previous five starts in May, but on Tuesday faced a patient bunch of power hitters that have combined for a Major League-best 82 home runs.

"What you try to do is stay aggressive and make them hit the ball," manager Bob Geren said. "That's what Brett did. Don't fall behind and walk guys. He was aggressive from the first pitch of the game."

But from the get-go, so were his opponents. Anderson offered up a leadoff base hit to Derek Jeter and proceeded to watch Curtis Granderson launch his 17th homer of the season to right field, marking the second straight night an A's starter was buried by a first-inning long ball.

"I fed him fastballs trying to go in and left it out over the plate," Anderson said. "Then I made a good pitch on a breaking ball that he kind of hooks into right [in Granderson's second at-bat]. He's just covering all sides of the plate, up and down, right now. He's a tough out."

New York's habit of knocking around baseball's best rotation -- the A's entered the contest with a Major League-best 2.67 ERA -- only continued thereafter, as the Yankees scored in four more innings, including a pair in the fifth courtesy of a two-run shot off the bat of Robinson Cano.

Perhaps there still exists an ounce of mystique around the Yankees, but their manager simply broke down his club's success against the A's in a rather straightforward manner.

"We have a good lineup," New York skipper Joe Girardi said. "We have a deep lineup and we have patient hitters that know how to work the count and foul pitches off. When guys make some mistakes, they get to them."

Granderson particularly did that well on Tuesday, going 3-for-5 with a season-high four RBIs. Along with his first-inning home run, the Yankees' center fielder singled in two more in the fourth and scored another run in the sixth when New York finally chased Anderson from the game.

"You never like to put yourself behind the eight ball, but you try to put that behind you and go on to the next one," Anderson said. "It seems you face one guy, then another guy that's an All-Star, a potential Hall of Famer comes up. It's tough. It's another big league lineup you have to go through and try to battle your way through it, and I just didn't do a very good job of that tonight."

While Oakland's offensive output couldn't match that of the surging Yankees, the A's at least showed life at the plate a day removed from being held to four hits against Bartolo Colon. Sporting a fresh lineup that withheld struggling faces Daric Barton and Hideki Matsui, along with a red-hot Cliff Pennington, the A's scattered nine hits against Yankees hurler Freddy Garcia.

The biggest came from David DeJesus in the fifth, when the A's outfielder notched his fifth home run of the season with a two-run shot that barely cleared the right-field wall. DeJesus accounted for all three RBIs for the A's, as his third-inning RBI

single represented Oakland's first and only other run of the night, as Garcia managed to limit the damage over seven innings.

"The lead was obviously too much to overcome," Geren said.

His club finished the month of May with a 14-15 record and in fourth place in the American League West, but just 2 1/2 games behind first-place Texas.

The A's were coming off a season-high four-game winning streak entering the Yankees series, and New York's exit won't necessarily guarantee a return to those winning ways. Oakland enjoys its first off-day following a stretch of 20 straight games only to hit the road for 10 contests against the Red Sox, Orioles and White Sox.

"I thought we were playing pretty good baseball coming into this series, but that's the good thing about baseball -- you get to play again tomorrow and bounce back," Mark Ellis said. "You win a game tomorrow and you don't forget about the two games, but you kind of build momentum toward the next series."

The task of such a feat will rest upon Wednesday starter Gio Gonzalez, who is 1-2 with a 6.60 ERA in three career starts against the Yankees, who will counter with righty A.J. Burnett.

"It's a tough ballclub," Anderson said. "You know what you're going to get into when you face the Yankees. Trevor [Cahill] and I didn't get us off to the greatest start, but Gio's coming in tomorrow and will hopefully stabilize things and get us on track for our long road trip."

A's give Barton time to find confidence, swing

By Jane Lee and Tom Green / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Following Daric Barton's 0-for-4 showing in Monday's loss to the Yankees, A's manager Bob Geren noted he would consider moving his first baseman down from the second spot in the batting order.

Sure enough, Barton wasn't there when Tuesday's lineup was posted. In fact, his name wasn't even found among the starting nine, as Conor Jackson was handed a start at first base, hitting behind David DeJesus' No. 2 slot.

