

Prospect Michael Taylor makes debut in Oakland A's 9-2 win over Seattle Mariners

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The month of September has held little intrigue for A's fans in recent seasons.

They'll have a legitimate reason to stay engaged this year, however, after Friday's promotion of outfielder Michael Taylor.

Taylor made his major league debut in a 9-2 victory over the Seattle Mariners at [O.co](#) Coliseum, starting in right field and going 0 for 3 with a walk.

His most noteworthy moment came on the game's first batter, when he misplayed Ichiro Suzuki's single for an error that allowed Suzuki to reach third.

But Taylor, one of the A's most hyped prospects since he was obtained from Toronto in a December 2009 trade, will be evaluated on his work over the remainder of the season.

"He's here, so he's going to play some," A's manager Bob Melvin said before the game. "How much? We'll see. ... It's all about what you do with the opportunity."

The A's began a six-game homestand in strong fashion, with right-hander Guillermo Moscoso (7-8) delivering seven stellar innings and Hideki Matsui and Cliff Pennington each driving in three runs.

But with the A's 16½ games out of first place in the American League West, their focus is shifting toward 2012. Taylor, a 25-year-old who starred at Stanford, is trying to prove he deserves to be a part of the team's future.

Listed at 6-foot-5 and 256 pounds, Taylor is viewed by the A's as a multitool player with good athleticism and speed for someone his size. But some scouts around the game have reservations about Taylor, particularly whether he can hit for power in the majors.

He hardly blazed a speedy trail to the big leagues, spending nearly two full seasons at Triple-A Sacramento.

Taylor hit .272 with 16 home runs and 64 RBIs in 93 games this season with the River Cats. That was an improvement over 2010, when he hit .272 with just six homers and 78 RBIs in 127 games.

"I've learned a lot about perseverance," Taylor said. "One of the things that's different about the game as you get higher is that you'll struggle. When you struggle, you have to find a way to get yourself out of it."

Whether he develops into an impact player is crucial for the A's, who have benefited from the development of several young pitchers in recent seasons but have lacked a wave of young hitters to accompany them.

Taylor, a fifth-round pick of Philadelphia in 2007, was traded from the Phillies to the Blue Jays on Dec. 16, 2009, as part of a three-team deal that sent Roy Halladay to the Phillies. On the same day, the Blue Jays dealt Taylor to Oakland for infielder Brett Wallace.

Wallace was the key player the A's received from St. Louis in the Matt Holliday trade of July 2009.

It remains to be seen whether some of Oakland's other top prospects, notably first baseman/outfielder Chris Carter, get called up. Sacramento begins the Pacific Coast League playoffs Wednesday.

In the first inning Friday, Taylor ranged left to field Suzuki's single but had the ball kick past him. Suzuki wound up scoring, and the Mariners added a second run off Moscoso in the second.

But Moscoso toughened up and retired the final 13 hitters he faced.

The A's took the lead for good on Matsui's three-run double in the third off Jason Vargas (7-13). Pennington, hitting .344 since the All-Star break, added a three-run homer during a four-run seventh.

Oakland A's update: Reliever Andrew Carignan finally gets major league call-up

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Reliever Andrew Carignan has pitched at three levels in the A's farm system this season.

He arrived at his most desired location Friday, earning his first major league call-up and pitching a scoreless ninth inning to close out the A's 9-2 victory.

It's been quite the road for Carignan, 25, a right-hander whom the A's had pegged as a potential closer before arm problems derailed him in 2009.

He made just two appearances that season and underwent surgery in January 2010 to remove a bone spur and loose bodies in his right elbow. He pitched in 30 games for Single-A Stockton in 2010, but he missed the first six weeks this season because of a stress fracture in his foot.

Carignan posted a 1.85 ERA in 33 appearances divided among Stockton, Double-A Midland and Triple-A Sacramento.

"I was surprised (by the promotion), but at the same time, I was pretty close before I got hurt," said Carignan, who had pitched as high as Midland before hurting his elbow. "As long as it's been since I've been healthy, I knew that once I did get healthy that this was definitely in the cards."

With active rosters able to expand to 40, the A's also promoted outfielder Michael Taylor and infielder Adam Rosales and activated reliever Michael Wuertz from the 15-day disabled list.

To clear a spot for Carignan on the 40-man roster, the A's transferred first baseman Daric Barton (shoulder injury) to the 60-day D.L..

Wuertz had been sidelined since July 29 with right thumb tendinitis, an injury that had forced him to alter the grip on his slider.

"I was not trusting my slider as much," Wuertz said. " ... But the two rehab appearances I had proved to me that I'm ready to go."

A's manager Bob Melvin now has 10 relievers at his disposal, and that will swell to 11 when Brian Fuentes comes off the bereavement list.

Melvin conducted his pregame media session in the A's dugout while sitting in front of a huge advertising banner from one of the A's sponsors.

