

**Gio Gonzalez pitches A's to victory after making American League All-Star team**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Gio Gonzalez woke up Sunday morning to news that he had been selected to his first All-Star game.

Then the left-hander celebrated by shutting down the Arizona Diamondbacks in a 7-2 A's victory.

That spoke volumes about how far Gonzalez has come. Setting aside the emotion of the biggest honor of his career, Gonzalez remained dialed in to the task at hand.

"Once that news came in, I didn't want to be overly excited, knowing I had to go out there and get ready for these guys," Gonzalez said.

The mental side of the game was once thought to be holding Gonzalez back. But as he's honed his pitches, the maturity and confidence he has developed has benefited him even more.

"One of his goals is not just wins and losses, but wanting to be an elite pitcher," A's pitching coach Ron Romanick said. "He's got the stuff -- it's pretty special. But it's all about what you do with it consistently."

Gonzalez, 25, was in top form Sunday, holding Arizona to five hits and one run over seven innings while striking out seven and walking three.

His hitters treated him to a rare power display.

Conor Jackson and Scott Sizemore each hit two-run homers in a five-run sixth against Arizona starter Ian Kennedy (8-3), who was passed over for the National League All-Star team. Kennedy, however, is one of five players on the ballot for the final N.L. roster spot.

It marked the first time this season the A's have homered twice in the same inning.

That was plenty for Gonzalez (8-5), who threw a career-high 119 pitches and hit 95 mph on his final pitch, a fastball that got Kelly Johnson swinging to strand two runners in the top of the seventh.

Relying on that fastball more -- instead of leaning so heavily on his nasty curve -- is one way in which Gonzalez has developed. But there's also been an overall maturity that Gonzalez himself often notes.

"When he gets guys on base, he's bearing down now," A's closer Andrew Bailey said. "Before, he'd get caught up in his head and before you know it, there would be two or three runs on the board."

Gonzalez lowered his ERA to 2.31, third-best among A.L. starters behind the Angels' Jered Weaver (1.92) and Red Sox's Josh Beckett (2.20).

That made Gonzalez the no-brainer choice to represent the A's, though manager Bob Melvin had previously mentioned Bailey and fellow pitchers Trevor Cahill and Grant Balfour as those who also deserved consideration.

Gonzalez was one of five pitchers that A.L. manager Ron Washington chose, after fan voting and player voting accounted for the majority of the rosters.

"He's a tough competitor and he gives me a nasty left-hander out of the bullpen," said Washington, who sees Gonzalez plenty as manager of the Texas Rangers.

Gonzalez said he was excited about potentially getting picked, but he had no idea why his phone kept ringing at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Gonzalez's parents, Max and Yolanda, are in town from Florida, and Gonzalez flashed some humor while discussing his Sunday night plans.

"I'll probably take them to a nice restaurant," he said. "Hopefully McDonald's sounds good."

## **A's update: Scott Sizemore settling in at No. 2 spot in lineup**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Scott Sizemore has hit second for the A's over the past two games, and he is likely to stay there based on early results.

Sizemore went 3 for 4 with a double and two-run homer in Sunday's 7-2 victory over Arizona. That came on the heels of Saturday's two-hit game, when Sizemore debuted in the No. 2 spot with shortstop Cliff Pennington getting a day off.

Pennington was dropped to the ninth spot Sunday, where he has spent the majority of this season.

"This certainly wasn't anything Penny did to get pulled out of the '2' hole," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "But Scotty's on-base (percentage), .375, .380. "... He hits the ball the other way. It was more about what he was doing and not what Penny was doing."

When Melvin took over as manager on June 9, he moved Pennington up to the second spot in place of Daric Barton, a move former manager Bob Geren also had contemplated.

But Pennington has cooled considerably at No. 2, hitting .200 (15 for 75) over his last 19 starts there.

The starting rotation got less crowded as lefty Josh Outman was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento and right-hander Brandon McCarthy was activated from the disabled list.

McCarthy, who missed 6 1/2 weeks with a stress reaction in his right shoulder, will start Monday against Seattle.

Outman went 3-3 with a 3.47 ERA in eight starts after McCarthy and Tyson Ross each joined the disabled list in late May.

David DeJesus doubled home two runs in the fourth to get the A's on the board, his first RBIs since May 31. In Melvin's first 16 games as manager, DeJesus made just seven starts. But the right fielder has started six straight games and is 5 for 12 over the past four.

Left fielder Hideki Matsui ended the top of the eighth by throwing out Chris Young, who tried to score from second on Sean Burroughs' single.

After an announced crowd of 30,338 showed up for fireworks Saturday, the A's drew just 13,822 on Sunday, a low turnout for a holiday weekend even if the Diamondbacks aren't a big draw. The A's might take another hit at the gate for Monday's matinee because the Giants are at AT&T Park and hosting a 2:05 p.m. game.

The A's finished 8-10 in interleague play.

## **Chin Music: Outman's demotion and how the A's starting rotation shakes out**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 7/3/2011 12:48PM

A quick, non-All Star Game related update ...

-A's manager Bob Melvin said Josh Outman's demotion was merely a numbers' game, and that he told Outman as much. It's not too surprising that Outman is the odd man out of the six starters that were in the A's mix. He's battled a bit of arm fatigue, still feeling the effects of a long layoff from Tommy John surgery. I'd expect to see him back at some point this season. He was a very solid fill-in with all the rotation injuries.

So the rotation going into the All-Star break: Gio Gonzalez today, followed by Brandon McCarthy, Trevor Cahill and Guillermo Moscoso against Seattle; Rich Harden, Gonzalez, McCarthy and Cahill against the Rangers. It will be interesting once Tyson Ross is ready to return from the DL. Does he bump someone in the rotation? Join the bullpen? Stay in the minors?

Melvin said he didn't want to speculate about whether Ross would rejoin the rotation after the break. "I'm not going to go there as far as whether he'll start or relieve. He can do both." That was interesting to hear because Melvin wasn't directly asked about Ross as a bullpen option ...

Today's lineups, w/Cliff Pennington back down in the No. 9 spot for the first time in a while.

A's –Weeks 2B, Sizemore 3B, Crisp CF, Matsui LF, Carter DH, Jackson 1B, DeJesus RF, Powell C, Pennington SS; Gonzalez LHP.

Diamondbacks: Bloomquist LF, Johnson 2B, Upton RF, Young CF, Drew SS, Pena DH, Nady 1B, Roberts 3B, Blanco C; Kennedy RHP.

### **Cam Inman: All-Star drought continues for Oakland A's position players**

By Cam Inman, Bay Area News Group

Only pitchers will wear A's and Giants caps at the All-Star game, again. At least history is being made out of this troubling trend.

No franchise has ever sent solely pitchers to eight consecutive All-Star games, a feat the A's will pull off July 12 when Gio Gonzalez is introduced at the Midsummer Classic in Phoenix.

For the first time in Giants history, they are on a four-year run without a position player on the N.L. roster. They're sending a franchise-high four pitchers: closer Brian Wilson (voted in by his peers) and starters Tim Lincecum, Matt Cain and Ryan Vogelsong (a trio of in-house choices by manager Bruce Bochy, the National League's skipper).

