

Slumping Oakland A's shut out by Baltimore Orioles

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

BALTIMORE -- A's fans will draw hope from any source possible right now.

Hope arrived Tuesday in the form of highly touted second baseman Jemile Weeks, promoted from the minor leagues as veteran Mark Ellis joined the 15-day disabled list with a strained right hamstring.

Weeks hit leadoff for the A's in his major league debut, but he couldn't prevent Oakland from firing another dud in a 4-0 loss to the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards.

That makes eight consecutive losses for the A's, their longest losing streak since an eight-game skid that bridged the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

"We've just got to deal with it and come out every day and keep grinding," shortstop Cliff Pennington said. "We've got to find a way to win a game."

The A's are 0-5 to begin this 10-game trip. In two games at Camden, they have scored just two runs against an Orioles pitching staff that entered Tuesday ranked 12th out of 14 American League teams in ERA.

Manager Bob Geren said he thinks his hitters had good swings Tuesday. Truth is, the A's look like a flat and defeated bunch right now.

Weeks, a first-round draft pick in 2008 who is the younger brother of Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks, went 0 for 4 in a nondescript debut. But the speedy switch hitter at least provides new blood.

And unless the A's make a sudden turnaround, the focus will soon shift toward the future, as the past several seasons eventually have.

A recurring hip injury hindered Weeks, 24, over parts of his first three professional seasons. He got off to a fast start this season with Triple-A Sacramento, hitting .321 with three homers, 22 RBIs and 10 stolen bases in 45 games.

"He's a talented player," Geren said. "He's ready to go."

Geren indicated that center fielder Coco Crisp, who was off Tuesday, will return to the leadoff spot Wednesday. But he said Weeks will be back at second base.

The question is how much more we might see of Weeks as the season unfolds.

Ellis -- an enormously respected player and still an excellent defender -- is signed only through this season. He is hitting just .211 with one homer and 15 RBIs.

Geren wouldn't touch the topic when asked if Weeks could win the starting job were he to shine in Ellis' absence.

"I look at it as, Mark is injured and we're calling Jemile up," Geren said. "Making statements like that, it's not fair to make anything like that."

Ellis, 34, wasn't thrilled with being placed on the D.L., saying he didn't think his injury was that significant.

But it's worth noting that last season he missed roughly a month with a left hamstring injury, going on the D.L. after trying to come back too quickly.

"I don't think it's that (serious) at all," Ellis said of his current injury. "But when you don't have enough players, someone has to go on the D.L., and that's me."

Oakland A's update: Pitcher Brett Anderson put on disabled list, will visit with Dr. James Andrews

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

BALTIMORE -- The A's not surprisingly placed Brett Anderson on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday.

After undergoing an MRI in the Bay Area, the left-hander will now get a second opinion from elbow specialist Dr. James Andrews early next week, manager Bob Geren said after Tuesday's 4-0 loss to the Baltimore Orioles.

Simply getting checked by Andrews does not imply structural damage or a long-term injury, as the team has sent pitchers to Andrews before and the diagnosis has come back minor.

Geren didn't have preliminary results of Tuesday's MRI or what the A's orthopedist, Dr. Jon Dickinson, had to say about Anderson. But that Anderson's elbow is acting up again after he was sidelined twice last season by elbow inflammation raises red flags.

The A's opted to put Anderson on the D.L. even before Anderson met with Dickinson.

"We just didn't feel like he'd be ready for his next couple of starts," Geren said.

The move leaves the A's without a starter Friday against the Chicago White Sox. Left-hander Bobby Cramer was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento and is a logical candidate for that start. Cramer, though, was called upon in relief Tuesday and posted a scoreless inning, though he threw just 12 pitches.

He said afterward he considered himself still capable of pitching Friday.

"We'll keep all options open," Geren said.

The A's only other option is to call a starter up from the minors, but no one in Sacramento's rotation is on the 40-man roster.

Through the first two days of the three-day amateur draft, the A's have selected 27 college players and two high school players.

Their first pick Tuesday came in the third round when they selected third baseman Bryan Vollmuth of Southern Mississippi. Vollmuth hit .301 with 12 homers and 49 RBIs as a junior this season.

They took Cal Poly center fielder Bobby Crocker in the fourth round.

The A's went local in the 11th round, choosing left-hander Christopher Lamb, a Berkeley High graduate who is pitching at Davidson.

Stanford right-hander Jordan Pries, nephew of A's vice president of broadcasting and communications Ken Pries, was drafted in the 30th round by the Seattle Mariners.

Right-hander Rich Harden, sidelined all season with a side muscle injury, might face hitters this weekend. Overstock.com, Inc. announced the Coliseum would be called O.co Coliseum starting with Tuesday's U2 concert.

Chin Music: Jemile Weeks called up, he's leading off and playing second base; Mark Ellis, Brett Anderson join DL

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 6/7/2011 3:39 pm

We've got more roster shuffling for the A's today, though unlike Monday, none of it comes as much of a surprise. Mark Ellis was placed on the 15-day DL and highly touted prospect Jemile Weeks was called up. The speedy switch hitter is starting at second and batting leadoff tonight in his big league debut. Talk about getting your feet wet in a hurry. Also, left-hander Brett Anderson was placed on the 15-day DL and lefty Bobby Cramer was called up. Cramer is an obvious candidate to start Friday when Anderson's turn comes up, but manager Bob Geren says only that Cramer is a candidate. He considers Cramer a relief option over the next couple of days (Guillermo Moscoso déjà vu!!!). If it's not Cramer on Friday, the A's will have to call somebody up, and no one who's a realistic candidate at Triple-A Sacramento is on the 40-man roster. That situation will work itself out.

Anderson is scheduled to see a doctor this evening, and Geren had nothing specific to offer about his condition, other than saying it appeared Anderson wouldn't be able to make his next couple of starts. That's why he was placed on the DL.

—There's precious little for A's fans to get excited about right now, but Weeks' debut is something to take notice of. He was Oakland's first-round pick in 2008 (12th overall), but he immediately suffered a hip injury that really sidetracked him for an

extended period. He's been healthy this season and has shown what he's capable of in his first taste of Triple-A action. Weeks hit .321 with three homers, 22 RBIs and 10 stolen bases in 45 games.

It's read-between-the-lines time. ... If the A's continue to tailspin and Weeks shows promise, you have to think he'll get an extended look at second base as the season unfolds, even if it comes at the expense of Ellis, who's been a bedrock of dependability and class for the A's organization for the past decade. I should note that Geren did not even hint that this scenario was a possibility when he was asked about the topic. But when the going gets tough in the standings, the A's front office starts thinking young. And Weeks is seen as a dynamic leadoff type whose defensive skills are improving. We'll see how he looks in this mini-audition ...

–Interesting scene during batting practice: A fan with a camera standing near the A's dugout asked Weeks to stay and pose for a picture. Weeks obliged, freezing for several seconds so the fan could get a shot. Let's just say Weeks turns into a superstar. Pretty cool story for someone to say they snapped an up-close shot of that player a couple of hours before his big league debut. I wonder if the guy's friends will believe him?

–I'll give you the lineups, but first I'll point out that Ed Harris is throwing out the first pitch here at Camden Yards. Very underrated actor, in my opinion. "Just Cause" is my favorite work of his. Check it out if you haven't ...

A's – Weeks 2B, Barton 1B, DeJesus RF, Willingham LF, Sweeney CF, Suzuki C, Matsui DH, Sizemore 3B, Pennington SS; Moscoso RHP.

O's – Hardy SS, Markakis RF, Jones CF, Guerrero DH, Lee 1B, Wieters C, Scott LF, Reynolds 3B, Adams 2B; Jakubauskas RHP.

Poole: A's look busted beyond repair

By Monte Poole, Oakland Tribune

The aging slugger, the globally famous star acquired to put some thump into the heart of the order, is flailing and failing.

