

## **A's News Clips, Monday, June 20, 2011**

### **Oakland A's complete sweep of San Francisco Giants**

By Ben Enos, Oakland Tribune

Right-hander Trevor Cahill knew well enough not to mess with the mojo his A's teammates are carrying.

Cahill, who chose to wear the team's alternate gold jersey for the first time this season, delivered eight masterful innings as the A's finished their sweep of the Giants at O.co Coliseum with a 2-1 victory Sunday.

Catcher Landon Powell homered in the eighth to break a 1-1 tie.

With a 0-5 record and a 5.67 ERA over his previous seven starts, Cahill needed to snap out of his own funk if the A's were going to win their fifth consecutive game.

It was apparent early that Cahill would do his part to keep the A's on a roll. The sink on his pitches was back, and the bite on his breaking ball was sharp. He struck out the side in the fourth inning and at one point retired 10 in a row. He struck out seven, gave up five hits and walked only one.

"Before, I was yanking a lot of pitches so when I was throwing that sinker away, it was just cutting," Cahill said. "Today, I kind of got down the feeling for it coming back over the plate to righties and inside to lefties. I think the command was there a lot more than the last couple starts."

He also changed his habit of choosing the A's white jerseys for his home starts because the team had won four in a row wearing gold. The starting pitcher picks the color of the jersey the A's wear for home games.

"I was joking around about it, but they would've killed me if we had worn white," Cahill (7-5) said of his teammates.

The A's offense took its time in taking advantage of Cahill's effort. It wasn't until the sixth inning when they scored. Jemile Weeks lined a one-out double to left off Giants starter Matt Cain. After Cliff Pennington grounded out, Coco Crisp drove in the tying run with a bouncing single into right field.

Powell gave the A's the lead in the eighth, crushing a 2-1 offering from Jeremy Affeldt (1-1) for a solo shot over the 362-foot sign in left-center field.

It wasn't the likeliest scenario, because the switch-hitting Powell said he hadn't hit right-handed in about a month.

"We work right-handed every day, it's just my first game at-bat," Powell said. "That's a big difference from batting practice."

With closer Andrew Bailey and right-handed setup man Grant Balfour being given the day off to rest, Brian Fuentes worked a perfect ninth to seal the win. It was his 12th save of the season, but his first since May 29. It was also his first save under new manager Bob Melvin.

The win delivered a bit of cross-bay revenge after the Giants swept the A's at AT&T Park in May.

Melvin's approach appears to be having an impact on the A's, who got contributions from a host of players while sweeping the Giants.

"One of my philosophies is you've got to have everybody involved," Melvin said. "Everybody played in this series, and everybody contributed in this series. The more good feelings you can have amongst a group, the better the momentum is."

Said Powell: "Winning is fun. It's a lot more fun than what we were doing. We're just trying to keep going out there, keep having fun and keep living in the moment."

### **A's notebook: Rehabbing Brett Anderson visits clubhouse**

By Ben Enos, Oakland Tribune

A's pitcher Brett Anderson sported a black splint on his left wrist as he made his way around the clubhouse Sunday, showing the result of his visit to orthopedist Dr. James Andrews last week.

Anderson received a platelet-rich plasma injection in his elbow last Monday, avoiding surgery for the soreness that landed him on the disabled list. He said the splint is designed to immobilize his left forearm, and that he is to wear it for seven to 10 days after getting the injection.

When he went on the disabled list June 7, Anderson became the fifth A's starter this season to be sidelined for a prolonged period. With Dallas Braden (shoulder) out for the season and Brandon McCarthy (shoulder), Tyson Ross (oblique) and Rich Harden (shoulder) working their way back, Anderson joined the list with elbow problems for the third time in the past two seasons.

"What are you going to do? It's part of the deal," Anderson said. "Nobody expected Dallas, McCarthy or Tyson. It's just something you have to deal with and unfortunately I've had to deal with it more than most."

Anderson returned to the A's and found a different man in charge. Two days after he went on the D.L., Bob Melvin was named as the interim manager, replacing the fired Bob Geren.

"I came in (Saturday) and met him for the first time," Anderson said of Melvin. "It seems like a good clubhouse and everybody seems positive and upbeat. We've had a good transition from what I hear so far. The team's been playing pretty good lately and hopefully we can continue that."

One question that confronted Geren near the end of his tenure was his handling of interleague play. With the A's heading for road series against the Mets and Phillies, Melvin's experience as a National League manager will come into play. He managed the Diamondbacks from 2005-09.

"All of those things I certainly have history with," Melvin said before the game. "I think if you've just been exclusively in the American League, it's something you have to think about a little more whereas if you've been in the National League, it's a little bit more instinctive."

A's second baseman Jemile Weeks continued his torrid pace since being called up on June 7, going 3 for 4 on Sunday to move his average to .364. He also stole a base.

"He's got a good approach at the plate," Giants pitcher Matt Cain said of the A's young second baseman. "He's patient and he'll take advantage of a pitch in the middle of the plate."

Mark Ellis went 0 for 3 Sunday in his second rehab appearance at Triple-A Sacramento. Ellis was a combined 0 for 6 in his first two games with the River Cats. He is eligible to come off the D.L. on Wednesday.

## **Former Giants, A's slugger Dave Kingman still can connect**

By Daniel Brown, San Jose Mercury News

STOCKTON -- A leisurely afternoon with the Stockton Ports featured the wonderfully corny minor league promotions. There was a furry red mascot frolicking atop the dugout, an Asparagus Race with fans dressed as vegetables, and a beer batter -- discount brews if the designated batter goes down on strikes.

As an added attraction Sunday, the Ports brought in King Kong.

Yes, that was Dave Kingman -- the mighty and mercurial slugger -- signing free autographs for nearly two hours as part of a Father's Day promotion. (He was dressed in a casual Hawaiian shirt and khaki slacks, unlike the poor sweltering mascot.)

The Single-A team counted on Kingman as a draw because he played for both the Giants and A's during a 16-year career and because an air of legend still follows him nearly 25 years after his last home run.

One by one, fans approached Kingman, 62, and waited for him to pen his signature. Many of the fans recounted their favorite home run. The 6-foot-6 slugger once hit a ball 500 feet against Jerry Koosman. There was also a blast of at least 530 feet at Wrigley Field. And a shot (albeit not a home run) that hit a speaker on the roof of Seattle's Kingdome.

"Of course, you can't remember them all," said Kingman, who has 442 career home runs to keep track of. "Fans always say something about a ball I hit at a game they were at. That's what sticks in their mind."

In terms of stature, Kingman looked much as he did during his playing days. He's still fit and imposing, the result of his active outdoors life near his home in Lake Tahoe. Kingman threw out the first pitch and had a smooth delivery that recalled his days as a pitching prospect at USC.

In terms of demeanor, however, Kingman was barely recognizable. Known during his playing days almost as much for his enigmatic personality as his long-ball prowess, Kingman on Sunday chatted amiably with fans, glad-handed season-ticket holders and -- gasp! -- was gracious with the press.

(Kingman infamously sent a rat to Sacramento Bee beat writer Susan Fornoff in 1986, wrapping it up in a gift box as an extra-sinister touch. The A's fined him \$3,500.)

