

A's News Clips, Monday, September 12, 2011

Wilson, Beltre lead Rangers past A's 8-1

Associated Press

C.J. Wilson understood why Texas manager Ron Washington wouldn't give him a shot at his second consecutive shutout.

Wilson scattered five singles over eight shutout innings, Adrian Beltre homered twice to reach 301 for his career and the AL West-leading Rangers beat Oakland 8-1 on Sunday to eliminate the Athletics from playoff contention.

Wilson (16-6) struck out 11 and walked one, following up on his first career shutout — an 8-0 win at Tampa Bay last Tuesday.

Wilson set a career high for victories and wanted a complete game, but Washington pulled his ace after 111 pitches.

Washington is trying to avoid extra stress on Wilson's left arm down the stretch, and Wilson agreed with his manager to take a long-term approach and stay in the dugout with an 8-0 lead.

"He understands," Washington said. "He's the guy in our rotation who's going every fifth day."

Wilson threw an assortment of pitches to a lineup that included late-season call-ups and reserves.

"I threw six different pitches," Wilson said. "All of them were good. A high fastball, a sinker, a sidearm fastball that I used the last couple of innings, my curve and slider were good and my changeup. You can't just go out there and throw heaters; they'll figure that out."

Beltre was the offensive star with four hits while Craig Gentry and Ian Kinsler added three apiece for the Rangers, who have taken 10 of their last 11 from the A's this season.

Beltre has seven homers in his last eight games against Oakland and 15 RBIs against the A's this season.

Commenting on reaching 300 career homers, Beltre said, "It means I've been playing for a long time. I'm proud of that. It's something not many guys can do."

Eric Sogard homered against Koji Uehara leading off the ninth to end the shutout bid.

The Rangers extended their division lead over second-place Los Angeles to 2 1/2 games when the Angels were beaten by the New York Yankees 6-5.

Josh Outman (3-5) got a spot start for Oakland, replacing Rich Harden, whose turn in the rotation was pushed back to give him extra rest. Outman allowed four runs and eight hits over 4 2-3 innings.

Outman, whose previous three appearances came in relief, was making his ninth start of the season, first since July 2.

The Rangers broke up a scoreless game in the fifth when Gentry led off with his first career triple and Kinsler drove him in with a single.

Kinsler advanced to second on his 23rd straight stolen base, tying his club record, moved to third on a groundout and scored on Josh Hamilton's sacrifice fly.

Michael Young reached on an infield single and Beltre followed with a two-run homer to left field. Beltre also doubled in the second to extend his hitting streak to 16 games.

"It's always a good-hitting lineup, especially in this park, no matter what nine they throw out there," Outman said. "I battled through the first four innings, then in the fifth I was a little leg-weary. I felt like every mistake I made, they capitalized on."

Beltre led off the seventh against Andrew Carignan with his 23rd homer for his 22nd career multihomer game.

Later in the seventh, Gentry and Elvis Andrus had RBI singles to make it 7-0.

NOTES: Wilson fell one short of matching his career high for strikeouts. He has six games of 10 or more strikeouts this season, the most for the Rangers since Nolan Ryan's six in 1991. ... Beltre is the 13th active player with 300 homers and 2,000 hits. ... The A's called up OF Jai Miller from Triple-A Sacramento and had him in the starting lineup. Miller spent the season with Sacramento, batting .276 with 32 homers and 88 RBIs in 110 games. He was acquired by Oakland off waivers in April from Kansas City. ... X-rays showed no fracture in Oakland OF Coco Crisp's lower leg injury. He was out of the lineup for the second consecutive day, and Crisp probably won't play in the home series against the Angels from Monday to Wednesday. ... Oakland 1B Brandon Allen is in an 0-for-18 slide. He was hitless in three at-bats, all strikeouts against Wilson.

A's stymied by Rangers' Wilson in loss

By Dave Sessions / Special to MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- Oakland manager Bob Melvin gave a few of his most experienced hitters Sunday off, and who could blame him? Facing Rangers ace C.J. Wilson looked like hard work.

In an 8-1 loss, the A's were consistently frustrated by the left-hander, who pushed his record to 16-6 -- a career high in wins -- and lowered his ERA to 3.01, pitching eight shutout innings and striking out 11. Wilson threw his first career shutout last week against Tampa Bay and followed it up with another gem.

Wilson became the first Rangers pitcher to strike out 10 or more batters six times in a season since Nolan Ryan in 1991.