The universally praised pitching staff, the foundation of this runs-challenged club, is cracking and crumbling into a heap of broken parts.

The lineup, woefully short on distinction but projected as average, is as hollow as it is homely.

The defense, presumed solid if not spectacular, is shockingly sloppy, submitting some of the most unsightly glove work in baseball.

Though 101 games remain on the A's schedule, more than enough time to alter the standings, rational assessment insinuates this season of promise is irreparably broken.

And that's before peering into the dugout and finding the manager, whose baseball knowledge is neutralized by his inability to galvanize, much less energize, is twisting and turning and spinning in hopes of containing such comprehensive damage.

Expected to contend in the AL West, Oakland sits seven games behind first-place Texas. More alarming, the A's are mired in last place, behind the Angels and Mariners, the consensus pick as the worst team in the division.

Year after year, since promoting Bob Geren from bench coach to manager after the 2006 season, general manager Billy Beane has insisted Oakland's roster lacked the necessities of a contender, making it difficult to evaluate Geren strictly on the basis of results. With stellar pitching, reliable defense and the addition of three competent bats, including proven DH Hideki Matsui, the Great Godzilla, that was supposed to change in 2011.

It has not. As the A's this week engage Baltimore for a three-game series at Camden Yards, their roster is a lot like those trotted out in the years since 2007. It's ineffective and injured, fractured and futile.

The A's have their third head trainer in five years, hiring Nick Paparesta to replace Steve Sayles, who was promoted in 2008 to replace Larry Davis.

The aches and surgeries and rehab assignments keep coming.

Left-hander Brett Anderson, after two wretched starts, returned to California to get his elbow examined Monday. He's the fifth projected starter to miss time this season, following Rich Harden (diagnosed with a muscle strain in March, yet to throw a pitch), Dallas Braden (underwent surgery in May, out for the season), Tyson Ross (replaced Braden in the rotation, has

missed three weeks with an oblique strain) and Brandon McCarthy (sustained a stress reaction in scapula, just starting to throw again).

Four of the five are, or have been, on the disabled list. The fifth is Anderson, who seems destined for the DL.

The DL, by the way, is where closer Andrew Bailey began the season. He's back, though the A's are using him carefully.

Slowing and surely and constantly, the strength of the team has become a weakness. The vaunted rotation is frayed beyond recognition, the bullpen a constant work in progress and flexibility.

Meanwhile, Oakland's offense is pure figment. Say what you want about Beane and Geren, and they have made themselves easy and deserving targets, they're not so much writing out a lineup these days as trying to assemble one from shoestrings and dryer lint.

How bad is it? Kevin Kouzmanoff, the team's most productive offensive player last season, leading the A's in homers and tying for the lead in RBIs, was sent down to the minors Monday -- yet his absence won't be felt. He was caught in his own little web of despair, which has become epidemic in the clubhouse.

This season wasn't supposed to go down like this. With Matsui, the proud veteran, the former Yankees masher, hitting three homers in 174 at-bats, average barely above .200 as his 37th birthday looms Saturday. With Daric Barton, homerless after 61 games, awful in the No. 2 hole and solid in the 6 hole, only to be put back in the 2 hole. With Coco Crisp hovering around the .260s and every other Oakland regular striving to reach such "lofty" heights.

With Josh Willingham's numbers (10 homers, 39 RBIs, batting around .250) making him a relative Henry Aaron among his teammates.

The 2011 A's were supposed to blend superior pitching and strong defense with decent offense. In today's game, without the inflated offensive numbers of a few years ago, that's a reasonable approach. It worked for the Giants last season and maybe it would be enough for the A's to win 85, 90 games.

That would be, at the least, enough to contend for the postseason.

But the reality is Oakland's little green baseball boat is springing too many leaks, at too fast a rate, to be plugged. The staff is a mess, the lineup a hoax and Godzilla scares no one. There is no quick fix.

And, at this rate, no slow and deliberate fix either.

Jemile Weeks debuts for A's in loss to Orioles

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Jemile Weeks made his big-league debut Tuesday night at Camden Yards, and even though his night was quiet, it was still a chance for fans to get a look at one of the A's top prospects.

Weeks, the 24-year-old brother of Milwaukee second baseman Rickie Weeks, was Oakland's first-round pick in 2008, 12th overall. He was called up when Mark Ellis was placed on the disabled list with a right hamstring strain. Weeks did not reach base in the A's 4-0 loss to Baltimore.

The A's have dropped eight in a row, extending their season high, and they have scored all of five runs over their past three games.

They are in last place, and they have turned into a somewhat dull team with few big personalities. Oakland's top attribute is its starting pitching, which has taken a dip for the past week-plus. And on Tuesday, the A's put one of their best starters, Brett Anderson, on the DL - the fifth A's starter out of action this year.

So the arrival of a prize prospect such as Weeks could provide at least a spark of interest. He's an energetic player, too, as is Adam Rosales, who came off the disabled list the day before, and an injection of energy might be just what the A's need.

Weeks said he'd spoken to his brother, who told him to "just go out there and get after it, get that first hit." Weeks' parents, Richard and Valeria, were on hand at Camden Yards on Tuesday, along with Weeks' sister, Kaisha.

Weeks, who was batting .321 at Triple-A Sacramento, was pulled out of Monday night's game at Colorado Springs after his first plate appearance. He said his teammates kept telling him he'd been called up, but not actually knowing until the end of the game was nerve-racking.

This is likely to be merely a fill-in situation for Weeks, though he is considered the A's second baseman of the future. Asked if Weeks would have any shot at sticking at second base if he excels now, A's manager Bob Geren said making any sort of statement would be unfair, but, he said, "Mark is a great player who is just injured right now."

Ellis wasn't altogether thrilled with going on the DL. The longest-tenured A's player said he believes his injury would heal in a matter of a few days.

"I don't think it's that big a deal at all," Ellis said. "But when you don't have enough bodies, sometimes someone has to go on the disabled list."

Ellis said that the injury is nowhere near as severe as the left hamstring strain that cost him more than a month last year. The A's initially left Ellis on the roster for more than a week when he was hurt last year, but that probably only lengthened the time it took him to return when he did go on the DL.

Though Weeks did not record a hit Tuesday, another of the new additions did. Scott Sizemore, recalled Monday, has singled in each of his two games with Oakland. Sizemore played third on Tuesday; Rosales is expected to be back there tonight.

A's put Brett Anderson on DL, ailment unclear

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Oakland placed one of its top two starters, **Brett Anderson**, on the disabled list Tuesday despite not having an exact diagnosis.

Anderson did not see team orthopedist Dr. **Jon Dickinson** until Tuesday evening, and manager **Bob Geren** said only that Dickinson did an MRI exam on Anderson's left elbow and the team now wants to get another set of eyes on the film.

Geren said he believes Anderson will get a second opinion early next week from Dr. **James Andrews**, who has consulted with several other A's pitchers and performed elbow-ligament-replacement (Tommy John) surgeries on **Andrew Bailey**, **Joey Devine** and **Josh Outman**.

As for placing Anderson on the DL, the A's "just didn't feel he would be ready to pitch his next couple of starts," Geren said.

Bobby Cramer was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento and he worked one inning, throwing 12 pitches, which probably would not preclude him from starting for Anderson on Friday, though Geren said after the game that the team will keep all options open. The A's have no other available starters on the 40-man roster, but Geren said that would not matter if the team has a need.

Graham Godfrey, 7-1 at Sacramento, would be right on turn to start Friday. He was obtained in the **Marco Scutaro** trade with Toronto in 2007.

Draft, cont.: The A's took Southern Mississippi third baseman **Bryan Vollmuth** (All-Conference USA), Cal Poly center fielder **Bobby Crocker**, and University of Central Florida catcher **Beau Taylor** in the third, fourth and fifth rounds, respectively. Crocker is from Aromas (San Benito County) and went to Aptos High School in Santa Cruz County. The A's also took former Berkeley High left-hander **Christopher Lamb**, who is a junior at Davidson, in the 11th round.

