

LOS ANGELES DODGERS CLIPS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012

Dodgers.com

Dodgers shut out in odd outing for Harang

Righty walks career-high eight, throws 105 pitches in 3 2/3 innings

By Ken Gurnick / MLB.com | 6/20/2012 2:19 AM ET

OAKLAND -- There are quality starts and tough-luck starts and then there are just plain weird starts like Aaron Harang's on Tuesday night.

He didn't allow a hit after the first inning but didn't get out of the fourth, issuing a career-high eight walks to his former team, the Oakland A's, who beat his current club, the Dodgers, 3-0, on a combined two-hitter.

Harang, who struck out nine consecutive hitters in an April start, made much different Dodgers history for the most walks in a game since Edwin Jackson had eight in 2003; for a starter lasting fewer than five innings since Sandy Koufax in 1955; and for a starter lasting fewer than four innings since Les Webber in 1943 (stats from Jon Weisman).

Harang brought a streak of three quality starts into this one, so pitching coach Rick Honeycutt wrote it off to a scheduling quirk that spaced seven days between Harang's starts.

"You can't use it as an excuse," said Honeycutt, "but pitching is everything about routine, and when it's messed up it can affect you."

Harang was messed up.

"It was almost unfair what we did to him," manager Don Mattingly said. "Seven days between. We had two funny off-days. He just seemed out of rhythm all night and he used a lot of pitches to get through not even four [innings]."

After a 40-pitch first inning, he clicked off a total of 105 pitches in 3 2/3 innings, striking out six. Opposing winner Brandon McCarthy threw only 81 pitches in seven innings and ran his win streak to six.

"I felt pretty good actually," Harang said. "In the bullpen, I was hitting spots. Sometimes it's going to look like that and it doesn't function on the main mound. It's one of those things that happen. I battled and tried to keep us in the game, but we didn't get to McCarthy."

Although he allowed a pair of walks in each of his four innings, Harang equaled that number in runners stranded to keep his club in the game.

"I felt a little mechanically like I was rushing too much at times," Harang said. "I was missing my spots. Things just weren't right. They were being patient when I missed and they fouled off a lot and it racked up my pitch count fast. Walks don't help either."

Harang didn't get any defensive help in Oakland's three-run first inning. Coco Crisp's leadoff popup dropped for a double with right fielder Andre Ethier, first baseman James Loney and second baseman Adam Kennedy surrounding the ball.

"No man's land," said Mattingly.

Jemile Weeks walked, and one out later, Seth Smith's RBI single was booted by center fielder Tony Gwynn for a two-base error.

"He probably had a play at the plate if he had the chance," Mattingly said. "The outfield is rough here and the ball kicked away."

With two outs, Harang walked Brandon Moss and Jonny Gomes singled home Smith.

"I racked up the pitch count, but I can't dwell on that," Harang said. "I'll look at the tape with Rick and go from there."

Four relievers (Jamey Wright, Scott Elbert, Todd Coffey and Shawn Tolleson) combined for 4 1/3 scoreless innings of relief.

Harang didn't get any offensive help, either. McCarthy, who missed two starts with shoulder soreness and hadn't pitched since June 7, retired the first eight Dodgers, scattered two singles and didn't allow a runner past second base.

"Early on I was kind of amped up and short of breath. I don't know what was going on, so that felt a little weird, that hasn't really happened this year," McCarthy said. "But after that I felt like I kind of settled in and figured out what I was doing again. At least pitch sharpness-wise, I felt like it was all there."

The Dodgers, masters of the miracle comeback this season, did get runners on first and second with one out in the ninth when Crisp dropped Ethier's line drive for an error and Bobby Abreu walked, but Loney bounced sharply into a game-ending double play.

"The only balls we hit hard were outs," said Ethier, who had a one-out single in the fourth to go with Gwynn's two-out single in the third.

"He kept us down, that's for sure," Mattingly said of McCarthy. "We never got on track. He was throwing strikes early in the game to get ahead. I kind of didn't seem to know what to do with him."

This was the third shutout suffered by the Dodgers this season. They are 5-5 in Interleague Play and 2-10 in Oakland (not counting the 1988 World Series).

All-Star voting has Kemp in, Ethier in need

By Ken Gurnick / MLB.com | 06/19/12 3:20 PM ET

OAKLAND -- Despite being on the disabled list, Dodgers' center fielder Matt Kemp remains the league-leading vote-getter, while teammate Andre Ethier is still stuck in fifth place among outfielders, in the latest All-Star voting results released by Major League Baseball on Tuesday.

Kemp, still out with a strained left hamstring, had 3,322,009 votes. He leads Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto by roughly 170,000 votes.

The 27-year-old Kemp started the 2011 Midsummer Classic, and could give the Dodgers a fan-elected starter in three consecutive Midsummer Classics for the first time since balloting began in 1970.

Carlos Beltran of the Cardinals is still second among outfielders and the Giants' Melky Cabrera passed the Brewers' Ryan Braun for third place. Ethier, an All-Star for the first time last year, and the league RBI leader, trails Braun by more than 600,000 votes.

No other Dodgers position player is in contention for a starting bid.

MLB's All-Star Balloting Program is the largest of its kind in professional sports. Last year's program produced a record-shattering total of 32.5 million ballots cast. More than 20 million Firestone All-Star ballots will be distributed at the 30 Major League ballparks. Each of which will have 23 dates for balloting. The ballots are also available in approximately 100 Minor League ballparks. Fans around the world can also cast their votes for starters up to 25 times exclusively at MLB.com and all 30 Club web sites - online or via their mobile devices -- with the 2012 All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot. During the voting period, the All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot will be available in English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Chinese versions and will offer audio CAPTCHA functionality for visually-impaired fans.

Every Major Club began its in-stadium balloting no later than Tuesday, May 8. When the in-stadium phase of balloting concludes on Friday, June 22, fans will have the opportunity to cast their ballots exclusively online at MLB.com, the 30 Club Web sites and their mobile devices until Thursday, June 28 at 8:59 p.m. (PT).

The 2012 American League and National League All-Star Teams will be unveiled on Sunday, July 1 on the 2012 MLB All-Star Game Selection Show, presented by Taco Bell, televised nationally on TBS. The A.L. All-Star Team will have nine elected starters via the fan balloting program, while the N.L. All-Star Team will have eight fan-elected starters. The pitchers and reserves for both squads - totaling 25 for the N.L. and 24 for the A.L. - will be determined through a combination of "Player Ballot" choices and selections made by the two All-Star managers - A.L. skipper Ron Washington of the Texas Rangers and N.L. manager Tony La Russa - in conjunction with Major League Baseball.

Immediately following the announcement of the American League and National League All-Star rosters on Sunday, July 1, fans will begin voting to select the final player for each League's 34-man roster via the 2012 All-Star Game MLB.com Final Vote presented by Firestone. Fans will cast their votes from a list of five players from each League over a four-day period, and the winners will be announced after the voting concludes on Thursday, July 5th. Now in its eighth year, fans again will be able to make their Final Vote selections on their mobile phones.

The final phase of All-Star Game voting again will have fans participating in the official voting for the Ted Williams All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award, presented by Chevrolet. During the Midsummer Classic, fans will vote exclusively online at MLB.com via the 2012 MLB.com All-Star Game MVP Vote, and their collective voice will represent 20 percent of the official vote determining this year's recipient of the Arch Ward Trophy.

The 2012 All-Star Game will be played at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City on Tuesday, July 10.

The 83rd All-Star Game will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS, and worldwide by partners in more than 200 countries via MLB International's independent feed. ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network and Sirius XM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage. For more information, please visit allstargame.com or royals.com/asg.

A's Milone happy to be home against Dodgers

By Quinn Roberts / MLB.com | 6/20/2012 1:50 AM ET

It's no secret that A's starter Tommy Milone has enjoyed pitching at Oakland Coliseum this season.

While he is 2-4 with a 7.42 ERA on the road, Milone has thrived at home, going 4-1 with a 0.98 ERA. Milone will try to keep up those stellar statistics at O.co Coliseum on Wednesday, when the A's face-off against the Dodgers.

The left-hander had a tough time in his last start at Coors Field, surrendering eight runs on seven hits in just four innings. He also gave up three home runs but took a no-decision, thanks to an Oakland offense that plated 10 runs.

"I'm trying to compare the home starts and the road starts," Milone said. "I think mainly just staying low and getting ahead. I feel like, when I'm on the road, I get behind a lot and am forced to throw the ball over the plate a lot."

Meanwhile, Nathan Eovaldi will be on the hill for Los Angeles, looking for his first win of the season since being called up at the end of May.

In all four starts this season, he's gone at least five innings, giving up two earned runs or fewer in every outing. However, even with a 1.82 ERA, Eovaldi has a record of 0-2.

In his last start on Wednesday against the Angels, the right-hander went six innings, surrendering just one run on seven hits for the no-decision.

"Nate has been great," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said after the game. "He's got a chance to be really good. He's going to be something to deal with."

Dodgers: Ellis making progress

- While infielder Mark Ellis won't put a timetable on his return, he did say on Tuesday that he has been making steady progress with his lower left leg injury.

Ellis has begun to sprint and take grounders, will run the bases this week and now is focused on regaining his hitting stroke.

"The big thing was getting over the mental hurdle that it wasn't going to break down," Ellis said. "I did that pretty quick. There's no discomfort. The knee it not bothering me at all and that's a really good sign. I'm further along than I thought at this point. Every day I'm getting a little better, but I still don't know when I'll be playing."

A's: Colon likely to DL

- Before Tuesday's game against the Dodgers, manager Bob Melvin confirmed that starter Bartolo Colon is likely headed to the disabled list. Colon was forced to leave Sunday's game in the third inning with a right oblique strain.

"I'm pretty certain there's a DL at some point in time here," Melvin said. "There's corresponding moves and some other things that play into it as well. Those oblique injuries can be a little bit difficult, but we just want to make sure we process this thing and don't get ahead of ourselves, figure out what the coinciding move will be."

Colon had an MRI on Monday that confirmed the initial diagnosis, though the results still needed to be examined by Oakland's medical staff to determine the severity of the strain.

- The A's agreed to terms with five Draft picks on Tuesday, including sandwich-round picks Daniel Robertson and Matt Olson. The pair was at the Coliseum before the game against the Dodgers to meet and work out with the team.

Worth noting

- Melvin said outfielder Yoenis Cespedes had his best day of workouts on Tuesday since reinjuring his hamstring, and he seems likely to return to the lineup on Wednesday.
- Dodgers reliever Ronald Belisario has allowed just one run in his last nine appearances. He's also allowed just two extra-base hits all season.

Ellis upbeat about progress from leg injury

By Ken Gurnick / MLB.com | 06/19/12 10:24 PM ET

OAKLAND -- Dodgers infielder Mark Ellis won't say he's ahead of schedule in his recovery from an unusual and painful lower left leg injury, because he never had a schedule.

