

## A's News Clips, Friday, August 26, 2011

### New York Yankees hit record three grand slams, rout Oakland A's 22-9

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- The A's took the field looking for a three-game sweep Thursday but instead made some unwanted history.

They watched an early six-run lead transform into a 22-9 loss to the New York Yankees, a 4-hour, 31-minute marathon that was every bit as ugly as the score suggested.

The Yankees became the first team in major league history to hit three grand slams in one game, as Robinson Cano, Russell Martin and Curtis Granderson all cleared the bases with homers.

Starting pitcher Rich Harden and five relievers combined to allow the most runs the A's have surrendered since moving to Oakland in 1968.

The final stats were enough to make the head spin, but the numbers all led back to the same question:

How did it happen?

The A's led 7-1 entering the bottom of the fourth, then watched the Yankees score 15 unanswered runs through the seventh.

"It only counts as one," A's manager Bob Melvin said of the loss. "Unfortunately, it was embarrassing. We had a lead and couldn't hold it, and it just got out of hand."

The A's won the first two of the series and were shooting for their first sweep of New York since taking three at Yankee Stadium from June 9-11, 2006.

Instead, they allowed the Yankees to tie their franchise mark for most runs scored in a home game. New York routed the Chicago White Sox 22-5 on July 26, 1931.

After sitting through a 1-hour, 29-minute rain delay, Oakland jumped ahead 7-1 thanks to a five-run third that included Cliff Pennington's three-run homer.

But things unraveled for Harden in the fifth, when Cano belted a grand slam to right that made it 7-6.

Harden left with one out in the fifth, and the A's bullpen issued 12 walks over the final 3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, an Oakland record for walks allowed by relievers.

The A's issued 13 free passes total -- all after the fourth inning -- the most walks they've allowed in a nine-inning game since Sept. 1, 1995, also against the Yankees.

New York took the lead for good on Martin's sixth-inning grand slam off Fautino De Los Santos (2-1), which made it 10-7.

Martin had the game of a lifetime, going 5 for 5 with two homers and six RBIs. But he was more amazed by his team's total output.

"Just to have an opportunity to hit three (slams) in a day is pretty special," Martin said. "They've been playing this game for a long time. Pretty much everything has already happened. I'm just waiting to see who can hit four."

A's left-hander Jordan Norberto allowed four runs and five walks in just two-thirds of an inning. Bruce Billings relieved him in the seventh and gave up seven runs on six hits and four walks in 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

"That was rough, to say the least," Billings said. "It just seemed like we were all out of sync."

Granderson connected off Billings in the eighth for New York's third grand slam. For all the legendary sluggers to wear Yankee pinstripes, no previous squad had accomplished such a feat.

But it's easier when you have 16 plate appearances with the bases loaded, as New York did.

The A's don't have much time to lick their wounds with a three-game series starting Friday at Boston. At 80-50, the Red Sox are the only A.L. team with a better record than the Yankees.

Melvin said he wants his team to feel good about taking two of three from New York and realize Thursday was just one game.

"Hopefully that's what it was," Harden said. "It's a frustrating one, but we've still got a game tomorrow, and that's what everybody's focus is."

Big Numbers

3 Grand slams by the Yankees, a major league record

12 Walks allowed by the A's bullpen in 32/3 innings

16 Plate appearances by the Yankees with the bases loaded

22 Most runs allowed by an A's team since moving to Oakland in 1968

### **As, Red Sox will play doubleheader Saturday because of Hurricane Irene**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

NEW YORK -- After the A's encountered an earthquake that rattled parts of New York City earlier this week, they will feel the effects of Hurricane Irene over the weekend in Boston.

With heavy storms from the Category 3 hurricane expected to hit New England on Sunday, the A's-Red Sox game was canceled for that day and rescheduled as part of a doubleheader Saturday.

The Red Sox announced the change Thursday. The first game Saturday will begin at 9 a.m. (PT) and the second at 2 p.m.

Meteorologists were expecting Irene to weaken by the time it travels up the East Coast and reaches the Boston area, but the Boston Globe reported Thursday that boats were being pulled from harbors as a precaution.

"You try to remain focused on today," A's manager Bob Melvin said before a 22-9 loss to the Yankees. "Then if you get there and you have to deal with it, you deal with it."

Melvin said Guillermo Moscoso, already scheduled to start Saturday, will pitch one game of the doubleheader and that he'd announce the second starter before Friday's series opener.

It's possible the team promotes a fresh bullpen arm or two for the doubleheader.

The A's will get a rare Sunday off in advance of a four-game series beginning Monday in Cleveland.

Like so many around baseball, Melvin is grieving the death of former Baltimore Orioles pitcher Mike Flanagan. The two were teammates in 1991, one of Melvin's three seasons as a catcher with Baltimore.

"You have a lot of acquaintances in the game, and I consider him a friend," Melvin said.

A's general manager Billy Beane has come up in speculation as a potential candidate for the Cubs' vacant G.M. position.

"It would be presumptuous and inappropriate to make a comment on speculation," Beane said by phone when asked if he would be interested in the job.

The A's will travel to Colorado and San Diego for their interleague road series next season.

### **Chin Music: 2:30 p.m. (ET) is rescheduled start time**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/25/2011 10:58am

First pitch is tentatively set for 2:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. West Coast). The grounds crew is taking the tarp off the field as I write ...

Key word here: "tentatively"

### **Chin Music: Rain delay for A's-Yankees; no start time yet**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/25/2011 10:30am

We're in a 25-minute rain delay so far. There's been no announcement yet on a start time for the A's-Yankees series finale. Rain is still falling lightly and the tarp is on the field. Weather.com predicts a 40-45 percent chance of rain until 4 p.m.

Stay tuned ...

« Can Cahill solve his woes against Yanks?  
Rain delay for A's-Yankees; no start time yet »

### **Chin Music: Possible rain delay at Yankee Stadium, and Bob Melvin's thoughts on Mike Flanagan**

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/25/2011 9:25am

The rain is coming down hard at Yankee Stadium, and we're inside an hour until first pitch. I'd be surprised if we're not looking at a rain delay of some sort. It could be a theme for this road trip, as heavy storms from Hurricane Irene could hit the New England area while we're in Boston this weekend. There's talk that a doubleheader might be scheduled for Saturday in order to avoid bad weather Sunday. But weather forecasts can change quickly. I'll keep you posted on any delays for today's game.

—Very sad news about the death of former Orioles pitcher Mike Flanagan. A's manager Bob Melvin, who was a catcher with Baltimore from 1989-91, was a teammate and considered Flanagan a good friend who taught him a lot about the game. They kept in touch over the years. "There's a lot of baseball people smarting today," Melvin said.

One of Melvin's most cherished memories: Catching Flanagan in the final game at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium in 1991. Someone snapped a photo of the two of them walking off the field together, and Flanagan had it blown up, framed, and gave it to Melvin ... Good stuff.

—A couple of headlines from New York papers, the morning after Coco Crisp's two-homer game beat the Yankees.

New York Post: "Burnt To A Crisp"  
Newsday: "Crisp Creamed"

—Today's lineups (assuming we'll have a game to watch)

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

Yanks: Jeter DH, Granderson CF, Teixeira 1B, Rodriguez 3B, Cano 2B, Swisher RF, Martin C, Nunez SS, Gardner LF; Hughes RHP.