Matsui update: Geren shifted designated hitter **Hideki Matsui** from his usual fifth spot to seventh. He went 0-for-3 with one strikeout and is batting .209. He's unlikely to start tonight against left-hander **Zach Britton**.

Leading off

Bad sign: With the loss of Brett Anderson and Mark Ellis, the A's have used the disabled list 96 times since the start of 2007, including nine times this year, slightly ahead of their pace the previous four seasons.

Drumbeat: Busy A's day: Jemile Weeks hitting leadoff, Ellis and Anderson to DL

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at Camden Yards 6/7/2011 3:10pm

The A's kept up their stream of personnel moves today by placing Mark Ellis and Brett Anderson on the DL and calling up Jemile Weeks, as expected, and left-hander Bobby Cramer.

There's no actual injury news yet on Anderson - he hasn't seen the doctor. I asked what then prompted the move to put Anderson on the DL, if there is specific discomfort that led to the decision, and manager Bob Geren said only that the team "just didn't feel he'd be ready to pitch the next couple of starts." Geren said he might have a report after the game because Anderson sees the doctor this evening.

Weeks, the younger brother of Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks, is making his big-league debut and batting leadoff tonight; he told us he's nervous, which he'd figured he would be, and his brother told him to just go out there and get after it, try to get the first hit out of the way.

Weeks is an energetic and upbeat player, always smiling, active; I think he could provide this team a much-needed boost. I asked Geren if this is strictly a fill-in situation or if Weeks actually might challenge for the second-base job if he excels here the next two weeks, and while Geren didn't flat out say that Ellis is the second baseman ("Making statements is not fair," he said), Geren did say that Ellis "is a great player and he's just injured right now."

Ellis wasn't overly enthusiastic about going on the DL to begin with. He said he believes his right hamstring strain will heal in just a few days, and he says he thinks he'd be more than ready to come off the DL when eligible in 15 days.

"I don't think it's that big a deal at all," Ellis said, "but when you don't have enough bodies, someone is going to have to go on the DL."

I'm not surprised that the team went this route, though. Last summer, Ellis had a left hamstring strain that the team thought would heal more quickly than a DL stay; he remained on the roster more than a week, tried to play and could not, then was out for more than a month. Ellis said that this injury is much less severe, but I'm sure the A's just don't want to take any chances this time around. Plus, as Ellis said, there aren't enough bodies: Adam Rosales wasn't scheduled to play tonight as he works his way back into everyday activity following foot surgery, and that meant that Scott Sizemore is at third base. So the A's needed a second baseman, pronto.

It does seem as if the decision came last night, because, well, that's when Weeks was told he was coming up. Ellis was clear after last night's game that he wouldn't really know the extent of the injury until this morning. I'm not sure the team had much of a choice but to make the call last night, though; they had to get Weeks from Colorado Springs to Baltimore quickly if he was going to be available for tonight's game.

Cramer will be available in the bullpen, and if he's not used, Geren said, he'll be an option in Anderson's spot Friday. (I'd imagine they'd also consider Cramer even earlier, because his last start was last Friday and the A's could get some other starters extra rest if they wanted to.) If Cramer does work in relief, it's unclear who'd be considered for Friday because there are no other minor-league options on the 40-man roster. Geren said that roster status wouldn't be a consideration, the A's would just take the best man available.

In that case - and, admittedly, it's probably a longshot - Graham Godfrey is 7-1 at Triple-A Sacramento and he just so happens to be on turn to go on Friday.

Here's tonight's lineup behind Guillermo Moscoso: Weeks 2b, Barton 1b, DeJesus rf, Willingham lf, Sweeney cf, Suzuki c, Matsui dh, Sizemore 3b, Pennington ss

I'd asked a few days ago about the possibility of moving Hideki Matsui down the lineup to try to get his bat going and Geren responded that you have to then have to find someone else to hit fifth or cleanup. Apparently he did so.

On Day 2, A's seek power early, add hurlers

Club pleased to land Southern Miss' Vollmuth in Round 3

By Tom Green / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- A day after nabbing Vanderbilt's hard-throwing right-handed Sonny Gray with their first-round selection, the A's shifted the focus to offense early on in Day 2 of the First-Year Player Draft.

Specifically, there was a common thread between the A's third- and fourth-round selections -- power. It's something the A's have lacked this season, as they rank last in Major League Baseball with just 34 home runs on the year.

With the 105th overall pick, the A's selected Southern Mississippi infielder Bryan Anthony Vollmuth. As a junior for the Golden Eagles, Vollmuth hit .301 and led the team with 12 home runs and 49 RBIs.

"He's a big, physical kid," A's scouting director Eric Kubota said of the team's first selection on Day 2. "We really like the power potential he's got."

Kubota added that the team is really impressed with Vollmuth's athleticism, specifically that he has experience playing both shortstop and third base. This season with Southern Mississippi, Vollmuth primarily played the hot corner and sported a .904 fielding percentage while starting all 55 games.

The following round, Oakland drafted outfielder Bobby Crocker out of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo -- a prospect the A's are familiar with, as they drafted him out of high school in 2008 with their 38th-round selection. Back then, Crocker, a Berkeley, Calif., native, opted to go to college and pass on the A's offer. This time around, though, the team likes what it's getting in a player it has scouted for years in its own backyard.

"We've scouted him a lot," Kubota said. "He's big, physical and athletic. There's a lot to like about him. He's strong, but hasn't hit a lot of power yet in his collegiate career. But we think there's definitely strength there to develop power."

As a junior this season, Crocker led the Mustangs in batting average (.339), on-base percentage (.431) and slugging percentage (.497), although he only hit five home runs.

After addressing the need for power, the A's shifted their focus to rounding out their organization with what they deemed to be the best available prospects, starting with catcher Beau Taylor from Central Florida in the fifth round.

Taylor didn't show the kind of power potential the club's two selections before him did, but Kubota was impressed with Taylor's solid offensive numbers at UCF. Taylor hit .325 for the Knights this year and drove in 47 runs. He had 20 multi-hit performances and recorded multiple RBIs on 13 occasions. More impressive to Oakland, though, is Taylor's defense.

Kubota called Taylor a "very, very advanced defensive catcher." He committed just one error in 58 starts as a junior and was named to the watch list for the Johnny Bench Award, which goes to the nation's top collegiate backstop.

"We feel good about all of our picks today," Kubota said. "I can't single any one out more than the next."

Round 3 (No. 105 overall), Bryan Anthony Vollmuth, 21, 6-3, 215, 3B, Southern Mississippi

Vollmuth hit .301 while starting all 55 games for Southern Mississippi as a junior. He led the Golden Eagles with 12 home runs, 49 RBIs and a .548 slugging percentage. Sported a .904 fielding percentage as a junior. Named as a pre-season All-American in 2010 by Baseball America. In 2008, he was drafted in the 32nd round (No. 962 overall) by the Houston Astros.

Round 4 (No. 136 overall), Bobby Crocker, 21, 6-3, 220, CF, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo

Started 49 games in the outfield and led the Mustangs with a .339 batting average and a .431 on-base percentage. Had five

outfield assists as a junior and led the team with 64 hits and a .497 slugging percentage. Grew up 90 minutes south of Oakland in Aromas, Calif.

Round 5 (No. 166 overall), Beau Taylor, 21, 5-10, 180, C, Central Florida

Started 58 games at catcher as a junior for the Knights while being named to the Johnny Bench Award watch list for the nation's top collegiate catcher. Hit .325 while bringing in 47 RBIs this season. Committed just one error behind the plate as a junior. Had 20 multi-hit games and 13 multi-RBI outings.

