

**New York Yankees put hurt on Trevor Cahill, Oakland A's in 17-7 romp**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- Trevor Cahill took his struggles against the New York Yankees to another level Friday night at Yankee Stadium.

The A's right-hander was charged with a career-high 10 earned runs in a 17-7 blowout defeat to open a three-game series.

The A's have now lost 11 straight to the Yankees.

Cahill allowed nine hits and lasted just two-plus innings in the shortest start of his career. After being staked to a 2-0 lead, he allowed five runs in the bottom of the second. Then he allowed Nick Swisher's three-run homer in the third, as the Yankees batted around in a nine-run rally.

Michael Wuertz relieved Cahill in the third but fared no better, walking in two runs before allowing Mark Teixeira's grand slam.

Cahill's 10 earned runs were the most allowed by an A's starter since Gio Gonzalez surrendered 11 to the Twins on July 20, 2009.

**Oakland A's update: Rookie second baseman Jemile Weeks savors first trip to Yankee Stadium**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- When A's rookie second baseman Jemile Weeks arrived at Yankee Stadium on Friday afternoon, he immediately went out to the field to take it all in.

"You're talking a big deal, first time at Yankee Stadium," Weeks said. "It's an exciting time for me, just to look at the stadium and out into the stands to get a feel of what it's like."

Weeks certainly played inspired in his first visit to the ballpark. He went 3 for 6 with two RBIs, a bright spot for the A's in their 17-7 loss to New York.

Weeks is hitting .315. Despite not being called up from Triple-A Sacramento until June 7, he entered Friday leading American League rookies in triples (three) and was ranked fourth in steals (10) and tied for fifth in multihit games (13).

Weeks showed no ill effects from fouling a ball off his right instep Tuesday against Detroit. He didn't play Wednesday against the Tigers and had Thursday's day off to get extra rest.

"It's fine," Weeks said. "It was just a one-(game) precaution. I'm ready to get back at it."

Right-hander Rich Harden starts Saturday afternoon for the A's, and he has a plan for combating the heat and humidity that he'll encounter: He'll simply take his time.

Harden said working too quickly in high temperatures can get a pitcher in trouble. Weather.com predicts a high of 98 degrees on Saturday in New York, with the heat index (which includes humidity) reaching 102.

"If you start rushing and going too quickly, it can be tough to actually catch your breath," Harden said.

A's pitcher Brandon McCarthy, who knows something about hot weather having played three seasons with the Texas Rangers, said the heat and humidity at Yankee Stadium on Friday were the worst he's experienced as a major leaguer.

"I was in Mobile (Ala.) in the minor leagues, Charlotte (N.C.) "... McCarthy said. "This is right up there, if not worse. It's something else."

The A's will hold a ceremony before Friday's home game against Minnesota to honor Hideki Matsui's 500th professional home run.

As part of the promotion, the A's are offering 500 Plaza Level tickets for \$5 each. They're normally priced at \$18 each.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.oaklandathletics.com/500](http://www.oaklandathletics.com/500).

### **Chin Music: A's try to beat the heat (and the Yankees)**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 7/22/2011 3:48pm

It's a scorcher at Yankee Stadium this evening. It's just past 6:30 p.m., and weather.com lists the temperature at 101 degrees, with a heat index of 109 (factoring in the humidity). Several A's players are saying this is some of the worst weather they've experienced as far as temperature and humidity combined. No surprise the A's cut batting practice a bit short. The Yankees didn't hit outdoors at all ...

—The lineups, w/Jemile Weeks and Scott Sizemore back in action:

A's: Weeks 2B, Crisp CF, Willingham DH, Matsui LF, Sizemore 3B, DeJesus RF, Jackson 1B, Suzuki C, Pennington SS; Cahill RHP.

Yankees: Gardner LF, Jeter SS, Granderson CF, Teixeira DH, Cano 2B, Swisher RF, Posada 1B, Nunez 3B, Cervelli C; Hughes RHP.

—A's manager Bob Melvin said a pitcher's energy and stuff can fade quickly in this weather, so keep an eye on how Trevor Cahill fares as the innings tick away. Cahill obviously wants to turn his luck around against the Yanks. Two hitters in particular that he must bear down on: Robinson Cano (4 for 9, 1 HR off him lifetime) and Mark Teixeira (4 for 8, 2 HRs). No stats jump off the page as far as A's hitters vs. Phil Hughes, the Yankees starter. The body of work is pretty small for everybody in the lineup.

—There was no Eric Chavez reunion with his old teammates today: The former Athletic is down in Tampa for a rehab assignment. He's close to returning from a bone bruise in his left foot that landed him on the 60-day DL back in May.

—If you get to New York City and visit Little Italy, I recommend lunch at Cafe Napoli. Great daily specials ... order the chicken piccata!

### **A's, Trevor Cahill sustain another Bronx bombing**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Based on how they wilted in the steamy Bronx on Friday, we could say the A's aren't a hot-weather team.

But only an apologist would say it's a weather thing.

A realist would know it's a Yankees thing

In the hottest game at Yankee Stadium in 12 years, the A's bowed to their biggest bullies, dropping a 17-7 sweat-fest for their 11th straight loss to the Yankees, whose hitters figure to beg, borrow and steal to get in the lineup the next two days.

The game-time temperature was 100 degrees, the first time since 1999 the Yankees started a home game in triple digits. They felt the effects a lot less than Trevor Cahill, who surrendered five runs in both the second and third innings.