All five hurlers are deserving, even Lincecum, who owes his fourth straight All-Star spot to last fall's playoff dominance.

Obviously, the A's and Giants pride themselves on their pitching. That is somewhat by default. Neither side has a position player worth listing among the All-Star snubs.

To truly appreciate -- or denigrate -- the A's and Giants' pitching-only representation, a trip through All-Star ledgers of every team was in order. That revealed:

Eleven franchises have never gone back-to-back years with only pitchers at the All-Star game, which has been played since 1933. That includes the historic Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox, Detroit Tigers, Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals franchises. Only once in Yankees history have they been represented by just a pitcher: Scott Sanderson, 1991.

The Kansas City Royals are threatening the A's run of All-Star pitchers. This year's token representative, Aaron Crow, is the fifth different Royals pitcher in six years to make the A.L. roster. (Outfielder Alex Gordon is on the ballot to be the final A.L. player selected.) The Royals also had a six-year pitcher-only stretch from 1992-97.

The only other franchises with at least four years of pitcher-only All-Stars are the Philadelphia Phillies (1968-73, six different pitchers including Steve Carlton in '72), Toronto Blue Jays (1979-83; San Jose product Dave Stieb took three trips) and Houston Colt .45s/Astros (1962-65; Dick Farrell made it thrice).

Before moving to Oakland, the A's final four seasons in Kansas City yielded only All-Star pitchers: John Wyatt (1964), John O'Donoghue ('65) and Catfish Hunter ('66, '67).

None of those legacies can match the current A's bittersweet run.

There wasn't exactly a torch passed inside the A's clubhouse Sunday morning. When 2010 All-Star Trevor Cahill came over to congratulate Gonzalez, they high-fived, hugged and knocked knuckles. Soon after, Andrew Bailey sat next to Gonzalez and shared insight from making the past two All-Star games. Bailey's cameo last year came in place of Cahill, who was ineligible to pitch after starting two days earlier.

"It's kind of been a trend, with a lot of pitchers having gone from the A's," Cahill said in Sunday's biggest understatement. "They put a lot of emphasis on pitching here, especially starting pitching. It's a tribute to their system. All of us started in the minor leagues, and it says a lot about the system."

The "us" of the past seven All-Star games would be: Mark Mulder (2004), Tim Hudson (2004), Justin Duchscherer (2005, '08), Barry Zito (2006), Dan Haren (2007), Bailey (2009, '10) and Cahill (2010). Now comes the crafty and friendly Gonzalez, whose 2.31 ERA is third best among eligible A.L. starters.

"He obviously is well deserving of the honor," Bailey said. "The A's should go out and market the (heck) out of him. He's got personality that's very approachable."

The last two A's position players to make the All-Star game were catcher Ramon Hernandez in 2003 and shortstop Miguel Tejada in his 2002 A.L. MVP season. Why the drought?

"Fan voting has a lot to do with it," Bailey said. "That's not to say our fans aren't behind us. When you go against a bigger market, it's tough. But we're known for developing pitchers."

The A's also play in a stadium that handicaps hitters.

"When's the last time a big-time power hitter came out of here? A lot don't want to sign here," said rookie second baseman Jemile Weeks, whose brother, Rickie, plays for the Milwaukee Brewers and was named the N.L.'s starting second baseman. "This stadium is built for speed and wants you to use the gaps. That's why I think I can help contribute."

Mark Ellis contributed better than any second baseman in Oakland history for nearly a decade before getting dealt Thursday to Colorado. He never made the All-Star team or won a Gold Glove.

Giants catcher Buster Posey likely would have made his first All-Star game if his season hadn't ended with a May 25 home-plate collision. Injuries also crimped the All-Star bids of third baseman Pablo Sandoval and second baseman Freddy Sanchez.

Thanks to dominant pitching, however, the Giants and A's have stars worth watching, including on July 12.

### **All-Star Gio Gonzalez pitches A's over D'backs**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

-- On the day Gio Gonzalez was selected to be an All-Star, his usually offensively subdued teammates gave him a nice show of support: a rollicking seven runs.

Gonzalez, given the lead in the fourth when his pal David DeJesus knocked a two-run double, did his usual standout work in Oakland's 7-2 victory over Arizona. Gonzalez, shaking off a head cold, allowed five hits and one run, striking out seven and walking three.

"He wasn't feeling very good. He got dehydrated and a little light-headed, but he still pitched great," catcher Landon Powell said. "That's why he's an All-Star."

"It's an honor to be picked," Gonzalez said. "Incredible."

Gonzalez learned he'd been selected when manager Bob Melvin called him repeatedly Sunday morning to give him the news first. "I looked at the area code and I was like, 'Who is that?' " Gonzalez said with a laugh about inadvertently screening out his manager.

Gonzalez entered the game with the league's fourth-best ERA, at 2.38, and he lowered that to 2.31. He was selected to the team by American League manager Ron Washington, who is familiar with Gonzalez's ability: Gonzalez is 4-1 lifetime against Washington's Rangers, with a 2.18 ERA.

With the A's dropping a starter, Josh Outman, on Sunday and resuming their usual five-man rotation, Gonzalez's next start will be Friday at Texas. So when the All-Star Game is played July 12, Washington will have just seen Gonzalez, and Gonzalez will be relatively fresh, available to work an inning or two on three days' rest.

"I'm so happy for him. He's pitched his butt off and definitely deserves it," DeJesus said. "I haven't played a lot when he's pitched, so when I get out there, I want to do my best for him, and I was able to get the big hit when we needed to swing the tide."

For the second time in four games, the A's got multiple home runs - Conor Jackson and Scott Sizemore hit two-run shots in the sixth inning, the first time all season that two Oakland players have gone deep in the same inning. Sizemore, batting in the second spot in the order, recorded three hits.

Gonzalez's talent never has been in doubt, with a mid-90s fastball and a devastating curveball, but early in his career, he had a tendency to lose his focus and allow innings to snowball. Each year, he has become better at controlling his emotions, and now he is using that extra energy in a positive way, making it work for him.

Over the past few years, Gonzalez has credited fellow left-hander Dallas Braden with helping him calm down on the mound, and on Sunday, Braden said by phone that he feels like a proud parent.

"He's been flashing signs of brilliance, and now the rest of the country can see it. They're in for a real treat," Braden said.

Braden jokingly suggested that he would love to "roll with" Gonzalez to the All-Star Game, but in a serious moment, he said Gonzalez - not Braden, not Gonzalez's teammates - deserves all the credit for his season.

"It comes down to the raw ingredients," Braden said. "It's about Gio's talent, and Gio's growth. He's a rare bird; he already had all the tools right there."

Said Gonzalez, with a grin: "Don't get too big-headed, Dallas. This is my moment, not yours."

Considering how amped Gonzalez gets before a regular-season start, what might he be like in Arizona next week?

"I think it fits his personality," two-time All-Star reliever Andrew Bailey said. "And pitching on that stage will give him even more confidence to go out and do well in the second half."

### **Brandon McCarthy to start for A's on Monday**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

-- **Brandon McCarthy** came off the disabled list Sunday and will start today against Seattle with a pitch limit of about 90.

