

A's News Clips, Thursday, November 3, 2011

None of 5 free agents gets offer

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer Wednesday came and went without the A's making an offer to any of their own free agents, and now all five can begin talking to other teams.

Outfielder Josh Willingham is the most high-profile of Oakland's free agents, and his agent, Matt Sosnick, expected that he would hear from clubs as early as last night when the A's window of exclusivity expired.

"The A's aren't going to make an offer," Sosnick said Wednesday. "And if they do, it will be once they get a stadium decision. I don't think it's a case where they don't want Josh, I just don't think they're strategically able to make a multiyear offer to anyone."

Coco Crisp's agent, Steve Comte, said there were no offers forthcoming for his client either and said of A's general manager Billy Beane, "Billy and the owners just want to sit back and wait because of the stadium issue. It is difficult - I feel bad for any organization that is in the quagmire the A's are in because they do have to overpay to get good players to go there. Would you rather play in front of 40,000 people or 8,000?"

Even so, Comte said, the ownership group, which includes John Fisher of the Gap, "does have money, and if you're going to be one of 30 teams, you have to spend some money and put a team on the field. They have other capabilities if they wanted to do that."

Crisp, who tied for the league lead in stolen bases, could be a good fit for the Giants, who need a center fielder and leadoff hitter. "Covelli has made it clear that he would like to play for a team that is determined to compete, and he'd also like to stay on the West Coast," Comte said, using Crisp's first name. "I think the Giants would be a viable option for him and vice versa."

The A's other free agents are outfielder David DeJesus, expected to be pursued by San Diego; righthander Rich Harden; and designated hitter Hideki Matsui. According to team sources, Matsui's erratic production and the A's reluctance to add payroll could nix a second season in Oakland.

The A's are expected to offer Willingham and DeJesus arbitration. Willingham, a type-A free agent, would bring two draft picks when he signs elsewhere and DeJesus, a type-B, a supplemental pick.

Oakland also designated righthander Trystan Magnuson for assignment.

Giants update

With the Giants re-signing Javier Lopez and exercising Jeremy Affeldt's option, they're left with six free agents, at least half of whom aren't expected to return in 2012: left fielder Pat Burrell, utility man Mark DeRosa and infielder Orlando Cabrera.

As for the others - outfielder Carlos Beltran, outfielder Cody Ross and reliever Guillermo Mota - Wednesday marked the end of the Giants' exclusive window to reach a deal. All six are now free to negotiate and sign with other teams.

A's reinstate six, designate reliever Magnuson

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- By reinstating six players from the 60-day disabled list on Wednesday, the A's were forced to designate right-hander Trystan Magnuson for assignment to make room on the 40-man roster.

In addition to Magnuson, who missed the final two months of the season with right shoulder tendinitis, the A's also reinstated lefties Brett Anderson and Dallas Braden, right-handers Joey Devine and Evan Scribner and first baseman Daric Barton from the DL.

Magnuson made his Major League debut with the A's this year, tallying a 6.14 ERA in nine relief appearances spanning three stints.

Given his season-ending injury, the 26-year-old reliever is likely to clear waivers and return to Triple-A Sacramento's roster.

Baseball: A's owner Lew Wolff not interested in purchasing Los Angeles Dodgers

Associated Press

Maybe a "For Sale" sign should be erected outside Dodger Stadium. Team, ballpark, land and TV rights available. Price: \$1 billion and up.

The process of finding a new owner for the Los Angeles Dodgers began Wednesday when Frank McCourt and Major League Baseball released a joint statement saying they had agreed to a court-supervised sale of the now bankrupt franchise.

However, take A's owner Lew Wolff off the bidding list, despite the frustrating inability to get a new ballpark built in San Jose.

"I'm very interested in having the sale occur for everybody involved," said Wolff, an L.A. real estate developer. "As far as my interest in purchasing the Dodgers, I don't have any. I'm interested in getting a new venue for the A's."

Meanwhile, former A's president Andy Dolich is aligned with ex-Dodgers general manager Fred Claire and Ben Hwang, a former executive at Life Technologies Corp.

"The goal of our group is to return the level of quality that the Dodgers have always represented," Dolich said.

Also, the Los Angeles Times reported Peter O'Malley, whose family owned the Dodgers for nearly half a century, hopes to lead an investment group that would buy the team.