### **Yankees hit 3 grand slams to bury A's 22-9**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Earthquake, check; hurricane, check - but a week of abnormal activity in New York did not, in the end, include an Oakland sweep at Yankee Stadium.

It did feature a major-league first: three grand slams by a team in a game. The Yankees, helped by a flood of walks, got slams from Robinson Cano in the fifth, Russell Martin in the sixth and Curtis Granderson in the eighth, and they torched the A's 22-9 on Thursday.

It was the most runs allowed by the A's since April 23, 1955, during the franchise's first year in Kansas City, in a 29-6 loss to the White Sox.

"It only counts as one, but unfortunately, today was embarrassing," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "We had the lead, we couldn't hold it, and it got out of hand."

For a while Thursday, strange as it sounds after the fact, it appeared as if the A's might actually take all three games. They held a 7-1 lead after three innings, and Rich Harden looked in good form.

It all started to fall apart in the fifth, though, when the A's began a pure meltdown, allowing 20 runs and 13 walks in a four-inning stretch. The bullpen was responsible for 12 walks, setting an Oakland record.

"Oh, geez, it was rough, to say the least," said reliever Bruce Billings, who walked four and gave up seven runs, four on Granderson's two-out grand slam in the eighth. "We definitely didn't want to go out and do that."

Billings, aware that the Yankees already had gone deep twice with the bases loaded, watched the flight of Granderson's ball with dismay.

"I was looking at it, hoping it was not going to go out," Billings said. "But when he hit it, he hit it good. ... I was just trying to make a good pitch, and that's all she wrote."

A's starter Rich Harden had allowed single runs in the first (an RBI groundout by Mark Teixeira) and fourth (a homer by Martin) - and then Cano's slam.

"It's a tough one," said Harden, who threw a changeup to Cano. "We get out to the big lead against this team and this lineup - that's what the Yankees do in this park. They put together big innings."

In the sixth inning, Craig Breslow hit Granderson and with one out, Fautino De Los Santos took over. He walked Alex Rodriguez and, with two outs, intentionally walked Swisher to bring up Martin. The catcher sent a drive into the seats in right.

De Los Santos, a rookie, had not allowed a run in nine of his previous 11 outings. He has now allowed six of his 11 inherited runners to score in his past 12 appearances. It was the first time in four appearances against the Yankees that De Los Santos had allowed a run.

The next inning, when Cano took a big swing against Jordan Norberto with the bases loaded, the crowd gasped as the ball sailed toward center, but it was just a sacrifice fly. The Yankees scored four more off Norberto, who walked five men in two-thirds of an innings.

"It's one of those days," Harden said. "For anybody who pitches, it's not a good day."

Scott Sizemore homered for Oakland in the eighth, and after Granderson got his slam off Billings in the bottom of the inning, Andruw Jones added a solo homer off Brian Fuentes.

"It seemed like we were all out of sync," Billings said. "I wasn't throwing the ball where I wanted it, and when you fall behind big hitters, they're going to make you pay."

Considering how much use the bullpen got, and how ineffective some of the relievers were, it's reasonable to assume that the A's will dip down to Triple-A Sacramento for relief help, with Joey Devine among the potential options.

By the end of the day, things had gotten so silly that longtime Yankees catcher Jorge Posada was playing second base, and he made the final out of the game, nearly getting first baseman Nick Swisher run over with his bullet throw into the dirt.

Even though they allowed a sweep to slip from their grasp, the A's had a good series at Yankee Stadium. Oakland had lost 16 of its previous 18 games there coming in, and the series victory interrupted the Yankees' string of 10 consecutive series wins overall against Oakland.

**3** - Yankees grand slams, most in a game in major-league history

**3** - Consecutive innings in which the Yankees batted around

**4** - Derek Jeter plate appearances with the bases loaded (two groundouts, one strikeout, one walk)

**12** - Walks allowed by A's relievers, a game high for the team since 1959

**15** - Unanswered Yankees runs

**17** - Yankees plate appearances with the bases loaded

**22** - Runs allowed by the A's, a game high for the team since 1955

**81.00** - Fautino De Los Santos' ERA for the game

**4:31** - Length of the game

### **A's-Red Sox game Sunday folded into Saturday DH**

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

Thursday's game was delayed for 1 hour, 29 minutes by rain, and the A's could be looking at more of the same at Boston.

With Hurricane Irene heading up the coast, poor weather is forecast, particularly for Sunday's game at Fenway Park, so that game will get moved up a day.

The teams will play a doubleheader at Boston on Saturday, with games at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. PDT. Boston and Oakland have no common off days the rest of the season, and thus would have no potential makeup dates in the event of a rainout.

The doubleheader will necessitate a callup for Oakland, because Sunday's scheduled starter, **Brandon McCarthy**, would not be used on three days' rest given his history of recurring shoulder stress fractures. **Guillermo Moscoso** will start one of the two games.

Triple-A Sacramento's starter Saturday is **Josh Outman**, but **Graham Godfrey**, who is slated to go tonight for the River Cats, is having the better season (13-3, 2.75).

**Flanagan memories:** **Bob Melvin** was friends with former Orioles pitcher **Mike Flanagan**, found dead at the age of 59 on Wednesday. Melvin said the news "hit me hard. A lot of people in the baseball world are smarting today.

"This guy affected a lot of people. He was a leader on teams, he taught me a lot as a battery mate."

Melvin said he cherishes a framed photo that Flanagan gave him that depicts the two of them coming off the field after the Orioles' final game at Memorial Stadium in 1991. Melvin caught Flanagan, who finished up the game for Baltimore.

**Briefly:** **Jemile Weeks** had three hits and scored two runs, and **Cliff Pennington** hit a three-run homer in the third inning. That came on the very first pitch from reliever **Cory Wade**, who'd just entered the game in place of New York starter **Phil Hughes**. ... **Anthony Recker** was behind the plate, making his big-league debut. He walked, struck out three times and grounded out. Recker, who hails from nearby Allentown, Pa., had his parents, sister, grandmother and uncle on hand.

**Big night:** Coco Crisp and Scott Sizemore on Wednesday were the first teammates to both go 4 for 4 or better against the Yankees since Cleveland's Earl Averill and Hal Trosky in 1938. The headline in the New York Post: Burnt to a Crisp.

### **A's stadium uncertainty could push Billy Beane out**

John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

Lew Wolff was on the phone with his eyes glued to a television set. He was watching his A's pursue a three-game sweep of the Yankees, beating the Bronx Bombers at their own game.

Home run after home run after home run.

"Now (Cliff) Pennington's hit one. This is fun," Wolff said in a giddy third-inning tone Friday. Eventually, reality hit, and the A's turned a 7-1 advantage into a 22-9 loss and were denied their first sweep at Yankee Stadium (new or old) since 2006, Wolff's second year as managing general partner.

The Yankees are making their annual drive to the postseason, challenging Boston for first place in the American League East. Most likely, the loser gets the wild card. The stakes are high, and the future encompasses a World Series-or-bust mentality that accompanies the team with by far the biggest payroll.