"Time to get back to work," said McCarthy, who was out with a stress reaction in his right shoulder.

Starter **Josh Outman**, Saturday night's losing pitcher, was sent to Triple-A Sacramento. Manager **Bob Melvin** said the decision was a matter of numbers, too many pitchers, rather than performance-related. Outman had said after each of his past two starts that he understood that other starters were beginning to come off the DL.

The A's still have 13 pitchers on the roster, with right-hander **Graham Godfrey** staying through at least today to provide long relief, if needed, in McCarthy's first big-league start in more than six weeks. That's why Outman went down Sunday instead of Godfrey: The A's need a fresh arm available, with McCarthy and **Rich Harden** just coming off the DL.

**Tyson Ross**, who has been out for more than six weeks with an oblique strain, will make a rehab start Tuesday for Sacramento and is likely to rejoin the A's after the All-Star break. Melvin said no decisions have been made about Ross and the rotation. Melvin noted that Ross can pitch in relief.

**Briefly:** Hideki Matsui threw out Chris Young at the plate in the eighth. "I was right behind the dish - one hop and he ran right into it," said reliever Joey Devine, who was backing up the play. "Incredible." ... Closer Andrew Bailey hasn't allowed a run in his past nine outings. ... David DeJesus is 5-for-12 in his past four games. ... Conor Jackson snapped a 49-game homerless streak. ... Outfielder Jermaine Mitchell, who was leading the Texas League with a .355 average and 67 runs, was promoted from Double-A Midland to Sacramento.

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

**It's a wrap:** The A's finished interleague play 8-10. Oakland's 2.09 ERA in interleague play was the second lowest in baseball behind Seattle's and an A's record for interleague ERA, but the team's .223 batting average also was second lowest, leading only the Phillies'.

### **Drumbeat: Gio Gonzalez named A's All-Star selection - updated**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser 9:26AM 7/3/2011

Gio Gonzalez is the A's starter today against Arizona (full AL roster below), and he'll be taking the mound with the knowledge that he's an All-Star: He was named to the American League team this morning, picked by AL manager Ron Washington of the Rangers.

Here's another potential plus for Gonzalez: The A's sent out Josh Outman today to make room for Brandon McCarthy to come off the DL. That means that the six-man rotation is, for now, no more - and if that holds true up to the break and Tyson Ross isn't inserted into the rotation this week, Gonzalez will start Friday at Texas, rather than Saturday.

That means Gonzalez will be fresh on All-Star Tuesday in Arizona, and Washington, very familiar with Gonzalez anyway, will have just seen him pitch. His chances of getting into the game, sometimes an iffy proposition for the A's lesser-known players, are much better, especially with a lot of AL All-Stars working on Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday starters won't be eligible to pitch in Tuesday's game, ala Trevor Cahill last year. Gonzalez, though, would be just right for an inning or two, with three days' rest.

Congratulations to Gonzalez. It's well deserved. He's among the league leaders in many categories, and he has been the A's most consistent starter all year.

He tends to get more amped up than the average pitcher, but Gonzalez seems to have learned to harness that extra adrenaline and emotion this year and make it work for him rather than against him. Let's see how that translates to a big national event now, and just to be on the safe side, Gonzalez might want to figure out a way to get his pal and sports psychologist Dallas Braden to the game.

*UPDATE: I spoke to Braden this morning and he said he feels like a proud parent with Gonzalez going to the All-Star Game; Braden said it's about time for Gio's talent to be on display on the big stage.*

*Here's the lineup: Weeks 2B, Sizemore 3B, Crisp CF, Matsui LF, Carter DH, Jackson 1B, DeJesus RF, Powell C, Pennington SS*

*One interesting tidbit from the pregame session with Bob Melvin: When I asked if Tyson Ross will be back in the rotation after the break, he said that hasn't been decided yet, but he knows Ross can work as a starter or in a relief role. I think that might be an indication that the relief role is what is getting looked at right now.*

### **American League roster**

**Starters:** 1B: Adrian Gonzalez, Red Sox; 2B: Robinson Cano, Yankees; 3B: Alex Rodriguez, Yankees; SS: Derek Jeter, Yankees; OF: Jose Bautista, Blue Jays; OF: Curtis Granderson, Yankees; OF: Josh Hamilton, Rangers; DH: David Ortiz, Red Sox; C: Alex Avila, Tigers

**Reserves:** 1B: Miguel Cabrera, Tigers; 2B: Howard Kendrick, Angels; 3B: Adrian Beltre, Rangers; SS: Asdrubal Cabrera, Indians; OF: Michael Cuddyer, Twins; OF: Jacoby Ellsbury, Red Sox; OF: Matt Joyce, Rays; OF: Carlos Quentin, White Sox; DH: Michael Young, Rangers; C: Russell Martin, Yankees; C: Matt Wieters, Orioles

**Pitchers:** RHP: Josh Beckett, Red Sox; RHP: Felix Hernandez, Mariners; LHP: David Price, Rays; RHP: James Shields, Rays; RHP: Justin Verlander, Tigers; RHP: Jered Weaver, Angels; LHP: C.J. Wilson, Rangers; LHP: Gio Gonzalez, A's; RHP: Aaron Crow, Royals; RHP: Brandon League, Mariners; RHP: Chris Perez, Indians; RHP: Mariano Rivera, Yankees; RHP: Jose Valverde, Tigers

### **Gonzalez submits All-Star performance**

By Tom Green / MLB.com | 7/3/2011 8:41 PM ET

OAKLAND -- Just hours before his start in Sunday's series finale against the D-backs, A's lefty Gio Gonzalez received a 9 a.m. wakeup call from manager Bob Melvin.

The 25-year-old didn't recognize the incoming number, so he ignored it. But the phone kept ringing and Gonzalez eventually answered to some good news: he was just named an All-Star for the first time in his career.

When game time rolled around at the Coliseum, Gonzalez proved why he was deserving of the honor, as the A's downed the D-backs, 7-2, to take the series.

"I was worried a little bit. You have a lot more running through your head, obviously, being an All-Star," Melvin said of Gonzalez. "On a particular day you pitch, you want to focus and not have any distractions."

But Gonzalez didn't show signs of distraction, tossing seven innings of one-run ball and holding the D-backs to five hits. The southpaw struck out seven, including the last batter he faced, when he got second baseman Kelly Johnson swinging on a 95 mph fastball -- his 119th pitch of the afternoon.

"I think that was his highest pitch count of the year," Melvin said. "I'd like to keep him under 120, but his stuff still looked good."

Over his last four starts, Gonzalez is 3-0 and has allowed a combined four earned runs while striking out 34 and walking nine to lower his season ERA to 2.31 -- a big reason why he was named to the All-Star squad.

While American League All-Star manager Ron Washington showed his support for Gonzalez by selecting him for the Midsummer Classic, the A's lefty was backed by his teammates Sunday in the form of run support.

The struggling A's offense exploded for seven runs off D-backs starter Ian Kennedy, who is one of five **Final Vote** candidates for the National League All-Star team.

The biggest of those runs, though, came from one of Gonzalez's closest friends in the A's clubhouse, David DeJesus.

