



A's send Rays to fifth loss in six games

By Roger Mooney, Tribune Staff

OAKLAND - Second and third and one out and the score tied in the eighth inning. The Tampa Bay Rays finally had some life Friday night at the Oakland Coliseum.

James Loney finished off a marathon at-bat with an RBI double.

The dugout had come alive, although that might have had something to do with Fernando Rodney being locked in the dugout bathroom and his teammates' efforts to free the closed-in closer.

But Desmond Jennings went down swinging and Kelly Johnson took offense with a called third strike.

Rally over.

You know what happens next.

Leadoff single, aggressive base-running keeps A's out of double play, soft double to right field.

Ball game.

The A's took over the wild card lead with a 4-3 victory against the Rays, who now trail the Red Sox by 3 1/2 games in the American League East.

"We didn't get the hit when we needed it," Rays manager Joe Maddon said, "and that's what it came down to."

Rays starter David Price pitched into the eighth inning and left after allowing a leadoff single to Coco Crisp. He lost for the second time since coming off the disabled list July 2.

Joel Peralta came on and got Josh Donaldson to hit a ground ball to Yunel Escobar. But Crisp was running, an unusual move with a 2-2 count, and stayed out of the double play.

Jed Lowrie then lined the ball into right field to score Crisp with the go-ahead run.

"I got what I wanted," Peralta said. "It was a lucky move right there. I got the ground ball I wanted. Bad luck."

The Rays tied the score at 3-3 with two runs in the top of the inning when David DeJesus singled and Ben Zobrist walked to start the inning.

That was all for A's starter Jarrod Parker, Ryan Cook replaced Parker and allowed a bloop single to right by Evan Longoria to load the bases. Longoria snapped an 0-for-18 slide with the hit.

Matt Joyce sliced a sacrifice fly to left field to score DeJesus.

Loney, who didn't have an extra base hit this month up until that inning, finished a 10-pitch at-bat with a sinking line drive to center field. Chris Young tried to make a diving catch on the ball but couldn't. Zobrist scored easily, but Longoria, who didn't get a good read on the line drive, advanced only to third as Loney pulled in to second base with a double.

"I would say that Longo had a different look at it as opposed to the runner on second base did. That's probably why he did that," Maddon said. "I had no problem with that. Listen, second and third, I'll take it. Tie ball game. Move the baseball and you have a chance to win."

That didn't happen.

Trailing 1-0, the A's took a 3-1 lead in the fifth inning on a three-run homer by Kurt Suzuki. The inning began when Alberto Callaspo reached on a throwing error by Zobrist. It was Zobrist's first error in 82 games, a team record for second basemen.

Price then walked Young, his first and only walk of the game.

"I don't think he walks Chris Young unless that error is made," Zobrist said. "He was just cruising until that point. I just threw it a little bit too hard and too high. It just got away from me. It happens every once in a while. It's kind of a bummer that it really cost us."

Price had allowed only two hits through the first four innings. Maddon said the inning turned on the walk, but Price disagreed.

"In some cases walks aren't bad. I don't think that was a very bad walk," Price said. "I got an out on the next batter, Brandon Moss, and I want a double play. I didn't get it. Didn't make a good enough pitch and it kind of cost us."

Price got Moss looking at a called third strike.

Up came the catcher Suzuki. Price was looking to get a ground ball for an inning-ending double play. Instead he hung a changeup, and Suzuki lined it over the left field wall for a three-run homer.

"He's swung the bat well against me every since I've been in the big leagues," Price said. "He's just one of those hitters."

The loss capped a tough day for the Rays, who began a 10-game, three-city trip to the West Coast.

Construction on the Bay Bridge resulted in a detour by the team bus and a 1 hour, 43 minute bus ride from the team hotel in San Francisco to Oakland - about an hour longer than it normally takes.

Price, who took a cab, was stuck with a \$202 fare. He also took the loss, the Rays' fifth in six games.

About the only thing that made anyone on the Rays' side smile was Rodney being locked in the dugout bathroom for about 15 minutes until someone broke the lock with a baseball bat.

"We kind of rallied then," Maddon said. "We should have kept him in there."

The eighth-inning rally was another positive, at least through Loney's at-bat.