Round 6 (No. 196 overall), Dayton Alexander, 21, 6-2, 190, CF, Feather River College

Hit .382 with a .469 on-base percentage in 38 games as a junior. Hit .444 against righties, .362 against lefties and .349 with runners in scoring position this season. Drove in 24 runs and led Feather River in total bases (90).

Round 7 (No. 226 overall), Blake Treinen, 21, 6-4, 215, RHP, South Dakota State

Drafted by the Marlins in the 23rd round of last year's Draft after a breakout season, but opted to return to school for his senior season. Amassed a 7-3 record with a 3.00 ERA in 13 starts as a senior. Sported a 1.26 WHIP in 84 innings and fanned 84.

Round 8 (No. 256 overall), Colin O'Connell, 20, 6-6, 200, RHP, Cal State Fullerton

Went 7-3 with a 2.42 ERA as a junior. Struck out 49 while walking just six and had a 0.98 WHIP in 70 2/3 innings. Allowed three runs or fewer in 10 of his 13 outings this season.

Round 9 (No. 286 overall), Jace Fry, 17, 6-1, 190, LHP, Southridge (Beaverton, Ore.) HS

Was 10-0 with a 1.42 ERA as a senior. Recorded 92 strikeouts in 59 innings for Southridge. Signed to play college baseball at Oregon State University. Selected a day after his high school graduation.

Round 10 (No. 316 overall), Dusty Robinson, 21, 5-11, 200, OF, Fresno State University

Hit .310 in 53 games for the Bulldogs as a junior. Led Fresno State in doubles (20), RBIs (55) and home runs (16), while sharing the team led with three triples. Favorite athlete is Pete Rose.

Round 11 (No. 346 overall), Christopher Lamb, 20, 6-1, 185, LHP, Davidson College

A Berkeley, Calif., native, Lamb was 1-7 in 14 appearances (12 starts) as a junior while accumulating a 3.75 ERA. Struck out 85 in 81 2/3 innings with a 1.24 WHIP.

Round 12 (No. 376 overall), Xavier Macklin, 20, 6-1, 190, OF, North Carolina A&T State

In 54 games this season, the right-handed Macklin hit .355 and led the Aggies with 67 RBIs and a .781 slugging percentage. He reached base at a .474 clip as a junior.

Round 13 (No. 406 overall), Jacob Tanis, 21, 6-1, 200, 3B, Mercer University

Tanis started 59 games at the hot corner for Mercer during his junior campaign, when he hit .350 with 75 RBIs and 61 runs scored. He knocked 15 home runs and 17 doubles this season with a .612 slugging percentage. He walked 35 times, compared to just 30 strikeouts and reached base at a .446 rate.

Round 14 (No. 436 overall) Nicholas Rickles, 21, 6-3, 225, C, Stetson University

While his junior stats weren't listed, Rickles was named to the Johnny Bench Award watch list as a sophomore. He committed just one error behind the plate that season and had a .997 fielding percentage.

Round 15 (No. 466 overall), T.J. Walz, 20, 6-4, 200, RHP, University of Kansas

Went 6-5 in 15 appearances (14 starts) with a 3.97 ERA for the Jayhawks as a senior. In 90 2/3 innings, he struck out 85 and walked 31 with a 1.36 WHIP. Selected in the 50th round of the 2010 MLB Draft by Oakland.

Round 16 (No. 496 overall) Tanner Peters, 20, 6-0, 150, RHP, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Peters went 9-4 with a 1.50 ERA in 15 starts as a junior and pitched eight complete games, including two shutouts. He pitched a team-high 120 1/3 innings in which he struck out 105 and gave up just two home runs while sporting a 0.96 WHIP. Opponents hit .210 against him this season

Round 17 (No. 526 overall), Sean Jamieson, 22, 6-0, 193, SS, Canisius College

Hit .350 in the leadoff role for Canisius as a senior. Had a .465 on-base percentage, drew 34 walks compared to 39 strikeouts. Led Canisius with 13 home runs and 51 RBIs. From Simcoe, Ontario, Canada.

Round 18 (No. 556 overall), Brent Powers, 22, 6-2, 205, LHP, Sam Houston State University

Went 5-4 in 15 appearances (nine starts) as a senior for the Bearkats. Pitched 60 2/3 innings with a 3.88 ERA. Struck out 55 and walked 21 with a 1.40 WHIP. Gave up three home runs in his 15 outings.

Round 19 (No. 586 overall), Eric Potter, 21, 6-4, 205, LHP, University of Maryland

Sported a 4.80 ERA as a senior at Maryland. In 18 outings, including 11 starts, Potter went 3-7. Tossed 65 2/3 innings this season, during which he struck out 68 and walked 48, compiling a 1.46 WHIP.

Round 20 (No. 616 overall), Kurt Wunderlich, 21, 6-2, 220, RHP, Michigan State University

Was the leaders of the Spartans' pitching staff and entered his senior season as the team's No. 1 starter. Went 10-2 with a 3.19 ERA in 15 starts as a senior. Tossed 101 2/3 innings, struck out 65 and walked 29. He finished the season with a 1.29 WHIP and gave up nine home runs.

Round 21 (No. 646 overall), Brandon Magee, 20, 6-0, 225, CF, Arizona State University

Magee appeared in just nine games this season, hitting .154 in 13 at-bats. Two-sport athlete at Arizona State, where he also played linebacker for the Sun Devils' football team. Was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 29th round (No. 863 overall) in the 2008 Draft.

Round 22 (No. 676 overall), Rhett Stafford, 22, 6-2, 225, OF, Marshall University

In 46 starts as a junior at Marshall, Stafford hit .320 and led the team with 10 home runs. Drove in 41 runs with a .560 slugging percentage and reached base at a .388 clip. Committed seven errors on the year for a .955 fielding percentage.

Round 23 (No. 706 overall), Cecil Tanner, 21, 6-6, 240, RHP, University of Georgia

Made seven appearances out of the bullpen as a junior for the Bulldogs. Pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowing one run and striking out three while walking 10. Had a 2.45 ERA. Drafted by the Braves in the 36th round in 2008.

Round 24 (No. 736 overall), Robert Kuhn, 18, 5-11, 185, SS, Zionsville (Ind.) Community HS

Helped lead Zionsville to the Hoosier Crossroads Conference championship as a senior.

Round 25 (No. 766 overall), Chad Oberacker, 22, 5-11, 195, OF, Tennessee Tech University

In 52 games as a senior, went .325 at the plate. Hit 10 home runs while driving in 48 runs. Led the team with a .545 slugging percentage and a .433 on-base percentage. Also saw time on the mound, making 13 appearances and five starts. Had a 4.08 ERA and a 1.58 WHIP in 46 1/3 innings while striking out 47.

Round 26 (No. 796 overall), Sam Roberts, 22, 6-1, 190, SS, Virginia Military Institute

Played in all 52 games in the field as a senior and hit .347. Had a .443 on-base percentage and drove in 37 runs. Appeared in 14 games on the mound, including four starts for the Keydets this season. Accumulated a 1-4 record with four saves and a 4.78 ERA. In 32 innings, he struck out 34 and walked 10.

Round 27 (No. 826 overall), Derek Self, 21, 6-3, 205, RHP, University of Louisville

As a junior, appeared in 21 games, including six starts, amassing a 3-3 record with a 2.26 ERA. Named a Cape Cod League All-Star last summer after going 3-0 with a 2.36 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 42 innings during the summer league, including a one-hit shutout.

Round 28 (No. 856 overall), Thomas Girdwood, 22, 6-2, 200, RHP, Elon University

Started nine games and appeared in 16 for Elon as a senior. Went 4-5 with a 3.39 ERA. In 63 2/3 innings, he struck out 45 and had a 1.45 WHIP. Selected by the Twins in the 15th round of last year's Draft.

