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**Murphy's two homers power Rangers vs. A's  
Choice, Chirinos go yard as offense feasts in series opener in Oakland  
By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com | 6/17/2014 3:15 AM ET**

OAKLAND -- The Rangers had a big meeting in the clubhouse before their game with the Athletics on Monday night.

They wheeled out a cake and sang happy birthday to pitcher Joe Saunders. That's it. There was no big pep talk from manager Ron Washington or much discussion by the players about the importance of this series against the Athletics.

"We're trying to beat everybody," third baseman Adrian Beltre said. "They are the ones leading the West, so we have to beat them, but there's no use sitting around and talking about it."

Instead, the Rangers made enough noise with their bats with the loudest boom coming from their novice first baseman. Donnie Murphy hit two of the Rangers' four home runs as they powered their way to a 14-8 victory at the Coliseum. Michael Choice and Robinson Chirinos also hit home runs as this marked the first time the club has hit more than two in a game this season.

"It was just a good night of swinging the bat," Washington said. "These guys know what's going on. They don't need to be reminded. They know what they are up against, so they just went out and swung the bats well tonight."

Murphy, Chirinos, Choice and Rougned Odor were at the bottom of the Rangers' order on Monday, but they combined to go 9-for-17 with seven runs scored, four home runs and eight RBIs. Daniel Robertson and Elvis Andrus also had two-hit nights at the top of the order.

"I got some good pitches to hit tonight and I didn't miss them," Murphy said. "It's good that we all came out and contributed. It was a good team win."

Choice's home run was his first at the Coliseum, coming against the team that originally drafted him before trading him to the Rangers this winter.

"I always wondered what that first home run in the Coliseum was going to feel like," Choice said. "But I didn't think it was going to be for the Rangers and against the Athletics. But it's a good feeling."

Murphy, making his fourth career start at first base, also had a sacrifice bunt in the second inning that helped the Rangers score their first two runs. He also dug out an errant throw from Beltre to put an end to the Athletics' four-run sixth inning.

It is only the fourth time in club history that a Rangers player has hit two home runs and dropped a sacrifice bunt in the same game.

"Murphy has been doing a good job the whole time I've been putting him in there," Washington said. "He can be very productive. He's a good athlete who can play a lot of positions. We put him at first base on short notice and he looks like a first baseman. He's got some pop and tonight he also dropped a bunt. The guy is versatile. He's a baseball player, and tonight he swung the bat well for us."

Murphy's first home run was a two-run shot that got the Rangers going with a six-run fourth inning. They led, 10-2, through 4 1/2 innings and then had to use a big chunk of their bullpen to hold off a late charge by the Athletics. The Rangers needed six pitchers throwing 182 pitches to subdue the Athletics and still had Joakim Soria warming up in the bullpen at the end.

Washington admitted it was disappointing to have to use that many pitchers after having an eight-run lead.

"Yeah it is, but you can't predict how a baseball game is going to go," Washington said. "They put some runs on the board and we had to keep playing, and we did. We needed everything we put up there. They are a tough team. That team don't quit. They can put runs on the board in a hurry and they proved it tonight. We played well."

Rangers starter Colby Lewis picked up the win despite allowing five runs in 5 1/3 innings. It was his first win since May 25 and he is now 5-4 with a 5.97 ERA on the season. He is 6-2 with a 2.88 ERA in 13 career games at the Coliseum.

"I tried to stay in there for as long as I could," Lewis said. "I didn't have a whole lot out there and I was struggling to find the strike zone. It was one of those days where you had to grind through to get what you got."

Lewis fared better than Athletics starter Drew Pomeranz. The Rangers pounded him for eight runs in just 3 2/3 frames in winning their fourth straight game over the Athletics in Oakland. The Rangers swept a three-game series here in April.

"They were patient up there," Pomeranz said. "I had a lot of bad counts. I actually felt pretty good out there. Like I said, they were really patient at the plate, made me make some pitches and just waited for a mistake, and they found mistakes."

It was a good way to celebrate Saunders' birthday.

**Beltre gains ground in last All-Star voting results**  
**Rios having solid season at plate but is in 12th place among outfielders**  
**By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com | 6/16/2014 8:25 P.M. ET**

OAKLAND -- Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre and outfielder Alex Rios are surging at the plate but are still not in contention to star this year's All-Star Game.

Beltre took over the No. 2 spot from Evan Longoria (904,638) but is a distant second among American League third basemen in the latest update of the All-Star Game voting released Monday. Beltre, who is ninth in the league in hitting, has 953,318 votes while Josh Donaldson of the Athletics has 1,953,423 votes.

Rios is fourth in the league in hitting with a .322 average but is 12th among outfielders. Teammate Shin-Soo Choo is 11th. Rios has been selected to the All-Star Game twice in his career.

"It would be nice, but I really don't care if I make it or not," Rios said. "If I make it, I make it. If I don't, I don't. I just want to play good."

The Rangers representatives at the All-Star Game will likely be decided by the players vote. In addition to selecting the reserves at each position, the players also select five starting pitchers and three relievers. Rangers starter Yu Darvish, who is 7-2 with a 2.11 ERA, and closer Joakim Soria, who has 15 saves and a 1.80 ERA, are prime candidates.

Fans can cast their votes for starters at MLB.com and all 30 club sites -- online or on a mobile device -- using the 2014 All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot Sponsored by Experian until Thursday, July 3, at 10:59 p.m. CT. The 2014 All-Star Game will be played at Target Field on Tuesday, July 15.

Fans may submit up to 25 online ballots, but they can also earn a one-time bonus of 10 additional online ballots. To access these additional online ballots, you must be logged into your MLB.com account when you submit any online ballot. If you do not have an MLB.com account, register on the site in accordance with the enrollment instructions for a free MLB.com account.

Fans this year once again can participate in the Home Run Derby Fan Poll. Fans will have the opportunity to select three players in each league who they would most like to see participate in the Home Run Derby. The 2014 Home Run Derby will be broadcast live on ESPN, ESPN HD, ESPN Deportes and ESPN Radio in the United States beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 14.

The 2014 American League and National League All-Star teams will be unveiled on the 2014 MLB All-Star Game Selection Show during the weekend of July 5-6, with further details to follow on MLB.com. Immediately following the announcement of the AL and NL All-Star rosters, fans can begin voting to select the final player for each league's 34-man roster via the 2014 All-Star Game MLB.com Final Vote Sponsored by Experian. Fans will cast their votes from a list of five players from each league over the balloting period.

And the voting doesn't end there. The final phase of All-Star Game voting will again have fans participating in the voting for the Ted Williams All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet. During the Midsummer Classic, fans will vote exclusively online at MLB.com via the 2014 All-Star Game MLB.com MVP Vote Sponsored by Pepsi, and their voice will represent 20 percent of the overall vote that determines the recipient of the Arch Ward Trophy.

MLB.com will provide extensive online coverage of the All-Star Week festivities.

The 85th All-Star Game will be televised nationally by FOX, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS, and worldwide by partners in more than 200 countries via MLB International's independent feed. ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network and SiriusXM will also provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage. For more information, please visit [allstargame.com](http://allstargame.com).

**Rangers not waving white flag of surrender  
Riddled with injuries, Washington mixing, matching lineups constantly  
Tracy Ringolsby By Tracy Ringolsby | Archive 6/17/2014 3:56 A.M. ET**

OAKLAND -- As if the multitude of injuries to the pitching staff haven't been enough of a challenge for the Texas Rangers, the prized offseason addition for the lineup, first baseman Prince Fielder, was lost for the season a month ago with a herniated disc in his lower back.

Oh, and projected starting catcher Geovany Soto was lost before the season started with torn cartilage in his right knee. Second baseman Jurickson Profar also went out in Spring Training with a torn muscle in his right shoulder. Nine days ago, first baseman Mitch Moreland went on the disabled list with a left ankle injury.

No, these aren't the best of times for a team that has used the disabled list a Major League-leading 20 times, including 14 players who are still sidelined, which has resulted in the use of 41 players in the season's first 70 games, including 23 pitchers and 11 rookies.

Known in recent years for their offense, the Rangers went into Monday night eighth in the American League in runs scored, ninth in slugging percentage and 14th in home runs.

There is, however, no white flag of surrender. With a 14-8 victory against the AL West-leading Oakland A's on Monday night, the Rangers climbed back to .500 (35-35), still in fourth place in the division, seven games back of the A's, but among seven teams separated by only 3 1/2 games in the battle for the two AL wild-card spots.

Nice job, Ron Washington, manager of a team that made back-to-back World Series appearances in 2010-11, lost out in the AL Wild-Card showdown in '12 and finished second in the division last year.

"Wash has done a great job with it," said manager manager Jon Daniels. "I think he's having fun with it, experimenting with different things, challenge guys with different roles and opportunities. ... He is able to maintain that loose, confident atmosphere."