"Barton's been struggling a little bit," Geren acknowledged. "We'll give him time to get him right, and I think maybe a day or two or so away from the lineup to do that and do a few things to get his mind right on his swing and his approach is probably best for him."

That means Barton's lineup absence could extend through the week, as he attempts to target unfamiliar struggles, evidenced by his .206 season average. He's 3-for-24 over his past seven games and is batting .177 in his past 38.

"It's just one of those things [where] you have to find something, anything that clicks in your head or at the plate," Barton said. "I'm not feeling too comfortable out there, so that's been something that's been bugging me. I've never really had a problem feeling comfortable up there."

"There are a lot of things that go on in your mind when you go through something like this, so it's tough, but it's part of the game and it's my job to figure out what to do to get back to success."

Barton, 26 years old and a career .260 hitter in four seasons with Oakland, currently owns the American League's third-lowest slugging percentage (.270) among qualifying players and is the only Major League first baseman with more than 75 at-bats that has yet to homer this season.

Well-known for his plate discipline, Barton still ranks among the top 10 in the AL with 31 walks, but he's also tallied 39 strikeouts, second-most on the A's behind Josh Willingham's 56. Though he feels like he's put together decent at-bats, Barton admitted to neither attacking the zone nor letting the ball travel enough.

"I seem to be getting deep into counts, just not putting consistent swings on pitches that I should be hitting," he said.

"We've looked at some video, and his swing doesn't look all that much different from when he's really been hot," Geren said. "I just think that, mentally, when you're not getting hits you start thinking a lot. You have to take a step back and go back to some basics. That's what he's going to do. He's going to spend some time tracking pitches, spend some time bunting, spend some time working on some specific drills.

"He's a good hitter, and he's always hit, and he will hit. We'll do whatever we can to try to help him."

Barton wasn't opposed to the mental day off, or the possibility of another one. In fact, he thinks it could be just what he needs.

"Let's hope," he said. "I'm trying anything right now, so it'll be good to relax for a day and not have to stress myself out."

Upon his return, Geren said he would still consider placing Barton elsewhere in the lineup, but also noted "he's a perfect No. 2 hitter when he's swinging."

"Whether a few adjustments, a couple days here, move him down, whatever can help him help the team, we'll do," he said.

Sweeney in lineup as Matsui sits out

OAKLAND -- Hideki Matsui was held out of the A's starting lineup on Tuesday for the 14th time this season, a nod to the veteran's continual struggle to find any consistency at the plate.

Matsui is hitting .222 on the season and has collected 14 hits in 71 at-bats in the month of May. If history is any indication of what could be, though, Matsui's bat could potentially wake up with the flip of the calendar on Wednesday.

Matsui is a .300 career hitter in June and also boasts a .307 average in the month of July, numbers far superior to his current performance, which also includes a .277 on-base percentage and .390 slugging mark.

"You go into each game, and you try to win every single game," manager Bob Geren said. "When guys are swinging the bats, you try to keep them in there. When guys are struggling, you have to put other guys in there. I have confidence he's going to hit. He's always hit."

In Matsui's stead, Josh Willingham served as designated hitter against Yankees starter Freddy Garcia while Ryan Sweeney got a start in left field -- a configuration that could be copied again.

"We'll go day to day," Geren said. "I know [Matsui] hasn't been swinging as well as he would like and Ryan, when giving the opportunity, has swung well."

Rosales to begin rehab assignment Wednesday

OAKLAND -- Infielder Adam Rosales returned to the A's clubhouse Tuesday, if only momentarily.

Rosales, who underwent foot surgery in December, made a stop in Oakland on Tuesday afternoon to pick up some bats before he made his way to Sacramento to begin his rehab assignment with the Triple-A club. The infielder was going to take batting practice with the team, but on-field batting practice was canceled due to rain.

After a stint in Arizona for some extended spring training games, Rosales will make his first rehab start in the Minors on Wednesday against Salt Lake City. A's manager Bob Geren said Rosales will play seven innings at third base Wednesday, then play shortstop the next day, but will move around the infield as his rehab progresses.

"Everything's gone perfect in his rehab and he's feeling pretty good," Geren said. "He's building up his legs and building up his at-bats to get his timing right."