Cahill never retired a batter in the third. He exited after the first five men reached base - a walk and four hits, including a Nick Swisher homer - and was replaced by Michael Wuertz, who was equally ineffective.

After permitting both inherited runners to score on a pair of bases-loaded walks, Wuertz served up Mark Teixeira's grand slam. Suddenly, it was 14-2, prompting a mad rush to the history books/Internet sites to measure the futility of the A's, especially when harassed by the Yankees.

Let's first examine Cahill, the Yankees' killee. He entered 0-3 with a 9.72 ERA against New York, and now the numbers are 0-4 and 13.50. He's the first A's starter since Pete Naktens in 1936 (back in the Philly days) to cough up at least 10 earned runs without completing more than two innings.

In this 11-game skid, A's starters have yielded at least eight runs four times, and Vin Mazzaro (nine runs, seven earned) and Cahill (eight earned runs) did it in consecutive games last August at Yankee Stadium. The other pummeling was Brett Anderson's in Oakland on May 31 (10 runs, nine earned).

In the 11 losses, the A's have been outscored 80-27. Friday's blowout was the first on Bob Melvin's watch. Before the game, Melvin said he'd need to monitor the starting pitchers in this series, considering the drastic heat. Cahill was finished after 61 pitches, but his history against New York suggests it was more than the heat.

The A's got embarrassed, but nobody was more embarrassed than Yankees starter Phil Hughes, who was handed a 12-run lead in the third inning but failed to finish the required five innings necessary to earn the win. He was pulled after 4 1/3 , charged with seven runs, eight hits and four walks. Oakland's offense was far more effective than normal, collecting 13 hits, but who noticed?

Emotions were hot like the weather. After Coco Crisp struck out looking on an outside pitch, he had words with umpire Bill Welke and smacked his bat against the bat rack a few times while Melvin and bench coach Joel Skinner barked at Welke.

The mugginess got to reliever Joey Devine, who had zero control in the seventh because he couldn't properly grip the ball, even requesting a new resin bag. Brandon Laird opened the inning with his first big-league at-bat, and the first pitch he saw sailed behind him, prompting him to glare at Devine.

The Yankees scored twice in the inning on Swisher's bases-loaded single, giving him five RBIs, and Laird capped the scoring in the eighth with his first hit and RBI.

### **Sonny Gray tweets about return to Vanderbilt**

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

Top draft pick **Sonny Gray** of Vanderbilt, who's unsigned, posted this on his Twitter account: "Me and @coreyw24 got our apartment at vandy for next year and let me tell ya. It is sweet."

Does that mean the pitcher is returning to Vanderbilt for his senior year? Or is it simply a negotiating ploy? In his Tweet, Gray was referring to **Corey Williams**, a third-round pick by Minnesota who's also unsigned.

The deadline to sign for draftees with college eligibility remaining is Aug. 15, and A's scouting director **Eric Kubota** said the Gray talks are "progressing fine."

**Toast of the town:** After his 500th career homer in Detroit on Wednesday, **Hideki Matsui** hinted he'd celebrate in New York. How did that go?

"We celebrated with champagne and put a hole in the ceiling," Matsui said. "That's a joke."

He actually celebrated by going out to dinner Thursday night - "at a secret Japanese place. I can't tell." The tabloid gossip columnists are on the job.

The Yankees acknowledged Matsui's feat with an in-game video tribute. The A's will honor him with a pregame ceremony on Friday.

**Briefly:** Today's starting pitcher, **Rich Harden**, said Friday was hotter than any day he experienced last season - and this is a man who played for Texas. ... Infielders **Scott Sizemore** (neck) and **Jemile Weeks** (foot) returned to the lineup after each missed a start. Weeks wore a protective guard over his foot, but got hit by another foul tip - off his knee. ... Matsui played the field for the 10th time this year, and **Josh Willingham** was the designated hitter.

**Familiar face:** Eric Chavez (foot) is rehabbing with Class-A Tampa and, according to Yankees manager Joe Girardi, could join the parent club during the 10-game homestand - after showing he can play nine innings and back-to-back games.

### **Drumbeat: A bit hot at Yankee Stadium**

John Shea from the Bronx . . . 7/22/2011 3:06pm

Bob Melvin was asked if it's hotter in New York than Detroit, and he suggested it didn't matter: "Hot is hot."

The A's on-field pregame work was relatively brief because of the weather. Throughout the weekend, Melvin said the guys he'll need to monitor the most are the starting pitchers, Trevor Cahill, Rich Harden and Gio Gonzalez. Harden said today is hotter than any day he experienced last year -- and the man pitched in Texas.

It's 102 degrees now, but it'll "cool down" Saturday (a mere 98) and Sunday (simply 94).

Jemile Weeks and Scott Sizemore are back in the lineup, and Mr. 500 is in left field with Josh Willingham the DH. Special for Weeks, who's at Yankee Stadium for the first time -- never was at the old Yankee Stadium, either -- and one of the first things he did earlier was walk out on the field and admire the place.

Hideki Matsui has done a bunch of interviews here in the wake of his milestone homer Wednesday, and the old Yankee said, "It still feels a bit odd to be on the other side."

The lineup: 2B Weeks, CF Crisp, DH Willingham, LF Matsui, 3B Sizemore, RF DeJesus, 1B Jackson, C Suzuki, SS Pennington.