Oh, it's not easy, not even on a night when the Rangers matched their season high by scoring 14 runs, and hit four home runs, double their single-game best in the previous 69 games this season. The Rangers were, after all, up 10-1 by the time Oakland came to bat in the bottom of the fifth, but Washington still found himself calling on five different relievers to get the game's final 11 outs, and needing the offense to provide a late kick, after the A's pulled within 11-8 in the bottom of the seventh.

It is, however, doable, even if it does take a bit of creativity. While either Fielder or Adrian Beltre have hit cleanup in 69 of the 70 games, Washington has used four players in the leadoff and No. 5 slots; five players to hit third; six in the No. 2 hole; eight different players to hit sixth and seventh, nine different No. 8 hitters and a dozen players batting ninth.

"We just keep playing baseball," said Washington. "These guys know how to play the game."

These guys may know how to play the game, but they aren't very well known.

There's a first-base timeshare between the left-handed-hitting Brad Snyder, who hit his first big league home run at the age of 32 years, 20 days on Sunday in Seattle, and the right-handed-hitting Donnie Murphy, who at the age of 31 is with his seventh organization and after having played second, third, shortstop and left field in his 12 previous professional seasons made the fourth start of this season and his pro career at first base on Monday night.

What happened? Murphy hit two home runs, a two-run shot that gave the Rangers a 4-2 lead in the fourth and a solo home run that put them up 13-8 in the top of the ninth.

"There are certain players for us who play a number of positions," said Washington. "He's one of them. He's a veteran ballplayer. He's an athlete."

There is the 30-something catching duo of Robinson Chirinos, who is 30 and had only 33 games of big league experience before this season, and Chris Gimenez, 31, who had played in a combined 143 big league games spread across five seasons. Chirinos went 3-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs on Monday.

Oh, then there is second baseman Rougned Odor, a 20-year-old who was in the Opening Day lineup at Double-A, and Monday's center fielder, Daniel Robertson, 28, who opened the season at Triple-A for the third season in a row

It's not a star-studded group, but it's what the Rangers have right now, and it's what Washington is mixing-and-matching to complement the healthy remnants of the lineup: third baseman Beltre, shortstop Elvis Andrus, and outfielders Shin-Soo Choo and Leonys Martin.

"There is still talent here," Daniels said of the Rangers' battle to survive. "But there's a culture and atmosphere that has been created here, and some guys who won't let things get away."

And that's the way Washington likes it.

**Daniels in no rush to make decisions about trades**  
**By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com | 6/16/2014 9:38 P.M. ET**

GM Jon Daniels said the Rangers aren't "giving up on this season."

OAKLAND -- With the July 31 non-waiver Trade Deadline still six weeks away, general manager Jon Daniels is in no rush to come to any conclusions about what the Rangers should do before then.

However, he made it clear the Rangers aren't particularly interested in being "sellers" anytime soon, if at all.

"Right now, we're taking the approach of letting the team play before making any decisions on what we're doing," Daniels said. "With the injuries and other things, we could use help, but at the same time, the team is starting to come together so we're going to use this time to observe and evaluate."

Injuries have had a significant impact on the Rangers' season, but teams that do sell at the Trade Deadline are often looking at major rebuilding programs. Even if the Rangers aren't able to stay in the race this season, they still expect to be contenders next season once guys like Prince Fielder and some others are healthy again.

"If we felt we couldn't be good next year, we'd look at it differently," Daniels said, "but the first thing is, we're not giving up on this season. We're challenged by the injuries, but we're still sitting at .500. Some clubs have separated themselves in both leagues, but beyond that, it's wide open."

That doesn't mean though that the Rangers will be buyers either, not after having given up so much Minor League talent over the past four years while adding players at the Trade Deadline and beyond.

"I'd like to have us settle in and play together a little bit," Daniels said. "It's not our style to give up on a season. We like to go for it when it's there, but you have to be realistic."

Moreland to seek another opinion on left ankle

OAKLAND -- Rangers first baseman Mitch Moreland, on the disabled list with an injured left ankle, is going to Iowa to be examined by Dr. Ned Amendola, an orthopedic specialist. It will be the third specialist Moreland has seen as he tries to decide how to deal with the pain in his ankle.

Moreland is dealing with Os Trigonum Syndrome, which means there is a bone in the ankle that is causing pain. Moreland could have a simple operation to have the bone removed, which would mean missing about a month.

But there is a suspicion that a simple operation may not address everything wrong in the ankle. Moreland could end up having reconstructive ankle surgery, which would sideline him for the rest of the season.

"It's a pretty big decision and he wants to get it right," general manager Jon Daniels said. "The way Mitch is looking at it, when he comes back, he wants to be 100 percent. We all agree on that."

Rangers coaches have fond memories of Gwynn

OAKLAND -- Rangers hitting coach Dave Magadan spent the final three seasons of his 16-year Major League career with the Padres from 1999-2001. Those three years gave him a chance to learn much about hitting from Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn.

It was also toward the end of Gwynn's career when injuries started cutting into his playing time. So he and Magadan had plenty of time to sit on the bench and talk about the art of hitting.

"A lot of the routines I do with our guys in the [batting] cages are related to the discussions I had with him," Magadan said. "Like he was a big proponent of hitting off a tee ... a lot of that stuff I still teach today. He was very in-tune to himself as a hitter. He knew himself and could make adjustments pitch to pitch rather than at-bat to at-bat or game to game. He was one of the first to use video. He gave our video guy a lot of work, but he put it to good use. He was all business and all about doing what he could to help the team out."

Magadan is one of three Rangers coaches who played with Gwynn, who passed away on Monday at the age of 54. Bullpen coach Andy Hawkins was Gwynn's roommate as a rookie in 1982 with the Padres.

"He had great work ethic, always taking extra hitting," Hawkins said. "He was the reason we got a batting cage in San Diego, because he was always taking more batting practice than anybody else. He loved the game. Every time I saw him on the field he had a smile on his face. He was an easy-going guy to be around and a great competitor. Just a Hall of Fame player and a Hall of Fame person."

"He was one of the best teammates I've ever had," pitching coach Mike Maddux said. "I learned a lot about pitching from him. If I got stuck on a hitter, he would break down the guy's swing and tell you how to pitch to him. He was one of the best sources of baseball information I ever played with, a true baseball rat."

Greenberg heads purchase of Double-A team

OAKLAND -- Chuck Greenberg is once again doing business with the Rangers.

Greenberg, who was the driving force in the sale of the Rangers from Tom Hicks to the current partnership, has joined with Scott Sonju to purchase the Double-A Frisco RoughRiders from Mandalay Baseball. The agreement is subject to approval by the Texas League and Minor League Baseball.

The RoughRiders have been the Rangers' Double-A affiliate since 2003. Greenberg, who owns two other Minor League teams, including the Class A Myrtle Beach Pelicans, was the Rangers' CEO from 2010-11 before stepping down.

"This is an exciting time for us and RoughRiders fans across the Metroplex," Greenberg said. "The RoughRiders already have an outstanding operation and reputation and we are looking forward to further enhancing the fan experience at Dr Pepper Ballpark and throughout the community."

The Rangers' working agreement with the RoughRiders currently runs through 2018.

Worth noting

- The Rangers have promoted left-handed pitcher Will Lamb from Class A Myrtle Beach to Double-A Frisco. Lamb was taken in the second round of the 2011 First-Year Player Draft and had a 2.41 ERA in 14 relief appearances at Myrtle Beach.
- Former All-Star closer Neftali Feliz has a 4.35 ERA in 17 games at Triple-A Round Rock and the Rangers still aren't viewing him as an option at the Major League level. Said general manager Jon Daniels, "He has been OK, but from a consistency standpoint, it's not where we want it."
- The Rangers also aren't seeing what they hoped for from former Red Sox reliever Daniel Bard, who is trying to come back from offseason shoulder surgery. He has pitched in four games at Class A Hickory and allowed 13 runs on nine walks and seven hit batters. He has retired just two hitters. Said Daniels, "He has worked his tail off, it just isn't happening."
- The Rangers signed three amateur free-agent college players: right-handed pitcher Andrew Barrett from Gardner-Webb University, left-handed pitcher Shane McCain from Troy University and first baseman Zach Stephens from Tennessee Tech.

## **A's not taking Rangers for granted**

**Darvish coming off complete game while Milone hasn't lost since May 3**

**By Grace Raynor / MLB.com | 6/17/2014 2:32 AM ET**

Despite the Rangers being ravaged by injuries this season and sitting in fourth place behind his American League West-leading A's, manager Bob Melvin knows the division rivals can't be taken lightly.