It's three times the size of Oakland's, as Wolff mentioned in the phone call.

The A's have a different future. No October baseball. No guarantee that any of the free agents to be - many of whom have contributed to the team's winning record since the All-Star break - will return. No plans for a photo-op display of sinking ceremonial shovels into San Jose or Oakland soil.

It explains the speculation around baseball, as reported in Thursday's Sporting Green by Susan Slusser, that A's general manager Billy Beane might go elsewhere. With nothing to report 29 months after Commissioner Bud Selig appointed his three-man committee to analyze the A's stadium options, there's no reason to believe Beane isn't getting antsy as the face of a franchise stuck in neutral.

If not reverse.

The Cubs' GM job is open with Jim Hendry's firing, and The Chronicle report suggested Beane might consider an offer if the Cubs called. His A's contract runs through 2014, but Wolff said Thursday he wouldn't stand in the way if Beane desires another challenge in another market.

A job could open elsewhere. If the Dodgers' Ned Colletti or Yankees' Brian Cashman takes over the Cubs, a gig would be available in Los Angeles or New York.

"I would never inhibit anybody from bettering themselves because of a contract," said Wolff, who had lunch with Beane on Wednesday and said no team has called regarding his GM. "Billy is fantastic and, to me, indispensable. My hope is he will be here a long time. I did promise Billy and all the guys we would have a venue so they would be able to further execute their abilities, and I think that will happen."

Sounds optimistic.

"I have to be," Wolff said. "There is no choice for us, for the good of baseball. It's sad it's taking this long."

He added, "I'm going to build a new stadium for the A's, and if I'm not, someone will," but he was quick to point out he didn't mean he'd move the club or sell to out-of-town interests, instead mentioning his son, Keith (vice president of venue development) as a possible baton receiver. "We're working every day. If it doesn't happen, we'll go to Plan B, which I don't have."

Wolff cited Brandon Allen (from Arizona) and Scott Sizemore (from Detroit) as in-season acquisitions that "take a little more thought" by a GM who's restricted financially, which Beane is in Oakland and wouldn't be in Chicago, New York or Los Angeles.

Beane made a legendary comment after the A's lost to Boston in the 2003 Division Series - "Give me \$50 million" for a promise of more postseason success. He'd get that extra \$50 million with the Cubs and a chance to bring Chicago's North Side a championship after 103 years without one, which would crown him Emperor of the Midwest.

Instead of Marco Scutaro, he'd be wooing Albert Pujols, a bit more fruitful asset. But Beane paraded down this road before, accepting and then rejecting a five-year contract to run the Red Sox. He liked the challenge (and freedom to wear flip-flops) in Oakland as well as the creativity required to equip David (not Forst) against Goliath.

But a guy can maintain passion only so long when the leaders of his industry think so unfavorably of his franchise that they ask it to sit tight for 29 months on an issue that should be front and center.

Whether he'd want to leave, apparently, is Beane's choice. If he's free to go, as Wolff suggests, he could zoom to the top of a team's wish list. His reputation remains solid despite no winning records in five years. Not many other GMs have Brad Pitt playing them in upcoming movies.

"Billy and his people have done everything I asked for and more, and I want to give them everything they've asked for," said Wolff, referring to a new ballpark. "This year, we lost four starting pitchers in less than three weeks and two for the season, and that's hard for any team to compete with. The hitting Billy brought in is now there. We've got better balance."

Unfortunately for the A's, time has run out.

Has it also run out on Beane?

### **Drumbeat: Rain could change East Coast schedule; Anthony Recker in A's lineup**

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at Yankee Stadium, 8/25/2011, 9:09am

The back cover of today's Post. The website headline: Cuckoo after Coco Pops

No word yet on a start time for today's game, but there's going to have to be some delay; it's been raining pretty solidly for 45 minutes.

This could be an ugly stretch of weather for the A's - and for the Yankees and Red Sox, who are neck-and-neck in a division race. The A's head next to Boston, where heavy rain is expected, especially on Sunday. I'm hearing that the Red Sox are having internal discussions about a potential doubleheader on Saturday to get the entire series in. The A's and Red Sox share no days off the rest of the way, so Boston really needs to squeeze the games in this weekend somehow.

The Yankees might have a real challenge getting a scheduled five-game series in at Baltimore starting tomorrow - Hurricane Irene is coming up the East Coast. If the Yankees have several of those games, which already include a doubleheader, rained out, their September - and maybe October - could include some strange makeup possibilities.

If this game does get played today, Anthony Recker is in the lineup and he'd be making his big-league debut. He told me he's actually caught Rich Harden quite a few times between various spring trainings and rehab starts.

Here's the lineup: Weeks 2b, Crisp cf, Matsui dh, Willingham lf, Allen 1b, DeJesus rf, Pennington ss, Recker c, Sizemore 3b.

My friend Jack Curry of the YES Network passed along this tidbit this morning: Coco Crisp and Scott Sizemore are the first teammates to both go 4 for 4 or better against the Yankees since Cleveland's Earl Averill and Hal Trosky in 1938.

A's manager Bob Melvin reminisced today about his friend and former teammate Mike Flanagan, who died yesterday. Melvin caught Flanagan during the final game at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium and he says he cherishes a photo Flanagan had framed of the two of them coming off the field together that day.

"It hit me hard," Melvin said of yesterday's news. "He was a good friend of mine. ... This guy affected a lot of people, he was a leader on teams. He taught me a lot as a batterymate."

### **A's lose control after early outburst in Bronx**

#### **Bullpen issues 12 walks, setting club record in humbling loss**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- A darkening sky moved furiously over Yankee Stadium on Thursday evening, one lengthy storm having already passed through and another on its way above the field.

In the Bronx, the former wasn't defined so much by the one-hour, 29-minute rain delay that slowed the start of the A's series finale against the Yankees, but more so by the wild tempest that took place after.

Oakland fell victim to a historic Yankees rout, a 22-9 pounding. By day's end, it was just one loss. But it also resulted in multiple records that were never necessarily meant to be broken.

The 22 runs allowed were an Oakland record and the most offered up in A's history since a 29-6 loss against Chicago in 1955. Twelve of the Yankees' runs on Thursday were the result of three grand slams, marking the first time in Major League history any team had tallied that many in a game.

"It's pretty amazing," said Yankees catcher Russell Martin, who hit the second slam. "This game has been played for a long time. Pretty much everything has already happened. I'm waiting to see who's going to hit four -- I don't know if it's ever going to happen, but we'll see."



The A's weren't as amused by the feat. And perhaps even more disheartening was the fact that there were also 10 Yankees runs *not* scored via grand slams. Most can be traced back to walks. The A's issued 13 free passes -- the most since they walked 13 on Sept. 1, 1995, against the Yankees -- and watched their bullpen allow 12 walks, an Oakland record.

Jordan Norberto was responsible for five of the walks, and he was one of six A's hurlers on the day who combined to throw 235 pitches over a span of four hours and 31 minutes, which added to the list of Oakland records -- this one for longest nine-inning game.

"That was rough, to say the least," said righty Bruce Billings, who tossed 57 of those pitches and walked four. "We definitely don't want to go out there and do that."

"It only counts as one," manager Bob Melvin said. "Unfortunately, it was embarrassing."