With the loss, Oakland was officially eliminated from the playoffs, although that was a foregone conclusion for a team that is now 14 games under .500. Losing 11 of 16 to the American League West-leading Rangers didn't help.

"Right now, we're playing for pride and we're playing to spoil something, so going out and getting it handed to us like that was disappointing," said Oakland starter Josh Outman, who allowed four runs on eight hits and three walks in 4 2/3 innings.

Melvin elected to rest some of his everyday players and start a lineup that included three rookies -- Michael Taylor, Jai Miller and Anthony Recker -- and second baseman Adam Rosales, who extended his hitless streak to 0-for-31.

Not surprisingly, given Wilson's relatively light-hitting competition and his recent dominance, the third-year starter was in command throughout his outing. He struck out the first two batters in a 1-2-3 first inning and struck out two batters each in the second, seventh and eighth innings. He allowed five hits and walked one.

"My mechanics are locked in a little bit," Wilson said. "It's just coming together. I feel like all the preparation and conditioning is paying off."

The A's countered Wilson with spot starter Outman, who worked his way out of trouble over four scoreless innings before the Rangers chased him in the fifth. Texas got four runs on five hits in the inning, starting with Craig Gentry's triple and ending with Adrian Beltre's two-run home run, his 300th career blast.

"It's just always tough to come and pitch here," Outman said. "It's a hitters' park, it's always a good-hitting lineup no matter what nine they throw out there. I battled through the first four [innings]. Then the fifth inning, I was just a little leg weary, and every mistake I made they capitalized on."

Beltre later hit homer No. 301, a solo shot to the hill in center field in the seventh inning, when the Rangers tacked on three more runs. Beltre also had a single and a double Sunday.

"He's just been on fire lately," Outman said.

Late-inning defensive replacement Eric Sogard homered in the ninth to put the A's on the board.

Rangers remember 9/11 with special ceremony

By Louie Horvath / MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- The Rangers observed the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in a very touching ceremony at the Ballpark in Arlington on Sunday.

They brought out Captain John Pearson, Harold Elliot and Mary and Jeremy John, all four of whom had their lives profoundly affected by the terrorist attacks.

Mary John was on the 72nd floor of the South Tower at the World Trade Center when a plane struck the tower between six and 14 floors above her.

Her husband, Sujo John, was on the 81st floor of the North Tower, which was also struck by a plane above his floor. They both miraculously survived.

"I don't know if it will get any better as time goes," Mary said of the memories. "The memories are still painful, and the tears still flow freely like they did on the first day."

Mary was pregnant at the time, and doctors were worried that the dust and trauma of the events would cause her to lose the child, but Jeremy John was born several months later.

Sujo was at another engagement and could not be at the Ballpark in Arlington on Sunday, but Mary and Jeremy were on the field, as Jeremy, an avid 9-year-old Rangers fan, got to meet pitcher Derek Holland.

"It was a huge honor -- Jeremy is a huge baseball fan, and he said this smile is never going to come off his face," Mary said. "It's a great day and a great way to honor the memories of the day."

Pearson had been a mechanic for American Airlines, and he worked on the maintenance of the plane that flew into the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., on that day.

In the aftermath of the incident, Pearson decided that he should join the National Guard.

After doing two tours in Iraq, he is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan next year on the continuing War on Terror that George W. Bush launched after the attacks.

"Earlier that week, we had just taken [the plane] to overhaul where they tear it down and put it back together," Pearson said. "I got home, worked a late shift and my wife woke me up in the morning and saw what was going on. That's when we got the call from work that it was one of ours. I had been thinking of the military over the years, and I needed to go do something, so it's been a busy road since then."

Harold Elliott was in Arlington, Texas, when the planes struck, serving as the Arlington Police Department chaplain. After the tragedy, Elliot moved temporarily to Ground Zero to counsel New York City firefighters and police officers.

After that, Elliot traveled around the country consoling victims of the tragic events.

He believes that the 10th anniversary is another symbol of the American spirit.

"I really believe America is one of those nations that accepts tragedy," Elliot said. "It realizes we will rise out of the ashes, and take on a new 'normal,' which we have done."

Another person who was touched by the actions of the workers at Ground Zero was in the Oakland dugout, as Athletics manager Bob Melvin got a chance to visit those workers when the D-backs faced the Yankees in the 2001 World Series.

Melvin was the bench coach in Arizona at the time, and now he counts himself as a New York City resident.