"I thought our team did a great job of really rallying in the eighth, there, and coming back," Zobrist said. "It felt a little bit dead offensively until that point. To see our bench kind of going crazy and getting really into it, I think that's good, especially considering the last few games for us and how tough it's been.

"There's still a lot of life. We expect to come back (tonight)."

Noteworthy

The Rays are 11-14 in August and are ensured a losing record for the month for the first time since 2006 ... Jennings has eight walks and six strikeouts and a .114 batting average since returning from the disabled list ... The Rays announced after the game that C Chris Gimenez, DH Delmon Young and RHP Josh Lueke will join the team tonight in Oakland and be added to the roster Sunday when rosters expand ... DH Luke Scott (lower back spasms) will also return tonight from his rehab assignment at Triple-A Durham and be reexamined. He is expected to be added to the roster Sunday.

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Rays notes: Maddon mum on rotation

By Roger Mooney, Tribune Staff

OAKLAND, Calif. — The mystery surrounding Sunday's start and the rotation for the upcoming Angels series will live another day.

Manager Joe Maddon did not name a starter for the finale of this three-game series with the A's.

"Mums the word," he said before Friday's game at O.co Coliseum.

The secrecy could rest with the Rays plans to line up LHP Matt Moore, LHP David Price and RHP Alex Cobb for the upcoming series with the first-place Red Sox.

RHP Roberto Hernandez is scheduled to start Sunday. Maddon said it could be Hernandez. It might also be bullpen day, something the Rays did in 2012 against the Phillies.

Maddon said the starter is currently with the organization, so the Rays are not trying to work out a trade with another team.

"I'm being vague," Maddon said.

Maddon said RHP Chris Archer will start Monday against the Angels in Anaheim. The rest of the rotation for that series, including the return of Moore (sore left elbow), was still either undecided Friday or not ready to be revealed.

RHP Jake Odorizzi, optioned to Double-A Montgomery after his start Thursday against the Angels at Tropicana Field, could also return and pitch Tuesday since the Biscuits end their regular season Tuesday. RHP Jeremy Hellickson, on Class A Charlotte's roster while he gets some rest, could also pitch Tuesday.

"It's not impossible," Maddon said.

Price, who pitched Friday, would pitch Wednesday if he stays on schedule. That will allow him to face the first-place Red Sox on Sept. 10 during the opener of the three-game series at the Trop.

Moore said he's been told he's pitching Tuesday or Wednesday. Being held back until Wednesday would set up a Moore, Price and Cobb rotation for the Red Sox series.

"Once we reveal it, you'll understand," Maddon said. "I promise."

Myers sits

OF Wil Myers did not start Friday because Maddon didn't want him to face A's RHP Jarrod Parker, who was holding right-handers to a .212 average.

Myers, who walked a career-high three times in Thursday's loss, was 0-for-15 on the recent homestand.

"(Parker) is really tough on righties," Maddon said. "(Myers) had a nice day (Thursday) with the walks, just give him a chance to watch a big-league game and get him in there (tonight)."

Maddon said the three walks was a positive sign, because it can mean Myers is being more selective at the plate. Chasing pitches out of the zone has been a problem during his slump.

"Absolutely," Maddon said. "The fact that he did so well lately, just keep him away from this guy right now and put him back out there (tonight)."

What a ride

The normal 30- to 40-minute bus ride from the team hotel in San Francisco to Oakland took 1 hour, 43 minutes Friday when the Rays had to detour around San Francisco Bay because the Bay Bridge was closed.

Maddon called it a "kumbaya ride."

The bridge that connects San Francisco to Oakland is closed this weekend so workers can make the switch from the old span to the new one that is expected to open Tuesday morning.

Price, Friday's starter, took a car service that cost \$202.

"Nice timing!! Expensive ride!!" Price tweeted.

Several players, including OF David DeJesus, RHP Jesse Crain and Cobb took the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), the train line that runs under the bay.

"I planned ahead," Cobb said. "I think everybody was aware of it. I don't think everyone knew it was going to take as long as it actually did. Most everybody told us at the hotel."

Maddon said the long ride reminded him of some minor-league bus trips.

"Listen, I had no problem with it," Maddon said. "I kind of enjoyed it. It was very nostalgic."