Melvin experienced it first-hand Monday, when the Rangers defeated the A's, 14-8, to take the first of a three-game series between the teams in Oakland. The two teams split their previous two series earlier in the season, each getting swept at home. The tug-of-war continues Tuesday when two 27-year-olds face each other on the mound. Right-hander Yu Darvish will get the ball for Texas, while left-hander Tommy Milone will take the mound for Oakland.

"[We are] fortunate enough to get off to a good start, but our division seems to be as tough as it's ever been this year, with Houston doing what they're doing right now, Seattle's a lot better, really impressed by what Texas is doing with the injuries that they've had," Melvin said. "You know they're going to get a little bit healthier, so it's a really good division. We take nothing for granted."

Darvish is 1-7 with a 4.73 ERA in nine career starts against the Athletics. He won his first start against them on May 16, 2012, and has lost seven in his last eight starts against them.

Darvish has pitched against them twice this season. On April 21, he allowed three runs in six innings and was not involved in the decision as the Rangers won, 4-3. He allowed four runs in 3 1/3 innings in a 4-0 loss to the Athletics on April 28. It was the shortest outing of his career.

Despite those numbers, Darvish is 6-1 with a 1.83 ERA in his past seven starts. In that stretch, he has held opponents to a .204 batting average and struck out 11.33 batters per nine innings.

Brandon Moss has four home runs off Darvish, tied with Mike Trout for the most against Darvish.

"They have some very patient hitters over there -- and when they do get a pitch they can do damage with, they don't miss," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "They also make him throw a lot of pitches. ... He's got to stay ahead of the hitters."

Darvish is coming off his first-complete game shutout Wednesday night against the Marlins. He gave the ball from the game to his father to display at the Darvish museum in Kobe, Japan.

Though he's aware of his struggles against the A's, Darvish said he's feeling prepared, and has been comforted by the words of Hall of Famer Greg Maddux.

"Greg Maddux told me last year that he didn't really have good numbers throughout his career in Arizona," Darvish said. "To know that a great pitcher like him had a team that he didn't have any good numbers, that kind of alleviates my thoughts."

Milone is 4-3 with a 3.47 ERA on the season, coming off of a win in Anaheim on Wednesday, when he gave up just one earned run in 6 2/3 frames.

Milone has not lost a game since May 3 -- good for a span of seven starts -- and took a no-decision against the Rangers on April 22 in Oakland, where he gave up three runs in six innings.

**A's: Plan set for Reddick's rehab**

Josh Reddick will begin a rehab assignment with Triple-A Sacramento on Wednesday, and he hopes to rejoin the A's in New York next Tuesday against the Mets.

Reddick, who hyperextended his right knee in Anaheim on May 31, will fly to Texas on Tuesday morning before meeting up with the Triple-A team in Round Rock on Wednesday. He expects to play several innings Wednesday and Thursday, rest Friday and play two more games in New Orleans over the weekend.

"They want to get me comfortable as possible," Reddick said. "I'm not opposed to that by any means, taking more days than usual."

**Rangers: Robertson gets chance to lead off**

Daniel Robertson was in the leadoff spot on Monday night with left-hander Drew Pomeranz on the mound for the Athletics. He could be there again on Tuesday against Milone.

"He takes pitches, doesn't swing much out of the strike zone and makes solid contact," said Washington.

Robertson, who started in center field, is still wearing a clear plastic mask on defense and a special batting helmet when he hits. He is still dealing with three small fractures in his left cheek bone, the result of colliding with outfielder Alex Rios on May 22 in Detroit.

"I'm a couple of weeks away from not having to wear any protection," Robertson said. "I've worn it so much, I really don't notice it. It just protects me if I do something wild and crazy, like running into a wall or trying to make a diving catch."

Worth noting

- Rangers reliever Robbie Ross has allowed six runs on eight hits over three innings in his last three outings.

"He's missing his spots," said Washington. "When he hits his spots, he's good. If he misses, that's when he gets in trouble. He's just not getting the ball where he wants it."

- Infielder Alberto Callaspo was reinstated from the paternity list Monday and Andy Parrino returned to Triple-A Sacramento.

### ***FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM***

#### **Rangers' power surge helps hold off A's**

**Posted Tuesday, Jun. 17, 2014**

**By Jeff Wilson**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Colby Lewis urged the media who assembled around him late Monday night to speak to Donnie Murphy or Michael Choice or Robinson Chirinos or Adrian Beltre, the Texas Rangers who did the heavy lifting at O.co Coliseum.

Lewis was right, though his performance did merit some discussion. So did the brief appearance from Robbie Ross.

The relentless Oakland A's lineup had something to do with the pitching issues Lewis and Ross faced. The inconsistent Rangers offense ultimately helped cover up the mound blemishes in a 14-8 victory to open a three-game series.

Murphy hit two homers as the Rangers went deep a season-high four times, and he was one of three players to drive in three runs. The Rangers matched their season-high for runs, also done May 4 at Anaheim.

That, as Lewis said, deserved the bulk of the conversation.

"It was very nice, and we needed every run we put on the board," manager Ron Washington said. "They kept fighting back, but we didn't stop playing. The bottom line is we won the game."

Chirinos and Choice were part of the Rangers' biggest power display this season. Beltre and Chirinos drove in three runs apiece. Chirinos and Rowned Odor each collected three hits.

"It was nice that we all came out and contributed tonight," Murphy said. "It was a nice team win."

Chirinos got the Rangers going in the second after Oakland had struck for two in the first. He lined a single past shortstop to score Beltre and Alex Rios.

After a quiet third, Rios opened the fourth with a single and came home on Murphy's third homer of the season. Those were the first of six runs the Rangers would score in the inning, which included an RBI single by Daniel Robertson, an RBI groundout by Elvis Andrus and a two-run double by Beltre.

Choice hit his seventh homer of the season in the fifth to snap an 0-for-16 skid, and Andrus' legs produced a sixth-inning run on a Beltre sacrifice fly caught near the A's bullpen by third baseman Josh Donaldson.

Lewis (5-4) took an 11-3 lead into the sixth inning, but got only one more out. Oakland got him for two runs, and Ross was tagged for two of the three runs Yoenis Cespedes delivered with a mammoth shot to left field to turn a Rangers runaway into bit of a nail-biter at 11-7.

“That team doesn’t quit, and they can put runs on the board in a hurry,” Washington said.

The A’s collected another run against Shawn Tolleson in the seventh and had the trying run at the plate, but Neal Cotts caught Kyle Blanks looking at a borderline third strike to end the threat.

Oakland gave back a run in the eighth as Alberto Callaspo booted a Shin-Soo Choo grounder with the infield in. Robertson scored to restore a four-run lead.

Murphy and Chirinos went back-to-back to start the ninth.

“I’d be lying to you if I said I didn’t get a little nervous when it was 11-8,” Murphy said. “But we didn’t buckle under. We put together some good at-bats and got some more runs. It was good to see.”

The Rangers have needed more runs when Lewis and Ross have pitched. Lewis admitted that he didn’t have his best stuff, but it didn’t look terribly different from nights when he has been sharp.

But he still has enough of an idea of how to make pitches in tight spots, as he did to get Cespedes with the bases loaded to end the second. Ross, though, appears to be lost.

He entered with a runner at second and got ahead of Banks before losing him. The Cespedes result wasn’t a shock, at least not with the way Ross has been going.

Ross, though, still has a spot in the bullpen even though Aaron Poreda at Triple A Round Rock is a better left-handed option.

“If he hits his spots, he’s good,” Washington said. “If he doesn’t hit his spots, he gets in trouble.”

Fortunately for the Rangers, their offense covered up their mound blemishes for a night.

## **Daniels says no Rangers fire sale this year**

**Posted Monday, Jun. 16, 2014**

**By Jeff Wilson**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Emerging from all the injuries and the inability to consistently play winning baseball has been a notion that the Texas Rangers will be selling heavily at the trade deadline next month.

Not everyone is saying there should be an Arlington fire sale. But the chatter has been loud enough for the general manager to hear it.

Forget about picking up the option on right fielder Alex Rios, who at various times the past few weeks has been leading the league in hitting. Dump closer Joakim Soria, a candidate for the All-Star team, and the reasonable option attached to him for 2015.

Find a taker for third baseman Adrian Beltre. And shortstop Elvis Andrus and second baseman Jurickson Profar, because, obviously, Rougned Odor and Luis Sardinas are the future. And please find some fool to take that Prince Fielder contract.

There’s one fairly significant problem facing the blow-it-up camp: The Rangers expect to contend in 2015 with the pieces that were assembled to win this year before the injuries hit.

“If we didn’t feel we could be good next year, we might look at it a little differently,” general manager Jon Daniels said.

And this.

“We’re not giving up on this year,” Daniels added.

Daniels made the trip to O.co Coliseum for the Rangers’ three-game series against division-leading Oakland, and his presence made some, who don’t realize that he travels regularly, believe that a big shakeup is in the works.



It's not.