On Sunday, he was all smiles, even as he talked about the frustrating ending to his career. He hit 35 home runs and drove in 94 runs during his final season with the A's -- and his phone stopped ringing.

"I'm sure I could have hit 500 (home runs)," Kingman said.

Why did the offers dry up for a guy who finished second in the American League in home runs? Kingman points not to the ghastly rat incident or the .210 batting average over his final season but instead to the widespread collusion among owners that followed. Only four free agents switched teams during the '86 offseason, and even major stars at the time -- Jack Morris, Tim Lincecum, Ron Guidry and Andre Dawson -- had trouble drumming up worthy offers.

In a series of rulings, independent arbitrators later found that baseball owners had conspired to avoid competitive bidding.

"That's all right," Kingman said Sunday. "I'm very happy with (my career). I enjoyed my time in the big leagues."

Kingman made his major league debut 40 years ago this July 30, entering a game against the Pirates as a pinch runner for Willie McCovey. On one of Kingman's first defensive plays, he fielded a ball hit by Willie Stargell and threw to second for an out on Roberto Clemente, then took the return throw to complete the double play.

Legends, legends everywhere.

"I'm breaking at a time when the Giants had Mays, McCovey and Marichal," Kingman said. "That's a huge thrill playing with those three Hall of Famers."

Kingman quickly emerged as a force, too, hitting a grand slam in his second game and adding a pair of two-run homers off Dock Ellis later in the week. He kept on mashing, leading the National League in home runs in 1979 (with 48 for the Cubs) and in '82 (37 for the Mets.)

The toughest pitcher he ever faced? "Well, when you're in a slump, they're all tough," said Kingman, whose 1,816 strikeouts rank 12th all-time. "But I was a fastball hitter. The off-speed pitchers gave me more problems than the hard throwers."

Kingman's best home run total against a single pitcher is the eight he hit against Hall of Fame left-hander Steve Carlton.

"He was one guy that challenged you, and he had a really tough slider," Kingman said. "He struck me out a fair amount, too."

Kingman watches baseball only occasionally now, but he rooted hard for the Giants to win the World Series. He made the playoffs in '71 -- and never reached the postseason again.

Kingman finished his career by playing three seasons in Oakland when the team never topped .500. Does he have a favorite memory of playing with the A's?

"Oh, wow. Let's see "... not really," he said with a laugh. "We didn't win any those three years. But I enjoyed living in Alameda for three years. Really, more than anything, you just appreciate being in the big leagues."

## **Landon Powell's homer lifts A's to sweep of Giants**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer  
Monday, June 20, 2011

-- On June 9, Bob Geren was fired. On June 10, Freddy Sanchez dislocated his shoulder. A week and a half later, the first-place Giants and last-place A's have new identities and are heading in directions not indicative of their places in the standings.

While the Giants remained useless at the plate on Sunday whenever someone reached scoring position, the A's sent their backup catcher to bat in the eighth inning and watched him hit a game-deciding home run in a 2-1 victory at the Coliseum.

The moods in the clubhouses were what you'd imagine for teams that have won five straight (the A's) and lost four straight (the Giants).

"The chemistry is good. We've got a lot of excitement, a lot of optimism," said Landon Powell, whose homer off Jeremy Affeldt gave the A's the victory.

In the visiting clubhouse down the hall, Aubrey Huff was asked how frustrating it was that Matt Cain (three hits, seven innings) got little run support. "Dumb question," said Huff, implying it absolutely was frustrating.

The latest round of interleague play between the Bay Area teams ended with the home side winning every game. The A's got revenge for the Giants' China Basin sweep last month with a sweep of their own. In fact, in 2010 and 2011, the home team won all 12 times.

Huff reminded reporters that last year's Giants, after being swept in Oakland, started winning. Indeed, they won five of six and 10 of 14. That was about the time they got a jolt from Buster Posey's arrival from the minors.

Now, they're without Posey and Sanchez and showing the effects - while the A's are showing the effects of a new manager.

Bob Melvin replaced Geren after nine straight losses, and the A's extended it to 10 under Melvin but eventually started believing that losing daily didn't need to be the norm.

"He's really big on believing in yourselves and teammates," Powell said. "Melvin bringing his positive attitude and a little different point of view on how to play the game has helped us win those one-run games that we were losing before."

Each starting pitcher surrendered a run. Off Trevor Cahill in the second inning, Aaron Rowand doubled home Nate Schierholtz from first base. Off Cain in the sixth, Coco Crisp singled in Jemile Weeks, who had three of Oakland's five hits and remains a major force in the turnaround.

Cain was pulled after throwing 106 pitches through seven innings and replaced by Affeldt.

"He knew he was close there, and it was time," manager Bruce Bochy said of Cain. "He did a heck of a job. He did all he could to help us win one."

Affeldt's 2-2 sinker was deposited over the left-field wall by Powell, who was batting right-handed after going 0-for-2 left-handed off Cain.

"It was supposed to be a sinker down, and I threw a sinker down," Affeldt said. "Was it a good pitch? Obviously, it was the wrong pitch. It went for a home run. Maybe I could have thrown it farther away from him."

## **Trevor Cahill 'just throws the ball,' wins**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Monday, June 20, 2011

-- Just throw the ball, Trevor.

That's what he did, and that's why he prevailed.

**Trevor Cahill** tossed eight innings of one-run, five-hit ball for his first victory since May 9, and he said he simply turned his focus from mechanics to making pitches.

"You're not supposed to be thinking about mechanics while you're trying to get the hitter out," Cahill said. "Today, I didn't think about it. Didn't try to be too fine. Just aimed for the strike zone. First two, three innings, I got a better feel and was able to feed off that."

It was a far cry from his previous seven starts, a span in which he went 0-5 with a 5.67 ERA.

"Better rhythm today," manager **Bob Melvin** said. "He was fighting himself before. His timing was all over the place. In the middle innings, you could see him start to gain his confidence. When he stops thinking about mechanics and all the exterior things and has good thoughts and just throws the ball, good things happen to him."

**Lively:** Melvin said he couldn't help but notice the back and forth between A's and Giants fans who packed the Coliseum throughout the series.

"It was a big deal to me," Melvin said. "I was on the Giants side (as a player), and now I'm on the A's side. I've been a fan of both teams and watched it. That helped us. Our fans are loud. The fans who come out here on a regular basis are passionate fans. In games like today's, they certainly help you."

**Brian Fuentes**, an ex-Angel with firsthand interleague experience of Angels-Dodgers games, called A's-Giants competition "a little more intense."

**Briefly:** With **Andrew Bailey** and **Grant Balfour** getting a rest, Fuentes fired a perfect ninth for his 12th save in 15 chances. ... **Josh Willingham**, as expected, was missing again with a sore Achilles tendon. The A's hope he'll play Tuesday in New York. ... After having his platelet-rich plasma injection, **Brett Anderson** is wearing a brace over his left wrist for 10 days to stabilize his forearm. He said he was bummed about being shelved but relieved he doesn't need elbow surgery. ...

