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**Nathan navigates tense 10th as Rangers edge A's  
Moreland, Beltre homer in extras to set up closer's gritty save**

**By T.R. Sullivan**

**5/15/2013 2:53 AM ET**

OAKLAND -- Rangers manager Ron Washington, sitting in his office in the visitors clubhouse at the O.co Coliseum, was asked what the bottom of the 10th was like for him on Tuesday night.

"It was relaxing ... very relaxing," Washington said with a straight face.

What?

"I had all the confidence in the world that Joe [Nathan] would get us the three outs," Washington said. "That's my closer. I was sitting there relaxed, waiting for him to get three outs, and he did."

Then the manager flashed a big smile, one that was equal to the Rangers' heart-thumping 6-5 victory over the Athletics at the Coliseum. The Rangers, after letting a 3-0 lead slip away in the middle of the game, had taken the lead in the top of the 10th on home runs by Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland.

But the victory wasn't secure until Nathan, after giving up a run and loading the bases with one out, struck out Daric Barton and retired Eric Sogard on a ground ball to end the game.

"That's the nature of the beast," Nathan said after his 310th career save tied him for 19th all-time with Hall of Famer Rich Gossage. "That's why closers get paid big money. That's what it's all about. That's why the late-inning guys have the pressure on them. You don't want to put yourself in that position, but they always find a way to make it interesting."

"An amazing win, dude," said Nelson Cruz, who drove in two runs with sacrifice flies, including one in the eighth that forced extra innings.

The victory snapped the Rangers' four-game losing streak to the Athletics -- all at the Coliseum -- going back to last year.

"We weren't thinking about how many games we had lost here," Washington said. "We were only thinking about the game tonight. We can't worry about that. We're a good ballclub, and they're a good ballclub, and we won tonight."

Beltre already had two big hits in the game when he came to bat in the top of the 10th against Athletics reliever Chris Resop. He worked the count to 3-0, got the green light from Washington and crushed a fastball over the left-center field wall to give the Rangers a 5-4 lead.

"I was being aggressive, looking for something over the heart of the plate," Beltre said. "He threw one there, down in the zone, and it was a good pitch to hit."

Moreland, with two outs, then crushed one to deep center to give the Rangers a two-run lead. It ended up being just as big as Beltre's home run. Moreland's difference-making shot was his second of the night, giving him five multihomer games in his career. He has nine on the season and five in his last nine games.

"I tried to elevate on him and didn't elevate enough," Resop said.

That left it up to Nathan after Tanner Scheppers had pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

"A great job by Scheppers," Washington said.

Nathan started the bottom of the 10th by getting Josh Donaldson on a fly to center but walked Derek Norris and John Jaso. The walk to Jaso came on a full-count breaking ball that Nathan clearly thought had hit the outside corner for strike three, but home-plate umpire Vic Carapazza decided otherwise. Nathan grumbled only briefly and then went back to work.

"I said my piece," Nathan said. "Obviously that's a tough game to call. It's a close call and I've seen it called before. Obviously I want the pitch, and they want the walk. It was a close pitch, and it's your competitive nature to obviously want the call."

Seth Smith also worked the count full and then lined a double to left-center. Norris scored and Jaso went to third. Brandon Moss was walked intentionally to load the bases. Nathan then struck out Barton and Sogard, pinch-hitting for Adam Rosales, grounded out in the right side hole to second baseman Ian Kinsler to end the game.

"I was fortunate to get the strikeout," Nathan said. "We were looking for the double play, and I was trying for a grounder. I lost a beat on that last ground ball. I thought in my mind it might get through, but that was a great jump by Ian to get there."

Nathan has now saved 12 straight, and the Rangers remain the only team without a blown save this season.

Rangers starter Derek Holland allowed four runs in 5 2/3 innings. He had a 3-0 lead going into the fifth before the Athletics scored two that inning and two in the sixth to take a 4-3 lead. Singles by Elvis Andrus and Beltre, and a sacrifice fly by Cruz tied it in the eighth.

"A great win," Beltre said. "They battled back, but Nathan was able to calm it down in the 10th when they tried to make it exciting."

Sure, another nice, calm, relaxing win for the Rangers in Oakland.

### **Martin, Cespedes share common bond**

**By T.R. Sullivan**

**05/14/2013 9:19 PM ET**

OAKLAND -- A trip to Oakland is extra special for Rangers outfielder Leonys Martin. It gives him a chance to hang out with Athletics outfielder Yoenis Cespedes. They are close friends and part of a wider fraternity of Major League players who defected from Cuba.

"We get along really well," Martin said. "I played with him in Cuba on the national team. He's a great friend and teammate. I talk to him a lot. When he came to Texas, we went out together and talked about the good old days in Cuba."

Cespedes is three years older than Martin and the more advanced player. He was the American League Rookie of the Year in 2012, when he hit .292 with 23 home runs and 82 RBIs. When they played together for Cuba in the 2009 World Baseball Classic, Cespedes was as a starter and Martin served as the fourth outfielder. Martin is in his first full season with the Rangers and is platooning in center with Craig Gentry.

"He's played a little bit longer than me," Martin said of Cespedes. "Whenever I needed it, he was always there to help me. I watch him. He's always engaged in the game and always plays hard. That's the kind of style that I want to emulate. I think he's the type of player who could be a superstar at the Major League level."

Cespedes left Cuba in the summer of 2011 and signed with the Athletics on Feb. 13, 2012. Martin left Cuba in 2010 and signed with the Rangers on May 1, 2011. They are two of 15 players in the Major Leagues who were born in Cuba and had to defect the Communist-controlled country so they could play at the highest level of the sport.

"Being able to talk to him and other Cubans in the big leagues has really helped me a lot," Martin said. "Not only do we talk about what we're doing in the big leagues but also about things back home. It's like a fraternity we have in the big leagues. We're all good friends."

"We all had a difficult decision to make. None of them made me leave the country, it was only my decision. It was a difficult decision. All my Cuban friends made the same decision; it was huge and difficult process to get here."

### **Berkman not afraid to bunt**

OAKLAND -- The Rangers were trailing, 4-1, in the fourth inning on Monday when Lance Berkman went to the bunting game. He led off the inning batting left-handed against Oakland right-hander A.J. Griffin and was facing the usual drastic shift. The Athletics had three infielders on the right side and their third baseman was playing shortstop.

So Berkman tried to bunt it past Griffin on the left side for a leadoff single. But Griffin got off the mound quickly and was able to throw out Berkman at first.

Berkman is not afraid to bunt against the left-handed shift. He has three bunt base hits in his career.

"Coming into last night, I think I was batting .500 trying to bunt," Berkman said. "If they're playing that crazy shift and nobody is on that side of the field, you just have to get it past the pitcher. I didn't do it. There is a time and a place for it. We were down three runs, their pitcher is throwing a good game, I'm trying to get something going. It just didn't work out."

Manager Ron Washington agreed it was worth a shot.

"He just didn't get the speed on the bunt," Washington said. "If he had bunted it a little harder, Griffin would have had to run after it."