Noteworthy

Including Friday's game, 19 of the Rays' final 30 games are on the road and 17 of the final 30 are against teams that began play Friday within five games of a playoff spot. ... The Rays entered Friday's game with only two hits in their past 11 bases-loaded situations.

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Rays' Moore has peace of mind

By Roger Mooney, Tribune Staff

OAKLAND, Calif. — Matt Moore physically joined the Rays on Friday afternoon, having flown from Atlanta to Oakland after making a rehab start with Triple-A Durham on Thursday night at Gwinnett.

Now, the question remains: When does Moore officially rejoin the team?

That could be Tuesday or Wednesday, when the road trip continues against the Angels in Anaheim.

Rays manager Joe Maddon said he will announce today the rotation for the Angels series, as well as name Sunday's starter for the finale of this three-game series with the A's.

Whichever night Moore takes the mound, he will do so with the peace of mind knowing the soreness in his left elbow that sidelined him since July 28 is no longer an issue.

Moore threw 74 pitches in four innings Thursday.

"(The pain is) totally gone, as far as I can tell," Moore said. "The last eight, nine days have been really good. That's where most of the healing has taken place. The first weeks, there wasn't a whole lot of progression. It's been about nine days since I've been throwing now with this kind of feeling where I'm not thinking about it, I'm just going out there after it."

Moore allowed four runs on eight hits and walked two batters. Some of that could be attributed to the rust from not pitching in a game for more than five weeks.

"I feel like I was making some pitches, each at-bat was different," Moore said. "I'd get ahead of one guy and then I'd fall behind this guy, so there was definitely some times when I was out there trying to feel what an 0-2 curveball is going to feel like and I'd leave it up. ... Most of it was trying to find the intensity I want to pitch with in certain counts."

The change-up is what caused the soreness in Moore's elbow. Moore often uses that pitch to help him find his fastball when he loses command of that pitch.

He first felt soreness only when throwing his change-up. But after trying to throw through that pain, the pain would be present when he tried to throw his other pitches.

He said he was able to throw the change-up Thursday without issue.

"I threw a lot of change-ups, and if I threw a bad one I would just shake back to it and throw another one," Moore said. "That was more so for me, as opposed to what was going on in the game. I think for the most part (I was) trying to get into those counts where I could throw those pitches."

Moore will face a 90-pitch limit when he returns.

Maddon said the mystery about his return is not due to his health but with the Rays' yet-to-be decided pitching rotation.

"We just have to decide how we want to work that out," Maddon said.

Brandon Gomes, who was recalled Friday and made the cross-county trip with Moore, said Moore looked good Thursday against Gwinnett.

"I thought his stuff was very good," Gomes said. "Fastball had good zip on it. Everything was good just your normal stuff from Matt not having pitched in a month-and-a-half. I was impressed with his overall stuff, for sure."

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Price derailed as Rays drop opener with A's

By Rick Eymer, MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Rays players had the kind of day that would make "The Big Bang Theory" look like a drama. Only it really wasn't that funny.

David Price lost a large pile of cash to a long taxi ride and then lost a game.

Fernando Rodney wasn't available to pitch in the eighth inning because he was locked in the dugout bathroom.

The Rays rallied to tie the game in the eighth but Oakland answered in its half of the frame, and the A's downed Tampa Bay, 4-3, on Friday night at O.co Coliseum.

The Rays fell 3 1/2 games behind the Red Sox in the American League East and dropped to a half-game behind the A's for the top spot in the AL Wild Card race.

Price (8-6) went seven-plus innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on six hits. He walked one and struck out five.

Price had his personal five-win streak come to an end as the Rays lost their fifth in six games.

Second baseman Ben Zobrist's record 81-game errorless streak also came to end. He misfired on a throw in the fifth inning that gave the A's the chance to build a 3-1 lead.

Price retired 12 of the first 14 batters he faced before Zobrist committed his error, allowing Alberto Callaspo to reach second.

Price walked Chris Young, struck out Brandon Moss and gave up Kurt Suzuki's three-run home run.

"It was my error, no question," Zobrist said. "I don't think he walks Chris Young unless the error is made. He was cruising up to that point. I threw it too hard and too high and it got away from me."

Price wasn't about to blame anyone but himself.

"Those guys have been unbelievable for me all year," he said. "That was tough. But I knew what [Young] was trying to do and sometimes a walk can be a good thing. With Moss, I was trying to get the double play but didn't make a good enough pitch."