Round 29 (No. 886 overall), Nate Eppley, 22, 6-6, 205, RHP, Rider University

Started 14 games for the Broncs this season, going 6-7 with a 4.27 ERA. In 86 1/3 innings, he fanned 50 and walked 30. Opposing batters hit .245 against him. Brother, Cody, is in the Rangers' organization.

Round 30 (No. 916 overall), Nathan Kilcrease, 21, 5-6, 175, RHP, University of Alabama

Started 16 games for the Tide as a senior, and went 8-4 in those decisions. Sported a 3.12 ERA in 101 innings. Struck out 88 and had a 1.27 WHIP.

Offensive woes extend A's skid to eight**Oakland held to just five hits in shutout loss to Baltimore**

By Jeff Seidel / Special to MLB.com | 6/7/2011 11:38 PM ET

BALTIMORE -- One of baseball's many mysteries is that slumps often are inexplicable. Teams can win games with a bunch of bloopers or lose when ripping line drives and getting good pitching. Right now, the A's fall into the latter category.

Oakland got an effective start from Guillermo Moscoso, even though he was pitching on two days' rest. The A's hit a number of balls hard, but they went right to an Orioles player every time. That's what keeps happening during Oakland's losing streak, which reached eight when Baltimore defeated the A's, 4-0, before 13,652 Tuesday night at Oriole Park.

This is the team's longest losing streak since they dropped eight in a row from Sept. 27, 2009-April 5, 2010. The A's a season-low eight games under .500 at 27-35. In addition, this victory gives Baltimore the series win after Oakland won the last eight series.

The A's finished with five hits and left six on base, but they went just 0-for-2 with runners in scoring position, rarely getting scoring threats. They put runners on first and second with two outs in the fourth, but that was the only time Oakland had two runners on. The O's bullpen also retired 10 of the final 11 batters it faced.

"We didn't necessarily hit the ball extremely well, but when we did, it was definitely right at somebody," said Oakland manager Bob Geren. "[We] didn't string anything together at all."

Chris Jakubauskas (1-0) made his first start of the season for the Orioles (28-31) and threw five scoreless innings, giving up three hits and surviving getting hit on the leg by a Cliff Pennington shot in the fifth.

"Jak was good," said Baltimore manager Buck Showalter. "We felt like he'd work with a quick tempo and throw the ball over the plate. He commanded the fastball, and it really makes it a lot easier for [catcher Matt Wieters]."

Clay Rapada (two-thirds of an inning), Jeremy Accardo (2 1/3 innings) and Koji Uehara (one inning) combined to finish the shutout. The Baltimore pitchers threw well, but Oakland ripped several shots right at people.

Scott Sizemore hit a bullet that second baseman Ryan Adams made a nice play on in the fifth, then threw him out. Ryan Sweeney was robbed twice on line drives, once from third baseman Mark Reynolds in the sixth and then by Derrek Lee in the ninth.

"I thought we swung at strikes, and we did hit the ball fairly decent at times," Geren said. "We're not chasing balls out of the zone. We're not really taking pitches we should hit. We [just] had nothing to show for it."

The A's had only a few threats. Kurt Suzuki hit a two-out double in the second, but Hideki Matsui grounded out to end the inning. A Ryan Sweeney single gave the A's runners on first and second with two outs in the fourth, but Suzuki then flew out to left.

Oakland didn't get another runner in scoring position, which wasted a good five-inning effort from starter Moscoso (2-2). Despite pitching on those two days' rest, he gave up two runs on five hits and kept the A's in the game.

"I was making my pitches," Moscoso said. "I was commanding the zone very well. I missed two pitches. I paid for it."

The two pitches he missed came to J.J. Hardy and Luke Scott. Hardy homered to left on the second pitch of the bottom of the first for a 1-0 lead.

Scott did the same thing starting the fifth. His solo shot on a 1-2 pitch went 418 feet and gave the Orioles a 2-0 lead. Adam Jones added a third solo homer for Baltimore with his blast off Michael Wuertz in the sixth. Mark Reynolds drove in the last run with an RBI double off Craig Breslow in the seventh.

One of the highlights for Oakland came with Jemile Weeks making his Major League debut. The younger brother of Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks played second base, went 0-for-4 batting leadoff, and said he'll never forget this night.

"Just to be out there on the field was something I pretty much dreamed of all my life, and to be able to be out there was a feeling I really can't explain," Weeks said. "That first at-bat or two, I had the jitters a little bit, but I got over it later on in the game."

Anderson, Ellis to DL; Weeks makes debut

Second-base prospect bats leadoff; Cramer also called up

By Jeff Seidel / MLB.com

BALTIMORE -- Injury problems caused the A's to make a number of moves for the second straight day before Tuesday's game with the Orioles.

The A's placed starter Brett Anderson (left elbow soreness) and second baseman Mark Ellis (strained right hamstring) on the 15-day disabled list. They recalled pitcher Bobby Cramer and selected infielder Jemile Weeks from Triple-A Sacramento.

In addition, to make room for Weeks on the 40-man roster, Oakland transferred pitcher Dallas Braden from the 15-day DL to the 60-day DL.

Ellis hurt his hamstring in Monday's 4-2 loss to the Orioles and came out after the fifth inning. He went on the DL with a hamstring problem last year, but doesn't expect to need 15 days to recover.

"This is not nearly as bad as it was last year," Ellis said Tuesday. "Honestly, I don't think it's that big of a deal at all. But when you don't have enough players, somebody has to go on the DL, and that's me."

That opened the door for Weeks to make his Major League debut at second base Tuesday and bat leadoff against the Orioles. Weeks, the brother of Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks and a first-round Draft pick, got to the ballpark just before 5 p.m. and was ready to go.

"It was exciting," Weeks said. "It was something I wasn't really expecting at the time. It's a great feeling."

Weeks talked to his brother, who wished him luck. He said Rickie was really excited and advised Jemile to "get that first one out of the way if you can." Weeks' parents, sister and agent were in attendance at Camden Yards.

Weeks was batting .321 in 44 games at Triple-A Sacramento. Manager Bob Geren said that since Coco Crisp had been given the day off, batting Weeks leadoff there made sense as that's where he hit in Triple-A.

"Everything has been extremely positive," Geren said on the reports he's gotten on Weeks. "He's a talented player."

Anderson was scheduled to having his elbow examined Tuesday, and the team might have the results after the game, but Geren said he wasn't sure.

Cramer is in his third stint with Oakland this season. He's 0-1 with a 2.45 ERA in three games this season with the A's.

Geren said Anderson wasn't going to be ready to make his next few starts, so the club put him on the DL. Cramer will initially be used out of the bullpen for the next few days. A starter for Friday (Anderson's spot) will be determined later in the week, but Cramer is an option.

Orioles go for sweep as A's seek turnaround

By Quinn Roberts / MLB.com | 6/7/2011 11:54 PM ET

While Orioles starter Zach Britton hasn't won a game in more than a month, he isn't panicking.

Taking the mound Wednesday against the A's in the series finale, the rookie understands that it's just a part of the game.

"I've had two bad starts and you never want to have a bad start. I fully expect it to happen," Britton said. "[Manager] Buck [Showalter] had a talk with me not too long ago that it's going to happen. You can't go 25-0, you can't have a 0.00 ERA, you're going to have bad outings.

"He told me, 'Look at what you've done the 10 other starts, how well you've pitched. Look at those ones because you're that close.' It's two pitches that really have broken the games open the past couple times."

In those games, the left-hander combined to give up 11 earned runs on 16 hits in 10 2/3 innings.

Britton's start Friday in Toronto marked the shortest of his career. Throwing five innings, he gave up five earned runs on six hits for the loss, bringing his record to 5-4 with a 3.33 ERA.

"For me, it's just about throwing strikes like I was earlier in the season," Britton said. "And I kind of got away from that for two starts for some reason."

While the A's Josh Outman will be making only his fourth start of the season, he beat the O's for his lone win of the year May 28.