Ever the superstitious sort, Melvin studied the banner and offered: "Now if we win, we have to keep this here."

Chin Music: Taylor starting in right field for A's

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 9/2/2011 6:38pm

An A's-Mariners series in September wouldn't seem to rate much excitement, but there's some buzz at the Coliseum tonight with the major league debut of A's outfielder Michael Taylor. He was called up today and will start in right field. Taylor has been talked about so much since he was acquired from Toronto before the 2010 season, and now A's fans finally get to see him in a major league game that counts.

He held court with reporters before the game and, not surprisingly, handled himself very well. He's one of the more polished A's players, young or old, when it comes to handling the media. He found out about his promotion after last night's game with Triple-A Sacramento. "I didn't know what to do," Taylor, 25 said. "I had this stupid, glazed smile on my face. I had it walking in today. I can't get rid of it."

Taylor comes with lots of hype attached. He's listed at 6-foot-5, 256 pounds and is considered a multi-tool talent. But he didn't exactly blaze his way to the big leagues, taking almost two full seasons in Triple-A before getting his first call-up. The knock on him is that he doesn't generate enough power for his size. He does have 16 homers this season, and that's up from six last season. There's no getting around it – Taylor is a direct link to the Matt Holliday trade. The A's dealt Holliday to

get a package that included Brett Wallace, and Wallace was in turn traded for Taylor. So Taylor's career path dictates how successful that whole chain of events was regarding Holliday and his tenure in an Oakland uniform.

—In other news, the A's called up reliever Andrew Carignan (making his major league debut) and infielder Adam Rosales, who could spot Brandon Allen occasionally at first base. Reliever Michael Wuertz was also activated from the DL.

Tonight's lineups:

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

Mariners: Ichiro RF, Gutierrez CF, Ackley 2B, Carp 1B, Smoak DH, Olivo C, Seager 3B, Wells LF, Ryan SS; Vargas LHP.

A's beat Mariners 9-2, solidifying hold on 3rd place

Steve Kroner, Chronicle Staff Writer

-- "Let's stay out of last place" doesn't quite compare with such rallying cries as "Win one for the Gipper" or "You gotta believe," but remaining in third place in the AL West has to rate as one goal for the A's in September.

On Friday night at the Coliseum, Oakland guaranteed that the Mariners will leave town Sunday still entrenched in the cellar. The A's pounded Seattle 9-2.

Oakland has been in third place since Aug. 16. The A's lead Seattle by 3 1/2 games.

Guillermo Moscoso (7-8) gave up an unearned run in the first and an earned run in the second, then tossed five scoreless innings. He struck out six, walked one and retired the final 13 hitters he faced.

Last Saturday, Moscoso gave up eight runs (seven earned) in four innings in the A's 9-3 loss at Boston.

He said the difference Friday was that he was getting ahead of the Mariners' hitters, something he didn't do at Fenway Park.

Moscoso certainly likes the Coliseum. He's 5-2 with a 2.62 ERA in Oakland, compared with a 2-6, 4.82 resume on the road.

For the second time this season, Moscoso has beaten Seattle's Jason Vargas at the Coliseum; the first matchup was a 2-0 Oakland win July 6.

On Friday night, Vargas carried a 2-0 lead into the third. Singles by Kurt Suzuki, Jemile Weeks and Coco Crisp loaded the bases with one out. Hideki Matsui cleared them by slicing a Jason Vargas pitch into the gap in left-center for a double. Just like that, Oakland was in front for good.

Matsui had two hits, scored three times and drew a walk. It was his first free pass after going a career-high-tying 16 games without a walk.

The A's took a 5-2 lead into the seventh, then scored four times to remove any doubt about the outcome. The big blow was Cliff Pennington's three-run homer off former A's right-hander Jeff Gray.

Pennington had four hits in Thursday's 7-0 win at Cleveland and went 17-for-42 (.405) on the 10-game road trip that ended Thursday.

Manager Bob Melvin had some extra help Friday. Phil Garner, whom Oakland hired last month as a special adviser, was in the dugout for the first time. He was able to do so because teams are allowed to add a coach during September.

Melvin said Garner will spend more games - but probably not all - in the dugout for the remainder of the season.

Michael Taylor: A's call-up still smiling with joy

Steve Kroner, Chronicle Staff Writer

-- Getting the initial promotion to the big leagues can bring a player to tears, as we saw from Giants first baseman **Brandon Belt** in March.

On Friday, A's outfielder **Michael Taylor** didn't mention moist eyes when describing his reaction to learning Thursday night that he would be heading to Oakland, but he didn't hide his joy.

"I gave everyone a hug," Taylor said. "I just ran around for about 20 minutes. I didn't know what to do. I had this stupid, glazed smile on my face. I was like, 'Get rid of the smile. Get rid of the glaze.'