**Rich Harden's** first rehab start is today at Triple-A Sacramento.

## **A'S LEADING OFF**

**Barton departin'?** Daric Barton batted ninth Saturday, didn't play Sunday, and it's speculated he could be optioned to the minors to work on his swing. Asked if Barton will continue to be in and out of the lineup, manager Bob Melvin said, "It's still a day-to-day proposition."

## **Another rookie star arrives in Bay Area**

Scott Ostler, San Francisco Chronicle

Jemile Weeks is the Buster Posey of the A's. You can tell them apart by their hairstyles. When the slight (5foot-9, 161 pounds) and speedy Weeks rounds first on a double, or steals a bag, his helmet flies off and his dreadlocks flap wildly in the

breeze. Posey's helmet mostly stays in place.

That difference aside, there are similarities:

Both were college stars in Florida, Posey at FSU and Weeks at Miami.

"We used to battle it out," Weeks said.

Both were drafted in the first round in '08,

Posey No. 5 and Weeks No. 12.

Both were seen by their organizations as something special, guys who would make a difference immediately, with glove and bat.

Both were midseason SOS call-ups from Triple-A, Posey on May 29 of last year; Weeks, his progress through the minors slowed by injuries, on June 7, 13 days ago.

Posey was sensational from Day 1, helped lead the Giants to a World Series title and was voted his league's Rookie of the Year.

Follow that, Weeks.

So far, no problemo. Weeks went 3-for-4 on Sunday in the A's 2-1 laughter over the Giants, his fifth multiple-hit game. He is hitting .364 (16-for-44) in 12 games. He was in the leadoff spot Sunday for the second straight game, having moved up eight spots.

His offense isn't a big surprise.

Weeks was hitting .321 at Sacramento when he was called up, with a .417 on-base percentage.

On Sunday, he doubled in the sixth and scored on a two-out single by Coco Crisp, the A's previous leadoff man. Weeks also made two outstanding defensive plays at second base.

It might be a little premature to get an A's World Series buzz going, but the enthusiasm for Weeks has already started.

His teammates even give him special treatment.

When Weeks selected "Hustle Hard" by rapper Ace Hood as his walk-up music, the other A's set the rookie straight. Walk-up music? You gotta be in the bigs three years before you have your own music, son.

When Weeks ducked into the trainer's room recently to get a piece of equipment, his teammates chased him out, then taped a sign to the wall: "Jemile Weeks' Table."

It's good that his teammates remind him of his rookie status, because otherwise how would Weeks know? On Sunday, in front of a sellout crowd, first inning, he led off facing Matt Cain at the top of his game, banged a single to center and stole second.

"He plays the game well," Cain said. "He plays hard, and he does a good job defensively. He's not too overwhelmed. ... He's got a good approach at the plate. He's patient."

So what's not to like? So far, nothing.

Like Posey last season, Weeks seemed very comfortable in the big leagues from the first day.

"I have nerves," Weeks said.

"At the same time, they're exciting nerves, like readiness."

Someone used the word swagger and Weeks shrugged.

"I guess so," he said, "and at the same time, I guess I'm just being me. That's just my comfortability on the field."

To cultivate a star in the making like Weeks, it takes a (small) village.

He has received counsel and advice all along from older (by four years) brother Rickie, who plays for the Brewers. Jemile is studying Baseball 101 under professor Rickey Henderson. And since the spring of 2010, Weeks has gotten excellent and generous instruction from Mark Ellis, who knew all along that he was helping groom Weeks to be the A's next second

baseman.

Ellis is scheduled to come off the disabled list (left hamstring) Wednesday. He was hitting .209 when he got hurt, and in his two rehab games in Sacramento, he's 0-for-6. What happens?

"I don't blame you for asking," A's manager Bob Melvin said before the game, "but I'm not a dummy. We have two great players. Mark Ellis means a lot to this organization and is an excellent player, and Weeks has really shown what to expect (from him) in the organization (as he was) coming up. Either way, we'll figure it out somehow. You'd rather have tough decisions than easy ones."

Melvin, to his credit, is the rare manager who doesn't squirm at the touchy questions and decisions. He seems to relish the challenge of making those calls.

But this particular decision will be out of Melvin's hands, at least for the short term. If Weeks keeps hitting and fielding and hustling hard, he keeps playing.

"He's doing a phenomenal job," Crisp said. "He's come in here with a lot of energy, doing a good job. ... He carries himself wonderfully. ... It's fun watching him play."

If his helmet is flyin', playing time he'll be buyin'.

### **Drumbeat: Similar look to lineup -- minus Daric Barton**

John Shea from the Coliseum . . . 6/19/2011, 12:48pm

Josh Willingham, as expected, is out of the lineup again with a sore Achilles' tendon, so the top of the lineup is the same as yesterday's. Daric Barton hit ninth yesterday but is missing from today's lineup. Bob Melvin is playing Conor Jackson at first base because of his numbers against Matt Cain (6-for-20).

Asked if Barton will continue to be in and out of the lineup, Melvin said, "It's still a day-to-day proposition."

Adam Rosales, who played left yesterday, is at third base. He's 4-for-12 with a homer off Cain.

Here's the lineup: 2B Weeks, SS Pennington, CF Crisp, DH Matsui, 1B Jackson, LF Sweeney, RF DeJesus, 3B Rosales, C Powell. Cahill on the hill.

### **A's sweep weekend series against Giants**

*ASSOCIATED PRESS*

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OAKLAND — Landon Powell hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, his first homer of the season, and the Oakland Athletics held on to beat the San Francisco Giants 2-1 on Sunday, completing a three-game sweep at home of the defending World Series champs.

Powell, making a rare start in place of catcher Kurt Suzuki, was hitless in two at-bats against San Francisco starter Matt Cain before hitting his first homer of the season off reliever Jeremy Affeldt (1-1).

Trevor Cahill (7-5) pitched eight innings to win for the first time since May 9. Oakland's right-hander, who was 0-5 in his previous seven starts, pitched out of jams in the second and third to help the A's extend their season-high winning streak to five.

Aaron Rowand had an RBI double for San Francisco, which wasted a stellar outing by Cain while losing its fourth straight game overall.

Rookie Jemile Weeks had three hits, his fifth mult-hit game since being called up from the minors on June 7. That helped Oakland complete a 5-1 homestand, the team's best since 2006.

Brian Fuentes pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 12th save in 15 chances. Fuentes struck out Cody Ross looking to end the game, and the Giants outfielder angrily reacted.

Powell's homer, only the 10th of his career, spoiled what had been a pitching duel between Cahill and Cain. It also gave Cahill a victory after he was on the hook for a no-decision.

Cahill scattered five hits and had seven strikeouts. He had been 0-5 with a 5.67 ERA in his previous seven starts before putting the clamps on the Giants.

Cain was just as tough but left with his fifth no-decision of the season, ending a three-game winning streak.

Cain gave up a leadoff single to Weeks in the first — the only hit Oakland got until Weeks doubled with one out in the sixth. In between, San Francisco's right-hander retired 14 straight during one stretch, including designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who twice popped out weakly to second.