Daniels, though, is realistic. The A's were firmly in control of the AL West ahead of the series opener late Monday. There is more writing on the wall that the Rangers won't be a serious contender for a wild-card berth, even though the second spot will be tantalizingly close.

But the decision Daniels and his staff will have to make is whether it makes sense to add a piece or two to reward the players who are holding things together and the manager who has been among the best in the game.

Not whether to trade every remaining healthy body and start getting prospects ready for next year, though the terrific Odor needs to play as much as humanly possible.

"Obviously, we've been challenged with the injuries and just some of the things you guys have seen," Daniels said. "There's a few clubs that look like they have separated themselves in both leagues. After that, it's wide open.

"We're going to have to play well. That's obvious. But anyone is going to have to play well to get in."

The optimism that remains is in the form of players, namely Derek Holland and Geovany Soto, who should return before the season is out and from the fact that the Rangers haven't been hit with any injuries for a whole week now.

That's not insignificant. The roster has had some continuity, which has allowed players to settle into roles and given Washington a chance to find a lineup that might actually become consistent.

Daniels didn't rule out making a move to bolster the roster or trading off a piece or two if things trend the wrong way. For now, though, the plan is to let the current players keep playing and see what kind of impact is made by those who could be back next month.

"We've got time," Daniels said.

That one could go either way, and does. But it doesn't go so far as the fire sale that some have said is coming once Daniels decides that the Rangers aren't a postseason contender.

There are still those, mainly in the Rangers' clubhouse, who believe they are a contender. All in the organization believe that the players who have been lost this year, with the possible exceptions of Martin Perez and Matt Harrison, will come back healthy next year and make the Rangers contenders.

There might be some subtractions at the July 31 trade deadline, but, if things start falling into place, there might be some additions.

But put away those matches. There won't be an Arlington fire sale this season.

"Not everybody is going to be back by Opening Day," Daniels said. "But with the exception of those guys, the expectation is for everyone to be back and ready.

"We're fortunate that we're not in the spot that anything would be payroll-driven. Any moves we make would be baseball decisions.

"We don't have many free agents on the club. Most of the group is under contract or we have options for next year. That will play into any decision we have to make."

**Rangers coaches have strong ties to Tony Gwynn**  
**Posted Monday, Jun. 16, 2014**  
**By Jeff Wilson**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Three members of the Texas Rangers' coaching staff were teammates of Hall of Fame outfielder Tony Gwynn, who died Monday after a long battle with cancer.

Andy Hawkins spent the most time with Gwynn, who was 54.

They first became teammates in 1981 while playing for Double A Amarillo in the San Diego organization and were together again a year later at Triple A Honolulu.

Gwynn was called to the majors in 1982 about a month before Hawkins.

"Tony was my first roommate in the big leagues," said Hawkins, who roomed with Gwynn the rest of the season and played with him until 1988.

"Tony was salt of the earth. Always had a smile. Always in a good mood. He loved the game. He was a baseball rat. Every time I saw him on the field, he was having a ball."

Pitching coach Mike Maddux was with Gwynn in 1991 and 1992, and was blown away by Gwynn's instincts. If Maddux needed help getting a hitter out, Gwynn could break down his swing and suggest how Maddux should pitch to him.

Hitting coach Dave Magadan was with Gwynn toward the end of their careers, from 1999-2001. They were in the same role as part-time players who were counted on to pinch-hit.

"We sat and talked a lot about hitting," Magadan said. "A lot of the routines I do now in the cage with the guys are directly related to conversations that we had."

"He was a big proponent of the tee and things that you can do off the tee to improve your bat path."

All three of manager Ron Washington's assistants said that Gwynn was a terrific teammate with a tireless work ethic.

"He was a Hall of Fame player and a Hall of Game guy," Hawkins said. "It's a tough deal."

Darvish nemesis

Yu Darvish got what he wanted April 28, a rematch against the team that is the undisputed nemesis so far in his two-plus seasons in the major leagues.

The right-hander then got what he didn't want, the shortest outing of his career and yet another loss to the Oakland A's.

That was No. 7, for those scoring at home, all in his past eight starts against them.

Yet, Darvish seems to have found a happy place when he considers his troubles against Oakland. He has gone to the School of Greg (Maddux) for comfort, and perhaps turned to religion or a shrink to turn over a new leaf ahead of his start Tuesday at O.co Coliseum.

"Greg Maddux told me last year that he didn't really have good numbers throughout his career against Arizona," Darvish said of the Hall of Fame pitcher and Rangers special assistant.

"To know that a great pitcher like him had a team that he didn't have any good numbers, that kind of alleviates my thoughts."

When asked if he dislikes the A's, Darvish responded, "I love them."

He doesn't have much reason for that. He is 1-7 against them in his career with a 4.73 ERA. The A's overwhelmed him in that April 28 game, scoring four times and forcing him to throw 83 pitches in only 3 1/3 innings.

Third opinion

First baseman Mitch Moreland is leaning toward having a significant procedure to fix his ailing left ankle, one that will end his season.

Moreland will see a third specialist Tuesday at the University of Iowa as he continues to seek the best treatment, but general manager Jon Daniels said that Moreland isn't as inclined to have just the os trigonum bone removed.

That procedure would cost him only a month, but it comes with no guarantees that his ankle will be fine the rest of his career.

“The way Mitch is looking at it is that when he comes back, he wants to be 100 percent,” Daniels said. “He’s got a pretty big decision. We just want him to get it right.”

Without Moreland, the Rangers have been platooning converted outfielder Brad Snyder and utilityman Donnie Murphy at first base. Neither had played a game at first base until this month.

Briefly

- Third baseman Adrian Beltre made a big leap in All-Star balloting for American League third basemen, going from fourth to second in one week. But Beltre is 1,000,105 votes behind Oakland’s Josh Donaldson.
- The Rangers signed non-drafted free-agent right-hander Andrew Barnett, left-hander Shane McCain and first baseman Zach Stephens. Barnett and McCain were assigned to Short A Spokane and Stephens is with the Arizona Rookie League club.

**It’s official: Group led by Chuck Greenberg in agreement to buy Frisco RoughRiders  
Posted Monday, Jun. 16, 2014  
By Drew Davison**

Chuck Greenberg and his group have signed a definitive agreement to buy the Frisco RoughRiders from Mandalay Baseball Properties.

Greenberg, the former Texas Rangers CEO and Westlake resident, emerged as the front-runner to purchase the Rangers’ Double A affiliate this past spring and the deal is in its final stages. The deal is subject to approvals of the Texas League and Minor League Baseball and a review of the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball.

Greenberg’s group could take over the day-to-day operations later this summer.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but Baseball America reported earlier this season that Greenberg’s group would be willing to spend more than \$30 million. That would be the highest known sale price for a minor league team.

“This is an exciting time for us and RoughRiders fans across the Metroplex,” Greenberg said in a statement. “The RoughRiders already have an outstanding operation and reputation and we are looking forward to further enhancing the fan experience at Dr Pepper Ballpark and throughout the community.”

The RoughRiders, who have a player development deal with the Rangers through the 2018 season, will become the third team that Greenberg owns. He is the chairman and managing partner of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, the Rangers’ High A affiliate, and the State College Spikes, the Cardinals’ Short A affiliate.

Greenberg previously owned the Altoona Curve, the Pirates’ Double A affiliate.

One of his key partners in the Frisco deal is Scott Sonju, who is the co-managing partner and will continue to serve as the RoughRiders’ president, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the RoughRiders under Greenberg’s leadership.

Greenberg is the one who brought the Rangers’ ownership group together, led by Bob Simpson, Ray Davis and Nolan Ryan, which purchased the team out of bankruptcy in August 2010.

Greenberg became the team’s CEO, but that ended abruptly when he resigned in March 2011 because he and Ryan had “different styles” of doing business. Ryan took over the CEO title and held it until he resigned and sold his stake in the team last October.

Greenberg, though, has maintained a positive relationship with the Rangers since stepping down. Myrtle Beach has been an affiliate since 2011 and is widely praised by those within the organization who work closely with the minor league teams.

The deal was praised by Rangers general manager Jon Daniels.

“The Rangers have enjoyed a productive and successful partnership with the Frisco RoughRiders for the last 12 years,” Daniels said. “We look forward to continuing that strong relationship with Chuck and Scott and their new ownership group. Our affiliation with Chuck’s group in Myrtle Beach has been outstanding and we congratulate them on the Frisco purchase.”

## **DALLAS MORNING NEWS**

### **Rangers' Jon Daniels: 'We're not giving up on this season. That's in our DNA'** **GERRY FRALEY | 16 June 2014 08:04 PM**

OAKLAND, Calif. – General manager Jon Daniels made a rare appearance with the Rangers on the road Monday night.

The club gave Daniels a glimpse of what he wanted to see: a reason to believe.

