

Brandon Allen's two homers help Oakland A's defeat New York Yankees

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- Brandon Allen's unforgettable night nearly became memorable for all the wrong reasons Tuesday.

A's closer Andrew Bailey whittled away nearly all of a three-run, ninth-inning lead before nailing down Oakland's 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees.

Only then could the A's celebrate a rare victory in the Bronx, along with Allen's storybook first game at Yankee Stadium.

The A's soft-spoken first baseman ripped two homers -- including a mammoth third-deck shot -- to help the A's jump out to a 6-0 lead.

In his first at-bat in the second inning, Allen connected on a 3-1 pitch from Bartolo Colon and parked it several rows into the upper deck in right field. He's just the second player to reach that section in the new Yankee Stadium, which opened in 2009. Seattle's Russell Branyan hit one there last August.

"I can't imagine many more hit farther than that in this building," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "What do you do for an encore? I guess you hit another one later."

Facing Hector Noesi in the eighth, Allen lined a solo shot into the second deck in right to make it 6-0. They marked Allen's first two homers with the A's since he was obtained in a July 31 trade from Arizona. Oakland promoted him from the minors Aug. 13.

Earlier this season with Arizona, Allen hit a 455-foot shot, the majors' longest recorded homer this season (the Yankees don't announce homer distances).

Allen was asked if he thought Tuesday's homer was longer than that blast.

"I never look at them," he said. "I just run around the bases -- (act) like you've done it before."

The A's needed all of the six-run cushion, as starter Brandon McCarthy allowed Nick Swisher's three-run homer in the eighth and Bailey delivered his high-wire act in the ninth.

Protecting a three-run lead, Bailey allowed Jorge Posada's leadoff homer. Then a double from Russell Martin, a fielding error by third baseman Scott Sizemore and a walk loaded the bases with one out.

Bailey coaxed a pop-up from Yankees cleanup hitter Mark Teixeira for the second out but walked Robinson Cano on a close 3-2 pitch to make it 6-5.

Then Swisher hit a 2-0 pitch deep to center, but Coco Crisp caught it two steps from the wall for the final out.

"The way I saw Coco running after that one, he usually runs like that when he has to rob (a homer), so I wasn't too happy," said Bailey, who notched his 17th save. "I saw it fall short -- big sigh of relief."

McCarthy (7-6) went 72/3 innings and improved to 6-1 since the All-Star break.

The A's, who had lost 26 of their previous 31 to the Yankees, began a 10-game, three-city trip on a positive note.

Tuesday marked the first time third baseman Eric Chavez, a six-time Gold Glove winner with Oakland, faced his former team as a member of the Yankees.

Chavez was sidelined by a foot injury in the two previous A's-Yankees series this season. But he started at third Tuesday when Alex Rodriguez was a late scratch from New York's lineup with a sprained left thumb.

Chavez singled twice in four at-bats.

"It was good to see everybody," said Chavez, hitting .268 with one homer and 15 RBIs. "I was really disappointed I missed the first two series."

A's third baseman Eric Sogard hit his first major league homer in the third.

Oakland A's trade Kevin Kouzmanoff to Colorado Rockies

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- The A's traded third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff to Colorado for a player to be named later or cash considerations on Tuesday, cutting ties with a player they once viewed as their long-term answer at the position.

Kouzmanoff began the season as Oakland's starting third baseman but was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento on June 6, having hit .221 with four homers and 17 RBIs. He also committed nine errors in 46 games.

The A's installed Scott Sizemore, a converted second baseman, at third once Kouzmanoff was demoted. But it stands to reason the A's might target third base for a potential upgrade this winter.

Sizemore, hitting .237, has cooled considerably of late, though he contributed a pinch-hit, two-run double in Tuesday's 6-5 victory over the Yankees.

"I think it's a spot we need to figure out moving forward," A's assistant general manager David Forst said. "Scott has done a nice job. I think he's certainly a guy we see in the plans. We'll figure out the offseason when the offseason gets here."

The Rockies planned to send Kouzmanoff to Triple-A Colorado Springs, but there was speculation he would be promoted to the majors quickly.

Kouzmanoff, 30, hit .302 with 13 homers and 58 RBIs in 61 games for Sacramento. He's making \$4.75 million this season and would have been costly entering his final season of arbitration.

Oakland obtained Kouzmanoff in January 2010 from San Diego for outfielders Scott Hairston and Aaron Cunningham.

The A's sent cash to the Rockies to help offset the roughly \$970,000 remaining on Kouzmanoff's salary.

Trevor Cahill will look to shake his history against the Yankees on Wednesday. He's 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts, and in two outings at Yankee Stadium, he's allowed 18 earned runs in six innings.

"It's kind of there, I guess, in the back of your head that you've struggled so bad against a team," Cahill said. "But I think the biggest thing is to go out and treat it like any other start."

The A's promoted catcher Anthony Recker from Sacramento to take the roster spot of Landon Powell, optioned Monday. To make room on the 40-man roster, the A's transferred reliever Trystan Magnuson (right shoulder tendinitis) to the 60-day disabled list.

Brandon Allen's mammoth HRs help A's beat Yanks

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday night was opposite-world for the A's, who reversed some season-long trends: They got power from their corner infield spots - including two long blasts by Brandon Allen - some wobbly pitching and, finally, a win at Yankee Stadium, and a one-run win at that.

Oakland, usually a doormat in New York, collected a nerve-frazzling 6-5 victory when closer Andrew Bailey - who'd already allowed a solo homer to Jorge Posada and walked in a run in the ninth - got Nick Swisher to fly out to center, where Coco Crisp hauled in the ball in front of the wall to end the game.

"Shaky," Bailey called his outing. "The way I saw Coco running was how he runs when he has to rob something, so I wasn't too happy. When I saw it fall short, it was a big sigh of relief."

Swisher, the former A's outfielder, had belted a three-run homer off A's starter Brandon McCarthy in the previous inning.

"You always want to be the guy in that spot," Swisher said of his bases-loaded opportunity. "At least I do. You try to be the hero for sure. And I'm not going to lie ... off the bat, I thought I was. But the ball didn't carry as far as far as I thought it would."

For the first time since May 2, Oakland recorded a three-homer game, with Allen's two missiles and a much shorter shot from rookie Eric Sogard, who barely cleared the wall in right for his first major-league homer.

