

**A's News Clips, Saturday, September 10, 2011**

**Rangers beat Athletics for 9th time in row, 13-4**

By STEPHEN HAWKINS, AP Sports Writer

Colby Lewis pitched into the eighth inning for his first victory in nearly a month even while giving up another home run as the AL West-leading Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 13-4 on Friday night.

Lewis (12-10) trailed 2-0 only four batters into the game after Josh Willingham's two-run homer, the AL-high 33rd allowed by the Rangers' right-hander this season. But Texas got even in the bottom of the first and Oakland didn't score again until after Lewis had thrown his last pitch.

Adrian Beltre had an RBI double and Elvis Andrus had two run-scoring hits, including a tiebreaking RBI double in the fifth that made it 3-2.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Colby Lewis finished his first inning already down 2-0 after giving up another home run. The Texas Rangers quickly got even, and the right-hander felt like he was starting over when he got back on the mound.

Lewis took full advantage, pitching into the eighth inning and getting plenty of help from the Texas bats.

Oakland didn't score again until after Lewis had thrown his last pitch and the AL West-leading Rangers went on to a 13-4 victory Friday night, their ninth straight win over the division rival.

"Maybe I should give up a home run more often in the first inning. Slap me across the face or something to get me going," Lewis said. "I felt better as the game went on, that's for sure. It took a lot of pressure off. It's a 0-0 ballgame. It's like the first inning all over again."

The Athletics led only four batters into the game after Josh Willingham's two-run homer, his 24th and the AL-high 33rd allowed by Lewis (12-10).

Adrian Beltre had an RBI double for his 2,000th career hit and Elvis Andrus had two run-scoring hits, including a tiebreaking RBI double in the fifth off Brandon McCarthy (8-8) that made it 3-2 and put Texas ahead to stay.

Lewis won for the first time in nearly a month, his only victory in his last eight starters coming Aug. 13 at Oakland. This time against the [A's](#), Lewis had seven strikeouts with one walk while allowing three runs and five hits over 7 1-3 innings.

"After that first inning, he settled down and started hitting his spot," manager Ron Washington said. "Even in that first inning, he kept the ball down. Give Willingham credit. ... That didn't faze Colby, he kept pounding the strike zone, kept getting outs. It was nice to see."

Lewis will get seven days of rest before pitching again Sept. 17 at Seattle.

Washington said before Friday night's game that C.J. Wilson would pitch the opener next weekend at Seattle to remain on schedule of pitching every fifth day, giving Lewis an extended break since the Rangers also have a day off before then. The manager said that plan isn't changing.

The only batter McCarthy (8-8) walked was Texas leadoff hitter Ian Kinsler in the first. Then McCarthy had a fielding error on Michael Young's comebacker before Beltre's milestone hit and David Murphy's sacrifice fly that tied the game at 2.

"He threw the ball well, well enough to keep us in the game," manager Bob Melvin said. "We take a lead, they come back to tie it, go ahead, and we don't answer back."

Kinsler had three hits and scored four times, giving him 15 runs his last eight games and 105 for the season. Young drove in four runs, including a three-run double in the eighth before Mike Napoli's 25th homer, a two-run shot that landed an estimated 428 feet over the Rangers bullpen in right-center.

After Kinsler reached on an infield single in the fifth, Andrus hit a liner directly over the head of center fielder Coco Crisp as he sprinted toward the wall. Andrus scored from second when Beltre reached on a two-out throwing error by third baseman Scott Sizemore.

"We fed off Colby," Young said. "He kept getting us back in dugout and giving us a chance to have some good at-bats."

Lewis left with one on and an 8-2 lead before Hideki Matsui hit a two-run homer, his 12th, off Mike Adams.

Oakland had three errors, giving it an AL-high 115, already the most by the A's since having 125 in 2001. Five of the 13 Texas runs were unearned.

"It's frustrating," Melvin said. "You can't give teams like that extra outs and we've been giving extra outs all year."

Crisp did have a spectacular inning-ending catch in the sixth, when he held on while stumbling on the warning track after running a long way to grab the flyball by Endy Chavez.

Michael Wuertz didn't retire any of the five batters he faced after taking over for McCarthy to start the seventh. The reliever was gone after five consecutive singles that led to four more runs for the Rangers, including RBIs by Andrus, Young and Beltre. Mitch Moreland drove in a run with another single later in the inning.

