

Oakland A's beat Baltimore Orioles to halt four-game losing streak

By Alex Pavlovic, San Jose Mercury News

Brian Matusz is a former first-round pick, a 24-year-old the Orioles hope will ascend to the top of their rotation one day.

Around the A's clubhouse, however, Matusz is a cure for ill bats. The A's continued their dominance of the left-hander Tuesday, tagging Matusz for six earned runs in an 8-4 victory at O.co Coliseum.

In five career games against Matusz, the A's have scored 20 runs in 292/3 innings. Coupled with a workmanlike effort from A's starter Guillermo Moscoso, the latest offensive outburst against Matusz was more than enough to snap Oakland's four-game losing streak in front of an announced crowd of 12,325.

"We had (Matusz) on the ropes early," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Early on, you wouldn't have thought he would be out there in the seventh inning."

Looking back, Matusz probably shouldn't have lasted that long.

The A's got to him in the second inning, scoring on a mix of walks and well-placed hits. Scott Sizemore, Cliff Pennington and Jemile Weeks drove in runs in the inning, setting the stage on a night where seven different Athletics had an RBI and seven players scored at least once.

The A's missed an opportunity to inflict more damage in the inning when Pennington was thrown out at home on Coco Crisp's fly ball to center. For a moment, it looked like the play might cost the A's as the Orioles struck back for a run in the top of the third.

But Josh Willingham got the run back in emphatic fashion, blasting an elevated changeup from Matusz into the left-field bleachers. The home run was Willingham's 20th of the season and ninth since the All-Star break.

This is the fourth career 20-homer season for Willingham, who hit a career-high 26 in 2006 while with the Marlins.

"I certainly hope he's not finished," Melvin said with a smile. "I don't think he is."

Melvin wasn't smiling in the fifth, when the A's continued a season-long stream of costly errors. The culprit this time was Willingham, who dropped Robert Andino's shallow fly ball to left field with one out.

The error was the club's 100th of the season and 10th in the past seven games.

Andino took second on the play and scored on Josh Bell's single.

It was the final run allowed by Moscoso, who exited after six innings having allowed five hits and two earned runs.

Melvin has credited Moscoso for refining a cutter in recent weeks that has helped add versatility to his repertoire. That was apparent Tuesday, when Moscoso got two strikeouts and several crucial groundouts with the pitch.

Still, Moscoso said his most important pitch Tuesday was his fastball.

"I was working the corners and getting ahead with my fastball," said Moscoso, who evened his record at 6-6. "I just tried to be aggressive."

While Melvin was quick to pull Moscoso, Orioles manager Buck Showalter rolled the dice with Matusz, who entered the night with an 8.77 ERA in six starts. Pitching into the seventh inning for the first time this season, Matusz (1-5) gave up back-to-back, two-out singles to Pennington and Weeks before being replaced.

Crisp lined the third pitch from replacement Troy Patton over left fielder Nolan Reimold's head, adding two runs to the lead.

"That was a big hit," Melvin said. "We've had trouble adding to the lead at times."

The A's tacked on one more run in the eighth when Brandon Allen was driven home after his first major league triple.

"Man, congratulations to me!" Allen joked as his new teammates celebrated for the first time on this 10-game homestand.

Oakland A's update: Brandon McCarthy ready to start again after Friday's painful outing

By Alex Pavlovic, San Jose Mercury News

Brandon McCarthy's last start was one to forget. The A's right-hander gave up seven runs, five of them earned, before departing in the fourth inning last Friday when he was struck by a line drive.

At the time, manager Bob Melvin was certain McCarthy would miss at least one start.

But McCarthy's right knee contusion has healed nicely, allowing him to take his scheduled turn in the rotation Wednesday.

McCarthy threw a bullpen session Monday and didn't feel anything out of the ordinary. The quick recovery was a relief for Melvin.