Allen was the second player to hit a ball into the "300 level" of the new Yankee Stadium, an area above two levels of stands and one section of suites. That impressive drive came off Bartolo Colon in Allen's first at-bat at Yankee Stadium, and it was the first homer of his Oakland career.

"I can't imagine another one hit much farther," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "What do you do for an encore after hitting one like that? I guess hit another one."

Though Yankee Stadium was abuzz after that, Allen didn't see where the ball landed, and he hadn't watched the replay.

"I never look at them," he said. "I'll see it later or hear about it. I just run around the bases, like I've done it before."

In his fourth at-bat, Allen lined a homer into the second deck off Hector Noesi for his first multi-homer game.

Sogard, who started at third, is the first Oakland player to hit his first big-league homer at New York since Dwayne Murphy off Catfish Hunter on May 6, 1979.

McCarthy earned his seventh victory, matching his career high, and he didn't allow a man past second base in the first seven innings. Derek Jeter opened the eighth with his third single (and 3,053rd hit of his career, tied with Rod Carew for 22nd all time), and McCarthy walked Curtis Granderson before Swisher's two-out homer to right.

"That's as full of rage as I've been in a long time," McCarthy said of his final inning. "It was going along nicely, and then letting them turn it into a three-run game was pretty disappointing."

The A's had dropped 16 of their previous 18 at Yankee Stadium, and their 17-22 record in one-run games is the league's worst.

Eric Chavez finally faces former team

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Eric Chavez wasn't at the A's past two series against the Yankees, so Tuesday was his first time in the opposing dugout - and he wound up in the starting lineup against his longtime team when **Alex Rodriguez** was a late scratch with a left thumb injury.

"It will be weird, of course," Chavez said before his two-hit night.

Chavez, the A's third baseman much of the previous 12 years, did say hello to some of his former teammates and his brother, **Casey**, the A's bullpen catcher.

The A's were on Chavez's mind, anyway. He'd just seen a massive "Moneyball" billboard in Times Square, and he took a photo of it to text to general manager **Billy Beane**, who is played by **Brad Pitt** in the movie.

Chavez said he's still uncertain how "Moneyball" the book will be rendered into a movie, and he said of the 2002 Oakland season, which will be depicted, "It would be a lot cooler if we'd won. Then it would be really interesting."

Yankees outfielder **Nick Swisher** was in the A's "Moneyball" draft of 2002. "The main focus of the book was that draft class - and it's not even in the movie!" Swisher said in mock indignation, then added, "Brad Pitt playing Billy - that is perfect."

Briefly: Manager **Bob Melvin** called catcher **Anthony Recker's** call-up a reward for a strong season, and Melvin said **Landon Powell** needed to get some consistent at-bats at Triple-A Sacramento. "When you don't, it's difficult to get on a roll," Melvin said. Melvin said he plans to get Recker into a game soon. ... To get Recker onto the 40-man roster, the A's placed reliever **Trystan Magnuson** (shoulder) on the 60-day DL. ... Oakland sent **Kevin Kouzmanoff**, demoted in June, to Colorado along with cash for a player to be named or cash considerations. Kouzmanoff's agent, **Matt Sosnick**, said Kouzmanoff, who is from Evergreen, Colo., is expected to go to the Rockies rather than Triple-A Colorado Springs. "He's fired up," Sosnick said.

Leading off

Tremors: The A's native Californians were surprised by the agitation the East Coast earthquake caused. "It's a state of panic here - they're such rookies," Conor Jackson said. "I was in a cab, and on the radio, they were telling people, 'Don't call 911!' "

Drumbeat: Eric Chavez in lineup against A's; NY earthquake reactions

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at Yankee Stadium 3:12pm 8/23/2011

Alex Rodriguez was scratched from the Yankees' lineup tonight - so longtime A's third baseman Eric Chavez is playing third against his former team. It's the first time Chavez has been on the other side of the field from the A's - he missed each of the previous two series while recovering from injuries.

"It's going to be weird, of course," Chavez said.

He got a chance to wander over and say hi to the A's players he knows - but there are a lot of new faces even just from last year. He said he feels as if he only knows a handful of the current team. And, of course, his brother, A's bullpen catcher Casey Chavez.

The buzz here at Yankee Stadium was all about this afternoon's 5.9 earthquake. The epicenter was in Virginia, but it was felt here and some buildings were evacuated. For the Californians on the A's team, the reaction was interesting to see; the local anchors aren't familiar with earthquakes and the terminology was all slightly off. There was an atmosphere of real fear for a while because people just don't know what to expect.

Most of the A's players didn't even feel it, and Conor Jackson, who did, is from Southern California and attended Cal. He didn't think earthquake initially - who would? It's New York. But he turned on the TV and heard the reports and he was surprised that there was such a fuss.

"It's like a state of panic here," he said. "They're such rookies. I was in a cab, and on the radio, they were saying, 'Don't call 911. 911 is overloaded by calls.' "

Jackson provided some pre-game news: He shaved his beard, which he'd never seemed to like much in the first place (his mom wasn't a fan, either, he said). "I was tired of it," he said. "I figured it would be better in the humid weather here."

The A's main news of the day is that Anthony Recker officially was called up to replace Landon Powell; Recker is even more excited now than he was when I spoke to him on phone yesterday. He's got 10 family members and friends coming to the game, including his parents, and his sister is coming Thursday, which is the most likely day that Recker would play. Recker is wearing No. 26.

Manager Bob Melvin mentioned, as Landon Powell had told me Sunday evening, that the team wants Powell to go get some consistent at-bats at Triple-A Sacramento, but Melvin said this is more a reward for Recker for having such a strong season.

To get Recker on the 40-man roster, right-hander Trystan Magnuson was placed on the 60-day DL. Melvin said that there has not been something more significant found with Magnuson's shoulder inflammation or anything like that, but it was going to be iffy whether the A's would have him back pitching this season.

In other news, the A's traded Kevin Kouzmanoff and cash to Colorado for a player to be named or cash considerations. It long has been apparent that Kouzmanoff was not in Oakland's plans; he was no longer on the 40-man roster despite being the Opening Day third baseman.