The Rangers opened a three-game series against the American League West leader by smashing Oakland, 14-8, at the Coliseum. It was the highest run total of the season against the Athletics, who entered with a league-low 2.88 ERA.

The timing was superb.

Daniels expressed beforehand that he has no desire to tear up this club and has not given up on reaching the post-season. The Rangers trail Oakland by seven games in the West and are 2 2/5 out of the last wild-card spot.

"We're not giving up on this season," Daniels said.

The Rangers built an 11-3 lead before Oakland pushed back against starter Colby Lewis and reliever Robbie Ross.

Lewis, who admitted he did not have much the entire game, allowed five runs in 5 1/3 innings but got the win. He left two runners on base, and both scored on Yoenis Cespedes' homer against Ross.

Manager Ron Washington admitted it was disappointing to have to use relievers Neal Cotts and Jason Frasor and have closer Joakim Soria warm up twice without entering what should have been a blow-out game. That could catch up to the Rangers in the final two games of this series.

"We needed everything we got," manager Ron Washington said. "It was a good night of swinging the bat, but this one is over. We have to come back (Tuesday) and play just as well."

A pair of slumping hitters produced a hunk of the Rangers' runs by getting off the schneid.

Michael Choice and Donnie Murphy each hit two-run homers in a park where fly balls tend to die in night games. Choice was hitless in his previous 16 at-bats. Murphy came out of a 0-for-14. Murphy added a homer in the ninth inning.

Murphy got his first at-bats in six days during a loss at Seattle on Sunday. He went 0-for-3 but got the rust off his swing.

"It was nice to get those at-bats and see those pitches," Murphy said. "It definitely helped out."

Did the sight of the boss make everyone on the Rangers snap to attention?

Alarms sound when the GM shows up on the road with a club that is seven games out in its division, as the Rangers are. It usually is not long until bodies start flying in trades.

Not so, Daniels indicated. He is not ready to start shedding players and may not reach that point this season.

He suggested this is more of a fact-finding mission to help him get a better feel for the club. Daniels sounded very much like a GM who wanted to be convinced his team still has a chance.

"That's in our DNA," Daniels said. "We're not a group that likes to give up on a season. We like to go for it when it's there. But I also want to be realistic about the whole situation."

"We've got time to see how the whole league develops."

There are two reasons for Daniels' stance.

He believes if most of this year's injured players return to full health next season, the Rangers can do what Toronto is doing this year. Early injuries dashed the Blue Jays' chances in 2014, but they are leading the AL East with what is essentially the same but healthier roster.

"If we didn't feel we could be good next year, we might look at it a little differently," Daniels said.

Daniels also believes this year is not lost. With the Rangers among seven AL non-leaders clustered around .500, the second wild card playoff spot likely will be in play until late September.

"A few clubs look like they've separated themselves in both leagues," Daniels said. "But after that it's wide open. We're going to have to play well, but anybody is going to have to play well to get

Oakland manager Bob Melvin said he still views the Rangers as a factor in the West.

"I'm really impressed by what the Rangers are doing with the injuries they've had," Melvin said. "You know they are going to get healthier. We know we have our hands full against those guys."

Daniels said one item on his checklist of things to do is deciding if he should add help for the offense. The Rangers began play averaging 4.19 runs per game, a tick below the league average. They scored a total of six runs in the weekend series at Seattle.

The Rangers matched that total in the fourth inning alone.

The outburst, against left-hander Drew Pomeranz, began with Murphy's homer. It ended with Adrian Beltre's two-run lined double, over the head of right fielder Stephen Vogt, usually a catcher.

### **Former Texas Rangers CEO Chuck Greenberg agrees to purchase Frisco RoughRiders By Evan Grant | 12:20 pm on June 16, 2014**

Chuck Greenberg, who helped usher the Rangers through bankruptcy and to their current ownership group, has agreed to head a group that will purchase the Double-A Frisco RoughRiders from Mandalay Entertainment.

The deal will be announced Monday afternoon, but is subject to usual closing conditions as well as the review of Minor League Baseball and the Commissioner's office of Major League Baseball. While financial details of the deal have not been disclosed, Baseball America reported in April that Greenberg's group was willing to pay more than \$30 million for the team. It would be the highest price ever paid for a minor league franchise.

"This is an exciting time for us and RoughRiders fans across the Metroplex. The RoughRiders already have an outstanding operation and reputation and we are looking forward to further enhancing the fan experience at Dr Pepper Ballpark and throughout the community," Greenberg said. "The RoughRiders have a wonderful relationship with the Texas Rangers and we look forward to helping grow future players – and fans – for the Rangers."

Greenberg, who is partnering with RoughRiders president Scott Sonju, also owns minor league teams in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and State College, Penn. The Myrtle Beach team is the Rangers' Class A affiliate.

Mandalay had attempted to sell five minor league teams together as a bundle, but abandoned that and focused on selling off individual clubs, which spurred Greenberg's interest.

"As soon as Mandalay changed course, I was totally focused on Frisco," said Greenberg, who has lived in Westlake since 2010.

Greenberg left the Rangers in 2011, but has maintained a solid working arrangement with the Rangers through the Myrtle Beach affiliation.

"We look forward to continuing that strong relationship with Chuck and Scott and their new ownership group," Rangers GM Jon Daniels said. "Our affiliation with Chuck's group in Myrtle Beach has been outstanding and we congratulate them on the Frisco purchase."

### **Donnie Murphy hits two home runs, Rangers beat Athletics in Oakland, 14-8 GERRY FRALEY | 17 June 2014 01:10 AM**

The arms: In the seventh, LHP Neal Cotts cut off an Oakland rally by keeping two inherited runners from scoring. He retired Coco Crisp on a first-pitch pop-up, and Kyle Blanks took a third strike. ... RHP Colby Lewis remained the only major-leaguer with at least 10 starts but no quality start. ... In the second, Lewis got Yoenis Cespedes to pop up on an 88-

mph fastball with two outs and the bases loaded. ... On pitch No. 73, Lewis got his first swing-and-miss of the game for a strikeout of John Jaso.

The bats: In the second, manager Ron Washington had 1B Donnie Murphy sacrifice to put two runners in scoring position for C Robinson Chirinos. He tied the game with a two-run single and has driven in nine runs in his last 24 at-bats. ... In the fourth, 2B Rowned Odor and CF Daniel Robertson each singled on a 0-2 pitch from LHP Drew Pomeranz. ... Odor had two hits against Pomeranz and has four hits in his last seven at-bats against left-handers. Before this, Odor was hitless for 14 at-bats against left-handers.

The gloves: In the sixth, 1B Donnie Murphy picked a low throw from 3B Adrian Beltre out of the dirt to get the inning-ending out with a runner in scoring position. ... In the first, CF Daniel Robertson gave up two bases on ill-advised plays. His needless dive turned a single into a double by leadoff hitter Coco Crisp, and John Jason advanced to second on Robertson's off-line throw to the plate. ...In the third, LF Michael Choice had the unusual double of an error and an assist on the same play. Jed Lowrie's single bounced past Choice, but he recovered to throw him out at third.

#### OAKLAND FIRST

Coco Crisp triggered a two-run inning with a leadoff double. Crisp is hitting .440 with five extra-base hits in 25 at-bats against the Rangers. Athletics 2, Rangers 0.

#### RANGERS SECOND

Robinson Chirinos tied the game with a two-run single. Chirinos has four multiple RBIs games in June. Rangers 2, Athletics 2.

#### RANGERS FOURTH

Hitless in his previous 14 at-bats, Donnie Murphy hit a two-run homer off Drew Pomeranz to the deepest point of center. Rangers 8, Athletics 2.

#### RANGERS FIFTH

Hitless in his previous 16 at-bats, Michael Choice hit a long two-run homer off RHP Ryan Cook to left-center. Rangers 10, Athletics 2.

#### OAKLAND FIFTH

Brandon Moss homered for the first time in seven games, against starter Colby Lewis. Rangers 10, Athletics 3.

#### RANGERS SIXTH

On the rare sacrifice fly to the third baseman, Elvis Andrus tagged from third and scored on Adrian Beltre's foul pop-up near the Oakland bullpen. Rangers 11, Athletics 3.

#### OAKLAND SIXTH

Robbie Ross gave up a three-run homer by Yoenis Cespedes. Ross has allowed multiple runs in five of his last eight appearances. Rangers 11, Athletics 7.

#### OAKLAND SEVENTH

Shawn Tolleson allowed the bottom three hitters in the order to reach base. Rangers 11, Athletics 8.

#### RANGERS EIGHTH

Daniel Robertson reached on a double, his second hit, and scored from third when a drawn-in 2B Alberto Callaspo could not handle Shin-Soo Choo's grounder. Rangers 12, Athletics 8.

