

**Coco Crisp's second home run of the night gives A's extra-inning win over New York Yankees**

By Joe Stiglich

NEW YORK -- The seventh inning rolled around, and Trevor Cahill was still pitching for the A's, a victory in itself given his past demons at Yankee Stadium.

But it got better for the A's on Wednesday. They came from behind to take the lead, coughed it up and then pulled through in 10 innings for a 6-4 victory over the New York Yankees before a crowd of 47,271.

In taking the first two of a three-game set, the A's snapped a string of 10 consecutive series lost to the Yankees, an Oakland record for most series lost in a row to any team.

The A's hadn't even won consecutive games against New York since June 30-July 1, 2007, but manager Bob Melvin hoped his team wasn't satisfied leading into Thursday's series finale.

"You win the first two, you gotta try to get greedy," Melvin said. "(But) it's a nice start to what is a tough road trip."

Center fielder Coco Crisp earned top billing on a night when Oakland had several stars. He went 4 for 4 with two homers, including a go-ahead three-run shot off Rafael Soriano (2-2) in the 10th, and tied his career high with five RBIs.

Third baseman Scott Sizemore enjoyed the first four-hit game of his career, and lefty reliever Brian Fuentes delivered a clutch outing, entering with men on the corners and no outs in the seventh and stranding both runners, keeping the A's within one run at the time.

But Melvin had to be most encouraged by Cahill, who turned in perhaps the most meaningful no-decision of his career.

He entered 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts against New York, and he was particularly dreadful in two starts at Yankee Stadium, allowing 18 runs in just six innings.

On Wednesday, he held the major leagues' second-highest scoring team to two runs over six-plus innings. Cahill acknowledged the significance of pitching well against one of the game's powerhouse lineups.

"Definitely when you struggle in a place like this and put together a decent start, it helps out with your confidence," he said.

Crisp noticed a different demeanor in Cahill, who began the season 6-0 but is just 9-12 with a 4.13 ERA overall.

"As soon as he stepped on the mound, he had a different 'swag' about him," Crisp said. "He has some of the best stuff in major league baseball, and he hasn't always gone out there with that belief."

Added Yankees manager Joe Girardi: "He threw some sinkers, and it looked like the bottom fell out of them. That's as good of stuff as we've seen from him."

Crisp put the A's up in the first, jumping on the first pitch from CC Sabathia and drilling it over the left-field wall.

Oakland trailed 2-1 before going ahead in the top of the eighth. Sizemore doubled for the second time off Sabathia to score Kurt Suzuki. After David Robertson relieved Sabathia and walked Jemile Weeks, Crisp's run-scoring single gave the A's a 3-2 lead.

It was short-lived, as Grant Balfour served up Mark Teixeira's homer to lead off the bottom of the eighth for a 3-3 game.

Crisp faced Soriano with two runners on in the 10th and mashed a first-pitch slider into the second deck in right for the second multi-homer game of his career.

Oakland won despite a two-homer night from ex-Athletic Nick Swisher. The Yankees right fielder has six homers and 14 RBIs in eight games against his former team this season.

## **Oakland A's update: Rich Harden paying attention to trade rumors**

By Joe Stiglich

NEW YORK -- Many players insist they tune out trade rumors.

Rich Harden has paid more attention to them this year than ever.

The A's right-hander has been linked to several teams since the rumor mill began cranking in July. But he remains with Oakland, and he'll start Thursday's series finale against the Yankees.

"In the past I never really paid attention to it," said Harden, 4-2 with a 3.91 ERA in nine starts. "This year, I'd say I paid more attention. It was easier when I didn't, because it's not something you can control."

Harden said he was caught off-guard when the A's dealt him to the Cubs in July 2008. He's monitored the Internet this season simply to keep himself informed.

The A's nearly shipped Harden to Boston on July 30, but the Red Sox balked because of injury concerns. Earlier this week, Cleveland reportedly claimed Harden on waivers, but a trade could not be finalized, and Oakland pulled him off waivers.

If the A's send Harden through waivers a second time, they can't pull him back if he's claimed again.

"Whatever's going on off the field, I have to go out there and pitch," he said.

Harden, 29, is making \$1.5 million on a one-year deal. He says he'd like to return in 2012.

With Brett Anderson sidelined for at least the first half of next season because of elbow reconstruction surgery and Dallas Braden coming off shoulder surgery, the A's rotation is hardly settled.

"I'd really like to win here," said Harden, a 17th-round draft pick of the A's in 2000. "Coming up with the teams we had, going to the playoffs, I'd kind of like to see it get back to that."

Conor Jackson started in right field Wednesday in place of David DeJesus, giving the A's another right-handed hitter against Yankees lefty CC Sabathia. With Brandon Allen getting regular time at first base, it leaves Jackson vying for innings in right with DeJesus and Ryan Sweeney.

"Not only do we want to look at (Allen), he's earned his time, so it makes it a little harder rotating those three guys in," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter singled in his first two at-bats, giving him 3,055 hits for his career. That ties Rickey Henderson for 21st on the all-time list.

## **Chin Music: Can Cahill solve his woes against Yanks?**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/24/2011 3:46pm

The A's try to make it two in a row in the Bronx, with Trevor Cahill opposing CC Sabathia. You know Cahill's story against the Yankees. It ain't pretty ... He's 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts. Sabathia, a Vallejo native, has endured some struggles against the A's over the years. But he's 5-1 with a 2.48 ERA over his past seven starts vs. Oakland.

-Alex Rodriguez remains out of the Yankees' lineup with a sprained left thumb, so that's one big bat Cahill won't have to worry about. No Eric Chavez today ... Eduardo Nunez draws the start at third in A-Rod's place.

The lineups:

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

Yankees — Gardner LF, Jeter SS, Granderson CF, Teixeira 1B, Cano 2B, Swisher RF, Posada DH, Nunez 3B, Cervelli C; Sabathia LHP.

## **Chin Music: Chavez facing the A's for first time, Kouzmanoff traded, and other updates**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune 8/23/2011 3:53pm

Checking in from New York, where the 5.9 earthquake that shook parts of the city generated big news. I did not feel the quake, which was centered near Washington, D.C., and many of the people I've talked to are in the same boat — they didn't know about it until seeing news reports. But when you're not used to the earth shaking, such an event will make hearts race.

—We've got an intriguing storyline for tonight's A's-Yankees series opener, with former Athletic Eric Chavez a late addition to the Yanks' lineup at third base. Alex Rodriguez was scratched after jamming his left thumb. It's still tough getting used to Chavez wearing pinstripes, and this has got to be a special night for him.

—The A's traded third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff to Colorado for a player to be named or cash considerations. Check out this update from earlier, and an expanded story should be posted soon.

