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San Francisco Chronicle

Giants' Madison Bumgarner ejected in 7-5 loss to Marlins

John Shea

MIAMI — Madison Bumgarner started his second game of the season Monday night and showed a level of intensity that's in midseason form.

After Bumgarner was removed in the sixth inning of the Giants' 7-5 loss to the Marlins, he was ejected by plate umpire Jeremie Rehak before he reached the dugout.

Bumgarner wasn't thrilled with Rehak's ball-strike calls and stopped to speak with him a couple of times between innings. Bumgarner issued a four-pitch walk to his second-to-last batter, Justin Bour, and didn't appreciate two of the borderline pitches being called balls.

So Bumgarner popped off, and manager Bruce Bochy walked to the mound to check on him. Once Bumgarner gave up a single to Lewis Brinson that tied the game 4-4, Bochy pulled him.

"I could tell he wanted to toss me," said Bumgarner, noticing Rehak was looking his way as he walked off the field, "and I said, 'Go ahead.' I might've given him a little encouragement."

Rehak's motion to eject Bumgarner wasn't noticed by everyone. In fact, Bochy and catcher Nick Hundley, who were on the mound during the pitching change, didn't know Bumgarner was ejected until after the game.

Not that it really mattered. His night was done anyway.

"He was frustrated," Bochy said. "It was a tough strike zone tonight, both sides. You make your pitches, and you're not getting them. That's why I went out there, to make sure he was fine. He assured me he felt good, then he gave up another hit. I had no choice. It was mounting on him."

When Bumgarner exited, he made a straight line to the dugout, not breaking stride even after Rehak ejected him.

“It wasn’t worth going over and making things worse,” Bumgarner said.

And to think, Bumgarner’s night started splendidly. He opened with three hitless innings, and the only blemish was an error by third baseman Evan Longoria on a grounder by Brian Anderson, the second batter.

Anderson continued to be a pain for the Giants. He got the Marlins’ first hit, a homer to begin the fourth, and also led off the sixth with a double. He scored two of the four runs charged to Bumgarner, who missed the first two months after breaking his pinkie on his left hand in the final Cactus League game in spring training.

“I thought he threw the ball well,” said Hundley, noting Anderson homered on a cutter down and away, “whether it was his second start or 15th start. They hit good pitches. He could’ve been deeper in the ballgame. He was forced into a high pitch count, unfortunately.”

With Bumgarner out of the game, the Marlins scored three seventh-inning runs off Reyes Moronta and Sam Dyson. Again, Anderson was in the middle of the action with his third extra-base hit, a double off Dyson that broke the tie.

J.T. Realmuto followed with a two-run homer.

The Marlins weren’t so scary early in the game. Aside from going hitless the first three innings, they engaged in a comedy of blunders in the fifth.

Manager Don Mattingly called for Wei-Yin Chen to intentionally walk Longoria to fill the bases even though the majors’ hottest hitter, Brandon Crawford, was on deck.

Yes, Chen throws lefty and Crawford hits lefty. But playing the matchup game against Crawford the past six weeks hasn’t been advisable.

So what happened? Chen balked home a run.

Then Mattingly had Chen intentionally walk Crawford.

Then Mattingly lifted Chen.

It wasn’t the cleanest sequence in history, but the Giants were fine with it. If that wasn’t enough, reliever Brad Ziegler issued a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk to Hundley.

Ball 4 easily could have been a strike, but that followed the theme of the night.

“There were a lot of borderline pitches I didn’t get,” Bumgarner said, “and I wasn’t able to come back and get in the zone very well. It’s tough when you’re 1-0, 2-0 to every guy.”

San Francisco Chronicle

Giants’ Brandon Crawford leads All-Star voting, deservedly so

John Shea

MIAMI — No, Brandon Crawford can’t get too amped about leading National League shortstops through the first week of All-Star voting. But yes, he’d be elated to start the July 17 game in Washington.

“To be a starter for an All-Star Game, you’re obviously getting the fan votes,” Crawford said. “I definitely appreciate those votes, but it’s still the first week.”

Crawford hasn’t been an All-Star starter. He made the 2015 All-Star team and played alongside second baseman Joe Panik, both in reserve roles.