Barring any unforeseen setbacks, the team is targeting the middle of June for Rosales to make his return to the club.

As soon as Rosales is ready and back to 100 percent, Geren hinted that he would be reactivated to the A's roster and likely reclaim the backup infielder spot currently manned by Andy LaRoche. In 37 games this year, LaRoche is hitting .233 with five RBIs and nine runs scored while sporting a .947 fielding percentage at all four infield positions.

"When [Rosales] is ready, we know he's a great player," Geren said. "He's feeling good and he's performing well, too. It's just a matter of time before he's 100 percent."

Injured Harden throwing off mound

OAKLAND -- Right-handed pitcher Rich Harden threw from the mound Saturday for the first time in nearly two months.

Harden, who is on the 60-day disabled list, has been sidelined with lat muscle soreness under his throwing arm and has yet to pitch this season. But the hurler, who signed a one-year deal worth \$1.5 million as a free agent in the offseason, tossed two side sessions in the past week on Saturday and Tuesday.

Although the throwing sessions are a positive step for Harden, A's manager Bob Geren said the righty is still a long ways away from throwing simulated games. In the meantime, Geren said he is just looking to make sure Harden feels good during the throwing sessions and is "free and easy."

"[Tuesday] was better than his first one, which was encouraging," Geren said. "He's just continuing to follow that plan, from long toss, to on the mound and build up from there."

Harden will travel with the team when it embarks on a 10-game road trip, and Geren said the plan is for Harden to throw another session on Friday in Boston.

Worth noting

Prior to Tuesday's game, the A's honored Dairyland Elementary School fifth-grader Morgan Dill, who won the 2011 Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life essay contest.

The A's, along with Sharon Robinson, the daughter of Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, held a ceremony to recognize Dill, whose winning essay was about her efforts to overcome a liver transplant.

Earlier in the day, Robinson visited Dill at school and spoke to students about her father, as it related to the Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life program, a multi-curricular character education program developed by MLB and Scholastic, Inc.

- Cliff Pennington, despite riding a nine-game hitting streak, was given a day of rest on Tuesday, while Andy LaRoche got the start at shortstop.

"His body is in definite need of a day off," Geren said. "He's been doing great, and we want to keep it that way."

- The start time of Saturday's game at Fenway Park in Boston has been moved from 4:10 p.m. PT to 10:10 a.m. According to the Red Sox, the game will start earlier so that fans can enjoy both the baseball game and the NHL Stanley Cup Finals between the Boston Bruins and Vancouver Canucks that night.

A's seek answers against Yankees

By Jon Star / MLB.com

The Yankees enter Wednesday's matchup having already won the series, something they've now accomplished nine consecutive times against the A's dating back to June 10, 2008.

The Bronx Bombers have also won nine straight against Oakland and 12 of the teams' last 13 meetings dating back to last season.

New York looks to keep the pressure on Oakland after outscoring the A's 15-3 during the first two games of the series. If the A's are to salvage a game in this series, keeping Curtis Granderson off the bases should be a priority.

The Yankees' center fielder continues to mash. He smacked his 17th home run of the season on Tuesday, taking Brett Anderson deep for his ninth home run off a southpaw this season. Granderson is also hitting .327 (20-for-61) off left-handers -- compared to .265 off righties. He has become a complete hitter against lefties, who perplexed Granderson for much of 2010. Manager Joe Girardi complimented his center fielder for the dynamic play he is bringing to the Yankees lineup.

"He has been [an elite hitter]. The numbers say that. When you think of Curtis, you think of his power, but because of his frame, you don't equate it to just a power hitter," Girardi said. "He's more than that. He's a guy that has speed, he can beat you with the way he runs, he can beat you in the outfield, he can steal bases, we've seen him sacrifice bunt and do a lot of things. I don't necessarily just think power hitter, but he has a lot of power."

Granderson's 17th round-tripper passed teammate Mark Teixeira for second place in all of baseball. Last season, Granderson did not hit his 17th home run until Sept. 2.

The starter, and another left-hander, tasked with slowing Granderson and the rest of the Yankees lineup is Gio Gonzalez. The A's starter has allowed just two earned runs in 11 2/3 innings with 15 strikeouts over his last two starts (two no-decisions). The two outings cemented a strong May in which he went 3-0 with a 1.67 ERA, but the performance was not enough to make Gonzalez settle.