—A's manager Bob Melvin said he hopes to get newly promoted catcher Anthony Recker a start in the coming days. It's an exciting time for Recker, who is getting his first taste of the big leagues at Yankee Stadium, roughly 80 miles from where he grew up in Pennsylvania.

The lineups:

A's — Weeks 2B, Crisp CF, Matsui DH, Willingham LF, Allen 1B, DeJesus RF, Pennington SS, Suzuki C, Sogard 3B; McCarthy RHP.

Yanks — Gardner LF, Jeter SS, Granderson CF, Teixeira 1B, Cano 2B, Swisher RF, Chavez 3B, Posada DH, Martin C; Colon RHP.

### **Coco Crisp's monster game leads A's past Yanks**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Coco Crisp is usually the man who makes the A's go, but he missed a week with a quad strain earlier this month and then hit .147 over his next nine games.

On Wednesday at Yankee Stadium, Crisp was back to fueling the Oakland offense. He did it with authority, with four hits, including two homers. The second of those went into the second deck in right, a three-run shot in the 10th inning off Rafael Soriano that gave the A's a 6-4 victory over New York. Oakland has claimed the first two games of the three-game series against the first-place Yankees.

"Coco, as far as dramatics go, was terrific tonight," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Crisp said he almost never looks for a certain pitch, preferring simply to think fastball and react off that, but he had gotten a first-pitch slider from Soriano in a previous at-bat, so he was looking for another. He crushed it, a no-doubter.

"I thought slider, it hit the barrel," he said, "but that's not something I should do."

Crisp reached base five times and he tied his career high for hits and RBIs (five). His first at-bat was an indication of things to come: He hit a solo homer in the first on the first pitch he saw from Yankees starter CC Sabathia. Going into the evening, Crisp was a lifetime .188 hitter against Sabathia.

A's third baseman Scott Sizemore also had four hits, and he has five hits in his past five at-bats, including three doubles. He doubled in a run off Sabathia in the eighth, then scored a run on a broken-bat single by Crisp to give Oakland a brief lead. In the bottom of the inning, Mark Teixeira tied it again with a leadoff homer off Grant Balfour.

Oakland starter Trevor Cahill put together a strong start at the place where he'd had the worst outing of his career just last month. In six-plus innings Wednesday, Cahill allowed two runs, including Nick Swisher's two-out homer in the sixth. Swisher also homered off Andrew Bailey in the 10th.

On July 22, Cahill allowed a career-high 10 runs at New York, but on Wednesday, he was wielding a terrific sinker; Yankees manager Joe Girardi said the bottom was dropping out of the pitch.

Crisp said, "As soon as he stepped on the mound, he had a good swag about him, confidence in himself."

Cahill departed in the seventh after allowing a leadoff double by Eduardo Nuñez and a bunt single to third by Francisco Cervelli. Brian Fuentes replaced Cahill and retired the next three batters, Brett Gardner, Derek Jeter and Curtis Granderson.

### **Speculation about A's GM Billy Beane**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

There is increasing thought among baseball people, including some who know him well, that A's general manager **Billy Beane** might consider an offer if the Cubs do approach him about their GM vacancy, as expected.

It's no secret that the A's higher-ups are frustrated about the glacial pace of Major League Baseball's panel looking at a potential Oakland move. Within the A's organization, there is concern that if the ownership group does not get approval to build a stadium in San Jose that the team might be sold and that Beane, who has a minority stake in the A's, would head elsewhere.

Beane is signed through 2014, but his relationship with owner **Lew Wolff** is believed to be good enough that Wolff would grant him permission to interview elsewhere if he so desired. Plus, Beane has a hand-picked successor, assistant general manager **David Forst**, ready to take the job. Forst has chosen not to pursue several other general-manager opportunities.

Beane was out of town Wednesday and unavailable for comment, but in 2002, he accepted the Red Sox's GM job only to change his mind, citing, among other things, his love for his job in Oakland and for the organization.

Beane also cited the proximity of his daughter, **Casey**, then 12 and living in Southern California, but she is now in college in Ohio. Billy and **Tara Beane**'s young twins are not yet school age.

Next month, the movie "Moneyball," based on **Michael Lewis'** book about Beane and the A's 2002 season, will be released, starring **Brad Pitt** as Beane.

Oakland has not had a winning season since going to the ALCS in 2006, and the A's believe they cannot attract top free-agent talent playing in the Coliseum.

**Sogard gets ball:** Infielder **Eric Sogard** hit his first major-league homer Tuesday, and though Major League Baseball would not authenticate the ball because it was thrown back out of the stands, Sogard said he doesn't mind.

"I'm not going to sell it," he said with a laugh. "I know I hit it. That's all that matters."

Sogard's solo shot, which barely cleared the wall in right, was overshadowed by **Brandon Allen** blasts into the third deck and the second deck.

"I was joking with Brandon before the game about him going third deck, and he said, 'I don't know about that,' " Sogard said. "I said, 'OK, second deck at least.'

"His went twice as far as mine, but they count the same."

**Getting it done:** Closer Andrew Bailey has allowed runs in five of his past seven outings, but he's still 10-for-10 in save chances since the break. "Giving up runs, I'm not comfortable with that, but you can't let it bother you," he said. "I've been squeaking by."

### **Drumbeat: Jackson in right tonight, Eric Sogard gets HR ball and more**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at Yankee Stadium 8/24/2011, 2:57PM

A seeming impossibility: a slow day in New York so far. Conor Jackson, David DeJesus and Ryan Sweeney are back in a revolving right-field platoon again, though, this time because of Brandon Allen.

Allen, he of the Yankee Stadium mega-blasts, would be awfully hard to pry out of the lineup at this point. And Josh Willingham and Hideki Matsui have had recent days off, leaving the glut of right fielders to share duties. Jackson gets the call against the left-hander CC Sabathia.

Here's the lineup behind Trevor Cahill: Weeks 2B, Crisp CF, Matsui LF, Willingham DH, Allen 1B, Jackson RF, Suzuki C, Pennington SS, Sizemore 3B.

Eric Sogard, who hit his first big-league homer last night, did get the ball back last night, but Major League Baseball wouldn't authenticate it because it was thrown back from the stands. ("Chain of custody" issues.) In such instances, many times balls are authenticated as "player retrieved," without specifying further, but MLB wouldn't do so for Sogard's ball.

"That's OK," he told me. "I'm not ever going to sell it anyway. I know I hit it. That's all that matters."

Sogard, by the way, told Allen before last night's game that he - Allen - had third-deck power here, and when Allen laughed it off, Sogard told him, "Well, OK, second deck." Allen put one in each deck, so I'm going to go ahead and give Sogard credit with calling the shots. Sort of.