It's Eric Sogard at third for the A's tonight, just a day off for Scott Sizemore. Here's the full lineup behind Brandon McCarthy: Weeks 2b, Crisp cf, Matsui dh, Willingham lf, Allen 1b, DeJesus rf, Pennington ss, Suzuki c, Sogard 3b.

A's cling to win after McCarthy stifles Yanks

Righty superb until three-run eighth; Allen's two homers set tone

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- There's no telling what will transpire in New York over the next two days, but the A's will surely enjoy Tuesday's thrilling 6-5 victory in the Bronx while they can.

After all, it marked just the third win for the A's at Yankee Stadium in their last 17 tries. And though the magnitude of the victory appears small when looking at Oakland's overall season, it's feats like Tuesday's win -- capped by a dramatic near-comeback -- that keep a non-contending team chugging along around this time of year.

And considering that the win was jump-started by a pair of home runs from two youngsters, it also provides a dose of hope for an uncertain 2012 season.

First baseman Brandon Allen and third baseman Eric Sogard both homered off veteran righty Bartolo Colon, and Allen collected his second homer of the game -- securing his first career multihomer contest -- in the eighth off righty Hector Noesi, providing the A's with rare muscle from typically power-heavy positions.

Allen's two homers -- the former an absolute monster shot into the third deck -- were his first in green and gold, and Sogard's was his first as a Major Leaguer.

"Both had the same sound," manager Bob Melvin said of Allen's. "One just had a little more topspin on it. That first one, I can't imagine too many other home runs hit farther in this building than that one."

"That ball was absolutely crushed," A's starter Brandon McCarthy said. "He's been really impressive so far, and for him to do this tonight in Yankee Stadium is pretty awesome."

The long balls gave Oakland a combined 19 homers from the first- and third-base positions this year, which ties for last in the American League with Kansas City. In comparison, the Yankees have gotten 48 from players manning the infield corners this season.

The Bronx Bombers were unable not only to add to that total but do much of anything against McCarthy until the eighth inning, when Nick Swisher's three-run homer put an end to the righty's shutout bid.

"He had really good command of his cutter and sinker tonight -- really mixing speeds, going in and out of the plate," Swisher said. "I just told myself, 'If I get something out over the plate, I'm going after it.' He just missed with a fastball."

That proved to be McCarthy's lone blemish, though, over an otherwise effective outing that resulted in the three runs, eight hits, six strikeouts and a season-high three walks. He threw 108 pitches in 7 2/3 innings, 78 of which were strikes.

McCarthy's effort was aided by plenty of offense, not only in the form of the three long balls -- representing the first time the A's have hit more than two home runs in an Oakland-record 98 games -- but also from Josh Willingham's sixth-inning sacrifice fly and Scott Sizemore's RBI double as a pinch-hitter in the seventh.

But not even that combination could prevent closer Andrew Bailey's ninth-inning scare, which nearly cost the A's the game.

Bailey, working with a 6-3 lead, quickly narrowed it to two runs by allowing a leadoff homer to Jorge Posada. A double by Russell Martin followed, and an ensuing fielding error by Sizemore on Brett Gardner's chopper to third put runners on first and second for Derek Jeter, who moved both runners with a sacrifice bunt handled by Bailey.

"In that situation, I knew I wanted to get the out," Bailey said. "I took a look at third and knew it would be a close play, so I took the short out at first, and you have to buckle down to get the next two outs. That's your job."

Sometimes easier said than done, though, as the troubles continued when Bailey walked Curtis Granderson and, following a Mark Teixeira popup for out No. 2, worked a 3-2 count against Robinson Cano before ultimately issuing another free pass on a debatable called ball that brought in a run.

"I thought it was a strike, but I can't let it get to that point," the A's righty said. "The adrenaline has the best of you in that situation. You have to keep your cool and go get the next guy and can't worry about that. For me, it was just about executing the next pitch."

Bailey did -- barely. Facing Swisher, Bailey watched the Yankees outfielder launch a ball to deep right-center field, where a running Coco Crisp closed out the nail-biting finish with a catch at the warning track.

"Stay in the ballpark," Melvin said of his thoughts at the time. "You've got to will it down."

Bailey wasn't so sure.

"The way I saw Coco running at it, I was like, 'He usually takes that run when he has to rob something,'" Bailey said. "So I wasn't too happy, but I saw it fall short and [gave] big sigh of relief."

The A's have now won five of their last six road games, figures that bode well for the remainder of a rather difficult 10-game road swing through New York, Boston and Cleveland.

"I feel great," Melvin said. "We won a game in a venue we've had some trouble in. We had to fight the whole way through, and it was never easy, but it was a great win."

In deal with Rockies, A's part with Kouzmanoff

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- Out of favor with a team for whom he struggled early this season, third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff is making his way back to the National League, but with a new club.

Kouzmanoff was traded by the A's along with cash on Tuesday to the Rockies in exchange for future considerations and is expected to report to Triple-A Colorado Springs, which just so happens to be near his offseason home in Evergreen, Colo.

The 30-year-old infielder, initially acquired by the A's in a January 2010 trade with the Padres, was expected to be Oakland's long-term answer at third base. He hit .247 last season with a team-leading 16 home runs and 71 RBIs, committing 12 errors, but was unable to produce on either side of the field this year, batting just .221 with four homers and 17 RBIs while committing nine errors in just 46 games.

Those numbers led to Kouzmanoff's demotion on June 26, marking his first stint in the Minors in five years.

"As everybody well knows, I started off slow on both sides of the ball," Kouzmanoff said at the time. "I was unsatisfied with my play so far this season. I got the news that I'm going down, and all I can do is just go down and get my reps in, and keep working and try to work my way back."

Scott Sizemore has since been handling everyday third-base duties, and he entered Tuesday's contest against the Yankees batting .235 with five homers and 32 RBIs in 59 games with the A's. A natural second baseman, Sizemore has displayed tremendous improvement at the hot corner and has made seven errors since his arrival in Oakland.

It's not yet clear, though, whether Sizemore is viewed as a permanent everyday player at the position. The A's may indeed add a third baseman to their winter shopping list, as the organizational depth there remains limited.

On Tuesday, backup infielder Eric Sogard got the start at third, a decision influenced by his 1-for-2 performance against Yankees starter Bartolo Colon in the two clubs' last meeting. Sogard responded by hitting his first career home run in the top of the third inning.