Former Dodgers Steve Garvey and Orel Hershiser have said they might be interested, while Eli Broad, Mark Cuban and Larry Ellison are among those who sports bankers said also might join the bidding.

Investors will be solicited by the Blackstone Group, McCourt's investment banker.

Attorneys for McCourt have estimated the value of the team, its stadium and the surrounding land to be more than \$1 billion.

Cubs: Mike Quade is out as Chicago's manager. New president of baseball operations Theo Epstein flew to Florida to personally give Quade the news. Epstein also said the next Cubs manager "must have managerial or coaching experience at the major league level." That would leave Ryne Sandberg out of the picture. Almost immediately, Sandberg's name was leaked as a candidate for St. Louis' opening. The Cubs were 71-91 in 2011.

Red Sox: Milwaukee hitting coach Dale Sveum, a former Red Sox coach, interviewed for the managerial vacancy in Boston. The club brought in Philadelphia bench coach Pete Mackanin on Monday. Sveum (Pinole Valley High) managed the Brewers for the final 12 games of the 2008 regular season and the playoffs after Ned Yost was fired.

A's: Oakland designated pitcher Trystan Magnuson for assignment. The A's also reinstated pitchers Brett Anderson, Dallas Braden, Joey Devine and Evan Scribner and first baseman Daric Barton from the 60-day disabled list.

Cardinals: With hundreds of fans cheering and many urging him to stay, Albert Pujols watched the unveiling of a 10-foot statue of himself and then said he wasn't yet sure where he would wind up in 2012. He didn't mention free agency during his speech as he stood near the bronze likeness outside his St. Louis restaurant.

Huffman powers Desert Dogs to victory

Indians prospect hits grand slam in eighth to put Phoenix ahead

By David Heck / Special to MLB.com

Chad Huffman picked a good time to hit his first home run of the Arizona Fall League.

The Indians prospect smacked a two-out grand slam in the eighth inning Wednesday, putting the Phoenix Desert Dogs up for good as they defeated the Mesa Solar Sox, 11-8. Overall, the 26-year-old first baseman finished the day 3-for-4 with five RBIs, more than doubling his AFL total to nine.

"It was just one of those things, it came together today," Huffman said. "I got some pitches to drive and got some barrel on it."

With two outs and men on second and third in the eighth, the Desert Dogs trailed the Solar Sox, 8-7. **Top Athletics prospect** Grant Green came to the plate just a single away from the cycle, looking to become the first person to accomplish the feat in the AFL since the Marlins' Logan Morrison did so on Oct. 30, 2008. But Green was hit by the first pitch of the at-bat, setting the stage for Huffman.

"To be honest, I thought Green was going to get a single for sure," Huffman said. "I thought he would get the cycle and give us a one-run lead."

Instead, Huffman stepped in to face reliever Brandon Kloess (White Sox). He left the yard on the seventh pitch of the at-bat.

"I was just battling with the bases loaded, trying to get a hit," he said. "[Kloess] had some good stuff, he really did. Good slider, fastball. I got a fastball up and it kind of happened. I got the barrel on it and it stayed fair."

Reds reliever Brad Boxberger closed the door on Mesa in the ninth for his third save of the AFL. He allowed one hit and struck out one.

Selected by the Padres in the second round in 2006, Huffman has twice been claimed off waivers, resulting in a stint with the Yankees and now his spot with the Indians. He is hitting .231 in 13 AFL games, but has been hot lately, batting .381 (8-for-21) over his last five contests.

"I'm just starting to get more comfortable," Huffman said. "I didn't take any live pitching before first pitch here. It took a while to get back in the swing on things. The last live pitch I saw was in the [Triple-A] National Championship Game [on Sept. 20]."

Green finished the game 3-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs scored.

Cleveland reliever Cory Burns (2-1) earned the win with a scoreless inning out of the bullpen.

Like most other players, Huffman is simply trying to refine his game in the AFL. Having played most of his career in the outfield, he is still getting used to life at first base.

"I'm definitely working on my defense at first base, getting comfortable out there," he said. "Just getting consistent, working on your craft a little bit. There's always room for improvement. The more consistent you are, the closer you are to being a Major Leaguer."