Tossing six innings in that start, Outman gave up two runs on six hits, while walking five and striking out two.

The left-hander couldn't get past the third inning Friday in Boston, going just 2 2/3 innings, while giving up five runs on five hits for the no decision.

"I just wasn't commanding the strike zone," Outman said after the game. "I fell behind. I wasn't getting my fastball over, I wasn't getting my changeup over and I wasn't getting my slider over. I don't really have much else after that."

A's: Anderson and Ellis to DL

Continuing to deal with injury issues, the A's placed pitcher Brett Anderson and second baseman Mark Ellis on the 15-day disabled list before Tuesday's game against the O's.

Anderson went on the DL with left elbow soreness, while Ellis has a strained right hamstring. The A's then recalled pitcher Bobby Cramer and selected second baseman Jemile Weeks from Triple-A Sacramento.

To make room for Weeks on the 40-man roster, Oakland also transferred pitcher Dallas Braden from the 15-day DL to the 60-day DL.

Orioles: No activities for Roberts for two weeks

Second baseman Brian Roberts, who is dealing with concussion-like symptoms, will not resume baseball activities for at least two more weeks.

Roberts, who met with concussion specialist Dr. Michael Collins in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, has not played in a game since May 16 when he slide headfirst into first base at Fenway Park.

If all goes according to plan, Roberts could be with the team in Baltimore for a couple of days during its homestead and then return to Sarasota, Fla.

Worth noting

- On a season-high eight-game losing streak after winning four consecutive games, the A's are 5-15 over their last 20 games.
- David DeJesus has not committed an error in 50 games in the outfield and has a 291-game errorless streak, the longest active streak among all Major League outfielders.
- The Orioles are 7-13 this season in openers and are 21-17 in those games since Showalter took over as manager.

Crisp, Willingham need help in All-Star voting

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

A's outfielders Coco Crisp and Josh Willingham, who continue to emerge offensively while the club makes a push to stay in contention in the American League West, have the chance to represent the green and gold at the 2011 All-Star Game.

They can't get there on their own, though. Both are in need of votes in order to be included in the top picks among their positions.

Fans can cast their votes for starters up to 25 times at MLB.com and all 30 club sites -- online or via your mobile device -- using the **2011 All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot Sponsored by Sprint** until June 30 at 8:59 p.m. PT.

Rosters will be announced during the 2011 All-Star Game Selection Show on TBS on July 3. Baseball fans around the world will then be able to select the final player on each team via the 2011 All-Star Game Final Vote Sponsored by Sprint.

And the voting doesn't end there. Fans will have the opportunity to participate in the official voting for the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet at the Midsummer Classic via the 2011 All-Star Game MVP Vote Sponsored by Sprint.

The All-Star Game, to be played in Phoenix on July 12, will be televised nationally by FOX and around the world by Major League Baseball International. ESPN Radio will provide exclusive national radio play-by-play, while MLB.com will offer extensive online coverage.

Though Crisp and Willingham endured slow starts, much like the rest of the A's starting nine, they've given the A's flashes of speed and power, respectively, while representing lineup mainstays and providing consistent defense.

Hurler Gray excited to develop talents with A's

Club impressed with college junior's 'gumption and fortitude'

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

Sonny Gray knew his father wanted to see him accomplish two things in life.

"The first was to go to college and make the most of it," Gray said, "and the second thing was to play professional baseball."

The young right-handed hurler can put a check mark next to the first item. The second, meanwhile, is on the near horizon, as Gray was selected by the A's out of Vanderbilt University on Monday with the 18th overall selection in the First-Year Player Draft.

Unfortunately, Gray's father, Jesse, wasn't around to see his son get drafted, as he passed away from injuries sustained in a car accident when his son was a high school freshman. But that hasn't stopped Gray from sticking to the plan.

First-round selections

| No. | Team | Player |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | PIT | RHP Gerrit Cole |
| 2 | SEA | LHP Danny Hultzen |
| 3 | ARI | RHP Trevor Bauer |
| 4 | BAL | RHP Dylan Bundy |
| 5 | KC | OF Bubba Starling |

| No. | Team | Player |
|-----|------|------------------------------|
| 6 | WAS | <u>3B Anthony Rendon</u> |
| 7 | ARI | <u>RHP Archie Bradley</u> |
| 8 | CLE | <u>SS Francisco Lindor</u> |
| 9 | CHC | <u>SS Javier Baez</u> |
| 10 | SD | <u>2B Cory Spangenberg</u> |
| 11 | HOU | <u>OF George Springer</u> |
| 12 | MIL | <u>RHP Taylor Jungmann</u> |
| 13 | NYM | <u>OF Brandon Nimmo</u> |
| 14 | FLA | <u>RHP Jose Fernandez</u> |
| 15 | MIL | <u>LHP Jed Bradley</u> |
| 16 | LAD | <u>LHP Chris Reed</u> |
| 17 | LAA | <u>1B C.J. Cron</u> |
| 18 | OAK | <u>RHP Sonny Gray</u> |
| 19 | BOS | <u>RHP Matt Barnes</u> |
| 20 | COL | <u>LHP Tyler Anderson</u> |
| 21 | TOR | <u>RHP Tyler Beede</u> |
| 22 | STL | <u>2B Kolten Wong</u> |
| 23 | WAS | <u>RHP Alex Meyer</u> |
| 24 | TB | <u>RHP Taylor Guerrieri</u> |
| 25 | SD | <u>RHP Joe Ross</u> |
| 26 | BOS | <u>C Blake Swihart</u> |
| 27 | CIN | <u>RHP Robert Stephenson</u> |
| 28 | ATL | <u>LHP Sean Gilmartin</u> |
| 29 | SF | <u>SS Joe Panik</u> |
| 30 | MIN | <u>OF Mikie Mahtook</u> |
| 32 | TB | <u>SS Jake Hager</u> |
| 33 | TEX | <u>LHP Kevin Matthews</u> |

CWS, DET, NYY and PHI did not have first-round selections.

"He was a big part of my life, and I don't think I would be the athlete I am today without him," said Gray, who learned that the A's drafted him from his home in Tennessee, surrounded by family and close friends.

The 21-year-old, who just completed his junior season and is prepping for the NCAA Super Regionals, was 11-2 with a 2.01 ERA in 16 starts for the Commodores this year. He struck out 115 and walked just 39, while compiling a 1.04 WHIP, holding opponents to a .192 batting average and allowing just four home runs.

Coming out of high school in 2008, Gray dropped to the Cubs in the 27th round primarily because of his strong commitment to Vanderbilt. The young hurler has the talent to overcome his lack of size (5-foot-11, 200 pounds) and compares himself a bit to Tim Hudson and Roy Oswalt.

"He's a guy that we've seen for a number of years," A's scouting director Eric Kubota said. "He was a very high prospect out of high school, and we had a lot of interest in him at that time. We followed him throughout his three years in his college career. He's extremely decorated with very good stuff. We're thrilled here."

Gray, an aggressive pitcher early in the count who will take the quick outs, owns a power fastball that he can deliver at 92-95 mph and has the potential to reach up to 97. He also boasts a plus curveball for plenty swings and misses and locates a developing changeup well.

"Strength-wise, I think I attack hitters really well," Gray said. "I come in and try to give you my best stuff, and I think having that competitive spirit and that competitive mind serves you well on days you don't have your best stuff."

That competitiveness stems from his days with his dad, who coached Gray from ages 4 to 12. During that time, Gray lost just four games.

"We've gotten to know him personally for a number of years, and he just has incredible gumption and fortitude," Kubota said. "He's one of those kids who isn't backing out of any situation. He's not afraid of anything. He's going to go out and do everything he can on any given day to get you out."

Oakland's first-round selection continues a decade-long college trend while also fulfilling a lack of pitching depth in the Minors. Several A's arms have come out of the Draft, but most -- including the likes of Trevor Cahill and Tyson Ross -- have graduated to the Majors in recent seasons.