"May's gone. I've got to try to stay positive and stay long in the games. You can't change your approach because you're going from month to month," Gonzalez said. "You've got to keep that approach going 100 percent until the end. It seems like starting off June, it's going to be tough. It's not going to be easy, but I've just got to try to go seven, eight innings and try to keep my team in the game and try to minimize damage as much as possible."

Taming the Yankees lineup figures to be a challenge. Gonzalez is 1-2 with a 6.60 ERA in three career starts against New York. Most notably, he has issued 13 walks to a notoriously patient Yankees lineup. The southpaw acknowledged the damage he could face if he isn't disciplined in his approach.

"It's a lineup you well have to respect, and that's guaranteed, but you can't give in automatically because it's the Yankees," he said. "They swing the bat really good and they're good, patient hitters and then they'll just change it up on you and go after a first pitch."

"I'm going to try to take them one step at a time, one hitter at a time and try to minimize damage as much as possible," he continued. "You have to respect the fact these guys are going to score runs. You can't think you're going to go out there and throw a nine-inning shutout."

Yankees: Jeter Meter inching closer

With two more hits on Tuesday night, Derek Jeter's career hit total now stands at 2,983. With fewer than 20 hits before reaching the historic 3,000 mark, is the Yankees captain thinking about his date with history?

"To be honest with you, I don't really know what could be coming up. Today is like every other day. You try to have good at-bats and get hits. I don't think that changes," Jeter said. "I haven't really thought about the pressure of it. I'm sure if you get close and go a game or two, everyone will say the pressure is getting to you. But you try to get a hit every time up."

So when will Jeter start thinking about the milestone?

"One away. Maybe under 10 seems close," Jeter said. "Now I don't really look at it as being close. We're around the corner, the next block, but we're not close."

Athletics: Power vacuum

This year's A's club boasts the lowest ERA in baseball at 2.88, but finding balance between pitching and offense remains a struggle as the bats have struggled to keep pace with the arms. The A's are hitting just .240 on the season and ranked in the bottom three in the American League in runs scored with 201. They have hit six home runs over their past 10 games,

but with just 31 on the season, they rank 12th in the AL.

Worth noting

Jeter is hitting .383 (28-for-73) when leading off an inning this season, with three doubles, two home runs and six walks. With Wednesday night's single to lead off the game, Jeter has now successfully reached base in the first inning 21 times in 42 opportunities when he has hit leadoff.

A's lose to Yankees, 10-3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Curtis Granderson homered and drove in four runs and Derek Jeter had two hits to reach 2,983 for his career and scored three runs to help the New York Yankees beat the Oakland Athletics for the ninth straight time, 10-3 on Tuesday night.

Robinson Cano also homered, Alex Rodriguez had three hits and three RBIs and Mark Teixeira took advantage of shoddy Oakland fielding to steal home for the Yankees, who have their longest winning streak against the A's since 1964-65, when the team was based in Kansas City.

Freddy Garcia (4-4) allowed three runs and nine hits in seven innings of his 300th career start.

Brett Anderson (3-5) allowed a career-worst 10 runs for the A's, who have lost 22 of 25 meetings against the Yankees.

Yankees bats too much for the A's

Malaika Bobino, Oakland Post

Oakland, CA – Another night of trouble on the mound, this time Brett Anderson was the victim of the Yankees offense. It seemed too easy for the Bronx Bombers, everything went their way much like yesterday's game except the A's managed to avoid a shutout.

Anderson was not the good luck charm many had hoped for but instead fell flat early. There wasn't much flare to his performance which led to a 10-3 crushing defeat by New York. Again, another long ball in the first inning put Oakland in a hole to deep to dig themselves out of.

"It didn't seem to work for Brett tonight," manager Bob Geren said. "Just seemed like some good pitches but the bloopers cost him." "They seemed to score every inning, the lead was too much to overcome."

Derek Jeter leadoff the game with a single and Curtis Granderson hit his seventeenth home run of the season and drove in four runs. Almost "deja vu from game one of the series. However, Oakland responded well on defense in the second inning when Brett Anderson's line drive to shortstop Andy LaRoche got the double play at first.