"I had it walking in today. I can't get rid of it."

Taylor, who hits and throws right-handed, batted .272 this season and last season for Triple-A Sacramento. In 93 games this year, the 6-foot-5, 256-pound Stanford alum had 16 homers, 64 RBIs and 14 stolen bases.

A's manager **Bob Melvin** put Taylor in right field, in the ninth spot in the order, for Friday night's game against Seattle lefty **Jason Vargas**.

The evening didn't start too well for Taylor.

Leadoff man **Ichiro Suzuki** drilled a single to right. Taylor ranged to his left and was in position to make a play, but the ball bounced past him for a two-base error that led to an unearned run.

Not exactly the way Taylor envisioned his big-league career beginning.

At the plate, Taylor went 0-for-3 with a strikeout and a walk.

Nonetheless, in the postgame clubhouse, Taylor said, "In the grand scheme of things, I enjoyed the day. It was a great day. ...

"I felt like I took pretty good swings tonight. I didn't feel all that uncomfortable or overmatched or anything. After the first pitch or two, it felt like baseball again."

Melvin said Taylor is a player "scouts like. He can run. He can hit. He can hit for power. He's an imposing-looking player, so I'm excited to see him."

David DeJesus will start in right this afternoon, with Taylor getting another start Sunday.

Other moves: The A's activated reliever **Michael Wuertz** (thumb) from the disabled list, recalled utilityman **Adam Rosales** from Sacramento and selected right-hander **Andrew Carignan** from the River Cats.

Carignan had elbow surgery in January 2010 and has dealt with foot and oblique injuries in the past two years. He pitched at the Class A, Double-A and Triple-A levels this season.

He also made his big-league debut, working a scoreless ninth, allowing one hit.

Oh-fer ends: Seattle outfielder **Casper Wells** doubled in the second inning, halting an 0-for-30 skid.

A'S LEADING OFF

Motivation: Even with his team out of the race and with an influx of young players, manager Bob Melvin said his goals remain the same. "The bottom line is when you go out to play a baseball game, you want to win. You expect to win. That has not changed and it will not change."

Drumbeat: Tonight's lineup

Steve Kroner from the Coliseum: 9/2/2011 6:33pm

Bob Melvin didn't waste any time getting former Stanford outfielder Michael Taylor into the lineup. Taylor, who was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento today, will make his major-league debut against Seattle lefty Jason Vargas.

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

Guillermo Moscoso gets the start for Oakland. He was the winning pitcher in a 2-0 decision over Seattle on July 6, a game in which Vargas went the distance and took the loss.

Matsui backs Moscoso in win over Mariners

By Alex Espinoza / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Hideki Matsui was a busy man on Friday night. If he wasn't driving in runs, he was scoring them, leading the A's to a 9-2 win over the Mariners to open a three-game set.

Early on, it looked like Matsui would be a one-man wrecking crew for the A's, as he drove in three runs with a bases-clearing double in the third and scored three runs.

Coupled with starter Guillermo Moscoso, who tossed seven strong innings, Oakland was poised for a close victory. Then, Cliff Pennington drilled a three-run home run in the bottom of the seventh to blow it open.

"We talked about it in our last game in Cleveland. We have to have a big month, finish strong no matter what," Moscoso said. "I think everybody's very excited to this point. We want to finish strong, put some numbers on the board, and we're going to do the rest."

Moscoso struggled with his command early on, giving up a run in the first and second frames. But as the game developed, so did Moscoso's control. He allowed two runs (one earned) on five hits and a walk while striking out six, retiring the final 13 batters he faced.

It was just the type of bounce-back effort Moscoso was looking for, as he was rocked for nine runs in four innings against the Red Sox on Aug. 27. Moscoso seemed to peak in the late innings, as he struck out the side in the sixth. The 27-year-old righty from Venezuela is now 7-8 with a 3.63 ERA in 19 games (17 starts).

"He was good," said Seattle first baseman Justin Smoak. "He's got the sneaky fastball. It kind of gets on you. He threw his offspeed kind of where he wanted to tonight. It was just one of those things. He pitched a heck of a game."

Oakland used a trio of singles to load the bases in the third, setting the stage for Matsui's gap shot to left field that rolled to the wall and cleared the deck for a 3-2 A's lead. Matsui later scored on a Brandon Allen single, before scoring again in the fifth and seventh innings. Matsui finished 2-for-4 with a double, walk, three RBIs and three runs scored.

Not only did Matsui's double give the A's an early lead, but it mucked things up for Seattle lefty Jason Vargas.

"When [Vargas is] on his game, he seems to get better as the game goes along, so that was a big hit for us," manager Bob Melvin said. "We were down and needed a big hit and to score three runs and put us ahead, now you can relax a little bit and get better at-bats."