The A's broke through after Weeks' double, however. The speedy Weeks, called up from the minors on June 7, moved to third on Cliff Pennington's groundout and scored on Coco Crisp's single to right.

Cain allowed only three hits, had five strikeouts and didn't walk a batter for only the second time this season. But with the Giants' offense still sputtering with runners in scoring position (0 for 26 over the last four games), it wasn't enough.

Weeks, who had two of the hits off Cain, has been a big lift to Oakland's lineup. He batted leadoff for the second straight day and collected his fifth multi-hit game to raise his average to .364, leaving the A's in a potential quandary when second baseman Mark Ellis is eligible to come off the disabled list next week. Interim manager Bob Melvin said prior to the game that the situation will "work itself out."<

Notes: Cahill's pickoff of Aubrey Huff in the second inning was the A's 15th of the season, tops in the majors. ... All three games in the series were sold out, giving Oakland five for the season. ... Giants IF Mike Fontenot has been slow to recover from a groin strain and might not begin a rehab assignment until next week. ... Oakland RHP Rich Harden (strained right shoulder) will make his first rehab start for Triple-A Sacramento on Monday.

### **CohnZone: Bob Melvin faces down Mike Krukow — a funny tale**

By Lowell Cohn, Santa Rosa Press Democrat

I bumped into Duane Kuiper before today's A's-Giants game. We talked about new A's manager Bob Melvin, a former Giant. Kuiper said Mike Krukow preferred to pitch to Bob Brenly instead of Melvin. "Brenly was Krukow's personal catcher," is how Kuiper put it.

"Ask Bobby about that?" Kuiper said. "It ticks him off."

So after Melvin's pregame news conference, I said I had a question for him. I asked it and Melvin started laughing as he recalled the very first time he caught Krukow, back in 1986.

"I get to the ballpark," he said. "I see my name in the lineup and Krukow's pitching. The first thing I see is Krukow coming out of the manager's office all pissed off. Second thing, we're on the top step of the dugout. He's going out to take the field. He says, 'Oh, by the way, man on second two five pumps. Two and five are the fastballs. One's a curve ball. Three's a slider. Wiggle's a change. Rolls over at five.' He pats me on the butt as we go out to the field.

"That goes right in one ear and right out the other. I mean this is something you do well before a game. These are the series of signs on second base. So, I have no clue. And the first time we get a guy on second, I'm giving a sign and when he shakes me off he steps off the mound and looks at me. You know, one of these. (Melvin gives a totally disgusted look.)

"So now I'm really feeling good about myself. In about the second inning, I went out to the mound. I said, 'Listen, you don't throw hard enough to get it by me. I'm not even going to put down a sign. You throw it and I'll catch it. Don't worry about it.'

"The respect started right then and there. One of my favorite people in the game."

"Do you mind if I write that?" I asked.

"I think he'd get a kick out of it. It's not like he didn't know it happened."

### **Gutierrez: Weeks should stay when Ellis arrives**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

*Same old (stuff)*



*Just a different day*

*I keep tryin' to get it*

*Each and every way*

*Momma need a house*

*Baby need some shoes*

*Times are getting' hard*

*Guess what I'ma do?*

*Hustle*

*Hustle*

*Hustle*

*Hard*

-Ace Hood, on "Hustle Hard," A's rookie Jemile Weeks' walk-up song.

OAKLAND - You've seen the future of the A's, and his name is Jemile Weeks.

The rookie bats lead-off. He steals bases. He plays highlight-reel defense at second base. He's, ahem, *humble*.

Wait, what?

Yes, Weeks has brought what his teammates call a certain "swagger" into the A's clubhouse, an "electricity" onto the field since being called up from triple-A Sacramento on June 7 to make his major league debut. But he knows his role and pays his respects.

Even with the potential awkward situation that awaits the A's in New York on Wednesday, when Mark Ellis will be activated from the disabled list to join the team at CitiField against the Mets.

It does not have to be awkward, though. Not if the A's do the smart thing and keep Weeks as the A's starting second baseman until he inevitably cools off. Ellis, ever the consummate professional, could play the role of mentor and, some suggest, become attractive trade bait to a team - the Giants? Detroit? - in need of a second baseman, or simply reclaim his gig as the best second baseman in the game to have never won a Gold Glove.

Then again, Weeks could make like Buster Posey did last season for the Giants and spark his team on an epic run. Only difference is, though, Posey was involved in every pitch as a catcher.

Plus, as noted earlier, Weeks insists there will be no awkward moments when Ellis returns.

"Me being a young guy, whatever position they put me at, that's where I'll play," Weeks said. "He's a veteran; that's his position. I'm willing to do whatever they want me to.

"We haven't gotten any insight on the situation."

As Ellis himself told me on Friday, "That stuff will work itself out. You never have enough good players."

While Ellis, who was scuffling with a .211 batting average with the A's when he went on the D.L. with a strained right hamstring, was struggling through an 0-for-6 with a walk in his first two rehab games with the River Cats, Weeks was finishing off his first three-hit game for the A's in Sunday's 2-1 defeat of the Giants.

In his 12 games as a big leaguer, Weeks is batting .364 with four doubles, three-triples, seven runs scored and two stolen bases, while robbing opposing batters of hits with his "effort play" defense.

Weeks, the A's first-round draft choice in the 2008 draft, No. 12 overall, played an integral part in Oakland's three-game sweep of the defending World Series champs at the O.co Coliseum. After hitting in the No. 9 hole in the series opener, Weeks batted lead-off on Saturday and Sunday.

"He plays the game well," offered Giants starter Matt Cain. "He plays it hard. He does a great job on defense. He made a couple of diving plays against us. He really did a great job of not getting too overwhelmed when he was making plays.

"He's got a good approach at the plate. He's patient. He's going to take advantage of guys that leave balls over the middle of the plate. You still have to figure him out."

Good luck with that. Because until that happens - yes, I'm about to type it again - Weeks should be the A's regular second baseman. And he should continue to take the ribbing and hazing that have come his way.

Consider: after just six home games, Weeks already has a walk-up song - Ace Hood's "Hustle Hard." And after going 0-for-4 on Saturday, the A's vets told him he had to be in the bigs at least three years before picking theme music.

And that was before they playfully named a section of the training room after him and kidded him for wearing a sleeve on his sliding leg.

Sunday afternoon, he could only find one sock while getting dressed. More hijinks from his teammates? Maybe. Maybe not. But in any event, he's already made his mark, and he already has the big league pedigree, what with his brother Rickie a standout for Milwaukee.

Which, again, is exactly why the A's need to ride Weeks and not even entertain the idea of sending him back to Sacramento. The corresponding roster move should be to ship struggling Daric Barton to the River Cats to find his stroke or, if Josh Willingham's bothersome right Achilles' tendon is still not right, put him on the D.L. to make room for Ellis.

Just let Weeks be. The same way he's left his dreads alone. His last haircut was two years ago, when he was battling injury issues to his left hip that limited him to 176 games over his first three professional seasons.

A's interim manager Bob Melvin was asked in a long soliloquy following the A's 2-1 victory Sunday if he and the front office have had any discussions yet on what to do with the Weeks-Ellis situation.