### **Rangers hopeful Pierzynski can return when eligible**

OAKLAND -- The Rangers are encouraged about the possibility of catcher A.J. Pierzynski being able to come off the disabled list on May 21. That's the first day he's eligible after being sidelined since May 5 with a strained oblique muscle in his right rib cage.

Pierzynski said he is ready and has started to take swings off a batting tee without any problems. Hitting was the biggest issue with the injury and Pierzynski will likely start taking full batting practice either Wednesday or when the Rangers return to Arlington. The Rangers haven't made a final decision yet, but Pierzynski will likely get 1-2 games in the Minor Leagues on medical-rehabilitation assignment before he is activated.

"We'll just see how his progress is," manager Ron Washington said.

Pierzynski could catch Colby Lewis on Monday for Double-A Frisco. The Roughriders have an 11 a.m. game on Monday against San Antonio, and that might be Lewis' next start on his assignment. Lewis was shut down for a few days because of inflammation in his right triceps muscle. He is scheduled to throw a bullpen session over the weekend in Arlington.

### **Andrus hamstring fine; Murphy still stiff**

OAKLAND -- Shortstop Elvis Andrus said his right hamstring was fine on Tuesday afternoon. Andrus felt it stiffen up on him when he stole second base in the ninth inning of Monday night's 5-1 loss to the A's. Manager Ron Washington and trainer Jamie Reed checked up on him, but Andrus stayed in the game.

The question remains, however, as to why Andrus doing trying to steal second base in the ninth inning with the Rangers down by four runs. Andrus barely beat the throw from catcher Derek Norris.

"They weren't paying attention so he took a shot," Washington said. "But you've got to be safe. You take away all the excuses if you're not safe. I'd rather see him stay at first, but I didn't put the hold on. When I got out there, I told him don't try to steal third. Just stay there."

David Murphy was also in the Rangers' lineup for a third straight game while still dealing with a bruised lower back. Murphy sustained the injury crashing into the left-field wall on Saturday in Houston and is still dealing with a certain amount of discomfort.

"It's just stiff," Murphy said. "It doesn't hurt but I have a hard time getting loose."

### **Worth noting**

- Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish is making a \$25,000 donation to help support the Dallas Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program. The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation is a major supporter of RBI, and Darvish said, "I am happy to help a great cause and I hope that someday Major Leaguers will come out of the program."
- Washington said he expects catcher Robinson Chirinos to make his second start for the Rangers on Wednesday with a day game after a night game.
- Oakland pitcher A.J. Griffin said that as far as command, Monday's 5-1 victory over the Rangers was his best start in the Major Leagues. Washington agreed, saying, "He recognized what the umpire was doing and stayed with it."

- The Rangers have 12,500 tickets remaining for Thursday's game with the Tigers. Darvish is scheduled to face Justin Verlander in that game. There are approximately 7,000 tickets remaining for Friday and 3,000 for Saturday.

## **Straily looks to give A's series win against Rangers**

**By Zack Meisel**

**5/15/2013 3:29 AM ET**

If Dan Straily needs an example of an inexperienced starter establishing some consistency on the mound, the A's right-hander is in luck.

He can just watch Rangers righty Alexi Ogando attempt to stymie his Oakland teammates on Wednesday.

Straily might be pitching on borrowed time, with the A's likely to activate southpaw Brett Anderson from the disabled list in the coming days. For now, however, the A's would like to see the 24-year-old flash signs that he can be depended upon to provide a quality start. In two of his four outings this season, he has surrendered six earned runs. In the other two, he has allowed a combined five earned runs.

"When he's on his game and he's throwing strikes and he's ahead," said A's manager Bob Melvin, "you're seeing a lot of swings and misses, a lot of strikeouts, which you see with him in the Minor Leagues. It's important for him to get ahead and be less predictable."

Straily will take the hill in Wednesday's rubber match. Tuesday's extra-inning loss snapped Oakland's streak of five straight home wins against Texas.

On Wednesday, the A's will have to solve Ogando, who has settled nicely into the Rangers' rotation. Over his last four outings, the 29-year-old has compiled a 1-1 record and 2.92 ERA, relying on a more well-rounded repertoire that includes an enhanced slider and changeup. Now manager Ron Washington would like to see Ogando improve his fastball command to realize his full potential.

"His secondary pitches have progressed tremendously," Washington said. "His fastball is what will make those pitches even better. That's something he's trying to figure out, you have to command your fastball. If he can command his fastball, his secondary stuff will make a tremendous difference."

"I don't think you can be a starting pitcher without secondary stuff. But secondary stuff can't be your primary stuff. We don't want him to be a breaking-ball pitcher, that's there to make the secondary stuff better. That's what we're telling him."

### **Rangers: No rest for Beltre**

Washington has penciled Adrian Beltre's name into his starting lineup every game this season, and the skipper doesn't foresee an end to that ritual in the near future. Following the series in Oakland, the Rangers face the American League Central-leading Tigers.

"I don't see him coming out before then," Washington said. "I can't live with that bat sitting on the bench against [Oakland] and Detroit."

Beltre has started 38 games at third base and one at designated hitter.

### **A's: Crisp likely to be activated**

The A's expect to have Coco Crisp at their disposal Wednesday. He participated in full pregame workouts with Oakland on Tuesday.

Melvin said that Chris Young, however, will "probably not" be activated. He could return Friday, following Thursday's off-day.

"I don't know that he feels that he's 100 percent," Melvin said, "but until we talk to him [Wednesday] and see firsthand how he looks, I'm not really sure."

### **Worth noting**

- Straily has a .206 opponents' average the first time through the lineup, .242 the second time and .389 the third time.

## **FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM**

**Joe Nathan, Rangers escape Oakland with 6-5 win**  
**Posted Wednesday, May. 15, 2013**  
**BY JEFF WILSON**

OAKLAND, Calif. — The music was booming late Tuesday night in the visitor's clubhouse at O.co Coliseum.

Even Charles Ramsey knows that's a dead giveaway that the Texas Rangers had won a game.

But all had been quiet after the previous five times the Rangers had played at the home ballpark of their division rival, and it nearly was quiet again.

Joe Nathan, though, found a way to preserve a 10th-inning lead that Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland had provided in the top of the inning, and the Rangers held off Oakland 6-5.

The A's were down 6-4 entering their final turn at the plate and cut the deficit to one on a one-out double by Seth Smith. They had two chances with the bases loaded, but Nathan wiggled out of the game and snapped the Rangers' five-game losing streak here.

"Do you want to put yourself in those situations? No," Nathan said. "These guys always find a way to scrap and get guys on and make it interesting."

Nathan has been making life interesting of late, too, but he is 12 for 12 in save opportunities. He quickly got the first out of the 10th but issued back-to-back walks to Derek Norris and John Jaso.

Smith followed with a double to left-center that scored Norris and left runners at second and third, and the bases were loaded after Brandon Moss was walked intentionally.

But Nathan got Daric Barton to chase a slider out of the strike zone for the second out, and Ian Kinsler made a nifty play to his right on a grounder by pinch-hitter Eric Sogard to end it.