#### RANGERS NINTH

Murphy produced his fourth career multi-homer game with a drive against Fernando Abad, who had not allowed an extra-base hit in 27 2/3 innings. Ranger 14, Oakland 8.

**Rangers briefs: Darvish consults Hall of Fame pitcher; Will Moreland have season-ending surgery?**  
By GERRY FRALEY | 16 June 2014 09:38 PM

OAKLAND, Calif. — The subject of what to do against Oakland has been on the mind of Rangers right-hander Yu Darvish for some time.

Darvish is 1-7 with a 4.73 ERA against the Athletics going into a start at the Coliseum on Tuesday night. Oakland is the only club that Darvish is more than one game under .500 against during his career in Nippon Pro Baseball and Major League Baseball.

Darvish, speaking through an interpreter, acknowledged Hall of Famer and club special assistant Greg Maddux brought up the subject of a nemesis team in a conversation last year.

Maddux told Darvish about going 3-11 with a 5.37 ERA for 20 career starts against Arizona. The Diamondbacks were the only club that Maddux was more than two games under .500 against in his career.

“Just the fact that a great pitcher like him had a team that he didn’t have any good numbers against, that alleviated my thoughts,” said Darvish, who worked a career-low 31/3 innings in his last start against Oakland on April 28.

Darvish was asked if he had grown to dislike the Athletics.

“I love them,” he said in a rare outburst of humor.

Moreland still considering season-ending surgery: First baseman Mitch Moreland again appears headed toward ankle surgery that would end his season.

Moreland on Wednesday will receive a third opinion on the ankle from Dr. Ned Amendola, director of the University of Iowa sports medicine program. Amendola is considered an expert in the areas of knee and ankle reconstruction.

Moreland originally indicated he would undergo the reconstructive procedure but backed off, saying he wanted to consider a less involved surgery that would allow him to return in about one month. General manager Jon Daniels said Moreland now wants to return only at 100 percent, which makes the season-ending reconstructive surgery more likely.

The Rangers have told Moreland, who is eligible for salary arbitration after this season, to take as much time as required to make an informed decision.

“We just want him to get it right,” Daniels said. “It’s his career. We would never pressure someone to make a decision.”

Ross struggling: A return to the bullpen has not improved left-hander Robbie Ross’ performances.

Ross entered the series against Oakland with an 8.01 ERA and 21 hits allowed in 112/3 innings during eight relief appearances. He also had only four strikeouts. As a reliever in 2012-13, Ross averaged 7.42 strikeouts per nine innings.

Manager Ron Washington said the same problem that forced Ross out of the rotation this season is causing problems for him as a reliever. He is consistently missing the target by a wide margin.

“If he hits his spots, he’s good,” Washington said. “When he doesn’t hit his spots, that’s when he gets in trouble.”

Washington added that he will not back off in his use of Ross.

Briefly: The other teams that Darvish has a career losing record against? He is one game under .500 against Yokohama and Yomiuri in Japan and Cleveland, Minnesota and Pittsburgh in MLB. ...

Adrian Beltre moved up to second in voting for third base on the American League All-Star team, one million votes behind Oakland’s Josh Donaldson. Only two other Rangers are making a dent in the voting: Shin-Soo Choo and Alex Rios are 11th and 12th among outfielders. ...

Washington plans on taking up Beltre on his suggestion of a start at designated hitter on Wednesday in advance of an off-day on Thursday. ...

Highly regarded teenage outfielder Jairo Beras hit his first homer in 177 at-bats in the low Class A South Atlantic League on Sunday. Beras also had three hits, raising his average to a season-high .201. Beras, who turned 18 in December, is the youngest player in the league.

### **Colby Lewis unhappy with performance in Rangers win over Oakland** **By Gerry Fraley | 1:59 am on June 17, 2014**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Texas Rangers right-hander Colby Lewis was discouraged in his work after struggling through 5 1/3 innings in a 14-8 win against Oakland on Monday night.

Lewis allowed 13 baserunners and five runs. He remained the only major-leaguer with at least 10 starts to not have a single quality start.

"It was just one of those days when you've got to grind through with what you've got," Lewis said. "I didn't have a whole lot.

"This was all about the offense."

Lewis has a 5.97 ERA for 63 1/3 innings. His opponents batting average rose to .313.

### **Robbie Ross puts spot on Rangers in jeopardy with poor performance** **By Gerry Fraley | 1:49 am on June 17, 2014**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Left-hander Robbie Ross put his spot in the Texas Rangers' bullpen in jeopardy on Monday night with another poor performance.

Ross faced three hitters in the 14-8 win over Oakland and retired only one. He gave up a three-run homer by Yoenis Cespedes.

Ross, who began the season in the rotation, has allowed multiple runs in five of his last eight outings. In nine relief appearances overall, he has a 9.00 ERA with 22 hits allowed in 12 innings.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels and manager Ron Washington met after the win but did not indicate the subject of their discussions. Ross has minor-league options.

## ***ESPN DALLAS***

### **Rapid Reaction: Rangers 14, A's 8** **June, 17, 2014 | 12:49 AM CT** **By Richard Durrett**

The Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 14-8 on Monday night in the first game of a three-game series in Oakland, California. Some quick thoughts:

**How it happened:** The Rangers scored six runs in the fourth inning on five hits, including two extra-base hits, with two walks. That turned a 2-2 game into a six-run Texas advantage. But the A's chipped away and made things close before the Rangers secured the victory with a few more late runs.

**What it means:** Texas is now seven games behind the A's in the American League West and is 3-1 so far on this nine-game road trip. This team continues to play better baseball away from Arlington. Texas is back to .500 for the season at 35-35.

**Early deficit:** The Rangers fell behind in Monday's first inning as Colby Lewis surrendered two runs on three hits in the first. Coco Crisp set the tone with a double and scored on John Jaso's single. Yoenis Cespedes drove in the second run with a sacrifice fly.

**Little things:** In that first inning, Daniel Robertson decided to dive for a ball that he wasn't going to be able to catch, therefore eliminating any chance at getting a throw in to second and holding Crisp to a possible single. When Robertson



tried to throw home on Jaso's single, the ball ended up 35 feet up the third-base line, allowing Jaso to get to second. A wild pitch put him at third, so Cespedes' fly ball could score him. Those little things hurt the Rangers in that inning.

Bouncing back: Texas tied the score in the next half-inning. They did it with small ball. Donnie Murphy got a good sacrifice bunt down and Robinson Chirinos hit a two-strike pitch to left-center field for a two-RBI single.

Slump-buster: Speaking of Murphy, he ended an 0-for-14 streak with a two-run home run in the fourth. It was the start of a six-run inning for the Rangers, who blew the game open to lead 8-2. The Rangers chased lefty Drew Pomeranz from the game and Adrian Beltre hit a two-run double off reliever Ryan Cook. ... Michael Choice's home run to left-center in the fifth, making it a 10-2 game, ended an 0-for-16 streak.

Two-strike success: The Rangers came through when they had two strikes against Pomeranz, going 4-for-7 with three RBIs in the first four innings. Chirinos' two-strike hit got things started, but other players followed suit, including Murphy and Rowned Odor.

Aggressive baserunning: Elvis Andrus put on a show in the sixth on how to score using your legs. He turned a single into a double, taking advantage of Crisp's average arm. He went to third on a fly ball and then scored after tagging up from third on a foul ball that was caught by Josh Donaldson near the bullpen mounds. It was Andrus at his best, making things happen on the bases.

No quality start: Colby Lewis was denied his bid for his first quality start of the season. Lewis allowed a double in the sixth to give the A's their fourth run and was lifted after 5½ innings. He ended up allowing five runs on 10 hits with three walks, two strikeouts and a home run.

Bullpen issues: Robbie Ross and Shawn Tolleson helped make things interesting by walking A's batters and giving up ill-timed hits. Ross threw 11 pitches and allowed three runs (one inherited), which included a walk and a homer from Cespedes. Tolleson allowed a run on two hits in two-thirds of an inning. Neal Cotts finally halted things, getting the final two outs of the seventh inning with the A's having the tying run at the plate.

Four homers: It's the first time the Rangers have hit four homers in one game since Sept. 19, 2013, against Tampa Bay. Consecutive home runs in the ninth from Murphy and Chirinos made it happen.

Up next: Right-hander Yu Darvish (7-2, 2.11) takes the mound Tuesday night against the A's, who send left-hander Tommy Milone (4-3, 3.47) to the bump at 9:05 CT on FSSW and ESPN Dallas 103.3 FM. Darvish has had trouble with the A's his entire career, going 0-7 with a 5.32 ERA in his past eight starts versus Oakland (he won his first career one against the Athletics).

## **Rangers food creations on tap**

**Updated: June 16, 2014, 5:32 PM ET**

**By Richard Durrett**

Ever wonder what it might be like to enjoy a bacon waffle while you watch a baseball game? What about a 24-inch crispy taco with ground beef, chicken and nacho cheese?