"More than anything, what I remember is how uplifting the rescue workers and the first responders, the police, the firemen, how passionate they were about what they were doing and so motivated," Melvin said. "How uplifting it was to watch these people do their jobs. We realized that what we do is entertainment value, but what they do is life and death, and those are the true heroes. I'll never forget that day, watching them work and go about their business."

Rangers infielder Michael Young was in his rookie year in the Majors, and he remembers feeling that baseball could help the nation with the healing process.

"We really understood as players what we could potentially mean for our country, as far as giving them a lift and lending a hand in the recovery process in a difficult time," Young said. "Here we are 10 years later, and I think we appreciate the fan-player relationship that much more."

The Rangers gave out 35,000 Stars and Stripes caps and held emergency response familiarization training all weekend at the park.

After the third inning, Soren Spence, a soldier who had served in World War II, Vietnam and Korea, was recognized on the video board, and the crowd at the Ballpark in Arlington gave him a standing ovation.

Bailey reaches 20 saves for third straight year

By Dave Sessions / Special to MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- A's closer Andrew Bailey recorded his 20th save Saturday, the third time he has reached that mark in three Major League seasons. Only 12 closers in the Majors have earned 20 or more saves in each of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Bailey recorded 26 saves in 2009, when he won the American League Rookie of the Year Award, and had 25 saves in 2010. But he doesn't consider 20 to be any kind of milestone.

"If I get to 30 or 40, that will be pretty cool," he said.

Bailey hasn't reached those numbers yet, but he has been rock solid in the second half of each season he has pitched. Bailey is 35-for-35 in save opportunities after the All-Star break.

Melvin eager to get a look at younger players

ARLINGTON -- With the A's close to being officially eliminated from playoff contention, manager Bob Melvin is eager to get a look at some of his young players.

Melvin's lineup Sunday included five players who didn't start the day before -- left fielder Michael Taylor, third baseman Scott Sizemore, right fielder Jai Miller, catcher Anthony Recker and second baseman Adam Rosales.

Taylor, Miller and Recker are all rookies. Miller was just called up from Triple-A Sacramento, where he hit .276 with 32 homers and 88 RBIs in 110 games this season.

"We'll see what they have to offer," Melvin said.

Crisp could miss next series against Angels

ARLINGTON -- After injuring his right ankle Friday, Coco Crisp was out of the lineup Saturday and Sunday and may miss Oakland's next series against the Angels, manager Bob Melvin said.

"We'll probably do some more extensive stuff with our doctors when we get back home," Melvin said. "[Crisp had] an X-ray. It didn't show a fracture, but we may be looking at an MRI when we get home."

Because of the ankle problem, Crisp has played more sparingly lately, starting only four of the past eight games after playing in 119 of the first 137 games this year.

Worth noting

- Despite collecting 11 hits Saturday, Oakland is hitting just .193 at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington this season entering Sunday -- even though the stadium's "park factor," a measure of the difference in offensive stats at home and on the road, is the second best in the Major Leagues behind Colorado's thin-aired Coors Field.
- The A's have committed 115 errors entering Sunday, second in the Majors behind the Cubs. The A's haven't committed that many errors since 2001 (125).
- Oddly, despite being 13 games under .500 entering Sunday, Oakland is hitting .251 against teams with winning records and .239 against losing teams.

A's call up Miller from Sacramento

By Joey Nowak / MLB.com

The Athletics selected outfielder Jai Miller from Triple-A Sacramento before Sunday's series finale against the Rangers.

It will be his first Major League appearance with Oakland.

Miller, 26, has spent the entire season with Sacramento, batting .276 with 32 homers and 88 RBIs in 110 games. The slugger ranked second in the Pacific Coast League in homers and fourth in slugging (.588), but also led the league in strikeouts (179).

The outfielder had his best month of the season in July, when he batted .318 with 12 home runs and 24 RBIs in 27 games.

A fourth-round pick by the Marlins in the 2003 First-Year Player Draft, Miller made his big league debut with Florida in 2008 and went 0-for-1 in just one ballgame.

He went on to hit .236 with one homer and four RBIs in 20 games with the Royals last season.

Interview: The Moneyball Manager

Nick Summers, newsweek.com

Baseball brainiac Billy Beane is being played by Brad Pitt on the big screen.