"We've got to set up a double play, and I got a big strikeout on a guy who doesn't chase a whole lot," Nathan said. "I kind lost a beat on the ground ball. I thought it might have a chance to get through, but great jump on Ian's part."

Beltre had broken a 4-4 tie moments earlier with a solo shot to left-center field on a 3-0 pitch from Chris Resop. It was Beltre's third hit of the game and his ninth homer of the season.

Manager Ron Washington had given Beltre the green light to swing in 3-0 count.

"I was aggressive," Beltre said. "I'm looking for something in the middle of the plate. He threw me one over the plate and down in the zone. It was a good pitch to hit."

Moreland delivered his ninth homer of the season two batters later on a drive to center field on a night that Washington said wasn't conducive to hitting the long ball.

"The one by Beltre was huge, but then the one Mitch hit was even bigger," Washington said. "It looked like fog was out there tonight. When it gets like that, the ball gets heavy. That's why it was amazing how Mitch hit that one to straightaway center field."

Moreland's first homer, a two-out two-run shot, capped a three-run fourth inning against Bartolo Colon and staked Derek Holland to a 3-0 lead. But the left-hander couldn't keep it as Oakland scored two in the fifth and two more in the sixth.

The Rangers pulled even in the eighth on Nelson Cruz's second sacrifice fly of the game after Andrus had singled to start the inning and gone to third on a one-out single by Beltre.

Tanner Scheppers (3-0) worked two scoreless innings to give Beltre and Moreland a chance in the 10th. Nathan did the rest, though it was hardly easy.

It never is, or so it seems, at O.co Coliseum.

"They always find a way to battle," Cruz said. "They've had it going when they've played us the last few series here."

**Rangers' Mitch Moreland turns around early batting woes**  
**Posted Tuesday, May. 14, 2013**  
**BY JEFF WILSON**

OAKLAND, Calif. — The health of Lance Berkman's right knee was considered the key to the Texas Rangers' offense this season, and his ability to stay in the lineup remains at the top of the checklist.

A productive season from Mitch Moreland was right behind Berkman's medical issues, but after only three weeks, it was pushing for the top spot.

Moreland started the season 0 for 13. He started out 1 for 28 in road games. He had only one hit in his first 19 at-bats against left-handers.

At the end of the 17th game of the season, he was hitting .157. His first chance to be an everyday player was this close to dissolving into a full-blown platoon with Jeff Baker.

But Moreland had shown flashes of what could come next, and he felt comfortable despite all of the outs he was making.

Manager Ron Washington stuck with him, in part because he wasn't the only left-handed hitter struggling, and now the Rangers are being rewarded.

Moreland entered Tuesday as one of the hottest hitters in baseball, no matter who is pitching to him. His batting average had climbed 135 points since bottoming out on April 20.

Twenty-one games of torrid hitting has put to rest any talk of a platoon at first base, and a confident Moreland has designs on permanently ending that discussion.

"It's tough for everybody to not get caught up in the results, but it's part of the game," Moreland said. "I knew it was a short time frame, and if I kept my head down and kept working, it would work itself out.

"You're going to have your ups and downs, and it just happened to be at the beginning. But it doesn't matter. That's why we play 162 games. Everybody is going to have hot and cold streaks. You just try to go out and minimize the bad ones."

He hasn't had much trouble with that lately. He hit two more home runs Tuesday night in Oakland while extending his hitting streak to seven games. Moreland has hit six homers in the past nine games.

All six have come in May, the second-highest total in the majors for the month. His .705 slugging percentage entering Tuesday is also sixth-best this month for players with at least 25 plate appearances in May.

Those power numbers were part of a stretch in which Moreland hit in 17 of 21 games (30 for 79) to lift his average to .292. And he had accomplished it without making major adjustments.

"I haven't changed anything," said Moreland. "I went out with the same plan that I had all the way through spring. I just want to go up there and compete and square it up. I feel like I've been grinding out my at-bats, and for the most part it's been working."

The changes Moreland made came in the off-season. He was healthy after dealing with wrist issues the previous winter, and he entered spring camp in the best shape of his career. He also made a mental commitment to be himself rather than trying to match numbers with other first basemen in the league.

But there have been other changes, hitting coach Dave Magadan said. He sees a batter who is hitting to all fields with power and who has altered scouting reports that were playing Moreland as a dead-pull hitter.

Twice in the Boston series earlier this month, Moreland beat an infield shift by slapping singles to left field. He delivered an opposite-field homer at Milwaukee and had another key RBI hit to left field in the series.

"It's not like he's giving up power hitting the ball the other way," Magadan said. "Sixty-five to 70 percent of the pitches are going to be middle away. Why not groove a swing where you can drive those balls?"

But the biggest difference is the one that will keep Moreland playing every day. The left-handed hitter has been pounding left-handed pitchers, going 13 for 28 (.464) against them over the past 12 games.

He has turned an .053 average against lefties into a .291 mark. That's better than the right-handed-hitting Lance Berkman (.286), Ian Kinsler (.273), Craig Gentry (.244) and Elvis Andrus (.178).

"With all the lefties we've been facing, it would have been easy for him to, not shut it down, but you know ...," Magadan said. "When we started all those lefties, he still hadn't built up his average yet. He had to do all that build-up against some pretty tough left-handed pitching."

Something has definitely changed even though Moreland says he's the same hitter he was during a slow start to the season. The sample size is small only 38 games into the season, but Moreland is determined to stay within himself and stay in the lineup every day.

"It's definitely better now than it was, but it's not because of me changing anything," Moreland said. "I've still got the same approach. I'm just going out and trying to play hard and help our team."

### **A.J. Pierzynski says he's ready to return to Rangers' lineup**

**Posted Tuesday, May. 14, 2013**

**BY JEFF WILSON**

OAKLAND, Calif. — A.J. Pierzynski has declared himself fit to return to the Texas Rangers' lineup, but there's one fairly significant problem.

The catcher can't be reinstated from the 15-day disabled list until Tuesday, even though he is no longer feeling pain in his strained right oblique.

So, he will make the best use of the downtime. He swung a bat for a third straight day Tuesday, taking soft toss from hitting coach Dave Magadan on the field at O.co Coliseum.

Pierzynski said that the plan is for him to take live batting practice Thursday and Friday before heading out for a two-game medical rehabilitation assignment Sunday and Monday, likely at Double A Frisco.

"We've just got to see how he feels and make arrangements according to that," said manager Ron Washington, who watched Pierzynski hit Tuesday. "I didn't see him holding back. He looked like he was getting through the ball fine."

Pierzynski remains frustrated that he had to go on the DL in the first place, but isn't holding a grudge against those who decided to sideline him. He knows the Rangers couldn't keep playing without two catchers.

"They also knew that if I didn't go on the DL, I'd keep going out there," Pierzynski said. "I'm ready to go. The trainers did a great job of getting it."