Follow on Twitter @JohnSheaHey

### **Cahill's struggles against Yanks continue**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- For the A's, an indescribable nightmarish element has reigned supreme over every ounce of aura, awe and mystique that has come along with Yankee Stadium over the years.

Plenty of history surrounds the park, no doubt. But recent history hasn't been so kind to an Oakland team that has recorded just one win in the Bronx in its last 14 tries.

The A's latest loss against the Yankees, their 11th straight, came in the form of a 17-7 drubbing on an already miserably hot Friday night that produced a first-pitch temperature of 100 degrees -- humidity not included.

"You play a team enough," manager Bob Melvin said, "to where you should win some games from time to time."

But starter Trevor Cahill has yet to win one against the Yankees, marking the only American League team -- aside from the A's -- he hasn't defeated in his three-year career. And Friday's loss, which left him with an 8-9 mark for the season, proved even uglier than the rest.

In fact, it marked the worst showing of his career to date -- a two-plus-inning performance that resulted in nearly one earned run per six pitches, culminating in a total of 10 runs to go along with nine hits and two walks on one of baseball's biggest stages.

The A's handed him two early runs courtesy RBI hits from Scott Sizemore and Cliff Pennington, but Cahill -- now 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts against the Yankees -- reciprocated with just six outs.

"It's kinda embarrassing," he said, "and you feel like you let your team down when you can't get past two innings and they showed early that they're going to put some runs on the board for you."

The 10 runs marked the most allowed by an A's pitcher since Brett Anderson gave up just as many -- nine earned -- against the Yankees back in May, and the most earned runs since Gio Gonzalez yielded 11 vs. Minnesota on July 20, 2009.

Moreover, A's starters have now surrendered at least seven earned runs to the Bronx Bombers four times since the start of 2010.

The 23-year-old Cahill, coming off a clean first inning aside from one hit batsman, hit early trouble in a five-run second inning to erase a 2-0 lead, before further unraveling in a third frame that saw the Yankees send 13 men to the plate and score nine runs.

"Just the command," Cahill said. "I'd fall behind and I was wild in the zone a couple times. A lineup like that, they force you to throw the ball in the middle of the plate, and they're going to hit it."

New York singled its way to the scoreboard in the second, tallying five base hits in a lengthy inning that was preceded by bigger trouble in the third. Nick Swisher launched a three-run homer against his former team, and Cahill was allowed just two more batters -- both of which hit for singles -- before Michael Wuertz was brought on.

"Just kind of fooled me, man, threw a 3-1 changeup," Swisher said. "I was like, 'There's no way he's gonna throw that pitch again, and he threw a 3-2 curveball. I just got the barrel on it.'"

Said Cahill: "You feel like you need everything to go your way. It's a combination of me not making good pitches, and if I did, they hit it still, so it's just kinda frustrating. Against a team like that, you try to avoid the big inning. The second inning was big, and then you try to regroup, and before you know it the same thing was happening again."

Those very command issues also plagued a struggling Wuertz, who quickly surrendered a base hit and walked two before offering up a grand slam to Mark Teixeira to make it 14-2.

Perhaps all the more disappointing was the fact that such pitching woes surfaced on a productive night from the A's offense, which racked up 13 hits and seven of their own runs, the latter number all coming against New York righty Phil Hughes in just 4 1/3 innings to prevent him from garnering the win.

Pennington notched a two-run homer in the fourth, and Jemile Weeks and David DeJesus each collected three hits. The A's have now scored 37 runs in seven games since the break, after batting just .205 with 43 runs scored over the final 18 contests before the All-Star Game.

"The offense kept us in the game for awhile, and we just didn't pitch all that well," said Craig Breslow, who gave up an eighth-inning run as the seventh and final pitcher used by the A's on the night. "That hasn't been the way things have been going, so if we can keep getting five, six, seven runs a game, we could find ourselves in a lot of them."

Righty Fautino De Los Santos represented another positive, giving the A's two scoreless innings of work with just one hit and four strikeouts to his name. Fellow right-hander Joey Devine, meanwhile, was tagged with two runs after walking the bases loaded before Brad Ziegler allowed a pair of those runners to score via Swisher's two-run double in the seventh.

Friday was the first time an A's opponent had scored at least 17 runs since the Rockies beat Oakland, 18-3, in Colorado on July 18, 2000. But a loss against the Yankees clearly isn't something the team hasn't seen in 11 years.

"I have no idea why," catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "I wish I had an answer for that. We just can't get the job done, plain and simple. We gotta figure out a way."

### **Weeks, Sizemore return to lineup**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- Not that it's ever needed for the lively Jemile Weeks, but the A's second baseman perhaps found a larger dose of motivation to return to the club's lineup on Friday upon arrival at Yankee Stadium.

"This place is big," Weeks said. "You're always a little amped up when you play in a stadium like this with so much history. I definitely had it in my mind to come out to the stadium and check everything out."

The rookie played in Friday's series opener, after missing Wednesday's contest in Detroit because of a sore right foot.

"Someone said they saw him on the MLB channel turning double plays last night," manager Bob Melvin said, "so I figured if he could turn double plays over there, he could probably play tonight."

"I had my mind set on playing today," Weeks said. "The lineup's set, I'm in, and I'm ready to go."

Oakland's infield also saw the return of third baseman Scott Sizemore, who took a fastball to his left jaw and neck area on Tuesday, and was restricted to one inning of defensive work the following day against the Tigers.