But he did say Tuesday that the progress has been steady and he's eager to return. He's begun to sprint and take grounders, will run the bases this week and now is focused on regaining his hitting stroke.

"The big thing was getting over the mental hurdle that it wasn't going to break down," Ellis said. "I did that pretty quick. There's no discomfort. The knee it not bothering me at all and that's a really good sign. I'm further along than I thought at this point. Every day I'm getting a little better, but I still don't know when I'll be playing."

Ellis had an emergency fasciotomy May 20 to relieve swelling pressure in the leg and also suffered a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee and a bone bruise below the knee from a take-out slide by St. Louis' Tyler Greene.

He has an eight-inch scar still pink and healing from the surgery, necessitated when it was determined that a muscle had been cut, causing bleeding that was trapped by the muscle sheath. Doctors that performed emergency surgery said he could have lost the leg without it.

Ellis was pleased to make the trip to Oakland, where he played for 10 years.

"I've got so many friends here -- not only players but security guards and clubhouse staff. It's good to be back," he said. "It feels a little weird to be back on the other side."

Kemp's All-Star status comes down to timing

OAKLAND -- The clock is ticking on Matt Kemp being healthy enough to play in the All-Star Game.

Kemp is the National League leading vote-getter and a slam dunk to win a starting spot through fan balloting. But except for one game, he's also been on the disabled list twice since May 14 with a strained hamstring. His recovery is going nicely, as it did the first time, only for him to blow a tire his first game back.

The July 10 All-Star Game in Kansas City (350 miles from his Oklahoma hometown) is three weeks away. When Kemp was reinjured May 29, the prognosis was a month on the shelf. Trainer Sue Falsone still holds to the vague timetable of a return "around the All-Star break."

She also said on Tuesday, however, that the club wants Kemp to have a longer Minor League rehab assignment than the two games he played before his May 29 activation.

Manager Don Mattingly repeated Tuesday a previously expressed desire that Kemp would be healthy enough to play in Major League games for the Dodgers before making an All-Star appearance. The last thing anybody in the organization wants is for Kemp to rush back to play in the All-Star Game, break down for a third time and jeopardize the team's chances.

Kemp is captain of the NL team in the Home Run Derby and is expected to participate in that competition regardless.

"The All-Star Game is a discussion we need to have," Mattingly said. "It's a tough call if he's not able to play in a game for us. I know he'd like to play. We'll talk as an organization and talk to Matt."

Lilly could resume throwing by end of week

OAKLAND -- With management on the prowl for a starting pitcher, one of the reasons that's necessary, injured starter Ted Lilly, finally reported some semi-good news.

"They're not sure, but they're talking about Lilly maybe throwing at the end of the week," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said Tuesday. "That's a little positive. He's feeling better."

Lilly hasn't felt well enough to throw since being placed on the disabled list May 24 with left shoulder inflammation.

In response, the Dodgers have been looking to trade for a starter, with Cubs right-hander Ryan Dempster most frequently mentioned until he went on the DL on Monday with a strained lat muscle.

Mattingly said he was hoping to get Matt Kemp (hamstring), Mark Ellis (leg surgery) and Javy Guerra (knee surgery) back "quickly after the All-Star break."

Round of golf with Capuano up for auction

OAKLAND -- A round of golf with Dodgers starting pitcher Chris Capuano at legendary Torrey Pines in La Jolla is one of the unique player-related experiences up for bid on a fundraising auction for Players Trust.

Bidding for the current lot of available auction packages on CharityBuzz.com ends Thursday between 9:05 a.m. and 10 a.m. PT. Proceeds from the auction benefit initiatives of the Players Trust, the 501(c)(3) charitable organization created and administered by the players themselves.

For a complete list of items currently up for bid during the Players Trust auction, visit: www.charitybuzz.com/search?keywords=players+trust.

ESPN.com

Brandon McCarthy throws 7 scoreless innings as A's blank Dodgers

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Brandon McCarthy would much prefer to pitch on far fewer than 11 days' rest.

That made him all the more amped up once he finally got back on the mound Tuesday night -- so much so that he hyperventilated in the first inning. Not that it affected him.

McCarthy settled down and showed no signs of an ailing shoulder in seven impressive innings, winning his third straight start and sixth consecutive decision to lead the Oakland Athletics past the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-0.

"After the first couple innings I kind of got back feeling normal," McCarthy said. "Early, amped up and kind of short of breath. I don't know what was going on. That felt kind of weird, which really hasn't happened this year."

Seth Smith and Jonny Gomes each hit RBI singles, and Coco Crisp reached four times and stole a season-best three bases as the A's beat the National League West-leading club that began the day with baseball's best record.

McCarthy (6-3) outpitched former A's starter Aaron Harang (5-4), who couldn't overcome a career-high eight walks and his 40-pitch first inning. Harang, traded by Texas to the A's in November 2000, made his major league debut in the Oakland Coliseum on May 25, 2002.

On Tuesday, he looked far from the same pitcher who tossed seven scoreless innings and struck out 10 that day.

McCarthy -- Oakland's Opening Day starter -- pitched for the first time since June 7 after he was scratched from his scheduled start last Wednesday at Colorado because of a sore shoulder. He was his usual dominant self, allowing only one runner past first when Andre Ethier advanced on Bobby Abreu's fourth-inning groundout.

McCarthy allowed two hits, struck out five and walked only one in a strong 81-pitch outing that featured 56 pitches for strikes. Given it was just his third start back from the disabled list and given he had been pushed back, that was it.

"I don't know how he does it, with 11 days off and his routine being messed up some," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "It was impressive."

While these teams met for just the 23rd time in regular-season history, they faced off in two memorable World Series matchups -- Oakland's 1974 championship in five games and the Dodgers' title in '88 also in five games. The A's are 10-2 in the series at home.

Harang was done after 3 2/3 innings for his shortest outing since 2010 while with Cincinnati. He allowed three runs on three hits and struck out six while throwing a whopping 105 pitches.

This is hardly how the Dodgers hoped to begin their first Bay Area trip of the season -- they return to play the division rival Giants in San Francisco next week.

"This is a team anybody in Northern California doesn't particularly care for," Melvin said.

The A's staked McCarthy to an early lead on Smith's first-inning RBI single that took a big bounce over center fielder Tony Gwynn Jr.'s glove for a two-base error that allowed a second run to score. Gomes singled three batters later.

When Harang reached 40 pitches in the first, he yelled into his glove as he walked off the mound already trailing 3-0.

Those would be all the runs Oakland needed. The long half inning gave McCarthy time to calm himself down.

"Things weren't right, and they were being patient and fouling off good pitches, racking up my pitch count. Of course the walks didn't help," said Harang, who had two extra days between starts.

Grant Balfour pitched the eighth, and Ryan Cook finished the two-hit shutout -- Oakland's seventh -- for his fourth save in five chances. The Dodgers were blanked for the third time.

Crisp walked his first two times up, doubled in the fourth and singled in the sixth. He stole his 11th and 12th bases in the fourth and No. 13 in the sixth, extending his streak to 36 straight successful attempts. It's an Athletics franchise record since caught stealing became an official stat in 1920.

Game notes

A's RHP reliever Andrew Carignan underwent Tommy John right elbow ligament reconstructive surgery Tuesday in New York, performed by Mets Dr. David Altchek. ... Oakland RHP starter Bartolo Colon, who left his Sunday start against the Padres with a strained right oblique muscle, will be placed on the disabled list once the A's figure out their corresponding roster move. "Those oblique injuries can be pretty difficult," Melvin said. ... Dodgers manager Don Mattingly hasn't decided on his DH for the next two games. ... Mattingly remains hopeful 2B Mark Ellis (left leg surgery) and CF Matt Kemp (strained left hamstring) will be back right after the All-Star break, while LHP Ted Lilly is getting close to throwing again as he recovers from shoulder inflammation. ... Mattingly said he'll discuss with Kemp -- the NL's leader in votes -- whether he plays in the All-Star game next month. The manager is fine with it as long as his star player is fully healthy. ... The A's signed supplemental draft picks SS Daniel Robertson and 1B Matt Olson. ... A's reliever Jordan Norberto, on the DL with a strained left shoulder, struck out two in a scoreless inning with Triple-A Sacramento. ... Tommy Milone (6-5) tries to end the only losing streak of his career by winning for the first time in five starts Wednesday night, when the Dodgers counter with Nathan Eovaldi (0-2).

Second-generation grew up in the game

By Arash Markazi | ESPNLosAngeles.com

The Dodgers have clawed their way to the best record in baseball, thanks in large part to a roster filled with versatile role players. Many of their names wouldn't make the marquee, but some of their surnames are more than familiar to fans.

The Dodgers have five second-generation players on their current roster, players with famous fathers who were in the big leagues not too long ago.

(In fact, the Dodgers are looking to continue their success with second-generation players, selecting three more in the draft: shortstop Jesmuel Valentin, son of Jose; pitcher Jordan Hershiser, son of Orel; and shortstop Jose Vizcaino Jr.)

The current group of second-generation players talked recently about how growing up around the game shaped them.

Tony Gwynn Jr. (Son of Tony Gwynn)

"I remember going to the yard all the time with my dad. Once I turned 9 years old, it was basically an everyday occurrence that I would be out there on the field every day during the summer. I was out there shagging fly balls and taking ground balls with my dad.

"Being the son of a major league player shaped me a lot. At the end of the day, I probably wouldn't be playing baseball if my dad wasn't playing. It was something I was exposed to at an early age and I learned I could be pretty good at it if I just put the work into it. And obviously I had a lot of help from his teammates that other kids don't get, but it shaped my entire life. It was a huge help.

"Because I was around my dad, I learned how important it was to be a good teammate and be supportive of your guys. You learn the intricacies of the game just being around the game. Being exposed to it at an early age I learned how important the dynamic was between teammates and how it carries over into the field.

"I'm probably quicker than my dad. We match up pretty well defensively but obviously offensively he takes the cake. I

think it's tough on him to watch me in person. I think he'd rather watch on TV because he has the freedom to yell and throw things at the TV whereas here he has to be Tony Gwynn, the Hall of Famer, and he doesn't get to be a dad."

Dee Gordon (Son of Tom "Flash" Gordon)

"It's funny, my favorite memory of playing catch with my dad was last year during Father's Day when he got to throw out to the first pitch to me. That was awesome. I remember as a kid going into to the outfield and trying to catch fly balls and trying to hit home runs. I practically grew up on the baseball field. Being the son of a major leaguer really allowed me to see the hard times and the good times of playing in the big leagues. It taught me the importance of always playing hard because this game isn't easy.

"He tells me that he's faster than me all the time and we joke about that. He can have it. I'd like to have the career he had. I'll always remember watching him win the 2008 World Series and seeing how joyful he was and how happy he was to finally win the World Series."