This year, Crawford is playing as if he’s nobody’s backup. He’s hitting .338, including a majors-high .430 since May 1.

The early polls seem to suggest fans are getting it right. With 466,021 votes, Crawford has a significant lead over Atlanta’s Dansby Swanson at 225,182.

“Not surprised at all,” manager Bruce Bochy said.

Perhaps more surprising, in the Giants’ minds, was an MLB Network segment that aired just before the team went outside for batting practice. Panelists were asked, “Is Brandon Crawford a top 10 shortstop right now?” All said yes, but the opinion in the Giants’ clubhouse was that it shouldn’t be a debate.

On Sunday, pitcher Derek Holland said Crawford deserves more credit, and Bochy added, “He’s low key with how he goes about his business but very professional and doesn’t bring a lot of attention to himself.”

Buster Posey tops NL catchers in votes with 281,331, a slim lead over the Cubs’ Willson Contreras (259,427). First baseman Brandon Belt, who’s on the disabled list (appendicitis), is third among first basemen, behind Atlanta’s Freddie Freeman and Chicago’s Anthony Rizzo. Panik is fifth among second basemen.

Starters on the mend: Jeff Samardzija is tentatively scheduled to make a rehab start Thursday or Friday, and neither he nor Bochy seems to fear another setback.

Samardzija threw 40 pitches off a bullpen mound Monday, 20 from the windup and 20 from the stretch, and declared, “This is the best I’ve felt all year, no doubt.”

The pitcher felt tightness in spring training, opened the season on the disabled list and joined the rotation after just one rehab start. In his eighth start, May 29 in Denver, he exited after one inning and returned to the DL.

"It's just about avoiding those little bumps along the way while warming up, which kind of set you back," Samardzija said. "That's really what we're trying to fight, and we've been getting after it. It's good that as it goes, it feels better. As a pitcher, you can put up with a lot of things in your body that don't feel well, but when it's your arm, you've got to be right."

Bochy said the Giants have been cautious with the pitcher since the Denver game. Samardzija is expected to have two rehab starts this time.

"Hopefully, it's behind him," Bochy said. "You can see a difference with how he threw the ball and how free and easy he was today."

Johnny Cueto (elbow) also threw off a mound, 45 pitches, and said he was pain free. He's eligible to come off the DL on June 30. He'll throw another bullpen session before facing hitters.

"Today I threw harder," Cueto said. "I felt more like I was warming up for a game."

MLB.com

After Bumgarner's eventful exit, Giants fall

Glenn Sattell

MIAMI -- Relief pitching had been the cornerstone of the Giants' recent surge, but in a 7-5 loss Monday that opened a four-game series with the Marlins, it was their undoing.

Sam Dyson (2-1) gave up the go-ahead runs to back-to-back hitters in the seventh inning and suffered the loss. He yielded a run-scoring double that tied the game at 5 and then was jolted by a two-run homer from J.T. Realmuto, who went 3-for-4, scored three runs and drove in two more. Miami's catcher was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle.

"They've been used a lot," said Giants manager Bruce Bochy about his bullpen. "I'm a little concerned there. I've been using them a lot lately. Hopefully we'll get some length in a couple of these games here. I've got some guys that need a break tomorrow."

The Giants bullpen over the previous 10 games, eight of those victories, had combined for a 1.13 ERA. Entering the game, Dyson had teamed up with four other relievers for zero earned runs over the last 20 innings, giving up just eight hits while striking out 24.

In his second start of the season, Giants left-hander Madison Bumgarner went 5 1/3 innings, giving up four runs on six hits. For the first three innings he looked to have returned to form, retiring nine of the first 10 batters he faced. Throw in a 1-2-3 fifth inning and the left-hander

appeared to be in command.

But it was a two-run fourth and another two-run sixth that were his undoing, though not because he lost command.

"They hit good pitches," Giants catcher Nick Hundley said. "Brian Anderson hit a cutter down and away for an oppo homer that was really impressive. I thought he threw the ball good. He was really forced into a high pitch count."

Bumgarner threw 91 pitches (50 strikes).