Price also felt Suzuki hit a pretty good pitch for the home run.

"It was over the plate and I guess it had too much height," he said.

The Rays rallied for a pair of runs in the top of the eighth, with Matt Joyce hitting a sacrifice fly and James Loney doubling home a run to tie it at 3.

"It was great just rallying in the eighth," Zobrist said. "It felt dead offensively until that point. There was still a lot of life."

Rodney would have loved to have been a part of the action, but he somehow got locked in the bathroom for 15 minutes and had no idea what was going on.

"Yeah, that's weird," Rodney said. "I heard all the commotion and I wanted to see the game."

Had Rays manager Joe Maddon thought about it, he would have left Rodney locked up.

"It was right when we were rallying," Maddon said. "I should have kept him in there. It was a fun moment. Part of the rally was the bat beating on the knob."

That was just the last in a long line of miscues that haunted the Rays on Friday. Price wanted to get to the park early, so he took a cab from the team's hotel in San Francisco.

A normal 20-minute ride turned into a two-hour nightmare for the pitcher. The Bay Bridge is closed for the weekend and the cab had to swing down the peninsula and across another bridge -- just like thousands of others who were trying to beat the traffic out of town at the start of a holiday weekend.

"It was a bad day all the way around," said Price, who paid a \$202 taxi bill.

Yunel Escobar gave the Rays a 1-0 lead in the second inning, and the way Price was working, it seemed like enough.

Price gave up a single to Coco Crisp leading off the bottom of the eighth. Joel Peralta relieved him and gave up Jed Lowrie's double that scored Crisp for the go-ahead run.

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Notebook: Bridge closure delays Rays' bus ride to Coliseum

By Rick Eymer, MLB.com

OAKLAND -- There were just a handful of Rays hanging out in the clubhouse before Friday night's game against the Athletics.

They were the smart ones.

With the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge closed until Tuesday, many of the Rays found getting from their San Francisco hotel to O.co Coliseum rather difficult.

Outfielder Sam Fuld took the train to Stanford, his alma mater, then took Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to Oakland. He was there a half-hour before the bus that left San Francisco at 2 p.m. finally arrived -- at 3:44 p.m.

"I didn't know anything until some guy came up to me and asked if we were taking BART because of the bridge being closed," outfielder Matt Joyce said. "I figured we'd just take the bus and get here in 45 minutes."

Instead it turned into a trip many would rather forget.

"It takes you back to when you took those hour-or-so bus rides in high school or college," Joyce said. "It wasn't the most enjoyable bus ride. I got a lot of reading done. I guess the guys are agitated and ready to play."

Friday's starting pitcher, David Price, took a car service and regularly tweeted updates on his ride.

"I'm taking BART back," he posted, still clearly a bit disgruntled.

"I didn't know the bridge was out," Rays infielder Ben Zobrist said. "I've taken BART before."

Saturday's starter, Alex Cobb, took BART along with reliever Jesse Crain.

"I was thinking ahead," he said. "They told us at the hotel, and I just followed Jesse because he's a veteran and knows the area."

Fuld dropped in on his Stanford coach, Mark Marquess, but found most of the campus in lockdown, though several teams are currently in season. Classes don't start until later next month.

Rays recall reliever Gomes, option Odorizzi

OAKLAND -- Right-hander Brandon Gomes, 29, was recalled from Triple-A Durham on Friday with right-hander Jake Odorizzi optioned to Durham.

It's been a strange season for Gomes, who went on the disabled list in May with a right lat strain, was recalled for two days in mid-August and spent time on the 60-day disabled list.

"I'd never pulled or strained a muscle," Gomes said. "I didn't know what to expect. I'd never been on the DL before. It puts a new appreciation for guys who stay healthy."

Gomes left Atlanta in the morning, sharing the same flight as left-hander Matt Moore, who continues rehabbing his sore left elbow.

"I'm good to go," Gomes said. "I feel great and that's the main thing. When I feel healthy, I feel like I can pitch well. It's nice to get back here and into a routine."

Gomes (0-1, 5.68 ERA) had appeared in 15 games for the Rays entering Friday.

Cobb settled in since returning from DL

OAKLAND -- On Saturday night, Rays right-hander Alex Cobb will be making his fourth start since returning from the disabled list.