As for his own homer, Sogard said that it wouldn't have gone out in many other ballparks, and Allen last night had mentioned that Sogard's homer was helped by the wind.

"Brandon's went twice as far as mine," Sogard said with a grin. "But they count the same."

With all that happened at the end of last night's game, I was unable to get in a few tidbits I'd wanted to. First of all, for those who'd wondered, Melvin was asked about sending Brandon McCarthy out for the eighth rather than Grant Balfour, the A's set-up man, and he said that McCarthy was only around 80 pitches at that point and not laboring at all. He deserved to stay, and even with two men on, Melvin wanted to give McCarthy the chance to get out of it.

Also, the other man besides Allen to hit a ball into the third deck at the new Yankee Stadium was Russell Branyan, who did it with the Angels earlier this month - and off Mariano Rivera. Allen's ball might have gone a row or two higher, according to some New York reporters, and several of them believe that another ball was hit into that "300 level," but no one can recall who did it. The Yankees PR staff says it's only Allen and Branyan.

## **Coco's second homer finishes Yanks in 10th**

### **Outfielder's third go-ahead hit holds up as A's secure series win**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- It seemed as though two wins came out of the Bronx on Wednesday night, and the A's benefited from both.

Oakland beat the Yankees, 6-4, in 10 innings to secure a series win, and Trevor Cahill beat himself -- the version that entered the contest with a 3-12 record and 5.30 ERA over his last 19 starts.

The right-hander's well-documented struggles, combined with his past history against the Yankees -- a 13.50 ERA in four starts -- could have made for yet another mess in the Bronx. But Cahill appeared collected, confident and in control through his six-plus innings of work.

"As soon as he stepped on the mound, he had a different swag about him," said Coco Crisp, whose career-high-tying four hits and five RBIs were instrumental in the victory. "You knew it would be a good outing for him. He had confidence in himself, and I think that's something he needs to continue to have. He has some of the best stuff in Major League Baseball, and he hasn't always gone out there with that belief. We all believe in him. Tonight was his night."

The A's righty gave up just two runs on seven hits with two walks and six strikeouts over that span, marking a tremendous improvement from his last start in New York, a nightmarish two-plus-inning effort that resulted in 10 runs allowed.

Despite the turnaround, Cahill was left with a no-decision on Wednesday after exiting with a 2-1 deficit, only to watch a seesaw game culminate in Oakland's second win in as many nights, courtesy of Crisp's go-ahead three-run homer -- his second long ball of the game -- in the 10th off righty Rafael Soriano.

"He threw me a slider," Crisp said. "I go up to the plate and am never successful when I look for something other than a fastball. He threw a slider previously, first pitch, and I went up there and said, 'OK, slider,' and he threw it and I caught the barrel. It's not something that I should do, because I'm not successful. I'm not sure when I've been successful doing that, aside from tonight."

It marked the veteran's second career multihomer contest and his first since June 2007 as a member of the Red Sox.

"Certainly, Coco, as far as the dramatics go, was terrific tonight," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "He's a good player that hits good pitching, and we rely on him an awful lot."

"He's an aggressive hitter, and we know that," Yankees skipper Joe Girardi said. "He was aggressive tonight, and he was the guy who beat us."

Crisp's first homer, a first-pitch shot to left field off Yankees southpaw CC Sabathia, gave Cahill a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Cahill held on to the one-run advantage until the third, when Brett Gardner reached first on an infield single, stole second and scored on Derek Jeter's ensuing RBI single.

Nick Swisher put the Yankees ahead, 2-1, in the sixth on his first of two homers in the game -- his fifth and sixth of the season against his former team. Cahill's night continued into the seventh, but his first two batters reached, and he was relieved by Brian Fuentes, who garnered three consecutive outs to end the threat.

"That was probably the key to the game, certainly at that point," Melvin said. "Down, 2-1, first and third, nobody out and the top of the order's up. We don't have much room to give them much more at that point. You talk about momentum swings -- that was a big one, for us to be able to get out of that."

The A's responded in a big way, moving ahead by one in the eighth thanks to RBI hits from Crisp and Scott Sizemore, who enjoyed a 4-for-4 night at the plate. Three of Sizemore's hits came facing Sabathia, against whom he's 6-for-10 in his career.

"I haven't figured it out yet," Sabathia said of Sizemore's success. "I gave everything I had to him. Hopefully, I can figure it out soon."

New York appeared to erase the A's efforts in the eighth, courtesy of a solo shot from Mark Teixeira off righty Grant Balfour that tied the game, but Crisp's game-changing long ball two innings later all but sealed the A's victory -- and made Cahill's night all the more fulfilling.

"Definitely, when you struggle in a place like this, when you put together a decent start, it helps a little bit with your confidence," Cahill said. "I went after hitters and tried not to be intimidated and just threw strikes, let them put the ball in play. I wasn't afraid to get hit. It couldn't get too much worse than it did last time."

The positive vibes are just what the A's need moving forward on a rather difficult 10-game road swing that will continue through Boston and Cleveland following Thursday's matinee in New York.

"It feels good," Melvin said. "We've got one more game to play tomorrow. We win the first two -- got to try to get greedy."

"It's a tough team, some of the best pitchers in baseball, without a doubt," Crisp said. "For us to come out here with our young guys and have them keep their composure in this ballpark, it showed a lot. We played a solid game."

### **Allen making A's lineup decisions tough**

### **Impressing at first base, slugger clouds right-field picture**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- For A's manager Bob Melvin, the decision to keep playing Brandon Allen is an easy one.

Filling out the rest of the lineup, particularly the right-field slot, has subsequently become a difficult one.

Allen's everyday presence at first base has forced Melvin to play musical chairs in right field, and on Wednesday, former first-base regular Conor Jackson got the nod against Yankees lefty CC Sabathia, with David DeJesus and Ryan Sweeney left on the bench.

"With Brandon playing as much as he is at first, we're back to a tougher mix with Jackson, DeJesus [and] Sweeney," Melvin said. "It just is what it is. The way [Allen's] playing right now, we want to take a good, hard look at him, and deservedly so at this point. Not only do we want to look at him, but he's earned his time, so it makes it a little harder rotating those three guys in."

Allen, who enjoyed his first career multihomer performance during Tuesday night's 6-5 win in his Yankee Stadium debut, started on Wednesday for the 11th time since his Aug. 13 promotion, and he entered the day 13-for-33 in that span, with six of those hits resulting in extra bases.

Those numbers have quickly put Allen in position as the A's potential long-term answer at first base, where power productivity has been missing in recent years.

### **Melvin knows scuffling Bailey will 'persevere'**

NEW YORK -- Tuesday's ninth-inning dramatics in New York weren't the first signs of recent struggles for Andrew Bailey.