With his team trailing 1-0 in the fourth and two men on base with two outs, DeJesus smacked a two-run double to put the A's on the board.

"That's the hit of the game for me," Melvin said. "That's a momentum hit. That put the momentum in our dugout, and it carried out. That was the biggest hit of the game."

"I was able to get a big hit when we needed to swing the tide a little bit," DeJesus said. "It's good to get a hit any day, but when it's for your good friend it helps out."

The afternoon only got worse for Kennedy after DeJesus' momentum-shifting swing. The A's tagged the righty for five runs in the sixth, chasing him with two outs in the frame.

Four of the A's runs in the inning came courtesy of the long ball. Conor Jackson and Scott Sizemore each launched two-run homers, which were sandwiched around a Jemile Weeks sacrifice fly. Sizemore's dinger was just his second of the season, and came on a full count with two outs in the inning.

"It's definitely not a big part of my game," Sizemore said. "I'm not going to hit a ton of home runs, but it's always nice when you hit them and it helps the starting pitcher out."

Since arriving in a trade from Detroit in May, Sizemore is hitting .343 and has raised his season batting average to .286, all while playing a relatively new position at third.

Sizemore's homer capped the five-run eruption and marked the first time all season the A's connected on two round-trippers in one inning. For the second time in four days, the A's produced a multi-homer game after going a franchise-record 32 games without one.

"We'll take it," Melvin said. "It was welcome, definitely."

Oakland's bullpen ran into trouble in the eighth when Michael Wuertz walked the bases loaded before recording an out. Joey Devine allowed just one inherited run to score before getting out of the jam thanks to Hideki Matsui's first outfield assist since 2008.

"We got outpitched, we got outplayed," D-backs manager Kirk Gibson said. "We only gave up a couple home runs, but give Oakland credit, they put the bat on the ball. They out-executed us, and Gio Gonzalez is very good."

### **Gio tabbed to represent A's at All-Star Game**

#### **Oakland's lone representative gets nod to first Midsummer Classic**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The 2011 American League All-Star team gained a large dose of personality via A's lefty Gio Gonzalez, who earned his first ticket to the Midsummer Classic and planned to celebrate accordingly with his family following his eighth win of the season on Sunday.

"I'll probably take them to a nice restaurant," Gonzalez said. "McDonald's sounds good."

The 25-year-old southpaw, in just his second full big league season and fourth overall, was officially selected by AL manager Ron Washington as Oakland's lone representative for this year's storied contest.

The 82nd Major League Baseball All-Star Game will be played on July 12 at Chase Field in Phoenix. It will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and Sportsnet HD and Le Réseau des Sports, with pregame ceremonies beginning at 8 p.m. ET. ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide exclusive national radio coverage. MLB Network, MLB.com and Sirius XM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Game coverage.

The vibrant Gonzalez, who made his 17th start of the season on Sunday against the D-backs, exited the day ranked third in the American League with a 2.31 ERA following a one-run performance through seven innings. Overall, he boasts an 8-5 record, including a 3-0 mark and 1.29 ERA over his last four starts.

"Anytime you're below three, it means you're having a heck of a year," said A's manager Bob Melvin, who woke Gonzalez with the news in the morning. "Certainly every time I've seen him, he's pitched terrific. Consistency is one of the things they look at, then they look at the numbers. To me, it was an easy decision."

Consistency has been vital to Gonzalez's success this season amid a handful of injured arms around him. He's averaging 8.74 strikeouts per nine innings, and, perhaps more impressive than his telling numbers is the way he's learned to harness his emotions.



"Emotions aren't bad," catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "If you can control them and use them the right way, the way he does, it works. His emotions are because he cares so much. He wants to do so well and be so successful that sometimes they get the best of him. But now he's learning how to control them and express them in the right way."

Gonzalez undoubtedly tends to get more amped up than the average pitcher. How that will translate onto a national stage remains to be seen, but two-time All-Star Andrew Bailey believes his teammate will be just fine.

"He's just that fun-loving kid that has fun with whatever he does," Bailey said. "He's going to enjoy the experience for sure. I told him it's something that hopefully happens often, but you never know, so just go and soak it all in."

Gonzalez is following in the footsteps of rotation mate Trevor Cahill, who -- like injured righty Grant Balfour -- was also under All-Star consideration this year. In 2010, Cahill went from roster maybe to All-Star hurler in a matter of months. Gonzalez, meanwhile, barely made the rotation that year, but he has since transformed into a mainstay.

"Was I excited to see the final results? Yes, absolutely," Gonzalez said. "To be mentioned with all the candidates we had, it was an honor. To be picked was just incredible."

"It's awesome," Suzuki said. "It happened with Cahill and now Gio. It shows their makeup and their attitude. They've got that instinct and that when they go out there, it's game on. They work hard and do all the preparation to make themselves better and get the results they want."

Gonzalez is scheduled to make his final start before the break on Friday, meaning his chances of actually getting into the All-Star Game -- sometimes an iffy proposition for pitchers going on little rest -- are quite high. As was the case with Cahill last year, Sunday starters are not eligible to pitch in Tuesday's game. Gonzalez, though, could enter for at least an inning or two on three days of rest.

Melvin said he'd be open to such a scenario.

"I'll have to think about that one a little bit," he said. "Certainly I'd like to see him pitch. Maybe for an inning, sure. You want your guys that get asked to go, you want them to be able to pitch because it's special. So yeah, I think an inning would be all right on three days' rest."

Either way, there's no doubt Gonzalez will do just as much talking with his teammates as his curveball will with his opponents.

"He loves to talk," Suzuki said, smiling. "He goes around and starts conversations with everybody. He's so laid back and such a nice kid. He's going to talk to everybody. It's going to be funny."

Though Gonzalez will be the only member of the green and gold present in Phoenix, A's fans have a chance to send other baseball favorites to the desert via the **Final Vote**. Having already decided the starters, fans this week will have the opportunity to select the final player on each All-Star team. Balloting began immediately following Sunday's Major League All-Star Selection Show presented by Taco Bell and continues until 4 p.m. ET on Thursday, July 7. The winners will be announced on MLB.com shortly thereafter.

Mobile voting in the U.S. is exclusive to Sprint, Nextel and Boost subscribers. To receive the 2011 All-Star Game Final Vote Sponsored by Sprint mobile ballot, text the word "VOTE" to 1122. To vote for a specific player, simply text message your choice to 1122. EXAMPLE: Text "A3" to vote for AL Player 3 or "N3" to vote for NL Player 3. Msg&Data Rates May Apply. Mobile voting in Canada is open to all carriers; fans should text their choices to 88555. Std rates may apply.

On July 12, fans once again will have the opportunity to participate in the official voting for the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player presented by Chevy via the 2011 All-Star Game MVP Vote Sponsored by Sprint on MLB.com during the All-Star Game.

### **McCarthy returns to the hill to face Mariners in opener**

By Quinn Roberts / MLB.com | 7/3/2011 9:00 PM ET

The last month and a half have been tough on A's starter Brandon McCarthy.

On the disabled list since May 18 with a stress reaction in his right shoulder, McCarthy has done just about anything to stay busy.