### **Andrus fine**

Ron Washington and trainer Jamie Reed headed out to second base late Monday night after they noticed that shortstop Elvis Andrus was grabbing at his right hamstring behind the knee.

Andrus remained in the game after stealing second base and was in the Rangers' lineup Tuesday after feeling tightness that often pops up in cool conditions.

The bigger issue in Washington's mind was why Andrus was trying to get an extra base with the Rangers down 5-1 and the middle of the lineup coming to the plate.

"I'd much rather see him stay there in that situation," Washington said. "And when I got out there, I told him, 'Don't try to steal third. Stay there.'"

### **Darvish fine-tuning**

Right-hander Yu Darvish held his normal between-starts State of the Yu address with the media Tuesday ahead of his matchup Thursday against 2011 Cy Young winner Justin Verlander.

Per usual, Darvish declined to go into great detail about his excitement level heading into an anticipated pitching matchup against a Detroit team that features reigning MVP Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder.

Darvish, though, did address his satisfaction level after eight starts. He is 6-1 with a 2.73 ERA, a major-league-leading 80 strikeouts and a .163 opponents batting average.

There's room for improvement.

"The number of wins and the number of strikeouts, I'm not really concerned about," Darvish said. "That's something I have to look back to once the season's over. Since my ERA is not 0.00, that's what I have to improve on. I'm just making sure that I'm healthy to throw for the rest of the season."

### **Briefly**

- Yu Darvish has donated \$25,000 to City of Dallas RBI, a program that helps nearly 2,000 youth play organized baseball. The Rangers will host RBI Day on June 16 at Rangers Ballpark, with participants from Fort Worth, Dallas, Lancaster and Austin receiving admission to the game.

- Left fielder David Murphy said that he was having trouble getting his bruised back to loosen up three days after crashing into the left-field wall at Minute Maid Park. But he was in the lineup for a third straight game and was carrying an eight-game hitting streak.

### ***DALLAS MORNING NEWS***

#### **Fraley: Rangers' pen proves mightier in 6-5 win over Oakland**

**GERRY FRALEY**

**Published: 15 May 2013 01:03 AM**

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Rangers on Tuesday night broke through a major obstacle by beating Oakland's bullpen.

The Rangers tied the game against the Athletics' bullpen in the eighth and added homers by Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland in the 10th for a 6-5 win at the Coliseum. Closer Joe Nathan flirted with danger at the end, allowing one run and loading the bases with one out before righting himself.

"Very relaxing," manager Ron Washington said of the hectic final innings. "I had all the confidence in the world that Joe would get us the three we needed. In the most tense moments, he got the outs."

The Rangers remain the only major league club without a blown save. Oakland took its first bullpen loss after six consecutive wins. The Athletics also lost for the first time this season when leading after six innings. The Rangers are 19-0 when leading after six.

A year ago, Oakland's bullpen was 4-2 with a 2.62 ERA in 58 2/3 innings against the Rangers. The relievers' success against the Rangers made a significant difference in the American League West race.

This time, the Rangers' bullpen outperformed Oakland's. Relievers Robbie Ross, Jason Frasor and Tanner Scheppers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings before getting the game to Nathan. Scheppers had two scoreless innings to get the win.

"Just another regular-season game," Nathan said. "They've had a good run against us. Oakland is a tough club. They know how to win games."

The Athletics made one last charge against an agitated Nathan, who disagreed with the strike zone of plate umpire Vic Carapazza. Nathan loudly barked at Carapazza after not getting the call on a full-count pitch to John Jaso. The second consecutive walk put the tying run on base.

Seth Smith followed with a run-scoring double that advanced the trailing runners to second and third. Hoping for a double play, Washington had Brandon Moss intentionally walked to load the bases for Daric Barton.

Nathan also had a double play in mind when something unexpected happened. Barton, an extremely selective hitter, struck out chasing a 2-2 slider that stayed away.



That was Nathan's 30th pitch of the inning. On pitch No. 31, pinch-hitter Eric Sogard rolled a grounder to the right side. Nathan thought the ball had a chance of getting through, but second baseman Ian Kinsler got a good jump to his left and made the game-ending play.

"Fatigue was not a factor," Nathan said. "I was making my best pitches at the end."

Washington made two late calls that went the Rangers' way.

With one out in the eighth, Washington had Elvis Andrus running on a 1-0 pitch to Beltre. He usually takes the pitch when Andrus is running but this time knocked a grounder through the opening on the left side. Andrus reached third and scored, tying the game at 4, on Nelson Cruz' second sacrifice fly.

The Rangers scored the tying run against reliever Ryan Cook. A year ago, he had 9 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings against the Rangers.

With one out in the 10th, Washington turned Beltre loose on a 3-0 count. Washington said he gives that liberty "to all the big boys in the middle." The idea is to swing if you get your pitch and let everything else go. Washington's only concern was making sure Beltre saw the sign.

He did. Beltre got his pitch, a high fastball from reliever Chris Resop, and homered to left-center.

"I wanted to be aggressive," Beltre said. "I got a good pitch to hit and put a good swing on it."

For Beltre, the last two at-bats made up for a galling failure in the sixth. With Lance Berkman at third and one out, Beltre failed to get the ball out of the infield. Berkman, running on contact, was out at the plate.

"Something like that really makes you mad," Beltre said. "But you have to forget about it."

With two outs, Moreland crushed his second homer of the game to center. The ball does not carry well close to midnight at this park. That Moreland hit it out at the deepest part of the park amazed the Rangers.

"The one Adrian hit was huge, but the one Mitch hit was even bigger," Washington said. "We needed every run we could get."

Moreland also had a homer in the three-run fourth. He is on a long-ball tear, with six homers in his last 36 at-bats.

"I'm just trying to make contact," Moreland said. "This is just one of those things."

## **MLB-leading strikeouts total not the focus for Rangers' Darvish**

**By Gerry Fraley**

**8:13 pm on May 14, 2013**

OAKLAND, Calif. – Rangers right-hander Yu Darvish refuses to indulge in the growing fascination with his strikeouts total.

Darvish leads the majors with 80 strikeouts in 52 2/3 innings. In his next start, on Thursday at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, Darvish will face a Detroit lineup that ranks in the middle of the American League pack with seven strikeouts per nine innings.

"The numbers of strikeouts, I'm not really concerned about," said Darvish, speaking through an interpreter, on Tuesday at the Coliseum. "That's something I can look back on when the season is over. Since my ERA is not 0.00, that's what I have to improve on."

Darvish went 3-0 with a 3.60 ERA for three starts against Detroit last season. He had 23 strikeouts in 20 innings. The Tigers have added outfielder Torii Hunter, who had six strikeouts in 18 at-bats against Darvish last season while with the Los Angeles Angels.

"I'm really not concerned about strikeouts like the rest of the people are," Darvish said. "I'm just focused on pitching my game."