Melvin's simple response: "Nope."

Melvin smiled. Just as Weeks surely did when he got the call to pack his bags for Baltimore to join the A's just over two weeks ago.

Surely, nerves had to be dealt with, right? If not, the generously-listed 5-feet-9, 161-pound (soaking wet and with rocks in his pockets, maybe) Weeks has to be somewhat surprised by his early success and impact for a team riding a season-best five-game winning streak, no?

"Not surprised, excited," Weeks said. "I was a little nervous to be on this stage. I need to feel like I'm a part of this team."

Check that. Weeks is not only the future of the A's; he's also the present.

### **A's Harden, Anderson making progress with rehab**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

OAKLAND -- While one potential member of the A's starting rotation prepared Sunday to depart for a rehab assignment with triple-A Sacramento, a former member of the rotation made his first appearance in the Oakland clubhouse since being placed on the disabled list.

Rich Harden will pitch for the River Cats at Raley Field against Fresno on Monday while Brett Anderson is on Day 7 of his "seven-to-10 day" rest period after undergoing Platelet Rich Plasma injection therapy on his sore left elbow last Monday. "The shot wasn't very much fun, but it's better than surgery," said Anderson, who initially feared he might need Tommy John Surgery.

Anderson, 23, said he also received the PRP treatment last year, during his second stint on the disabled list but thought rest, combined with the shot, yielded better results. He is also wearing a brace on his left wrist to keep his forearm stable.

Harden, meanwhile, is being stretched out to return as a starter.

"So far, that's the plan," Harden said. "I'm going to get my work in, get my pitch count up and get the feel."

Harden said he plans to pitch for the River Cats on Monday and then again Saturday.

"It all depends upon how it goes, obviously," he said. "I have to see how sharp my pitches are. Get sharp with my off-speed (pitches) and my fastball."

### **A's edge Giants, 2-1, to sweep weekend series in Oakland, just like last year**

Sam McPherson, examiner.com

When San Francisco Giants outfielder Nate Schierholtz hit a pinch-hit, two-run home run on May 22 at AT&T Park to help his teammates to a sweep of the Oakland Athletics, it was a pretty stunning moment.

Well, the A's did the Giants one better today, as backup catcher Landon Powell hit an eighth-inning home run to break a 1-1 tie and send his teammates to a sweep of the defending World Series champions.

Oakland's 2-1 victory over San Francisco on Sunday means the A's have a season-high, five-game winning streak -- and they also gained a game on the American League West division lead.

Suddenly, under the new leadership of manager Bob Melvin, Oakland looks like a different team.

And distinctly different than the A's squad that got swept in San Francisco last month as Oakland dominated the Giants this weekend -- outscoring them 11-5 to make up for the two, one-run, extra-innings losses at AT&T Park last month.

So even though the teams split the interleague series down home-park boundaries for the second year in a row, the A's have to feel good about themselves now as they head off to New York and Philadelphia for some National League East matchups.

All because of Powell's heroics and Trevor Cahill's "return" to something resembling normalcy.

Powell may be best known for being the guy who caught Dallas Braden's perfect game last year, and hitting his first home run of the season in this key moment was a nice piece of fortune for the A's.

Cahill's eight dominant innings meant just as much, however: he allowed only one run and one walk, while striking out seven. This was his first win since May 9.

But for the first time in ten games, the A's defense didn't make an error behind their pitching staff, and even though the offense only mustered five hits on the day, it was enough to bury San Francisco deep in the Coliseum foundations.

The Giants know it's better to be lucky than good sometimes, and the A's gave them a taste of that today after being merely good the previous two games.

So for now, the two teams move apart, knowing they won't meet again in a meaningful game until at least October, if not next summer.

Oakland still maintains an overall edge on San Francisco in interleague play, winning 45 games while losing 41 in these matchups since 1997 when the schedule changes enabled such meetings.

In fact, it's been ten years since the Giants held a brief edge in the interleague series between the two teams. After splitting the games evenly from 1997 to 2000, San Francisco won four of six games in 2001. But the A's quickly countered with four wins in six games the following year to even the series up again.

Splits in 2003 and 2004 maintained the equity between the Bay Area teams, but Oakland pulled ahead in 2005 and has maintained that edge ever since.

### **San Francisco Giants vs. Oakland A's: A's Give Dads a Gift on Father's Day**

By Gean May, Fowler Events, June 19, 2011

On a sunny, 72-degree day in Oakland, the A's would give their Dads a great Father's day gift in front of another sellout crowd in Oakland with a come from behind 2-1 win against the San Francisco Giants.

The A's extended their winning streak to five games, their longest since the 2010 season.

The A's new second basemen Jemile Weeks continued his exciting ways, going 3-4 and flashed the leather as well playing a solid second base saving a run in the top of the third with a divine stop throwing out Aubrey Huff at first.

The conclusion of "The Battle of The Bay" faced off Matt Cain against Trevor Cahill.

The Giants would draw first blood in the top of the second on a double down the left field line scoring Nate Schierholtz from first base following a walk.

Trevor Cahill started the season going 6-0, but since then the A's ace has not lived up to that billing, losing five of his last seven starts.

Today would be a different story with Cahill giving up one run, scattering five hits over eight innings with seven strikeouts, giving him his first win since May 9th.

Cain was on his game as well, allowing one run on three hits and five strikeouts. Jeremy Affeldt would be credited with the loss.

The Giants threatened again with two outs in the top of the third with a Manny Burriss single to left center field, followed by a single by Pablo Sandoval that was scorched down the first base line, moving Burriss to third. Aubrey Huff hit another hot shot that looked like it would get through, but second baseman Jemile Weeks made his diving stab and threw out Huff.

Matt Cain gave up a leadoff single to Jemile Weeks to start the game, but didn't allow another batter—except for a catcher's interference—to reach base until the bottom of the sixth. Weeks got to Cain once again smacking a double to deep left. Cliff Pennington grounded out to second base moving weeks to third.

Coco Crisp evened the game with an RBI single to right field.

Jeremy Affeldt started the bottom of the eighth in place of Cain.

Catcher Landon Powell hit his first home run of the season off Jeremy Affeldt, a solo shot to left field on a 2-1 pitch giving the A's a 2-1 lead.

Brian Fuentes entered the game in the top of the ninth retiring all three Giants batters he faced, recording his 12th save of the season.

### **Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants Recap: A's Down Giants in Sloppy Game**

By Gean May, Fowler Events, June 19, 2011

The Oakland A's took the second game of a three game series in part two of the "Battle of the Bay" beating the Giants 4-2 in front of a sold-out crowd at Overstock.com Coliseum in Oakland.

The bullpens would be the story as both starting pitchers were chased early after going 4 2/3 innings each.

The Giants first run came by way of a comedy of errors by the A's, all though one error was actually called a hit. Catcher Chris Stewart hit a routine grounder to third baseman Scott Sizemore who appeared to trip on his own feet, but it was ruled a hit.