Yet he won't have to wait any longer. After being activated on Sunday, he'll take the mound on Monday in the series opener against the Mariners at Oakland Coliseum.

"I definitely get bored and get tired of sitting around and feeling worthless, so it's going to be good to be back and have a chance for my competitive energy to go somewhere, instead of just sitting around playing Playstation," said the right-hander.

While this is the fourth time that McCarthy has dealt with such an injury, he is now 100 percent healthy.

"When I come back and it's healthy, it's healthy," McCarthy said. "There's no issues, nothing lingers, so it's been pretty similar."

Before he hit the DL, McCarthy was in the midst of a career-long four-game losing streak, with a record of 1-4 and a 3.39 ERA.

He is still a welcome sight for the A's, whose starting rotation has been crippled by injuries the entire season. McCarthy is the second starter to come back to the team in less than a week, with Rich Harden making his debut on Friday against Arizona.

To break such a streak and get back to his winning ways, McCarthy will have to go through the Mariners' hard-throwing right-hander Michael Pineda.

As one of the Mariners bright new lights, Pineda (7-5, 2.65 ERA) has managed to keep opponents success against him at a minimum. Team's he's faced are hitting just .198 against him. Also having pinpoint control, the right-hander has walked just 32 batters on the season and struck out 99.

However, he lacked that type of control in his last start against Atlanta, walking a season-high five and losing for the first time since June 11. In 6 1/3 innings, he surrendered five runs on four hits, while striking out five.

"Well he just didn't have the command that we've seen him have," Mariners manager Eric Wedge said. "His stuff was good, but as the game wore on, he started getting underneath some fastballs and just working from behind. He battled -- I mean he gave us everything he has, like he does, but he just wasn't as crisp as we've seen him as the game wore on."

### **Mariners: Felix, League tabbed with All-Star nod**

- Mariners ace Felix Hernandez and closer Brandon League were selected to the American League All-Star team on Sunday.

While the news was a little bit of a surprise for League, who came into Sunday sharing the AL lead for saves with Mariano Rivera of the Yankees, it was the last thing on his mind.

"Even though the All-Star selection is a big deal, my wife is pregnant, and we're due any day now. So I've got that going for me," League said with a grin. "We went to the hospital [on Saturday night], but it was a false start. So it could be any day now."

- After missing the past two games with bruised ribs, second baseman Dustin Ackley started Sunday's game against San Diego. He went 1-for-3 with an RBI.

"We could have pushed him in there [Saturday], but we didn't feel that was the smart move," Wedge said. "He continues getting treatment and he's been doing some work [Sunday] morning, so we feel comfortable getting him back in there."

## **Athletics: Gonzalez to represent A's**

- Gio Gonzalez earned his first trip to the Midsummer Classic when the 2011 American League All-Star team was announced on Sunday. He's the A's lone representative.

Gonzalez, who got his eighth win of the season on Sunday against the D-backs, has one of the lowest ERA's in the AL, with a mark of 2.31.

"Anytime you're below three, it means you're having a heck of a year," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Certainly every time I've seen him he's pitched terrific. Consistency is one of the things they look at, then they look at the numbers. To me, it was an easy decision."

## **Worth Noting**

- With the A's activating Brandon McCarthy on Sunday, Josh Outman was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento.
- In one start against the A's back on April 22, Pineda got the win. He tossed six shutout innings and gave up only five hits.

## **A's activate McCarthy; option Outman**

### **Club to return to five-man rotation for time being**

By Tom Green / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- A's manager Bob Melvin's six-man rotation experiment is over with, at least until the All-Star break.

Oakland reinstated right-handed pitcher Brandon McCarthy from the 15-day disabled list on Sunday, and optioned lefty Josh Outman to Triple-A Sacramento.

The move comes in advance of McCarthy's scheduled return in Monday's series opener against the Mariners. The righty, who was 1-4 with a 3.39 ERA in nine starts this season, has been on the disabled list since May 20 (retroactive to May 19) with a stress reaction in his right scapula.

The injury is one McCarthy has dealt with three previous times in his career, so he is familiar with the healing process and said he feels the shoulder is where it needs to be for his return to the mound.

"When I come back and it's healthy, it's healthy," McCarthy said. "There's no issues, nothing lingers, so it's been pretty similar [to the previous injuries]."

McCarthy made two rehab appearances with Class A Stockton, including one start. The righty pitched a combined 10 innings, including six innings of one-run ball on June 29. Because he wasn't fully extended during his rehab outings, it is likely McCarthy will be held to a pitch count similar to the one fellow starter Rich Harden had during his season debut on Friday.

Regardless of how long he will be used on Monday, McCarthy is just pleased to be back from the disabled list.

"It's good to be back," McCarthy said. "I definitely get bored and get tired of sitting around and feeling worthless, so it's going to be good to be back and have a chance for my competitive energy to go somewhere, instead of just sitting around playing PlayStation."

As for Outman, the southpaw was sent down to Triple-A Sacramento to make room for McCarthy on the 25-man roster. Since returning from Tommy John surgery, Outman was 3-3 with a 3.47 ERA in eight starts for the A's. He notched quality starts in six of his eight appearances, but he was knocked around for four runs and struggled with location in his last start, a 4-2 loss to the D-back on Saturday.

"It's not like he pitched poorly," Melvin said. "It was more of a numbers thing than anything else. Somebody had to go, and everybody knew these guys were coming back. What I told him was that it just became a numbers thing."

"Certainly wasn't a full performance thing, I know he was a little disappointed in his performance [Saturday], but still he only gave up the four runs. If that's a bad outing, we'll take it."

The transactions mean the A's will return to a five-man rotation, at least through the All-Star break. After McCarthy, righty Trevor Cahill will pitch Tuesday, Guillermo Moscoso on Wednesday, and Rich Harden will make his second start on Thursday in Texas before Gonzalez, McCarthy and Cahill lead the A's into the break.

With the return of righty Tyson Ross, who injured his left oblique eight pitches into his May 19 start, on the horizon, Melvin said the team would reassess the rotation after the break.

### **Gutierrez: Wake up Gio -- you're an All-Star**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

*Random observations from the A's 7-2 interleague defeat of the Arizona Diamondbacks Sunday at the O.co Coliseum*

- It took A's interim manager Bob Melvin five phone calls to wake Gio Gonzalez up this morning to tell him of his All-Star selection. Gonzalez answered the call against the Diamondbacks. He showed exactly why he was selected to his first All-Star game, and no, it was not simply because the star-starved A's needed to have a representative. The left-hander deserved it with aplomb. In allowing just one run in seven innings, on five hits and three walks with seven strikeouts in a career-high 119 pitches, Gonzalez lowered his ERA to 2.31 and moved into third place in the American League. This after starting the game with three straight balls, then recovering to strike out Willie Bloomquist looking. In his last four starts, Gonzalez is 3-0 with a 1.29 ERA, 34 strikeouts and nine walks. The only question left, really, is if he'll rock his gold A's jersey in the Arizona desert.