The subtitle of the book *Moneyball* is *The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*. How fair is major-league baseball today? Let's put it this way. It's not the same for all 30 teams. It's not necessarily unique to baseball. Because of revenue sharing, we're certainly not there yet. But even though the A's revenues have gone up, for every half-step forward we take, the larger-market teams are taking three steps.

How does inequality in baseball compare with other pro sports?

It depends on what you want. If creating the most level playing field is the goal, then you have to look at the NFL. That's arguably the best-run sports league in the world. But I would bet that if you polled fans, there's a certain amount of people who are attracted to the David-and-Goliath story that exists in baseball. Everyone wants to have a villain.

You wrote an op-ed about health care with Newt Gingrich and John Kerry. What was that like?

I can't even describe—I was sort of speechless, and completely honored that their office would call me. My first response was that it was probably a little bit out of my league, making big comments on health care. And they weren't necessarily looking for that from me—but they said, listen, the application of metrics could create a more efficient system. So I basically stayed within my lane from there.

What's another Brad Pitt character you identify with?

There's the detective in *Seven*, the casino thief in the *Ocean's* movies, *Death in Meet Joe Black*. I remember *Fight Club*, too, but that'd probably be giving myself too much credit. His character on *Head of the Class*, I think that's where he first broke in. I think that's the one I identify with.

How long are you going to be a general manager in Oakland?

There's talk about your going to Chicago or New York. The good thing about doing this job for a long time is you stop reading the papers as it relates to that. Any sort of scuttlebutt I hear on that, I sorta completely disregard. I'm very happy being a general manager here.

You're known for never watching games from inside the stadium. If you went to this movie with your family, would you wait in the lobby?

I've actually thought about that. The difference between this and a game is that I know the ending already, so I'm OK.

Not everyone in baseball bought into 'Moneyball'

Book about how Billy Beane relied heavily on stats to build the Oakland A's into contenders for several seasons is being released as a movie, creating an opportunity to discuss the system's merits.

By Bill Shaikin, Los Angeles Times, 9/11/2011

The champagne flowed easily, and so did the toasts. The San Francisco Giants had just won the World Series, and the shouts came from all corners of the clubhouse.

To Willie Mays! To Tim Lincecum! To Aubrey Huff's rally thong!

And this, from around a corner, from Giants executive Tony Siegle: "So much for 'Moneyball.' "

The book that polarized an industry hits the big screen next week, with Brad Pitt starring as Billy Beane, the maverick general manager of the Oakland Athletics.

The book was published in 2003, as the A's made their fourth consecutive playoff appearance. The movie comes out as the A's hover uncomfortably close to last place in the American League West, en route to their fifth consecutive season without a winning record.

Those recent struggles are met with barely concealed glee in some clubhouses and front offices, in an industry that did not appreciate the perception that Beane was a Space Age genius among Stone Age thinkers.

"Everybody is a good general manager when you have [bleeping] [Tim] Hudson, [Barry] Zito and [Mark] Mulder," Chicago White Sox Manager Ozzie Guillen said. "It's easy to be a GM like that. It's not a [bleeping] secret."

What offended veteran baseball types took away from the book was that Beane had somehow invented a championship roster out of computer printouts, on-base percentage and bargain shopping.

That was a caricature, but what were the old-school baseball men supposed to think? The book jacket included this tease: "Even the box score misleads us by ignoring the crucial importance of the humble base on balls. This information has been around for years, and nobody inside Major League Baseball paid it any mind. And then came Billy Beane."

Let's just say that Gene Mauch did not use Brian Downing as the Angels' leadoff hitter three decades ago because of Downing's speed.

"The book overplayed the statistical analysis side of things. It underplayed the scouting side of things," said Bill Stoneman, the former Angels general manager whose team won the World Series in 2002, in the heyday of the "Moneyball" era.

"What you're looking for in a player isn't just what he's done. We can all measure what he's done or how he's trending. The most important question is, what is he going to do? That's a scout's job."

Stoneman is not talking about how a minor league performance might translate at the major league level, or how batting average on balls in play can suggest whether a hitter or pitcher is successful at an unsustainable level.

He is talking about the ability to project a lanky teenager as a beefy slugger, or to determine if a kid with a 95-mph fastball can master the two or three other pitches necessary to start in the major leagues.

Stoneman read the book. Siegle, the Giants executive, said he did not read it but heard more than enough about what he perceived as its worship of numbers.

"Statistics are very important. They're not the be-all and end-all," said Siegle, who has worked for 23 general managers in his five decades as a major league executive.