"We do not generally draft for need," Kubota said, "but I think you can always use more pitching."

The A's took hitters in the first round in each of the last three Drafts, trying to replenish a system that lacked impact offensive players. This year's Draft is particularly stocked with pitching, and Gray -- who will continue to be groomed as a starter -- is well aware of the arms that have graced the big league scene in Oakland.

"They have a great history of developing pitchers, and that's exciting," said Gray, who in high school idolized Tampa Bay hurler David Price during his Vanderbilt days.

The A's now look toward the 105th pick (third round) and 136th pick (fourth round). They relinquished their second-round choice to Tampa Bay when they signed Type A free-agent reliever Grant Balfour in the offseason.

Live coverage of the 2011 First-Year Player Draft resumes at 9 a.m. PT on Tuesday on MLB.com, where fans will receive exclusive coverage of Day 2 and 3, featuring a live pick-by-pick stream, expert commentary and Draft Tracker, a live interactive application that includes a searchable database of every Draft-eligible player.

A's lose eighth in a row

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Oakland Athletics couldn't get more than one hit in any inning against Baltimore, and many of their hard-hit balls went directly into the glove of one of the Orioles.

The result was a hauntingly familiar 4-0 defeat Tuesday night that extended the A's losing streak to a season-high eight games.

"It seems like it's been happening like that all year, especially the last couple of weeks," Oakland center fielder Ryan Sweeney lamented. "We're having good at bats but can't put anything together and hit it right at somebody."

Chris Jakubauskas pitched five innings of three-hit ball and the Orioles hit three solo homers to move into position to complete a three-game sweep Wednesday. Baltimore had lost eight straight series to Oakland since July 2007.

Jakubauskas (1-0) came into the game with a 6.39 ERA over five appearances, all in relief. He was pressed into duty because the Orioles are carrying only four starters and were playing for a fifth straight day.

Operating against Oakland's anemic offense, Jakubauskas looked like the ace of the Baltimore staff. The A's, who have averaged three runs per game while batting .217 during their eight-game skid, absorbed their seventh shutout loss of the season.

"We didn't hit the ball extremely well, but when we did it was definitely right at somebody," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "They had some homers and we couldn't link any hits together. Made plays defensively, but nothing on the scoreboard."

The last time Jakubauskas started a game was on April 24, 2010, with the Pittsburgh Pirates. In that game, the right-hander was struck in the head by a liner off the bat of Lance Berkman in the first inning and carted off the field.

Against Oakland, Jakubauskas had a two-hit shutout in the fifth inning when Cliff Pennington smacked a line drive that hit the pitcher above his left ankle.

"There were some choice words that went through my mind after it happened, but I try to keep those as quiet as I could," Jakubauskas said. "It was more of just, 'I can't believe this. Really? Again I get hit?'"

After consulting with trainer Richie Bancells and manager Buck Showalter, Jakubauskas took a few warmup tosses and finished his outing by retiring Jemile Weeks for the third out.

It was enough to get him his first win in the majors since 2009 with Seattle.

J.J. Hardy and Luke Scott connected against Guillermo Moscoso (2-2), and Adam Jones made it 3-0 in the sixth with a drive off Michael Wuertz. Mark Reynolds added an RBI double in the seventh against Craig Breslow.

The eight-game slide is Oakland's longest since an identical skid from Sept. 27, 2009, to April 5, 2010. The A's are 5-15 since May 17.

Making his major league debut, Weeks went 0 for 4 in the leadoff spot. Weeks, the 12th overall pick in the 2008 draft, had his contract purchased from Triple-A Sacramento before the game. The second baseman is the younger brother of Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Rickie Weeks.

After Jakubauskas left, Clay Rapada retired two batters in the sixth, Jeremy Accardo worked 2½ innings and Koji Uehara got the final three outs to complete the five-hitter.

Batting at the top of the order for the first time this season, Hardy hit his first career leadoff homer, a drive to left that provided Baltimore with a lead it would not relinquish.

Scott hit his seventh homer of the season — the first since May 3 — leading off the fifth. The drive traveled an estimated 418 feet and landed on Eutaw Street beyond the 25-foot wall in right field.

Moscoso allowed two runs and five hits in five innings. Coming into the game, he had not given up a home run this season over 14 innings.

"I missed two pitches and I paid for it," he said.

"He threw great tonight," Sweeney said. "We just didn't score any runs for him."

Notes: The A's placed LHP Brett Anderson (sore elbow) and 2B Mark Ellis (strained right hamstring) on the 15-day disabled list. ... Actor Ed Harris threw out the ceremonial first pitch. ... Eight of Baltimore's last 10 home runs have been solo shots.

Gutierrez: Vandy RHP Gray an obvious choice for A's

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

Sure, the A's had been linked with Connecticut outfielder George Springer in mock drafts, ranging from Baseball America to ESPN in recent weeks, days and hours. But Oakland's farm system has a relative lack of depth in pitching, what with so many of the A's pitching prospects already with the big club.

So when Springer was drafted No. 11 overall by the Houston Astros and Vanderbilt right-hander Sonny Gray was still there for the taking at No. 18, the choice was obvious.

Gray, born 10 days after the A's finished their four-game sweep of the Giants in the 1989 World Series, became Oakland's first-round draft pick in the 2011 first-year player draft.

"We've gotten to know him personally for a number of years and he just has incredible gumption and fortitude," A's scouting director Eric Kubota said in a conference call with reporters. "He's one of those kids who isn't backing out of any situation. He's not afraid of anything.

"He's going to go out and do everything he can on any given day to get you out."

Gray is 11-3 with a 2.01 ERA in 16 starts for the Commodores, whose season continues this weekend in a best-of-three Super Regional against Oregon State. Opponents are also hitting .192 against him in 107 2/3 innings and he has 115 strikeouts and 39 walks.

"He's a bulldog-type of guy who was a championship quarterback in high school and has played on the USA national team," said New York Mets scout and CSN Bay Area baseball analyst Shooty Babitt. "He's got a complete mix of 'stuff' with a power fastball. He's a competitor with a good arm who goes out and wins.

"The stigma is that he's a 5-11 righty."

Meaning, many see him as being too short and/or slight to be effective over the long term. Some observers, though, think he might remind A's fans of Tim Hudson and Huston Street. Others see him as a Roy Oswalt-type of hurler, what with a low-

to-mid 90's fastball that can hit the high 90's on the radar gun. Plus, Baseball America named Gray as having the best secondary pitch in college ball.

Coming out of high school in 2008, Gray was drafted in the 27th round by the Chicago Cubs. But he decided to attend and play for Vandy and his stock has risen accordingly.

Entering this season, Gray was the fifth-ranked pitcher in college by Baseball America after being second-team all-SEC in 2010 in going 10-5 with a 3.48 ER in 19 outings, 16 starts. He led the Commodores with 113 strikeouts, 108 2/3 innings pitched and 48 walks as a sophomore. He was also a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in 2009 after going 5-1 with a 4.30 ERA in 22 appearances.

"Strength-wise, I think I attack hitters really well," said Gray, who acknowledged his primary concern is pitching for Vanderbilt this weekend rather than negotiating a contract. "I come and try to give you my best stuff and I think having that competitive spirit and that competitive mind serves you well on days you don't have your best stuff."

Listed at 5-feet-11, 200 pounds, Gray said he was "6-feet" tall. When pressed, he laughed and said, "5-11-and-a-half."

The last college pitcher the A's used a first-round pick on was James Simmons out of UC Riverside in 2007. Simmons is currently on double-A Midland's disabled list with right shoulder impingement syndrome.

The A's have also made a habit of drafting college players in the first round. Since 1997, Oakland has drafted only one high school player in the first round - pitcher Jeremy Bonderman in 2001. Eric Chavez was a high school star when the A's selected him with their first pick in 1996.