NOTES: McCarthy's error was the 19th by an Oakland pitcher, and his AL-high fifth at the position. ... Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton missed the game to be with his wife for the birth of their fourth daughter, who was born about 30 minutes before the game started. ... After a long streak of 100-degree days during July and August, the game time temperature was 88 degrees, the lowest since 84 on May 25. ... On Saturday, All-Star RHP Alexi Ogando (12-7) makes his first for the Rangers since Aug. 31, after they skipped his last start to give an extended rest. RHP Trevor Cahill (10-13), who is 2-6 with a 6.67 ERA in 10 starts since the All-Star break, starts for the A's.

### **A's hurt by E's in loss to Rangers**

By Dave Sessions / Special to MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- Perhaps no A's player is more qualified to sum up the fundamental difference between his team and the division-leading Rangers than starter Brandon McCarthy, who spent the past four seasons in the Texas organization.

"They're better than us," said McCarthy, who shouldered the loss in Friday's 13-4 drubbing despite a decent performance. "There's no sidestepping it. They hit really well, they get good at-bats, they pitch well, they do a lot of things well. What they're doing is what we need to aspire to get up to."

Oakland is 4-10 against Texas this year and has lost nine meetings in a row.

"It's not a fluke," McCarthy said. "They're just a really good team that seems to have good performances against us. We're looking up at them right now."

McCarthy feels that his outing "wasn't anything special," but better defense might have helped his cause. McCarthy himself wasn't immune to defensive troubles, making a first-inning error that led to one of the two unearned runs he allowed.

Oakland made three errors overall, leading to five unearned Texas runs.

"When you make as many errors as we do, you put yourself in a tough situation, especially against teams that can swing the bat," manager Bob Melvin said. "You give them extra outs, usually you get it handed to you. It's frustrating."

Fielding wasn't the only problem for Oakland. So were hitting and pitching. The A's collected only six hits and struck out 10 times, and relievers Michael Wuertz and Neil Wagner combined to allow nine runs, six of them earned.

McCarthy, 7-2 in 10 starts since the All-Star break, had been outstanding recently, striking out 26 in 24 2/3 innings with a 1.82 ERA over the past three starts. On Friday he struck out just five and walked one in six innings, and allowed five hits.

Rangers starter Colby Lewis fared better, improving to 12-10 on the season. Lewis pitched 7 1/3 innings and allowed three runs, all earned, while walking one and striking out seven. He is 5-0 with a 2.63 ERA in his last six games against Oakland.

Oakland went ahead in the first on Josh Willingham's two-run homer, but Texas tied the score after Michael Young's grounder to McCarthy's right side slipped out of the pitcher's glove and put runners on first and third. Adrian Beltre and David Murphy each drove in a run after the error.

The Rangers added two runs in the fifth. Ian Kinsler singled on a ball that third baseman Scott Sizemore double clutched and held; Elvis Andrus doubled Kinsler home. Andrus scored on another Sizemore miscue, this time when the third baseman's throw to first hit the dirt. Andrus never stopped running and scored from second.

"We found a way [to score]," Young said. "Elvis' double was big. McCarthy was throwing the ball well, and we were able to string some at-bats together after that."

Oakland pulled within five runs on Hideki Matsui's two-run homer in the eighth, but in the bottom half of the inning, the Rangers tacked on five runs. Mike Napoli hit a 428-foot homer to opposite field that ended the scoring, then Neftali Feliz retired the side for Texas in the ninth.

### **Consistency key to Weeks' success**

By Dave Sessions / Special to MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- Jemile Weeks has been a steady hitter all season, never dipping below .284 in 80 games, and it seems as though every time his average creeps below .300, he puts together a hot streak.

Weeks has hit .379 over the past 15 games, more than 100 points higher than he hit in the 15 games before that (.277). He had his first four-hit game on Wednesday, against the Royals, pushing his average back above .300 to a team-leading .303.

"If you look at his numbers, he's been consistent from the day he's been here," manager Bob Melvin said. "He's gone through a few periods where he might have had a down three or four games, but every time he gets in the .290s, he picks it up. He's been really consistent, that's probably the surprising thing for me, [since he's] a rookie. He really didn't know the league very well and the pitching coming in. He got off to a hot start and has been able to maintain it."

Weeks said that he's getting better with experience and increased familiarity with the league's pitchers.

"I've been up there enough to not have those nerves when I get up to bat," Weeks said. "I've got more of a clear head than when I first came up."