"I was surprised (Saturday) that he wasn't in more pain and there wasn't more swelling," Melvin said. "The ball (that hit him) caromed pretty far. A lot of things run through your mind when you go out there to check on him."

McCarthy's presence is an important one for the A's rotation, which has a 5.39 ERA since the All-Star break. McCarthy had given up just four earned runs over his previous three starts before Friday's rough outing.

First baseman Conor Jackson (sore neck) will be out of the starting lineup until at least Thursday but is available off the bench as a pinch runner.

Brandon Allen has impressed at the plate in Jackson's absence, but it's Allen's work in the field that has really caught the eye of the coaching staff.

"He moves really well and those popups he gets on in a hurry," Melvin said, adding that Allen's defensive ability is important because of the vast foul territory at [O.co](#) Coliseum.

Allen, acquired from the Diamondbacks July 31 and recalled from Triple-A on Saturday, entered Tuesday's game 6 for 10 as an Athletic.

Allen was back on the bases early Tuesday; he walked in the second inning and came around to score on Scott Sizemore's double.

Melvin said management soon will have discussions about which players to call up to the big leagues when rosters expand Sept. 1, and will bring up players that the team feels "deserve to be here."

Chin Music: Tuesday night's lineups

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune, 8/16/2011 5:32pm

Alex Pavlovic in for Joe tonight. Here are the lineups:

Weeks 2B
Crisp CF
Matsui DH
Willingham LF
Allen 1B
Sizemore 3B
DeJesus RF
Suzuki C
Pennington SS

ORIOLES
Reimold LF
Hardy SS
Markakis RF
Jones CF
Guerrero DH

Wieters C
Reynolds 1B
Andino 2B
Josh Bell 3B

Guillermo Moscoso (5-6, 3.52 ERA) vs. Brian Matusz (1-4, 8.77 ERA)

— Conor Jackson (neck) is still out but is nearing a return. Bob Melvin said he thought Jackson could return Thursday, and he is feeling good enough to start contributing off the bench.

— Brandon McCarthy will make his scheduled start Wednesday. Melvin said he was “really surprised McCarthy wasn’t in more pain” after suffering a hit that produced [this nice little shiner](#).

— The A’s haven’t lost more than four straight home games since June of 2009. Of course, the streak is at four entering tonight’s game...

Oakland A's bats come alive in win over Orioles

[Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)

Manager Bob Melvin was not too happy that the [A's](#) came off a strong finish to their recent road trip, with wins in the final two series, only to come apart at home.

Four consecutive losses at the Coliseum - the one place Oakland has played fairly well - didn't sit right, but the A's bounced back Tuesday with an 8-4 victory over the Orioles that included Josh Willingham's 20th homer.

Melvin left no doubt that he expected a turnaround, pronto. Asked about an entirely different topic before Tuesday's game, he said, "We did not want to get off to this type of start on the homestand after finishing the road trip so well. We really felt we could build on that momentum in a place we've played well all season.

"The fact that we lost the first four games, no one's feeling particularly good about that. ... The focus right now is on today."

After the game, one in which every member of the lineup contributed, Melvin said, "That's a nice win for us. We needed a win."

"A great victory, a great team win," said first baseman Brandon Allen, who recorded his first career triple.

Willingham ended a string of five homerless games by the A's with his solo shot in the third off Brian Matusz, who was just recalled from Triple-A Norfolk. This is the fourth time in Willingham's career he has reached the 20-homer mark.

Kurt Suzuki was the only member of the A's starting lineup who didn't record a hit, but he walked and scored a run and provided a sacrifice fly. Cliff Pennington had three hits, Allen scored two runs and Coco Crisp had a two-run double in the seventh.

The real key for Oakland on Tuesday was the ability to add on runs. The A's led 4-3 in the seventh, and the team has the worst record (15-21) in the league in one-run games.

Hideki Matsui followed Crisp's double with an RBI single, and in the eighth, Allen tripled down the line in right field before Suzuki sent him home with the sac fly.