"He volunteered to play in the game in Detroit, and after an off-day, I didn't have any doubt he'd be able to play today," Melvin said.

### **A's modify routine to deal with heat**

NEW YORK -- Combating the challenges that come with playing in Yankee Stadium is one thing, but doing it in near-record temperatures is another.

The A's, who have lost 12 of their last 13 in the Bronx, faced a game-time temperature of 100 degrees for Friday's series opener, forcing them to take precautionary steps to avoid heat exhaustion. It marked the first time since July 5, 1999 that a Yankees home game had reached such temperatures.

"Drink lots and lots of water," third baseman Scott Sizemore said. "You have to get a lot of electrolytes in you and try to change your undershirt a few times. I sweat a ton, anyway, so now everyone's gonna see what it's like to be me."

"This is the worst stretch of heat I can remember," said first baseman Conor Jackson. "Just brutal."

Manager Bob Melvin employed a shortened batting-practice session Friday, and planned to have his players hit in the indoor cages on Saturday.

"I think in the second half of the season, you can overdo it too much with hitting, anyway," Melvin said. "When you play 162 games in 180 days, and spend another hour and a half out on the field before the game, that's a lot of exertion."

Before the start of Friday's game, Yankees manager Joe Girardi recalled players putting lettuce on their heads to ease the effects of the heat. Melvin, meanwhile, just remembers keeping a rosin bag in his back pocket while catching to keep his hands dry.

"It's not like I was out there every day to have to worry about it too much," he joked.

### **Back at Yankee Stadium, Matsui in left field**

NEW YORK -- Two days removed from the 500th home run -- split between the top professional leagues in both the United States and Japan -- of his career, Hideki Matsui stood in the place he called home for seven years, again downplaying the feat. That didn't stop others, particularly from the other side, for lauding the historic number, though.

"I'd like to be able to congratulate him," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "That's quite an accomplishment, and just shows you how consistent he's been, and how great of a player he's been for a long, long time."

New York fans warmly greeted Matsui with generous applause upon his first at-bat Friday, showcasing the type of respect the Japanese veteran greatly appreciates. Still, he said, it still "feels a little bit odd to be on the other side."

Matsui received a start in left field on Friday, while Josh Willingham took over the duties as designated hitter. A's manager Bob Melvin said he'll likely utilize such a scenario often.

"Hideki would prefer to get in there once a week, maybe twice," he said. "It's a good combo being able to play both in the outfield and DH some, to get them both some rest."

### **Worth noting**

- Left-hander Craig Breslow said he raised about \$40,000 at Thursday's second annual NYY Steak Luncheon in the confines of Yankee Stadium for his Strike 3 Foundation, which supports and raises funds for childhood cancer research. Breslow, who raised \$12,000 last year, saw a turnout of about 80 people, along with several player guests, including Yankees right-hander David Robertson.

### **Breslow looks to make a difference off the field**

### **A's pitcher raises money for pediatric cancers**

By Jay Greenberg / Special to MLB.com

NEW YORK --- Craig Breslow, a 26th-round Draft choice in 2002 by the Brewers, has been released once, plus waived three times and, despite it all, is in his sixth season pitching in the Major Leagues. That's quite the life lesson -- which he insists should never be confused with life-and-death lessons.

His Strike 3 Foundation has raised more than \$600,000 in three years to fight pediatric cancers. Even during the baseball season, Breslow makes certain he spends at least an hour a day on the foundation, planning, calling, and answering emails at 3 a.m. after the next flight to the next city. Yet through all that heavy lifting, the A's lefty insists he is ultimately the one lifted.

"Every year we award the Isaias Valentin Award for Courage at our [November] gala [in Stamford, Conn]," said the A's lefty. "Hearing [the honorees] speak and reliving their accounts of battling chemotherapy, you always find out that ironically they always seem to be the pillars of strength in their families, with moms and dads and siblings leaning on them.

"A lot of times the kids are a little bit naive but incredibly courageous. They are able to find a perspective that they are fortunate, whether it's because the disease could always be worse or the treatments could be more [debilitating] or because they have a great support system in place. They are 10-11-12 and battling cancer, and have the perspective that they are kind of lucky."

Isaias Valentin, who died of leukemia complications before his 10th birthday, was one of the unluckiest ones. Lesley Breslow, who was two years older than brother Craig when she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer at age 14, is now 33, a mother, a guidance counselor at a Connecticut middle school and, as one of the 85 percent survivors of childhood cancer diagnoses, Breslow's inspiration.

He invited six A's teammates and Yankees reliever David Robertson to NYY Steaks at Yankee Stadium Friday afternoon for a \$500-a-plate luncheon that raised a minimum of \$42,500.

"It's a unique event dining with someone who in a couple hours you are going to be opposing on the field," said Breslow about Robertson, whom he met at a golf outing two years ago. "The Yankees got in late last night from Tampa, I thank David for coming."

"Whatever Craig Breslow needs," says Robertson, the same thing said by the A's especially devoted to the cause, like Andrew Bailey. Newest Strike 3 Foundation board member Cameron Maybin of the Padres, and everyone who knows Breslow, understands how tireless the lefty is with some of the best hands in the business, not just in fielding comebackers, either.

"Spring Training he was talking about the luncheon and the gala and other things so I said, '[If you] ever need any help let me know,'" said Brian Fuentes.