He was ejected for the first time in his career after being taken out for a reliever in the sixth inning. On his way off the mound, Bumgarner had words with home-plate umpire Jeremie Rehak, who promptly gave him the boot.

"There were just a lot of borderline pitches that I didn't get," Bumgarner said. "Obviously when I'm out of the game, then you can let a little bit of it out."

Bumgarner said he could tell that Rehak was looking to toss him.

"I gave him some incentive [to do it]," Bumgarner said.

He had just given up a 4-2 lead in the inning, allowing the Marlins to tie it. He exited the game with runners at first and second and only one out. The Giants got out of the inning with no further damage when reliever Reyes Moronta induced Miguel Rojas to hit a line drive to second baseman Alen Hanson, who doubled off Lewis Brinson at first base to end the inning. But his bullpen mate could not hold a 5-4 lead in the seventh.

Bumgarner (0-1), who missed the first two-plus months with a broken pinkie finger on his pitching hand, got no decision in the game.

"That's a game that we should have won," he said. "I let it get away from me, let them back in it. I've got to do better."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

With the Giants leading, 1-0, and Bumgarner cruising through three hitless innings, Marlins right fielder Anderson tied the game with an opposite-field home run to lead off the fourth inning and waking up Miami's bats.

"That pitch to Anderson was a pretty dang good pitch," Bumgarner said. "It was impressive that he put that kind of swing on it, drive it that way like he did."

The Marlins, bats awakened, took a 2-1 lead in the inning, added a two-run sixth and won it with three runs in the seventh.

SOUND SMART

With the loss, the Giants are now 22-5 when scoring five or more runs in a game.

"You take your chances," said Bochy. "You get five runs. But it didn't happen tonight. This game is about pitching."

HE SAID IT

"My stuff is good enough to get people out right now. I've just got to execute. That's it, just didn't do that tonight." -- Bumgarner, on his second start of the 2018 season

UP NEXT

The Giants have won the last five games that Chris Stratton went to the mound and are 10-3 in his starts this season. The right-hander looks to continue that trend in a 4:10 p.m. PT Tuesday start. Marlins starter Trevor Richards (0-3) will be making his first career start against the Giants and will be looking for his first win in the Major Leagues.

MLB.com

Crawford, Posey in line to start 2018 ASG

Glenn Sattell

Two Giants players lead their positions in fan balloting for the 2018 MLB All-Star Game presented by Mastercard. The first National League balloting update was announced Monday on MLB Network.

Shortstop Brandon Crawford and catcher Buster Posey were the top vote-getters in their respective positions in the initial tally. Crawford, with 466,021 votes, has a commanding early lead over Atlanta's Dansby Swanson (225,182).

"Not surprised at all," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said of Crawford. "He's a great athlete, you just appreciate their talent. This guy, for what he's done on both sides of the ball for this long, it's one of the best runs I've seen."

In his past 36 games, heading into Monday's series opener with the Marlins, Crawford hit a MLB-best .439 (58-for-132) with six homers, 16 doubles and 27 RBIs.

"It's the first week of voting, hopefully it'll keep going," said Crawford, whose only All-Star campaign came as a reserve in 2015. "I appreciate it for sure and would love to start the All-Star Game. To be a starter in the All-Star Game, you would definitely be getting the fans' vote, so I would definitely appreciate those votes and the people recognizing my flight."

Posey, a five-time All-Star, leads all catchers with 281,331 votes. He has a narrow lead over the Cubs' Willson Contreras (259,427).

Brandon Belt is third among first basemen with 162,750 votes, and Joe Panik ranks fifth among second basemen with 62,325 votes.

Fans may cast votes for starters at MLB.com and all 30 club sites -- on computers, tablets and smartphones -- exclusively online using the 2018 Camping World MLB All-Star Ballot until Thursday, July 5, at 11:59 p.m. ET. On smartphones and tablets, fans can also access the ballot via the MLB At Bat and MLB Ballpark mobile apps. Each fan can vote up to five times in any 24-hour period, for a maximum of 35 ballots cast.