Few faces familiar as Chavez meets A's

NEW YORK -- Though the scene wasn't Oakland, where he spent the first 12 years of his big league career, Eric Chavez's debut against his former team on Tuesday was admittedly "weird."

"Definitely a little weird," Chavez said, smiling, from the Yankees' clubhouse before the game.

The former A's third baseman, now serving as a backup infielder and designated-hitter option in New York, was originally slated to be on the bench for Tuesday's series opener. But a jammed left thumb for Alex Rodriguez forced a late lineup change, allowing Chavez to start at third base.

Chavez, 33, signed a Minor League deal with the Yankees in the offseason after the A's chose to buy out his 2011 option (worth \$12.5 million) following four consecutive injury-plagued seasons. Health and productivity in the spring ultimately led to a spot on the Yankees' 25-man roster, and Chavez entered Tuesday batting .258 over 33 games.

Only a handful of A's faces, though, proved familiar to Oakland's six-time American League Gold Glove Award winner on Tuesday.

"There are only five or six guys that I really know, so it's a little weird," Chavez said. "Big turnaround."

A's give Minor League vet Recker a chance

NEW YORK -- A day after optioning backup catcher Landon Powell to Triple-A Sacramento, the A's on Tuesday officially brought aboard backstop Anthony Recker, who joined a Major League roster for the first time just six days shy of his 28th birthday.

Recker, a seven-year Minor League veteran, has consistently posted strong numbers but seemingly appeared to be overlooked at times, given the presence of Powell and prospect Josh Donaldson. Recker was batting .287 with 16 home runs and 48 RBIs in 99 games with the River Cats and also led the club with a .388 on-base percentage while appearing in 61 contests at catcher and 25 at first base this year.

"He's having a nice offensive year; he's a hard-working kid who they felt needed to be promoted and given an opportunity to see what he can do here," manager Bob Melvin said.

Recker, originally selected by the A's in the 18th round of the 2005 First-Year Player Draft, will likely get his first career start behind the plate at some point during the club's 10-game road swing, though a specific date has yet to be set, Melvin said.

Powell, meanwhile, returns to Sacramento after spending the entire season on the A's roster. Recognized primarily for his defense, the 29-year-old Powell was hitting just .176 with one home run and four RBIs through limited action that saw him play in 32 games.

"I hope Landon looks at this as an opportunity to go down there and get some consistent at-bats," Melvin said. "I know it was difficult for him to be, at least offensively, consistent and to get on a roll."

Powell spent all of 2009 with the A's and took part in four stints with Oakland last season. And given his time spent on the roster this year, he's likely geared to enjoy Super 2 status, which would make him arbitration-eligible. The A's, though, are not expected to tender him a contract should that be the case.

In adding Recker to their 40-man roster, the A's transferred right-hander Trystan Magnuson, out with right shoulder tendinitis, to the 60-day disabled list.

"We're going to be careful with him," Melvin said. "Whether he was going to be here before the end of the season was debatable, so to open up a roster spot, that was the thing to do. Nothing that I have heard, though, would suggest the injury's worse than what they originally thought."

Topping CC a tall order as Cahill eyes rebound

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

Trevor Cahill of the A's and CC Sabathia of the Yankees were big-time Cy Young Award candidates last year and expected to head up their respective rotations this year.

Cahill has struggled in 2011, while Sabathia has lived up to his usual billing, but when the two face each other on Wednesday evening at Yankee Stadium, it will still be a matchup with duel potential.

For Cahill, the ups came early and the downs have been endured recently.

The right-handed sinkerballer is 1-5 with a 7.62 ERA in seven starts since the All-Star break after going 8-7 with a 3.12 ERA before the break. Cahill has the highest post-break ERA in the Majors and is tied for the lead in losses. He's also 3-12 with a 5.30 ERA over his last 19 starts after going 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA over his first eight.

That doesn't mean the A's are losing faith in Cahill, though.

"Any start for him right now is something to build on," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "We saw a couple of good ones mixed in with a couple of off ones. I don't know that the opponent is much of a factor right now; it's just more about getting him consistency and getting on a roll. I know his history against this team hasn't been that great, so him having a good start tomorrow would be good for a number of reasons, especially his confidence."

Cahill, who is 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts against the Yankees and allowed 10 earned runs on nine hits over two-plus innings the last time he faced them, agreed.

"I feel like if I can figure it out and pitch well against these guys, it should boost my confidence even more," Cahill said. "It's a good lineup and a tough place to pitch, but hopefully I can turn things around."

"The bottom line is I need to pitch better. It's not really about one thing, just trying to get things to click in one game so I can get back to where I was."

Sabathia has not shared that experience this year.

The big left-hander has been every bit the consistent horse and perennial Cy Young Award contender that the Yankees signed him to be. In fact, he's the first Yankees pitcher since Mike Mussina from 2001-03 (17, 18 and 17 wins, respectively) to win at least 17 games in three straight years with the club, and he's the fourth Major Leaguer over the last 20 years to win 17 or more games in each of his first three seasons with a team, joining Mussina, Arizona's Randy Johnson (1999-2001: 17, 19, 21) and Boston's Pedro Martinez (1998-2000: 19, 23, 18).

If he wins Wednesday's game, Sabathia would become the fifth Yankees pitcher to win at least 18 games in three or more consecutive seasons, and the Bronx Bombers would love to see it, given that they've got one goal in mind as the calendar inches closer to September.

"It's to win home-field advantage throughout the playoffs," manager Joe Girardi said. "You can't do it for the World Series, but that's our goal every year, to win home-field. Keep playing well and see how we stack up.

"It's important you get everyone playing well for the playoffs. But that doesn't always guarantee that a guy that's hot is going to stay hot or a guy that's cold is going to stay cold. You want them all to be playing well these last, what, 37 games? Because you want home-field advantage."

A's: A hunch with Godzilla

- Hideki Matsui is hitless in nine career at-bats against Sabathia, but Melvin plans to start him on Wednesday anyway.

"That means he's due," Melvin said, smiling. "He's just been on a roll. With the way he's been swinging the bat, you don't really factor in who the pitcher is -- just how he's doing and what he means to the team and lineup. I have confidence in him against everybody."