The Texas Rangers are giving fans the opportunity to find out.

After introducing the "Bacon on a Stick" at the start of this season and selling a good number of them, the club's catering service -- Delaware North Companies SportService -- is unveiling the "Bacon Waffle on a Stick" for \$8.50 in time for the club's next homestand, starting June 24.

"The Bacon on a Stick has been one of the better new menu items we've ever launched," said Shawn Mattox, general manager of Metroplex SportService, which handles concession at Globe Life Park in Arlington. "We thought this would be a cool thing to do. When you see it on paper, you think, 'I don't know if that makes sense.' But when you taste it, it's good. You've got the savory, salty bacon and the sweet of the syrup with the waffle batter."

Fans can choose to have their bacon waffle stick dipped in maple syrup or topped with chocolate syrup and whipped cream.

Mattox says the club has sold about 400 or so of the "Bacon on a Stick" on average for each home game this season, which he says is a lot for a new menu item sold only at a few locations.

"We're only open 81 days and not everybody comes to all of those games," Mattox said. "It takes people longer to find new items, unlike something on a menu at a restaurant."

As for the "Tanaco," that item will be offered starting July 7 when the Houston Astros come to town. It's a 2-foot taco with a foot of seasoned ground beef and another foot of seasoned chicken topped with lettuce, nacho cheese, pico de gallo, sliced jalapenos and sour cream. It's called a "Tanaco" because it's a combination of a nacho and a taco and not named in honor New York Yankees pitcher Masahiro Tanaka. It will be sold at a stand behind home plate.

No, Mattox doesn't know the calorie count.

"We care about everybody's health and wellness and we do offer a lot of items in that genre, but we also like to offer a variety that you can't get anywhere else," Mattox said. "You can't get this anywhere else. We want ballpark to be a destination and food service is a big part of the experience."

### **Don't be in a rush to trade Alex Rios**

**June, 17, 2014 | 8:00 AM CT**

**By Richard Durrett**

It's easy this time of year to start talking about trade pieces at the deadline. After all, the Texas Rangers have used the disabled list 20 times and yet, thanks to a high amount of grit and fight, starting with their manager, the club has managed to hover around .500.

But .500 won't get them in the playoffs. And one rough stretch in the next month could make the team a seller at the deadline (I really don't see the Rangers as buyers no matter what they do). By far the player who should receive the most interest from opposing clubs is Alex Rios.

Consider his résumé: Hitting .324 (good for third in the American League entering Tuesday), with 32 RBIs (second to Adrian Beltre on the team) and an .824 OPS. Rios is making \$13 million this season, so if traded he'd be owed around \$4.33 million for the rest of this season and then would have a \$14 million club option for 2015 (\$2 million buyout). That option is \$13.5 million (and \$1 million buyout) if he's not traded and it's the Rangers who pick up the option (just an odd contract quirk).

There's a quiet confidence about Rios. He looks comfortable in the batter's box and is just going about his business in impressive fashion. He's a hard worker, and that attitude has rubbed off on some of his teammates.

The bottom line: Rios is enticing because he would not be just a pure rental player for a prospective team. And because of that, perhaps he can bring the Rangers back something of value. Remember, however, that Rios was obtained last August for Leury Garcia. Texas even got \$1 million from the Chicago White Sox as part of the deal. For Chicago, it was more about unloading part of Rios' salary.

That's not the case now. Rios' value is as high as ever thanks to a consistent season. But just because Rios is a hot name and could help a contending club doesn't mean the Rangers should trade him even if they drop out of contention.

Rios' bat wouldn't be a bad thing to have in the middle of the lineup in 2015, even with Michael Choice on the roster. It would allow the Rangers to keep one part of the club the same: An outfield of Shin-Soo Choo in left, Leonys Martin in center and Rios in right, with Choice getting at-bats as the fourth outfielder or designated hitter. That's not a bad thing.

So don't be in such a rush to deal Rios. The Rangers are in a great spot here. They can see what the market looks like for the 33-year-old veteran, and if they get a deal they can't refuse that includes prospects and pieces that could help for the future, they do it. If not, they keep Rios for next season.

### **Rangers still lagging in All-Star votes**

**June, 16, 2014 | 6:51 PM CT**

**By Richard Durrett**

Yet another update is out from All-Star balloting and the Texas Rangers only have one infielder in the top-5 in his position and two outfielders in the top-15.

Adrian Beltre is second among third basemen in the AL with 953,318 votes. But that's one million behind Josh Donaldson of the Oakland A's.

Shin-Soo Choo is 11th and Alex Rios 12th among outfielders, putting them a little more than 850,000 out of the third spot. The top-3 outfielders start in the game. Right now, that's Jose Bautista, Mike Trout and Melky Cabrera.

### **Greenberg-led group to buy RoughRiders**

**June, 16, 2014 | 1:34 PM CT**

**By Richard Durrett**

Former Texas Rangers general managing partner Chuck Greenberg has led a group of local investors who now have an agreement to purchase the Frisco RoughRiders, the Rangers' Double-A affiliate located in a suburb of Dallas.

Greenberg, who lives in the Dallas area, will own the club with current RoughRiders' president Scott Sonju, purchasing the franchise from Mandalay Baseball Properties LLC. Greenberg is Chairman, CEO and managing partner of RoughRiders LP, a group of local investors who are acquiring the team. Sonju will continue to oversee the daily operations of the club.

Baseball America, in a story from April, estimated that the Greenberg group would end up paying more than \$30 million for the team. The final terms of the deal were not disclosed.

It means that Greenberg will have ownership stake in two of the Rangers' franchises as he also owns Class A Myrtle Beach.

"I love baseball and everything that goes into creating an affordable, enjoying family environment," Greenberg said. "It's why I've had so much fun with all the teams I've been involved with before. The fact that I live right down the road from Frisco made it extremely appealing. It's a great franchise. Once Mandalay decided to sell their franchises involved, I was all over them seeing if we could work out a deal."

Greenberg put together the ownership group, headlined by Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, which bought the Rangers out of bankruptcy court in August 2010. Greenberg's group outbid Jim Crane and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban the same season the Rangers made their first World Series appearance. Greenberg served as general managing partner until he departed during spring training in 2011, citing "somewhat different styles" with Ryan and co-chairmen of the board Ray Davis and Bob Simpson.

Ryan has also left the organization and is a consultant with the Houston Astros front office. He was hired by Crane, who now owns the Astros.

Greenberg also owns the State College Spikes in the New York-Penn League (rookie ball).

"The Rangers have enjoyed a productive and successful partnership with the Frisco RoughRiders for the last 12 years," Rangers president of baseball operations and general manager Jon Daniels said in a release. "We look forward to continuing that strong relationship with Chuck and Scott and their new ownership group. Our affiliation with Chuck's group in Myrtle Beach has been outstanding and we congratulate them on the Frisco purchase."

### **W2W4: Rangers in Oakland for 3-game set**

**June, 16, 2014 | 10:00 AM CT**

**By Richard Durrett**

For the first time since the end of April, the Rangers and Oakland A's will meet in a three-game set in Oakland, California. Since the two last saw each other, much has changed.

The A's won't see Prince Fielder or Mitch Moreland, who are both out with injuries. They won't see Martin Perez, who can't return until some point in 2015 after undergoing elbow surgery, or Matt Harrison, who had spinal fusion surgery.

When both teams woke up on May 1, the A's were three games up on the Rangers after sweeping them in Arlington, Texas. Now, a month and a half later, they enter the series eight games ahead of Texas. A few things to watch:

- Yu Darvish: The ace has a block when it comes to Oakland. He's 1-7 with a 4.73 ERA in nine career outings against the A's. He has 61 strikeouts and 29 walks, a K/BB ratio far worse than his norm. The A's have hit .247 against him, the highest of any opponent he's faced at least four times in his career. It's worth noting that his team has only produced 2.19 runs of support on average, but even doubling that output wouldn't alter Darvish's record much against the A's.

So can he overcome that against the A's on Tuesday? Oh, I should mention he has a 7.71 ERA in three career starts in Oakland? Clearly, the A's have owned him a bit. Let's see if Darvish can change that in this series.