They say it only takes a time or two through the lineup to figure out the opposing starting pitcher. That was never clearer for the A's than against Ian Kennedy. Through three innings, Kennedy had limited the A's to one hit while retiring eight straight. Before being chased with two out in the sixth, the A's had banged Kennedy around for seven runs on nine hits in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

- Obviously, Josh Willingham has had a setback with his strained left Achilles' tendon. Because earlier this week, Melvin said he would have been activated then and most assuredly Sunday, when he was eligible to come off the disabled list. It simply means more at-bats for the raw Chris Carter.

- And while we're at it, why not leave Hideki Matsui in left field? His throwing out Chris Young at home plate to end the eighth inning was textbook. I kid, of course. Kinda.

- Absolutely dig Scott Sizemore batting second. Apparently, he likes it, too. He finished a triple shy of the cycle and is batting .343 with the A's.

- I think I'd like to see the more-experienced Coco Crisp back at leadoff, though, and moving exciting rookie Jemile Weeks back to No. 9. Especially when the lineup turns over and then you have them hitting back-to-back.

- Not a good look for reliever Michael Wuertz, loading the bases without getting an out in the eighth inning.

- Great look, though, for Joey Devine, getting out of Wuertz' mess by surrendering only one run and, no doubt, thankful for the assist from Matsui.

Why did Justin Upton not tag up on Xavier Nady's one-out fly out to center field? Did the Diamondbacks not get the scouting report on Crisp's less-than-fearsome arm? And don't tell me about Upton's run meaning nothing in what was then a 7-1 ballgame. The bases were loaded and he would have made the A's *have* to make a play. Besides, one run leads to another which leads to another...

- Quote of the broadcast goes to Ray Fosse, bemoaning some players' decisions to skip the All-Star game to, of all things, rest. "You want time off? Retire. It's an honor to play in an All-Star Game."

### **A's Gonzalez earns first career All-Star selection**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

A's left-handed starter Gio Gonzalez has been named to the American League All-Star team by Texas manager Ron Washington, it was announced this morning by Major League Baseball.

It is the 25-year-old Gonzalez' first All-Star selection and he is the A's lone representative for the Midsummer Classic, to be played this season at Phoenix's Chase Field on July 12.

Gonzalez, who has a record of 7-5 in 16 outings and is starting today's interleague series finale against Arizona at the O.co Coliseum, was among league leaders in several statistical categories entering Sunday.

- His 2.38 ERA was fourth.
- His 99 strikeouts were tied for 10th.
- His 8.74 strikeouts-per-nine-innings average was tied for third.
- His opponents' .616 OPS ranked eighth, as did his opponents' batting average of .216.
- His WHIP of 1.24 was 23rd and his 2.15 strikeout-to-walk ratio was 32nd.

Despite his accomplishments - he has also allowed just six home runs on the season and is 2-0 with a 1.29 ERA, 27 strikeouts and six walks in his last three starts - and his name being bandied about as the A's likely All-Star, Gonzalez was taking nothing for granted this past week.

"It would be awesome to represent the A's, my family and the city of Hialeah," Gonzalez said Friday, referencing his South Florida hometown. "I think it's every kid's goal to be selected. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't hoping for it, but I still have a start against Arizona to worry about and another against Texas."

Gonzalez had a certain humility instilled in him by his parents, Max and Yoly, growing up outside of Miami.

"That's one thing I've learned, to give back," Gonzalez said. "I never had those idols growing up in Hialeah. But now, El Duque (Orlando Hernandez), Jesus Contreras, they call my parents. They're like a part of the family and they've taught me how to give back.

"I want to continue in those footsteps and stay humble, be grounded, while accomplishing my goals. That's my secret drive."

A's pitchers being named All-Stars has become a pattern as the last Oakland non-pitcher to be selected to the All-Star Game was catcher Ramon Hernandez in 2003.

Gonzalez, meanwhile, came to the A's with Ryan Sweeney and Fautino De Los Santos from the Chicago White Sox in the Nick Swisher trade of Jan. 3, 2008.

And as a Cuban-American, Gonzalez knows he will be asked his feelings of the potential tempest awaiting in the Arizona desert, what with several Latino stars threatening to boycott the game last summer in the wake of a controversial immigration law.

"At this point, I'm trying to stay humble," Gonzalez said. "The rest is up to the President."

### **A's down D'Backs, 7-2**

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Conor Jackson and Scott Sizemore each hit a two-run homer and All-Star Gio Gonzalez struck out seven to lead the Oakland Athletics past the Arizona Diamondbacks, 7-2, Sunday.

David DeJesus also drove in two runs for the A's, who won for the fourth time in 11 games since a six-game winning streak ended. Jemile Weeks drove in a run and Sizemore had three hits.

Xavier Nady and Sean Burroughs drove in runs for the Diamondbacks, who lost their third consecutive series and have lost four of their last five games.

Gonzalez (8-5) allowed a run and walked three in seven innings. He is 3-0 with a 1.29 ERA over his last four starts.

Ian Kennedy (8-3) lasted 5 2-3 innings, giving up seven runs on a season-high 10 hits.

He walked two and struck out six.

Kennedy lost for the second time since April 13 and for the first time on the road. He extended his streak of consecutive games with at least 100 pitches to 15 matching the longest active streak in the NL with Philadelphia's Roy Halladay.

The Diamondbacks took a 1-0 lead in the fourth. Chris Young doubled to open the inning and Nady singled him home two outs later.

The A's responded in their half of the fourth. Coco Crisp, who has an 8-game hitting streak, and Hideki Matsui led off with singles. Two outs later, DeJesus delivered a two-run double, his first RBIs since May 31, a span of 23 games.

Jackson and Sizemore each hit a two-run homer in the sixth and Weeks added a sacrifice fly. The A's hit two home runs in an inning for the first time all season, and scored at least five runs in an inning for just the third time.

Arizona loaded the bases with no outs against Michael Wuertz in the eighth. All-Star Justin Upton doubled leading off and both Chris Young and Stephen Drew walked.

Joey Devine relieved Wuertz and got the next two hitters before Burroughs' pinch hit single drove in Upton. Matsui's throw got Young, who did not slide, at the plate. It was Matsui's first outfield assist since May 23, 2008 against the Seattle Mariners.

**NOTES:** A's RHP Brandon McCarthy was activated from the 15-day disabled list and will start Monday. The A's optioned LHP Josh Outman to Triple-A Sacramento to make room. "It was not performance-based," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "It was a numbers thing." ... Arizona OF Justin Upton has manager Kirk Gibson's blessing if he wants to participate in the All-Star home run derby. "If he wants to do it and he's asked, I have no problem with it," Gibson said. ... Game time temperature was 83 degrees, the season's hottest day in Oakland. ... A's OF Josh Willingham (strained left Achilles' tendon) suffered a setback following two rehab games and is day-to-day. "It stiffened up on him," Melvin said. ... RHPs Grant Balfour (strained right oblique) and Tyson Ross (strained left oblique) threw off the bullpen mound before the game. ...

DeJesus is four doubles shy of 200.

### **All-Star Gio leads A's to 7-2 win over Diamondbacks**

Sam McPherson, examiner.com

Gio Gonzalez was named to his first American League All-Star team on Sunday morning, and then he went out and pitched like an All-Star Sunday afternoon.