- The A's have faced a left-handed starting pitcher in nine of their last 15 games, and Wednesday's matchup against Sabathia will make it 10 of 16. The A's are 5-4 in those nine games and 21-21 (.500) for the season. Oakland is 36-49 (.424) in games started by opposing right-handers. The A's are batting .234 (305-for-1,301) against lefties this year, the lowest such mark in the American League and third lowest in the Majors.

- Closer Andrew Bailey has converted each of his nine save opportunities since the All-Star break and is 32-for-32 in save situations after the break in his career.

Yankees: A plan for A-Rod

- Girardi said that how often and where third baseman Alex Rodriguez plays will be a daily decision moving forward. Rodriguez went 0-for-5 on Sunday in his first game back in the Majors after surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee, and he was out of the lineup on Tuesday because of a sprained left thumb.

"I'll probably check with him every day," Girardi said on Tuesday. "I'll check with him tomorrow to see what he feels he needs, make some suggestions, see what I see with my eyes. It'll be a day-by-day thing for a while until we get through these long 16 days of games."

- Since returning from the 15-day disabled list on July 4, shortstop Derek Jeter is batting .351 (59-for-168) with 10 doubles, two triples, two homers and 26 RBIs in 41 games. He began the year batting .260 (68-for-262) with nine doubles, one triple, two homers and 20 RBIs in his first 62 games before being sidelined. Jeter is batting .418 (33-for-79) in August, the third-highest average in the Majors this month. He has not hit above .390 in a calendar month since 2006 (April: .398, July: .412).

- Left fielder Brett Gardner will celebrate his 28th birthday on Wednesday.

Worth noting

- The A's are 17-22 in one-run games and are 14-25 in games decided in the seventh inning or later, including 9-18 in games decided in the last at-bat.
- The Yankees are 19-9 (.679) against the AL West this season, the best winning percentage against the division by any team in 2011. New York has gone 8-1 in series play against AL West opponents, with its only series loss coming in late May in Seattle.

A's hold off Yankees, 6-5

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Brandon Allen hit two tape-measure homers, Eric Sogard connected for one that barely cleared the wall and the Oakland Athletics hung on to beat the New York Yankees 6-5 on Tuesday night.

Brandon McCarthy ran the A's stretch of superb pitching into the eighth before allowing a two-out, three-run homer to Nick Swisher that lifted a quiet crowd. The three runs were one more than Oakland had given up in the previous three games combined.

The Yankees, who trailed 6-0 in the seventh, rallied for two runs in the ninth against closer Andrew Bailey, before Swisher flied out to the wall in right-center with the bases loaded to end it. Bailey got his 17th save.

Scott Sizmore doubled in two runs on the first pitch he saw as a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning and Josh Willingham had a sacrifice fly in the sixth for Oakland.

McCarthy (7-6) gave up eight hits and struck out six in 7½ innings, improving to 6-1 in eight starts since the All-Star break.

Bailey gave up a homer to Jorge Posada to open the ninth and Russell Martin doubled. Brett Gardner reached on an error by Sizmore at third base and Curtis Granderson walked to load the bases after Derek Jeter sacrificed the runners over. An out later, Robinson Cano walked on what appeared to be strike 3 to make it 6-5.

Swisher then sent a drive that Coco Crisp caught just in front of the wall to give Bailey his ninth save in nine chances since the All-Star break.

Jeter had three hits, tying Rod Carew for 22nd place all-time with 3,053. But McCarthy stifled the rest of a New York lineup that was again missing Alex Rodriguez.

A-Rod returned from knee surgery for his first game since July 7 on Sunday and sprained his thumb fielding a ball against the Twins. X-rays Tuesday were negative and he is day-to-day.

Engineers gave Yankee Stadium a clean bill of health after an earthquake in Virginia shook much of the East Coast, and 47,343 fans saw the A's improve to 2-6 against New York this season.

The A's came in having hit 81 home runs, tied for second-fewest in the American League, but they did most of their damage with the long ball Tuesday.

With one out in the second inning, Allen crushed a drive off Bartolo Colon (8-8) into the third deck, only the second ball to reach that height at the new Yankee Stadium, which opened in 2009. Seattle's Russell Branyan did it in August last year.

In the eighth, Allen hit a line shot off Hector Noesi into the second deck in right after striking in his two previous at-bats.

It was Allen's first two homers with the A's and first multihomer game of his career. Three of his five hits with Arizona were home runs before he was sent to Oakland in a July 31 trade.

Sogard connected in the third for the type of drive that frustrates many opposing teams in the Bronx, a flyball that barely cleared the wall in right, 314 feet from home plate. It was his first big league homer.

Colon gave up five runs for the second straight start. He got the loss in Kansas City on Wednesday and has not won since July 30, a span of four starts.

NOTES: Starting with July 9, the day he reached 3,000 hits, Jeter is batting .367 (55 for 150). ... The A's traded 3B Kevin Kouzmanoff and cash to Colorado for a player or cash. Kouzmanoff, who has 82 homers and 345 RBIs in six big league seasons, was playing with Triple-A Sacramento since being demoted June 6. He was hitting .221 with four homers and 17 RBIs with Oakland in 46 games. When asked about the move, manager Bob Melvin said he hadn't heard the news. ... CC Sabathia (17-7) faces Trevor Cahill (9-12) Wednesday. With a win Sabathia would become the fifth Yankees pitcher to win 18 games in three or more consecutive seasons and first since Vic Raschi did it in four straight from 1948-51. He will also be the first pitcher to do it in his first three seasons with the club since Jack Chesboro in 1903-06, the franchise's first four seasons in New York.

It was a day Anthony Recker will never forget

Catasauqua product has dream come true at Yankee Stadium

Keith Groller, Allentown Morning Call

NEW YORK — Even after taking his first batting practice session as a major leaguer on Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium, Anthony Recker had more practicing to do.

"I gotta practice this," he said after a pair of kids in Yankees attire sought his autograph as Recker stood near in the front row of seats behind home plate. "I haven't done this too much."

Recker knew how to handle the kids who were getting a little greedy, and inquired about his batting gloves along with his signature.

"I need these right now, but maybe next time," he said.

Everything, including dealing with pushy kids, was new to Recker on this night, his first as a big-league player, and yet there was nothing he couldn't handle.

Recker, the 2001 Catasauqua High School graduate, was happily getting acclimated to his new surroundings as a backup catcher for the Oakland Athletics.

And as luck would have it, his first night as a major leaguer was spent in arguably the most famous venue in baseball — Yankee Stadium.

