

Aldrete likely target as A's hitting coach

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Whether the Cardinals advance to the National League Championship Series on Friday night could potentially dictate how soon the A's fill their hitting coach vacancy.

That's because A's manager Bob Melvin is expected to try to reel in St. Louis assistant hitting coach and friend Mike Aldrete as soon as the Cardinals are eliminated from the playoffs.

Melvin and Aldrete played three seasons together with the Giants, and Aldrete -- like newly named A's bench coach Chip Hale -- is a California native. He served as Melvin's first-base coach in Seattle in 2004 and also as his hitting coach in Arizona during the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

Aldrete would fill the role previously held by Gerald Perry, who was one of three coaches for whom the A's decided not to renew contracts at season's end.

The club is also thought to be targeting Bryan Price as its new pitching coach, following the surprise dismissal of Ron Romanick. Price, who has one year left on his contract as pitching coach for the Reds, served in the same role under Melvin in Seattle and Arizona.

There is no timeline on when the A's will fill these positions.

Giants prospects pilot Scorpions to victory

Brown collects three hits, two RBIs; Maday shuts down Dogs

By Andrew Pentis / Special to MLB.com 10/8/2011

There are seven Giants farmhands on the roster of the Scottsdale Scorpions. Only two were needed on Saturday afternoon in Phoenix.

Leadoff man Gary Brown collected three hits and two RBIs and Daryl Maday pitched four innings of one-hit ball as the Scorpions edged the Desert Dogs, 5-4.

Brown, San Francisco's **No. 1 prospect**, singled and scored on a double by Hank Conger (Angels) in the first inning. The California League Rookie of the Year doubled home Cody Overbeck (Phillies) and Jean Segura (Angels) in the second to extend Scottsdale's lead to 3-0.

"He was throwing a lot of cutters, a lot of sliders," Brown said of his six-pitch battle in the second with Yankees prospect David Phelps. "He left one up in the middle of the plate and I was able to drive it."

Selected 24th overall in the 2010 Draft, Brown also led off the seventh with a single. Playing for Class A Advanced San Jose, he recorded 22 games with at least three hits during the regular season. He led the league with 188 hits, ranked second with 53 stolen bases and third with a .336 average.

"It's good to have a good game, but it's just a matter of timing; I hadn't seen pitching in two weeks and I finally got to play back-to-back games," said Brown, who was 1-for-7 in his first two Arizona Fall League games. "I definitely was hitting in the cage, but you can't simulate the live pitching. There's nothing that's the same as that."

Maday (1-0), allowed only a single to Reds farmhand Brodie Greene, struck out six and walked two. The 26-year-old right-hander went 4-12 with a 4.75 ERA in 28 games between Double-A Richmond and Triple-A Fresno this season.

"He looked good," Brown said. "A lot of movement on his fastball, wasn't leaving it up and he did a good job."

Andrew Taylor (Angels) came on in the fifth and surrendered a two-run homer to Blue Jays prospect Kevin Ahrens.

The Scorpions scored two insurance runs in the eighth before the Desert Dogs' Michael Choice (A's) slugged a solo shot off Caleb Clay (Red Sox). Another Oakland prospect, Grant Green, doubled and scored on a single by Yan Gomes (Blue Jays) to chase Clay and get the Desert Dogs within 5-4.

Choice, the A's **No. 2 prospect** behind Green, has three homers in four AFL games.

Phillies left-hander Jake Diekman recorded the final four outs, fanning two, for his first save. With the tying run at second in the ninth, he struck out Choice on five pitches.

Phelps (0-1), the Yankees' **No. 8 prospect**, allowed all three Brown-produced runs on four hits over three innings. He threw 48 pitches.

Middlebrooks leads Scorpions to first victory

Red Sox third base prospect goes 3-for-4, falls triple shy of cycle

By David Heck / Special to MLB.com 10/7/2011

Will Middlebrooks wasted little time getting his bat going Friday, homering on the third pitch he saw. He didn't stop there.

The Red Sox third base prospect finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored, falling a triple short of the cycle, as the Scottsdale Scorpions defeated the Phoenix Desert Dogs, 7-3.

Selected in the fifth round of the 2007 Draft, Middlebrooks hit .285 with 23 homers and 94 RBIs in 116 games across three Minor League levels this season. The Red Sox **No. 4 prospect** spent most of the year with Double-A Portland, where he batted .305.

Also enjoying a three-hit night was **No. 1 overall prospect** Mike Trout, who doubled in a run in the first and came around to score in the seventh. The 20-year-old outfielder batted .326 with 11 homers and 33 steals in 91 games at Double-A Arkansas, adding five homers and four steals in 40 games with the Angels.

Phillies prospect Tyson Gillies went 2-for-2 with a pair of singles and two walks for the Scorpions (1-2), scoring three times.

Michael Choice, the A's **No. 2 prospect**, hit his second Fall League homer, a two-run shot in the first. Reds **No. 5 prospect** Yasmani Grandal tacked on an RBI double.

Trailing by four runs in the ninth, the Desert Dogs loaded the bases as Corban Joseph (Yankees) singled, Choice was hit by pitch Cody Puckett (Reds) walked. Nationals reliever Pat Lehman fell behind 3-0 against Rob Segedin before striking out the Yankees outfield prospect to end the game.

Austin Fleet (Giants) earned the win, striking out three over two innings of hitless relief.

Reds farmhand Donnie Joseph took the loss after giving up two runs on three hits in the fifth.