But Alex Rodriguez RBI single to center field made it difficult to keep pace. He also had three hits and brought in three runs which made it impossible for a comeback. Yet, the A's didn't raise any white flags, LaRoche knocked a three-base hit to right field and Nick Swisher lost sight of the ball. David DeJesus followed with a single RBI to give Oakland their first run.

Coco Crisp also contributed with a triple to leadoff the fifth and DeJesus gave life to the offense on a two-run homer that was his first for the season. Despite the effort the A's just ran out of gas yielding at least three errors in twenty-nine games. Bottom of the fourth Oakland was left with runners in position as Freddy Garcia loaded the bases after walking Kevin Kouzmanoff but Andy grounded out to shortstop for the out.

"It seems you face one guy, then another that's an All-Star, a potential Hall of Famer, it's tough," said Anderson. "It's another big league lineup you have to go through and try to battle your way through it and I just didn't do a very good job of that tonight."

In 5 1/3 innings Brett gave up eleven hits, ten runs (nine earned), three walks, three strikeouts, two home runs and one batter hit by a pitch. This was a career-high in both runs and earned runs. The last time he gave up nine earned runs was

May 15, 2009 against the Detroit Tigers. It was also the first time a starter allowed more than five or more runs in an outing.

Coming into tonight's game, Anderson had surrendered only two home runs in eleven of his starts including one in the month of May. But something was very different tonight, a combination of bad pitches and costly errors was the reason for the game spiraled out of control. His ERA ballooned from 2.84 to 3.68.

The Yankees third straight victory came behind the pitching of another new face, Garcia. He held the A's to three runs over seven innings, posting a win for the second straight start. The way he displayed his composure of getting out of trouble when needed included stranding the bases loaded in the fourth by getting LaRoche to bounce into a fielder's choice to prevent a strong comeback from Oakland.

"We have a good lineup," said manager Joe Girardi. "We have a deep lineup and we have patient hitters that know how to work the count and foul pitches off." "When guys make mistakes, they get to them."

There is no doubt the Yankees have what it takes to dominate the game behind their veteran players. Coming into the series, the ball club had some reservations regarding the stellar pitching the A's have displayed in the past but thus far it has proved to be no match against their big bats.

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.

Killion: Weekend wrap -- Giants, A's regroup

Ann Killion, CSNBayArea.com

Weekends can be the Time After. The weekend that follows a dramatic, emotional week is a time to regroup. To calm down. To interrupt the passion play and refocus.

Memorial Day weekend was that for both the Bay Area baseball teams.

- The Giants headed off to the Midwest, reeling after the loss of Buster Posey. And they started to figure out their future, thanks to Brandon Crawford. The rookie's grand slam -- his first major league hit -- on Friday was a salve on their wound.

So was Andres Torres' grand slam on Monday in St. Louis -- a rally in which Crawford also played a part. Crawford looks like a solution at shortstop, which means Miguel Tejada's playing time could be severely limited when Pablo Sandoval comes back: Kung Fu Panda 2 is at theaters near you and could be at the ballpark by mid-June.

The Giants are still waiting for Brandon Belt to join the party. But if the young players' bats can get hot and the veterans start to produce -- paging Mr. Huff, Mr. Aubrey Huff -- the Giants should stay right in the mix in the odd NL West. Posey had his surgery on Sunday morning and won't be back this season. He'll recuperate at home, where he'll need to be a patient patient since his wife Kristin is expecting twins this summer. Duane Kuiper told the KNBR radio audience that he hopes Posey shows up at the ballpark this weekend, because the team needs to see him. So far, Posey is handling his setback like an old pro -- arranging a conference call with the beat writers on Friday night.

Teams suffer season-ending injuries to critical players all the time. The Giants and Posey need to regroup and move on. They started to do that over the weekend.

- The A's came home to Oakland after their emotional, recrimination-filled week. Brian Fuentes, who signed with the A's in the offseason, managed in one swift outburst to pinpoint the two biggest complaints over the years about manager Bob Geren: his lack of communication and confounding handling of the bullpen.