He witnessed an exciting game, too, as Oakland built a 6-0 lead — thanks in part to two monster home runs by Brandon Allen — but had to sweat out a furious Yankees rally before posting a 6-5 victory.

Even though he didn't get to play, Recker will never forget it.

He spent the first five innings on the Oakland bench and then went to the bullpen beyond the left-center field fence to help warm up the pitchers who, as it turned out, nearly blew the big lead.

"I felt like I became a part of the game once I caught some guys in the pen, but it was a fun game to watch," he said. "That was a crazy ninth inning. It was pretty cool to win."

The whole night was pretty cool for Recker. Even batting practice was a thrill.

"It's just awesome, I can't describe it," he said after taking his first swings in the cage. "I don't even think pinching myself would make this seem real. I couldn't tell you how many times I've dreamed of his day."

It's a day the soon-to-be 28-year-old dreamed of when he saw another Catty product, Pat Kelly, play in the big leagues and Brian Schneider, from rival Northampton, get his shot in "The Show."

It's a day that he dreamed about while going through the Catty youth organizations and playing dozens, if not hundreds, of games at Opportunity Field.

It's a day that he dreamed about while playing for Catasauqua High on its field behind Sheckler Elementary School, just off Race Street.

It's a day that he dreamed about while playing for a little Division III program in Reading called Alvernia College.

So, it's no wonder that not even Tuesday's earthquake that rattled the entire East Coast didn't get Recker's attention.

"We were on the bus coming to the stadium," he said. "We didn't even feel it. Hey, we get a major earthquake on my first day in the big leagues. That's saying something, right?"

Even before the earth moved, it had been an unsettling 36 hours or so for Recker.

"There's been a lot going on and it has been whizzing by me," he said. "I have been on a high the entire time."

He's not the only one feeling a high. All of his family and friends have been pumped up since learning the news.

"My wife's phone has been going crazy," said Kip Kogelman, Recker's stepfather.

Alicia and Kip Kogelman beamed as they greeted Recker before the game along with Kyle Reifinger and other friends.

"This is a great first step for him," Kip Kogelman said. "If you're going to start somewhere it might as well be in a place like Yankee Stadium."

Recker doesn't know when he will make his first appearance, and neither does A's manager Bob Melvin.

"He'll get an opportunity to play," Melvin said in the Oakland dugout. "I don't know when that first start will be, but I'm not going to have him sit around for 10 days without playing. [The first start] will come within the next rotation of our five starters."

Melvin, a catcher during his 10-year career in the big leagues, admitted that he didn't know a lot about Recker.

"I just got here in June and I have been watching his minor-league numbers," Melvin said. "I know he was having a real good year at Sacramento and it was nice to be able to reward him with this move. I've talked to some people down there and that's the extent of what I know."

Melvin said he had a brief chat with Recker in his office and could tell that "he's excited to be here."

"Your first day in the big leagues is one of the most exciting days of your life and for him to have it here at Yankee Stadium has to be something he'll never forget. I'm sure he'll look around and smell the roses."

In the short term, Recker was more than willing to sit, watch, absorb and smell those roses.

Once he gets on the field, he said he wants to be more than just a good ballplayer.

He wants to represent Catsauqua and the Lehigh Valley the best way that he can.

"I was one of those kids dreaming of getting here one day," Recker said. "Now that I am here, I want to be a good role-model for all of the kids back home, who are dreaming those same dreams."

A's Await Film, but Without the Ending They Wanted

By TYLER KEPNER

The Oakland Athletics close their home schedule Sept. 22, and the next day they open their run in theaters everywhere. The movie version of "Moneyball," about the rise of the A's under Billy Beane, will depict a moment in time that is much different from today. Its inspiration will watch in that context.

"I've seen a couple of cuts, and there is a bit of nostalgia about it," Beane said on the phone this week. "I forgot some of the guys on that team. It's been a while."

Beane is still the Athletics' general manager, and he speaks somewhat reluctantly about the movie, other than to acknowledge there are worse things in life than having Brad Pitt play you on film. He says he does not want to distract from his job, which has become far more challenging than it was from 2000 through 2003, when the A's made the playoffs each season.

The version that held on for a 6-5 win arrived at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday night is still 15 games out of first place in the American League West. Competitive for two months, the A's collapsed under the weight of injuries to their rotation. This will almost surely be their fifth season in a row without reaching the postseason.

"Billy was on to something, and it worked pretty well, so much so that other teams caught onto it," said Craig Breslow, the Yale-educated Oakland reliever who has read the Michael Lewis book that inspired the movie.

"For a while, it was a market inefficiency. Certain players were undervalued, and Billy could identify them, the guys who projected well. Now, we're obviously not going to be able to outbid some of the other teams that are using those same metrics. Now guys that hit home runs and get on base a lot cost \$20 million a year. Where's the next place to look?"

That is the question Beane struggles to solve. The subtitle of Lewis's masterpiece was "The Art of Winning an Unfair Game," and in Oakland's case, the game is even less fair than it was before.

Since the 2002 season depicted in the book, every team that has wanted a new stadium has gotten or is getting one, except the Athletics and the Tampa Bay Rays. The A's are blocked from moving to San Jose because of the San Francisco Giants' territorial rights; the planned Cisco Field in Fremont, Calif., fell through; and there seems to be no viable option for staying in Oakland.

It makes one wonder if Beane, signed through 2014, would be intrigued by another general manager's job, like the one now open with the Chicago Cubs.

"You're never going to have equilibrium in terms of revenues everywhere," Beane said. "But, listen, we're all competitive, so it certainly gets frustrating. Just being able to carve out a future for the franchise has been most frustrating. Because of the venue situation, it's hard to put together a business plan beyond the next fiscal year."

Of course, the A's have faced a cash-flow problem for years. In the first scene depicted in a "Moneyball" trailer, Pitt-as-Beane revels in it. "There are rich teams, there are poor teams," he says, before admonishing his staff. "We've got to think different."

By challenging traditional scouting methods and recognizing the value of digging deeper into statistics, the 2002 A's found useful players to surround a nucleus of Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, Miguel Tejada and Barry Zito. They won 103 games and the A.L. West.