"He said, 'Actually we got this thing in New York in July.' I didn't realize it would be this organized, but that's Craig, Mr. Yalie. He goes all out. He organized this whole thing. All I have to do is show up and smile."

If kids in hospitals can find something to smile about, so can baseball players living the dream or parents who lived the nightmare of a child with cancer. Endings don't get any happier than this one for the Breslows.

"Going to Yale, Major League Baseball player, the money he is raising, I never would have dreamed," said Abe Breslow, retired teacher and proudest dad on earth.

He fathered a bright guy -- degree in molecular biophysics and chemistry who deferred an acceptance to medical school at New York University when the Padres signed him -- who is intent on brightening days. His sister's ordeal stuck with Breslow a lot longer than any home run he ever has given up or any green slip he ever has been given.

He has been charged with 17 defeats in the Major Leagues. But as Breslow moved from the Padres to the Red Sox to the Indians to the Twins to the A's, the greatest loss, he thought, was time wasted not getting to start his life's work until beginning Strike 3 in 2008.

"I thought it was going to require a pretty supportive network and a couple weeks here and there weren't conducive to it," Breslow said. "I didn't feel like I had established myself."

Going into Friday's game with the Yankees, he had not allowed a run in 12 of his last 13 appearances, none of which meant as much to him as the one scheduled at a Bay Area hospital next week.

"To shake hands with some of our donor base at an event like this is something very satisfying," he said. "But the real reason we do this is the kids in the hospital.

"So knowing just by showing up, we can put a smile on someone's face is a pretty incredible feeling and also something very humbling. To be in this position and not do it is just kind of senseless. To be able to present a \$25,000 grant to a hospital in conjunction with a visit, that is a very satisfying day."

### **Burnett looks to keep Yanks rolling vs. A's**

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com

It's been a historically long losing streak for the A's against the Yankees, and with New York's potent offense, it's anyone's guess how long it will be before Oakland finally walks off the field victorious against the Bombers.

Oakland enters Saturday's game at Yankee Stadium amidst an 11-game drought against the Yanks, the longest losing streak against New York in Oakland history. It's also the longest for an Athletics team since the Kansas City A's dropped 14 in a row to the Yankees from Sept. 13, 1956-July 12, 1957.

A big reason for Oakland's struggles against the Yankees has been its starting pitching. Rich Harden, who opposes A.J. Burnett on Saturday, also hasn't had success against the Yankees in his career. The right-hander is 1-3 with a 5.10 ERA in nine games (seven starts) against the Yankees, but A's manager Bob Melvin said the key to success against New York is to try to forget the past and focus on the now.



"Don't look too much at the big picture, the stats and stuff. Just go out there and do your thing," Melvin said. "We're swinging the bats a little better, too. Our offensive numbers are up, so as a pitching staff, you focus on what you do right rather than what the other team does right. It's more important you go with your own strengths, and we feel our pitching can match up with anybody."

Trying to get the Yankees 20 games above .500 -- they're currently a season-high 19 over for the second time -- is Burnett, who has tossed two consecutive no-decisions. In his last start, against the Red Sox, the right-hander allowed four runs (three earned) on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Burnett defeated the A's on June 1, allowing two runs on three hits in seven strong innings. He is 5-3 with a 3.74 ERA in 10 career starts against Oakland.

### **Athletics: Crisp, Suzuki to sit**

Outfielder Coco Crisp is scheduled to get the day off Saturday, Melvin said. Also, Landon Powell will be behind the plate, with Kurt Suzuki resting because of the heat wave in New York.

- The A's entered Friday 6-24 in their last 30 road games, the worst 30-game stretch on the road since May 26-Aug. 4, 1986, when they also were 6-24. With Friday's loss, they remain 6-24 in their last 30 games away from Oakland.

### **Yankees: Playing in the heat**

Game-time temperature Friday was 100 degrees, the highest recorded at new Yankee Stadium and the first 100-degree game in the Bronx since July 5, 1999 against the Orioles. The Yankees did not take batting practice outdoors Friday, and with Saturday's day game, it could be hotter. Manager Joe Girardi said the club will be conscious about the heat.

"That's something that we're going to try to be smart about the next couple days," Girardi said. "I'll just check with guys to make sure they're not cramping up and try to keep them as fresh as I can."

Said head athletic trainer Gene Monahan: "We're prepared and we got our I's dotted and our T's crossed. We're ready to go. It's a process that starts all day long."

- Mariano Rivera needs one save to reach the 25-save mark for the 15th straight season.

### **Worth noting**

- The A's are hitting .302 with 37 runs scored in seven games since the All-Star break.
- Yankees relievers have not given up a run in their last six games, allowing eight hits and three walks in 16 innings.

### **A's humbled by Yankees, 17-7**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Mark Teixeira hit a grand slam and Nick Swisher had a three-run homer in a nine-run third inning and the New York Yankees ambushed the A's early for a 17-7 victory in the searing heat Friday night.

Swisher and Teixeira homered with two bases-loaded walks in between as the Yankees had their highest-scoring inning of the season — it was also the most runs allowed by the A's in an inning in 2011. The big inning followed a five-run burst against Trevor Cahill (8-9) in the second and sent Oakland to its 11th straight loss against New York.

Derek Jeter drove in three runs and Swisher matched a career high with five RBIs for the Yankees. Backup catcher Francisco Cervelli reached base five times with three hits and two walks.