Told it was the first triple of his career, Allen smiled and said, "Congratulations to me!"

Third-base coach Mike Gallego "kept waving, so I kept going," Allen said.

A's starter Guillermo Moscoso allowed single runs in the third, fourth and fifth but didn't let any inning spin out of control. One of the three runs he allowed was unearned: In the fifth, Willingham dropped a flyball in left, and Robert Andino wound up at second. He scored on a single by Josh Bell.

It was the A's 100th error of the season, and the team's major-league-high 70th unearned run. Melvin, who had discussed the A's defensive shortcomings the day before with the position players, said that in this instance, Willingham had just called off Pennington, the shortstop, and that might have cost him half a step.

In six innings, Moscoso allowed five hits and one walk and struck out four. Over his past four starts, Moscoso is 3-1 with a 3.52 ERA.

Brian Fuentes, Grant Balfour and Andrew Bailey handled the final three innings; Bailey allowed a run in the ninth.

Oakland A's Brandon Allen is more than a hitter

Susan Slusser, Chronicle Staff Writer

There is a lot of foul ground at the Coliseum, as manager **Bob Melvin** noted, so it's ideal to have a first baseman who can cover a lot of ground.

In four starts with the A's, **Brandon Allen** has displayed good range and aggressiveness in pursuing foul balls.

"He gets on them in a hurry," Melvin said.

Allen also has made some good throws, including another Tuesday on a 3-6-3 double play in the second inning, and he made an excellent scoop on a throw in the dirt in the third inning Monday.

"He's been awesome," shortstop **Cliff Pennington** said. "He has good at-bats every time, and he's played really, really good defense. The play he made on the one I threw from the hole was awesome. As a shortstop, that gives you a lot of confidence."

Melvin noted that the defense in general was much improved in the series opener Monday.

Allen was back at first base Tuesday with **Conor Jackson** likely to be out until at least Thursday with neck stiffness.

Briefly: Left-hander **Brett Anderson** gets the splint off his left arm in a week, and he then can begin to add some strength work to the range-of-motion exercises he is doing following Tommy John surgery. Anderson, who had surgery in July, said that he is ahead of where he was expected to be. ... The A's will begin discussing some September call-up possibilities soon, according to Melvin, and a lot of factors will be considered, including Triple-A Sacramento's playoffs - Melvin said that they don't want to strip the team during the River Cats' postseason. He mentioned a third catcher and a pinch-runner as likely additions. ... Reliever **Joey Devine** remains at Sacramento, and Melvin said that when Devine irons out his command issues, he'll be back in Oakland. Devine has allowed six hits, two walks and three runs in 5 2/3 innings since being sent down last month, and he has struck out seven.

Leading off

Record of sorts: The A's have set an Oakland mark by hitting no more than two homers in any of their past 93 games. The previous mark was 91, set over the 1974-75 seasons. The A's hadn't homered in five straight games before Josh Willingham went deep Tuesday.

A's 'not feeling good 'about 4 straight losses at home

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser at the Coliseum, 8/16/2011, 4:58pm

Manager Bob Melvin is a straight shooter - no positive spins when they aren't warranted. For instance, before tonight's game, I was asking about something else (September callups), and he responded by explaining how disappointed he is so far with this homestand.

"

We want to focus on getting a few wins," he said. "We certainly didn't want to start the homestand like this, especially after finishing up the road trip so well. ... The fact we've lost four games, we're not feeling particularly good about that."

There's not much news today; Conor Jackson remains out with that neck stiffness, so as I'd surmised in yesterday's Drumbeat, they're looking at Thursday for his return.

So Brandon Allen is back at first base, which is really where he should be after two games in a row with three hits. He also played some smooth defense at first last night, making two good running catches in foul ground, and a slick scoop on a throw in the dirt. He also made a good throw on a 1-3-6-3 pickoff, and he made the tag at the other end of that play well, too. Melvin mentioned what a plus it is to have a first baseman who can cover lots of foul ground at the Coliseum, and he noted that Jackson also does so well.