It was just months ago, before the onset of injuries and underachieving play blurred visions of contention, that the A's were tabbed as a potential postseason threat.

Such a notion has vanished, but that same club has inherited the role of spoiler -- a responsibility that entails duties not so favorable against teams like the Yankees, who fell victim to the A's scrappy attack on Monday and Tuesday.

But on Thursday, it was the Yankees who were disguised as spoilers -- more like middle-school bullies or, rather, middle-inning bullies, as they sent 40 men to the plate between the fifth and eighth innings while erasing what was once a comfortable 7-1 A's lead, scoring 15 unanswered runs.

Had the A's clung to their early six-run advantage, it would have marked the first time they had swept a series from the Bronx Bombers since June 2006 in New York. Still, just by winning the series, the A's snapped a 10-series losing streak to the Yankees -- the longest such stretch in Oakland history against any team.

So despite Thursday's disheartening loss, the A's opened an intimidating 10-game road swing through New York, Boston and Cleveland with an encouraging series win.

Not one day of Oakland's stay in the Big Apple, though, was exactly pretty. Closer Andrew Bailey's ninth-inning meltdown on Tuesday nearly wiped away a sizable A's lead, and a back-and-forth game on Wednesday went into the 10th inning, when Coco Crisp's three-run homer set up the win. Thursday, though, was downright ugly.

With his team up, 7-2, through four innings, starter Rich Harden left Oakland with just a one-run advantage thanks to Robinson Cano's fifth-inning grand slam. The homer wiped away an otherwise respectable start from the righty, who gave up two other runs -- the latter a fourth-inning solo shot to Martin.

"On the home run, it was a changeup I wanted middle-down, middle-away, and it just kind of cut back into his bat," Harden said. "It's a tough one. We got out to a pretty big early lead against this team and this lineup."

New York's second grand slam came just an inning later, this one a go-ahead shot from Martin against righty Fautino De Los Santos, who had loaded the bases on three walks, the last an intentional free pass issued to Nick Swisher.

Martin's heroic ways, which culminated in a five-hit, six-RBI day and two home runs, let starting pitcher Phil Hughes off the hook after the Yankees right-hander had been pushed aside following just 2 2/3 innings, having allowed six runs on seven hits with no walks and five strikeouts.

A dose of small ball got the A's going in the first inning, and power put them ahead temporarily in a five-run third, which was highlighted by Cliff Pennington's sixth homer of the season -- a first-pitch three-run shot off Yankees reliever Cory Wade.

"We had a lead and couldn't hold it, and it just got out of hand," Melvin said. "Once we got into the middle innings, we couldn't stop it. It's a good offensive club, and we got behind in the count with bad pitches."

The slugfest included a pair of six-run frames -- the seventh and eighth -- the latter which brought about grand slam No. 3, a blast from Curtis Granderson off Billings, who got pounded for seven earned runs in just 1 1/3 innings.

"I was looking at it, hoping it was not going to get out," Billings said. "I'm not trying to think about not giving up another grand slam there -- just trying to make a pitch. You're trying to slow the game down as much as possible. It just seemed like if I did make a pitch, trying to make another right after, I couldn't."

Unfortunately, it was an overwhelming trend.

"It was one of those days that, with anybody pitching, just not a good day," Harden said. "They had to battle against a tough lineup, especially the way they were swinging today. They were fouling off good pitches, hitting good pitches and hitting mistakes, too.

"It's frustrating, but we still have a game tomorrow, and that's where everybody's focus is going to be. It's over. It's behind us. Not much you can do about it now."

### **A's Sunday finale added to Saturday's slate**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

NEW YORK -- With Hurricane Irene expected to make its way through the Northeast this weekend, the A's three-game slate against the Red Sox in Boston has been altered, with Sunday's game being moved up a day, setting up a day-night doubleheader on Saturday.

The split-admission twin bill will be played at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. PT, as the hurricane is predicted to arrive in the area in the late evening.

As a result, A's manager Bob Melvin will likely call up a starter from Triple-A Sacramento for the second contest, with Guillermo Moscoso still set for his scheduled turn on Saturday in the first game. Right-hander Brandon McCarthy, originally slated for Sunday, is now likely to pitch on Monday in Cleveland, with the rest of the rotation pushed back as well.

Right-hander Graham Godfrey, scheduled to pitch for the River Cats on Friday, is a strong possibility to make the spot start. He is 13-3 with a 2.75 ERA in 18 games -- 17 starts -- for Sacramento this season. Melvin, though, isn't expected to make a decision until Friday.

The A's could also stand to bring aboard some relief help, with Melvin in need of fresh arms for Friday's series opener after he was forced to use five relievers in Thursday's 22-9 loss to the Yankees.

Jordan Norberto tossed 38 pitches in the contest, and Bruce Billings needed 57 in his appearance, leaving the A's without a long-relief option.

### **Loss of 'good friend' Flanagan stuns Melvin**

NEW YORK -- Following Wednesday's 6-4 win -- his club's second in as many games at Yankee Stadium -- A's manager Bob Melvin found a joyful night turn somber upon learning of the death of friend and former Orioles teammate Mike Flanagan, who was just 59.

The A's skipper, nearly too shocked for words, returned to the ballpark on Thursday morning with fond recollections of Flanagan, a left-handed starter who spent 15 of his 18 Major League seasons in Baltimore.

"It hit me hard," Melvin said. "He was a good friend of mine. My thoughts and prayers are obviously with his family. Watching some of the news stuff today, guys like Jim Palmer and Cal Ripken, guys like that were very close to him. You can see how this guy affected a lot of people. He was a leader on teams and taught me an awful lot."

The batterymates shared a special moment in 1991, when Flanagan threw the last pitch in the history of Memorial Stadium to Melvin.

"That was a big day for him," Melvin said. "He was honored to be able to pitch the last inning, and I was able to catch him, and I remember him striking out Travis Fryman on a 3-2 breaking ball and him walking off the mound. There was a picture caught at some point, and he had that framed for me years later. It's one that I feature at home. It means a lot to me."

Melvin and Flanagan were teammates for only one season, but their friendship spanned even longer.

"You have a lot of acquaintances in the game," Melvin said. "I consider him a friend."

### **Familiarity with Harden earns Recker first start**

NEW YORK -- A history with starting pitcher Rich Harden was enough to influence A's manager Bob Melvin to hand catcher Anthony Recker, a recent callup, his first Major League start in the confines of Yankee Stadium for Thursday's series finale.

"We kind of eyed this day," Melvin said. "He's [caught] Harden some, so there is some familiarity there."

Recker, who will turn 28 on Monday, was batting .287 with 16 home runs and 48 RBIs in 99 games with the Triple-A Sacramento River Cats. He led the club with a .388 on-base percentage while appearing in 61 contests at catcher and 25 at first base.

With Recker behind the plate on Thursday, Kurt Suzuki -- just 1-for-8 lifetime against Yankees starter Phil Hughes -- received the day off.

### **Wakefield's quest for win No. 200 continues**

By Joey Nowak / MLB.com

It's time for Tim Wakefield to give it another shot.

The veteran knuckleballer will once again take to the hill Friday, this time against the Athletics, as he continues to search for win No. 200.