## **Rangers among teams scouting unbeaten Japanese ace who's won 10 straight decisions**

**By Gerry Fraley**

**8:23 pm on May 14, 2013**

Shortstop Elvis Andrus had two mental mistakes in the series-opening loss. With the hit-and-run play on in the first, Andrus failed to swing, and Ian Kinsler was trapped between first and second. Andrus, brushed back in the inning by right-hander Ryan Cook, stole second in the ninth with the Rangers down 5-1. Manager Ron Washington quickly reminded Andrus there is no need to run when the club trails by four runs. ... According to reports in Japan, the Rangers joined the New York Yankees and Oakland in scouting the most recent start by right-hander Masahiro Tanaka of the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles of the Japan Pacific League. Tanaka, 24, is 6-0 with a 2.07 ERA and has won his last 10 decisions. ... Catcher A.J. Pierzynski, on the disabled list because of a strained right oblique, had no difficulty swinging the bat against flips from batting coach Dave Magadan. Washington said Pierzynski probably will join Double-A Frisco on a brief injury-rehabilitation assignment before being activated. Pierzynski can return on Tuesday. ... In losing the opener, the Rangers' hitters had their second consecutive 11-strikeouts game with umpire Lance Barksdale working the plate.

**Fraley: Rangers, A's are teams you don't want to trail after six**

**GERRY FRALEY**

**Published: 14 May 2013 10:33 PM**

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Rangers' series at Oakland, which continued on Tuesday night, brings together two members of a select group.

The Rangers and the Athletics were among only five major league clubs at the start of play that had not lost when leading after six innings. Cleveland, Pittsburgh and the New York Yankees were the other teams that have regularly given opponents only 18 outs to get the lead.

The Rangers and Yankees led the pack at 19-0 when leading after six.

A total of 14 teams had at least three losses when leading after six. Detroit and the Los Angeles Angels were the extremes, leading the majors with five losses.

The Tigers were 20-5, which suggests they can be a powerful team with some bullpen improvements. Detroit has the starting pitching and the punch to get leads.

The Angels were 9-5, which tells why they are buried in the American League West. The Halos rarely get late leads and often give away those few advantages. In the category of late-inning strength, the Rangers and the Athletics dominate the West.

Oakland and Cleveland began the day as the only major league clubs without a bullpen loss. The Rangers were the only major league team without a blown save.

"There are a lot of reasons for it," closer Joe Nathan said. "I'd like to think it's because we're a good team. Our offense keeps adding to leads. Our starting pitching has been very good.

"A big thing is that the young guys in the bullpen are all doing the job. I really think all the questions about the bullpen before the season have been answered."

A team needs more than a top-shelf closer like Nathan to get leads through the late innings. The Rangers' perfect record when leading after six reflects the good work done by the setup reliever, primarily left-hander Robbie Ross and right-hander Tanner Scheppers.

They have taken the spots held last year by right-handers Mike Adams, Alexi Ogando and Koji Uehara. Adams and Uehara departed as free agents. Ogando returned to the rotation.

Adams, Ogando and Uehara combined for 46 holds (preserved save chances) last season. Ross and Scheppers began the day with 13 holds.

The hold is not a perfect statistic, but it offers a glimpse into relief work under pressure. If Ross and Scheppers do not get the lead to the ninth, Nathan is just an interested on-looker.

“Very impressed,” manager Ron Washington said of Ross and Scheppers. “We certainly wanted Scheppers to pick it up, and that’s exactly what we’re doing. When we brought him up here, our vision for the future was for him to be someone we could use at the end of the game.

“It may have happened a little quicker than we expected, but when you have success, you gain confidence.”

If Oakland has an edge on the Rangers in any area, it is bullpen depth. The Athletics could repeat last year’s feat of seven relievers with at least one win and at least one save.

The bullpen carried Oakland to the West pennant last season. The relievers were 30-14, for a .682 winning percentage. Only Baltimore did better, going 32-11 (.744).

The Rangers need at least one more reliever to share in the set-up duties or risk burning out Ross and Scheppers. The Rangers hope veteran right-hander Jason Frasor, who handled the role with Toronto, can get untracked and move into the late-innings mix.

For now, the late-game trio of Nathan, Ross and Scheppers has been enough for the Rangers. No team is better at getting the final nine outs to finish a win.

### **Ron Washington backs Lance Berkman’s unsuccessful attempt at small ball**

**By Gerry Fraley**

**8:18 pm on May 14, 2013**

Designated hitter Lance Berkman’s quest for career bunt hit No. 4 continues.

With Oakland playing an extreme shift toward the right side of the infield, Berkman tried to bunt for a hit to start the fourth inning in the series opener. Athletics right-hander A.J. Griffin quickly moved off the mound to reach the baseball and threw out Berkman.

“If it works, you’re a genius,” Berkman said. “If it doesn’t, everybody says ‘What are you doing?’ ”

Manager Ron Washington considered it a sound play because of the defensive alignment and the game situation. Trailing 4-1, the Rangers needed the leadoff hitter to reach.

Berkman’s last bunt hit came in 2011, while with St. Louis. He also had bunt singles in 2002 and ’08 while with Houston.

### **Rangers’ Grimm vows rough three-game stretch won’t break him**

**By Gerry Fraley**

**8:15 pm on May 14, 2013**

Manager Ron Washington gave slumping rookie right-hander Justin Grimm a vote of confidence.

Grimm allowed five runs in five innings during a 5-1 loss to Oakland on Monday night. In his last three starts, Grimm is 0-3 with a 7.02 ERA and an opponents’ batting average of .300 for 70 at-bats. In his previous three starts, Grimm went 2-0 with a 1.59 ERA and an opponents batting average of .239.

“I’m not concerned about him,” Washington said. “Each game that he lost, he kept us in the game. He’s out there battling and fighting.”

Grimm is scheduled to start against Detroit on Saturday. He insisted this rough stretch, which has taken place in May, will not break him.

“April was a lot more fun,” Grimm said. “But I’m going to keep my head high, do my work and turn the corner. It’s more fun when things are going good for you. You have to find ways to stay mentally strong when they aren’t.”

## **ESPN DALLAS**

### **Mitch Moreland 'on fire' at the plate**

**May, 15, 2013**

**2:29 AM CT**

**By Eric Gilmore**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- There's locked in, then there's whatever type of home-run hitting zone Texas Rangers first baseman Mitch Moreland is enjoying right now.

Moreland hit two more home runs Tuesday night, powering the Rangers to a 6-5 victory over the Oakland Athletics at the O.co Coliseum. He has three home runs in the past two game against Oakland and six home runs in his past nine games overall.

"He's been really on fire, and he's been the guy that's basically been our best hitter for the last two weeks," Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre, who also homered, said. "So hopefully he'll keep it going."

Moreland hit a towering two-run home run off A's right-hander Bartolo Colon during the Rangers' three-run rally in the third. Then, after Beltre snapped a 4-4 tie in the top of the 10th with a solo shot off A's reliever Chris Resop with one out, Moreland hit a solo home run with two outs over the center-field wall -- over 400 feet away -- to give the Rangers a two-run cushion.

"Just try to go up there, stay with your approach, your plan and get a good pitch to hit, and when you do, not miss it," Moreland said. "So far, it's been going good. Hopefully, I can continue to build on it."