I'm all in favor of seeing more of Allen, whether he's at first, in the outfield, whatever. He's done nothing to come out of the lineup.

Here is the lineup, with Guillermo Moscoso on the mound: Weeks 2b, Crisp cf, Matsui dh, Willingham lf, Allen 1b, Sizemore 3b, DeJesus rf, Suzuki c, Pennington ss

The Orioles placed Chris Davis on the DL this evening; he'd originally been in the lineup, but he's got what is starting to look as if it might be a major shoulder problem. He's being sent to see Dr. Yocum in Los Angeles.

I went over to the Baltimore clubhouse to say hi to reliever Willie Eyre, who was in the A's camp this spring and with Triple-A Sacramento until a week or so ago; he'd wandered over to the A's side really early, and since Oakland won't be needing them, they gave him his A's jerseys. One, the gold uniform top, read "Eyer."

A's bats come alive to back Moscoso

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- For an A's team floating well below the .500 mark, an 8-4 victory over the non-contending Orioles in the middle of August typically wouldn't equate to much significance.

But given the club's recent struggles -- Oakland entered Tuesday riding a four-game losing streak -- and its unwavering intent on making the most of a dire season, the win over Baltimore was much needed.

Propelled by a pair of three-run innings, along with Josh Willingham's 20th home run of the season in the third, the A's provided starter Guillermo Moscoso with more than enough support to split the series before the onset of Wednesday's finale.

"It ended up being a nice win for us," manager Bob Melvin said. "We needed to win."

Moscoco submitted his second straight quality start, giving up three runs -- just two earned -- on five hits with three strikeouts and only one walk in six innings of work.

Those efforts were rewarded in the form of quick offense, as the A's tallied three runs in the second against Orioles lefty Brian Matusz, who was making his first Major League appearance since June 30.

Matusz, who was on the disabled list for the first two months of the season before stumbling through six starts leading up to a June demotion, offered up a leadoff walk to Brandon Allen and paid for it just minutes later when Scott Sizemore brought him home on an RBI double.

An ensuing walk to Kurt Suzuki was followed by back-to-back RBI bloop hits from Cliff Pennington and Jemile Weeks to hand the A's a three-run lead.

"Got to be able to get ahead, that's the one thing that killed me today was getting behind at times," Matusz said.

Baltimore cut the lead to two in the third, but Willingham again extended it in the bottom half of the frame with a deep shot to left field. The A's outfielder has now garnered at least 20 home runs in four of his six full Major League seasons.

"When you talk about goals, I'm sure that's certainly one for him," Melvin said. "No matter where he plays, he's a guy who has the ability to hit 20 home runs. I certainly hope he's not finished. I don't think he is. He's a power guy, and he expects to hit between 20 and 30 home runs a year."

Matusz settled down considerably following the blast and was ultimately charged with six runs on eight hits and three walks -- although two of those runs came after his 109-pitch outing culminated with two outs in the seventh.

"We had him on the ropes," Melvin said. "Early on, you wouldn't have thought he'd be out there in the seventh inning. In the middle innings he got better and mixed his pitches better and allowed them not to have to use their bullpen so much. He was able to clean it up and pitch better."

After the Orioles got an RBI double from Vladimir Guerrero in the fourth, Willingham followed up his long ball with a rare fielding error in the fifth, dropping a shallow fly ball off the bat of Robert Andino, who came around to score on Josh Bell's base hit.

The miscue marked the A's 100th error of the season -- which is most in the American League -- but ultimately proved indecisive, as Baltimore was held scoreless through the final four innings. Still, the A's had committed 100 errors in a season just once over the previous seven years (105 in 2009).

Only the Cubs (103) have more fielding gaffes this year.