### **Spoiler alert: A's won't change game plan**

ARLINGTON -- Sixteen of Oakland's final 19 games come against teams in the playoff race, with six games each against the American League West-leading Rangers and closely following Angels, and a four-game series against the Tigers, who are more comfortably ahead in the AL Central.

If Oakland plays well in the final weeks of the season, it could have serious ramifications on the division races, especially in the West.

"It should be a motivator for you," manager Bob Melvin said of playing against contenders. "You always want to go out and win the game, obviously, but knowing that the teams you're playing have that much more to play for should incentivize the games for you."

Typically, teams that are eliminated -- or nearly eliminated -- from postseason contention still field the best lineups they can when playing contenders down the stretch.

"That's kind of the norm when you're playing against teams like that," Melvin said. "Now, if you have a younger player who's playing better than a veteran, you're [more] apt to do that, plus there are some guys we want to take a look at. But I don't think we'll be affected that much by it."

When teams without playoff hopes meet, managers feel free to use younger players and evaluate prospects -- but Melvin may have to wait to do that until the final series of the season, against the Mariners.

### **Moscoco can 'go the distance,' Melvin says**

ARLINGTON -- After Guillermo Moscoco's superb outing on Wednesday, when he came within four outs of a no-hitter in a 7-0 win over the Royals, manager Bob Melvin said that he'd likely give the 27-year-old a longer leash and let him pitch deeper into games.

Moscoco threw 129 pitches on Wednesday, the most by an Oakland pitcher in 10 years, and it marked the first time Moscoco had pitched into the ninth inning in any of his 18 career starts.

"At this point in time, he's been incrementally moving up," Melvin said. "He hasn't pitched more than six innings for quite a while, and last few times out, he's gone a little bit longer. He's proven that he can go that distance now."

### **Worth noting**

- Manager Bob Melvin announced on Friday that Josh Outman will pitch on Sunday against the Rangers instead of Rich Harden. Melvin wants to give Harden a few days' rest and get a look at Outman, the only spot starter the A's are likely to use the rest of the season. Harden will pitch at home on Wednesday against the Angels.
- Entering Friday's game, Oakland had lost eight games in a row to Texas, including seven under Melvin, who has lost nine in a row to the Rangers dating back to 2009, when he was the D-backs' skipper.
- Though Rangers Ballpark in Arlington is often characterized as a hitter's park, the A's are hitting a paltry .173 there this season, their worst average in any stadium this year.

### **Rangers look to extend string of wins over A's**

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com

The Rangers want to keep winning and hold off the second-place Angels in the American League West.

The A's simply want to find a way to beat their division rival.

The Rangers' 13-4 win on Friday was their ninth straight over the A's, Oakland's longest losing streak against Texas since dropping nine in a row from June 19 to Sept. 30, 1986.

A's manager Bob Melvin admitted on Friday that a losing streak of that magnitude could get into the team's head. The way to get it out? Win.

"This is a team that's really had our number, and I don't think it sits well with anybody," Melvin said. "You want to win games, you don't want a team to continually beat up on you. Every time you go in there or they come to your place, you get swept. That's not a great feeling."

The A's will try to break that losing streak on Saturday against the Rangers, who are 2 1/2 games ahead of the Angels, and right-hander Alexi Ogando.

Ogando is making his first start since Aug. 31, as the Rangers skipped him in the rotation because they felt he was tiring. That belief was certainly justified, as the first-year starter was 1-2 with an 8.34 ERA in his last five starts. Despite his struggles, though, Ogando said that he feels fine.

"I feel confident and strong," Ogando said. "I have a lot more confidence in what I have to do."

#### **Athletics: Cahill looks to string together wins**

- The A's entered the season picked by many to contend with the Rangers and Angels in the AL West, but injuries decimated their promising young rotation and, therefore, their chances. Trevor Cahill has managed to stay away from the injury bug but certainly hasn't been nearly as successful as he was last year, when he won 18 games.

Cahill earned his first win in six starts -- a span in which he posted a 7.15 ERA -- in his most recent start, against Seattle, allowing one run in five innings. On Saturday he'll look to win consecutive outings for the first time since June. He is 8-4 with a 2.32 ERA in 13 career starts against Texas.

- Closer Andrew Bailey has converted all 11 of his save opportunities since the All-Star break and is a perfect 34-for-34 in the second half for his career.