In his three previous outings, he is 2-0 with a 2.16 ERA, and he said he's feeling better every time out.

"I definitely think it has been a gradual return in performance as far as me feeling comfortable in locating the fastball and mixing in pitches," Cobb said on Friday. "That got a lot better this past week. My change is not as sharp, but I hope to get that down by tomorrow."

Cobb (8-2, 2.87 ERA), who missed 50 games with a concussion, said he's just dealing with the everyday issues that occur over the season.

"You're always battling issues throughout the season," Cobb said. "I had an endurance problem when I first came back. I'm beyond that now."

Extra bases

- Rays manager Joe Maddon declined to name a starting pitcher for Sunday. "Mum's the word," he said. "When we announce it you'll understand. We're in a state of flux with the pitching."
- Left-hander Matt Moore is expected to make a start within the next few days. He threw four innings in a rehab start on Thursday night and joined the team in Oakland.
- Right-hander Chris Archer will start Monday night against the Angels in Anaheim.
- Maddon confirmed that Delmon Young, Luke Scott and Moore will all join the team Sunday when rosters expand. He also said catcher Chris Gimenez would be recalled from Triple-A Durham.

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A's, Rays clash again in push toward postseason

By Zack Meisel, MLB.com

In the American League playoff chase, the standings for both the division and Wild Card races are quite congested.

So when contenders such as the A's and Rays lock horns -- as they are this weekend in Oakland -- the results have a significant influence on the league's balance of power.

The A's are trying to catch up to the Rangers in the AL West. The Rays are attempting to do the same with the Red Sox in the AL East. Both teams are also clinging to a Wild Card slot, with Oakland leading Tampa Bay by a half-game for the top spot.

"We can't get too caught up in who you're playing or how many games," said A's manager Bob Melvin. "We just have to win every possible game that we can because we're at less than 30 games at this point. Every game has a little different feel to it."

Oakland has won five of seven since an 8-13 stretch. It went 4-3 on a recently completed seven-game road trip through Baltimore and Detroit, both home to AL contenders.

"We started to play a little better in Baltimore," Melvin said. "We did lose two out of three, but had some good energy and the offense started to pick up some, and in Detroit you saw that the offense really started to swing the bat well against what was the best pitching staff, at least ERA-wise, in baseball, so that was encouraging to see."

The A's defeated Rays ace David Price in Friday's series opener. On Saturday, they'll toil with Alex Cobb, who is 2-0 with a 2.16 ERA in three starts since returning from the disabled list. He missed nearly two months with a concussion.

Overall, Cobb stands at 8-2 with a 2.87 ERA.

"I definitely think it has been a gradual return in performance as far as me feeling comfortable in locating the fastball and mixing in pitches," Cobb said.

Sonny Gray (1-2, 3.18 ERA) is slated to pitch for Oakland. The 23-year-old rookie allowed six runs on eight hits in 3 1/3 innings of a 10-3 loss to the Orioles in his last outing.

Rays: New addition impressing skipper

- Outfielder David DeJesus is batting .364 (8-for-22) since joining the Rays on Aug. 23. Manager Joe Maddon has penciled him into the leadoff spot in four of the five games in which he has started.

"He gets good at-bats, gets on base, sees a lot of pitches and plays really good defense," Maddon said. "He's great in the clubhouse and fits in so well."

- The Rays have yet to announce a starter for Sunday's finale in Oakland. Chris Archer is scheduled to pitch on Monday and Matt Moore threw four innings in a rehab start on Thursday.

"We're bandying things about different options for Sunday," Maddon said. "It depends on where Matt fits in. We're in a state of flux with our pitching."

A's: Norris nearing return

- Derek Norris could rejoin Oakland as soon as Thursday, as he makes his way back from a fractured left big toe. The catcher took batting practice before Friday's contest and will play three games with Triple-A Sacramento beginning Saturday.

"I love this game too much to sit out any longer," Norris said, "especially with everything the team's going through and the playoff push."

Worth noting

- The A's are 13-13 in August and need a win Saturday to avoid their first month with a losing record since May 2012.

- In four games since rejoining the A's, catcher Kurt Suzuki has six hits -- including two doubles and a home run -- and four RBIs.