The Oakland Athletics' 25-year old lefty dominated the Arizona Diamondbacks at the Overstock.com Coliseum, giving up one run in seven innings while striking out seven batters.

"I didn't want to get over-excited," Gonzalez told the Associated Press after the game. "It's always been a secret goal for myself. I just want to enjoy the moment and move forward to get myself ready for my next start."

When the A's offense scored seven runs off potential National League All-Star Ian Kennedy -- one of the five players up for the vote in the NL's fan-voting contest for the final NL roster spot in the Midsummer Classic on July 12 -- Gio had his eighth win of the year, to go along with his 2.31 ERA.

Of course, no Oakland hitter would even be close to an All-Star selection, so it was a bit ironic the A's were able to get ten hits off Kennedy in his 5 2/3 innings of work. Scott Sizemore led the way with three hits and two RBI, while Conor Jackson and David DeJesus also tossed in two RBI apiece.

Oakland scored five runs in the sixth inning off Kennedy to put this one away and crawl back to within six games of the AL West division lead with seven games left to go before the All-Star break.

All seven of those games are against AL West foes, too, so if the A's (38-47) want to make a move in the division battle, now is the time: the third-place Seattle Mariners (41-43) are in town for three games, and then Oakland travels to Texas to face the first-place Rangers (44-41) for four games starting Thursday.

But for now, Gio can enjoy the moment of his All-Star honor and the team's series win over the Diamondbacks. Two years ago, the team wasn't sure what they had in Gonzalez as he posted a 6.24 ERA in 132 2/3 innings of work in 2008 and 2009.

Last year, he turned it around, winning 15 games and posting a 3.23 ERA.

And now, his rise to the top is complete. Along with Trevor Cahill's 2010 All-Star selection, the A's now boast two starters with All-Star credentials -- further cementing the difference between the team's hitting and pitching capabilities in 2011.

### **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Sacramento swept before sellout crowd**

By Veronika Tafoya / Sacramento River Cats

Even with the Independence Weekend Sutter Health Fireworks lighting up the sky above a sellout crowd at Raley Field, the River Cats were dimmed as they took their first sweep of the season.

The River Cats lost Sunday against the Tucson Padres, 7-2, giving Sacramento its first sweep since April 20-23, 2010.

Newly promoted Jermaine Mitchell had a hot start in his return to Sacramento. The leadoff hitter scored the first run of the game, stole two bases, and drove in Josh Donaldson for the second run of the game.

Despite River Cats being 16-3 when scoring first at home, the early runs would be the only two of the game.

Tucson sparked their offense in the third inning with a three-run homer by Kyle Blanks. Blanks went 3-for-5 in the game and tallied four RBIs. He had 11 RBIs in the last three games of the series.

Kevin Kouzmanoff picked up a double in the third, and Josh Donaldson singled, increasing both batter's hitting streaks to 9 and 8, respectively. But River Cats pitchers struggled to keep control over the Padres, and with no additional run support from the Cats it wasn't long before Tucson's lead increased.

Sacramento's Travis Banwart pitched through 6.2 innings, striking out eight with no walks, but was replaced by Neil Wagner in the seventh. Andy Parrino then scored off a single from Blanks before ending the inning with a 6-2 lead.

After the Padres scored one more run in the ninth, the River Cats tried to rally to avoid the sweep. Matt Carson reached third base on ground out by Adrian Cardenas, but Mitchell hit a ball to Tucson pitcher Greg Burke to end the game.

The sellout (14,014 fans) at Raley Field was the second of this season and 64th all time.

River Cats remain in first place of the PCL South Division and will head to Fresno on Monday, when right-hander Doug Mathis (0-5, 4.13) faces right-hander Andrew Kown (8-6, 4.15) at 7:05 p.m.

### **Springfield Holds Off Hounds On Sunday**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

The RockHounds offered post-game fireworks, but Springfield took care of the in-game version. The Cardinals belted a pair of solo home runs, the second of them providing the game-winning hit, breaking a 3-3 tie in the sixth inning.

Chris Swauger wrapped a line drive around the foul pole in right, a short-porch shot leading off the fifth inning, slicing a 2-0 deficit in half. The Cardinals scored twice more in the inning for a 3-2 lead, but the 'Hounds came right back on Matt Sulentic's second RBI of the game (and his sixth in the last three games), bringing in Grant Green to tie the game at 3-3 in the home half of the fifth.

Alex Castellanos then ripped a monster shot onto the grass berm in right-center in the sixth, his 16th home run of the season, and the Cardinals would not give up the lead. Matt Adams, one of the top two candidates for Texas League Player of the Year through the season's first three months, drove in Springfield's last two runs with RBI singles in the seventh and ninth. Adams, who now leads the league with a .357 average, drove in his 53rd and 54th runs of the season.

The 'Hounds are now 2-2 in their 6-game home stand, which continues with Monday's Fourth of July game and the series wrap-up Tuesday night. The RockHounds, Corpus Christi and Frisco are each now 5-5, two games behind first-place San Antonio (7-3).

**BATS** - Grant Green went 1-for-4 with a double, extending his hit streak four games. Grant is 7-for-15 in the 4-gamer with a double in each of his last three games.

Matt Sulentic hit .358 in June, and now has hits in his first three games in July. In the 3-gamer, Matt is 6-for-14 with a home run, a double and six runs batted in.

Stephen Parker has now hit in five straight games, is batting .500 in that stretch (9-18).

**ARMS** - The Fourth of July game will feature an interesting pitching match-up, with RockHounds starter Gary Daley facing his former team. Gary, selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the third round of the 2006 draft out of Cal Poly, pitched for Springfield in parts of 2009 and 2010. He was released by the Cardinals, and signed with Oakland late last season, finishing the year with the RockHounds. After a slow start in 2011, the right-hander has been sensational in his last five starts, going 2-0, with a 1.04 ERA. And ... he will face his former club in front of a full house on Independence Day.

**ROCKY TOWN** - The RockHounds host Springfield on the Fourth of July (6:30 p.m.) with post-game fireworks. The teams then complete the 3-game series Tuesday (6:30 p.m.). Check out all the details at [www.midlandrockhounds.org](http://www.midlandrockhounds.org).

### **Back To Winning Ways With 5-3 Win**

Stockton Ports

After the San Jose Giants snapped the Stockton Ports winning streak at 17, the Ports came back to end the series on a high note, coming out ahead with a 5-3 victory in the Independence Day game.

San Jose put up the first run, with center fielder Gary Brown getting things started with a lead off triple, and scored with ease on a sacrifice fly by second baseman Ryan Cavan. A single for first baseman Brandon Belt and a walk for third baseman Alex Burg suggested a big inning for San Jose, but right fielder Jarrett Parker lined out to shortstop Dusty Coleman, who threw to second to get Belt in an inning ending double play.

The Ports got the run back and then some in the second. First baseman Anthony Aliotti drew a walk to lead things off and would get knocked in on a triple smashed to center field by Coleman. Catcher Petey Paramore flew out to bring in Coleman. With two outs in the inning, designated hitter Mitch LeVier hit his 10th home run of the year, a solo shot to right field.