Guillermo Moscoso then walked Andres Torres to put runners on first and second with no outs. Manny Burriss laid down a bunt that Moscoso fielded cleanly but the throw was wide scoring Stewart. With runners now at second and third, Moscoso was able to strike out Pablo Sandoval, but Aubrey Huff was able to bring home another run on a sacrifice fly to left field.

Moscoso gave way to Brad Ziegler after going 4 2/3 innings.

For the most part, Moscoso pitched well, but errors combined with a few timely hits kept him from getting past the fifth inning.

Moscoso found himself in a bit of a jam in the top of the second inning when Aubrey Huff singled to left field. Moscoso got the next two batters out, but a throwing error on shortstop Cliff Pennington allowed Huff to reach second on a fielders choice from Aaron Rowand. Moscoso then walked shortstop Brandon Crawford to load the bases. Chris Stewart flied out to center field to end the threat.

The A's offense was dormant until big fifth inning except for a threat here and there.

Hideki Matsui led off the bottom of second with a single to right field. Jonathan Sanchez was hit hard, but was able to get the next two outs before giving up a walk to Scott Sizemore. Sanchez then struck out Adam Rosales to end the inning, bringing any threat of scoring to a screeching halt.

Moscoso's troubles in the fifth seemed to be contagious.

Sanchez started the bottom of the fifth allowing a single to Scott Sizemore with Daric Barton eventually knocking him in with a double to deep right center field. Barton scored on a double to **left** field by Cliff Pennington.

The nightmare continued for Sanchez as he allowed Pennington to advance to third on a wild pitch followed by a walk to Coco Crisp. Crisp stole second putting runners on second and third setting the table for Hideki Matsui who singled to shallow right center field scoring Pennington and Crisp.

Sanchez went 4 2/3 innings allowing four runs on six hits.

The Overstock.com Coliseum was sold out for only the fourth time all season Saturday night against the San Francisco Giants. Two of the four sellouts have come against the Giants.

## **Oakland A's: The 10 Best Trades Under Billy Beane**

June 9, 2011 By Gean May

When you hear the name Billy Beane, what comes to mind?

When I think of Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane, I think about a man who finds talent and cultivates it until it's ripe. Beane enjoys his crop for a few choice years, and then when the maintenance costs get too high, he has a yard sale, or he takes his commodities to the bargaining table and tries to get as much value for them as he can.

In the minds of most fans, this isn't a bad thing. Beane is actually very good at what he does. He has won four AL West Championships and has been to the playoffs five times since he took over for Sandy Alderson in 1998. It's also worth noting that in 2001, the only year under Beane that the A's made the playoffs without winning the division, they won 102 games as a wild card team.

If you had to determine Beane's strongest attribute, would it be his skill at scouting talent, or his knack for making the right trades and signings at the right time? I'd say it's the former, but with that being said, I do believe that Beane has done an impressive job of making the right moves when he needs to.

Keep in mind that Beane almost always thinks in the now, so when you browse this list you'll notice that the players the A's picked up sometimes didn't stick around for long. They were there to do a job, and just like with home-grown talent, they can also become too expensive. In addition, some of the players on the list ended up moving on because of injuries or a lack of production.

One of my criteria for inclusion was whether the trade had a positive effect on the team, and one might say that during his time in Oakland the A's won in spite of him. That's how I justify leaving him out of the top 10.

For the purpose of this article, we're going to determine the best trades by looking at the following: Did the player received perform well with the A's? Did the trade have a positive effect on the team? It can be both, but it doesn't have to be.

Here are the top ten trades the Oakland A's have made under Billy Beane.

### **Mark Ellis**

Many fans might wonder what Mark Ellis is doing on this list. Ellis seems like he's been in the organization his whole career, but he was actually part of the Johnny Damon trade that brought the two players over from Kansas City.

Why is Ellis number 10? Even though he's the only player on this list who is still on the team, he's probably last on the list of position players as far as talent is concerned.

Don't get me wrong, Ellis is a mainstay in Oakland and has played a huge part in the A's success during his time with the team. The truth of the matter is this: if Ellis was higher on this list, he probably wouldn't be playing for the A's anymore.

### **Keith Foulke**

Keith Foulke was a good reliever who had an excellent 2003 season with the A's. Foulke compiled 43 saves with an ERA of 2.08, and finished seventh in the Cy Young voting.

The problem is, was he too good?

Sometimes "Moneyball" can jump up and bite you in the butt. In 2004 Foulke went on to win a World Series with the Boston Red Sox.

### **Jason Kendall**

You might notice a trend on this list. A lot of these players (including Kendall) were on the 2006 A's team that went to the ALCS.

Kendall was a solid addition to the A's who came in with a great resume.

Kendall batted over .300 six times and was a three-time All Star with the Pittsburgh Pirates. His reputation as a solid backstop was enough to convince Beane to bring him in to handle some new arms after the breakup of Oakland's "Big Three" (Mark Mulder, Tim Hudson and Barry Zito).

As is so often the case in Oakland, Kendall didn't stay long, but the A's got what they needed out of him nonetheless.

His numbers were solid for a catcher, as Kendall batted .271 during his time in Oakland.

### **Erubiel Durazo**

Durazo was a player loaded with potential. Beane saw what he was capable of during his early seasons in Arizona, and Durazo proved him right in 2004 by hitting .321 with 22 home runs.

2004 was by far his best season with the A's. Injuries derailed Durazo's career soon after, and he never had the chance to live up to his potential and that 2004 season.

During his short Oakland, Durazo batted .284 and hit 47 home runs

### **Cory Lidle**

In 2001 the A's had Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder and Barry Zito.

Cory Lidle did a good job as the number four guy in the rotation. He held his own, going 13-6 with a 3.59 ERA.

Lidle was definitely over shadowed by the Big Three, but he was able to eat up innings and help the A's win 102 games in 2001.

### **Honorable Mention: I Guess, Jermaine Dye and Johnny Damon**

Sorry for the interruption, but If Jermaine Dye and Johnny Damon were on this list I would probably have squeezed them in somewhere around here, simply for the fact that they were good players that had off years with the A's.

I didn't want to put Jermaine Dye or Johnny Damon on this list, and while I know some fans will gripe that they aren't in the top ten, sorry, but that's how I feel.

Dye definitely didn't live up to expectations, batting .252 with Oakland, which was his worst average with any team he played for in the majors.

He was a big pickup at the time, and yes, hindsight is 20/20, but even with his 64 home runs with the A's I still don't think he ranks with the others on this list.

His leg in the playoff

Maybe if he didn't break his leg in the playoffs against the Yankees in 2001, We'd have a different story.

I feel the same way about Johnny Damon as well, he just didn't live up to expectations in Oakland.

Damon managed to scrape together a .256 average (his worst year in the league) while in Oakland.

### **Kevin Appier**

Kevin Appier's situation was very similar to Cory Lidle's.

The A's got Appier in a trade from the Kansas City Royals during the 1999 season.

Like Lidle, Appier was the fourth arm in a three man rotation.

He was a veteran who fit in nicely with the big guns, going 15-11 in 2000.

His story is similar to Lidle's (and most of the other players on this list), as the A's got what they needed from him and he moved on. Appier departed as a free agent after the 2000 season.