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A's topple Rays

By Marc Topkin, Times Staff Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Many of the Rays were frustrated when they finally got to Oakland's stadium Friday afternoon because of bridge construction and traffic issues that resulted in a nearly two-hour ride and, for starter David Price, a \$202 car fare.

But they were in an even worse mood when they left, a wasted opportunity, a questionable call and a bad break all leading to a 4-3 loss to the now-wild-card-leading A's.

"Just one of those moments," Rays manager Joe Maddon said.

The Rays fell to 75-58 with the loss, dropping 3½ games behind the American League East-leading Red Sox and a half-game behind the A's and into the second wild-card spot, four games ahead of the Orioles.

The Rays had just scored two runs to tie in the eighth, then gave the lead right back. Price, who gave up a three-run homer earlier to No. 9 hitter Kurt Suzuki, allowed a leadoff single to Coco Crisp on his 107th and final pitch. Joel Peralta got a ground ball to shortstop but with Crisp running on the 2-2 pitch the Rays got only an out at first, and then Jed Lowrie dropped a ball down the rightfield line for an RBI double.

"That wasn't the situation for him to be running and he did; it was a lucky move right there," Peralta said. "I got the ground ball right where I wanted it. Bad break right there."

The game not only had wild-card implications but also featured a matchup of two of the league's hottest pitchers. Price and Oakland's Jarrod Parker were coming in a combined 15-1 in their previous 27 starts. Both pitched relatively well, though Price lost for the first time since July 12, having won his previous five decisions.

The Rays got to Parker first, with a second-inning RBI single by Yunel Escobar. Then the A's got to Price, taking advantage of a rare error at second base by Ben Zobrist (ending an 81-game streak) and taking a 3-1 lead on a three-run homer by Suzuki on a changeup.

"I wanted a double play, I didn't get it," Price said. "I didn't make a good enough pitch and it cost us."

Zobrist said it was just as much his fault, as Price walked the next batter.

"I don't think he walks Chris Young unless that error's made," Zobrist said. "He was just cruising until that point. I just threw it a little bit too hard and too high. It just got away from me. It happens every once in a while. It's just kind of a bummer that it really cost us something today and it breaks the streak."

The Rays rallied to tie it in the eighth. David DeJesus led off with a single and Zobrist walked to end Parker's night. Evan Longoria ended his 0-for-18 streak with a bloop single to right off Ryan Cook that loaded the bases. The Rays got one run on a sac fly by Matt Joyce, then the other when James Loney battled through 10 pitches to lace to ball to center that ticked off the glove of diving centerfielder Chris Young for a double, his first extra base hit of August. "Great at-bat," Maddon said.

But with runners on second and third with one out, the Rays got no more as Desmond Jennings went down swinging and Kelly Johnson looking, though with an argument for home plate umpire Brian Gorman.

"That was a big moment right there," Maddon said. "We get to that point, second and third one out, we just have to move the baseball right there. That's a pretty big at-bat."

The lack of offense has been the cause of their latest slide, as they have scored just 15 runs in the six games and batted just .218.

Maddon said Johnson may have had a point.

"From what I hear he did," Maddon said. "I heard it was relatively far outside. Plays, calls happen like that, It's much more difficult when it happens in such crucial moments. ... It is frustrating when that happens. I used the word frustrating (Thursday), It's the word of the last two days. But when it's that egregiously bad it's the one that really stands out."

The Rays had a brief shot in the ninth against ex-teammate Grant Balfour when Escobar, who saw four pitches in his first three at-bats, drew a nine-pitch walk with one out, but that was it.

Price said it was a frustrating day overall, and he wasn't the only one.

Closer Fernando Rodney didn't even play, and he had problems, getting locked in the small dugout bathroom for about 15 minutes, with the door handle apparently having to be broken off to get him out.

"Kind of an interesting moment, kind of a fun moment," Maddon said. "That was when we rallied. We should have kept him in there."

Rodney said it was quite the odd experience.

"The door locked, I don't know how," he said. "I'm yelling, "Hey unlock this, someone's in the bathroom." ... It was hot inside, I could only hear the crowd with the game, I can't see what's going on. ...

"It was weird."

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Rays remain secretive on pitching plans

By Marc Topkin, Times Staff Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Rays are keeping their pitching plans a secret.