The A's showed a patient approach on Friday, forcing Vargas to throw 33 pitches in the third and fifth frames. By the time he left the game after five innings, Oakland held a 5-2 lead. That advantage would be stretched in the seventh frame, when Pennington hit a three-run homer to right field to cap the scoring. Pennington now has seven home runs and 51 RBIs on the year, both career highs.

Among the A's to take the field on Friday, two made their Major League debuts. While reliever Andrew Carignan finished the game off with a scoreless ninth inning, outfielder Michael Taylor had a less fortunate start.

Seattle leadoff man Ichiro Suzuki delivered a solid hit to right field and Taylor couldn't handle it, committing a two-base error that allowed Suzuki to reach third. Suzuki scored the game's initial run on the next at-bat, but no long-term damage was done. Taylor finished 0-for-3 with a walk.

"In the grand scheme of things, I enjoyed the day," Taylor said. "It was a great day. The first play was unfortunate ... but I felt like I took pretty good swings tonight. I didn't feel all that uncomfortable or overmatched or anything. After the first pitch or two, it felt like baseball again."

Carignan, meanwhile, breezed through his inning of work. He induced three harmless pop flies in his first big league outing, while the single he allowed was due to an apparent miscommunication between Oakland first baseman Brandon Allen and second baseman Jemile Weeks.

With the appearance in Oakland, Carignan pitched at his fourth level of affiliated baseball in 2011, as he started the year with Class A advanced Stockton before advancing to Double-A Midland and Triple-A Sacramento. Following the game, Melvin said he was impressed with Carignan's pitch selection, especially considering the circumstances.

"Pumping fastballs, strike one right away, which shows you he had all his wits about him," Melvin said. "Right away he goes to the breaking ball and changeup, and threw a mix of pitches where you would think -- you know, your first outing -- that he might just want to throw fastballs and get the ball over the plate."

Taylor relieved to receive his big league call

A's also promote right-hander Carignan from Sacramento

By Alex Espinoza / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- As far as practical jokes go, it was probably the best to which Michael Taylor had ever fell victim. Shortly after hitting a home run in Thursday night's 7-1 victory for the Triple-A Sacramento Rivercats, Taylor was called into the office of hitting coach Todd Steverson.

Then, both went to the office of manager Darren Bush, who told Taylor he was being sent to the Arizona Fall League, hardly the place a Triple-A prospect would like to go. But Bush was merely joking, as he told Taylor he would be heading to Oakland instead to make his big league debut.

"That's kind of how he sprung it on me," Taylor said. "It was really cool. I gave everyone a hug, walked out and celebrated with my teammates for a little bit. Then, I just kind of scrambled around like a chicken with my head cut off for like 20 minutes just trying to figure out what to do."

Once Taylor found his bearings, the first person he called was his father, who was fast asleep in Orlando, Fla., when his son called at about 1:30 a.m. ET. Thanks to the early-morning wake up call, Taylor's parents were able to find a flight in time to make it to Friday's game against the Mariners, where Taylor batted ninth and started in right field.

Taylor received an unceremonious introduction to the bigs, as he committed a two-base error on the game's first at-bat. Seattle leadoff man Ichiro Suzuki delivered a solid hit to right field, but Taylor couldn't handle it and Suzuki ended up at third before scoring the game's first run.

The A's went on to a 9-2 win in the series opener.

At the plate, Taylor said he felt comfortable after seeing the first couple of pitches during his initial at-bat in the bottom of the third inning. He finished 0-for-3 with two flyouts and a strikeout, but reached base with a seventh-inning walk.

"As the game went on, I got comfortable, saw some more pitches, went deep into some counts," Taylor said. "And I didn't strike out a bunch, I'll take that. That's a good start."

The 25-year-old outfielder has been knocking on the door to Oakland for the past couple of seasons. In 93 games with Sacramento this year, Taylor batted .272 with 16 home runs and 64 RBIs. Taylor played at each of the three outfield positions this season, but said he feels most comfortable in right or left field.

Taylor joined the Oakland organization following the 2009 season as part of the three-team deal that sent Roy Halladay to Philadelphia and Cliff Lee to Seattle. Taylor fell into an extended slump at the beginning of last season in Sacramento, but was able to rebound this year.

"It's been a feeling of semi-relief, but more vindication for all the sacrifices I've made to do this, to get to this point," Taylor said. "Last year was tough, but I learned and grew from that. I think I'm more prepared now than I would have been last year."

Taylor wasn't the only player to receive his first big league callup on Friday, as right-handed reliever Andrew Carignan was also promoted to Oakland from Sacramento. It marks the fourth different level of the A's organization Carignan has played for this year, as he started in Class A Advanced Stockton before moving up through Double-A Midland and Sacramento.

Carignan finished Friday's win with a scoreless ninth inning, allowing one hit.