The Athletics, who took two out of three against the Yankees in New York but whose pitching staff was embarrassed in a 22-9 blowout loss on Thursday, have won six of their last nine after dropping four straight. The first-place Red Sox are working on a season for the record books and enter Thursday having won 24 of 39 since the All-Star break.

Wakefield can become the 108th pitcher to reach the plateau, but he must bounce back from an outing in which the Red Sox led by three runs before Kansas City erupted during an eight-run sixth inning.

"It is what it is," said Wakefield, who is 0-2 in five starts since recording his 199th career win on July 24, despite allowing four runs or fewer in each start. "We're trying to win the game, not trying to do a favor for me. We're trying to win the game as a team."

It will be no small task for Wakefield on Friday, as he goes up against Gio Gonzalez, who got just the bounce-back start he needed in his last outing, when he surrendered just one hit in eight frames Saturday against the Blue Jays. He had previously allowed 24 earned runs over 27 1/3 innings.

"My composure has been a little rough after [the All-Star break]," Gonzalez said after he snapped his five-start losing streak. "But little by little, I started building and keeping my composure, and also building my confidence within every pitch."

Gonzalez is 1-6 with a 5.06 ERA in eight starts against AL East teams this year compared to a 9-5 mark and 2.43 ERA in 17 starts against all other teams. He's 1-1 with a 5.64 ERA in four career starts against Boston.

### **Red Sox: Holding it down**

- Reliever Daniel Bard leads the American League with 30 holds, second-most in the Majors behind Washington's Tyler Clippard (32).

Bard was just two shy of tying his club mark (since the stat was established in 1969) that he established last season.

- First baseman Adrian Gonzalez has hit five homers in his last three games and is batting .444 (12-for-27) with 10 RBIs over his last seven games.

### **Athletics: Wake up the bats**

- The Oakland lineup is batting .330 (37-for-112) with 21 runs in the first three games of this road trip after hitting just .213 with 31 runs in 10 games over the course of the team's last homestand.

- After a record streak of 98 connective games with two home runs or fewer, the A's hit three on Tuesday night and have now hit seven in their last three games.

### **Worth noting**

- The A's, on a tough road trip that includes stops in New York, Boston and Cleveland, have won six of their last eight games away from Oakland.

- The Red Sox have scored double-digit runs 20 times this season, tops in the Majors.

- The Red Sox announced that Sunday's game has been moved to Saturday, creating a split admission doubleheader in attempts to avoid Hurricane Irene. Tickets for Sunday's game are good for the second portion of the twin bill scheduled for 5 p.m.

### **Jets, Giants, Red Sox Adjust Schedules as Hurricane Irene Nears**

Bloomberg

The New York Giants and Jets brought forward by five hours the starting time of their National Football League preseason game tomorrow ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Irene.

In other changes to the sporting calendar, the Red Sox canceled a Major League Baseball game scheduled for Aug. 28 against the Oakland Athletics at Fenway Park in Boston and will instead play a doubleheader tomorrow.

The U.S. PGA Tour's first playoff tournament, the Barclays, may end after three rounds or continue into Aug. 30, while Major League Soccer altered times and dates for games in Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

Irene, a Category 3 hurricane, is expected to peak with winds of 120 miles (193 kilometers) per hour, according to the National Hurricane Center. The forecast calls for moderate to heavy rain and strong winds to move into New England tomorrow and Sunday. Irene was 490 miles south-southwest of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, at 11 p.m. eastern time last night, moving north-northeast at 14 miles per hour.

More than 65 million people from North Carolina to Maine are in the path of the hurricane, according to data compiled by Bloomberg News.

Governors Andrew Cuomo of New York and Chris Christie of New Jersey declared emergencies yesterday, with Christie urging people to leave the shore by midday today.

Tomorrow's game between the Giants and Jets at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, will begin at 2 p.m. local time.

'Safety and Welfare'

"There are, obviously, many issues to consider. Our players played a game on Monday night, the stadium personnel has to secure the building post-game and, most importantly, the safety and welfare of Giants and Jets fans," Giants President and Chief Executive Officer John Mara said in an e-mail. "We felt like this is the right thing to do."

The Red Sox will play the first game against the Athletics at noon tomorrow instead of 1:35 p.m., with the second scheduled for 5 p.m.

"It was necessary and prudent to move the Sunday game to Saturday," Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino said in a statement. "This will not only give us the best opportunity to play the scheduled games, but also help to insure that traveling conditions are safer for our fans."

Yankees-Orioles Go

The New York Yankees travel to Baltimore today for a five- game series against the Orioles that includes a doubleheader tomorrow. There has been no decision to change the schedule, Yankees spokesman Michael Margolis said.

Rain caused a 3 hour, 16 minute delay in first-round play at golf's Barclays tournament at Plainfield County Club Edison, New Jersey, yesterday. Organizers will try to complete the remainder of the first round plus the second round today.

Stewart Williams, the PGA Tour's on-site meteorologist, told the Golf Channel there could be as much as 10 inches (25cm) of rain on an already soaked course and possibly hurricane strength winds.

"If this place gets 10 inches of rain two weeks in a row, I don't know how playable this golf course is going to be," Charley Hoffman, who is 5-under par after an opening round of 66, told reporters.

In soccer, D.C. United's game against the Portland Timbers at RFK Stadium in Washington tomorrow was moved to 2 p.m. from 7:30 p.m. The Philadelphia Union's matchup at PPL Park with the New England Revolution was postponed until Sept. 7 from Aug. 28, while the New York Bulls put back their game against the Los Angeles Galaxy at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, New Jersey, to Oct. 4 from Aug. 28.

"We expect that Hurricane Irene will likely cause hazardous travel and unplayable conditions throughout the northeast," Nelson Rodriguez, executive vice president of MLS competition and game operations, said in a statement.

### **A's slammed by Yanks, 22-9**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Yankees became the first team in major league history to hit three grand slams in a game, with Robinson Cano, Russell Martin and Curtis Granderson connecting Thursday in a wet, wild 22-9 romp over the Oakland Athletics.

In nearly a century of storied slugging, the Bronx Bombers never enjoyed a day like this.

On a dreary afternoon, some fans headed home with the Yankees trailing 7-1 after three innings and rain still falling in a game that began after an 89-minute delay.

Turns out they missed the Yankees coming home — over and over and over.

Cano began the barrage with his slam in the fifth off starter Rich Harden, making it 7-6. Martin connected in the sixth off Fautino De Los Santos for a 10-7 lead. Granderson took his turn in eighth, launching a two-out drive off Bruce Billings.

"It's a pretty crazy accomplishment, when you think about it," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "It's amazing."

Martin homered twice and doubled, setting career highs with five hits and six RBIs. Cano drove in five runs as the Yankees pulled off their biggest comeback win since 2006 and avoided a three-game sweep.

With MLB approaching its 200,000th regular season game next month, the Yankees put on a unique show with their bats — and gloves, too.

Former All-Star catcher Jorge Posada made his first career appearance at second base and had the final play, fielding a grounder and firing a one-hop throw that knocked over first baseman Nick Swisher and left him laughing as he caught it.

The Yankees had their chances to hit even more slams.