Beane was sharp enough to apply some of the premises percolating for years in the minds of analysts like Bill James — and Lewis was perceptive enough to notice. Beane has been criticized for cooperating with Lewis, for spilling his secrets. But there was probably no stopping the information revolution in baseball. Executives were bound to get wiser.

"There are a lot of smart guys running teams now, and a lot of the guys who are smart also have a lot of money," Beane said. "That's a pretty tough combination to go against. We've all started valuing the same things."

"Clubs like us and Minnesota used to place really high value on young, inexperienced players. Now teams at the top of the food chain are doing the same thing, and it's really hard to find trade partners. So it usually comes down to money. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is actually greater today. The window for small-market clubs is shorter and shorter."

The A's finished .500 last season, anchored by their rotation. But free-agent hitters like Adrian Beltre and Lance Berkman declined Beane's offers, and through Monday, Oakland's offense had outscored only one other A.L. team, Seattle. Injuries claimed starters Brett Anderson and Dallas Braden months ago.

So the A's forge on, desperate for direction. With more money to spend on collecting and analyzing data, Beane said, perhaps the A's could spot and exploit the next undervalued commodity. Instead, they are reduced to taking fliers. They spent \$10 million last season for Ben Sheets, hoping he could find his inner ace. He blew out his elbow. In 2008, they spent \$4.25 million on Michael Ynoa, a 16-year-old pitcher from the Dominican Republic. He pitched nine innings in rookie ball before having reconstructive elbow surgery.

"Sometimes, you're relegated to buying that lottery ticket," Beane said. "Anybody will tell you that the lottery is not a great way to invest your money. But sometimes, you don't have a lot of options."

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

River Cats clinch title, headed to Playoffs

Sacramento River Cats

The Sacramento River Cats clinched their 10th PCL South Division title in 12 seasons with an 15-2 victory against the host Tucson Padres on Tuesday night.

The River Cats are the first team in major American professional sports (MLB, NHL, NBA and NFL) to win 10 division championships this century. Sacramento has also matched the Pacific Coast League record for consecutive division titles with five. The Albuquerque Isotopes are the only other team in league history to win five division titles in a row, accomplishing the feat between 1987 and 1991.

"I'm proud of them," first-year River Cats Manager Darren Bush said of his team. "They played good baseball tonight; they played good all year long."

Said pitcher Graham Godfrey: "I can't imagine being with a better group of guys, and a better coaching staff for that matter. A lot of people start getting tired toward the end of the season. Not the River Cats. We're ready to play; we're looking to bring home a championship.

Sacramento struck for three runs in the first inning and starter Travis Banwart made that lead hold up, allowing two runs (none earned) over seven innings. River Cat right fielder Jai Miller hit his 30th home run of the year in the third inning, putting Sacramento ahead 5-2. Miller is the third player in franchise history to hit 30 home runs in a season, joining Graham Koonce (34 home runs, 2003) and Chris Carter (31 home runs, 2010).

"It's great," said Miller, as the team celebrated in the visiting clubhouse. "I've seen it and heard about it, and now I'm a part of it. It's one of those things you'll always remember, and I'm going to enjoy it."

By clinching the South Division title the River Cats earn a PCL playoff berth. The River Cats will host games 3, 4 and 5 (Sept. 9, 10 and 11) of the five-game Pacific Conference Championship Series at Raley Field (Games 4 and 5 if necessary). Games 1 and 2 would be played on the road. If the season ended today, the River Cats' first-round opponent would be the rival Reno Aces (Triple-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks).

If the River Cats advance to the PCL Championship Series (also a best-of-five format) they would again host games 3, 4 and 5 (Sept. 16, 17 and 18) at Raley Field (Games 4 and 5 if necessary). Games 1 and 2 would be played on the road. If the River Cats were to win this series and be crowned Pacific Coast League Champions, they would then play the International League Champion in the Triple-A Baseball National Championship Game in Albuquerque, NM, on Tuesday, September 20.

Oberholtzer Shuts Down Hounds

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

When the Houston Astros traded outfielder Michael Bourn to the Atlanta Braves (July 31), they received four prospects in return. Three of those are pitchers, and two are on the Corpus Christi staff. Paul Clemens (no relation to Roger) will pitch in Friday's series finale, and he will hope to do as well as Brett Oberholtzer did in the opener of the 4-game set at Rocky Town.

The left-hander turned in the finest performance, by far, in his four starts since coming to the Houston organization in the Bourn trade, throwing 7-and-two-thirds shutout innings, allowing just four hits and one walk while striking out seven.

Oberholtzer, rated Atlanta's # 9 prospect entering the 2011 season, earned his first win as a member of the Astros' farm.

The Hooks put four runs on the board early against RockHounds starter Anthony Capra, with Brandon Wikoff hitting a solo home run to the short porch in right in the second inning, and Jon Gaston ripping a 2-run double in the third.

Diesel Lag: Oberholtzer would likely have dominated in any event ... he was outstanding ... but it didn't help that the 'Hounds had a 2-hour rain delay at Springdale, Arkansas, Monday night, before traveling all night and arriving home at about 11:30 Tuesday morning. Ahhhh ... the glamour of minor league baseball road trips!

- Congratulations to Anthony Recker! The former RockHounds catcher has been promoted to the Major Leagues, and will serve as Oakland's back-up catcher, behind fellow RockHounds alum Kurt Suzuki.

- Wednesday's starter for the Hooks is Jarred Cosart, another of the prospects acquired by Houston via recent trades. The right-hander from League City, Texas, came to the Astros from Philadelphia in the Hunter Pence trade. He will oppose lefty Lenny DiNardo, who has pitched for Boston, Oakland and Kansas City in the Major Leagues in his career.

- In the South Division: Frisco defeated San Antonio, 5-2, in a playoff preview. The Missions, despite the loss, still lead Frisco by seven games and the RockHounds by eight with 13 games remaining in the second half. If the Missions complete the sweep, Frisco would advance to the playoffs as the wild card entry.

ROCKY TOWN - Tuesday's game was the opener of the 2011 season's final home stand. Check the web site for special events (Thirsty Thursday, fireworks, team photos and more) and we look forward to seeing you at Rocky Town! Check out all the details at www.midlandrockhounds.org.