The only things set: RHP **Alex Cobb** is starting tonight against the A's, and RHP **Chris Archer** is going Monday against the Angels.

Otherwise, manager **Joe Maddon** said there wasn't much he would say about the options for Sunday and how the rest of the week will play out, including the return of LHP **Matt Moore** from the disabled list.

"Once we reveal it, you'll understand it, I promise," he said.

RHP **Roberto Hernandez** is lined up to start Sunday, but the team is discussing other possibilities, including making it a "bullpen day," when several relievers are used. The starter is "possibly" with the team and a trade is not pending, Maddon said. But otherwise, "mum's the word on Sunday," he said. "We're considering different options."

Another factor is deciding between Tuesday and Wednesday for Moore, along with setting up the rotation going forward. The Rays have only one off-day the rest of the season.

"We're just bandying things about with that," Maddon said.

MOORE BETTER: Moore said he felt good during and after his four-inning rehabilitation start for Triple-A Durham on Thursday, had no issues with his previously sore left elbow and is definitely ready to go.

"I was happy the way my arm felt," he said. "My thought process was more on making adjustments, whereas before when this kind of first popped up, I was more so thinking about how to throw a pitch without feeling something."

Moore said he made it a point to work on throwing specific pitches in certain counts, including the previously troublesome changeup, and was pleased overall with how he responded to being in a competitive situation for the first time since July 28.

Moore also said he will make a change in his pregame routine to prevent future issues, such as "being more cautious with my game of catch, warming up a little bit slower with my changeup."

HELP ON THE WAY: RHP **Brandon Gomes** was called up from Triple A, replacing Thursday starter RHP **Jake Odorizzi**, and at least three more players are set to be added Sunday, when rosters can be expanded.

DH Delmon Young, C Chris Gimenez and RHP Josh Lueke are being called up and will join the team in Oakland on Saturday in preparation for the move. DH Luke Scott, who has been on the DL with back spasms, will also come to Oakland to be evaluated and possibly activated.

The Rays have big plans for Young, who has been playing his way back into form at Double-A Montgomery since being signed last week following his release by the Phillies, slating him for DH duties vs. all lefties and some right-handers, Maddon said Young hit .236 (6-for-26) in his first six games for Double-A Montgomery, with no extra-base hits and one RBI.

Odorizzi, who gave the Rays a solid five innings against the Angels in Thursday's 2-0 loss, should be back soon. He, like LHP **Jeff Beliveau**, was optioned in a procedural move to Double-A Montgomery. That allows him to be called back up Tuesday, the day after the Biscuits' season ends, rather than having to wait the standard 10 days or until Triple-A Durham is done with the playoffs.

Tuesday is also when RHP **Jeremy Hellickson**, who was sent to the minors last week, could return and when Moore is likely to be activated off the DL.

Gomes missed three months with a lat strain, rehabbing at Durham, joining the Rays for one appearance (Aug. 17), then going back to the Bulls. In nine games at Durham, he had a 2.61 ERA.

MISCELLANY: Struggling OF **Wil Myers** did not start Friday against A's RHP **Jarrod Parker**. ... RHP **Jesse Crain** (shoulder strain) played catch at a distance of 90 feet. ... Three of the Rays' four full-season minor-league teams are headed to the playoffs: Durham, advanced Class A Charlotte and Class A Bowling Green. ... LHP **Enny Romero**, 11-7 with a 2.76 ERA at Double A and a two-time All-Star Futures Game selection, was promoted to Triple A.

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Rays: Mystery man; rare West Coast road trip; AL wild-card standings

By Marc Topkin, Times Staff Writer

Rays at A's

When/where: 9:07 tonight; O.co Coliseum, Oakland, Calif.

Radio: 620-AM (no TV)

Probable pitchers:

Rays: RH Alex Cobb (8-2, 2.87)

A's: RH Sonny Gray (1-2, 3.18)

On Cobb: Is 2-0 with a 2.16 ERA in three starts since coming off the DL (hit by line drive). Is 2-0, 1.42 against 2012 playoff teams. Is 2-1, 2.93 in four starts against Oakland, winning last three.

On Gray: Rookie has made four starts since joining rotation Aug. 10, going 1-2 with a 3.70 ERA. Made two July relief appearances. Knocked out in fourth inning of last start, against Orioles.