### **Jay Payton**

Payton was another solid veteran brought in by Beane who had a huge role in the A's success in 2006. Payton was traded to Oakland during the 2005 season by the Boston Red Sox.

Like Jason Kendall, Payton was a seasoned veteran who contributed nicely.

In 2006 Payton hit .296 with 10 home runs. Payton rounded out an outfield that included Milton Bradley and Mark Kotsay, who are also both included later on the list.

In just over a year with the A's, Payton batted .286.

### **Mark Kotsay**

Mark Kotsay stuck with the A's a bit longer than most on this list. Kotsay was a hard-nosed ballplayer who hit for average and had a little pop in his bat as well. He hit 15 home runs twice as an Athletic.

2004 was by far his best year with the team. Kotsay batted .314 with 15 home runs, and finished 14th in the MVP voting, according to BaseballReference.com.

When it was all said and done, Kotsay had batted .282 and hit 38 home runs during his time in Oakland.

### **Milton Bradley**

I can hear the screams now, "how is this crazy man number two?"

Bradley's inclusion might be controversial, but the bottom line is, he was a good player when the A's traded for him, and he continued to play well with the team. Bradley hit .279 during his time in Oakland.

Bradley was a great veteran presence in the clubhouse and was a major part of the A's run to the ALCS. Most of his antics didn't start until after he left the A's anyway.

The controversy that I mentioned stems from the fact that Billy Beane traded Andre Ethier for Bradley.

Was it the right move at the time? I think so. We know the way Beane works, so Ethier most likely wouldn't have stayed around for long anyway. Like I said earlier, Beane thinks in the now, so Bradley was the right move at the time

### **Dan Haren**

This might be a surprise as well. Yeah, I know they traded Mark Mulder to get him, but who cares? Definitely not the A's; Mulder had one good season after he was traded.

Mulder went 16-8 in his first year with the St Louis Cardinals and that was it. Yes, the A's had no way to know about Mulder's injury problems but, it was still the right move at the time.

Haren never won fewer than 14 games as an Athletic, and he was part of the 2006 team that went to the ALCS. He was a major part of why the A's went as far as they did.

### **We End Where It All Began: Kenny Rogers**

It can be argued that Kenny Rogers should be on this list, but the truth is he only had one good year with the A's.

The main reason I put him in the article is because I believe his trade was extremely important. It was Beane's first trade as a General Manager, and sending Scott Brosius away set the table for good things to come.

The A's were able to deal Brosius because they had future six-time Gold Glove winner Eric Chavez and future MVP Miguel Tejada waiting in the wings.

In my mind, this was the move that introduced us to Beane and his way of doing what he does best.

Things were very good in Oakland shortly after this trade went down. The A's went to the playoffs for four straight seasons from 2000 to 2003, winning the American League West three times.

Rogers didn't play a big part in that run, but the trade did.

### **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

#### **Sacramento offense stumbles before sellout crowd**

By Alex Sadorf / Sacramento River Cats

Fresno reliever Josh Banks pitched 4.0 shutout innings as the Grizzlies topped Sacramento 4-2 at Raley Field before a sellout crowd (14,014 fans) Sunday afternoon at Raley Field.

It marks the first Raley Field sellout of the season and 63rd all time. Raley Field has had more than 12,000 fans for each of the first three games of this series. The last time the River Cats had more than 12,000 fans for three consecutive home games was August 29-31, 2008, also against Fresno.

Fresno took the lead in the second inning by loading the bases off an error by third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff. Fresno catcher Jackson Williams then singled to left field, scoring Conor Gillaspie. James Simmons followed with a sacrifice hit to second baseman Andy LaRoche that gave Thomas Neal enough time to score.

The River Cats scored two runs on the afternoon. Adrian Cardenas singled home Josh Donaldson in the second, and two innings later Michael Taylor scored Andy LaRoche on a groundout to second.

"As a team we need to string hits together," said Kouzmanoff. "I think it's contagious, and I think we did a poor job of stringing them together.

Fresno had better luck stringing hits together, with Darren Ford scoring in the third (Edgar Gonzalez RBI) and fifth (Tyler Graham RBI).

River Cats catcher Josh Donaldson played a key role in limiting Fresno's offense. He threw out three runners at second as they attempted to steal. This comes after throwing out two runners Saturday.

Fresno and Sacramento conclude the four-game series Monday at 12:05 p.m.

### **RockHounds lose to Missions**

From staff reports , Midland Reporter-Telegram

SAN ANTONIO --A grand slam by Beemer Weems in the fifth inning helped the San Antonio Missions overcome an early deficit and then roll to a 9-3 victory over the Midland RockHounds Sunday afternoon at Nelson Wolff Stadium.

The loss give the San Antonio Missions a 3-1 series victory and it sends the RockHounds to their ninth loss in their last 12 games.

After San Antonio plated a run in the first inning off Midland starter Jason Bergmann (0-3), the RockHounds took a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning thanks to a Grant Green two-run single.



Green had a very good day at the plate, going 4 for 5 with two RBI.

But then in the bottom of the fifth, Weems came up with the bases loaded and sent a Fabian Williamson pitch over the left field wall to give the Missions the lead for good.

San Antonio added a three-run eighth inning against reliever Mickey Storey to ice the game for the Texas League South Division First Half champions.

The RockHounds continue their 12-game road trip with a four-game series at Frisco, beginning at 7 p.m. today.

### **Ports Sweep Homestand**

Stockton Ports

The Stockton Ports' winning streak remained intact on Father's Day, the Ports taking the series finale against the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes 14-12. The Ports completed their perfect home stand with the victory, but no lead was safe today, Stockton winning it in a dramatic walk-off three-run home run by Michael Choice.

The Ports would take an early 3-0 lead in the second, when catcher Ryan Lipkin hit his second home run of the year; a three-run shot to right-center field that brought in right fielder Rashun Dixon and shortstop Dusty Coleman, who had reached on a walk and a fielding error respectively.

But Stockton wouldn't have time for that lead to sink in, as the Quakes responded in a big way in the top of the third. With one out, center fielder Nick Buss singled on a bunt. Shortstop Rafael Ynoa also singled on a fly ball that fell in between Coleman and left fielder Mitch LeVier. A walk drawn by first baseman J.T. Wise would load the bases, putting Buss in position to score on a sacrifice fly by right fielder Blake Smith.

With two still on base, second baseman Travis Denker homered to left-center field, putting the Quakes up 4-3. Designated hitter Ramon Jean followed up with a double and a stolen base, and would come in to score the inning's fifth run when catcher Gorman Erickson reached on a fielding error by LeVier.

In the bottom half, the Ports set to get the lead back, beginning with a big lead-off home run for center fielder Michael Choice. First baseman Anthony Aliotti followed up with a walk. Dixon flew out, bringing up Coleman and LeVier, who each singled. LeVier's hit brought Aliotti in and Stockton was up once again, 6-5. This would spell the end for Quakes starter Josh Walter, who would give way to Greg Wilborn, who would get his team out of the inning.