San Jose cut the deficit down to just one run in the fourth. With two outs, catcher Tommy Joseph singled and came around to score on a triple by shortstop Ehire Adrianza.

Two innings later, the Giants and the Ports would be knotted at three runs a piece. Belt lead off the sixth with a walk. Burg flew out to left field, Myrio Richard making a spectacular catch to get the out. Parker followed up with a single. With Joseph at the plate, Parker stole second, and reached third on a throwing error, getting into position to score on a sacrifice fly by Joseph.

But Stockton came out ahead again before the inning was over. Aliotti led off with a double and came around to score on a single by Coleman. Right fielder Rashun Dixon and Petey Paramore both grounded out, bringing LeVier to the plate. Giants starter Zack Wheeler intentionally walked LeVier to face and strike out third baseman Leonardo Gil.

Ports starter Dan Straily had seven strike outs in his six-inning outing, allowing three runs on six hits before Mike Benacka took his place on the mound. Brown got a one-out single and a stolen base in the seventh, but with Cavan at the plate, Benacka turned and picked Brown off at second. Cavan grounded out to end the inning.

Wheeler was replaced in the bottom of the seventh by Ari Ronick. Belt also came out, with Luke Anders taking his place in the lineup. Ronick retired his first two batters but center fielder Michael Choice drove out his 19th homer of the season and record his 50th RBI, increasing the Ports lead to 5-3.

Ronick faced the first two batters of the bottom of the eighth, striking out Coleman and walking Dixon before Andy Reichard took his place on the hill. Reichard got Paramore to ground into what could have been a double play, but Dixon broke it up with a slide into second that knocked Cavan down as he tried for the out at first. LeVier came to bat and was walked intentionally for the second time, the Giants once again getting out number three on the following strike out of Gil.

Jose Guzman came in to pitch in the ninth, getting his 14th save of the season with two strike outs in the inning. Fans were then treated to a spectacular fireworks show presented by Comcast.

The Ports head on the road next, facing off against the High Desert Mavericks. Ports righty Murphy Smith takes the mound at 7:05 p.m.



## **Bees Rip Down Kernels 5-4**

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA-C Beau Taylor (2-4) hit an RBI single in the eighth inning to snap a 4-4 tie and give the Burlington Bees (5-5) a 5-4 win over the Cedar Rapids Kernels (3-7) before 1,466 fans at Perfect Game Field on Sunday afternoon.

The Bees scored three runs in the first inning against Cedar Rapids RHP Brian Diemer. LF Royce Consigli (1-5) reached on an error to lead off the game. 2B Ryan Pineda (2-4) doubled and Consigli moved to third base. 3B Tony Thompson (2-5) hit a two-run single to score both Consigli and Pineda and make it 2-0 Burlington. RF Douglas Landaeta (2-5) singled Thompson home for a 3-0 Burlington lead.

The Kernels scored a single run in the first inning against Burlington RHP Tyler Vail. SS Rolando Gomez (3-5) hit a triple and scored on a groundout by RF Jeremy Cruz (0-5) to trim the Burlington lead to 3-1.

Cedar Rapids tied the game in the fourth inning on a two-run home run by C Marcus Nidiffer (2-4). LF Justin Bass (2-3) led off the inning with a walk and moved to second base when DH David Harris (0-3) walked. 1B Brandon Decker (0-4) grounded into a double play and Bass moved to third base. Nidiffer pulled a pitch from Vail over the left field wall for a two-run home run and a 3-3 tied score.

The Kernels took a 4-3 lead in the fifth inning. Gomez doubled and later scored on a double by 3B Ricky Alvarez (1-4). The Bees tied the game in the sixth inning. SS Yordy Cabrera (0-3) waked and moved to third base on a single by Taylor. CF Jose Rivero (3-4) ripped a single to center field to score Cabrera and tie the score at 4.

RF Douglas Landaeta (2-5) led off the eighth inning with a double against RHP Donn Roach (4-5) band moved to third base on a ground out by Cabrera. Taylor followed by lining his second hit of the game to give Burlington a 5-4 lead.

RHP Pedro Vidal (6-2) pitched two and two-thirds innings for the win. RHP Zack Thornton pitched the final two innings to pick up his third save.

The Bees continue their series in Cedar Rapids on Monday at 5:05 p.m. RHP Sean Murphy 0-1, 10.13) gets the start for the Bees against RHP Heath Nichols (4-5, 4.31) for the Kernels. Pre-game coverage begins tomorrow at 4:45 p.m. on Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at [www.gobees.com](http://www.gobees.com).

2011 Bees tickets are on sale now! To purchase season tickets, bonus books or single game tickets, please give the Bees a call at (319) 754-5705, go online to [www.gobees.com](http://www.gobees.com), or stop by the box office at Community Field during normal business hours.

## **Vermont Rally In 9th Inning For 7-6 Win**

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

BURLINGTON, VT --- So far in 2011 the Vermont Lake Monsters have been the "Rally" Monsters has they have come-from-behind to win in six of their first nine victories. Sunday afternoon at historic Centennial Field Vermont pulled out its biggest rally of the season as they scored four times in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the Tri-City ValleyCats 7-6 in New York-Penn League action.

Lake Monsters trailed 6-3 with one out in the bottom of the ninth when Jordan Tripp struckout, but reached first base on a wild pitch and Xavier Macklin followed with a walk to put runners at first and second still with one out.

Chad Lewis grounded a 2-1 pitch into centerfield to score Tripp to cut the lead to two and Chad Oberacker then laced a 2-2 delievery through the left side scoring Macklin to make it 6-5. Tri-City reliever Juan Rosario struckout Jacob Tanis for the second out, but Diomedes Lopez tied the game with a line drive single on a 2-2 pitch to right scoring Lewis.

Travis Smink relieved Rosario and walked Aaron Shipman to load the bases before quickly getting ahead of Sean Jamieson 0-2. But Jamieson fouled the next two pitches hard foul down the leftfield line before drilling a game-ending single to leftcenter scoring Oberacker with the winning run.

Tri-City had built a 4-0 lead with a run in the second and three more in the third before Vermont was able to cut the deficit to 5-3 in the bottom of the fifth with two runs on a wild pitch and Lewis RBI groundout. The ValleyCats scored their sixth run in the seventh on a sacrifice fly from Matt Duffy, who was 1-for-3 with a double.

Vermont starter Seth Frankoff left after just 2 1/3 innings and allowed four runs on five hits, but three Lake Monster relievers combined to allowed two runs on six hits over the final 6 2/3 innings to keep Vermont close enough for the comeback. Logan Chitwood (1-0) had a strikeout in a scoreless ninth for the win.

Lewis was 2-for-5 with two runs and two RBI, while Tripp scored twice to increase his league-leading run total to 17 (has scored at least one run in 10 straight games). Miles Hamblin was 4-for-5 with three runs scored for Tri-City (6-10), while Rosario (0-1) was charged with all four ninth inning runs for the loss.

Vermont (10-5), which has won five of its last six games, heads out on a five-game roadtrip with two at Tri-City and a three-game series at Brooklyn before they return to Centennial Field next Saturday, July 9th. The roadtrip opens at Tri-City on Monday starting at 6:00 pm.