Jerry Hairston Jr. (Son of Jerry Hairston)

"I always loved playing in the father-son games they had in Chicago. Growing up, I always thought that was a huge deal, getting to go onto the field and play with your dad. Getting to play on the same field, a big league field, that my dad did was something I always appreciated and loved. ... I was always around the ballpark growing up so as a kid that's all I ever wanted to do, I wanted to be a major league ballplayer. Obviously growing up with my dad, I realized how hard it was and how much hard work it took. I obviously had to put in the work and the time and effort.

"Once you get here, you've got to have the talent, but you understand the nuances of the game. I would say 85- to 90-percent of the sons of major league players that make it this far have an idea and an understanding of the game when they get here, having been around the game for as long as they have.

"We always talk in my family and we joke about which one is better. [Brother] Scott is more the power guy over in New York; he definitely has the edge in power. He's a lot like my grandfather Sam, they were built the same. My dad was really more of the pure hitter and I'm more of the athletic guy. Now, that doesn't mean I can hit, but I'm probably the best athlete in the family."

Justin Sellers (Son of Jeff Sellers)

"My dad brought me to the field all the time. I just remember always being around the ballpark and the clubhouse. I can't remember my first time because it seemed like I was always there. My dad knows what it takes to get there, so when you're growing up he gives you that guidance in terms of what you have to do. There are obviously some ups and downs along the way but the knowledge of knowing that and how to get through that is big. I was really young when he played but I have cards and I've seen videos of him pitching. He's got a lot of memorabilia too that reminds me of those days.

"We always talk about the game, then and now. I ask him what would happen if he was pitching against me and I were to face him, who would win the battle and I always tell him that he would probably get me to ground out."

Ivan DeJesus Jr. (Son of Ivan DeJesus)

"I don't remember my dad's playing career because I was 1 when he retired, but I remember always talking to him about the game. Last year when we played the Cubs my dad was their third-base coach and he came to L.A. during my birthday and we took a picture in front of home plate. That was a very special moment for me and a picture I'll always keep. He helped me so much. It's big having a dad who played in the big leagues for 15 years who has been there and can tell you how to prepare and how to play baseball the right way.

"I never saw him play, but everyone who did comes up to me and tells me he was a great shortstop who caught

everything but he didn't hit that much. So now I tease him and talk trash and say 'I hit the ball more than you,' and he tells me, 'That's great, but you have to do more than hit, you have to field. I didn't do both but you have to do both now.' So now I'm trying to do both."

Don Mattingly: Clemens probe waste

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Don Mattingly considers the five-year federal investigation into pitcher Roger Clemens a complete waste of resources and money.

The 49-year-old Clemens was acquitted Monday on all six counts that he lied to Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

"What a waste. I was thinking about it after all this time, what a waste of resources," Mattingly, manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, said Tuesday before his team began a three-game interleague series with the Athletics. "Then you hear about teachers and stuff who don't have paper and pencils for kids, and it seems like what a waste. What a waste of money. Really, I don't think anybody cares. At this point nobody cares, it's like, 'So long.'"

Mattingly played against Clemens for more than a decade while with the Yankees early in the 354-game winner and seven-time Cy Young Award winner's career with the rival Boston Red Sox. Mattingly -- a .311 career hitter (23 for 74) with eight RBIs and three doubles against the right-hander -- also served as bench coach of the Yankees in 2007 during Clemens' final big league season in the Bronx.

Mattingly figures the government has much better ways to spend money than investigating superstar athletes such as Clemens, Barry Bonds and cyclist Lance Armstrong.

"What a waste of money," Mattingly said.

Mattingly hopes Major League Baseball is finally beginning to move forward from the Steroids Era thanks to improved testing and stiffer penalties for those who fail drug tests. He sees positive strides toward a reliable solution.

"I don't know. It seems like something always pops up, you know? It always creeps back a little bit," Mattingly said. "It's definitely getting behind us, I think, as we go. I think the biggest thing is better testing and thorough testing. You start getting HGH testing and you're getting better testing, it just kind of reinforces to guys that you can't get away with it, and it's going to be an equal playing field. That's what I like.

"It kind of protects players from the players, it protects organizations, it protects fans, it protects everybody. I think the testing protects everybody."

L.A. Times

Dodgers' Aaron Harang falters in 3-0 loss to Athletics

The starter makes an early exit, but not before throwing 105 pitches and walking eight batters in a loss to the Oakland Athletics.

By Jim Peltz

June 19, 2012, 11:12 p.m.

OAKLAND — Dodgers starter Aaron Harang struck out the side in the first inning — and was losing, 3-0, to the Oakland Athletics as he walked off the mound.

When the third inning ended, Harang had labored through 85 pitches. And when he left the game after 32/3 innings, Harang had walked a career-high eight of the 22 batters he had faced.

"It's almost unfair what we did to him; you had seven days in between starts" along with two days off in that week, "and he just seemed out of rhythm the whole night," Manager Don Mattingly said.

The Dodgers' batters, meanwhile, were shut down by starter Brandon McCarthy and the Athletics won, 3-0, Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game interleague series, the Dodgers' first game at Oakland Coliseum since 2006.

The only solace for the Dodgers: The San Francisco Giants, who trail the first-place Dodgers by 4 1/2 games in the National League West before Tuesday, lost to the Angels.

Harang (5-4), who had won four of his previous five decisions, gave up three hits to the major leagues' worst-hitting team. The Athletics began the game with a .226 batting average.

But the right-hander struggled with his control from the outset in front of an announced crowd of 20,244.

Harang, who pitched for Oakland in 2002 and 2003, labored through 40 pitches in the first inning, which started with Coco Crisp's bloop double to right field and a walk to Jemile Weeks.

One out later, Seth Smith lined a single that center fielder Tony Gwynn Jr. misplayed, with the ball scooting past him toward the warning track, allowing Crisp and Weeks to score. Smith scored on a single by designated hitter Jonny Gomes.

"I felt a little mechanically like I was rushing a little bit too much at times," Harang said. "I was just missing spots . . . and they were being patient with pitches I was missing and then fouling a lot of pitches off that I was throwing for strikes."

Jamey Wright and Scott Elbert succeeded Harang and held Oakland in check for the next 2 1/3 innings.

But the Dodgers were able to mount hardly any offense against the 6-foot-7 McCarthy (6-3), a Glendale native who gave up two hits over seven innings.

It was the Athletics' sixth win in their last seven games, and the right-hander won his sixth consecutive decision, the third since coming off the disabled list June 2.

"It didn't seem like he had anything overpowering, just good movement and throwing a lot of pitches for strikes," Andre Ethier said of McCarthy. "He did a good job of keeping us off balance."

After Grant Balfour took over for McCarthy in the eighth inning, Adam Kennedy led off with a walk but Juan Uribe struck out, Gwynn grounded into a force play and Dee Gordon lined out.

In the bottom of the inning, rookie reliever Shawn Tolleson picked off Cliff Pennington, who had reached first base on James Loney's error.

Then in the ninth inning with one out, Ethier reached first base when Crisp, the center fielder, dropped his line drive and Bobby Abreu was walked by Ryan Cook. But Loney grounded into a double play to end the game.

Elían Herrera is not slowing down with Dodgers

Utilityman, called up a month ago after spending nearly a decade in the minors, was batting .305 before Tuesday's game and had nine multi-hit games.

By Jim Peltz

June 19, 2012, 8:29 p.m.

OAKLAND — The improbable success of Elían Herrera shows no signs of ebbing, much to the Dodgers' delight.

It has been a month since the 27-year-old utilityman, who spent nearly a decade in the Dodgers' farm system, was called up to the big leagues and he has seemingly been everywhere in helping the Dodgers stay in first place.

Herrera was batting .305 entering Tuesday's play after three hits Sunday, his ninth multi-hit game of the season. He had a .407 on-base percentage and 14 runs batted in, including three game-winning RBIs.

The Dominican Republic native has played second base, third base, center field and left field. He started Tuesday's game in left field against the Oakland Athletics and batted second.

"It's awesome and I feel really happy," Herrera said. "I'm being blessed by God, doing what I like doing."

Herrera said he did not care where he plays, "I just want to be in the lineup. Every day when I come and I see my name" on the lineup card, "I say, 'OK, it's a new chance to help my team.' "

During his years in the minor leagues, Herrera said there were times "I wondered if I would make it or not. But I never gave up."

Herrera said he was determined that "if I didn't make it, it was not because I didn't work enough."

All-Star voting

Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp remained the leading National League vote getter for the All-Star game with 3.32 million votes, Major League Baseball said in its latest update.

But with Kemp on the disabled list because of a strained left hamstring, it remained a question whether Kemp would recover soon enough to play in the July 10 game in Kansas City.

"It's a tough call because if Matt's not able to play in games for us, it's hard to say he can play in the All-Star game," Manager Don Mattingly said.

"I know Matt wants to. If he was healthy, I'm all for him playing. The fans are voting for him, they want to see Matt Kemp. But if he's not healthy, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense. If he's healthy, I want him to play; I'm not trying to keep anybody out of it."

Dodgers right fielder Andre Ethier was fifth in the voting among NL outfielders with 1.52 million votes.

Mark Ellis continues rehabbing

Second baseman Mark Ellis, who spent most of his career in Oakland before joining the Dodgers this year, continued the rehabilitation of his injured left leg at Oakland Coliseum.

"I did some sprints today; I'm running the bases here the next couple of days," said Ellis, who required emergency surgery on the leg May 19 after he was upended by a sliding runner. "I'm further along than I thought I'd be. The thing

that's pleasantly surprising is every day it seems to get a little stronger, a little bit better."

Ellis said there's still no timetable for his return, but that it's a matter of weeks.

"I know it's not days," he said.

This year, major league pitchers are just saying no-no

It's only mid-June, and already there have been five no-hitters in 2012, including two perfect games. What's going on? Players cite several factors — and it isn't just the receding of the steroid era.

By Bill Shaikin

June 19, 2012, 8:13 p.m.

The year of the no-hitter appears to be upon us. From his locker, Dan Haren has a good view of the Angels' clubhouse television, and the latest breaking no-hit news.

"It seems like, at least once a week, someone has got one into the seventh or eighth inning," Haren said.

Matt Cain pitched a perfect game. Johan Santana threw a no-hitter, as did a sextet of Seattle Mariners. Ervin Santana and Jason Hammel threw one-hitters on the same day. R.A. Dickey threw one-hitters in back-to-back starts.

All that in June, a month that is barely half over.

"I guess it's becoming the year of the pitcher, or something," said the Angels' Jered Weaver, who threw his no-hitter last month.

The total this season is five, two shy of the record set in 1990 and matched in 1991. From 1992 until 2005, the first year players were subject to suspension for failing a drug test, the most no-hitters in a season was three.

The total of one-hitters this season is 11, after 19 one-hitters last year and 23 two years ago, according to baseball-reference.com. The annual number of one-hitters from 1990 to 2005 ranged from seven to 19.

"Obviously, they have cleaned up the game as far as the steroid thing goes," Weaver said. "That's put everybody on a level playing field."