#### **Rangers: Napoli nearing career year**

- With 64 runs scored, Mike Napoli has set a career high in that category. His 25 homers, 21 doubles and 64 RBIs are also close to his career highs of 26, 24 and 68, respectively. Each of those marks was set last season.

- Ian Kinsler's seven September homers are tied for the 11th-highest total for the month in club history, four shy of matching Alex Rodriguez's club record, 11, set in 2001.

#### **Worth noting**

- Saturday's game, which starts at 3:05 p.m. CT (2:05 p.m. PT), will be the Rangers' first day game since July 10.

- Friday's first-pitch temperature of 88 degrees was the first below 96 degrees at Rangers Ballpark since July 1.

#### **Toronto 2011: Brad Pitt's 'Moneyball' looks to get on base**

Steven Zeitchik, LA Times

Last year at roughly this time, "The Social Network," an Aaron Sorkin-penned Sony movie about about a lonely iconoclast, was on its way to becoming the hit of the season.

Whether "Moneyball," another Aaron Sorkin-penned Sony movie about a lonely iconoclast, will replicate the success of that film or simply provide film bloggers with an easy lead-in remains to be seen. But the Toronto audience's reaction to the Brad Pitt baseball dramedy--which tells of Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane's solitary attempt to upend an entrenched talent-evaluation system--at the film's world premiere Friday night suggests that it's at least off to a respectable start.

"Moneyball" comes into its Sept. 23 commercial release with a [history more indecipherable than a spring-training box score](#). Directors David Frankel and Steven Soderbergh each came on, then were pushed off, production looked likely until it didn't, and the Michael Lewis book about baseball stats and trades looked for all the world like one more Hollywood cautionary tale.

"Capote" helmer Bennett Miller and late-inning screenwriter Sorkin finally helped get it home, and the result is a movie that's as much about a former jock looking for redemption as it is about a new way of analyzing stats (though that aspect, a major part of Michael Lewis' bestselling book, is surprisingly present too).

It's impossible not to watch Miller's film without letting one's mind wander to how the Soderbergh version would have looked. The "Contagion" director wanted to blend documentary footage--interviews with the likes of David Justice, part of Beane's '02 team--with featurized storytelling. Miller's movie doesn't.

But the soul of Lewis' wonky story is still there, as are several player cameos (including Justice) and plenty of MLB footage. For ardent fans of the book who are wondering how Hollywood would handle it, the film makes the team's improbable summer streak of 20 straight wins the dramatic high point, though, without giving too much away, it also avoids an overly Hollywood ending.

Unlike Lewis' book, there are also a lot of laughs -- the crowd at the Roy Thomson Hall gala conveyed that numerous times--particularly in the dynamic between Pitt's ornery cuss and Jonah Hill's tentative, bookish protege and spirit guide (Paul DePodesta in real life, renamed Peter Brand here).

Still, although Beane is more likable than Mark Zuckerberg, the path for "Moneyball" to a "Social Network"-level success is long, not least because a man changing the way baseball players are judged doesn't quite have the same impact as a man changing how the Internet is used.

And even though "Social Network" was putatively about technology, its concerns were sufficiently human that men and women could relate equally. "Moneyball," despite being a story about a troubled man who seeks to reconnect with his hopes and his family, is still ultimately a movie about a man trying to win baseball games.

Before the screening, Pitt, Miller and Hill took the stage, bringing out Beane and Justice for good measure. The controversy that bedeviled, and headlines that accompanied, "The Social Network" when Mark Zuckerberg refused to cooperate with Sony's publicity efforts won't repeat itself here. But it's still far too early in the game to say that the studio will hit back-to-back home runs.

### **Big Mac Blog movie review: Moneyball hits a double**

Mac Engle, Star Telegram

Converting the book Moneyball into the movie Moneyball may have been easier than making the Oakland A's into a World Series winner. There are parts that work, and it has all the appearances of a big winner, but in the end it has no choice but to settle for good. Not great.

Taking everything into consideration, what the Oakland A's of 2001 and 2002 achieved given the circumstances of their situation is remarkable.

Taking everything into consideration, what the new Brad Pitt movie Moneyball achieves given the complexities of the book is commendable.

The movie premiered in Toronto on Friday night, and I saw an advanced screener on Thursday night. It opens wide in the next week.

Co-written by Aaron Sorkin, who wrote The Social Network, the movie attempts to condense the Michael Lewis bestseller into a two-hour film.