"We addressed it and we played a real clean game yesterday after we had some discussion about it," Melvin said. "I thought, overall today, Josh is trying to come in and call [Cliff Pennington] off. He doesn't want to have Pennington have to catch that ball, so he calls him off and, in doing so, probably lost half a step. We don't like to see errors, but that one just showed up tonight."

Meanwhile, the A's scored three more times in the seventh thanks to Coco Crisp's two-run double and an RBI single from Hideki Matsui. And in the eighth, Allen collected his first career triple and scored on Suzuki's sacrifice fly.

Allen is now 7-for-13 in four games since his promotion on Saturday, and upon recognizing he had reached another Major League "first" with his triple, replied, "Oh yeah, congratulations to me."

"There's a fight in here," he said, "and that's real good to have as a team, grinding it out."

Said Melvin: "The one thing we have been doing fairly consistently is swinging the bat. We left a few out there early on and ran into a few outs and it wasn't real clean in the way we were scoring some runs early on, but to add on, that's nice to do."

McCarthy gets call for A's in finale against O's Simon

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com

The A's broke two losing streaks on Tuesday, beating the Orioles for the first time in four games and also winning at home after losing four straight at the Coliseum.

On Wednesday, behind a pitcher who was hit by a line drive in his last start, they'll try to turn both of those marks into winning streaks.

Right-hander Brandon McCarthy takes the mound for the A's, looking to rebound from an outing that nearly added injury to insult. In his last start on Friday, McCarthy allowed seven runs (five earned) in 3 1/3 innings against the Rangers. To make matters worse, he had to leave in the fourth after getting hit in the knee by a line drive.

McCarthy threw a bullpen session Monday and said he felt fine. Manager Bob Melvin is optimistic that will be the case Wednesday for the right-hander, who won four in a row prior to the painful outing.

"I was really surprised that the next day he wasn't in more pain, and he wasn't swollen and stiff like I anticipated," Melvin said. "The ball hit him and then careened all the way over to the stands past first base. The way he went down, it certainly looked like he'd probably be missing a start or two. But there will be no issues for his start."

Taking the mound for Baltimore is right-hander Alfredo Simon. Simon, making his eighth start of the season, has had mixed results since transitioning from the bullpen. After posting a 3.26 ERA in his first five starts, Simon has allowed four earned runs in each of his last two.

Simon lasted only 4 2/3 innings in his last trip to the hill against Detroit, giving up 11 hits and walking three.

Orioles: Davis shelved

Chris Davis, acquired in a Trade Deadline deal with the Rangers, was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday with a right shoulder strain. Although an MRI revealed a partial tear, neither Davis nor the Orioles know the extent of the injury.

"I'm not exactly sure how to describe it," president of baseball operations Andy MacPhail said. "I don't think it's a 911 situation, but it's something we have to watch and make sure it doesn't get worse."

- The Orioles designated Luis Lebron for assignment on Tuesday to make room on the 40-man roster for first-round Draft pick Dylan Bundy.

Athletics: Jackson still out

First baseman Conor Jackson sat again Tuesday because of neck pain and isn't expected back in the lineup until at least Thursday.

"He's still struggling with it a little bit today," Melvin said Tuesday. "My guess is probably the day after tomorrow is best-case. He might be able to do something limited off the bench, but he's not well enough to start."

Brandon Allen will continue to start at first base until Jackson returns.

Worth noting

- Oakland's Hideki Matsui has a .389 batting average since the All-Star break.
- Baltimore's Vladimir Guerrero is hitting .333 (5-for-15) with a home run and three RBIs in his career against McCarthy.
- Simon has given up six runs in 4 2/3 innings of relief in his career against the A's.

CoJack still a few days away from return

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- As expected, Conor Jackson remained out of the A's lineup for a third straight game Tuesday because of neck pain, paving the way for another start for Brandon Allen at first base.

"He's still struggling with it a little bit today," manager Bob Melvin said of Jackson. "My guess is probably the day after tomorrow is best-case. He might be able to do something limited off the bench, but he's not well enough to start."