- **Leadoff spot:** It was Leonys Martin's job this weekend in Seattle and was 3-for-11 with a .333 on-base percentage (higher than what he was doing at the leadoff spot last season) and got the winning hit on Saturday. How will he do as the competition increases? Will manager Ron Washington plug him in and leave him there for a while to see how he does?
- **Consistency:** Can Alex Rios just keep going steady? The right fielder is hitting .327 with a team-high 32 RBIs. He's 6-for-21 in six games against Oakland but with only two RBIs.
- **Quality start:** As we discussed earlier today, getting a quality start out of the starting pitchers is critical. Colby Lewis pitches Monday and hasn't had a quality start all season. In fact, he's pitched only six innings once in his 11 starts. He hasn't faced the A's this season, but since 2010, Lewis is 5-4 with a 3.03 ERA against the A's. On the road, he's even better with a 2.44 ERA and a .193 opponent batting average against Oakland. So he won't be intimidated by the AL West leaders.
- **Slumping Donaldson:** It's a surprise to see Josh Donaldson, who's been one of the top hitting infielders in the AL all season, in a slump. But he's just 2-for-40 in his past 10 games with a homer and two RBIs. In fact, he went 33 at-bats without a hit until an RBI single on Sunday against the New York Yankees. He's 7-for-26 with four RBIs in six games (28 plate appearances) against the Rangers this season.

## **FOX SPORTS SOUTHWEST**

### **Greenberg talks about acquisition of RoughRiders Anthony Andro | JUN 16, 2014 7:17p ET**

Chuck Greenberg is coming to a ballpark near you soon.

Greenberg is part of the ownership group that agreed to purchase the Frisco Roughriders from Mandalay Sports Properties. When the deal is finalized, the former Texas Rangers CEO will have an ownership stake in three minor league teams, including two that feed to the Rangers.

What exactly will change with the product on the field at Frisco's Dr Pepper Ballpark? Here's a brief Q and A with Greenberg to answer that.

How important for you is it to be back in baseball in the Metroplex? It's great. I'm really excited about it. Frisco is a great franchise with a tremendous brand, wonderful operation. As soon as Mandalay decided to start selling the team individually I was pretty aggressive in making sure the focus would be on Frisco. I couldn't be more excited.

What does it mean to have two of the organizations (Myrtle Beach) that feed into the Rangers? I have a tremendous affection for the Rangers organization and all the people within the organization. I have a great affiliate with the Rangers in Myrtle Beach and I'm sure that's going to continue in Frisco.

You did some different things with the Rangers as far as fan experience. Will we notice anything different fans wise with what happens in Frisco? First of all Frisco is already a great operation and we're going to respect the adage "If it ain't broke don't fix it." But there's always new and fun ways to freshen up the fan experience, add more value for the fans and to keep it fun and new year in, year out. That's something that (Frisco president) Scott (Sonju) and I are very much looking forward to discussing soon. There's an unlimited number of ways to make fans have a good time and we're trying to explore all of them.

Will there be \$1 hot chocolate (something Greenberg did in the summer of 2010 with Texas)? Well it worked before.

What's the endgame? Do you want to add more franchises? There's no master plan. Over the last few years I've been offered a lot of different franchises in minor league baseball and in other sports. It just didn't feel right. This one felt just right. Again being in such a dynamic community and right down the road from where we live (Southlake), having such an outstanding franchise, building off the great relationship that I already have with the Rangers and Myrtle Beach. It just seems like a perfect alignment of the stars.

Will there be any facility changes to an already nice park in Frisco? It's a gorgeous ballpark. It has a look all its own and certainly all the things the fans enjoy we're going to preserve. One of the most enjoyable elements of being in business is

to try and come up with new ways to keep the experience of being at the park fresh. If there's something there that can build off what's already in place and make it better then we'll certainly look at it.

**Greenberg part of new Frisco ownership group**  
**Anthony Andro | JUN 16, 2014 2:50p ET**

Chuck Greenberg is back in the baseball business in the Metroplex.

Greenberg, who spearheaded the group that won the Texas Rangers during their auction in 2010, is part of the new ownership group of the Frisco RoughRiders.

Mandalay Baseball Properties agreed to sale the team to Greenberg and Scott Sonju. The deal is subject to closing, which includes the approval of the Texas League, Minor League Baseball and a review from Major League Baseball.

Greenberg already owns the organization's Class A Myrtle Beach club.

"This is an exciting time for us and RoughRiders fans across the Metroplex," Greenberg said in a statement. "The RoughRiders already have an outstanding operation and reputation and we are looking forward to further enhancing the fan experience at Dr Pepper Ballpark and throughout the community. The RoughRiders have a wonderful relationship with the Texas Rangers and we look forward to helping grow future players and fans for the Rangers."

Greenberg was the managing partner and CEO of the Rangers following the auction in 2010 and stayed with the Rangers until the spring of 2011.

Sonju is currently the team president for Frisco and will oversee the day-to-day operations of the club.

The sales news was met with approval in Arlington.

"The Rangers have enjoyed a productive and successful partnership with the Frisco RoughRiders for the last 12 years," said Rangers general manager Jon Daniels. "We look forward to continuing that strong relationship with Chuck and Scott and their new ownership group. Our affiliation with Chuck's group in Myrtle Beach has been outstanding and we congratulate them on the Frisco purchase."

***ASSOCIATED PRESS***

**Daniel Murphy, Rangers come out on top in high-flying affair vs. A's**  
**June 17, 2014**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The Texas Rangers finally showed their power, got a big day from veteran infielder Donnie Murphy and picked up a much-needed win for struggling starter Colby Lewis along the way.

It was exactly the type of start manager Ron Washington had hoped he would get from his club in the opener of this critical three-game series against the first-place Athletics.

Murphy hit two of the Rangers' season-high four home runs to back an uneven start by Lewis, and Texas beat Oakland 14-8 on Monday night.

"We needed everything we put on the board," Washington said after the Rangers pounded out 16 hits and matched their season high for runs. "They kept fighting back but we didn't stop playing. Tonight it took 14, and we were able to get it."

Michael Choice and Robinson Chirinos also homered, and Adrian Beltre drove in three runs to lead the Rangers to their fourth straight win at the Coliseum. Texas swept a three-game series in Oakland in April.

The Rangers, who began the night eight games behind the division-leading A's, nearly let the game slip away. They led 11-3 before Oakland scored four times in the sixth and once in the eighth.

Murphy, who hit a two-run homer in the fourth, helped seal the victory with a solo shot in the ninth for his fourth career multihomer game.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I didn't get a little bit nervous right there when it got 11-8," Murphy said. "The game could have easily slipped away ... (but) we put together some good at-bats and got a few more runs and felt a little more comfortable again."

Yoenis Cespedes hit a three-run home run while Brandon Moss added his 17th for Oakland, which still owns the best record in the American League at 42-28.

Lewis (5-4) allowed 10 hits and five runs over 5 1/3 innings to win for the first time since May 25. The one-time A's farmhand, pitching on five days' rest, worked in and out of trouble most of the night off the same mound he made his final appearance on in 2012 before missing nearly two full seasons due to a series of injuries. Lewis struck out two and walked three.

"Up until the sixth inning, he had only given up three runs, so he was pitching pretty good," Washington said. "Then his velocity came down a little bit and he just couldn't hit his spots anymore so I had to go get him."

Coco Crisp got the A's going early when he doubled past diving Texas center fielder Dan Robertson and scored on John Jaso's single. Cespedes added a sacrifice fly to make it 2-0.

Texas tied it on Chirinos' two-run single off Oakland starter Drew Pomeranz in the second, then broke the game open with a six-run fourth. Murphy hit a two-run home run, Robertson added an RBI single and Rougned Odor scored on a fielder's choice to chase Pomeranz.

Beltre's two-run double off reliever Ryan Cook made it 8-2. Beltre added a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

"For a team that leads the league in pitching and usually holds clubs to under four, we haven't been able to do that (lately)," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

Lewis and five Texas relievers made the lead hold up.

The A's, who scored twice in the first, pulled to 10-3 on Moss' towering solo home run in the fifth.

Lewis left after giving up back-to-back doubles to Alberto Callaspo and Crisp in the sixth. Pinch hitter Kyle Blanks drew a walk off reliever Robbie Ross Jr. before Cespedes hit his 13th home run to cut the gap to 11-7.

Murphy and Chirinos hit back-to-back home runs off Fernando Abad in the ninth.

Pomeranz (5-4) struggled in his shortest outing since joining the A's rotation in early May. He allowed eight hits and eight runs -- seven earned -- with two walks and four strikeouts.

"I got into some bad counts," Pomeranz said. "Once that happens, you become predictable. They waited for mistakes and jumped on them."

Callaspo had four hits for Oakland in his first game since being reinstated from the paternity list.

#### Game notes

A's starters had not allowed a home run in seven games before giving up four to Texas. ... A moment of silence was held before the game for Hall of Fame OF Tony Gwynn, who died earlier in the day. ... The A's activated INF Jake Elmore from the 60-day DL and optioned him to Triple-A Sacramento. ... Oakland agreed to terms with 3B Matt Chapman, its first-round pick, and SS Trace Loehr, a sixth-rounder. ... RHP Yu Darvish (7-2) pitches for Texas on Wednesday, seeking to extend his career-best four-game winning streak. He'll oppose Oakland LHP Tommy Milone (4-3).