Facts

- More than 1,900 of over 3200 (59%) Fall Leaguers have reached the major leagues
- 169 MLB All-Stars
- 9 MLB MVPs
 - Jason Giambi
 - Josh Hamilton
 - Ryan Howard
 - Joe Mauer
 - Justin Morneau
 - Dustin Pedroia
 - Albert Pujols
 - Jimmy Rollins
 - Joey Votto
- 3 Cy Young Award winners
 - Chris Carpenter
 - Roy Halladay (2)
 - Brandon Webb
- 3 World Series MVPs
 - Jermaine Dye
 - David Eckstein
 - Derek Jeter
- 20 MLB Rookies-of-the-Year
- 8 All-Star Game MVPs
- 51 MLB Silver Sluggers
- 46 MLB Gold Glove Awards
- 9 MLB batting champions
- 12 MLB season hits leaders
- 8 MLB season RBI leaders
- 7 MLB season homer leaders
- 11 MLB season stolen-base leaders
- 28 MLB managers
- 37 MLB umpires
- Over 80 administrators serving the baseball industry

Phoenix Municipal Stadium

5999 E. Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85008

Office: 602.681.9362

FAX: 602.681.9363

mlbfallball.com

[Facebook.com/MLBFallBall](https://www.facebook.com/MLBFallBall)

[Twitter.com/MLBFallBall](https://twitter.com/MLBFallBall)

MLBazFallLeague

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Rising Stars Game Saturday At Surprise Starters Cole & Hultzen Head Rosters

Phoenix, Arizona — The Arizona Fall League, known throughout professional baseball as a finishing school for Major League Baseball's elite prospects, stages its sixth annual Rising Stars Game at 8:10 p.m. ET (5:10 p.m. AZ) on Saturday, November 5 at Surprise Stadium. The contest will be nationally televised by MLB Network and online via MLB.com (MLB.TV).

Scouting and minor-league directors of every major-league organization, in consultation with Fall League Director Steve Cobb and his baseball personnel staff, selected the players for the annual showcase that pits elite prospects from the Fall League's East Division and West Division clubs.

Each major-league organization is offered the opportunity to be represented by at least one player.

The East Division roster fields players from the Mesa Solar Sox (Cubs, Orioles, Pirates, Twins, White Sox), Salt River Rafters (Astros, Diamondbacks, Dodgers, Rockies, Tigers) and Scottsdale Scorpions (Angels, Giants, Nationals, Phillies, Red Sox). The West Division roster is stocked from the Peoria Javelinas (Brewers, Cardinals, Mariners, Mets, Padres), Phoenix Desert Dogs (Athletics, Blue Jays, Indians, Reds, Yankees) and Surprise Saguaros (Braves, Marlins, Rangers, Rays, Royals).

The coaching staffs of the two division-leading teams through play of Saturday, October 29 earned the right to manage Saturday's contest. Salt River manager Stu Cole (Rockies) and his staff — pitching coach Dan Carlson (Diamondbacks) and hitting coach Chris Cron (Tigers) — lead the East Division. Saguaros manager Billy Gardner, Jr. (Rays) and his staff — pitching coaches Derrick Lewis (Braves) and hitting coach Corey Hart (Marlins) — guide the West Division.

Rosters — The first two selections in Major League Baseball's 2011 Draft — Mesa Solar Sox right-handed pitcher **Gerrit Cole** (Pirates) and Peoria Javelinas left-handed pitcher **Danny Hultzen** (Mariners) — will be the East and West starting pitchers, respectively.

Complete Rising Stars Game rosters follow.

TV — MLB Network's Paul Severino (play-by-play) and Dave Valle (color commentary) form the broadcast team for both MLB Network and MLB.com (MLB.TV).

The Rising Stars Game is the first of three 2011 Fall League contests MLB Network and MLB.com (MLB.TV) will nationally televise. The Friday, November 11th United Concordia Dental Military Appreciation Game (Mesa Solar Sox at Salt River Rafters) at 8:10 p.m. ET (6:10 p.m. AZ) and the Saturday, November 19th AFL Championship Game at 3:10 p.m. ET (1:10 p.m. AZ) also will air.

First Five Rising Stars Games — The first five Rising Stars Games showcased some of baseball's current standouts, including Ryan Braun, Jacoby Ellsbury and Hunter Pence in 2006, Brett Gardner and Andrew McCutchen in 2007, Gordon Beckham, Tommy Hanson and Drew Stubbs in 2008, Starlin Castro, Ike Davis, Buster Posey, Drew Storen and Stephen Strasburg in 2009, and Dustin Ackley, Brandon Belt, Eric Hosmer, Jason Kipnis, Ben Revere and Eric Thames last year.