Since undergoing surgery in January 2010 to remove bone spurs and loose bodies from his elbow, Carignan said it's been a lengthy process to get back to his old form. Carignan sported a 1.85 ERA in 33 Minor League appearances this year.

"I am surprised," Carignan said. "But at the same time, I was pretty close before I got hurt. As long as it's been since I have been healthy, I knew that once I did get healthy that this was definitely in the cards, that this could possibly happen. ... Best day of my life."

Taylor knows a thing or two about overcoming hardships. At the age of 10, Taylor was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, an illness he still deals with today.

"I have at-bats where I'm low," Taylor said. "I've had a couple this year where things with your body go awry, but I try to minimize that and cut it down. ... Some days you don't feel that great, but that's everyone, that's every job."

As for his plans in the offseason, Taylor said he has been approached by teams in the Venezuelan and Dominican winter leagues. But Taylor said he hasn't had a true offseason since he turned pro, and that he would like to take some time to relax and be with his family.

Wuertz, Rosales make returns to Oakland

By Alex Espinoza / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Right-handed reliever Michael Wuertz returned to the A's bullpen on Friday following a month-long stint on the 15-day disabled list with right thumb tendonitis. Wuertz missed 31 games with the injury and has a 4.88 ERA in 34 appearances this year for Oakland.

"It affected a lot of things," Wuertz said of his injury. "Overall control, not trusting my slider as much, things like that. Those two rehab appearances [one at Class A advanced Stockton and another at Sacramento on Wednesday] I had proved to me I'm ready to go. I feel real good about things, made a few adjustments on my own, and feel like I'm back to being the pitcher I was in 2009."

Wuertz posted a 2.63 ERA in 74 appearances with the A's in '09, but had a 4.31 ERA in 48 games last year.

Aside from Wuertz, the A's also recalled utility man Adam Rosales from Triple-A Sacramento on Friday. Rosales returns for his third stint in Oakland.

A's manager Bob Melvin said Rosales will likely be used as a pinch-hitter or a defensive replacement at first base, though Rosales was taking grounders at shortstop and second base before Friday's game.

Worth noting

- First baseman Daric Barton was transferred to the 60-day disabled list on Friday to make room for Andrew Carignan on the 40-man roster. Barton is expected to miss the remainder of the season with a torn right labrum.
- Jemile Weeks singled in the third inning on Friday to extend his career-high hitting streak to 10 games. Weeks went 1-for-3 with a run scored in the A's 9-2 win.
- Beginning with Friday's contest, Oakland will play 16 of its next 19 games at home.

Pineda looking for strong effort against A's

By Jesse Sanchez / MLB.com

Seattle manager Eric Wedge doesn't need to be reminded how special Michael Pineda has been on the mound this season.

He just wants to make sure everyone remembers Pineda is in his *first* season in the big leagues.

"We wanted to make sure, not unlike any other young pitcher, that we made sure we kept a close eye on him," Wedge.

Fortunately for Wedge, Pineda, who takes the hill on Saturday against Brandon McCarthy and the A's, is unlike many young pitchers. Among American League rookie starters, the right-hander ranks first in innings pitched with 153, strikeouts with 156 and opponent average at .209, while ranking second with a 3.71 ERA and third with nine wins.

Pineda's 17 quality starts are the most by a Mariners rookie since Dave Fleming had 22 in 1992. Pineda goes on six days' rest and is scheduled to make just two more starts after Oakland.

"For me, I'm ready for more, but this is the plan. I like it," Pineda said. "My last couple starts were stronger. My arm is very strong now. I'm focused on finishing the season very strong. That's my plan for this year."

As for McCarthy, he is fresh off one of his best starts of the season, a 10-strikeout performance against the Indians that spanned eight innings and resulted in just two runs. The right-hander has upped his strikeouts of late, recording 19 in his last 21 2/3 innings.

Mariners: Rookies find hitting groove

Dustin Ackley, who is hitting .295, and Mike Carp, who is hitting .296, could become just the eighth pair of rookie teammates in the Major Leagues since 1950 to hit at least .300 for the season, and the first duo since Wilson Betemit and Jeff Francoeur accomplished the feat for Atlanta in 2005.

- Franklin Gutierrez went 0-for-4 on Friday and is batting .292 over his last 25 games, raising his season average from .194 to .224.
- Ackley went 1-for-4 on Friday and has recorded at least one hit in 50 of his last 66 games.

Athletics: Weeks keeps streaking along

- Jemile Weeks went 1-for-3 on Friday and is riding a career-high 10-game hitting streak.
- The A's will play 15 of their next 18 games in Oakland, a stretch that runs through Sept. 22.
- The A's have committed 108 errors this season, the most since 2003 when the club had 107.

Worth noting

- The Mariners are 9-5 against the A's this season. Seattle went 6-13 against Oakland last season, including a 4-6 record at home.
- Carp went 0-for-4 on Friday and is batting .349 with two doubles, one triple, four home runs and 15 RBIs against left-handed pitching this season.