Moreland certainly didn't miss Colon's 3-1 fastball, which crossed the heart of the plate, belt high. Moreland fell behind Resop 1-2 before sending his fastball out of the park.

"I just wanted to see it deep, see it over the plate," Moreland said. "I was able to make a good swing on it. Good pitch to hit."

Moreland had his fifth career two-homer game and extended his hitting streak to a season-high seven games. The last time he had a two-homer game was May 17, 2012 -- against the A's.

With his two home runs, Moreland now has nine for the season and is tied with Beltre and Nelson Cruz for the team lead.

Moreland went 2-for-5 with three RBIs and scored two runs. The Rangers needed every bit of power he provided to snap a five-game losing streak at the Coliseum.

The A's rallied for a run in the bottom of the 10th off closer Joe Nathan and nearly pulled off a miraculous comeback. With the bases loaded, Nathan struck out Daric Barton then got pinch hitter Eric Sogard to ground out to second baseman Ian Kinsler.

"Every time you come here and every time you play them, they're just gritty," Moreland said. "They're going to grind out every at-bat, every pitch. That team is trying to find a way to make something happen, and it seems like they feed off of each other. It's pretty contagious once they get going over there. We were able to get a win out of it. It was a big night for us. Hopefully, we can keep it rolling tomorrow."

### **Rapid Reaction: Rangers 6, Athletics 5**

**May, 15, 2013**

**1:08 AM CT**

**By Eric Gilmore**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The Texas Rangers had to work 10 innings, but they beat the Oakland Athletics 6-5 and evened their series at one win apiece entering the finale on Wednesday afternoon at the O.co Coliseum.

**Tenth-inning heroics:** With one out in the top of the 10th, Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre crushed a solo home run to left center off A's reliever Chris Resop to put the Rangers ahead 5-4. Then, with two outs, first baseman Mitch Moreland launched his second home run of the night, a solo shot to center off Resop. Beltre and Moreland both have nine home runs, sharing the team lead with Nelson Cruz. The Rangers had lost five straight games at the Coliseum before Beltre and Moreland powered them past the A's.

**Rangers strike first:** For the second straight game, the Rangers struck first, this time grabbing a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning. Shortstop Elvis Andrus led off with an infield single, the Rangers' first hit off Bartolo Colon. With one out, Beltre blooped a double to right, moving Andrus to third. Cruz drove in Andrus with a sacrifice fly to right, and Moreland followed with his two-run blast. The Rangers scored another run in the eighth when Andrus hit another leadoff single, moved to third on Beltre's one-out single and scored on another Cruz sacrifice fly.

**Home-run binge:** Another day, another impressive home run for Moreland. In the fourth inning, he sent a moon shot high over the right-center wall for a two-run blast off Bartolo Colon for his eighth homer of the season. Colon's 3-1 pitch was belt-high and down the middle, and Moreland didn't miss. Moreland has homered in back-to-back games and six times in his past nine games. He extended his hitting streak to a season-high seven games. He had his fifth career two-homer game.

**Good start turns bad:** Rangers left-hander Derek Holland cruised through the first four innings, blanking the A's on three hits while striking out four. But he ran into trouble in the fifth and sixth and wound up with a no-decision. In his previous start against the Milwaukee Brewers, he allowed 10 hits but just one run over seven innings in a victory. This time, he allowed eight hits and four runs in just 5½ innings, striking out five and walking one. A's left fielder Seth Smith lined a leadoff single to right in the fifth, Nate Freiman singled to center and Holland walked No. 9 hitter Michael Taylor, loading the bases. Holland got Adam Rosales to hit into a double play as Smith scored. Then shortstop Jed Lowrie roped an RBI double to left. Josh Donaldson led off the sixth with a double -- his third straight hit off Holland -- moved to third on a groundout and scored on Luke Montz's sacrifice fly. When Holland gave up a single to Smith, reliever Robbie Ross replaced him. But Freiman greeted him with an RBI double to give the A's a 4-3 lead.

**Battle of the bullpens:** After Holland exited, Ross, Jason Frasor and Tanner Scheppers combined to allow just two hits and no runs over the next 3½ innings. Scheppers pitched two perfect innings, mixing heat that reached as high as 98 mph with effective off-speed pitches. He earned the win. Closer Joe Nathan retired the first batter he faced in the 10th but walked Derek Norris and John Jaso and gave up an RBI double to Smith before striking out Daric Barton and retiring Eric Sogard on a ground ball.

**Up next:** The Rangers face the A's in the finale of their three-game series Wednesday at 2:35 p.m. on Fox Sports Southwest and ESPN Dallas 103.3 FM and 1540-AM. Right-hander Alexi Ogando will face A's right-hander Dan Straily in the final game of the Rangers' nine-game road trip.

## **Buzz: Darvish faces Verlander in next test**

**May, 14, 2013**

**8:38 PM CT**

**By Eric Gilmore**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- When the Texas Rangers return to Arlington on Thursday, they'll open a seven-game homestand with a dream pitching matchup that features two of baseball's marquee right-handers, Yu Darvish and the Detroit Tigers' Justin Verlander.

Just don't expect Darvish to promote this showdown as if it were a heavyweight bout. Before Tuesday night's game against the Oakland Athletics, Darvish was asked if he's looking forward to this start against Verlander more than most.

"Not particularly, because I won't be hitting against him," Darvish said. "If that were the case, I'd be looking forward to it. I'm just going to be pitching, and I'm focused on pitching my game."

Darvish has had his A-game for most of this season. He's 6-1 with a 2.73 ERA and has won five straight decisions. He leads the major leagues in strikeouts with 80.

"The number of wins and the number of strikeouts, I'm not really concerned about," Darvish said. "That's something I have to look back to once the season's over. Since my ERA is not 0.00, that's what I have to improve on. I'm just making sure I'm healthy to throw for the rest of the season."

Darvish had a combined 31 strikeouts in his past three starts, wins over the Chicago White Sox, Boston Red Sox and Houston Astros, but he also gave up five home runs. In his first five starts, he didn't allow a home run.

The Tigers' lineup is filled with power hitters, including Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder.

"There's no particular hitter I'm looking forward to facing," Darvish said. "I'm more concerned about managing the lineup and pitching my game and giving my team a chance to win. Every game I look forward to facing every hitter, but there's no particular hitter I'm concerned about now."

**Running into trouble?:** With the Rangers trailing the A's 5-1 in the top of the ninth Monday night, shortstop Elvis Andrus stole second base and tweaked his right hamstring. He stayed in the game and was in the starting lineup Tuesday night.

"In the cold weather, sometimes, the part of the hamstring that comes down and goes behind your knee, sometimes it stiffens up on him," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "When he slid yesterday he just felt it a little bit. He's playing. It was no issue."

Washington, though, did take issue with Andrus' decision to steal in that situation.

"When they're not paying attention, he took a shot there," Washington said. "But you got to be safe. You take all excuses away if you're not safe. I'd much rather see him stay there in that situation, but I didn't put the hold [sign] on."