For current Arizona Fall League information, including pitch-by-pitch gamecasts by Baseball Advanced Media, visit www.mlbfallball.com. Also follow the Fall League via Twitter/[mlbazfallleague](https://twitter.com/mlbazfallleague) and Facebook/[mlbfallleague](https://www.facebook.com/mlbfallleague).

— more —

Media Contact: Paul Jensen (paul.jensen@mlb.com, 480-710-8201)

2011 East Division Rising Stars

**Angels, Astros, Cubs, Diamondbacks, Dodgers, Giants, Orioles, Nationals
Pirates, Phillies, Red Sox, Rockies, Tigers, Twins, White Sox**

Manager: 18 Stu Cole (COL) **As of November 1, 2011**
Pitching Coach: 38 Dan Carlson (ARI)
Hitting Coach: 57 Chris Cron (DET)
Trainers: Eric Montague (HOU)
 Yosuke "Possum" Nakajima (LAD)

No.	Pitchers	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
26	Steve Ames	SRR	LAD	R	R	6-1	205	03/15/88	Vancouver, WA	Chattanooga (AA)
34	Charles Brewer	SRR	ARI	R	R	6-4	205	04/07/88	Scottsdale, AZ	Mobile (AA)
36	Chris Carpenter	MSS	CHC	R	R	6-4	220	12/26/85	Bryan, OH	Chicago-NL (MLB)
66	David Carpenter	SCO	LAA	R	R	6-3	180	09/01/87	Arlington, TX	Arkansas (AA)
23	Gerrit Cole	MSS	PIT	R	R	6-4	220	09/08/90	Santa Ana, CA	UCLA (NCAA)
54	Jacob Diekman	SCO	PHI	L	L	6-4	190	01/21/87	Wymore, NE	Reading (AA)
41	Terry Doyle	MSS	CWS	R	R	6-4	225	11/02/85	Concord, MA	Birmingham (AA)
44	Trey McNutt	MSS	CHC	R	R	6-4	220	08/02/89	Birmingham, AL	Tennessee (AA)
38	Kevin Munson	SRR	ARI	R	R	6-5	213	01/03/89	Edison, NJ	Visalia (A+)
56	Rob Scahill	SRR	COL	L	R	6-2	220	02/15/87	Winfield, IL	Tulsa (AA)
40	Casey Weathers	SRR	COL	R	R	6-1	205	06/10/85	Elk Grove, CA	Tulsa (AA)

No.	Catchers	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
18	Jason Castro	SRR	HOU	L	R	6-3	206	06/18/87	Castro Valley, CA	Houston (MLB)
15	Derek Norris	SCO	WSH	R	R	6-0	210	02/14/89	Goddard, KS	Harrisburg (AA)

No.	Infielders	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
20	Nolan Arenado	SRR	COL	R	R	6-1	205	04/16/91	Newport Beach, CA	Modesto (A+)
11	Brian Dozier	MSS	MIN	R	R	5-11	190	05/15/87	Tupelo, MS	New Britain (AA)
6	Junior Lake	MSS	CHC	R	R	6-3	215	03/27/90	San Pedro de Macoris, DR	Tennessee (AA)
17	Will Middlebrooks	SCO	BOS	R	R	6-4	200	09/09/88	Greenville, TX	Pawtucket (AAA)
26	Joe Panik	SCO	SF	L	R	6-1	193	10/30/90	Yonkers, NY	Salem-Keizer (A)
44	Ben Paulsen	SRR	COL	L	R	6-4	205	10/27/87	Plymouth, WI	Tulsa (AA)
84	Jean Segura	SCO	LAA	R	R	5-11	160	03/17/90	San Juan, DR	Inland Empire (A+)

No.	Outfielders	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
17	Xavier Avery	MSS	BAL	L	L	5-11	180	01/01/90	Fulton, GA	Bowie (AA)
15	Robbie Grossman	MSS	PIT	S	L	6-1	190	09/16/89	San Diego, CA	Bradenton (A+)
34	Bryce Harper	SCO	WSH	L	R	6-3	225	10/16/92	Las Vegas, NV	Harrisburg (AA)
27	Mike Trout	SCO	LAA	R	R	6-1	200	08/07/91	Vineland, NJ	Los Angeles-AL (MLB)
7	Tim Wheeler	SRR	COL	L	R	6-4	205	01/21/88	Sacramento, CA	Tulsa (AA)