They came at bat a startling 17 times with the bases loaded — Derek Jeter alone got four tries, He grounded out twice, struck out and walked in those spots.

"I don't if I've ever heard of a stat of a guy being up four times with the bases loaded," Girardi said.

Jeter did get three hits and briefly boosted his average to .300. Quite a climb from that July day that began with him mired at .257 and ended with him getting his 3,000th career hit.

Granderson's slam gave him 103 RBIs. The Yankees had hit two slams in a game three times, but never at home.

The Yankees scored six times in the seventh, helped by seven walks in the inning, and six more in the eighth.

Cliff Pennington homered, doubled and drove in four runs for the A's. Scott Sizemore also homered.

Yet for all the gigantic hits, this day seemed to turn on something much more elementary — the weather.

Yankees fans weren't in a forgiving mood. They booed when a battered Phil Hughes walked off in the third inning and jeered when Pennington hit reliever Cory Wade's first pitch for a three-run homer that put the Athletics ahead 7-1.

But there was a big cheer when the sun poked through the clouds as the A's batted in the fourth. In-between innings, the stadium sound crew played "Here Comes the Sun" by the Beatles.

Moments later, the Yankees bats came out, too.

Martin began New York's rally with a solo home run in the fourth. Cano lined his second slam of the season and sixth of his career the next inning with a liner to right field.

Martin hit his slam the next inning, sending a fly barely over the wall in right-center for a 10-7. Martin took a curtain call after his third career slam.

Granderson capped the outburst with a no-doubt drive to right center.

The last time the Yankees had hit two grand slams in a game was Sept. 14, 1999, when Bernie Williams and Paul O'Neill did it at Toronto.

This was the seventh time the A's franchise gave up two slams in a game, STATS LLC said. Detroit's Ryan Raburn and Brandon Inge did it last in 2009 and he first came in 1936, when Tony Lazzeri of the Yankees hit a pair at Philadelphia.

Boone Logan (4-2) got the win and De Los Santos (2-1) lost.

Alex Rodriguez returned to the Yankees' lineup after missing two games with a sprained left thumb. He had two hits and scored three runs.

NOTES: Jeter lined a leadoff triple in the first and scored — he passed Rickey Henderson for 21st place on the career hits list with 3,056 and edged past Jimmie Foxx for 20th on the runs list with 1,752. ... Hideki Matsui fouled off eight pitches before hitting a sacrifice fly in the first. His next time up, he lined a hard foul into the seats down the right-field line that injured a man. Paramedics bandaged the left side of the fan's face, which appeared to be bleeding. The man gave a thumbs-up to the crowd as he walked away under his own power, with stadium personnel around him. ... Cano singled his first time up, extending his hitting streak to 16 games. ... A's catcher Anthony Recker made his big league debut and went 0 for 4, striking out three times and drawing a walk. ... The Yankees are scheduled to open a five-game, four-day series in Baltimore on Friday. A.J. Burnett (9-10, 4.96) is to oppose Baltimore's Tommy Hunter (2-2, 4.95). ... Gio Gonzalez (10-11, 3.24) is set to start Friday night for the A's at Fenway Park. He is 2-5 with a 5.31 ERA since the All-Star break. Tim Wakefield (6-5, 4.97) will make his sixth try for his 200th career win. ... Yankees LHP Pedro Feliciano (left shoulder tear) struck out one on his 35th birthday during a perfect inning in a Gulf Coast League game. It was the reliever's first game since getting hurt at spring training. ... New York LHP Damaso Marte, coming back from shoulder surgery, gave up six runs and six hits while getting only two outs in his first GCL game.

### **Ratto: Beane could be agent of change for Cubs**

Ray Ratto, CSNBayArea.com

According to our good friend and accuracy purveyor Comrade Susan Slusser, A's general manager Billy Beane is suddenly a live name as the next general manager of the Chicago Cubs.

We will now pause while you all do your death-wish jokes.

There. Anyway, Slusser tells us that speculation grows that Beane, who could get caught in the switches if the A's ownership wearies of waiting for the hole for a stadium to appear in San Jose, could be ready for a change.

The worst possible change in all of baseball, if truth be told.

The Cubs have an infrastructure of fetishized failure, and by that we mean that whenever there's a hint of triumph in the air, someone in town is sure to bring up The Goat Of Doom. Or Bartman The Merciless. Or The Black Cat Of '69. Or some other folkloric reminder that the Cubs have gone 103 years without a World Series.

And in truth, Billy Beane's powers do not extend that far.

It would be fascinating to see Beane working with twice the budget he's had in Oakland, and an ownership whose long-term planning exceeds waiting for the revenue-sharing check to arrive.

Expectations have died in Oakland, and the team needs a new façade. Not necessarily a new face; Beane could come out tomorrow and say, "We're sick and tired of being irrelevant, and we're going to be that change," but the hologrammatic John Fisher and minority partner Lew Wolff would know who would take the blame when people start connecting the dots.

So no, the A's have become a dead end of their own choosing by colonizing a land without any tents or provisions. They have chosen inertia over action, and in this area, with this level of competition, that is a death wish.

That would be the prime motivation for Beane to consider the Cubs. His family situation has changed; his daughter is schooling in Ohio, and his twins are not yet system-educable. He has freedom of movement he hasn't had before.

But the Cubs are a load, and have strewn the bones of hardier men behind them on their remorseless climb to and settlement at the lower half of the mean. It is a job more daunting than any of the others that will come open soon — say, like the Dodgers — because the culture is not acquiescent of failure, as some are, but oddly proud about it, like an ugly statue in the town square that people have come to love because it's just so damned old.

Plus, Beane would be viewed as an agent of change, and change is strangely distrusted in CubWorld. The ivy has been there since Phil Wrigley and Bill Veeck put it there 80-some-odd years ago. The scoreboard hasn't changed in forever. The park is a monument to itself. If Billy Beane wants to go to Chicago and rouse the rabble, he will find the rabble doesn't rouse for much — except maybe when it comes time to turn on the rouser.

Beane could call Dusty Baker for more information on that if he wishes.

But nothing is impossible or unthinkable, and as we see every day, the improbable is normal and the impossible is always an hour away. Beane could be the new face of the Chicago Cubs for the right amount of money and autonomy. He could be ready for a move; staying in Oakland with this ownership strategy hasn't exactly elevated his profile.

He must know, though, that running the Cubs is a stunt man's job. He has to be ready to be blown up, set ablaze, tossed from a roof and shot several times coming out of a speakeasy (they like period pieces in that town). And be ready to keep doing it until they simply tire of you and demand a new stunt man.

It's a great lousy job. Or a terrible great one. Either way, Billy Beane might be ready for a change. Even this one.

### **Unlikely Power From A's Sends Yankees to Second Consecutive Loss**

By DAVID WALDSTEIN, New York Times, 8/25/2011

Coco Crisp is known for many things, including his talent as a center fielder, his ability to hit from both sides of the plate, and of course his name. With only 72 home runs in his 10-year career, however, he is definitely not known as a slugger.

But with three swings of the bat on Wednesday night, Crisp slugged the life out of the Yankees, driving in five runs. Most of those came on his three-run home run in the top of the 10th inning, his second blast of the game, to lead the Oakland Athletics to a 6-4 victory over the Yankees.