The A's closer, who allowed two runs -- one earned -- before securing a 6-5 Oakland victory, entered Wednesday having allowed at least one run in four of his last six outings -- a 6.00 ERA -- after surrendering just one in his previous 10 (0.96 ERA).

Still, Bailey has managed to convert each of his nine save opportunities since the All-Star break to continue a trend that has seen him go 32-for-32 in such situations in his career after the break.

"I think that every closer goes through a point in time in the season where they're not perfect, and I think it's glaring because he is so good," manager Bob Melvin said. "There are times in the season where your arm doesn't feel as good, but the fact of the matter is, to this point, he hasn't blown a save.

"If that's his struggles, we'll certainly take it. I know he doesn't feel great about the way he's been throwing, but you make adjustments over the course of the season, and it's how you persevere and how you eventually end up getting them done, and he's getting the job done."

Despite throwing 31 pitches on Tuesday, Bailey was expected to be available for Wednesday's contest against the Yankees.

### **Worth noting**

Despite entering Wednesday's game hitless in nine career at-bats against Yankees southpaw CC Sabathia, Hideki Matsui was given a start in left field, with Josh Willingham serving as the designated hitter.

"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," manager Bob Melvin said. "I have confidence in him against everybody."

Matsui's productive ways since the All-Star break have been well documented. But despite his .361 average in that span, the A's veteran entered Wednesday just 7-for-38 (.184) over his last 10 games.

### **Harden, Hughes converge from similar paths**

By Anthony Fenech / MLB.com

Both Rich Harden and Phil Hughes have seen better days.

But both have also seen worse days as victims of past injuries, and on Thursday, the pair will square off at Yankee Stadium, each looking to win a third consecutive decision.

In Harden's last start, he dominated the Blue Jays over seven innings, allowing no runs on two hits while tying a career high with 11 strikeouts.

All that despite throwing 23 pitches in the first inning and walking four in the game.

"He's been terrific," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

In Hughes' last start, he stymied the Twins over 7 2/3 innings, allowing one run on two hits while striking out two, walking three and retiring 22 of the 27 batters he faced from the second inning on.

Hughes' win was his third in a span of four starts, and it came at a time when the Yankees are looking to cement their rotation for a postseason run.

"We'll continue to have to juggle and play around with our pitching, I can tell you that," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "Whether that means giving guys rest or having all hands on deck because we'll have games piling up on us, I don't know yet."

Since missing most of the first three months of this season due to right shoulder inflammation, Hughes has allowed more than two earned runs in a game only once and is 4-3 in that span.

Harden, who also missed about three months, has won two of his past three starts and is 4-2 in nine starts on the season, having struck out more than a batter per inning.

"You do worry about the injury problems he's had in the past, but -- knock on wood -- he's shown none of that here," Melvin said. "We're cognizant of his pitch count, and I think the last time was the first time he was over 110, but his stuff was still good. We're always staying on top of that and making sure we're not pushing too far. If there's anything we feel like is a concern, I certainly wouldn't have a problem pushing him back, but to this point, he's been true to form almost every time out."

In 10 career appearances, including eight starts, against the Yankees, Harden is 2-3 with a 4.91 ERA. He was the winning pitcher in his only start against New York this year, a 4-3 A's victory on July 23, when he gave up two runs in 5 1/3 innings while walking four and striking out six.

Hughes was touched up in a start against the A's on July 22, when he allowed seven earned runs on nine hits in 4 1/3 innings.

### **A's: Allen forcing way into lineup**

- After smacking two home runs to record his first career multihomer game on Tuesday, A's first baseman Brandon Allen is now 13-for-33 since his Aug. 13 promotion from Triple-A Sacramento.

"With Brandon playing as much as he is at first, we're back to a tougher mix with [Conor] Jackson, [David] DeJesus [and Ryan] Sweeney," Melvin said. "It just is what it is. The way [Allen's] playing right now, we want to take a good, hard look at him, and deservedly so at this point. Not only do we want to look at him, but he's earned his time, so it makes it a little harder rotating those three guys in."

Allen was traded to the A's with left-hander Jordan Norberto for reliever Brad Ziegler on July 31.

- Wednesday night's 6-4 victory snapped a streak of 13 errors in 13 games for the A's, who are second in the Majors with 103 on the season. Eighteen of those errors have been committed by pitchers, which has Oakland tied with Cincinnati for the most in the Major Leagues.

### **Yankees: A-Rod fights through injuries**

- After spraining his left thumb against the Twins on Sunday, third baseman Alex Rodriguez speculates that he'll miss a few days, but manager Joe Girardi doesn't think it will be an issue going forward.

"If the thumb lingers, yes, it could be, like, 'Man, this is really getting to be a pain in the rear end,'" Girardi said. "But I believe he feels like he's on the other side of the [recovery from right] knee [surgery], and hopefully, if this thumb's only a couple of days, it shouldn't be on his mind."

In 81 games this season, Rodriguez is hitting .290 with 13 home runs and 52 RBIs.

### **Worth noting**

- With Wednesday night's loss, the Yankees have had 22 of their past 41 games decided by three runs or fewer. They are 6-6 in one-run games during that span.

## **Weeks at Fan Cave: No homers? No problem**

### **Oakland rookie sensation talks shop before playing the Yankees**

By Mark Newman / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- Jemile Weeks has played about half as many games as Curtis Granderson this season, yet is just two triples away from matching the Yankees center fielder's American League lead of 10. Not only that, but the A's rookie second baseman has 77 hits and 14 steals in his first 65 games.

It's a pretty impressive run so far for the younger brother of Brewers All-Star Rickie Weeks, and yet that one subject keeps coming up. Veteran teammates rag him, asking when he's going to hit his first home run. During a visit to the MLB Fan Cave on Wednesday, he was a good sport and taped a tongue-in-cheek video about why homers are overrated ("You burn more calories running the bases.")

It was brought up recently that only Mike Bordick has gone longer at the start of an Oakland career before hitting his first homer -- 132 games, finally going deep in May 1992. Weeks keeps a flashy smile and likeable approach through that subject, knowing as well as anyone that Rickie's power developed progressively in his career, and believing that power gradually emerges.

"Yeah, it does," Jemile said. "At the same time, home runs aren't the big deal. It's not the thing you've got to have. You don't have to do it to win games.

"But I've got it in the tank. They'll see it sooner or later."

Weeks and the A's were in New York for the outset of a tough 10-game trip to face the Yankees, Red Sox and Indians, all in contention. He stopped by the Fan Cave at 11 a.m., took the tour, did a 15-minute social media chat upstairs, shot the breeze with MLB Dream Job winner Mike O'Hara and wingman Ryan Wagner and taped the upcoming video skit. He then headed out for a quick lunch and grabbed the bus to Yankee Stadium, soon followed in the Fan Cave by classic rocker Alice Cooper.