Jemile Weeks returned to Oakland's lineup after missing a game with a sore right foot and had a two-run single among his three hits. Cliff Pennington hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs against a listless Phil Hughes. But seven Oakland pitchers allowed nine walks in a 3-hour, 41-minute game.

Hector Noesi (2-0) pitched 3 2-3 innings of four-hit ball.

The Yankees needed only one inning to perk up after arriving home at 3:30 a.m. from a 4-4 trip played entirely on artificial turf. With temperatures in New York topping 100 degrees, the Yankees skipped batting practice — Oakland was out there in the blazing sun and stifling humidity.

While manager Joe Girardi said he remembers a teammate once putting lettuce on his head to cool off, players on both teams didn't appear to resort to such extreme measures with the thermometer at 100 for a 7:08 p.m. first pitch. The Yankees posted in the clubhouse a list of suggestions for avoiding dehydration and promoting recovery for Saturday's 1:05 p.m. start.

Looking for his first win in the Bronx this season, Hughes struggled from the start. He walked two and gave up an RBI double to Scott Sizemore in the first. Cliff Pennington had a run-scoring single in the second and a two-run homer in the fourth.

Hughes, with a 14-5 lead, slammed the rosin bag when Girardi came to remove him with one out and the bases loaded in the fifth.

The Yankees exerted considerable energy in scoring five times in the second, using five singles, a walk, a sacrifice fly and some hustle from Brett Gardner to go up 5-2.

After Eduardo Nunez had an opposite field single to right for the first run, Gardner hit a slow chopper between first and second that Weeks fielded and tossed to Cahill. Gardner dived for the bag as Cahill lunged to touch the base and Gardner was called safe although replays indicated that Cahill touched the side of the base first as another run scored.

Jeter also went the other way for a two-run single for hit No. 3,011, passing Wade Boggs for 25th place. Curtis Granderson, starting in the No. 3 hole for the first time, hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-2.

Cahill allowed the five batters he faced in the third to reach — including Swisher's 11th homer — before being pulled for Michael Wuertz, who fared no better. Wuertz walked Jeter and Granderson with the bases loaded before Teixeira connected for his sixth grand slam.

Cahill has lost his last four decisions going back to June 30. The 2-plus innings and 10 runs were career worsts. He allowed 12 of the 17 men he faced reach base and his ERA went from 3.16 to 3.77.

Swisher had a two-run single in the seventh and Brandon Laird, in his major league debut, had his first hit and RBI in the eighth to give the Yankees a season high for runs scored.

**NOTES:** OF Marcus Thames worked out at the Yankees' complex in Tampa, Fla. Friday. He was designated for assignment by the Los Angeles Dodgers and cleared waivers on Tuesday. ...

The last time the temperature at Yankee Stadium for the first pitch was 100 degrees was on July 5, 1999. It was 102 degrees at Yankee Stadium on the day of the 1977 All-Star game. ... Hideki Matsui on being asked if he thought he would hit his 500th homer — combined total between Japan and major leagues — in New York (he hit it Wednesday in Detroit): "That would have been too good of a tale." The Yankees showed a video compilation of Matsui homers on the scoreboard after the first innings.

He hit 140 homers with New York. ... To combat the heat, A's manager Bob Melvin said Landon Powell will catch Saturday to give Suzuki a rest. ... The Yankees have beaten the A's 25 of the last 29 meetings since 2008.

### **Gutierrez: Yanks have to be in Cahill's head, right?**

Paul Gutierrez, CSNCalifornia.com

Random observations from the A's 17-7 loss to the New York Yankees, which took three hours and 41 minutes Friday night at new Yankee Stadium in New York...

- If you were looking for quality pitching heading into tonight's series opener, sorry. Nothing to see here. Move along.

A's starter Trevor Cahill lasted all of two-plus innings. Yankees starter Phil Hughes was handed 14 runs and could not get through the fifth inning.

Confounding in some corners. Downright embarrassing in others.

- Cahill's issues against the Yankees are well-documented. He came into the game 0-3 with a 9.72 ERA in three career starts against New York. He was given a two-run lead and then seemed shaken by David DeJesus' fielding error on Robinson's Cano's single to right to open the second inning. By the time the book closed on him, Cahill's line was an unsightly 10 earned runs in two-plus innings, with nine hits, two strikeouts and two walks.

He became the first A's pitcher to give up at least 10 earned runs since Gio Gonzalez surrendered 11 to the Minnesota Twins on July 20, 2009.

Not a good look. Not a good look at all. Especially when you consider Cahill is now 0-4 with a 15.12 ERA against the Yankees. If they weren't in his head before, they most definitely are now.

- But a fantastic look by rookie reliever Fautino De Los Santos. The hard-throwing right-hander struck out four and gave up one hit and a walk in two scoreless innings.

- When the Yankees dropped a nine-spot on the A's in the third inning, it marked the first time an Oakland opponent had scored that many in a single inning since St. Louis went for 10 runs in the fifth inning at the Coliseum on June 16, 2007.

- A's hitting coach Gerald Perry has taken a lot of lumps for the A's hitting woes this season, and probably for good reason. He got himself tossed purportedly for complaining too loudly on the, ahem, high strike call on Josh Willingham in the fourth inning. Say this for Perry, though: he sure seemed like a "better" hitting coach when he had hitters like Frank Thomas, Nick Swisher, a relatively healthy Eric Chavez, Milton Bradley, Mark Kotsay and Co. back in 2006, right?