Crisp hit his home runs from each side of the plate, and each came on the first pitch of the at-bats. He collected four hits in all and reached base five times.

"Tremendous game," said Yankees outfielder Nick Swisher, who also homered twice. "He homers from both sides of the plate. It was crazy. He went up with no batting gloves; I thought he was trying to change things up a bit."

Crisp came into the game with only five hits in his previous 34 at-bats, and had only once before homered twice in a game.

But still, the Yankees had their chances to win.

After C. C. Sabathia and David Robertson, the Yankees' two most reliable pitchers all year, combined to blow an eighth-inning lead, the Athletics rode Crisp's power to their second consecutive victory over the Yankees, enabling them to claim their first series against them after 10 consecutive series losses to the Yankees dating to 2007.

The loss also sent the Yankees back into second place in the American League East, a game behind the Boston Red Sox as the teams continue to seesaw their way into September.

After Swisher hit the first of his two home runs in the sixth inning — the second came in the 10th — the Yankees led, 2-1, with Sabathia on the mound in search of his 18th victory. And for much of the game he looked dominant. But the 18th win would prove elusive as the Athletics scored twice in the top of the eighth, with Scott Sizemore and Crisp recording the R.B.I. singles.

Sizemore also had four hits as he and Crisp accounted for 8 of the Athletics' 11 hits.

With the Yankees leading, 2-1, in the eighth, Kurt Suzuki led off with a single off Sabathia and was sacrificed to second by Cliff Pennington. That brought Yankees Manager Joe Girardi from the dugout to confer, but he left Sabathia in to finish the job.

"I was just telling him, 'This is your game, let's go,' " Girardi said.



The fans cheered the decision to stay with Sabathia, but Sizemore doubled into the left-field corner, scoring Suzuki to make it 2-2. Then Robertson gave up Crisp's bouncer up the middle; it just eluded the reach of second baseman Robinson Cano and scored Sizemore from second as the A's took a 3-2 lead.

Sabathia blamed himself for not getting out of that inning a lot earlier.

"Tonight was totally my fault," he said. "Like I said, 2-1 game in the eighth, we've got the lead. It's time for me to shut it down."

Sabathia was not charged with the loss. In the bottom of the eighth, Mark Teixeira drove a 3-1 pitch from Grant Balfour into the second deck in right field for his 35th home run, tying him with Curtis Granderson for the team lead, and the score was tied.

The blast enlivened the 47,271 fans at Yankee Stadium, and they were more encouraged when Mariano Rivera threw a perfect ninth. But in the top of the 10th, Soriano gave up one-out hits to Pennington and Sizemore. Soriano struck out Jemile Weeks to offer the fans some hope with two outs, but Crisp was walking to the plate again.

Although he normally looks for fastballs first and then reacts to an off-speed pitch, Crisp went hunting for a first-pitch slider, and he got it.

"I thought slider; it hit the barrel," Crisp said. "But that's not something I should do."

After the home run, Soriano got Hideki Matsui out, but by then it was too late, and he walked off the field to loud booing.

"It's part of the game," Soriano said. "They do it to people playing better than me, so I don't worry about that."

## INSIDE PITCH

Alex Rodriguez missed his second straight game with a strained left thumb, but he was hopeful he could play Thursday. ... The Yankees claimed Cubs first baseman Carlos Pena off the waiver wire and would have to conclude a trade with Chicago to acquire him, but the Yankees were not encouraged that a deal could be worked out. While not referring directly to their Pena claim, which was first reported by SI.com, General Manager Brian Cashman said he did not expect any trades. "I will continue to scan everything, but, no, I'm not optimistic," he said. "I think this is most likely what we got." The Yankees are looking at the possibility of calling up Jesus Montero in September and using him at designated hitter. ... Derek Jeter had two hits to pass Rod Carew and tie Rickey Henderson for 21st on the career list with 3,055.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Fresno tops playoff-bound River Cats**

By Mike Morris / Sacramento River Cats

Sacramento tried to claw their way back into the game Thursday night but Fresno prevailed, winning game two of the four-game series, 7-4.

River Cats' starter Tyson Ross (2-1, 8.17) made an early exit, allowing nine hits and seven runs. Fresno starter Shane Loux (6-12, 4.78) pitched well early, picking up the win.

Ross came into the game with two consecutive wins, looking to get his third win in a row and make up for his last appearance against Fresno where he allowed seven hits and four runs through 3.1 innings.

The Grizzlies got on the board early and often, scoring six runs before the third inning was over.

Ross walked Fresno shortstop Brandon Crawford moments before Edgar Gonzalez doubled to right, putting him in position to score on the Brett Pill sacrifice fly.

Fresno followed that inning with a four-run inning that saw eight Grizzlies batters come to the plate, with four touching home. Fresno scored one more for good measure in the third to extend their lead to six runs.

The River Cats made some noise in the sixth inning, but the three runs they scored weren't enough.

Catcher Landon Powell led off the third inning with a single to left but was unable to score. In the top of the fourth inning Jermaine Mitchell singled to left and moved into scoring position after a Wes Timmons walk, but neither player would touch home that inning.

Meanwhile in New York, Anthony Recker made his Major League debut Thursday night in New York on a stage unlike any other at the new Yankee Stadium. Recker reached base on a walk in the game.

The River Cats look to take game three of the series Friday night with Graham Godfrey (3-2, 5.19 ERA) faces left-hander Matt Yourkin (9-6, 4.59). Tune-in to hear Johnny Dostkow call the game at 7:05 p.m. on Talk 650 KSTE.

### **RockHounds game rained out**

Jordan Mason, Midland Reporter-Telegram

The third game of the Midland RockHounds' four-game series against the Corpus Christi Hooks was postponed Thursday due to inclement weather.

The teams will finish the series today in a doubleheader that will feature two seven-inning games with the first scheduled to start at 5 p.m. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m.

The second game will begin approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first game.

Thursday's game never got started before RockHounds staff pulled the tarp over the field due to rain and lightning in the area.

The crew began removing the tarp at approximately 8:35 p.m., with the game scheduled to begin at 8:50 p.m..

But approximately five minutes before the game was scheduled to begin the rain started again as the pitcher's mound and home plate remained covered.

The game was called shortly after 9 p.m.

It was the RockHounds' second rainout of the season with the first coming Aug. 12.

Sonny Gray (0-0, 0.00 in two starts) was expected to take the hill for Midland while Ross Seaton (4-8, 5.43) was expected to start for Corpus Christi.

Neither manager was available to confirm if the pitching matchups will remain the same.

If they do, Shawn Haviland (6-11, 7.45) is expected to start the second game for the RockHounds while Paul Clemens (1-0, 1.05) is expected to start for the Hooks.

### **Brown Leads Giants Past Ports 11-5**

Stockton Ports

On the day he was named San Jose Giants Offensive Player of the Year, Gary Brown had his offensive talents on display at Municipal Stadium. The Giants outfielder went 5-for-5 and drove in four runs as the Stockton Ports fell to San Jose by a final of 11-5, dropping the season series finale with the Giants and rubber match of their three-game set.