Following the announcement of this year's All-Star starters, reserves and pitchers, fans should return to MLB.com and cast their 2018 Camping World MLB All-Star Final Vote for the final player on each league's roster. Then on Tuesday, July 17, while watching the 2018 All-Star Game presented by Mastercard live on FOX, fans may visit MLB.com to submit their choices for the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet with the 2018 MLB All-Star Game MVP Vote.

The 89th Midsummer Classic, at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., will be televised nationally by FOX Sports; in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS; and worldwide by partners in more than 180 countries. FOX Deportes will provide Spanish-language coverage in the United States, while ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide exclusive national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network, MLB.com and SiriusXM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage. For more information about MLB All-Star Week and to purchase tickets, please visit AllStarGame.com and follow @MLB and @AllStarGame on social media.

MLB.com

Cueto, Shark feel good in bullpen sessions

Glenn Sattell

MIAMI -- Right-handed starters Johnny Cueto and Jeff Samardzija continued progress toward returning from the disabled list with bullpen sessions Monday prior to the Giants opening a four-game series with Miami at Marlins Park.

"Both looked good," said manager Bruce Bochy. "Next move with Samardzija, I think we can start a rehab for him at the end of the week. Don't know whether it could be Thursday or Friday. So that's good news. He feels good."

Samardzija, who threw 40 pitches in his bullpen session Monday, hasn't pitched in a game since leaving a May 29 outing at Colorado after just one inning with right shoulder tightness. He was placed on the 10-day DL a day later.

Bochy indicated Samardzija would be scheduled for perhaps a couple of rehab starts.

"Yeah, I think in the first start we can start him up to around 60 pitches," Bochy said. "So it could be one, but there's a good chance to be two [rehab starts]. We'll see how he comes out

of it."

Samardzija is 1-4 with a 6.56 ERA this season.

Cueto said he felt on course with his Monday bullpen session.

"Everything's good," said Cueto, who went on the 10-day DL on May 1 before being transferred to the 60-day DL on May 10 with right elbow inflammation. He threw 45 pitches in his second bullpen session, all fastballs.

"Today I threw harder," Cueto said. "I felt more like if I was warming up for a game."

Bochy said he was encouraged by the outing.

"Johnny, the plan for him is to take one more 'pen and then he can throw to hitters maybe Saturday," he said. "Both of them on their way, that's great news. Both of them felt great today."

Cueto is targeted to return later this month.

"It all depends on how I feel day to day," Cueto said. "Once I throw live BP, then it depends on how I feel after that, and then I'll have a better idea of what the plan is."

Prior to his injury, Cueto was off to a sizzling start to the 2018 season, posting a 3-0 record with a 0.84 ERA over five starts and 32 innings.

The Athletic

Five observations: Madison Bumgarner still searching for command in Giants' loss to Miami Shayna Rubin

The Giants scored five runs in Miami. Out of context, this sounds promising. Prior to Monday, they'd won 29 of the 36 games in which they scored at least four runs.

Make that 29 of 37.

Madison Bumgarner lost his command and his cool, the bullpen lost its footing and the Giants lost 7-5 in the opener of this four-game South Beach spree. Here are five observations from the loss.

1. Fire on the Mountain

Bumgarner spat a couple of unsavory words at home plate umpire Jeremie Rehak on his trek back to the visiting dugout. The rookie umpire tossed an ejection back at him. Apparently, both parties were expecting this.

The exchange was more symbolic than anything: Bumgarner was headed to the showers, anyway. Manager Bruce Bochy had already taken the ball from his ace after an inconsistent 5 1/3-inning, four-run, three-strikeout second outing.

Bumgarner's return from that pinkie fracture seemed like a sturdy rope the Giants could use to ascend above the rest of the middling NL West. It's June, and his team is ready to find something to tread on into a sprint, but it's clear Bumgarner will need a few more starts to join them in midseason form.

Bumgarner's disputes with Rehak seemed to stem from frustration with his own command. He'd find himself behind too often and struggled to dig himself out.

That frustration bubbled over before the ejection.

The Giants gave Bumgarner a two-run lead heading into that sixth inning, but Brian Anderson's leadoff double, a miscommunication with first baseman Buster Posey on J.T. Realmuto's cued ground ball single, and a sac fly cut that lead to one.