Former A's closer Huston Street weighed in with a text-blast to the Chronicle's Susan Slusser, criticizing Geren's communication skills and ending with this:

"For me personally, he was my least favorite person I have ever encountered in sports from age 6 to 27. I am very thankful to be in a place where I can trust my manager."

Ouch.

The uproar made news; Kurt Suzuki commented Monday that it was the most attention the team has received since he's been there and Suzuki has been on the A's roster since 2007.

It's useful for a company in the entertainment business to receive actual attention, a concept that seems to be completely lost on the A's under the current ownership.

The A's responded to the spotlight with their best baseball of the season, getting a split in Anaheim and earning their first series sweep of the season against Baltimore.

The good news on Monday was that the A's had a sellout, just their second of the season. The bad news was that almost everyone at the Coliseum was wearing pinstripes and rooting for Bartolo Colon and his high-tech, stem-cell powered arm.

It's the A's misfortune that their momentum surge ran right into a rough spot in the schedule: the Yankees are in town for three and then the A's head out to a 10-game road trip that starts with the red hot Red Sox.

- Congratulations to the local collegiate squads. The Cal softball team advanced to the Women's College World Series championship round after eliminating Kentucky. And three local baseball teams -- Stanford, Cal and USF -- are in the College World Series. A special shout-out to the Cal Bears, who will play in the Houston Regional. The Bears have been through so much; a strong CWS run would be a fitting end to an emotional season.

- The best sporting event of the weekend? Hands down, the UEFA Champions League final on Saturday. In watching Barcelona dismantle Manchester United, we witnessed the greatest sports team currently in existence.

A's are finally drawing attention – for all the wrong reasons

Ann Killioin, SI.com, 5/31/2011

OAKLAND -- In the past week, the Oakland A's have had a weird feeling.

Strange and unusual.

They were actually newsworthy.

The A's were the focus of headlines and online chatter. When they glanced up on the television screens in the clubhouse, there they were.

"It was the first time for me," catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "It's been interesting."

All this interest didn't have much to do with how the A's were playing. It was a function of a dispute between manager Bob Geren and reliever Brian Fuentes, a disagreement that had former A's players weighing in and columnists taking shots.

But it shows how irrelevant and under the radar the A's have been for the past four seasons: This is the most attention the A's have gotten in Suzuki's major league career.

"New York and Boston, they get it every day," Suzuki said. "Little stuff for them is big stuff for us."

But what happened last week wasn't exactly little stuff, even for a high-profile team. Fuentes objected to how he was being used by Geren. Pushed into the closer role by the injury to Andrew Bailey, Fuentes didn't understand why Geren continued to summon him in late innings with the score tied. When asked how he thought Geren handled him, Fuentes said, "Pretty poorly." When asked how much communication he has with Geren, Fuentes answered, "Zero."

It was a rare instance of a player publicly calling out a manager. And it cracked open the seal on four-plus years of private gripings about Geren. Fuentes, who joined the A's in the offseason, hit the bull's-eye with of both his projectiles: The biggest issues with Geren have been his mismanagement of the A's bullpen and his communication skills.

Huston Street, who played under Geren for two years and is now with the Rockies, weighed in from the other league and another state. He sent a text to the *San Francisco Chronicle's* A's beat reporter saying, "Bob was never good at communication, and I don't want to speak for anybody else, but it was a sentiment reflected in many conversations during the two years I spent in Oakland, and even recently when talking to guys after I left.

"For me personally, he was my least favorite person I have ever encountered in sports from age 6 to 27. I am very thankful to be in a place where I can trust my manager."

No response yet from Street's evil kindergarten T-ball coach.

The reason this has become such a big deal for a nondescript team is that this year -- for the first time since Billy Beane tore his team apart following its appearance in the 2006 ALCS -- the A's are supposed to contend. They have a pitching staff that leads the major leagues in ERA, despite being beset by injuries. They added some offensive components (which have yet to produce). The only thing holding them back, in the eyes of many preseason analysts, would be Geren, who has been an underwhelming presence at the A's helm since 2007.

Before this year, Geren was operating with the safety net of precisely no expectations. But entering this season, the A's were expected to contend, changing the paradigm.