Yet the consensus in the Angels' clubhouse is that drug testing is far from the only factor in the flurry of low-hitters.

"And that goes both ways," C.J. Wilson said, "because there were pitchers doing it too."

Wilson talked of younger, less patient hitters who could give a pitcher a break or two. The drug bans — not only against steroids, but against amphetamines too — have reduced the effectiveness of older hitters, and teams have been more than happy to replace them with younger, cheaper players.

But it's not just about the money, Wilson said.

"Teams are paying for defense," Wilson said. "They are promoting guys to play defense."

Teams also are investing in technology, providing the data that encourages managers to apply the exaggerated shifts that can help foil hitters — three infielders on the left side against Albert Pujols, for instance, or three on the right side against David Ortiz.

Torii Hunter talked about the reluctance — some might say the inability — of players to break up a no-hitter with a bunt. He said the high strike is being called more often, and the low strike too.

"I feel the strike zone has changed," Hunter said. "Pitchers are getting a lot more."

He also cited the explosion of hard-throwing relievers, noting that pitchers can come back from Tommy John surgery stronger than ever.

"It's like a new car," Hunter said. "You've got a new arm."

Angels Manager Mike Scioscia said he was not ready to certify the low-hit games as a definitive trend.

"I know the numbers are starting to give people some cause for conversation," Scioscia said. "It might be too early to make any overriding statements about the decline of offense in baseball."

The numbers do favor the pitcher, and not just this season. Major league teams are averaging 4.3 runs per game, same as last year — the lowest such figure since 1992, according to baseball-reference.com.

The majors' on-base percentage of .319 is the lowest since 1988. The batting average of .253 is the lowest since 1972.

However, even in a pitching-friendly environment, the margin between a good game and a no-hitter can be perilously slim — the call of an official scorer, the inch between a fair ball and a foul ball.

"There's no predictability in baseball," Wilson said. "There might not be another no-hitter for two or three years. Each one is its own unique occurrence."

As a hitter, Hunter has made an uncomfortable peace with this era of the pitcher, and the increasing possibility of a no-hitter on any given night.

"I'm torn," he said. "If it's a good pitcher's duel in the ninth inning and somebody gets the big hit, that's great baseball. Fans don't like to see a 10-0 game, or a 20-2 game."

"It's a little more drama. It helps the game. As a position player, I'm like, 'Shoot, we're losing a little edge.'"

Haren said players are fans too, so much so that he ducked under the stands whenever he could to check on the final innings of Cain's perfect game.

Haren made his major league debut in 2003. He never saw a no-hitter in person until 2010, and then the deluge: Edwin Jackson with the Arizona Diamondbacks that year, Ervin Santana with the Angels last year, Weaver with the Angels this year.

At this rate, Haren's turn ought to be coming soon.

"I've never even gotten close," he joked. "I can't even remember going into the third inning without a hit right now."

Aaron Harang's wild ride leaves Dodgers 3-0 losers

The starter makes an early exit, but not before throwing 105 pitches and walking eight batters in a loss to the Oakland Athletics.

By Steve Dilbeck

June 19, 2012, 10:25 p.m.

Not even Aaron Harang's momma said there'd be days like this. Unless she was trying to scare him out of baseball.

Harang had himself a game to remember Tuesday, or perhaps forget, pitching a game brought to you by Salvador Dali.

It was bizarre, slightly impossible and ultimately cover-your-eyes ugly. That the Dodgers lost was hardly surprising. That they actually were in the game was.

Harang gave up eight walks in just 3 2/3 innings as the Dodgers managed just two hits and fell to the right-hander Brandon McCarthy and the A's at the Oakland Coliseum.

Harang also struck out six and allowed three hits. That mishmash of a performance required a stunning 105 pitches. To repeat: in just 3 2/3 innings.

The A's scored all their runs in the first, and even that was aided by Tony Gwynn Jr.'s first error of the season.

Coco Crisp led off bottom of the first with a double and Harang then issued his first walk to Jemile Weeks. Harang struck out Josh Reddick – in keeping with the night's weirdness, he ended up striking out the side – before Seth Smith singled to center in front of Gwynn to score Crisp.

But a charging Gwynn failed to come up with the bouncing drive and it skipped under his glove for the error. He had only one error last season.

The error allowed Weeks to score. After striking out Brandon Inge, Harang walked Brandon Moss and gave up a run-scoring single to Jonny Gomes. Oh, yeah, and then struck out Kurt Suzuki.

Harang walked two more in the second, third and fourth, the latter two finally enough for Manager Don Mattingly.

No surprise, the eight walks were a career-high for Harang (5-4).

The Dodgers, meanwhile, could not mount anything resembling an offense against McCarthy and relievers Grant Balfour and Ryan Cook.

McCarthy (6-3), reportedly a starter who could become available at the July 31 non-waiver trading deadline, allowed only two hits in his seven innings. They were the only two hits the Dodgers could manage all night.

McCarthy walked one and struck out five. Cook pitched the ninth to earn his fourth save.

Dodgers and the trade deadline: Opportunity versus expectations?

By Steve Dilbeck

June 19, 2012, 1:53 p.m.

Nervous, are you?

Ah, relax. Have some fun. The Dodgers are willing to deal and even take on some reasonable salary for the first time in years, and you're thinking I really do have to find a friend before the end of the world.

The quandary, as The Times' Dylan Hernandez illustrates, is that new ownership theoretically has the team in position to make a move prior to the trading deadline, but there is precious little out there to get the heart all aflutter.

Many of the names are less than inspiring, and because of the additional wild-card team this season, fewer teams are interested in unloading salary.

Perhaps the biggest fear should be that the new ownership will feel so obligated to make a deal to prove to everyone they really aren't Frank McCourt, that they bring on some semi-washed-up veteran at the expense of a valued prospect.

The Dodgers farm system, of course, is fairly devoid of any exciting position players, though it has its share of promising pitchers. And they'd best hang on to them, unless that player coming in is viewed as a true difference-maker this season.

The new owners never expected to be placed in this position. President Stan Kasten admitted as much to The Times' Bill Shaikin when he looked at the team's roster this spring and pegged them as a .500 team.

"We could not have predicted we would have the best record in baseball, much less with the loss of the best player in baseball," Kasten said, "and the left fielder, and the third baseman, and the second baseman, and one of our starters.

"It's just a wonderful phenomenon. I can't give you a more scientific explanation. But we are not taking it for granted. We have now been presented with a wonderful opportunity. We will go for it."

"Going for it" is where it gets tricky. You don't want them going for it just for the sake of going for it.

General Manager Ned Colletti told Hernandez he would be interested in adding another starter, a bat to the lineup and a left-handed reliever. That's a lot of ways to go.

Some of the potential hitters considered available include Carlos Lee (just off the DL), Kevin Youkilis (struggling), Carlos Quentin (playing well since coming off the DL this month following knee surgery) and Justin Morneau.

Pitchers include Ryan Dempster (placed on the DL Monday), Zack Greinke, Shawn Marcum, Bartolo Colon and interestingly enough, Brandon McCarthy of the A's who just happens to start against the Dodgers tonight in Oakland.

The Dodgers have an unexpected opportunity this season, and they should go for it. Right now, they are understandably going the patience routine, waiting for more teams to fall out of the race prior to the July 31 non-waiver trading deadline.

Even then, though, it needs to be the right deal, not just a deal for appearances.

Dodgers should step up to the plate and help nearby Little League

Just up the hill from Dodger Stadium, a Little League field built on a former landfill is sinking. The Dodgers could do something about it.

By Steve Lopez

June 19, 2012, 9:51 p.m.

Back when millionaire Dodgers owners Frank and Jamie McCourt were jacking up ticket and concession prices to help fund their highfalutin lifestyle, and the state attorney general was looking into the \$400,000 salary the McCourts paid to the head of a Dodger charity called the Dream Foundation, a corner of the Little League field just up the hill from Dodger Stadium began to sink. The field, a Matt Kemp longball away from Dodger Stadium, sits atop what used to be the Bishops Canyon landfill. And the ground is settling.

Today, the snack bar at the Northeast Los Angeles Little League ballpark lurches at a pronounced tilt, and right field is also headed downhill. This park is the home field of nearly 300 Little Leaguers, and the Dodger name is on the outfield

scoreboards. In 2003, a sign was hung on the fence of what is now a sloping bullpen a mountain goat would love, and it lists the Dodgers Dream Foundation as one of the "project partners." The Dodgers donated about \$10,000 to the league, which operates as a nonprofit, with volunteers doing everything from barbecuing hot dogs to chalking the foul lines.

"It started sinking about four years or so ago," said Sergio Villasenor, president of Northeast Los Angeles Little League. "To be honest, it's starting to wear me down. I don't want them to shut this down."

"Them" is the city Recreation and Parks Department, which rents the space to the Little League. Villasenor's fear is that the snack bar building, still in operation and raising the bulk of the league's operating budget, will be declared a public safety hazard, and one of the two baseball fields will be declared off limits.

Not to worry, says a staffer in the office of L.A. City Councilman Ed Reyes. The councilman's spokeswoman, Monica Valencia, acknowledges that the snack bar building, which also houses the bathrooms and storage rooms, is definitely "tilting, leaning, sinking," and that "eventually, the building will have to be demolished."

But, she says, city engineers have declared the building safe for now, and if that changes, a temporary snack bar and restroom setup will be provided "until we look for funding for a permanent snack bar."

I was up there one night last week to watch the 8-to-11-year-old Northeast Tomateros take on the Shaw, Moses, Mendenhall Insurance A's of South Pasadena. In the snack bar, adult volunteer Melody Nightingale's left foot was at a decidedly lower elevation than her right foot as she served burgers and dogs fresh off a hot grill.

"I'm beginning to lean this way permanently from working in here so long," said Nightingale.

Out on the field, Tomatero Eddie Chang, who wears No. 99, said he thought the snack bar must have been damaged by an earthquake. The parents joke about it, said Tomatero coach Robert Mose, who sensed that his team was more worried about the South Pasadena A's than any natural disaster. In his pre-game pep talk, he told the Tomateros to "relax, relax, relax," enjoy the game, and "if you make a mistake, just try harder."

The visiting A's, meanwhile, were being coached by a firebrand.

"What time is it?" he yelled.

"Game time!" the A's responded.

"What time is it?" he called out again.

Time to fix the snack bar, I thought, and rescue the scrappy Tomateros and the rest of their league before they sink to the bottom of the former landfill.

At about the time I learned of the sinking snack bar, I got a query from a Dodger PR guy. He wanted to know if I wanted to meet with Stan Kasten, the new team president.

The new owners paid more than \$2 billion for the team, setting a Major League record. And they recently signed slumping head-case Andre Ethier, who has been known to make obscene gestures to photographers for no apparent reason, to an \$85-million contract. So you'd think they could spare a few bucks for their young neighbors.