The three-story spread in Greenwich Village was meant to not only serve as a hub of activity this regular season, but to help put more of a face on the rising talent in Major League Baseball, and here was a perfect example of someone who deserves more attention.

Weeks was originally drafted by the Brewers like his brother, but he opted instead to play at the University of Miami and major in business. His stock improved and he was selected eighth overall in 2008 by the A's. Weeks was called up in June and was named AL Rookie of the Month in his first chance. Although his average and on-base percentage have slid each month since, he is batting .284 and has a big topside. His arrival made the trade of Mark Ellis to the Rockies a practical one.

"I think I was able to jump above my curve a little bit just by trying to be confident and being comfortable at the plate -- fairly quickly, I guess, for a rookie," Weeks said. "The more you can do that, being confident and comfortable, the more success you're going to have early on."

Here are some things to know about Jemile Weeks:

- J. Cole is the first performer he mentions on his playlist.
- He thinks his hair is better than Rickie's. "I got him," Jemile says. "His is all right, but I think I got him."
- He would love to play someday with his brother, and thinks that over time it would become clearer who should play second and who should play short if they ever become a double-play combo. "It's a long career in the Majors, and chips don't always fall the way you want them to fall," he said. "But if it happened one day, I'm sure I'd be acceptable to it."
- Derek Jeter is the player outside the A's who he admires the most today. Weeks mentioned Jeter talking to him while the Yankees captain was on second base in the opener.

"I think it's more of a surprise and more of a thrill for me than it is for him," Weeks said. "I think he was just going through his normal routine. Hopefully he can be a fan of mine one day, but I'm definitely a fan of his right now."

"I've always liked him as a player. When I met him as a person on the field, he's always had good words for me every time I've played against him. When I've been here, he's been helpful to me. He's told me some good things when I'm out there on base."

- He not only marches to his own drum, he plays one. "Just growing up in the local church," Weeks said, explaining where he learned to play drums. "My dad was a preacher when I was younger. So at that church, I pretty much just got into drums. My brother played a little bit. I came up playing them, too. We had lessons."

The A's opened their road trip with a 6-5 victory over the Yankees on Tuesday, and in the hours before facing CC Sabathia, Weeks said there is a positive mindset despite being 15 games behind in the AL West.

"I'm loving it," Weeks said. "I see what the A's are trying to do and the movement they've made, even with the start of this year. I mean, things didn't go as planned, but the moves they've made definitely show that they're making a push to try to make something happen. I think everything's going in the right direction."

There are big differences for Weeks between life in the Minors and life in The Show. He says "time management" is the hardest thing about the Majors, citing the brief time after each game for phone calls with family, interviews and obligations after being at the field nine hours a day.

Weeks clearly appreciates days like this, whiling away an hour or two at the Fan Cave before a big game, even knowing some rookie treatment is coming up.

"When we go from this trip to Boston, I've got to get the team beer, bag it all up, bring it onto the bus, and stuff like that, for those guys to have something to drink," Weeks said. "Other than that, it's been pretty cool. They just mess with me about not hitting home runs."

### **Ways To Win are widespread on MLB.com**

By Mark Newman / MLB.com

Trips to the 2011 World Series and 2012 All-Star Game, large cash prizes, an MLB.TV subscription and even a game in your hometown against 11 living legends are among the many widespread prizes being offered right now around MLB.com. With so many ways to win happening at this time of year, we'll save you the trouble of looking around for the entry info so you can get busy increasing your chances of success.

**State Farm Go to Bat for Charity:** Entry period 6 of 10 is under way. Just pick a single charity from those listed, and then you support it by playing the game. At the conclusion of each entry period, the charity with the highest overall home run batting average receives a donation in the amount of \$18,000. One winner in each of the 10 periods gets a trip for two to attend Games 3 and 4 of the 2011 World Series. **See the list of weekly winners.**

**World Series Sweepstakes presented by Verizon:** Win this, and you and a guest get tickets, coach class air fare and accommodations for one game in this year's Fall Classic.

**Pepsi MAX Field of Dreams Team.** Hurry and get your votes in by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 31. You can vote up to 25 times a day, and each entry gives you a chance to be one of four regional finalists. One lucky winner and 10 friends will play an unbelievable home game next spring against a team consisting of 11 living legends. Your job is to decide which of those 11 living legends will make the trip, and **here's the latest balloting update.**

**Change Your Game Sweepstakes Presented by the makers of One A Day:** This is ongoing since Opening Day with a weekly prize drawing. The deadline to enter each weekly drawing is 4:59 p.m. ET on Fridays, through Sept. 30. Any weekly entrant becomes eligible for the grand prize drawing, and a chance to win one of three prize packages: A trip for four to a game of the 2011 World Series, 2012 Spring Training or the 2012 All-Star Game in Kansas City -- plus spending money. There are 28 weekly winners of a \$100 MLB.com Gift Card.

**Moneyball Movie Premiere Sweepstakes:** The movie starring Brad Pitt hits theaters on Sept. 23, and the grand prize is a trip for two (air and hotel) to Oakland with two tickets to the movie premiere there and also a pair of seats at an A's regular-season home game.

**MLB '11 The Show Challenge of the Week:** To enter you must have access to a PlayStation 3. Load your copy of MLB '11 The Show onto it, and take the weekly challenge. Each contest segment week begins at 8 a.m. ET on Monday and ends at 7:30 a.m. ET the following Monday. The current grand prize offering features a trip for two to a game in the 2011 World Series. There are monthly and weekly prizes, too.

**All Together Fan:** Join All Together reporter Nick Stevens as he follows MLB Network games this season with fans in communities across the country. Vote for your Favorite to be the Fan Voice at the next MLB Network game, and you could win a seat at the 2012 All-Star Game. This event brought to you by Sprint ends with the last day of the regular season.

**World Series Superstars**, the MLB-licensed, free-to-play Facebook game from MLB.com and EA Sports, has announced its Race to the Pennant Sweepstakes. Starting on Aug. 31, players who enter the game will be instructed to select their favorite MLB club. At the end of the sweeps, the club with the most user selections will have a raffle to give away various MLB prizes to the users who selected that respective club. The grand prize winner will receive: a \$500 VISA gift card, personalized MLB jersey, a subscription to **MLB.TV**, and an **MLB.com Shop** team apparel pack.

**Acela Rivalry Series Challenge:** This one is more regional. Enter and you could win a trip to the 2011 World Series. If it's in a Northeast location, the grand prize includes round-trip travel on Amtrak Acela. It's a round-trip coach class air ticket if not in the Northeast. There are six first prizes, which consist of a trip to a 2012 rivalry series away game. There are 41 sweeps entry period Amtrak/MLB fan prize pack, which each include an Acela USB drive, drive an Amtrak baseball, and MLB merchandise.