That bench role is a limited one, as Jackson's neck is mostly affecting his hitting abilities. Such a task hasn't been a problem for Allen, who entered Tuesday with six hits in 10 at-bats since his Saturday callup.

Equally impressive -- via a handful of impressive defensive plays against the Orioles on Monday -- has been Allen's glove.

"Very nice plays," Melvin said. "He moves very well. Those popups, he gets on in a hurry, and in this ballpark there are quite a few that you can end up getting that you can't in other ballparks."

Allen is essentially following a similar trend seen several times this year in Oakland: take advantage of a good opportunity to make a lasting impression.

Jemile Weeks did the same when Mark Ellis went down with an injury, and Scott Sizemore has made his mark at third base since Kevin Kouzmanoff's demotion.

Melvin focused on here and now, not callups

OAKLAND -- The youth exuding from the right side of Oakland's infield -- from Brandon Allen to Jemile Weeks -- could expand to other areas come September when rosters expand, but A's manager Bob Melvin is keeping his mind on the present.

The A's skipper noted Tuesday he'll enter discussions about potential callup options in a few days, but that his club's recent performance -- Oakland entered Tuesday having lost four straight -- is of greater concern at the moment.

"We certainly did not want to get off to this type of start on the homestand after finishing the road trip so well," Melvin said. "I really felt we could build on that momentum and play in a place we've played well basically all season. The fact that we lost the first four games, no one's feeling particularly great about that. The callup stuff will come up when it comes up. The focus right now is on today."

When the time does come to sort through players worthy of a September promotion, Melvin said several factors come into play, most notably the personnel he believes deserves the opportunity.

"A lot of times, if you're in a race, you don't want to call up too many guys because you don't want to muddle the mix, yet you want to add a runner or an extra catcher, some variables you don't have during the course of the season," he said. "But in the position we're in right now, it's more about who deserves to be here and how well they've played over the course of the season at Triple-A, and who you're trying to reward."

Moreover, Triple-A Sacramento -- home to potential callups Michael Taylor, Chris Carter, Anthony Recker and Adrian Cardenas, among others -- is geared for another playoff appearance this year, and Melvin indicated he wouldn't want to completely take away from that run.

A's defeat Orioles, 8-4

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Josh Willingham hit a home run and had two hits, Coco Crisp drove in two runs and the Athletics beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-4 Tuesday night.

Cliff Pennington had three hits, Jemile Weeks had two and both drove in runs for the A's, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Scott Sizemore, Kurt Suzuki and Hideki Matsui also had RBIs.

Josh Bell drove in two runs for the Orioles, who have lost 15 of their last 19 road games. Vladimir Guerrero and Robert Andino also drove in runs.

Guillermo Moscoso (6-6) won for the third time in his last four starts. He allowed three runs — two earned — on five hits. Moscoso walked one and struck out four.

Brian Matusz (1-5) went 6 2-3 innings in his first start since June 30, giving up six runs on eight hits. He walked three and struck out five in losing his fifth straight decision.

Bell was a late replacement for Chris Davis, who was placed on the disabled list with a slight tear in his right shoulder after being in the original lineup.

Willingham's third-inning home run snapped a five-game homerless streak for the A's, who have 77 homers on the year.

Crisp's two-run double in the seventh broke open a close game. Matsui followed with an RBI single.

Sizemore and Weeks each doubled home a run in the second to help give Oakland the early advantage. Pennington singled home a run and was later thrown out at the plate by Orioles center fielder Adam Jones, who also caught Willingham off first base to complete a double play in the sixth. He now has 13 outfield assists, most by any centerfielder and second-most by any major-league outfielder.

Bell drove in a run in the third and fifth. Guerrero doubled in a run in the fourth.

Suzuki added a sacrifice fly in the eighth to make it 8-3.

Weeks has 73 hits in his first 59 games with the A's, an Oakland record.