I told the PR guy I'd like to take Kasten up to the Little League fields, which rest on debris that was cleared from Chavez Ravine when residents were displaced to make room for Dodger Stadium. But I don't think the Dodgers liked that idea. Instead of arranging for me and Kasten to get together on the matter, the Dodgers sent David Brennan, fundraising manager for the Dream Foundation, up to the field to have a look.

Brennan later told me he met with the Little League president and promised to reach out to the director of the city Parks

and Recreation Department, to see what can be done about the problem. He told me they'd like to help, but that in general, Brennan said, the Dream Foundation doesn't spend its money on Little League "press boxes or restrooms or concession stands.... We prefer to see our money on the field."

Brennan said the Dream Foundation has helped sponsor about two dozen such projects in Southern California since 2003. That's great, but it seems to me that a sinking right field that's spitting distance from Dodger Stadium would qualify for help by Brennan's definition. And I'm waiting for the city to answer my question about who did the compaction and construction before the snack bar and ball field were built, because maybe a private contractor — or city inspectors — should be on the hook for shoddy work.

Speaking of shoddy work and landfills, I don't know of a more toxic person in Los Angeles than Frank McCourt, who managed to walk away from the wreckage he created with a profit in the hundreds of millions.

So here's a small chance for a little redemption, Frank. Wadda ya say?

Daily News

OAKLAND 3, DODGERS 0: Harang goes wild, L.A. lineup does not

By Gideon Rubin Special to the Daily News

Posted: 06/19/2012 10:22:20 PM PDT

Updated: 06/19/2012 11:28:43 PM PDT

OAKLAND - A free-agent pitcher who has brought some stability to the Dodgers rotation this year took a walk on the wild side Tuesday.

And on a night when the Dodgers couldn't get much going offensively, the modest-sized hole Aaron Harang dug turned out to be insurmountable in a 3-0 loss to the Oakland A's in front of 20,244 at O.co Coliseum.

Harang (5-4) allowed all three runs and a season-high eight walks in 3 2/3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

But the loss wasn't all on him.

The Dodgers were held to two hits and had runners in scoring position just twice. They never got a leadoff runner on as they were shut out for just the third time this season.

"We never really got anything going," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said.

Going into Tuesday's start against the A's Harang was 4-1 with a 2.37 ERA in his past eight starts.

Against the A's, Harang's pitch count reached 105 by the time Mattingly pulled him after 3 2/3 innings.

Harang (5-4) struck out six and allowed three runs and three hits.

Harang labored through a 40-pitch first inning, allowing three runs on three hits and two walks.

"I was missing spots and things just didn't go right," Harang said. "They were being patient with the pitches I was missing and they were fouling off a lot of the pitches I was throwing for strikes and that ran my pitch count up pretty fast.

"Obviously the walks don't help either."

Mattingly said Harang had an extra two days off since his last start, a factor in Harang being unable to find his rhythm.

"I think it was almost unfair to Aaron with the (six) days off" between starts, Mattingly said. "Those guys are kind of creatures of habit with their routines, so that's the way it is."

Harang wasn't sure why he was uncharacteristically wild.

"Possibly," he said of the long layoff being a factor. "I felt a little bit like I was mechanically rushing things too much at times."

Center fielder Tony Gwynn Jr.'s fielding error on a Seth Smith's run-scoring single in the first didn't help Harang, either.

Smith came to the plate with two aboard and one out in a scoreless game when Gwynn couldn't come up with a ball that appeared to take a funny hop.

"It just looked it got away from him," Mattingly said. "It looked like he might have had a play (at the plate) if he fielded it clean."

The Dodgers bullpen did what they could to keep them within striking distance.

Jamey Wright, who inherited a first-and-second two-outs situation when he relieved Harang in the fourth, induced Brandon Inge to ground out.

Wright pitched 1 2/3 innings, combining with Scott Elbert and Todd Coffey and Shawn Tolleson on 5 1/3 shutout innings of two-hit ball.

A's starter Brandon McCarthy (6-3) struck out five and allowed two hits and one walk in seven shutout innings.

He retired the first eight hitters he faced until Gwynn singled with two outs in the third.

McCarthy relied on a nice mix of cutters and sinkers in an efficient 81-pitch outing.

"I don't think he was overpowering, he just had good command of good stuff," Dodgers right fielder Andre Ethier said.

The Dodgers didn't get a runner into scoring position until the fourth, when Ethier, who reached on a one-out single, took second on Bobby Abreu's grounder to second. McCarthy got out James Loney to ground out to end the threat.

The Dodgers' best threat came in the ninth, when the A's Coco Crisp dropped a Ethier liner to center that was scored an error and Abreu walked, the only time they had two men aboard.

But Ryan Cook got Loney to ground into a game-ending double play for his fourth save.

The Dodgers (42-26) were seeking to move to 18 games over .500 for the first time this season. They were winless in their five previous attempts to hit that mark.

DODGERS NOTEBOOK: L.A. manager Don Mattingly says Roger Clemens trial was 'waste of money'

By Gideon Rubin Special to the Daily News

Posted: 06/19/2012 10:22:25 PM PDT

Updated: 06/19/2012 11:04:27 PM PDT

OAKLAND - A day after a federal jury returned not guilty verdicts on all charges against former major-league pitcher Roger Clemens for lying in a congressional steroids probe, Dodgers manager Don Mattingly called out prosecutors for spending millions on a case "I don't think anybody cares" about.

"What a waste of money," Mattingly said. "That's my thought."

His association with Clemens spans four decades, and he faced him countless times during his 14-year career with the New York Yankees. Mattingly also was the Yankees' bench coach during Clemens' last season in 2007.

"What a waste of all these resources," Mattingly said of the decision to pursue a costly prosecution he said was particularly dubious during an economic downturn.

"You hear about teachers that don't have paper and pencils for kids and stuff and it seems like what a waste of money," he said. "I don't think anybody cares."

Mattingly doesn't believe the case will bring closure to the so-called "steroids era" either.

"It seems like something always pops up, it always creeps up a little bit," he said.

Mattingly said baseball has made progress in eradicating performance-enhancing drugs and more advanced testing is the only way to shut the door on the steroids era.

"It just kind of reinforces that you can't get away with it and it's going to be (a level) playing field," Mattingly said. "It protects the players from the players, it protects the organizations and it protects the fans.

"I think the testing protects everybody."

Coming along

Matt Kemp is making progress in his recovery from a left hamstring injury, but the National League's leading All-Star vote getter might not be ready to play in the July 10 classic in Kansas City, Mo., Mattingly said.

"I know Matt wants to" play in the All-Star Game, Mattingly said. "It's a tough call because if Matt's not able to play in games for us it's hard to say play in the All-Star Game."

Injury update

Kemp, infielder Mark Ellis (left knee sprain) and reliever Javy Guerra (inflamed right knee) are on similar timetables, about three weeks away.

"We're hoping that we're going to get these guys back fairly quickly after the (All-Star) break," Mattingly said. "So if we get anything better than that we're going to be happy."

Pitcher Ted Lilly, who's out with an inflamed left (pitching) shoulder, could start throwing as soon as this weekend, Mattingly said.

FOX Sports West

Gordon has been hot hitter since benching

The Sports Xchange

June 19, 2012

One month ago, Dee Gordon was struggling mightily. The Dodgers shortstop was in a 2-for-31 slump that had dropped his batting average all the way to .200.

The leadoff man had an on-base percentage of just .239 after going 0-for-5 against the Cardinals on May 18. Manager Don Mattingly benched Gordon after that game, limiting Gordon to just one pinch-hit appearance over the next three days.

Gordon walked in that pinch-hit appearance and then was eased back into the lineup batting eighth instead of first. He has hit pretty much ever since.

Gordon hit .308 with a .341 on-base percentage in 11 games batting eighth, then moved back into the leadoff role on June 3. In 14 games back at the top of the lineup, Gordon has hit .276 with a .354 on-base percentage, seven stolen bases and 10 runs scored in 14 games.

"He seems calmer. I've heard the saying 'You can't see the forest for the trees' because you get so close to it you don't see what you're doing," Mattingly said. "My thinking was, just being able to step back and watch some games, being able to do some work without having to go compete, to give him a chance to step back away from it and slow down."

Gordon's on-base percentage since getting benched is .355, a marked improvement from the beginning of the year. His turnaround culminated in a walk-off single in the 10th inning on Sunday, part of a 2-for-5 day.

"It feels great to come through for my teammates," Gordon said on Sunday.

NOTES, QUOTES

Harang returns to where his career began

--RHP Aaron Harang will start for the Dodgers on Tuesday as they open a series against the A's. It will be the first time since 2003 that Harang has pitched in Oakland, where he began his major league career. "It will be fun to go back there and pitch," Harang said.

--OF Bobby Abreu walked as a pinch hitter in the ninth inning and scored the tying run Sunday against the White Sox. Abreu is hitting .375 (3-for-8) as a pinch hitter this season for the Dodgers and has hit .324 with a .439 on-base percentage so far in June.

--RHP Ronald Belisario pitched two scoreless innings on Sunday to earn his third win of the season. The reliever, who missed all of the 2011 season because of visa issues in his home of Venezuela, has allowed one run in 10 1/3 innings in June, and opposing batters have been held to a .065 batting average (2-for-31).

--INF/OF Jerry Hairston Jr. went 0-for-4 on Sunday to extend his slump to 0-for-17, though he has walked six times during that span. Hairston's slump began one day after he hit a home run and two doubles against the Mariners on June 9 and had a career-high five RBI.

--C Matt Treanor was 1-for-4 on Sunday and has reached base via hit or walk in 10 straight games, dating to April 29. He has hit .375 (12-for-32) during that span. Treanor, who has started 14 of the Dodgers' first 67 games, has been a valuable backup catcher, hitting .295 with two home runs and a .523 slugging percentage this season.

BY THE NUMBERS: .355 -- On-base percentage for Dee Gordon in 26 games since getting briefly benched on May 18.

QUOTE TO NOTE: "It feels great to come through for my teammates." -- SS Dee Gordon, on his walk-off single Sunday to beat the White Sox 2-1.

True Blue LA

Dodgers 6/19/12 Minor League Report - Dickson Takes MVP Honors in All Star Game

by Brandon Lennox on Jun 20, 2012 8:24 AM PDT in Los Angeles Dodgers Minor League Report

Minor League Player of the Day – O'Koyea Dickson - 2 for 3, 1 HR, 2 RBI's, 2 Runs. Dickson was named the MVP of the Midwest League All Star Game after leading his team to a big victory. The best part was that his family was in attendance to watch his performance, and you can read more about that here.