He finished August with 25 RBIs, tying the rookie club record for a single month that Danny Tartabull set in July, 1986.

Matsui, Pennington lead A's past Mariners

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Hideki Matsui and Cliff Pennington both drove in three runs to lead the A's to a 9-2 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Friday night.

Brandon Allen and Scott Sizemore drove in runs for the A's, who won their second straight following a five-game losing streak.

Guillermo Moscoso (7-8) snapped a two-game losing streak despite allowing his first earned run in 25» innings against AL West opponents. He improved to 5-2 with a 2.62 ERA at home this season.

Franklin Gutierrez and Brendan Ryan drove in runs for the Mariners, who lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Jason Vargas (7-13) fell to 1-8 over his last 11 starts.

Moscoso, who retired the final 16 batters he faced, completed seven innings, allowing two runs — one earned — and five hits. He walked one and struck out six. Moscoso went at least seven innings for just the second time in nine starts since the All-Star Break.

Vargas, who was 6-5 after throwing his third shutout of the season on July 1, lasted five innings. He allowed five runs and six hits, walking four and striking out four.

Vargas has given up 22 earned runs over his last 21» innings.

The Mariners scored single runs in the first and second. Ichiro Suzuki led off with a single and reached third on Michael Taylor's fielding error. Gutierrez grounded out to plate Suzuki. Ryan added an RBI single in the second.

Matsui's three-run double in the third put the A's in front for good. Allen added a run-scoring single.

Sizemore had an RBI single in the fifth and Pennington's seventh home run in the seventh made it 9-2. Matsui scored on a wild pitch earlier in the inning.

NOTES

RHP Brandon McCarthy makes the start for the Athletics on Saturday. He is 6-2 with a 3.77 ERA in nine starts since the All-Star break. He is 1-4 career against the Mariners.

A's IF Jemile Weeks extended his season-best hitting streak to 10 games with his third-inning single.

... Matsui's walk in the fifth ended a career-tying run of 16 consecutive games without a walk. ... Mariners OF Ichiro Suzuki has a lifetime .363 batting average in Oakland, the highest in the park by any hitter. ...

Seattle OF Casper Wells snapped an 0-for-28 streak with a second-inning double. ... RHP Michael Pineda is Seattle's Saturday starter. He has 17 quality starts, the most by a Mariners' rookie since 1992. He leads all major league rookies with 156 strikeouts. Pineda is 2-0 in three starts against the A's.

Stanford's Michael Taylor joins Oakland A's

Palo Alto online 9/2/2011

Former Stanford all-conference outfielder Michael Taylor became the program's 88th Major Leaguer when he was called up to the big leagues and joined the Oakland Athletics on Friday afternoon.

Taylor is expected to be in uniform for Friday night's home game against Seattle at 7:05 p.m.

The former 2007 first team All-Pac-10 pick hit .296 over five minor league seasons, spending the past two years at Triple-A Sacramento after getting traded from the Phillies, where he was a fifth-round pick.

This past year, Taylor hit .272 with 16 homers and 64 RBI, after hitting .272 with 78 RBI in 2010. In his first full minor league season in 2008, he hit .346 across Single-A with a .361 average for Low-A Lakewood with 50 RBI and 10 homers and .329 for High-A Clearwater.

Taylor continued his torrid pace with a .320 average with 20 homers and 84 RBI in 2009. At Double-A Reading, he hit .333 and at Triple-A Lehigh Valley, he hit .282, before being traded.

Taylor ended his Stanford career in 2007 after hitting .316 with 21 homers, 126 RBI and scoring 80 runs over 174 games. He started 140 consecutive games at one point, primarily as the team's rightfielder.

Taylor was an honorable mention All-Pac-10 pick in 2006 after batting .325 with five homers in 39 RBI.

Since 1958, Stanford has had at least one player in the majors, the seventh-longest streak in collegiate baseball. Under 35-year head coach Mark Marquess, 46 of his 55 major league players have earned their degrees.

Taylor is one of 10 former Cardinal players in the majors this season: Sam Fuld (Rays), Jeremy Guthrie (Orioles), Jed Lowrie (Red Sox), Donny Lucy (White Sox), John Mayberry, Jr. (Phillies), Cord Phelps (Indians), Greg Reynolds (Rockies), Carlos Quentin (White Sox), Drew Storen (Nationals) and Taylor.

In addition, Ruben Amaro, Jr. and Kenny Williams are general managers, while Jason Castro, Chris Carter and John Hester are former major leaguers still playing as well. Stanford has 30 professional players in 2011.

Fontana High School graduate Jason Rice is a pitcher for the Oakland A's in Major League Baseball

Fontana News Herald, 9/2/2011

Fontana High School graduate Jason Rice has realized his dream of reaching the Major Leagues.