- The Yankees' season-high 17 runs were the most the A's had given up since Colorado beat them, 18-3, on July 18, 2000. And that was in the Mile High air of Coors Field.

- Lost in the madness of the A's losing by a touchdown and a field goal, was the A's offense actually making some noise. They banged out 13 hits and scored seven runs and with Cahill starting, you'd have to like your chances knowing you'd score seven times, right? Until you realize he was facing the Yankees. Mind games, I tell you. Mind games.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Banwart's gem lifts first-place River Cats**

By Max Lush / Sacramento River Cats

With a potential playoff matchup looming in September, the Reno Aces and Sacramento River Cats' rivalry has not failed to entertain this season.

Sacramento took the first game of a five-game series between the division leaders Friday night, topping Reno 4-2 and tying the season series at 6-6.

Friday night belonged to the pitchers. It was the first time in the season series that neither team managed to score at least five runs. The two teams have combined to score 167 runs in their 12 games (13.92 combined runs per game).

The regional rivals have dominated their respective divisions this season. Reno owns the best record in the Pacific Coast League at 60-38 and leads the Northern Division by 10.0 games. The River Cats own the second-best record in the PCL at 58-41 and lead the Southern Division by 7.5 games. The divisional leads are the two largest in the PCL this season, and the teams would face off in the first-round of the playoffs if they hold the leads.

Second baseman Andy LaRoche put the River Cats in front early with a two-run blast that landed on the left-field lawn. The home run came with two outs in the second inning, and the River Cats never looked back. "It feels good to win and it's good when your homers actually mean something," LaRoche said.

Donaldson, who was hit by a Barry Enright pitch in the two team's previous series, got revenge Friday by going 2-for-3 with a two-out RBI single.

Sacramento Starter Travis Banwart allowed one earned run over 6.0 innings and gave up two hits and a three walks while striking out six. The right-hander's one run was the least he has allowed since May 25 against New Orleans, when he threw just 1.0 inning.

Banwart (5-6, 5.24), who entered the game allowing the fifth fewest base runners per nine innings in the PCL, allowed just five batters to reach Friday. The start was his sixth outing this year where he has allowed less than one base runner per inning.

The right-hander also bounced back from his last start against Reno on June 26, when he got shelled seven runs in 6.2 innings and allowed three home runs.

The River Cats, 8-12 in July, did not commit an error for the first time in their nine games since the All-Star Break. The stretch saw the River Cats commit 13 errors in just eight games.

"We just got to keep hitting and play good defense, our pitchers have been keeping us in games," Donaldson said. "More importantly here at home we haven't been doing a very good job. If we just score some runs like we did today we'll be fine."

Reno's two runs came on solo shots. The first smash came in the fourth inning when David Winfree bounced one off of the roof of the clubhouse for his ninth home run of the season. Shortstop Tony Abreu clubbed the other one onto the lawn in right field to lead off the ninth inning for his 10th round tripper this year.

Willie Eyre came on for the save, and allowed the home run and a single before inducing a double play to seal the victory for the River Cats.

Reno starter Derek Eitel (0-1, 5.59) took the loss after throwing 6.0 innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on six hits while striking out five River Cats.

**Saturday features a double header beginning at 5:05. The first matchup pits two left-handers against each other. Sacramento will send Carlos Hernandez (5-3, 4.69) to the mound while Reno will throw Wade Miley (3-0, 3.43).**

### **Marti gets second win against Missions**

Jordan Mason, Midland Reporter-Telegram

The San Antonio Missions have been the best team in the Texas League for all of 2011, but after two starts in the league, Midland RockHounds pitcher Yadel Marti has to be wondering what the big deal is in facing them.

In just his second start for Midland, Marti shut down the Missions for the second time in five days, pitching seven scoreless innings in the RockHounds' 5-1 win at Citibank Ballpark on Friday.

Marti went five innings on Sunday and allowed just four hits in a 3-1 win against the Missions.

"That's two quality starts out of him," RockHounds manager Steve Scarsone said. "Hopefully the rest of us can feed off of that."

Midland certainly did that Friday as an RBI single by Grant Green in the third inning remained the only run on the board heading into the bottom of the sixth inning.

Marti, though, never flinched, protecting the lead by never letting a Mission past second after the first inning.

On his 32nd birthday, Marti allowed just three hits, one walk and struck out five before ending the night with a 1-2-3 inning in the seventh.

"That's a testament about what kind of pitcher he is," Scarsone said. "We're fortunate to have him."

Midland was especially fortunate to have him Friday as his great pitching and a sound defense behind him -- particularly by Wes Timmons who had a number of highlight reel stops at second -- gave its bats time to bust out in the sixth.

That's when four straight hits, including a two-run double ripped by Jeremy Barfield down the left field line, followed by a sacrifice fly from Tyler Ladendorf pushed Midland ahead for a comfortable 4-0 lead.

San Antonio finally got on the board with an RBI single by Blake Tekotte in the eighth, but Midland answered later in the inning on an RBI single by Ladendorf into right.

The win snapped a three-game skid by the RockHounds and gave them a nice start to the four-game homestand against the league's best team.

"It was huge," Scarsonsone said. "Not only to get a win, but to have a well-pitched game, defense was outstanding, timely hits and just kind of a nice economical win."

The RockHounds return to the field today at 7 p.m. in the second game of the series against San Antonio.