**MLB.com Beat the Streak:** Some ongoing players in this popular game still have a shot at the \$5.6 million prize for "breaking" Joe DiMaggio's legendary record of 56 consecutive games with at least one hit. Whether anyone breaks that bank remains to be seen, but one entrant from this season is guaranteed of the \$10,000 prize at the end of the season for longest streak of the year.

**MLB.com Fast Relief Beat the Streak presented by Bayer Advanced:** Just pick one closer each day who you think will get a save in his game that day. Keep your streak going, and whoever has 2011's longest streak of at least 20 consecutive games with a save wins \$10,000. If no one gets 20 in a row, the person with the longest streak of at least 15 gets two tickets to either the 2012 All-Star Game, a 2012 Spring Training game, or a 2012 World Series game.

**MasterCard Check In To The BallGame:** Want to win two VIP seats to Yankee Stadium? The third and final entry period is under way, ending at 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 31. There is a limit of one sweepstakes entry check-in location per person per day. A total of 37 winners per entry period are being selected by random drawing, so 111 total prizes.

**MLB.com Home Run Beat the Streak presented by ampm:** Pick one player every day who you think will hit at least one homer. If he comes through that day, then your streak continues. Finish the season with the longest streak (11 or more), and you can win \$10,000.

**MLB.com Odyssey:** The object of this new game is to outlast your group and be the last member to select a winning MLB team without making an out. Do this by selecting one team from a list displayed on MLB.com of all clubs that are participating on your assigned selection day. One lucky winner can receive four tickets to the 2012 All-Star Game.

There are a couple of cool goodies you can snag as part of using other stuff. Subscribe to the **MLB Insider** and they throw in a free MLB team blanket. Use the **MLB Extra Bases Rewards Card** and you can earn 10,000 bonus points after a qualifying transaction -- redeemable for a \$100 MLB.com Shop gift certificate.

And, of course, there is the ongoing matter of winning bragging rights, which matter as much as any prize around here. Your team just has to win the World Series.

### **Crisp homers twice as A's defeat Yankees, 6-4, in 10**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A sudden power surge by Coco Crisp knocked the New York Yankees out of first place.

Crisp homered twice and drove in five runs, going 4 for 4 with a three-run shot in the 10th inning that sent the Oakland Athletics to a 6-4 victory Wednesday night.

The loss dropped the Yankees a game behind Boston in the AL East when the Red Sox finished a 13-2 rout of Texas. New York has a 7½-game lead in the wild-card race.

"They have the best players in baseball without a doubt," Crisp said. "You go every position, there's no letup. For us to come out here with our young guys and keep our composure in this intense ballpark said a lot."

No. 9 batter Scott Sizemore was 4 for 4 with a tying double off CC Sabathia in the eighth and Oakland won at Yankee Stadium for the second consecutive night to clinch a series victory. The A's had lost 10 straight series against New York, an Oakland record for futility against any team.

Nick Swisher homered twice and Mark Teixeira also connected for the Yankees, who played without Alex Rodriguez (sprained left thumb) for the second straight game. New York had dropped only two of its previous 20 series since June 10.

Oakland goes for a three-game sweep Thursday afternoon with Rich Harden on the mound against Phil Hughes.

"Feels good," interim manager Bob Melvin said. "We've got one more game to play tomorrow. We win the first two, got to try to get greedy. We'll talk about that a little bit tomorrow, but it's certainly a nice start to what looks to be a tough road trip."

Trevor Cahill finally held New York in check, Brian Fuentes pitched out of a seventh-inning jam and the A's improved to 7-26 against the Yankees since 2008. The last time Oakland won a series against New York was the summer of 2007, when it took two of three at old Yankee Stadium.

Crisp also walked during a perfect night at the plate and matched career highs for hits and RBIs. The A's have won six of eight following a four-game skid.

Fautino De Los Santos (2-0) struck out two in a perfect ninth. Andrew Bailey earned his 18th save in 20 chances, closing out the Yankees for the second straight night.

He gave up a solo shot with two outs to Swisher, who barely missed a game-winning grand slam against the right-hander Tuesday when the ball was caught at the fence for the final out.

Cliff Pennington and Sizemore singled with one out in the 10th against Rafael Soriano (2-2), who had been very effective since returning July 29 from a long stint on the disabled list. Jemile Weeks struck out but Crisp hit the next pitch, a hanging slider, into the second deck in right for his seventh homer.

"Today wasn't my day. I left a couple pitches up," Soriano said through a translator.

It was the second career multihomer game for Crisp — the other one came on June 18, 2007, with Boston at Atlanta. He went deep from both sides of the plate Wednesday, jumping on the first pitch both times.

"He's an aggressive hitter, we know that," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "He was aggressive tonight and he was the guy who beat us."

Teixeira tied it in the eighth with a long leadoff homer on a 3-1 pitch from Grant Balfour.

Looking for his 18th win, Sabathia squandered a one-run lead in the eighth. Sizemore tied it with an RBI double and Crisp gave Oakland a 3-2 lead with an RBI single off David Robertson.

"It's tough," Sabathia said. "Obviously, a 2-1 lead in the eighth inning, you want to shut it down."

Derek Jeter kept it close by stretching out for Hideki Matsui's low liner to shortstop, starting an unassisted double play that ended the inning.

Sabathia gave up a home run to his second batter, Crisp, but little else until the eighth. The big lefty also benefited from some sharp defense.

New York opened the sixth with a pinpoint relay when Weeks tried to stretch a long double. With the score tied and nobody out, Weeks probably would have been wise to hold at second. Back in the dugout, Melvin came over for a quick chat with the rookie.

Swisher put the Yankees ahead 2-1 in the bottom half with an opposite-field homer to left-center off Cahill, who allowed two runs in six-plus innings. The 23-year-old right-hander, an All-Star in 2010, entered 0-4 with a 13.50 ERA in four career starts against New York.

"I felt pretty confident out there. I wasn't afraid to get hit. It couldn't get too much worse than it did last time," Cahill said. "Definitely when you struggle in a place like this so much, putting together a decent start helps out a little bit, your confidence. I feel like we had that confidence that whole game where we can finally beat these guys in one series, and we were lucky to be able to do that."

Swisher also had a three-run shot Tuesday night.

Jeter delivered an RBI single in the third, his fifth hit in five at-bats. That gave the captain 3,055 career hits, tying ex-Yankee Rickey Henderson for 21st place all-time.