NOTES: Davis is expected to see Dr. Lewis Yocum in Los Angeles on Thursday. ... Willingham dropped a ball for the A's 100th error of the season. ... A's INF Conor Jackson missed his third game with neck stiffness. ... Orioles LHP Zach Britton (left shoulder) threw five innings in a rehab start for Triple-A Norfolk, allowing a run on three hits with three strikeouts and a walk. ... RHP Brandon McCarthy will start for the A's in Wednesday's series finale. He's 4-1 with a 3.79 ERA in six starts since the All-Star break. McCarthy is 0-1 in six career appearances, four starts, against the Orioles. RHP Alfredo Simon gets the call for the Orioles. He'll be making his first start against the A's, but he is 0-1 with a save in three relief appearances against them. ... Guerrero took over sole possession of 89th place on the all-time hits list (2,537) with his fourth-inning double. ... With the season series tied at 4-4, the Orioles will look to win their first season series from the A's since 1998.

MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

Godfrey wins 12th, River Cats top Isotopes

By Alex Sadorf / Sacramento River Cats

Sacramento starter Graham Godfrey won his 12th game of the season as Sacramento topped Albuquerque 7-3 before 10,016 fans Tuesday night at Raley Field.

The River Cats got off to a fast start thanks to a few pitching problems from the Isotopes. In the first inning, with Jermaine Mitchell and Adrian Cardenas in scoring position and Kevin Kouzmanoff at-bat, Isotopes pitcher Joe Newby threw a wild

pitch. Mitchell scored from third while Cardenas advanced to third. Mitchell slid into Newby's lower leg at the plate, and the pitcher would only remain in through two more batters before being taken out because of injury.

Newby then walked Kouzmanoff to bring Josh Donaldson to bat. Another wild pitch from Newby gave Kouzmanoff time to take second, putting both runners in scoring position with no outs. Donaldson then grounded out at first while Cardenas scored and Kouzmanoff advanced to third. Chris Carter, coming off his spectacular home run last night, doubled to left field and brought Kouzmanoff home.

Adam Rosales solidified the lead a few at-bats later with a line drive to left field that scored Carter and put the score at 4-0 going into the second.

Donaldson got his second RBI of the game in the second. Mitchell and Cardenas hit back-to-back singles and then Isotopes pitcher Francisco Feliz walked Kouzmanoff to load the bases. Donaldson grounded to shortstop Ivan De Jesus Jr., giving Mitchell time to score for the second time in as many innings. The River Cats had a solid lead at 5-0.

Godfrey allowed the first Isotopes run in the sixth. After a single from second baseman Joe Becker, center fielder Brad Coon hit his first triple of the season to deep right field to score Becker and put Albuquerque on the board. De Jesus followed with a line drive single to right field to score Coon. The Isotopes were finally on the board with a score of 5-2.

In contrast to the Isotopes rough pitching start, right-handed Godfrey had a phenomenal start that eventually led to him getting the win. Godfrey allowed only four hits and two runs in his 6.0 innings while striking out seven. This win, his twelve of the season, puts him in fourth place for all time wins by a River Cats pitcher in one season.

"Godfrey did well," Donaldson said. "He was able to throw fastballs and curveballs and he did a good job."

Godfrey wasn't the only pitcher to make an appearance. Justin Souza pitched an inning with one strikeout and one walk while Jordan Norberto closed the game, allowing two hits and one run.

"The pitchers did well, came in and did their thing," Donaldson said. "I'm glad we got a win."

Andy LaRoche has also been working on records. In the fifth, he doubled on a line drive to left field and brought his hitting streak to 12 games.

The Isotopes made a final showing in the ninth with a two-out solo home run from Jamie Hoffmann, but it wasn't enough to bring them back. The River Cats quickly got the last out and ended the game at 7-3.

The River Cats will take on the Isotopes again Wednesday afternoon at Raley Field as they work their way toward the playoffs.