"Nothing is going to supplant good scouting, good player development and a good general manager."

It would be unfortunate if the release of the "Moneyball" movie were to spawn a revival of the statistics-versus-scouts debate, since no team uses one to the exclusion of the other.

Beane declined to comment for this story.

Toronto Blue Jays General Manager Alex Anthopoulos leans toward the statistical end of the spectrum, but he is trying to topple the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees in part by hiring more scouts. The Angels lean toward scouting — so do the Giants — but Manager Mike Scioscia said he gets more statistical data than ever from the front office.

"Moneyball" was not about a computer spitting out the A's roster. It was not about constructing an offense around on-base percentage. It was about zigging when the A's could not afford to zag.

When the Oakland budget did not allow for a slugger at every position, the A's opted for creativity over surrender. The on-base guys tended to come more cheaply. When the market price went up for guys who walked a lot, the A's zagged again, trying to cobble a winner out of superior defenders.

Scioscia also said the A's now use strategies they never did in their "Moneyball" glory days. They might try dropping a sacrifice bunt, or stealing second base, or scooting from first base to third on a single, plays that were regarded as anathema in Oakland a decade ago.

"They would never give away outs," Scioscia said.

The core of baseball lifers, skeptical of the reverence with which Beane was portrayed in the book, point to the scoreboard. And, yes, the A's never have won the World Series under Beane.

On the other hand, in an eight-year span ending in 2006, the A's advanced to the playoffs five times and had a winning record every year. The Yankees were the only other major league club to do so.

No, what "Moneyball" really symbolized was the democratization of statistical information.

When Tony La Russa managed the A's two decades ago, he would not let the team publicist share Mark McGwire's batting averages against left-handers and right-handers. What was then considered proprietary information is now available to all, just a click away.

For a substantial number of fans, "Moneyball" validated the concept that baseball insiders did not hold a monopoly on the ability to build a contender. By using a raft of new and refined statistics, anyone with an Internet connection could offer sophisticated evaluation of a trade or signing — or a front office.

The statistical analysts were not kind to the Giants' front office last season, for assembling a roster made up of what Manager Bruce Bochy called "castoffs and misfits." The championship apparently did not immunize the front office from allegations of ignorance, supported by statistics.

"We still get that every now and then," Siegle said. "I have to go back and make sure we still won the World Series."

Comeback Cats stun rival Reno Aces

By Veronika Tafoya / Sacramento River Cats

Veteran left-hander Lenny DiNardo had perhaps his best outing of the season as Sacramento beat Reno, 13-2, to win the Pacific Coast League Conference Championship Series on Sunday afternoon at Raley Field.

The River Cats, who lost the first two games of the series in Reno, won the final three games before the hometown fans to advance to the Championship Series.

The 31-year-old DiNardo, who was called up from Double-A Midland just before the playoffs, allowed two runs and three hits over 7.0 innings for the victory. Josh Donaldson led Sacramento's offense, going 4-for-5 with two doubles, three runs and three RBIs.

Sacramento advances to face the Omaha Storm Chasers, who beat the Round Rock Express 3-games-to-1 in the American Conference Championship Series. Omaha won the American North Division with a 79-63 regular season record, edging the Memphis Redbirds by 2.5 games.

The River Cats are three wins away from their fifth PCL title.

Cats win third straight, steal series

By Andrew Pentis / Special to MLB.com

Leave it to an A's prospect to offer this explanation for Sacramento's return from a 2-0 deficit to win the best-of-5 Pacific Coast League semifinals.

"The difference about the first two games was they were attacking the zone and we finally started working the counts."

The words of Josh Donaldson, who went 4-for-5 and drove in three runs in the River Cats' third straight victory over the Reno Aces -- a 13-2 decision on Sunday -- are difficult to disprove.

PCL Championship Series-bound Sacramento drew four walks in Games 1 and 2, resulting in six runs. The same lineup got patient, coaxing 18 free passes and totaling 26 runs over the final three games.

Whatever the actual cause of the turnaround, the Pacific Conference champion River Cats will meet the American Conference-winning Storm Chasers after **Omaha walked off** with its first-ever Finals appearance. The best-of-5 Championship Series begins Tuesday.

The River Cats reached the Finals each year from 2007-09, securing titles in 2007 and 2008.

Strong offense is sending them back. Sacramento posted four crooked numbers on Sunday, getting production from several sources.