Justin Bour, the next batter, looked at a first-pitch two-seamer that skimmed the outside corner. A called ball. Bumgarner's body language oozed displeasure.

Bumgarner tossed him two more cutters, both out of the zone, then another two-seamer that just touched the outside corner. Four-pitch walk. Bumgarner bent over in frustration.

Lewis Brinson cashed in the runner in scoring position to tie the game. It was one of three leads the Giants would give up and a beautiful segue to Bumgarner's first big-league ejection ... yeah, really.

Bumgarner wasn't particularly sharp, though he was unhittable for three innings. A decent cutter to Anderson, a brand new Giant killer, left the park for Miami's first run and Bumgarner's first hit allowed — and served as a sign of what was to come.

Maybe the over-eager minor leaguers amplified the optics, but in his final rehab start in San Jose, Bumgarner's off-speed stuff was downright unhittable. Toward the end of his 4 2/3-inning, two-hit, seven-strikeout outing back on June 1, he was almost exclusively throwing off-speed. He seemed to take that momentum to his first start back against the Arizona Diamondbacks, where he mixed in a healthy 15 changeups and 10 curveballs.

Monday night he seemed to lay off the off-speed stuff a little more than expected, throwing just seven curveballs and 12 changeups (with two hits off it).

2. The bullpen breaks a streak

Before Monday's loss, the Giants had won eight of their last 10. Over that stretch, the bullpen was toting a 1.13 ERA. Hunter Strickland, Tony Watson, Will Smith and Sam Dyson were the

pillars, not allowing a run and striking out 24 over 20 innings.

Anderson helped break that streak. The Giants regained the lead on Brandon Crawford's sac fly, but Reyes Moronta couldn't find the strike zone in relief and issued a leadoff walk in the seventh.

Dyson relieved him and Anderson promptly hit a game-tying double. Realmuto went deep for the game-winner; it was just the third home run Dyson has allowed this season, the first earned runs he shouldered in eight appearances.

3. Evan Longoria errors

The most errors third baseman Evan Longoria's committed in one season? Fourteen. That happened in back-to-back years, 2010 and 2011 with Tampa Bay. He committed 12 while winning the Gold Glove last year.

Monday, in game 66 with his new team, a misplay in the first inning on a grounder from, you guessed it, Anderson, brought Longoria one shy of his 2017 total.

It looked like Longoria tried to swipe the ball up on a short hop, but it deflected off his glove.

It's possible Longoria is still adjusting to the new terrain. These errors aren't stemming from ineptitude; for the most part, they just seem like misplays born out of unfamiliarity for someone who played in the same league and home turf ballpark for nine years.

Some of these mistakes are born out of miscommunication with Crawford, but mostly it just seems like Longoria doesn't know how the ball will hop, and some errors have been costly. Monday's, at least, was not.

Let's just say we'll keep an eye on it, even though it's hard to watch.

4. Andrew McCutchen hitting his stride

All these negatives make it seem like the Giants are struggling. They aren't, really. So here's a positive.

Crawford has been the face of their offense this month. He went hitless Monday, but was robbed of extra bases in what turned into a go-ahead sac fly. That pushed his average down to .333. Crawford is hitting .426 since May 1 and .484 this month (it was at .533 after his 4 for 4 game Sunday).

He's the star of the lineup right now, but McCutchen is behind the scenes making huge strides of his own. Monday night he went 2 for 4 with an RBI, marking his fifth multi-hit game over the last six games.

The whole month measurement is essentially arbitrary, but since we used it for Crawford ...

McCutchen has three home runs, five extra-base hits and 10 RBI this month.

5. On the other coast ...

There are no urgent eyes looking to Sacramento for a starting center fielder, but Steven Duggar is sure worth watching right now.

Duggar's made a couple "SportsCenter" Top 10-worth plays so far this year.

We knew he could make Superman plays in center, but concern lingered with his bat.

So, how about this: Duggar is currently surfing a 10-game hitting streak with a .795 slugging percentage over that time. He went 4 for 5 Sunday night, a performance that included three doubles and the walk-off single.