The public dust-up and the A's struggles to get above .500 have landed Geren on some "managers at risk" lists. Yet there's a belief that no matter if Geren fails miserably he'll never be fired, thanks to his friendship with Beane (he was best man at Beane's wedding) and Beane's philosophy that managers don't really matter. Geren's contract expires at the end of the

season, which means he may not be retained in 2012, but that doesn't change the assumption that this is his season, for better or for worse. Both Beane and owner Lew Wolff came to his defense.

The story wasn't just about a player calling out a manager, another player weighing in from afar, a closed-door meeting to clear the air. It was also about cronyism and the frustration that Beane would entrust a young, talented team to an unpopular, ill-equipped manager.

The A's responded to their first taste of real controversy by playing their best stretch of baseball. They rallied to split in Anaheim with the Angels and then sweep the hapless Orioles in Oakland -- their first series sweep of the season -- and pull back within a game of first place.

"Bob's our leader, no matter what happens," Suzuki said. "We still have to go out and perform. It's not his fault if we don't hit."

But on Monday, the A's completed their roller coaster week with a pancake-flat performance, yielding meekly to the New York Yankees.

Despite playing in front of just their second home sellout this season (mostly comprised of Yankees fans), the A's were lifeless. The Yankees jumped on Oakland ace Trevor Cahill, and A's batters managed just four hits off the oddly youthful Bartolo Colon, who pitched a complete-game shutout at age 37, only fueling more discussion/speculation/intrigue about his shoulder and elbow surgery last season.

A sellout and making national news all in one week? No wonder the A's looked confused on Monday. Owner Lew Wolff's grand plan has seemed to be -- with the cooperation of Beane, who never saw a roster he wanted to keep intact -- to make his team utterly irrelevant and drive fans away. By doing that Wolff will prove to Bud Selig that he can't succeed in Oakland and get the OK to move to San Jose.

So far his plan has worked, save for the part about getting permission to move to San Jose (Selig's commission is in its third year of studying the matter). The A's have managed to be the least noticed team in baseball.

Until this week.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

Salt Lake edges Sacramento at Raley Field

By Max Lush / Sacramento River Cats

Yadel Marti struggled through an outing for the first time this season at Raley Field. Marti allowed four earned runs in 6.0 innings as the River Cats fell to the Salt Lake Bees 4-3 on Tuesday night.

The River Cats have grown accustomed to seeing dazzling displays from Marti in home games. Entering Tuesday's game, Marti was 2-0 with a stellar 0.84 ERA at home. Instead, Salt Lake peppered seven hits off of the Cuban right-hander. The 32-year-old allowed more earned runs (four) than he has in his previous five starts at Raley Field (three) this season.

Marti struggled with command early, walking the first batter of the game and three total. In the second inning with two out, Marti allowed a single, hit a batter, and walked another before getting a ground out to second base. He also doubled his home runs allowed at Raley Field, giving up two blasts in the third inning. Previously, Marti had allowed one home run in 32.1 innings at Raley Field. The loss was Marti's first of the season.

The River Cats struggled early at the plate, not scoring until the sixth inning. Bees starter Ryan Ketchner threw 5.2 innings, surrendering only four hits and one unearned run.

Jemile Weeks' double to left-center in the third inning was the River Cats' first hit off of Ketchner. After three innings, Ketchner was just one hitter over the minimum after Wes Timmons was thrown out trying to score on Weeks' double.

The River Cats bats came alive once they got into the Bees bullpen. Matt Carson scored in the bottom of the sixth inning on a passed ball by catcher Kevin Richardson after Jason Bulger entered in relief for Ketchner.

In the seventh inning, the River Cats pulled within one run after Jai Miller blasted a two-run home run to left field. The center fielder, who has four home runs in his last five games, leads the River Cats with 11. Later in the inning, the River Cats loaded the bases with two outs before Michael Taylor grounded out to the catcher.

Fernando Cabrera and Trystan Magnuson combined to pitch three scoreless innings in relief, allowing two hits and two walks while Magnuson struck out three in 2.0 innings.

The River Cats' record dipped to 13-17 (5-12 at home) when their opponent scores first. With the loss, first-place Sacramento finishes May with a 19-11 record.