Key matchups

Rays vs. Gray

None have faced

A's vs. Cobb

Alberto Collaspo 0-for-10
Yoenis Cespedes 1-for-7
Coco Crisp 5-for-11, HR
Jed Lowrie 4-for-4

On deck

Sunday: at A's, 4:07, Sun Sports. Rays — Roberto Hernandez (6-13, 4.95); A's — A.J. Griffin (11-9, 3.94)

Monday: at Angels, 9:05, Sun Sports. Rays — TBA; Angels — TBA

Tuesday: at Angels, 10:05, Sun Sports. Rays — TBA; Angels — TBA

Wednesday: at Angels, 10:05, Sun Sports. Rays — TBA; Angels — TBA

Rays disabled list

- DH **Luke Scott**, back spasms, 15-day, eligible Aug. 30
- OF **Brandon Guyer**, broken finger, 15-day, eligible Aug. 17
- LHP **Matt Moore**, elbow soreness, 15-day, eligible Aug. 13
- RHP **Jesse Crain**, shoulder strain, 60-day, eligible Aug. 29
- RHP **Jeff Niemann**, shoulder surgery, 60-day, out for the season
- RHP **Juan Carlos Oviedo**, elbow surgery, 60-day, out until September

AL wild card

Team W-L Pct. GB

A's 76-58 .567—

Rays 75-58 .564—

Orioles 71-62 .5344

Yankees 71-63 .5304½

Indians 71-63 .530 4½

And you are?

An immense traffic hassle wasn't the only odd event for the Rays on Friday. Shortly before their bus arrived at the A's stadium, a young man walked into the clubhouse and sat down at a table, telling **Joel Peralta (right)** he had just been traded over and wanted to know where his locker was. Peralta thought something was odd and told him to ask a clubhouse staffer. The man got up and left. "Something didn't seem right," Peralta said. "And then I saw he had a cigarette behind his ear."

Tripping

By the Rays' count, this is the 46th time in 16 seasons they have come to the West Coast. But it is only the second trip during which they will visit all three American League cities: Oakland, Anaheim and Seattle. The other time was 2010; they went 6-3. Overall, they are 178-241 in the three cities.

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Rays caught in bridge gridlock

By Marc Topkin, Times Staff Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Just getting to the stadium for Friday's game against the A's was a hassle for the Rays.

Except for the few who were wise enough to take the train.

The Bay Bridge that connects San Francisco, where the team stays, and Oakland is closed this weekend for construction reasons as a new span is set to open. So finding an alternate route is necessary, leading to massive traffic delays.

For Rays starting pitcher David Price, that meant about two hours in the back of a town car and a \$202 fare.

"Safe to say I'm not in the best mood now," was among Price's more reasonable tweets.

The rest of the team and staff that rode the scheduled 2 p.m. bus didn't fare much better. The usual 30- to 45-minute ride took 1 hour, 43 minutes, not that too many were counting.

"Brutal," infielder/outfielder Sean Rodriguez said.

"Especially after a four-plus hour flight (on Thursday), a two-hour bus ride is not exactly ideal," infielder/outfielder Kelly Johnson said.

"It wasn't the most enjoyable bus ride experience," outfielder Matt Joyce said. "Guys are aggravated. And we're ready to play tonight."

Rays officials were aware of the situation and were told the new routing would take an hour, tops, plus they had a police escort to get them from the hotel to the highway.

When the first bus took so long, the Rays canceled their second bus, with the handful of staff, TV broadcasters Brian Anderson and Dewayne Staats, and shortstop Yunel Escobar taking the BART train.

Manager Joe Maddon, naturally, said the long bus trip wasn't so bad, calling it "the Kumbaya ride." He said it was nostalgic, reminding him of his days as a minor-league manager where such trips, and longer, were routine. Plus, he said, because he had an iPad and a smartphone, he could keep busy, including plotting possible offseason trips in his new 40-foot recreational vehicle.

His only regret was not bringing his headphones, because he had *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* loaded and could have watched the whole movie.

Pitcher Alex Cobb was among players who rode the train, which goes under the bay and takes less than 30 minutes. Most of the Rays plan to do so today,

"Thought ahead," Cobb said. "I think everyone was aware. Most everybody told us at the hotel. I just don't think they thought it would take as long as it did."

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