Washington quickly told Andrus as much.

"When I got out there, I told him, 'Don't try to steal third. Stay there,'" Washington said.

**Pierzynski update:** Catcher A.J. Pierzynski took another step forward in his comeback from the strained right oblique muscle that landed him on the disabled list on May 10, retroactive to May 6. He took swings on the field during a soft-toss session.

"Well, he swung today and didn't have any issues, so we just got to see how he feels after he finished swinging and then we'll make arrangements according to that. Hopefully, everything is well, and when we get back to Texas he can take some BP [batting practice]."

Pierzynski is eligible to come off the DL on Tuesday, and Washington said he'll probably need one or two rehab games before then. Washington said it looks like he's on track to be activated Tuesday.

"That's what it looks like. Did some soft toss out on the field and looked good," Washington said. "I didn't see him holding back. Now we've got to see how he feels afterwards. It looked like he was getting through the ball fine."

**More praise for Griffin:** Washington, as he did after Monday night's loss to Oakland, had high praise for A's right-hander A.J. Griffin, who allowed one run on six hits and struck out eight -- four on called third strikes. Washington said Griffin had great stuff and also took advantage of plate umpire Lance Barksdale's generous strike zone.

"He had a good game last night. He had a good game, he really did. He recognized what the umpire was doing and he stayed with it, a la [former Atlanta Braves pitcher] Greg Maddux and [John] Smoltz and [Tom] Glavine," Washington said. "Recognize what they're doing and don't change it. He'd go off this far [off the plate], he'd call it. Go that far, if he'd call it, oh man, you got another plate over there to throw to. He was in tune last night. Tip your hat."

**No rest for Beltre:** Third baseman Adrian Beltre was in the lineup Tuesday for the 39th straight game. He's yet to get a night off this season, and he might not get one for some time, Washington said, even with a day game Wednesday following a night game.

"We got these guys, and we got Detroit," Washington said. "I don't see him coming out before then. Can't have that bat sitting on the bench against these guys and against Detroit. If I do anything with him, I'll talk him into DHing. He told me, 'Whatever you want to do skip, other than taking me out.' So I might get him to DH."

Washington said he'll probably give catcher Geovany Soto a day off Wednesday, which would put Robinson Chirinos in the starting lineup. A number of other Rangers regulars will probably get some rest Wednesday.

"I don't know exactly where else yet. We'll see how the night goes," Washington said.

**Ticket booth:** There are still around 12,500 tickets available for Thursday night's opener of a four-game series against Detroit at Rangers Ballpark, the team announced. There are around 7,000 tickets available for Friday's game, 3,000 for Saturday's game and 11,500 for Sunday's.

**Matchup: Derek Holland vs. Bartolo Colon**  
**May, 14, 2013**  
**1:30 PM CT**  
**By Eric Gilmore**

The Texas Rangers play the Oakland Athletics in the second game of a three-game set Tuesday night against the with left-hander Derek Holland facing veteran A's right-hander Bartolo Colon. First pitch at O.co Coliseum is 9:05 p.m. CT on FSSW and ESPN Dallas 103.3 FM (1540 AM in Spanish).

**Holland (3-2, 2.54):** In his last start at the Milwaukee Brewers, Holland allowed 10 hits but only one run over seven innings and earned the win. He struck out six and walked none. The last Rangers pitcher to allow 10 or more hits and one or no runs was Robinson Tejeda on Sept. 26, 2006. ... Holland has won two straight decisions and three out of his past four, with wins over Milwaukee, the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs. ... In five of his seven starts, Holland has worked at least seven innings while allowing two or fewer runs. ... This will be Holland's fifth start on the road in six appearances. He went 2-1 with a 3.38 ERA in those previous four road starts. ... Holland is 4-2 with a 2.64 ERA in 12 career games against the A's, including eight starts. Last season he went 1-1 against the A's with a 5.73 ERA in three appearances, including two starts. ... In his last start at Oakland on June 5, 2012, he allowed seven hits and three earned runs over 5S innings.

**Colon (3-2, 4.57):** After starting the season 3-0 with a 2.42 ERA, Colon is 0-2 with an 8.22 ERA over his past three starts. ... Colon walked only one batter over his first seven starts, a span of 41S innings. He is averaging just 0.22 walks per nine innings, the fewest in the majors. ... Colon averages just 14.3 pitches per inning. ... He took the loss Thursday at the Cleveland Indians, allowing eight hits and four runs over four innings. ... Colon is 18-7 with a 3.66 ERA in 29 career starts against Texas. The 18 wins are his most against any team. Only three pitchers in baseball history -- none of them still active -- have more wins against the Rangers; Bert Blyleven, Dennis Leonard and Jack Morris all have 19.

**Hitters:** A's outfielder Yoenis Cespedes has two hits in six at-bats against Holland, and both of them were solo home runs. Third baseman Josh Donaldson is 2-for-5 with a solo home run off Holland, and reserve outfielder Michael Taylor is 1-for-1 with a solo shot. ... Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre has a career .316 average against Colon, going 18-for-57 with six doubles, five home runs and 14 RBIs. Left fielder David Murphy is 3-for-9 with a home run against Colon. Right fielder Nelson Cruz (1-for-10) and second baseman Ian Kinsler (2-for-14) have struggled against Colon.

**Wash's Wisdom: Days off all about feel**  
**May, 14, 2013**  
**1:00 PM CT**  
**By Todd Wills**

Ron Washington goes off of feel when it comes to giving his players a day off.

So far this season the Rangers' manager has been more liberal giving his regulars games off. A tough travel schedule has had a lot to do with it. The Rangers are currently on a four-city, 10-day road trip.

Twice he's given two regulars that hit regularly in the top six spots of the lineup the day off together. It's been Elvis Andrus and Lance Berkman one time. And on Sunday it was Nelson Cruz and Ian Kinsler, who led the Rangers in RBIs entering the game against Houston, which the Rangers won 12-7.

"It's a feel," Washington said Tuesday on his weekly radio appearance on Fitzsimmons & Durrett on ESPN Dallas 103.3 FM. "My coaches, we look at the amount of games we've played, the travel that we've had. This year I'm trying to do the right thing."

Washington is more comfortable giving regulars time off because his bench is better and more productive. He's been able to keep players in a groove with 28 pinch-hit appearances.

In Sunday's game, Washington played Leury Garcia at second base and Leonys Martin in left field and they combined for five hits and six runs scored. Martin had a home run.

Washington, who was criticized for not resting his regulars more as the team was fading at the end of the last season, has said repeatedly in the last few weeks that this year's club is more versatile.

"We've put some pieces on this team this year," Washington said. "Now when we feel like we need to give these guys days, I'm going to go on and do it."

## **More of Wash's Widsom:**

Skidding in Oakland: Washington, a coach for 11 years in Oakland before becoming the Rangers' manager, was intense when talking about ending a bad streak at O.com Coliseum, where the Rangers have lost eight of their last 10 games and are on a five-game losing streak.