The four-game series against Salt Lake continues Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. at Raley Field. Sacramento left-hander Carlos Hernandez (1-0, 3.65) will face Salt Lake right-hander Brian Lawrence (2-4, 7.62).

Giants Win 12th Straight As Ports Blanked 2-0

05/31/2011 10:00 PM ET

SAN JOSE, Calif. - It was an all-too-familiar story for the Stockton Ports on Tuesday night, yet a franchise first for the San Jose Giants. For the first time in their 24-year history, the Giants won their 12th straight game, and for the fifth time this season, a San Jose shutout came at the hands of the Ports, this time by a final of 2-0. For the Giants, it was their minor-league leading 10th shutout of the season.

San Jose jumped on the board in the bottom of the 1st after Stockton failed to score with two aboard in the top half. With one out, Jarrett Parker reached base on a broken-bat infield single over the mound. Parker went to second on an errant pick-off attempt by Ports starter Dan Straily (3-4). Ryan Cavan then doubled to left to score Parker and give the Giants a 1-0 lead.

In the 4th, the Giants padded their lead on an RBI groundout from Luke Anders, scoring Chris Dominguez who'd reached on an infield single to start the inning.

Straily, like all Ports starters in the series, was not supported with any runs despite a very strong effort. He took a tough-luck loss after going six innings and allowing two runs on six hits while striking out seven.

Stockton's offense, meanwhile, couldn't get anything started against Giants starter David Mixon (3-0), who retired 14 batters in a row from innings 2-7. Mixon matched a career-high by tossing seven scoreless innings, allowing just two hits while striking out a season-high seven batters.

Mitch Lively came on to pitch the 8th for the Giants and, after striking out back-to-back hitters to start the frame, walked Leonardo Gil and Michael Gilmartin to put the tying runners aboard. Lively, though, would complete a strikeout of the side by getting Ryan Lipkin swinging to end the threat.

Heath Hembree (SV, 18), who recorded the save on Monday afternoon, did so again for a second straight game. Hembree allowed a two-out single to Ryan Ortiz, but struck out Mitch LeVier to end the ballgame.

For Stockton, Gilmartin went 2-for-4. The only other Ports player to reach base twice was Ortiz who went 1-for-3 with a single and a walk.

Scott Deal and Chris Mederos combined for two scoreless innings of relief for the Ports.

After being swept by the Giants and finishing their seven-game road trip at 3-4, the Ports return home for a seven-game homestand to kick off the month of June. The homestand begins with a four-game set against the Bakersfield Blaze. A.J. Griffin (1-0, 1.29 ERA) will take the mound for Stockton, opposed by Bakersfield right-hander J.C. Sulbaran (2-0, 5.60 ERA). First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

Bees Sneak Past Loons 1-0 in 10 Innings

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

MIDLAND, MI-On a night where their offense managed just four hits, the Burlington Bees (37-16) scored a run on a throwing error in the 10th inning to win 1-0 over the Great Lakes Loons (27-25) before 1,407 fans at Dow Diamond on Tuesday night.

Both starting pitchers were sensational on Tuesday. Great Lakes RHP Red Patterson retired the first 11 hitters he faced and did not give up a hit until the fourth inning. RHP Josh Bowman gave up a two-out single to LF Joc Pederson (2-5) in the first inning and proceeded to retire the next nine hitters in a row.

The game remained scoreless until the 10th inning. DH Josh Whitaker (1-4) reached base on a one-out single and moved to second base on a single to right field by LF Douglas Landaeta (1-4).

SS Yordy Cabrera (0-4) hit into a fielder's choice. Whitaker moved to third base on the fielder's choice and scored when Great Lakes' 2B Casio Grider threw the ball wide of first base for a 1-0 Burlington lead.

Bowman pitched eight scoreless innings and allowed just four hits in a no decision. RHP Daniel Tenholder (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings to pick up the win.

BEES BUZZINGS: The game was delayed for one hour and 36 minutes at the start of the game due to rain and the threat of tornado activity. The city of Midland was under a tornado warning until 7:30 EDT.

The Bees and Loons continue their series on Wednesday night at 6:05 p.m. RHP Jonathan Joseph (0-1,6.97) starts for Burlington while RHP Gustavo Gomez (0-2, 12.10) takes the mound for Great Lakes.