The hard-throwing relief pitcher was acquired by the Oakland A's on Wednesday in a trade from the Boston Red Sox for first baseman/outfielder Conor Jackson.

After showing much promise at the Triple-A level with the Red Sox, Rice was added to the A's 40-man roster.

Rice, 25, appeared in 44 games with Triple-A Pawtucket this year, compiling a 4-5 record with four saves and a 3.69 ERA.

During his minor league career, Rice struck out 589 batters in 543 innings and allowed only 453 hits.

Rice was originally selected by the Chicago White Sox in the 11th round of the 2005 draft.

While at Fohi, Rice was a standout primarily as a catcher, and he also served in that position at Chaffey College. Despite

having limited experience on the mound, the 5-foot-10, 190-pound right-hander was drafted as a pitcher by the White Sox.

The A's are hoping that Rice will be able to bolster their bullpen in the final month of the season.

The A's will be playing the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in Oakland in a three-game series Sept. 12-14.

Rice will be able to return to his native Southern California when the A's play the Angels at Angel Stadium in a weekend series on Friday, Sept. 23 at 7:05 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24 at 6:05 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 25 at 12:35 p.m.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

Sacramento winning streak reaches eight

Sacramento River Cats

Sacramento extended its winning streak to eight games with a 12-7 victory over host Colorado Springs on Friday night. Sacramento, which opens its first-round playoff series at Reno on Wednesday, has won 13 of its last 15 games and has a 12-1 record against the Sky Sox this season.

Recent Double-A call-ups Stephen Parker and Tyler Ladendorf kick-started a tie-breaking, six-run rally in the seventh inning with RBI hits. Parker (third base) and Ladendorf (shortstop) combined to go 7-for-11 with three runs and three RBIs.

Sacramento lead-off hitter Jermaine Mitchell walked four times (a River Cats season-high) and reached base five times.

River Cats outfielder Jai Miller hit his 32nd home run in the ninth inning, moving within two of matching the River Cats' single-season record (Graham Koonce, 34 home runs, 2003).

Sacramento reliever Bruce Billings earned the victory, allowing one run over 2.1 innings.

On Saturday night, Sacramento right-hander Travis Banwart (8-9, 4.70) faces Colorado Springs right-hander Alan Johnson (5-10, 7.07) at 6:05 p.m. in Colorado Springs.

'Hounds score 4 in ninth to top Missions

From staff reports, Midland Reporter-Telegram Midland Reporter-Telegram

SAN ANTONIO — The Midland RockHounds scored four runs in the top of the ninth inning to take a 5-3 victory against the San Antonio Missions on Friday night at Nelson Wolff Stadium.

The RockHounds entered the ninth inning down 3-1, but rallied as Mitch Canham had an RBI single, Jeremy Barfield record an RBI double and Jason Christian completed the scoring with a two-run single.

Then in the ninth, RockHounds' reliever Jonathan Ortiz struck out the side to preserve the victory.

Midland will play in its final series of the season, beginning at 7 p.m. today against Frisco.

Ports Blanked By 66ers 7-0

Stockton Ports

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - For the second time in a week, the Stockton Ports couldn't plate a run against the Inland Empire 66ers. Stockton went 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position and fell to the 66ers by a final of 7-0. Stockton lost 1-0 on Monday night at Banner Island Ballpark, and the Ports have now been shut out for 19 straight innings by the 66ers.

Stockton squandered an early scoring chance in the 1st. With two down, Michael Choice and Ryan Lipkin each singled, but Dusty Coleman lined out to second to end the frame. In the 3rd, with a runner at second and two out, Choice was robbed of an RBI hit by shortstop Jean Segura on a diving play to his left to keep the score at 0-0.

The 66ers broke through first in the 3rd inning. With one out, Steven Irvine doubled and Travis Witherspoon followed with an RBI single to put Inland Empire in front 1-0.

Inland Empire scored two more runs off Ports starter Dan Straily (11-9) in the 4th. With Randal Grichuk at first, Casey Haerther knocked an RBI double to left to make it a 2-0 game. Two batters later with one out, Jose Jimenez singled to right to make it 3-0.

The 66ers largest inning was the 5th. With two on and two out, Michael Wing doubled to left to score Segura, making it 4-0 and knocking Straily from the game. Charles Mye was summoned from the bullpen to make his Cal-League debut, and Mye walked Jimenez and uncorked a wild pitch to allow another run to score. Mye then allowed an RBI single to Irvine to put Inland Empire in front by a count of 6-0.

The first six runs were charged to Straily, who went 4.2 innings and matched a season-high by allowing 10 hits while striking out five in a losing effort.

Mye didn't allow any runs of his own over 1.1 innings of relief, allowing just the one hit and one walk.