"I want to end that streak badly," Washington said on Fitzsimmons & Durrett. "I know we were losing here, but I didn't know it was that bad.

"It's not a situation where they are so dominant. It's a situation where we're the reason. We're not doing what we're capable of doing in this place, so we have to turn that around. We're in control of that. I'm not going to put it to where Oakland is in control of that."

Grimm's struggles: Washington said that struggling rookie starter Justin Grimm will be fine. He needs to work on keeping his fastball and curveball down in the strike zone.

"He has to work harder," Washington said on Fitzsimmons & Durrett. "And once he gets two outs, putting that third one away. That's where he gets in trouble, getting that third out."

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### **10th-inning HRs lift Rangers, who survive scare in 6-5 win over A's Associated Press**

**Published: 14 May 2013 09:03 PM**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rangers manager Ron Washington kept calm and stuck with his reliable closer even as Joe Nathan pitched himself into serious trouble.

Nathan delivered for his toughest save of the year after Adrian Beltre hit a tiebreaking home run in the 10th inning and Mitch Moreland followed with his second of the game to help Texas edge the Oakland Athletics 6-5 on Tuesday night.

Nathan gave up a run in the bottom of the 10th but escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam to snap Texas' four-game losing streak to the A's.

"When you've got your closer out there, you tell yourself, 'This is the end, this is your closer, the guy I have to live or die with,'" Washington said. "It was very relaxing. I had all the confidence in the world Joe would get us the three we needed."

Beltre sent a 3-0 pitch from Chris Resop (1-1) to center field with one out in the 10th for his ninth homer of the year. Moreland connected two batters later, giving him three of his nine home runs in the past two games. He also hit a two-run shot in the fourth.

Nathan needed 31 pitches to nail down his 12th save in as many chances this season.

After a pair of one-out walks and a mound visit from pitching coach Mike Maddux, Seth Smith doubled in a run. Nathan intentionally walked Brandon Moss before striking out Daric Barton on seven pitches. The All-Star closer then retired pinch-hitter Eric Sogard on a first-pitch groundout to end a game that took 3 hours, 43 minutes.

Tanner Scheppers (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Nelson Cruz's second sacrifice fly of the game tied it in the eighth against Ryan Cook.

A's manager Bob Melvin was ejected by first base umpire D.J. Reyburn for arguing a close call on Barton's groundout that ended the eighth, the third time the reigning AL Manager of the Year has been tossed in 2013.

"I thought for sure from where I was that he was safe, and it wasn't the case," Melvin said. "I think it was very close but it looked like he was out and he got the call right. I deserved to be thrown out."

The AL West-leading Rangers (25-14) bounced back a night after having their four-game winning streak snapped in a 5-1 loss Monday to the 2012 division champions, who swept Texas in the final three regular-season games last fall to steal away the West crown.



Texas also stopped a five-game skid in the Coliseum with the club's first victory here since July 17 last year. It marked the longest home unbeaten run for the A's in the rivalry since winning eight in a row from June 17, 2003, to April 6, 2004.

"They've had a good run against us here," Nathan said. "They're a tough ballclub and they know how to win games."

Nate Freiman hit a go-ahead double in the sixth after Luke Montz's tying sacrifice fly, but Cook couldn't hold a one-run lead in the eighth.

Josh Donaldson doubled twice among his career high-matching four hits for the A's. But there was no celebratory walk-off this time after Oakland had 14 of them last year.

"We always feel like we have the capability to win at any time, especially when it's late in the game and we're at home," Donaldson said.

A's starter Bartolo Colon allowed three runs and four hits in six innings. He didn't strike out a batter in an outing of at least four innings for the first time in his 16 big league seasons. He issued just his second walk all year in 47 1-3 innings.

Yoenis Cespedes went 0 for 5 a night after he left before the fifth inning with a stomach bug that caused him to vomit twice in the dugout bathroom.

The A's loaded the bases with no outs in the fifth against Rangers starter Derek Holland, who allowed consecutive singles to Smith and Freiman and walked No. 9 hitter Michael Taylor. Holland then induced a double play that brought home Smith, followed by Jed Lowrie's RBI double.

Donaldson doubled leading off the sixth and Oakland tied the game at 3 on Montz's sacrifice fly. Smith then singled to chase Holland, who appeared on track for a third straight win until running into trouble in the fourth and fifth.

**NOTES:** The Rangers had three sacrifice flies all season before Nelson's two. ... Moreland became the first Rangers player with a two-homer game this season. It was his fifth career two-homer game, and first since May 17 last year against the A's in Texas. ... Lance Berkman hit his 30th career triple in his 15th big league season. ... A's INF Hiroyuki Nakajima, on the disabled list all season with a strained left hamstring, played for a third consecutive game in a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento. He will have Wednesday off, then play four in a row. ... A's CF Coco Crisp is set to be activated from the disabled list Wednesday after working his way back from a strained left hamstring. Fellow OF Chris Young (strained left quadriceps) will be examined in Oakland, back from his rehab assignment with the River Cats. ... Taylor was optioned to Sacramento after the game to clear roster room for Crisp. ... Oakland pitchers have begun taking batting practice ahead of interleague play at San Francisco on May 29-30. ... On a night when the NBA's Golden State Warriors and NHL's San Jose Sharks both played second-round playoff games on the road, announced attendance was 12,969.

## **AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN**

### **Express drop their third in a row**

**Posted: 6:41 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2013**

**By American-Statesman staff**

Tucson's Cody Decker tripled in the bottom of the tenth and subsequently scored on a wild pitch by Lisalberto Bonilla to hand the Express a 6-5 loss late Monday night.

The Express (20-18) have lost six of their last eight games after starting the month with a four game winning streak. Monday's loss was their third in a row and their second in a row in walk-off fashion.

Round Rock came back to tie the game in the top of the ninth after trailing 5-2 when Greg Miclat advanced to home on two consecutive wild pitches by Padres' (20-18) pitcher Colt Hynes. Miclat and Jose Felix each had an RBI in the inning.

Bonilla's (2-2) wild pitch in the tenth sealed the loss for him while Miles Mikolas (1-1) picked up the win for Tucson.

The Express managed 12 hits but only three went for extra bases, including two doubles by Chris McGuiness.

Round Rock wrapped up their road trip late Tuesday in Tucson.

## **MYRTLE BEACH ONLINE**

### **Myrtle Beach Pelicans' winning streak snapped at seven**

**Published: May 14, 2013**

**From Staff Reports**

Last night at the ballpark

Dash 5, Pelicans 2

Game recap | Winston-Salem scored four runs off Pelicans starter Luke Jackson in the fifth inning to push the Dash past the Pelicans. Jackson allowed five runs on seven hits and four walks, while striking out four for his second loss of the season. The loss snapped Myrtle Beach's seven-game winning streak.

Star of the game | Winston-Salem's Mark Tracy, who went 1-for-4 and drove in two runs.

Stat of the game | 8 – the number of Dash players who got a hit.

Transaction | Right-hander Jon Edwards has been placed on the disabled list. Right-hander Jose Monegro joined the team from extended spring training.