Huge 3rd Inning Lifts Ports To 7-3 Win

Stockton Ports

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. - It only took one inning for the Stockton Ports to get past the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes on Tuesday night. The Ports scored seven runs in the top of the 3rd inning en route to a 7-3 win over the Quakes, evening the series at a game apiece and setting up a rubber-match on Wednesday night at The Epicenter.

The Quakes wasted no time in scoring the game's first run. Nick Buss hit a solo home run off Ports starter A.J. Griffin (4-3) to lead off the bottom of the 1st and give Rancho a 1-0 lead.

Stockton would strand the bases loaded in the 2nd on a tremendous running catch made by Buss in center field to rob Mitch LeVier of an extra-base hit with two outs.

Rancho Cucamonga added to their lead in the 2nd on back-to-back one-out RBI singles from Ramon Jean and Buss to make it a 3-0 advantage.

Stockton's offense came to life just once on the night, and it happened in the top of the 3rd. After yielding back-to-back walks to start the inning, Quake starter Aaron Miller gave up a single to Michael Choice. Left fielder Wilberto Ortiz threw the ball back in toward third base and it got away into foul territory, allowing Myrio Richard to score Stockton's first run. After allowing the single to Choice, Miller was pulled from the game due to injury, and Ryan Acosta (0-2) became the new pitcher.

Acosta, after getting the first batter he faced, allowed three doubles in a row to Anthony Aliotti, Dusty Coleman, and Michael Gilmartin, resulting in a total of four runs and giving the Ports their first lead at 5-3. After Acosta walked Leonardo Gil and struck out LeVier, Richard and Conner Crumbliss hit back-to-back RBI singles to make it a 7-3 Ports advantage.

Miller would receive a no-decision after being charged with three runs on four hits in his shortened outing. Acosta took the loss, allowing four runs on five hits in two-thirds of an inning of work.

Arismendy Ozoria came on to finish the 3rd inning and ended up shutting the Ports offense down through 5.1 innings of relief. Ozoria allowed just two hits in his outing while striking out six.

Meanwhile, Griffin settled down for Stockton, at one point retiring six batters in a row to get through the 4th inning. Griffin got an inning-ending 5-4-3 double-play off the bat of Ortiz to end the 5th and his outing.

Griffin picked up the win, going five innings and allowing three runs on seven hits while striking out six.

A.J. Huttenlocker came on in relief to start the 6th and threw two scoreless innings. Mike Benacka and Jose Guzman each had a scoreless frame to close out the game for the Ports.

Aliotti, who went 2-for-5 with 2 RBI, extended his on-base streak to 41 games after his two-run double in the 3rd.

The Ports and Quakes will play the rubber match of their three-game set on Wednesday night at The Epicenter. Dan Straily (10-8, 3.88 ERA) will head to the hill for Stockton, opposed by right-hander Jon Michael Redding (9-6, 2.98 ERA) for Rancho Cucamonga. First pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. PDT.

Crisotomo Takes Home League Honors

By Jon Versteeg, Burlington Bees

BELOIT, WI- OF Jose Crisotomo has been named "Midwest League Player of the Week" for the week of August 8-14. He went 12-24 with two home runs and 10 RBIs in six games played. He hit home runs on August 10 and 11th in Quad Cities and recorded four RBIs in each of those two games. Crisotomo logged single-game career highs for hits (4) and RBIs (4) in the game on August 11.

The Bees and Snappers finish their series on Monday night at 7:00 p.m. RHP Blake Hassebrock (6-7, 2.60) gets the start for Burlington against RHP Blayne Weller (4-4, 4.45) for Beloit. Pre-game coverage begins at 6:40 p.m. on Newsradio 1490 KBUR and online at gobees.com.

2011 Bees tickets are on sale now! To purchase season tickets, bonus books or single game tickets, please give the Bees a call at (319) 754-5705, go online to www.gobees.com, or stop by the box office at Community Field during normal business hours.