The movie focuses on the pioneering shift in philosophy that A's GM Billy Beane used to find players and build winning teams despite having massive financial restrictions to compete against the likes of the New York Yankees and others. Hence the name "Moneyball".

The book is more of a economics story told in such a way that anyone can understand it, and appreciate Beane's work. The film focuses on the 2002 season when the A's had to rebuild itself after they lost key free agents Johnny Damon, Jason Giambi and Jason Isringhausen.

The movie tries to tell the human side of what Beane was doing, and the obstacles he overcame from his own failed career as a ballplayer to running the A's using a new method that defied baseball's traditional wisdom.

Pitt is solid as the high-strung Beane, and he tries to give him a likeable touch dealing with his young daughter. A nerdish Jonah Hill plays his Yale-graduate assistant named Peter, who was actually Paul DePodesta, admirably. Hill is the new-wave of baseball guy who uses computers and scores of data to find players; he winds up stealing just about every scene he's in with his subtle, and nervous, ways.

But Philip Seymour Hoffman is just about lost as A's manager Art Howe. It's a case of bizarre casting to hire an Oscar-winner and have him, essentially, do nothing.

The movie is well filmed and it was very true to the story, right down to the names such as Mike Magnante and Billy Koch. A lot of the movie was filmed at the Coliseum in Oakland. The whole thing feels very authentic.

Think of Moneyball as the baseball version of the Social Network, but there is nowhere near the personal connection or widespread appeal that film held. It's so smart, but the dramatic kicks is missing. There is no real traditional story arc; the villain is without a face. It's a smart baseball movie without the bottom-of-the-ninth inning happy ending.

Here is the rub: Will non-baseball fans connect with this? This was an easy movie for me to know because I knew all the names, read the book, knew a lot of the people, and was too familiar with the story. That changed the way I watched the movie.

As true to events the movie is there are some realities that are bent for dramatic purposes I found it difficult to see around. The biggest is Billy Beane (right) is not exactly a sympathetic figure. This is a very, very driven man with a red-hot temper who is a control freak. These qualities aren't generally endearing. But how can you sell that in a Hollywood flick? The mentor relationship between Beane and Hill's character, which are actually the movie's best scenes, in reality it was not nearly as rosy as the movie depicts.

This is a very hard movie to produce. It has so many compelling elements, but it's so complex and it may require detailed explanation that viewers may miss. The overall effort is admirable, and the result is pretty good. It's just not great.

Just as the A's of Billy Beane have missed on a World Series but are competitive, Moneyball is pretty good but it will miss on the Oscars.

## **MINOR LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Carter's third homer of series propels Cats**

By Mike Morris / Sacramento River Cats

The River Cats live to see another day, thanks in large part to Chris Carter's third home run of the playoff series.

The River Cats first baseman crushed a two-run home run in the seventh inning as Sacramento topped Reno 5-2 before 12,011 fans Friday night at Raley Field. Earlier in the inning, Wes Timmons gave Sacramento a 3-2 lead with a sacrifice fly to left field, scoring Tyler Ladendorf.

The win cuts Reno's lead in the five-game series to 2-games-to-1 entering Saturday night's Game 4 at Raley Field (7:05 p.m. first pitch). Reno won the first two games of the series in Reno.

Reno opened the game with an Evan Frey lead-off single in the first inning. However, Sacramento catcher Landon Powell caught Frey attempting to steal third base to prevent Reno from scoring the game's first run, as they had in the first two games of the series.

Josh Donaldson hit a double to center field that scored Carter to give Sacramento a 1-0 lead in the first inning, Sacramento's first lead of this series.

The one-run lead would be short-lived as right fielder Cole Gillespie hit a solo home run to left field to tie the game in the second.

Donaldson gave Sacramento a 2-1 lead in the third inning with a sacrifice fly to left field, scoring allowing Jermaine Mitchell. Reno designated hitter Andy Tracy hit a home run in the fourth to tie things up.

In the seventh, with a man on first and third, Timmons drove in Mitchell with a sac fly to give Sacramento the lead for the third and final time. Carter followed with a two-run shot that was sent to the clubhouse roof, giving Sacramento a three-run cushion. The home run was Carter's third in the last three games and 8th in 12 postseason games with Sacramento. In 2009, Carter hit four home runs in four games in a first-round series against Tacoma.

River Cats designated hitter Grant Green, who was called up from Double-A Midland before the series, went 2-for-3 with a double.

"It was a nice way to start here," said Green of his first game at Raley Field.