With nothing more on the board for Rancho Cucamonga in the fourth, the Ports had another multi-run inning in the bottom half. Wilborn was off to a great start, striking out his first two batters, but then went on to walk three in a row. With the bases loaded, LeVier was hit by a pitch to bring in a run. This would bring Justin Orenduff to the mound in place of Wilborn. While facing Lipkin, Orenduff threw a wild pitch that moved all the runners over, bringing Dixon in to score. Lipkin would single to bring in two more runs before the end of the inning.

Aside from the top of the third, Ports starter Jake Brown was pitching a good game, but started coming undone in the fifth. Wise led off with a double. Smith flew out, bringing Denker to the plate. Denker singled, bringing in Wise to score. Jean was next, and he hit a two-run homer, which would trigger a pitching change for the Ports. Scott Deal came in to finish the inning, allowing a walk and a single before getting left fielder Noel Cuevas to line out into a double play.

The sixth inning passed quickly unlike the rest of the game to that point. Orenduff and Stockton's new pitcher for the inning, Mike Benacka, would both retire three in a row.

Stockton would snag another run in the seventh, facing Orenduff's replacement Ethan Martin. Lipkin opened up with a single. Third baseman Leonardo Gil flew out, making way for second baseman Conner Crumbliss, who singled. Designated hitter Jason Christian singled as well, bringing in Stockton's eleventh run of the day.

But once again, no lead was safe, and the Ports got into some trouble in the eighth. Josh Lansford replaced Benacka in the top of the inning, retiring his first two batters. With two outs, Cuevas, Buss, and Ynoa each singled, Cuevas scoring on Ynoa's hit. Wise would then come to the plate and bring in Buss and Ynoa in a three-run home run. Smith drew a walk before Lansford was taken out and Andrew Carignan took the mound to get the final out of the inning.

The Ports would face Steve Smith, who came in to pitch in place of Martin in the bottom of the eighth. Stockton did not get any runs back in that inning, even with Cal League All-Star Michael Gilmartin coming in to pinch hit for Gil. Gilmartin struck out to end the inning, and would stay in to play third base in the ninth.

The Quakes did not extend their lead in the ninth, bringing the Ports up for their last at-bats. Crumbliss led off with a single to right field. Jason Christian would then reach on a fielding error by Ynoa, bringing Choice to the plate to hit his game-winning, walk-off home run.

The Ports get a three day break to end the first half as the All-Star Smash takes place in Modesto Monday through Wednesday. The Ports will then put their win streak on the line as they face off against the 1st Half Champs, the San Jose Giants in San Jose.

### **Snappers Take Series With 5-1 Win**

06/19/2011 6:13 PM ET

By Matthew Wheaton

BURLINGTON, IA - The Beloit Snappers (35-32) beat the Burlington Bees (45-25) by a score of 5-1 in front of 655 fans at Community Field Sunday afternoon. The Bees finished the first half with the best record in the Midwest League and finished with the most wins in franchise history in a half-season surpassing the old record of 43 wins by the 1990 club.

Beloit started the scoring in the top of the first inning after CF Daniel Santana (3-4) hit a lead-off single. Santana moved to second base on a balk and scored on an RBI triple from DH Nate Roberts (2-4) to make the score 1-0.

After a single to center field by Snappers C Tobias Streich (1-4) to lead off the top of the third inning, Santana hit a single to right field to move Streich to third base. A sacrifice fly from 3B Andrew Leer (1-4) put Beloit up 2-0.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Burlington RF Royce Consigli (1-4) hit a double to right field and advanced to third base on a fly out from CF Jose Crisotomo (0-3). With 3B Tony Thompson at the dish, Beloit RHP Manuel Soliman threw a wild pitch and Consigli scored to get Burlington within one run at 2-1.

Leer hit a single to left field in the top of the eighth inning and advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt from Roberts. Leer scored on an error by Bees 2B Nino Leyja, who misplayed a ball hit by Snappers 1B Michael Gonzales (1-5). LF Daniel Ortiz (2-3) hit a single to left field to move Gonzales to third base. An RBI double from 2B Jairo Perez (2-4) knocked in Gonzales and gave Beloit a 4-1 lead.

Snappers SS Adam Bryant (1-4) hit a single to lead off the top of the ninth inning and advanced to second base on a throwing error by Burlington SS Yordy Cabrera. Bryant moved to third base on a bunt ground ball from Santana. A ground out from Roberts scored Bryant to make the score 5-1.

Bees RHP Tyler Vail allowed two runs on seven hits, and struck out two in five innings of work. LHP Max Peterson pitched two innings, allowed two hits, walked one and struck out one. RHP Nate Long toed the rubber for one inning, allowed two runs on three hits and struck out one. RHP Daniel Tenholder finished the game by throwing the final frame, allowing one run on two hits and striking out one.

### **3-Run Innings Give Vermont 6-5 Win**

06/19/2011 8:29 PM ET

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

TROY, NY --- The Lake Monsters scored three runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to take a 6-2 lead before having to hold off a late ValleyCats rally as Vermont beat Tri-City 6-5 in New York-Penn League action Sunday evening at Bruno Stadium.

A day after being shutout on just five hits by Tri-City, the Lake Monster bats remained silent over the first three innings as nine of the first 10 Vermont batters were retired and the ValleyCats held a 2-0 lead. But the bats came alive in the fourth inning as the Lake Monsters opened the inning with five straight hits.

Chih-Fang Pan opened the fourth with a single to center and scored on a Jordan Tripp RBI double. After Chris Affinito moved Tripp to third with a single to left, Xavier Macklin blooped a single into right scoring Tripp with the tying run. Chad Lewis' bunt single loaded the bases and the Lake Monsters took a 3-2 lead when Affinito scored on a Beau Taylor groundout.

Pan got the fifth inning started as he did the fourth with a single and moved to second on a Tripp single to left. After an Affinito strikeout, Macklin laced a two-run triple to righfield and scored on a Lewis RBI single for the 6-2 Vermont advantage.

The Lake Monsters held that four-run lead until the bottom of the eighth when Tri-City cut the deficit to one with a three-run inning off Vermont reliever Logan Chitwood. Kellen Kiilsgaard plated the first run with an RBI single, then the ValleyCats added a pair of unearned runs on a two-out run-scoring fielding error and an RBI single.

With the tying run on third and go ahead run on first, Vermont's Drew Tyson came on in relief of Chitwood and got John Hinson to lineout sharply to shortstop Sam Roberts to end the eighth. Tyson gave up a two-out single in the ninth, but got Brandon Meredith to flyout to Tripp in centerfield to end the game.

Macklin went 3-for-5 with three RBI and Lewis 4-for-5 with an RBI as the Lake Monsters had five batters with a multi-hit game in a 15-hit Vermont attack. Pan, Tripp and Chad Oberacker each had two hits, while Lake Monster starter J.C. Menna (1-0) allowed two runs on four hits with four walk and seven strikeouts over five innings for the win.

Former University of Vermont baseball start Matt Duffy went 3-for-5 with a run scored for the ValleyCats and finished his first three-game series as a professional 6-for-13 (.462) with two runs, two doubles and three RBI. Tri-City starter Euris Quezada (0-1) allowed three runs on six hits with one walk and four strikeouts over four innings to take the loss.