Jordan Mason can be reached at [jmason@mrt.com](mailto:jmason@mrt.com)

'HOUND BITES: Missions pitcher Juan Oramas continued to have strong starts against the RockHounds Friday after entering the game with a 2.40 ERA against the team. Oramas allowed just one run in the first five innings but was touched up in the sixth when the RockHounds ripped off four straight hits and scored three runs. ... RockHounds first baseman Michael Spina saw his 11-game hit streak snapped Friday after he went 0-for-3 at the plate. ... Wes Timmons entered the game hitting .462 in his last six games but went 0-for-4 at the plate. The second baseman made up for it with a dazzling array of stops at first, including a line drive catch from his knees to end the eighth.

TODAY'S PROBALES: The RockHounds are expected to start Shawn Haviland (3-9, 7.78) today while the Missions are expected to hand the ball to lefty Rob Musgrave (5-2, 2.22)

### **Hot Rods Win On Near "No-No"**

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BOWLING GREEN, KY (July 22) -Three pitchers combined to hold the Burlington Bees (9-18) to just one hit as the Bowling Green Hot Rods (13-14) won 2-0 to complete a three-game sweep at Bowling Green Ballpark on Friday Night.

The Hot Rods broke through for one run in the fifth inning against Burlington RHP Nate Long (6-4). 2B Robi Estrada (0-2) worked a two-out walk and stole second base. RF Cody Rogers (1-4) hit an infield single to score Estrada for a 1-0 lead.

Bowling Green scored a single run in the sixth inning on a solo home run by 3B Julio Cedenro (1-4) for a 3-0 lead.

LHP Enny Romero pitched four scoreless innings and struck out seven for the Hot Rods. RHP Victor Mateo (10-4) pitched three scoreless innings and RHP Steve Hiscock tossed the final two innings to pick up his first save. CF Tyreece House (0-3) worked a walk in the first inning, RF Royce Consigli (1-3) and DH Josh Whitaker (0-2) each walked in the fourth inning.

In the sixth inning, House hit a ground ball between the legs of Mateo and reached on an error by the pitcher. With one out in the ninth inning, Consigli dropped a single into left field for the first and only hit of the game for the Bees.

RHP Nate Long suffered the "tough luck" loss for Burlington. He allowed one earned run on three hits over five innings pitched.

The Bees travel to Dayton, OH to begin a three-game series with the Dayton Dragons, the Midwest League affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday at 6:00. Burlington will send RHP Josh Bowman (6-3, 3.51) to the mound against RHP Josh Smith (9-4, 2.51) for Dayton. Pre-game coverage begins at 5:40 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.

### **Lake Monsters And Lowell Split Twinbill**

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

BURLINGTON, VT --- Chad Lewis and Xavier Macklin had back-to-back RBI doubles in a three-run third inning as the Vermont Lake Monsters snapped a five-game losing streak with a 5-2 victory over the Lowell Spinners in the first game of a

New York-Penn League doubleheader Friday night at historic Centennial Field. The Spinners earned a split of the doubleheader with an 8-4 win the nightcap.

Lowell had taken a 2-1 lead in game one in the top of the third as Kuery De La Cruz smacked a one-out solo home run to rightfield off Vermont starter J.C. Menna to tie the game 1-1. The home run would be the only hit allowed by Lake Monster pitchers in the game, the first time since July 4, 2009 that Vermont has allowed just one hit in a game at Centennial Field. Menna struggled with his control after the home run by walking four of the next five batter to force home the go ahead run.

Reliever T.J. Walz (3-0) got out of the jam by recording the final out of the third and would go on to walk one and strikeout three in 2 1/3 hitless innings for his third win. The Lake Monsters tied the game in the bottom of the third as Sean Jamieson scored from second base on a wild pitch on a walk to Chad Oberacker before Lewis and Macklin's back-to-back RBI doubles gave Vermont a 4-2 lead. The Lake Monsters added an unearned run in the fourth on a Jamieson RBI single for a 5-2 advantage.

Jamieson, Macklin and Aaron Shipman each had two hits for Vermont in the opener, while Jeff Urlaub struckout the first four batters he faced in two hitless innings for his third save. Nefi Ogando (1-4) was charged with five runs (three earned) on seven hits over 3 2/3 innings to take the loss for Lowell.

Nick Natoli was 3-for-4 with three runs and one RBI in game two, while Darin Cecchini went 3-for-4 with two runs, one double and two RBI as Lowell scored four times in the top of the third inning for a 4-0 lead. They added two more runs in both the fourth and sixth innings. Starter Madison Younginer (1-2) allowed four runs on three hits over five innings for the victory.

Chad Lewis hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the third to cut the deficit to 4-3, while Sam Roberts led off the fifth with a line drive home run to rightfield to get the Lake Monsters within two at 6-4. It was the first home run of the season for both Lewis and Roberts. Nathan Kilcrease (1-1) was charged with three runs on three hits over 2 2/3 innings to take the loss in his first start of the season.

The homestand continues for the Lake Monsters with the start of a three-game series against the Jamestown Jammers on Saturday beginning at 6:05 pm. Saturday is the annual "Summer of Love" at Centennial with tie-dye baseballs for the first 750 fans and free ice cream post-game courtesy of Ben & Jerry's and Linking Learning To Life. The series continues with a single game Sunday at 1:05 pm before the homestand wraps up Monday at 7:05 pm.