Scott Deal came on to start the 7th and allowed a solo home run to Grichuk, his first in the Cal-League, giving Inland Empire a 7-0 advantage. It was the only run allowed by Deal in two innings of work.

66ers starter Max Russell (1-2) earned the win after tossing six scoreless innings, allowing five hits while striking out four and walking two.

Kevin Nabors and Mike Kenney combined for three scoreless innings of relief.

The Ports and 66ers play the Game 2 of their four-game set on Saturday night at Arrowhead Credit Union Park. Murphy Smith (5-9, 4.07 ERA) will toe the rubber for Stockton, opposed by right-hander A.J. Schugel (1-1, 4.11 ERA) for Inland Empire. First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

Big Inning Leads to Burlington Win

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BURLINGTON, IA - The Burlington Bees (29-36) scored six runs in the fourth inning to earn a 6-3 win over the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (28-37) at Community Field on Thursday night.

LF Royce Consigli (1-4) led off the sixth inning with a single and moved to second base when DH Josh Whitaker (0-2) reached on a walk. Both men scored on a single by 1B A.J. Kirby-Jones (1-4) for a 2-0 lead.

RF Douglas Lanadaeta (1-4) followed with a single to move Kirby-Jones to third base. 3B Wade Kirkland (1-3) singled home Kirby-Jones for a 3-0 lead. C John Nester (1-2) followed with a two-run double. He moved to third base on a ground out by SS Yordy Cabrera (0-2) and CF Tyreece House (0-2) hit a sacrifice fly to score Nester for a 6-0 lead.

RHP Jonathan Joseph (6-4) pitched six innings and allowed two runs on five hits to earn the win. RHP Pedro Vidal pitched a scoreless ninth inning to earn his fifth save of the season.

The Bees and Timber Rattlers finish their series on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Join the Bees in celebrating "Iowa and Iowa State Rivalry Night" at Community Field. Help the Bees kick off the college football season by wearing your favorite school's colors. The Bees will also host the final "Big Fun Friday" of the season with \$3.25 16-ounce cans of Bud Light and Busch Light. Because of scheduling conflicts on Newsradio 1490 KBUR, Bees baseball will be broadcast on Country Legends AM 1360 on Friday night. Wisconsin Timber Rattlers broadcaster Chris Mehring will be handling the play-by-play duties for Bees broadcaster Jon Versteeg, who will be away covering college football for the weekend. Pre-game coverage starts at 6:10 p.m. over Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at www.gobees.com.

Vermont Squeezes Wins 5-4 Friday

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

BURLINGTON, VT --- Dusty Robinson squeezed home Nick Rickles with the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Vermont Lake Monsters beat the Tri-City ValleyCats 5-4 in New York-Penn League action Friday night at historic Centennial Field. The win leaves the Lake Monsters one game behind Connecticut for first-place in the Stedler Division with two games remaining.

Vermont led 4-3 in the top of the ninth when Lake Monster closer gave up a leadoff game-tying home run to Miles Hamblin to tie the game at four. Rickles led off the bottom of the ninth with a line drive single to left and advanced all the way from first to third on a Bobby Crocker sacrifice bunt. Robinson then laid down a squeeze bunt on the first pitch back towards the mound and Rickles beat the throw to the plate to score the winning run.

The ValleyCats jumped out on top with three runs in the top of the second off Vermont starter Kurt Wunderlich on a Jacke Healey two-run triple and Miguel Arrendell RBI single. The Lake Monsters quickly got two runs back in the bottom of the inning as Dusty Robinson led off with a triple and scored on a wild pitch. B.A. Vollmuth followed with a double and scored on a throwing error on a Chad Lewis infield single.

Vermont took the lead in the fourth as Vollmuth led off with his third double in two games with the Lake Monsters and scored on a Lewis RBI triple to center. Michael Fabiaschi followed with an RBI double to left center to score Lewis for a 4-3 Vermont lead.

Wunderlich allowed three runs on four hits over six innings with five strikeouts, while Peters (1-1) retired three straight with two strikeouts after the game-tying homer in the ninth for his first win of season. Mitchell Lambson (2-6) allowed one run on three hits in 2 1/3 innings to take the loss for Tri-City (33-40).

The win clinched at least a .500 season for Vermont (37-35), just the sixth time in the team's 18-year history with a .500 or better record and just the third time in the last 15 years. Coupled with a Connecticut doubleheader sweep of Lowell, the Lake Monsters are now one full game behind the Tigers for first-place.

Vermont needs to either win both its remaining games and have Connecticut lose one of its two or the Lake Monsters need to win one of their remaining two games and have the Tigers lose both of theirs. Vermont hosts Tri-City on Saturday at 6:05 pm at Centennial and then wrap up the regular-season on Sunday at 1:05 pm, while Connecticut hosts Lowell Saturday at 7:05 pm and Sunday at 1:05 pm.