Sacramento has had 18 three-game win streaks this season. The River Cats will need to secure their 19th three-game streak of the season to win this first-round series.

The 12,011 in attendance Friday night was the highest attended playoff game since Sept. 10, 2008 when 13,388 fans packed Raley Field in a second-round game against Oklahoma.

### **Carter breathes life into River Cats**

By Robert Emrich / Special to MLB.com

Chris Carter and postseason homers are becoming synonymous.

The Athletics prospect went yard for the third straight game Friday as the Sacramento River Cats beat the Reno Aces, 5-2, to force a fourth game in their Pacific Coast League semifinal series.

Carter hit a two-run blast to cap a three-run seventh inning and extend the River Cats' lead to 5-2. It was the first homer of the postseason with a runner on base for the 24-year-old first baseman, considered the A's **No. 3 prospect**.

"We had a fast runner [Jermaine Mitchell] on first and I was trying to put something in the gap to try and score him," he said.

Carter, who reached base three times and scored twice, has proven to be a prodigious postseason slugger for the River Cats with eight homers in 12 career playoff games. Despite playing only 75 regular-season games, he was fourth on the team with 18 homers. He also went deep three times in six games while rehabbing for Class A Advanced Stockton.

"I don't really know it was that many, but it's nice to get in the playoffs and get hits like that," the California native said.

"I'm not thinking home run, I'm just trying to hit it hard and if it goes, it goes."

With Sacramento facing elimination, Carter said the team was happy to get one in the win column.

"It's good to get that first one out of the way," he added. "It's nice to win at home and, hopefully, we can keep going from there."

Wes Timmons preceded Carter's blast with a sacrifice fly that snapped a 2-2 tie. Josh Donaldson doubled and drove in the River Cats' other two runs. Former first-round pick Grant Green continued his torrid hitting, going 2-for-3 to raise his postseason average to .571.



Jordan Norberto (1-0) fanned two in two innings of perfect relief to earn the win and Fernando Cabrera allowed two hits in the ninth before nailing down the save.

### **Ports Explode For 10-4 Win: Advance To Play San Jose**

Stockton Ports

One night after stranding 12 baserunners and going 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position, the Stockton Ports, in a do-or-die Game 3 of the North Division Mini-Series, found the offense that had eluded them in Game 2. The Ports went 7-for-16 with runners in scoring position and plated 10 runs on 12 hits en route to a lopsided 10-4 victory over the Modesto Nuts to earn a trip to the California League North Division Championship Series to face the San Jose Giants.

The Ports got on the board in the top of the 3rd. With one out, Dusty Coleman doubled to left and Rashun Dixon walked. Myrio Richard then reached on a fielder's choice on which no out was recorded to load the bases with one out. After Conner Crumbliss popped out to first for the second out, Michael Choice, who had a huge night, came through with a clutch two-out, two-run single to right to give the Ports a 2-0 lead.

The flood gates opened for Stockton in the 4th. Michael Gilmaritn started the inning by drawing a four-pitch walk off Nuts starter Parker Frazier (0-1). Gilmartin subsequently stole second, then scored on a one-out triple from Mitch LeVier out to the right field wall to make it a 3-0 game. Coleman followed with an RBI single to left and Dixon clubbed an RBI double down the left field line to make it a 5-0 contest.

Frazier was lifted after Dixon's double in favor of Leuris Gomez. Gomez, after striking out Richard, walked Crumbliss, and then served up a three-run homer to Choice off the light pole beyond the center field wall to make it an 8-0 Ports lead.

Frazier took the loss, going 3.1 innings and allowing six runs on five hits while walking two and striking out two.

Gomez went 1.2 innings and allowed two runs on one hit while striking out four.

Modesto got on the board in the 4th. With runners at second and third and one out, Angelys Nina hit a sac-fly to right to make it an 8-1 game.

The run was the only one allowed by Ports starter Murphy Smith (1-0), who continues to have an outstanding finish to his 2011 campaign. Smith went eight full innings (which would've been his longest outing of the season), allowing just the one run on only three hits while striking out six. Smith has allowed only two earned runs in his last 21.2 innings pitched.

Stockton added to its lead in the 7th facing Nuts reliever Chad Rose. With a runner at second and one out, Ryan Lipkin singled to left to make it a 9-1 game. Two batters later, Coleman singled to center to score Lipkin and make it 10-1.

Rose allowed two runs over two innings of work while striking out two.