2011 West Division Rising Stars

Athletics, Blue Jays, Braves, Brewers, Cardinals, Indians, Mariners
Marlins, Mets, Padres, Rays, Rangers, Reds, Royals, Yankees,

Manager: 10 Billy Gardner, Jr. (TB)
Pitching Coach: 43 Derrick Lewis (ATL)
Hitting Coach: 20 Corey Hart (FLA)
Trainers: Jacob Newburn (TEX)
Masanobu Koyanagi (KC)

As of November 1, 2011

No.	Pitchers	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
47	Nate Adcock	SUR	KC	R	R	6-5	220	02/25/88	Elizabethtown, KY	Kansas City (MLB)
54	Anthony Bass	PEO	SD	R	R	6-2	190	11/01/87	Dearborn, MI	San Diego (MLB)
35	Brad Boxberger	PDD	CIN	R	R	6-2	200	05/27/88	Fullerton, CA	Louisville (AAA)
21	Jed Bradley	PEO	MIL	L	L	6-4	224	06/12/90	Huntsville, AL	Georgia Tech (NCAA)
49	Corey Burns	PDD	CLE	R	R	6-1	180	10/09/87	Phoenix, AZ	Akron (AA)
40	Wes Etheridge	PDD	TOR	R	R	6-1	185	08/12/84	Irvine, CA	New Hampshire (AA)
46	Preston Guilmet	PDD	CLE	R	R	6-2	200	07/27/87	Los Alamitos, CA	Kinston (A+)
16	J.J. Hoover	SUR	ATL	R	R	6-3	215	08/13/87	Pittsburgh, PA	Gwinnett (AAA)
39	Danny Hultzen	PEO	SEA	L	L	6-3	200	11/28/89	Bethesda, MD	Virginia (NCAA)
32	Jeremy Jeffress	SUR	KC	R	R	6-0	210	09/21/87	South Boston, VA	Omaha (AAA)
43	Taylor Whitenton	PEO	NYM	R	R	6-3	190	02/20/88	Conyers, GA	Savannah (A)

No.	Catchers	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
28	Christian Bethancourt	SUR	ATL	R	R	6-2	190	09/02/91	Panama, PN	Lynchburg (A+)
13	Kyle Skipworth	SUR	FLA	L	L	6-4	205	03/01/90	Riverside, CA	Jacksonville (AA)

No.	Infielders	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
27	Matt Adams	PEO	STL	L	R	6-3	230	08/31/88	Philipsburg, PA	Springfield (AA)
25	Tyler Bortnick	SUR	TB	R	R	5-11	185	07/03/87	Mentor, OH	Charlotte (A+)
9	Christian Colon	SUR	KC	R	R	6-1	180	05/14/89	Cayey, PR	NW Arkansas (AA)
24	Matt Dominguez	SUR	FLA	R	R	6-1	205	08/28/89	Chatsworth, CA	New Orleans (AAA)
6	Nick Franklin	PEO	SEA	S	R	6-1	170	03/02/91	Sanford, FL	Jackson (AA)
20	Mike Olt	SUR	TEX	R	R	6-2	210	08/27/88	New Haven, CT	Myrtle Beach (A+)
1	Joe Terdoslavich	SUR	ATL	S	R	6-1	200	09/09/88	Sarasota, FL	Lynchburg (A+)

No.	Outfielders	AFL	Team	B	T	Ht.	Wt.	DOB	Birthplace	2011 Club
15	Michael Choice	PDD	OAK	R	R	6-0	215	11/10/89	Fort Worth, TX	Stockton (A+)
12	Jaff Decker	PEO	SD	L	L	5-10	190	02/23/90	Phoenix, AZ	San Antonio (AA)
7	Anthony Gose	PDD	TOR	L	L	6-1	190	08/10/90	Bellflower, CA	New Hampshire (AA)
10	Mikie Mahtook	SUR	TB	R	R	6-1	200	11/30/89	Lafayette, LA	LSU (NCAA)
19	Wil Myers	SUR	KC	R	R	6-3	205	12/10/90	High Point, NC	NW Arkansas (AA)