Beyond Donaldson, who doubled twice out of the cleanup spot, Wes Timmons (3-for-5), Adrian Cardenas (2-for-3) and Grant Green (2-for-4) registered multi-hit games.

Cardenas and Green, the A's **No. 1 prospect**, also drove in three runs apiece. Up from Double-A Midland, Green went 8-for-14 in the series.

"If they want to pitch around [Chris] Carter or me," Donaldson said, "there's guys behind us that will make them pay."

As for the walks, Carter drew four of the club's 10 against five Reno pitchers.

Carter, who homered in **Friday's series-turning win**, also was one of three River Cats to score three runs. He is Oakland's **No. 3 prospect**.

Beginning with starter Tom Layne (0-1), four Aces pitchers allowed at least two runs apiece.

River Cats counterpart Lenny DiNardo (1-0) gave up only two runs -- both on Ryan Langerhans' second-inning homer -- on three hits over seven innings. The 31-year-old left-hander fanned four.

"He's got a lot of big league time, but if you looked in his eyes after the game, you'd think he just got done pitching in the World Series," said Donaldson, a catcher playing third base in the series. "It mattered to him."

Ports Pummeled 13-1 In Game 2; Series Tied 1-1

SAN JOSE, Calif. - On the heels of a thrilling 7-6 victory in Game 1 of the North Division Championship Series, the Stockton Ports suffered a huge letdown in Game 2 on Sunday night. The San Jose Giants, with help from a 6 RBI performance from Tommy Joseph, plated 13 runs on 16 hits en route to a 13-1 blowout of the Ports to even the best-of-five series at a game apiece.

San Jose wasted no time in getting on the board. Gary Brown doubled to open the bottom of the 1st and scored on an ensuing single from Ehire Adrianza to give the Giants a 1-0 lead. After Ports starter Jake Brown (0-1) retired eight of the next nine hitters following the Adrianza hit, the Giants began to widen their lead in the 4th. Nick Noonan led off with an infield single and Joseph followed with his first of two home runs on the night to give the Giants a 3-0 advantage. Three batters later with two outs, Jarrett Parker also hit the first of two home runs on his night to make it a 4-0 Giants lead.

The Giants kept their foot on the gas in the 5th. Juan Ciriaco led off with a double to left and, after advancing to third on a groundout, scored when center fielder Michael Choice dropped a fly ball off the bat of Adrianza after sprinting in to try and make the grab, an error that made it 5-0. Adrianza went to third when Brown made an errant pick-off throw to first and scored on a sac-fly from Noonan.

Brown took the loss after going 4.2 innings and allowing six runs (four earned) on six hits while striking out three.

James Simmons took over for Brown with two outs in the 4th and his first pitch of the night was hit over the left field wall by Joseph to make it a 7-0 score. It was the only run and only hit allowed by Simmons in 1.1 innings of relief.

Meanwhile, Giants starter Chris Heston (1-0) shut the Ports offense down completely over seven great innings of work. Heston earned the win and allowed just three hits over seven innings while striking out five and walking three.

Charles Mye came on to start the 7th for Stockton and gave up a one-out double to Brown, who scored two batters later on an infield RBI single by Noonan. Noonan scored on an ensuing double from Joseph to make it a 9-0 score. Mye pitched only the 7th inning.

Stockton's lone run came in the 8th when Giants reliever Addison Proszek walked Michael Gilmartin with the bases loaded and two out to make it a 9-1 ballgame. It was the only inning of work for Proszek.

The Giants offense saved its best inning of the night for last. In the bottom of the 8th the Giants plated four more runs, this time off Ports reliever Scott Deal. The runs came on a two-run homer from Parker, his second of the night, and a two-run double with two outs from Joseph, bringing the score to 13-1. Deal allowed four runs on six hits in his lone inning of work.

Joseph finished his night 4-for-5 with 6 RBI. All four of Joseph's hits went for extra bases. Parker went 2-for-3 with a pair of home runs and 3 RBI. 10 of San Jose's 16 hits on the night went for extra bases.

Heston, who tossed seven scoreless innings, has now pitched 22 scoreless innings versus Stockton in both the regular season and post-season combined.

With the best-of-five series tied at a game apiece, the Ports and the Giants will play game's three and four at Banner Island Ballpark on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. In Game 3, A.J. Griffin (5-3, 3.57 ERA) will make his second start of the post-season for Stockton. He'll be opposed by Giants left-hander Kelvin Marte (12-6, 3.47 ERA). First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.