AAA – The Isotopes mounted a solid comeback as they scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 9th, but they still fell short as they lost to the Zephyrs (Marlins) 9 to 7. The difference in this game was the top of the 1st inning which is when New Orleans scored 5 runs off of starter Fernando Nieve. The right hander settled down after the 1st and shut out the Zephyrs over the next 4 innings, but the majority of the damage was done at that point. To make matters worse Bret Montgomery gave up a run in relief, while Wil Ledezma permitted 3 runs to score in the top of the 9th. At the plate Trent Oeltjen had the big night as he went 3 for 4 with a homer and 3 RBI's, and Brian Cavazos-Galvez also had 3 hits and scored 2 runs. Jerry Sands drove in 2 with a 9th inning double, while Josh Fields had another multi-hit game and is batting almost .500 over his last 10 contests.

AA – The Lookout players were on the losing end of the All Star Game as the Southern Division beat the Northern Division 6 to 2. Matt Magill actually picked up the loss after allowing 3 runs while recording just 1 out in the 2nd, with Steven Ames getting the other two outs of the inning while giving up a hit. Ethan Martin and Red Patterson each tossed a scoreless frame, although Patterson did allow 2 hits. At the plate the Lookout players didn't have a whole lot of success as Blake Smith and Pedro Baez both went 1 for 4, while J.T. Wise went 0 for 2 with a pair of K's.

HiA – Not much to write about in this All Star Game as the California League squad lost to the Carolina League team 9 to 1. Only two Quake players were in this contest, with C.J. Retherford going 0 for 2 and Leon Landry collecting a single in two at bats.

LoA – The Loon players and their Eastern Division teammates destroyed the Western Division 18 to 2 in the Midwest League All Star Game. As mentioned above, O'Koyea Dickson was the MVP of this contest as he crushed a 2-run homer in the 1st inning, then added a single and scored another run. Teammate Joseph Winker didn't have as good of a game, but he did go 1 for 3 with a run batted in. On the mound Jarret Martin was one of the few pitchers to struggle for the East as he gave up the only two runs for his team.

Rookie Ogden – The Raptors scored runs in each of the first 5 innings in route to a 8 to 5 win over the Rockies. Similar to the first game of the season, this contest was a team effort as 8 of the 9 batters in the lineup at at least one hit. Shortstop Darnell Sweeney led the way as he went 4 for 5 with a triple, while fellow 2012 draftee Eric Smith connected on a pair of doubles and singled. 2nd baseman Malcolm Holland also had 3 hits as he went 3 for 4 with a two-bagger, and Jesus Valdez rounded out the multi-hit days with 2 singles and 2 RBI's. On the mound Matt Laney proved to be very good after taking a step down from LoA, tossing 5 shutout innings while giving just 4 hits. Jason West struggled but also had a bit of tough luck as 3 of the 5 runs he allowed were unearned, but after he left the game the bullpen was stellar. Surprise closer Sawil Gonzalez, the 22 year old who spent all of last year in the Dominican Summer League and posted a 5.23 ERA, recorded his 1st save of the season.

DSL – The Dominican Dodgers poured it on in the late innings on Tuesday as they defeated the Royals 10 to 5. As expected Josmar Cordero contributed to the win with a single, a double, and a RBI, although fellow catcher Jonathan Linares had an ever better game as he went 3 for 5 with a double and 3 runs driven in. Jose Luis Javier also had a two-bagger and recorded a pair of RBI's. Starter Giordanny Chavez lasted just 2 innings as he allowed 5 hits and 3 runs (1 earned), but Jose Augusto Diaz picked up the slack as he tossed 5 innings of shutout relief.

Coming up – More off days on Wednesday as the Loons, Quakes, and Lookouts finish up their All Star breaks. The Isotopes will send Will Savage to the mound, while Carlos Frias will start for the Raptors.

Minor League Transactions – AAA: Scott Van Slyke was placed on the inactive list due to the birth of his child. LoA: Arismendy Ozoria was added back to the roster. Ogden: The Raptors added three 2012 draftees to their roster, with Jeremy Rathjen (11th round), Ross Stripling (5th), and Matt Reckling (14th) joining the team.

Dodgers Fail McCarthy Trial, Burned By Former Red

by Eric Stephen on Jun 19, 2012 10:06 PM PDT in Dodgers Game Recaps

The Dodgers couldn't muster any offense against Brandon McCarthy, and the Oakland A's made three first-inning runs hold up in a 3-0 win over the Dodgers in the opener of a three-game series Tuesday night in Oakland.

Andre Ethier singled and advanced to second on a ground out in the fourth inning, earning the honor of the only Dodger to reach second base in the first eight innings. McCarthy allowed just two hits and a walk in his seven scoreless innings, striking out five.

Conversely, Aaron Harang needed 40 pitches to get through the first inning. The good news is that Harang struck out three batters in the inning. But the bad news is that the other five Oakland batters in the inning reached base, with three singles and two walks, leading to three runs.

Those were the only runs allowed by Harang on the night, but his stay in the game was a short one as he threw 105 pitches to get just 11 outs. Harang walked two in each inning, giving him a career-worst eight on the night. Harang's previous career high in walks was seven, set at Wrigley Field while with the Cincinnati Reds on July 8, 2008.

The last Dodger to walk at least eight while facing 22 or fewer batters was Les Webber, who walked nine of the 21 batters he faced on May 26, 1943.

Harang also struck out six, meaning just eight of the 22 batters he faced put the ball in play on Tuesday. It was the 21st time since 1918 that a Dodger pitcher had at least six strikeouts with more walks than strikeouts. The last was Edwin Jackson on September 27, 2003.

The Dodgers were probably lucky the game wasn't more lopsided, as the A's left 12 runners on base, including eight against Harang.

Down 3-0 in the eighth inning, Shawn Tolleson pitched in the closest game of his brief career, pitching a scoreless eighth inning with one strikeout, and a pick-off of Cliff Pennington at first base.

The Dodgers put two runners on base and brought the tying run to the plate with one out in the ninth, but closer Ryan Cook got out of the jam for his fourth save of the season.

Up Next

Nathan Eovaldi looks to shake off the one-run loss blues on Wednesday night, making his fifth start for the Dodgers. Tim Milone starts the middle game of the series for the A's.

Tonight's Particulars

Home Runs: none

WP - Brandon McCarthy (6-3): 7 IP, 2 hits, 1 walk, 5 strikeouts

LP - Aaron Harang (5-4): 3 2/3 IP, 3 hits, 3 runs, 8 walks, 6 strikeouts

Sv - Ryan Cook (4): 1 IP, 1 walk, 1 strikeout

Aaron Harang Returns To Oakland

by Eric Stephen on Jun 19, 2012 2:00 PM PDT in Dodgers Game Previews

The Dodgers open up a three-game series on Tuesday night against the Oakland Athletics, the start of a nine-game road trip. The Dodgers haven't played in Oakland since 2006, when they were swept by the A's. The Dodgers are 2-9 all-time in interleague play in Oakland, with their last win coming on July 14, 2001, when a pair of bases loaded walks in the 15th inning gave the Dodgers a 5-3 win.

Aaron Harang gets the start for the Dodgers on Tuesday night, looking to win his third straight decision. This is the first start for Harang in Oakland since 2003, when he was an Athletic. Harang made his major league debut with the A's in 2002 and was teammates then with current Dodgers Ted Lilly and Mark Ellis. Of the three, only Ellis made it into the movie Moneyball as a character.

"I had a good time there. It was a good group of guys. It's crazy because 10 years later I'm playing with two of the guys who were on my team," Harang said. "It's going to be fun to go back and pitch there."

The Cincinnati Reds played in Oakland three times during Harang's eight years with the Reds, but his turn to start never came up.

Harang had a 5.72 ERA in April, but since the beginning of May is 4-1 with a 2.37 ERA in eight starts, with six quality starts. He said he hasn't done anything differently, other than constantly working on his delivery throughout the season.

"You always go through ups and downs, and we've been making sure that mechanically everything is sharp when I'm throwing bullpens and doing towel drills," Harang said. "Maybe that could have something to do with it, making me aware of getting better extension when I release the ball."

Harang last started one week ago, allowing two unearned runs in seven innings to the Angels. Because of the Dodgers having two off days in a five-day span, Harang is pitching Tuesday on six days rest, as Nathan Eovaldi will on Wednesday.

"With the extra rest, I almost feel like I'm in college again," Harang joked.

Harang is part of a Dodgers starting pitching staff that ranks second in the National League in ERA, third in wins, fourth in quality starts, and tied for fourth in FIP. The six starters on the Dodgers have developed a friendly rivalry and a sense of competition on the staff.

"We all want each other to do really well, you root for each guy each night, and you hope that they go out and do better than you did the night before," Harang said. "That's what makes your team bond, too."

If Harang can top Chris Capuano's eight-inning, 12-strikeout performance from Sunday, the Dodgers will be in business on Tuesday night in Oakland.

Brandon McCarthy starts for the A's on Tuesday, looking to win his sixth straight decision. Oakland has won each of his last six starts, during which McCarthy has given up just 10 runs. He has given up two earned runs or fewer in nine of his 11 starts, and has a 1.85 ERA in six starts at home with a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 4.14.

Close Games?

Tuesday night features a battle between the team that has played the most one-run games in baseball against a team that has played the fewest. The Dodgers have played 31 games decided by one run, including each of their last four games. The Dodgers, 18-13 in one-run contests, have played four more one-run games than the Pittsburgh Pirates, who are second.

Oakland is 6-7 in one-run games this season, and are tied with the Cleveland Indians for fewest one-run games in baseball.

Starting Lineups

Dodgers	Athletics
SS Gordon (L)	CF Crisp (S)
LF Herrera (S)	2B Weeks (S)
RF Ethier (L)	RF Reddick (L)
DH Abreu (L)	LF Smith (L)
1B Loney (L)	3B Inge
C Ellis	1B Moss (L)
2B Kennedy (L)	DH Gomes
3B Uribe	C Suzuki
CF Gwynn (L)	SS Pennington (S)
<hr/>	
P Harang	P McCarthy

Game Time: 7:07 p.m.

TV: KCAL

MLB Gameday

AM 570 FOX Sports LA

A's Ride Brandon McCarthy To Win Over Dodgers

Oakland, CA (Sports Network) - The Athletics scored all of their runs in the first inning and rode another strong effort from Brandon McCarthy to a 3-0 win over the Dodgers in the opener of a three-game interleague series Tuesday.

McCarthy (6-3) allowed just two hits over seven innings and earned up his sixth straight winning decision. He struck out five and walked one.

Two runs scored after a Seth Smith single in the first and he later came home on Jonny Gomes' base hit, as the A's won for the sixth time in seven games.

Aaron Harang (5-4) walked a career-high eight batters and threw 105 pitches before exiting after only 3 2/3 innings. He gave up three hits and three runs while striking out six.

Andre Ethier and Tony Gwynn had the only hits for the Dodgers, who took two of three from the White Sox over the weekend.

Sporting News

MLB division races are taking shape; which teams have the legs to finish in front?

PUBLISHED 15 hours and 35 minutes ago

LAST UPDATED 31 minutes and 3 seconds ago

Anthony Witrado

With just under 100 games remaining in the regular season, the top of the baseball standings features a mix of familiar faces and early surprises.