Modesto scored three runs in the last of the 9th off Ports reliever Scott Deal. Modesto got doubles from Delta Cleary, Jr., Josh Rutledge and Nina and took advantage of a fielding error made by Coleman. Deal was lifted after a third of an inning and replaced by Mike Hart, who got Jared Clark to hit a sac-fly to right and Rafael Ortega to fly to left to end the ballgame.

Deal allowed three runs (two earned) in a third of an inning, while Hart pitched the final two-thirds scoreless.

With the win, the Ports set up a rematch of the 2008 North Division Championship Series with the San Jose Giants. In Game 1 of the best-of-five series, the Ports will send Rob Gilliam (12-7, 5.04 ERA) to the mound. The Giants will counter with right-hander Craig Westcott (13-4, 3.42 ERA). First pitch from San Jose Municipal Stadium is set for 6 p.m. PDT.

### **Bees Season Comes to an End**

BURLINGTON, Iowa (Sept. 9) - The Burlington Bees ended their season with a 3-2 loss to the Kane County Cougars in the third and deciding game of the Midwest League's Western Division semi-finals.

The Cougars started the scoring in the top of the fourth inning after RF Geulin Beltre (1-4) hit a double to center field. LF Brian Fletcher (1-4) hit a double to right field, scoring Beltre. Fletcher scored on a triple to center field by CF Brett Eibner (1-4) to put Kane County up 2-0.

In the top of the fifth inning, Kane County DH Jovan Pickett (1-3) hit a single to left field and scored on a triple hit by 2B Angel Franco (1-4), which put the Cougars ahead 3-0.

Burlington RF Jose Crisotomo (1-4) hit a one-out double to left field in the bottom of the sixth inning. 1B A. J. Kirby-Jones (0-4) reached base on fielding error by Kane County SS Orlando Calixte and Crisotomo scored. Kirby-Jones scored on a throwing error by Cougars C Kevin David to get the Bees within one run at 3-2.

Burlington RHP Jose Macias allowed three runs on seven hits over five innings and earned the loss.

### **Vermont 7-2 Loss At Auburn Friday**

By Paul Stanfield / Vermont Lake Monsters

AUBURN, NY --- The Auburn Doubledays advanced to the New York-Penn League Championship Series with a 7-2 victory over the Vermont Lake Monsters Friday night at Falcon Park in the deciding game of the best-of-three semifinal series between the two teams.

Auburn scored all seven of its runs over the first three innings, including three runs in both the second and third innings. Six of the seven runs were charged to Vermont starter Seth Frankoff (0-1), who did not allow a run in 19 innings over his previous three starts and never more than four runs in any of his 14 starts during the regular-season.

Carlos Alvarez smacked a one-out triple and scored on a groundout to give Auburn a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. The Doubledays used four hits off Frankoff in the second to score three runs, including an RBI single from Wilfri Pena, for a 4-0 advantage.

Vermont got its only two runs of the game in the top of the third as Sean Jamieson and Chad Oberacker had back-to-back one-out singles, Nick Rickles walked to load the bases and Crocker grounded a two-run single to center cutting the lead in half. But with the tying runs on base, Dusty Robinson grounded into a double play to end the inning.

The Doubledays quickly got back to work in the bottom of the third as Russell Moldenhauer led off with a walk and Angelberth Montilla doubled him to third to knock Frankoff out of the game. Bryce Ortega then greeted reliever Logan Chitwood with a two-run double and later scored on a Rickles throwing error on a strikeout wild pitch for the 7-2 lead.

The Lake Monsters had chances for more runs as they put runners on base in every inning but the sixth inning, but left the bases loaded in the fourth and ninth innings for a total of 13 runners left on base in the game. Rickles did not have an official at bat in the game, walking four times and getting hit by a pitch, while Jamieson was 1-for-2 with three walks.

Vermont's bullpen shutout the Doubledays on just two hits over the final five innings with no walks and nine strikeouts. Eric Potter struckout six of the seven batters he faced in the fifth and sixth innings, while Crocker went 3-for-5 at the plate as the Lake Monsters matched Auburn with 10 hits for the game. Alvarez and Montilla both had three hits for Auburn, which advances to its first New York-Penn League finals since winning the NY-Penn League title in 2007.

The Lake Monsters 2011 season comes to a close with its first semifinal series loss in the team's third playoff appearance (swept 1995 and 1996 semifinals) after Vermont won the Stedler Division championship with a regular-season record of 39-35.