Stockton failed to take advantage of early opportunities. In the 1st, Giants starter Tom Vessella walked three batters, but a pick off of Myrio Richard helped him to keep the Ports off the scoreboard in the frame.

San Jose wasted no time in getting on the board. On the second pitch of the night from Ports starter Jake Brown (4-7), Gary Brown hit a homer to left to give the Giants a 1-0 lead.

The Ports took a brief lead in the 2nd. After Vessella yielded back-to-back walks to open the inning, Rashun Dixon singled to load the bases and Leonardo Gil tied the game with a single to center. With the bases still loaded and nobody out, Myrio Richard hit into a 4-3 double-play to bring in a run, but prevent the Ports from having a big inning.

The Giants were quick to take the lead back for good in the 2nd. With runners at second and third and one out, Juan Ciriaco singled to center to drive in Nick Noonan and tie the game at 2-2. The throw in from Conner Crumbliss in center was up the third base line and went to the backstop, allowing Alex Burg to score as well and give the Giants a 3-2 lead. Brown followed with an RBI double to left to make it a 4-2 game, and Ehire Adrianza doubled to left as well to score Brown and make it a 5-2 San Jose advantage.

After retiring six in a row to take get one out deep into the 4th, Jake Brown gave up an infield single to Ciriaco, who went to second on a throwing error made by shortstop Dusty Coleman. The Ports then went to the bullpen and summoned James Simmons, who was greeted by an RBI double from Brown to make it a 6-2 game. Two batters later with two out, Pat Burrell, with the Giants for a second straight night on Major League rehab, singled to left to score Brown and give the Giants a 7-2 lead.

Jake Brown would go 3.1 innings in a losing effort, allowing six runs on seven hits while striking out two.

Trailing 7-2, the Ports would plate a pair of runs in the 5th. After back-to-back one out walks allowed by Vessella, Michael Choice singled to load the bases and Coleman drove in a run with a sac-fly to center to make it 7-3. Michael Gilmartin followed with an RBI single to make it a 7-4 contest and knock Vessella from the game.

Vessella would fall one out shy of qualifying for the win. He was lifted after 4.2 innings and allowed four runs on a career high seven walks while not recording a strikeout.

The Giants would score four runs over the final four innings of the game. In the 5th, the giants got a one-out RBI single from Burg, knocking in Ryan Cavan who doubled to open the inning. In the 6th, Brown led off the frame with his second home run of the night to make it 9-4. It was the final run scored off Simmons who allowed three runs on five hits in 2.2 innings of relief.

Scott Deal came on in the 7th and allowed an unearned run after a sac-fly from Burg made it 10-4. In the 8th, the Giants got another run on a sac-fly from Tommy Joseph, scoring Brown who'd singled to open the inning.

Deal allowed two runs (one earned) on four hits in his two innings of work.

The Ports added a run in the 8th off Giants reliever Stephen Harrold on a sac-fly from Anthony Aliotti.

Edwin Quirarte struck out the side in the 9th for the Giants.

Brown went 5-for-5 on the night for San Jose with two home runs, two doubles, a single, 4 RBI and five runs scored. The Giants hit seven doubles on the night, and nine of their 16 total hits went for extra bases.

Choice, after being called out on a check-swing in the 9th, was ejected from the game for arguing with the home plate umpire.

The Ports wrap up their season series with the Giants having gone 8-14 against San Jose.

Stockton returns home on Friday to begin a seven-game homestand, their final homestand of the regular season. The Ports welcome the Inland Empire 66ers to town for a four-game set beginning on Friday night at Banner Island Ballpark. Rob Gilliam (12-7, 5.30 ERA) will take to the hill for Stockton, opposed by right-hander Ariel Pena (10-6, 4.35 ERA) for Inland Empire. First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

### **Bees Blank Snappers 4-0**

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BELOIT, WI-Jose Macias (7-3), Blake Treinen and Pedro Vidal combined to hold the Beloit Snappers (26-33) to just two hits in a 4-0 win by the Burlington Bees (25-34) at Pohlman Field on Thursday night.

The Bees scored three runs on five hits in the fifth inning. C Beau Taylor (2-4) doubled and moved to third base on a single by LF Royce Consigli (1-4). 3B Ryan Pineda (3-4) singled to score Taylor and CF Tyreace House (1-4) singled home Consigli. A wild pitch moved Pineda to third base and House to second base. DH Jose Crisotomo (2-4) hit an RBI single to bring home Pineda for a 3-0 lead.

Burlington scored an insurance run in the eighth inning. RF Josh Whitaker (2-4) tripled and scored on a single by Taylor for a 4-0 lead.

Macias tossed six scoreless innings and allowed just one hit. He did not issue a walk and struck out six men. RHP Blake Treinen tossed two innings, walked one and struck out two men. RHP Pedro Vidal worked a scoreless ninth inning.

BEES BUZZINGS: Thursday's game marked the 11th time the Bees shut out an opponent in 2011. It is also the fifth shutout of the season for Burlington against Beloit.

The Bees and Snappers finish their three-game series on Friday at 7:00 p.m. RHP Blake Hasebrock (7-7, 2.47) gets the start for Burlington against RHP Pedro Guerra (1-1, 5.30) 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).

### **Vermont Loses 6-5 To Hudson Valley**

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

FISHKILL, NY --- Hudson Valley snapped a 4-4 tie with RBI singles from Craig Lyerly and Alejandro Segovia in the bottom of the seventh inning as the Renegades beat the Vermont Lake Monsters 6-5 in New York-Penn League action Thursday night at Dutchess Stadium.

Brian Bryles led off the seventh with a double off Lake Monster reliever Nathan Kilcrease (2-3) and scored on Lyerly's RBI single for a 5-4 Hudson Valley lead. After a strikeout and popout, Segovia grounded a single to center scoring Lyerly with an unearned run for a two-run lead.

That unearned run would prove to be the difference as Robinson led off the ninth with his sixth home run of the season. It was the second straight game that Robinson has hit a home run and his fourth homer in the last six games. The Lake Monsters got the tying run to second and go ahead run to first with two outs in the top of the ninth, but Justin Woodall struckout Sean Jamieson to end the game.

The Renegades had built a 4-1 lead with two runs in the first inning and two more runs in the fifth on RBI singles from Lyerly and Juniel Querecuto. Vermont, which had scored an unearned run in the third on a Bobby Crocker RBI single, tied the game 4-4 with three runs (two unearned) in the top of the sixth.

Aaron Shipman led off the inning with a single and moved to third when Crocker reached on a fielding error by first baseman Jeff Malm. Nick Rickles followed with a two-run double, his ninth of the season, to center and scored the tying run one out later on a Jordan Tripp squeeze bunt.

Lyerly went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBI, while Lenny Linsky (3-0) allowed three runs (one earned) on three hits with four strikeouts over three innings of relief to pick up the win for Hudson Valley (32-33), which won the last two games to split the six-game series with Vermont.

Vermont (33-31) now heads to Connecticut just one-half game in front of the Tigers (32-31) for first-place in Stedler Division. The Lake Monsters will play single games at Connecticut on Friday and Saturday before the series switches to historic Centennial Field Sunday and Monday. The teams are scheduled to complete a suspended game from June and then play a seven-inning contest on Sunday before a nine-inning game Monday.