Which of the six division leaders should we expect to still be holding their positions come late September?

American League East: New York Yankees

The Yankees took over the division lead about a week ago after sitting in third place for much of the season. A 10-game winning streak, part of a 13-2 run, has pushed them to the top.

On May 22, the Yankees had lost three straight and six of eight, and they were 5 1/2 games out of first. General manager Brian Cashman called a team meeting. He expressed his belief in the current roster and told the players he wasn't actively shopping any of them.

"That's when things started turning around," All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano told the New York Post.

Since that meeting, the Yankees have gone 20-5, and they now hold a 2 1/2-game lead over the Baltimore Orioles. The Bombers have outscored opponents by 58 runs in that time.

The pitching has carried the team during the run. In those 24 games, the staff has posted a 2.65 ERA and a 3.36 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Entering Tuesday's games, New York starters led the majors in ERA (2.15) and fielding independent pitching, or FIP (2.54), and was second in WHIP (1.06) and strikeouts per nine innings (8.90) in June, according to STATS LLC. The rotation also had posted the fourth-best strikeout-to-walk ratio (4.00) this month.

The rotation also dropped its opponents' batting average on balls in play (BABIP) from an MLB-worst .346 in April to .289 in May. It's .291 in June, according to STATS.

Strong starting pitching has transformed the Yankees into a dominant club. Even if the rotation regresses some, the Yankees are now the team to beat in the division.

AL Central: Chicago White Sox

Lefthander Chris Sale has become a legitimate No. 1 starter and the offense has the sixth-best weighted on-base average (wOBA) in the AL, according to STATS. That still might not be enough to keep them in first place.

The White Sox have lost six of seven and are 3-7 in their last 10. Meanwhile, the Detroit Tigers have won seven of their last 10 and have shaved four games off their deficit in the past week. Detroit is now in third place, two games back.

The Tigers still have the best team in the division. They're have the AL's best FIP (3.63) and have its fifth-best wOBA (.327). Over the course of the season, those numbers will be reflected in the standings.

AL West: Texas Rangers

Texas is the league's best-hitting team and it can make a case for having the best pitching staff. The defending two-time AL champs are 8-2 in their past 10 and by far have the best run differential in baseball (plus-92).

Pitching depth could be a problem, but the offense could be good enough to sustain the team's current five-game lead even if the rotation falls back to average or is further affected by injuries.

The Los Angeles Angels have been playing better since late May, but they realistically are playing for a wild-card spot.

National League East: Washington Nationals

You can't win without starting pitching, and the Nationals are the best in baseball when it comes to ERA (3.03), FIP (3.40) and strikeouts per nine innings (8.48). It led the NL in Wins Above Replacement, or WAR, among pitchers entering Tuesday.

They also have the most competition among NL division leaders. The New York Mets, Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins all are within six games of first place.

No team in this division is perfect, and the Nationals' offense is, at best, average.

The pitching likely will hold up through the end of summer, but ace Stephen Strasburg is the X-factor. The Nationals haven't backed off their plan to shut him down at around 160 innings. If the race is close, his absence could mean the difference between a division title or a wild-card berth.

NL Central: Cincinnati Reds

The Reds are a big-time offensive club and have a dominant back end of the bullpen with Aroldis Chapman closing games. Their concern is starting pitching outside of ace Johnny Cueto. They are in the bottom half of the league in most of the telling pitching categories, and that's why they haven't been able to pull away from the Pittsburgh Pirates or St. Louis Cardinals.

Pittsburgh can't hit a lick and its pitching is average, so it'll fall back. The Cardinals, 4 1/2 games back and in third place, have suffered debilitating injuries but can still hit and their starting pitching is good enough to make this a two-team fight into September.

If the Reds can't make a move for rotation help, St. Louis' experience could win out.

NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers have the starting pitching, they can get on base and they can score. The offense will get a boost once center fielder Matt Kemp comes off the DL, likely after the All-Star break.

All of those things point to them staying at the top of the division (they lead the San Francisco Giants by 4 1/2 games). Still, they've had to play the likes of Elian Herrera, Jerry Hairston Jr., Adam Kennedy and Tony Gwynn Jr. regularly because of injuries. Those guys have played well thus far, but you have to wonder if they'll come back to earth.

The Giants can catch the Dodgers, but they need Tim Lincecum to start producing or be dropped from the rotation. San Francisco is 0-9 in his last nine outings. The offense is still no better than average, so the Giants also will need Melky Cabrera to continue having a career year.

The likeliest scenario at this point: The Dodgers win a close race and the Giants take one of the wild cards.

CBS Sports

Matt Kemp Still Leading NL Voting Despite Not Playing

June 19, 2012 7:27 PM

LOS ANGELES (CBS) – Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp continues to lead the entire National League All-Star ballot with over 3.2 million votes despite sitting out with a hamstring injury.

Kemp, who has been out since May 31st, will also captain the Home Run derby on July 12th.

Andre Ethier is 5th with just over 1.5 million votes.

National League

FIRST BASE — 1, Joey Votto, Reds, 3,151,032. 2, Freddie Freeman, Braves, 1,193,455. 3, Lance Berkman, Cardinals, 1,159,418. 4, Brandon Belt, Giants, 907,739. 5, Ryan Howard, Phillies, 677,368.

SECOND BASE — 1, Dan Uggla, Braves, 2,054,920. 2, Brandon Phillips, Reds, 1,272,389. 3, Jose Altuve, Astros, 1,074,993. 4, Omar Infante, Marlins, 901,970. 5, Rickie Weeks, Brewers, 814,263.

SHORTSTOP — 1, Rafael Furcal, Cardinals, 1,741,360. 2, Troy Tulowitzki, Rockies, 1,647,235. 3, Starlin Castro, Cubs, 1,006,333. 4, Jimmy Rollins, Phillies, 983,520. 5, Brandon Crawford, Giants, 935,216.

THIRD BASE — 1, David Wright, Mets, 1,977,388. 2, Pablo Sandoval, Giants, 1,612,497. 3, Chipper Jones, Braves, 1,547,221. 4, David Freese, Cardinals, 1,540,085. 5, Placido Polanco, Phillies, 912,648.

OUTFIELD — 1, Matt Kemp, Dodgers, 3,322,009. 2, Carlos Beltran, Cardinals, 2,652,980. 3, Melky Cabrera, Giants, 2,144,107. 4, Ryan Braun, Brewers, 2,118,925. 5, Andre Ethier, Dodgers, 1,517,218. 6, Matt Holliday, Cardinals, 1,374,004. 7, Hunter Pence, Phillies, 1,234,428. 8, Michael Bourn, Braves, 1,201,215. 9, Angel Pagan, Giants, 1,158,500. 10, Andrew McCutchen, Pirates, 1,151,403. 11, Carlos Gonzalez, Rockies, 1,120,406. 12, Jason Heyward, Braves, 1,049,769. 13, Shane Victorino, Phillies, 1,039,970. 14, Martin Prado, Braves, 893,995. 15, Jay Bruce, Reds, 893,101.

CATCHER — 1, Buster Posey, Giants, 2,445,005. 2, Yadier Molina, Cardinals, 2,291,567. 3, Carlos Ruiz, Phillies, 1,756,018. 4, Brian McCann, Braves, 1,471,797. 5, Jonathan Lucroy, Brewers, 768,317.

MiLB.com

Dickson puts on a show in All-Star rout

With family on hand, Dodgers prospect homers, scores twice

By Patrick Brown / Special to MLB.com
06/19/2012 11:54 PM ET

GENEVA, Ill. -- With his family watching from the stands, O'Koyea Dickson of the Great Lakes Loons wanted to put on a special performance Tuesday at the Midwest League All-Star Game.

It didn't take him very long to make a statement.

Dickson helped lead the charge as the East Division scored 13 times over the first two innings and coasted to an 18-2 thumping of the West Division All-Stars in front of 7,528 fans at Kane County's Fifth Third Field.

Dickson went 2-for-3 with a two-run homer and two runs scored and was named Most Valuable Player.

"My family has sacrificed so much for me, I just wanted to try, in any way, to pay them back," he said. "This is a milestone for me, just to be able to be here and be with these guys."

Dickson's family surprised him with its arrival Monday night, and he was determined to return the favor. With a man on in the first inning, he blasted a 2-0 pitch from Drew Granier of the Burlington Bees off the scoreboard in left field.

The home run wasn't in his plans, but the end result helped spark his team to a commanding lead.

"I was just trying to hit a sac fly," Dickson said. "I've been working the past couple weeks, just trying to hit better with guys in scoring position."

Gerson Montilla of the Silver Hawks also went deep in the opening inning and Tyler Goeddel of the Bowling Green Hot Rods added a two-run shot for the East. Steven Moya of the West Michigan Whitecaps and Fort Wayne TinCaps catcher Austin Hedges each had three RBIs.

Fort Wayne's Adys Portillo picked up the win after working around a walk in a hitless first inning. Twelve East pitchers combined to scatter seven hits, with seven hurlers producing no-hit performances.

"We said, "Hey, let's go and do it and have fun," Moya said. "That's exactly what we did."

The East lineup gave its pitching staff a huge cushion early as Granier surrendered five runs -- two earned -- on three hits while retiring two batters. Peoria Chiefs left-hander Kyler Burke didn't fare much better, also giving up five runs and recording two outs. Ty Kelley of the Cedar Rapids Kernels was charged with three runs in two-thirds of an inning.

The East added a run in the fourth and four in the ninth to round out the scoring.

"In the locker room, everyone was just like, 'Go out and have fun and let's kick their butts,'" Dickson said. "We just tried to go out and swing it, and we showcased that in the first couple of innings."

Jhon Goncalves of the Beloit Snappers provided the West's offense with an RBI single in the sixth inning. He later scored on a wild pitch by Great Lakes' Jarret Martin.

The East's 18 runs were the most scored in Midwest League All-Star Game history, something Hedges attributed to his team's ability to gel almost instantly. With such a huge early lead, it took the pressure off his teammates, who were able to relax and take in their surroundings.

"I was just trying to enjoy it," Hedges said. "This is all about having fun. This atmosphere was unbelievable."

As for Dickson, where did this rank in his brief career?

"This is definitely in the top three," he said. "I'm just excited to be here and we came out and played a good game, so I'm happy we got the win."

Dodgers' Dickson Leads East's Romp At MWL All-Star Game

Posted Jun. 20, 2012 11:16 am by Jim Shonerd

There was little suspense at the Midwest League All-Star Game. The Eastern Division all-stars scored 13 runs in the first two innings and went on to rout the Western all-stars 18-2 at Fifth Third Bank Ballpark in Geneva, Ill.