NOTES: Harden matched a career high with 11 strikeouts in his most recent outing, a 2-0 victory Friday over Toronto, and is 3-0 with a 1.78 ERA in four starts against AL East clubs. ... Yankees GM Brian Cashman wouldn't comment on reports that the team claimed Chicago Cubs 1B Carlos Pena off trade waivers. ... After the series finale Thursday, New York plays 17 of its next 23 games on the road. ... Cano extended his hitting streak to a season-high 15 games.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Christian, Hall Help Grizzlies Batter Cats**

By Noah Frank / Fresno Grizzlies

FRESNO- The Sacramento River Cats may have clinched the Pacific South Division again with a dozen games left in the 2011 campaign, but they still haven't figured out the Fresno Grizzlies. The Grizzlies pummeled Sacramento pitching to the tune of 14 runs and 17 hits in the first game of the final meeting between these two teams, cruising to a 14-6 victory at Chukchansi Park Wednesday night.

The Grizzlies (59-73) have already secured the victory in the season series, winning nine of the first 12 games with four remaining the next four nights in Fresno. It marks just the second time in 12 years the Giants affiliate has won the Highway 99 Showdown Series from its Oakland counterpart, and the first time since going 9-7 back in 2001.

Sacramento (78-54) opened the top of the second with three straight hits, the final of which was a two-run single by recently optioned Landon Powell, putting the River Cats ahead, 2-0.

That lead was short-lived, though, as the Grizzlies offense caught fire against Sacramento starter Carlos Hernandez. Bill Hall opened the bottom of the frame with a single and Brandon Crawford walked to bring up Christian for the first time. The outfielder doubled home Hall, moving Crawford to third. Andres Torres walked one out later to load the bases for Edgar Gonzalez, who hit a sacrifice fly to center field. Brett Pill followed with a two-out, RBI-single to cap the three-run frame, giving him 103 RBI on the season.

After allowing another run in the third, Fresno scored three more in the bottom half to stretch their lead. Conor Gillaspie led off with a double and Hall singled him to third. Crawford delivered a sacrifice fly to bring up Christian, who doubled again, moving Hall to third. Tyler LaTorre hit the second sacrifice fly of the inning before Torres singled home Christian to make it 6-3.

The seesaw battle continued in the fourth, as the River Cats scored again only to watch the Grizzlies plate four more. Pill led off with a single and moved to third one out later on Gillaspie's single, before both scored on a Hall double. Then, with two outs, Hernandez (7-7) was lifted for reliever Justin Souza, who came on to face Christian. He was greeted with a rocket shot to the bleachers in left field for a two-run home run, putting Fresno ahead, 10-4.

Jermaine Mitchell got Sacramento back within four on a two-run shot in the fifth off Fresno starter Geno Espineli (2-4). The Grizzlies lefty finished the fifth inning, though, to qualify for the victory. It was the first time he has gone that deep into a ballgame since September 3rd, 2007 at Bowie while with Double-A Connecticut.

Hall padded the cushion back to six runs in the bottom of the sixth, torching a Souza delivery high off the batter's eye in dead center field for a two-run shot. Hall was 4-for-4 in his first four plate appearances, with a double, a home run, four runs scored and four RBI. Christian added his fourth and final hit later in the inning with an infield single to shortstop.

The Grizzlies send right-hander Shane Loux (6-12) to the hill against River Cats righty Tyson Ross (2-1) Saturday at 7:05pm in the second game of the series.

WP: Espineli (2-4); LP: Hernandez (7-7); S: None; HR: Christian (7), Mitchell (4), Hall (6), LaTorre (3)

### **Hounds Walk Off Behind Christian**

By Bob Hards / Midland RockHounds

It wasn't on the promotional schedule, but the RockHounds played three-games-for-the-price-of-one Wednesday night, defeating the Corpus Christi Hooks, 3-2, at Citibank Ballpark.

Over the first six innings, the RockHounds (a.k.a. Dr. Jekyll) held a 1-0 lead, with another strong outing from starter Lenny DiNardo, backed by outstanding defense. Jeremy Barfield's throw from right field gunned down Brandon Barnes at home plate to end the third, and Tyler Ladendorf and Jason Christian combined to turn a terrific, 6-4-3, inning-ending double play in the fifth. Tyler made a nice play on the ball, flipped from his glove to second, where Jason bare-handed the toss and relayed on to first.

The RockHounds (a.k.a. Mr. Hyde) then committed three errors (two on catcher's interference) in two innings, escaping in the seventh but surrendering the tying run (unearned) in the eighth. Brandon Wikoff then hit his second home run in as many nights, a solo shot to the right field short porch (a virtual DVD replay of his Tuesday home run) to give the Hooks a 3-2 lead in the ninth.

The RockHounds (Dr. Jekyll returns) then rallied to win in the last of the ninth, with Adam Heether drawing a 3-2 walk to open the inning against Corpus Christi closer Jason Stoffel. Barfield singled to right and Mitch Canham walked to load the bases. Jason Christian then sent a line drive to the gap in the right-center field, a walk-off double, and the 'Hounds had a 3-2 win.

### **By the numbers:**

**Zero, three, two** - Number of home runs Brandon Wikoff had in his career entering 2011 ... the number he has this season with the Hooks ... and the number of those home runs he has hit in the first two games of this series.

**One:** - Number of walks Lenny DiNardo has issued in 20.2 innings with the RockHounds. While taking a no decision, Lenny lowered his ERA with the 'Hounds to 1.74 in five games (three starts).

**One:** - Number of pitches thrown by winning pitcher Jonathan Ortiz (after replacing the injured Jared Lansford).

**Three, two:** - Number of runs batted in for Jason Christian in his first stint this season with the RockHounds (20 games in April and May) with the Rockhounds, and the number of RBI he had last night.

**Eighteen:** - Number of assists for 'Hounds right fielder Jeremy Barfield, tops among Texas League outfielders.

**ROCKY TOWN** - This is the RockHounds' final home stand of the 2011 season! Thursday, therefore, is the final Thirsty Thursday of the season ... and Saturday night will be the last time around for post-game fireworks until 2012. Check out all the details at [www.midlandrockhounds.org](http://www.midlandrockhounds.org).

**COOL ALUMNI NOTE** - Fautino de los Santos opened 2011 with the RockHounds. Last night, he was the winning pitcher at Yankee Stadium. Fautino pitched the 9th inning, retiring the side in order with the score tied at 3-3. He struck out Brett Gardner and Curtis Granderson, and getting Derek Jeter to ground out. Two more RockHounds alums were front-and-center, with Andrew Bailey picking up his 18th save, despite allowing a home run to Nick Swisher (Swish's second of the game).