Late Miscue Costs Ports In 1-0 Loss

Stockton Ports

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Tuesday night in San Jose, Dan Straily and Craig Westcott faced off in a battle of aces at Municipal Stadium. The contest between the Stockton Ports and San Jose Giants lived up to the billing of the pitching matchup as the teams remained scoreless through seven-and-a-half innings. In the bottom of the 8th, however, the game's only error led to the game's only run, as the Giants took advantage of a Ports miscue and beat Stockton by a final of 1-0.

Each team squandered early scoring chances. In the top of the 1st, the Ports got back-to-back singles from Conner Crumbliss and Michael Choice, but Westcott recorded back-to-back strikeouts of Anthony Aliotti and Michael Gilmartin to end the frame.

Again in the 3rd, the Ports got back-to-back one-out singles from Myrio Richard and Crumbliss, but Westcott got Choice to fly to right and Aliotti to strike out looking.

The Giants, meanwhile, got a leadoff double from Gary Brown in the 1st, but Straily retired the next three hitters to escape the inning unscathed.

In the 2nd with one on and one out, Carter Jurica doubled to left. Giants manager Andy Skeels sent Ryan Cavan around third to try and score, but he was cut down at the plate on a relay made by Ports shortstop Dusty Coleman to keep the game scoreless.

In the 4th, with Gilmartin at first and one out, Dusty Coleman singled to right on a hit-and-run. Coleman was subsequently thrown out as he made too wide a turn around first as he was tagged out by Giants first baseman Luke Anders.

Coleman's hit in the 4th would be Stockton's final hit and he would be Stockton's final baserunner. Giants pitching combined to retire the final 16 Ports batters to end the ballgame.

Westcott received a no-decision after going seven scoreless innings and allowing six hits while matching a season-high with eight strikeouts.

Straily also received a no-decision, going seven scoreless innings and allowing four hits while striking out four.

In the 8th, Josh Lansford (3-6) came on to pitch for the Ports. With one out, Lansford walked Juan Ciriaco who subsequently stole second. After Brown grounded out for the second out, Ehire Adrianza hit a bounding ball to second that went off the glove of Crumbliss and bounced to the grass behind second base. Ciriaco rounded third and scored on the error to give the Giants a 1-0 advantage.

Lansford would be charged with the tough-luck loss, going just the one inning and allowing an unearned run while not allowing a hit.

Edwin Quirarte (1-1) tossed a perfect 8th and received the win for San Jose.

Jake Dunning (SV, 6) earned his sixth save in as many chances as he worked a perfect 9th.

The Ports and Giants will play the second game of their three-game set on Wednesday night at Municipal Stadium. Murphy Smith (5-9, 4.31 ERA) will take the mound for the Ports, opposed by Giants right-hander Andy Reichard (8-2, 2.88 ERA). First pitch is set for 7 p.m. PDT.

Errors Doom Series Finale

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BURLINGTON, IA-The Burlington Bees (23-34) committed a season high six errors leading to three unearned runs in a 8-4 loss to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (23-34) before 682 fans at Community Field on Tuesday night.

Wisconsin scored two runs in the first inning against Burlington RHP Nate Long (7-7). A two-run double by LF Jason Rogers (1-4) made it 2-0.

The Timber Rattlers scored four runs, (three earned runs); in the second inning to earn a 6-0 lead.

After an unearned run scored in the sixth inning against Burlington reliever Drew Tyson, the Bees scored three runs in sixth inning. LF Royce Consigli (2-3) singled and moved to third base on a double by 3B Wade Kirkland (1-4). CF Tyreace House (1-3) dropped a two-run single into center field and advanced to second base on the throw to the plate. He advanced to third base on a groundout by RF Jose Crisotomo (0-5) and scored on a groundout by 2B Nino Leyja (1-3).

Wisconsin pushed across single runs in the sixth and eighth innings to take an 8-3 lead. Burlington got back on the scoreboard in the eighth inning. Leyja singled and scored on a double by DH Josh Whitaker (1-4) to get the Bees within four runs at 8-4.

The Bees head to Beloit to begin a three-game series with the Beloit Snappers on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. RHP Josh Bowman (7-6, 3.60) gets the start for Burlington against RHP A.J. Achter (4-6, 4.32) for Beloit. Pre-game coverage starts at 6:40 p.m. over Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at www.gobees.com.

Vermont Shuts Out Renegades 5-0

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

FISHKILL, NY --- Seth Frankoff tossed 6 1/3 scoreless innings with no walks and 10 strikeouts to lead the Vermont Lake Monsters to a 5-0 shutout victory over the Hudson Valley Renegades in New York-Penn League action Tuesday night at Dutchess County Stadium.

The 10 strikeouts are the most for a Lake Monsters pitcher since P.J. Dean struckout 10 Auburn Doubledays on August 11, 2008 at historic Centennial Field, while it is also the most strikeouts for a Vermont pitcher in a road game since Benji DeQuin struckout a team-record 13 Cardinals at New Jersey on August 16, 2000.

Frankoff (4-3) struckout one batter in the first, two in the second and one in the fourth inning before striking out three batters in both the fifth and sixth innings. He retired the first eight batters he faced and allowed just two hits, a two-out single in both the third and fifth innings, before leaving the game with one out in the seventh after allowing his third hit and then hitting a batter.

Vermont jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning as Sean Jamieson led off the game with a double and scored on a throwing error by second baseman Jonathan Kosco on a Chih-Fang Pan bunt single. After a walk to Bobby Crocker, Nick Rickles lined a single to left scoring Pan with the second run. The Lake Monsters added three more runs in the fourth on five hits, including one-out RBI singles from Pan and Crocker before a Rickles RBI double.

Ryan Hughes relieved Frankoff in the seventh and allowed a single to load the bases before working out of the jam with a forceout at home and lineout to center ending the inning. Hughes then worked a scoreless eighth and Omar Duran a scoreless ninth as Vermont recorded just its second shutout victory of the season.

Jacob Partridge (2-6) allowed five runs on seven hits with four walks in just 3 1/3 innings to take the loss for Hudson Valley (30-33), which has lost three of the first four in the six-game series against the Lake Monsters.

Vermont (33-29) has won five of its last six and eight of last 10 to move 2 1/2 games in front of Connecticut, a 3-2 loser at Aberdeen Tuesday, for first-place in the Stedler Division. The Lake Monsters are at Hudson Valley Wednesday and Thursday before Vermont heads to Connecticut for single games on Friday and Saturday.