Oakland's last three first-round picks are ranked by Baseball America in their top five prospects - Jemile Weeks (No. 5), Grant Green (No. 1) and Michael Choice (No. 3) - while Cliff Pennington (2005 first-rounder) and Landon Powell (2004 first-rounder as compensation for losing Keith Foulke via free agency) are obviously with the big club. Alas, Oakland's farm system is ranked a lowly 28th among the 30 big league clubs.

With just four picks in the first five rounds - Oakland surrendered its second-round pick to Tampa Bay as compensation for signing free-agent reliever Grant Balfour this offseason - the A's are tied for the fewest such picks in that span. Their next pick is in the third round, No. 105 overall, and again at No. 136 overall in the fourth. The A's will then select every 30 picks thereafter.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

First-place Cats return to Raley Field after loss

By Kyle Tucker / Sacramento River Cats

The River Cats were unable to dig themselves out of an early hole Tuesday night, after starter Carlos Hernandez was shelled, allowing six home runs in just 3.1 innings. Sacramento threatened to make a comeback, but fell short 12-9.

Hernandez took the mound looking to lead Sacramento to their season-high seventh consecutive win and remain unbeaten this month.

Hernandez, making his fourth start, came in with a perfect 2-0 record, but it just wasn't his night as the Sky Sox teed off on anything near the strike zone. Hernandez set a franchise record by allowing six home runs in less than four innings -- two in the first, three in the second and one in the fourth.

This was Hernandez's worst outing as a professional, allowing nine runs on 11 hits. It would be up to the bullpen to stop the bleeding as the Sacramento offense has been on a tear lately, so a comeback was not out of the question.

The River Cats got on the scoreboard in the fifth inning on an Adrian Cardenas double that scored Jai Miller. Sacramento added two more runs in the sixth with Michael Taylor's third home run of the season.

Catcher Josh Donaldson added some pop of his own, belting a solo homer in the seventh, cutting the deficit in half. Shane Peterson followed with a one-out double, scoring Cardenas. The momentum seemed to shift in Sacramento's favor.

After a pitching change by the Sky Sox, Eric Sogard lined a two-run double to right field to score Peterson and Wes Timmons, and all of the sudden it was a ballgame again with the Sky Sox lead shrinking to just two.

The River Cats' bullpen has been stellar all season long, but they weren't able to shut down to Sky Sox offense, allowing two more runs in the seventh inning and one in the eighth, putting the comeback out of reach.

Sacramento returns to Raley Field on Thursday night to open up a four-game series against Tacoma. The River Cats offense has been red-hot, putting up 38 runs in the last four games.

River Cats fans will see a new-look team when they return, as the A's have caught the injury bug, causing a slough of roster moves. Second baseman Jemile Weeks was called up Tuesday and made his Major League debut, going 0-for-4. Left-hander Bobby Cramer was also recalled, along with Scott Sizemore and Adam Rosales.

Fautino De Los Santos will be back after getting a taste of the Big Leagues and veteran third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff will be in a River Cats uniform for the first time after struggling both at the plate and in the field with Oakland.

Sacramento is 5-1 on Miller Lite Thirsty Thursdays at Raley Field and will go for their third consecutive series win.

Ports Can't Top Giants In Extra Innings

Stockton Ports

The Ports put up their best effort against their Giants on Tuesday night, but still fell short of San Jose 10-7 in extra innings to be swept by the G-men.

The Giants got off to a quick start, putting up three runs against Ports starter Rob Gilliam in the first. Gary Brown started the Giants inning with a single to right-center field. With Ryan Cavan batting, Brown was caught stealing 2nd base, on a solid throw from Ports catcher Ryan Ortiz. Cavan then singled to right-center field, and advanced to third on a Francisco Peguero single. Cavan scored and Peguero advanced to third on a Chris Dominguez double. The Giants final two runs came on a Tommy Joseph triple, before Luke Anders struck out to end the inning.

The Ports quickly answered back with three runs of their own in the first. Myrio Richard, who had a solid night going 2-for-5 with a home run and two RBIs, hit a leadoff home run to left field. Michael Gilmartin, who went into the night batting .357 against the Giants, then doubled to left field. Michael Choice and Anthony Aliotti both walked to load the bases. Ortiz brought the Ports second run in with a single to shortstop. Unfortunately for the Ports, it also resulted in an out as Choice over ran third base and could not get back to the bag and was tagged out. Aliotti crossed the plate for the final run of the inning on a Jason Christian single to left-center field.

The Ports took the lead in the third inning, marking the first time the Ports have held the lead against the Giants since the 18th inning on May 15. The run came on an Aliotti bomb over the right field wall on the second pitch of the inning.

The lead would not hold for long as the Giants responded with two runs of their own in the fourth. Jarrett Parker walked to start the inning, and stole second to get within scoring position. A Carter Jurica double sent Parker home. Jurica followed close behind, scoring on a throwing error by Dusty Coleman.

In the bottom of the fourth the Giants replaced starter Andy Reichard with Josh Dunning. Dunning gave up a double to the hot-hitting Gilmartin, who scored when Chris Carter reached on an error two batters later.

The back-and-forth between the two teams continued into the fifth, as both teams put up two more runs. The Giants two runs came after Cavan tripled to get on base and Peguero homered to bring the runs home. The Ports ground out their two runs, loading the bases on singles from Ortiz, Christian and Coleman. A sac fly from Richard and a single from Gilmartin brought Ortiz and Christian home to keep the game tied through five.

Both teams would go scoreless in innings six through nine, sending the game into extra innings. After a quiet tenth, the Giants broke through in the 11th. Ports reliever Connor Hoehn came into the game to replace Jose Guzman, who had put in 3.0 scoreless innings of work. Hoehn quickly gave up a single to Joseph before a throwing error by Gilmartin resulted in no outs and runners on first and second. Hoehn then gave up a towering home run to Jurica and essentially end the Ports hope of a victory that evening.

The Ports have now lost 11 straight games against the Giants. The Ports will get their next chance at redemption against the G-Men when they head to San Jose for a four-game series starting on June 23. The Ports head to Bakersfield on Thursday, getting a much needed day of rest tomorrow.

Bees Rally to Win 6-3

By Gavin Halpin, Burlington Bees

BURLINGTON, IA-C John Nester (2-4) blasted a two-run home run that was part of a three-run sixth inning to give the Burlington Bees (40-19) a 6-3 win over the South Bend Silver Hawks (30-28) before 579 fans at Community Field Tuesday night.

The Silver Hawks plated two runs in the first inning after back to back doubles by 1B Yazy Arbelo (2-4) and 3B Matt Helm (1-4) for a 2-0 lead.

In the second inning the Silver Hawks got right back to where they left off by loading the bases and scoring one run off of a wild pitch by Bees RHP Jonathan Joseph (1-1).

The Bees flashed some light on the scoreboard as 1B A.J. Kirby-Jones (1-3) led off the third inning with a solo home run. After back-to-back walks and a wild pitch by Silver Hawks RHP Brandon Hagens (1-3), a groundout by LF Douglas Landaeta (0-4) scored CF Tyreace House (0-2) to make the score 3-2.

In the sixth inning DH Josh Whitaker (2-3) led off with a double, moved to third on a single by 3B Tony Thompson (2-4) and scored on a fly out to centerfield by SS Yordy Cabrera (0-3). Nester followed with his first home run of the season.

The Bees and South Bend Silver Hawks will play game two of their three-game series on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. It's "Kids Eat Free Wednesday" at Community Field, where all kids 12 and under get a free hot dog and drink at the game sponsored by Newsradio 1490 KBUR and Today's Light Favorites 93.5 KKMI. RHP J.R. Bradley (2-7, 4.67) gets the start for the Silver Hawks against RHP Tyler Vail (0-2, 4.55) for the Bees.