### **Ports A Handfull In 5-4 Win Over Giants**

Stockton Ports

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** - After dropping a 1-0 heartbreaker to open their series with the San Jose Giants, the Stockton Ports found their way back onto the scoreboard on Wednesday night at Municipal Stadium. Stockton scored five runs, including two in the 6th, to defeat San Jose by a count of 5-4 and even their three-game set with the Giants at a game apiece.

Early on, the story for Stockton was missed opportunities. The Ports stranded five baserunners over the first three innings, including an opportunity wasted in the 3rd with runners at the corners and one out.

The Giants, meanwhile, took advantage of their early opportunities. In the 2nd, San Jose broke the ice with an RBI groundout from Juan Ciriaco with runners at the corners and one out, scoring Tommy Joseph who'd singled to open the inning.

San Jose made it 3-0 in the 3rd as they took advantage of a throwing error committed by Ports third baseman Leonardo Gil to start the frame. The Giants got RBI singles from Pat Burrell, who was with San Jose on Major League rehab, and Nick Noonan. Both runs in the frame were unearned for Port starter Murphy Smith.

After more than 12 innings without a run in the series, the Ports found their way onto the scoreboard in the 4th. Dusty Coleman led off with a double off Giants starter Andy Reichard (8-3). Two batters later, Rashun Dixon hit a line drive to right that made it past the diving attempt of right fielder Nick Liles. It wound up as an RBI triple for Dixon, who scored on an ensuing single from Gil to make it a 3-2 ballgame.

San Jose scored their final run of the night in the 4th. With one out, Luke Anders singled, went to second on a wild pitch, and scored two batters later on a two-out RBI single from Gary Brown to make it a 4-2 game.

Stockton added a run in the 5th on a sac-fly from Coleman, scoring Michael Choice who doubled to open the inning.

The Giants would knock Smith from the game in the 5th after a one out walk and a single. Connor Hoehn (2-3) took over and stranded both baserunners left by Smith, who received a no-decision after going 4.1 innings and allowing four runs (two earned) on nine hits while striking out two.

Hoehn would work 1.2 scoreless innings and earn the win, allowing just one hit while striking out one.

The Ports broke through for their first lead of the series in the bottom of the 6th. With one out, Gil singled to right and scored on an ensuing triple to left-center hit by Myrio Richard to tie the game at 4-4. Richard scored when Conner Crumbliss followed with a sac-fly to center that gave the Ports a 5-4 advantage.

Reichard would toss the first five innings for the Giants and allow all five Ports runs on 12 hits in a losing effort.

San Jose's bullpen, a combination of Addison Proszek and Stephen Harrold, faced the minimum over the final three innings of the game.

A.J. Huttenlocker came on in relief of Hoehn to start the 7th and wound up in a bases-loaded jam with two outs. Huttenlocker would get Anders to strike out to end the inning and the final Giants threat of the night. Huttenlocker also worked a scoreless 8th.

Jose Guzman (SV, 20) came on in the 9th and set the side down in order on six pitches to record his 20th save of the season.

The Ports and Giants will wrap up their three-game set and their season-series on Thursday night at Municipal Stadium. In a battle of southpaws, Jake Brown (4-6, 5.46 ERA) will take the hill for Stockton, opposed by Tom Vessella (3-3, 3.75 ERA) for San Jose. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. PDT.

### **Trifecta Leads Bees To Victory**

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BELOIT, WI-RHP Josh Bowman (8-6) pitched five scoreless innings, 2B Nino Leyja (1-5) hit a two-run home run in the third inning and 1B A.J. Kirby-Jones (1-4) hit a two-run double as part of a three-run sixth inning to power the Burlington Bees (24-34) to a 6-1 win over the Beloit Snappers (26-32) in the opening game of a three-game series at Pohlman Field on Wednesday.

The Bees scored a pair of runs in the third inning. CF Tyreece House (0-2) led off the inning with a walk and Leyja hit a two-run home run over the wall in center field for a 2-0 lead.

Burlington took advantage of some wildness by Beloit starter A.J. Achter (4-7) in the fourth inning. DH Royce Consigli (2-5) and C John Nester (1-4) singled. The Bees executed a double steal and both runners moved into scoring position. A wild pitch by Achter allowed Nester to score for a 3-0 lead.

Bowman allowed seven hits. He did not walk a man and struck out five. RHP T.J. Walz pitched two scoreless innings.

The Bees scored three runs in the sixth inning to earn a 6-0 lead. SS Yordy Cabrera (2-4) singled and House walked. LF Jose Crisotomo (2-4) walked to load the bases. Leyja reached base on a fielder's choice and Cabrera scored.

Kirby-Jones followed with a double to plate House and Leyja and make it 6-0.

BEES BUZZINGS: The Bees made a roster move before the game, removing OF Douglas Landaeta from the Disabled List and placing OF Jose Rivero on the Disabled List.

The Bees and Snappers continue their three-game series on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. RHP Jose Macias (6-3, 4.18) gets the start for Burlington against RHP Blayne Weller (5-5, 4.25) for Beloit. Pre-game coverage starts at 6:40 p.m. over Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at [www.gobees.com](http://www.gobees.com).

### **Lake Monsters Fall 3-1 At Hudson Valley**

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

FISHKILL, NY --- Andrew Bellatti allowed one run on two hits over six innings for the win and Alejandro Segovia hit a two-run homer to lead the Hudson Valley Renegades to a 3-1 victory over the Vermont Lake Monsters in New York-Penn League action Wednesday night at Dutchess Stadium.

The Renegades got a run in the bottom of the first off Vermont starter Tyler Vail as Jonathan Kosco led off the inning with a single, moved to second on a groundout and third on a wild pitch before scoring on a Jeff Malm RBI single to centerfield.

Malm led off the bottom of the fourth with a walk and was erased on a forceout, but Lake Monster first baseman Jacob Tanis was charged with a dropped catch error as Vermont tried to complete the double play. That error proved costly as Segovia followed with a two-run homer to leftfield for a 3-0 Renegades lead.

Vermont got its only run and its first hit of the game with one-out in the fifth inning on a Dusty Robinson home run, his fifth homer in just 25 games this season for the Lake Monsters. Vermont had the tying runs in scoring position with one out in the sixth, but Bellatti got Aaron Shipman to flyout and Chad Oberacker to ground out to end the Lake Monsters last good chance to tie the game.

Bellatti (3-4) walked two and struckout six in his six innings for his third win, while Stayton Thomas allowed two hits and struckout three in three innings of relief for his second save. Vail (1-5) gave up three runs (two earned) on three hits with one walk and five strikeouts over five innings for the loss.

Vermont (33-30), which has won three of the first five games in the six-game series with the Renegades, will wrap up the series at Hudson Valley on Thursday at 7:05 pm. The first-place Lake Monsters then head to second-place Connecticut for single games against the Tigers on Friday and Saturday before the series switches to Vermont Sunday and Monday.