The East hit three home runs in its early outburst, starting with the second hitter of the game, South Bend second baseman Gerson Montilla (Diamondbacks), who hit a solo shot off West starter Drew Granier (Athletics). Two hitters later, Great Lakes first baseman O'Koyea Dickson (Dodgers) pulled a two-run blast that went deep beyond the left-field fence. The East scored five runs in the first and then tallied eight times in the second, highlighted by West Michigan outfielder Steven Moya's (Tigers) bases-loaded triple and Bowling Green third baseman Tyler Goeddel's (Rays) two-run homer.

Dickson went on to earn MVP honors after going 2-for-3 with the homer, two RBIs and two runs scored. He also singled in the second off Cedar Rapids righty Ty Kelley (Angels) and came in to score on Moya's triple. A 12th-round pick from Division II Sonoma State (Calif.) last year, Dickson led the Rookie-level Pioneer League in slugging (.603) in his pro debut and picked up where he left off this spring. He didn't join Great Lakes until early May but earned his all-star nod by

hitting .331/.442/.564 in 133 at-bats in the first-half.

Prospect Notes

- Fort Wayne righthander Adys Portillo, the MWL's ERA leader at 1.92, got the start for the East and pitched a scoreless inning, getting around a leadoff walk. He got to work with his regular batterymate from the TinCaps, Austin Hedges, and Hedges gave his pitcher an assist by throwing out Jamal Austin (Mariners) at third for the second out of the inning.
- Hedges had a big night at the plate as well, hitting a two-run double in the first and an RBI single in the second. He finished the night 2-for-3 with the three RBIs.
- Lansing righthander Noah Syndergaard (Blue Jays) followed Portillo on the mound for the East in the second inning and pitched a scoreless frame. Slugging Beloit third baseman Miguel Sano (Twins) squared one up off Syndergaard but lined out to third baseman Goeddel. Syndergaard gave up a two-out double to Greg Hopkins (Brewers) but induced a Paul Hoilman (Cubs) popup to end the inning.
- It was uneventful night for Sano, the MWL's home run leader with 15 at the break. He drew a walk in the fourth inning in his only other plate appearance, ending the game 0-for-1.
- South Bend righthander Archie Bradley, the Diamondbacks' 2011 first-rounder, pitched the fifth inning for the East and turned in a clean frame, retiring all three hitters he faced on groundouts.
- Indians 2011 first-rounder Francisco Lindor hit leadoff for the East and struck out in his first at-bat but made up for it later on, going 2-for-4 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base.

San Bernardino Sun

Cal League stars fall in Carolina

Loss snaps 3-game win streak in series

Staff Reports

Posted: 06/19/2012 10:17:15 PM PDT

The trip east was not a successful one for the California League All-Stars as they fell to their Carolina League counterparts 9-1, in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Tuesday.

The loss snapped a three-game Cal League winning streak in the series. The series is tied at seven wins apiece and there have been two ties.

The three players representing the Quakes and 66ers all had things they could write home about.

Sixers center fielder Travis Witherspoon started in left field and batted seventh. Witherspoon went 1 for 4 with a stolen base. It was his first all-star hit after going 0 for 4 in the Midwest League all-star game last year.

Quakes outfielder Leon Landry didn't start but entered the game in the sixth inning in center field. Landry went 1 for 2, getting his hit with two outs in the ninth inning.

Quakes third baseman C.J. Retherford, returning to the city (but a different ballpark) where he played in 2008, didn't have a hit in the game and was 0 for 2 before he was replaced.

However, prior to the game, Retherford was runner-up in the home run derby. He hit six homers in the first round, the most of anyone, to qualify for the finals.

He managed only two in the finals and lost to Winston-Salem's Brady Shoemaker, who had three.

"I was gassed," Retherford told the Winston-Salem Journal. "I didn't have much left.

"You don't really practice hitting home runs. So it's kind of hard trying to hit home runs. But this was a lot of fun and I had a good time."

At least he improved on his last home run derby experience. At the 2009 Southern League all-star game, Retherford didn't homer once in the home run derby.

The Cal League all-stars tried to use their speed to manufacture runs, to little avail. They stole seven bases but managed just five hits, went 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position and left nine runners on base.

Bakersfield's Billy Hamilton, who leads all of minor league baseball with 80 stolen bases, scored the Cal League's only run when he reached on a bunt single in the first inning, stole two bases and scored on a groundout by Lancaster's George Springer.

The Cal League made three errors, including two by High Desert's Stefen Romero and John Hicks, leading to two unearned runs.

Lancaster's Bobby Doran took the loss in relief, when the Carolina all-stars snapped a 1-1 tie with three runs in the fourth inning.

Nooga.com

Loaded with Lookouts, North Division falls in Southern League all-star game

By Staff Report • Published Tuesday, June 19th 2012

The North Division all-stars, dotted with seven Lookouts players, fell, 6-2, to the South team in the Southern League All-Star Game Tuesday night at Smokies Park in Kodak, Tenn.

Chattanooga's seven representatives tied for the most with the Jackson Generals and Mobile BayBears, who each lead their division after the first half of the season.

Through 70 games, the Lookouts are 32-36, nine games back of the Generals in the North.

Tuesday night, the North took a 1-0 lead with a leadoff home run in the bottom of the first by the Generals' Denny Almonte, but then quickly fell into a hole. Lookouts pitcher Matt Magill gave up two hits and three runs while recording just one out in the second inning.

The South added two more in the third, sparked by a triple to lead off the inning.

Among the Lookouts' seven representatives, third baseman Pedro Baez and right fielder Blake Smith each started and went 1-for-4. Infielder J.T. Wise went 0-for-2.

Lookouts pitchers Steve Ames, Ethan Martin and Red Patterson combined to throw 2.2 scoreless innings.

The Lookouts will be back in Chattanooga at AT&T Field on Thursday, when the host Pensacola for the start of a five-game series. First pitch is scheduled for 7:15.

ESPN Deportes

McCarthy supera a Harang y Atléticos blanquea a Dodgers

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California -- Brandon McCarthy no mostró señales de seguir resentido de su hombro en siete impresionantes entradas, con lo que ganó su tercera apertura consecutiva y la sexta decisión en fila para guiar el martes a los Atléticos de Oakland a una victoria por 3-0 sobre los Dodgers de Los Angeles.

Seth Smith y Jonny Gomes batearon sendos sencillos productores, y Coco Crisp se embasó en cuatro ocasiones y robó tres bases mientras lo Atléticos derrotaban al líder de la División Oeste de la Liga Nacional, que empezó la jornada con la mejor marca de Grandes Ligas.

McCarthy (6-3) superó en el duelo de picheo al ex abridor de los Atléticos Aaron Harang (5-4), quien no pudo superar los ocho boletos que regaló, la marca más abultada de su carrera, y su primera entrada de 40 lanzamientos. Harang, quien pasó de Vigilantes de Texas a los Atléticos en noviembre del 2000, debutó en las Grandes Ligas en el Oakland Coliseum el 25 de mayo de 2002.

Por los Dodgers, los dominicanos Elián Herrera de 4-0 y Juan Uribe de 3-0. El venezolano Bobby Abreu de 3-0.

Los Angeles 000 000 000_0 2 2

Oakland 300 000 00x_3 5 1

Harang, J.Wright (4), Elbert (6), Coffey (7), Sh.Tolleson (8) y A.Ellis; McCarthy, Balfour (8), R.Cook (9) y K.Suzuki. G_McCarthy 6-3. P_Harang 5-4. Sv_R.Cook (4).

Fuerte crítica de Mattingly a pesquisa

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Don Mattingly dijo que consideraba la investigación congresional por cinco años sobre Roger Clemens como un desperdicio monumental de recursos y dinero.

Clemens fue declarado inocente el lunes en las seis acusaciones de que mintió al Congreso cuando negó que utilizaba drogas para mejorar el rendimiento.

Mattingly espera que las Grandes Ligas esté finalmente echando hacia adelante de la Era de Esteroides gracias a mejores pruebas y mayores penalidades para quienes fallen las pruebas de drogas.

Mattingly, ahora el dirigente de los Dodgers, jugó en contra de Clemens por más de una década mientras estaba con los Yankees temprano en la carrera del lanzador con su rival Boston Red Sox.

Mattingly específicamente mencionó el martes cuántos maestros alrededor del país no pueden gastar en comprar suficientes materiales, mientras el gobierno gasta dinero en investigar a atletas súper estrellas como Clemens, Barry Bonds y el ciclista Lance Armstrong.

March Air Force Reserve Base

Will you marry me? Dodger style

Posted 5/29/2012 Updated 5/31/2012

by Master Sgt. Julie Avey
163 Reconnaissance Wing public affairs

5/29/2012 - MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, CALIF. --

As the sun set on Dodger stadium, preparations began for the start of Monday Night baseball between the LA Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks, May 14. The grounds crew meticulously prepared the lush green field for the night's event, while players warmed-up by introducing their wooden bats to a few baseballs, cracking several into the crowd of anxious fans.

This night was special in that it recognized Senior Airman Richard Saucedo, 163d Security Forces Squadron, Calif. Air National Guard, as the "Veteran of the Game," for his military service. In a gesture of support, Saucedo's girlfriend, Stephanie O'Hara, accompanied him to the game, not knowing this night would change her life forever.

"I wanted to make this night really special for her, which is why I picked this time and occasion to ask for her hand in marriage, in front of 10,000 plus Dodger fans," said Saucedo. "Last night, she noticed I was really excited, but she thought it was because we were getting the chance to be on Dodger field."

"When I met Stephanie she was already a Dodger fan, but when she found out I was also a fan she switched-up and said she was really an Angel's fan, just to be funny. To add spark to our friendly rivalry, she would say, "Go Angels!" when the two were playing. It adds a bit of spice to the relationship," he said.

When the time came, Saucedo and O'Hara took their places at the first base line with the camera crews. "Veteran of the Game," flashed in brilliant colors under a picture of Saucedo on the big screen. O'Hara stood by her Airman's side smiling, as the crowd cheered for him, not realizing she was on the field for more than just moral support.

Once Saucedo finished waving to the crowd, he turned to his girlfriend opening the ring box. O'Hara let out a gasp as he took a knee to propose.

"Stephanie will you marry me," Saucedo asked.

The answer must have been yes, because the crowd erupted into cheers just as their kiss appeared on the Dodgers' big screen.

Saucedo stood proudly on the field saluting the flag during the National Anthem and when it was over, they exited the field by the Dodger dugout, and received congratulations from the team.

Saucedo, a native Californian, grew up as a Dodger fan in Pomona. He joined the Calif. ANG in Feb. 2008, graduating from boot camp on July 4. He served two years on Counter Drug protecting California's border and will be deploying in the near future.

"I have family in the military who I have always looked up to so I enlisted," Saucedo said. "Since then, I have had amazing opportunities."

The two Dodger fans have been dating for three years. A meeting through mutual friends after school, opened the door for their first date.

"We would like to give thanks to the Dodgers for saluting the Air National Guard and making a dream come true for my fiancé and I," Saucedo said. "They helped make my proposal special. Stephanie loved it!"