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San Francisco Chronicle

Giants' Madison Bumgarner throws off mound; could return in 2 weeks

John Shea

Madison Bumgarner passed his latest test by throwing off a mound for the first time since he broke his left pinkie on March 23, the final day of the Cactus League.

"I feel good," he said Monday after tossing 20 pitches, all fastballs. "The only thing now is building arm strength and getting the pitch count up. Everything feels completely normal now."

Bumgarner is eligible to come off the disabled list May 25, but manager Bruce Bochy said it's unrealistic to think the lefty will be activated that soon because he will make at least two rehab starts.

Bumgarner will throw off a mound again Wednesday (and mix in off-speed pitches) and Saturday. From there, he'll throw to hitters next week in Houston, where the Giants begin an eight-game trip, and then begin a minor-league rehab assignment.

That would push his return to early June, meeting the team's initial prognosis.

"It's hard to be at that happy medium and not try to ramp it up too fast and then cause a setback with your arm getting ready and getting in shape," Bumgarner said. "But it's also hard to harness that and hold it back when you want to get back out there. I feel like we've been definitely aggressive but not too aggressive."

Admittedly, it has been tough for Bumgarner to miss significant time for a second straight season. In 2017, he was out three months with shoulder and rib injuries after a dirt bike accident.

"Last year was obviously my fault. Those emotions are a little bit different," Bumgarner said.

“This year was just a freak thing, the last day of spring, and such a small thing at that. It’s amazing how much that pinkie can affect you, not just in baseball but everyday life, too. I’m definitely ready to get back out there.”

Mark Melancon also threw off a mound, 25 pitches. The Giants haven’t given a timetable for his return

Roster moves: Austin Slater was promoted from Triple-A Sacramento to replace second baseman Alen Hanson, who was put on the disabled list with a strained left hamstring.

Slater had a single, walk and two steals in Monday night’s win over Cincinnati but apparently is heading back to Sacramento. The Giants need an infielder and will add second baseman Miguel Gomez, a .297 hitter at Double-A Richmond.

Slater has experience at second (96 games in 2015) but primarily is an outfielder. Recently, he has been learning first base and appeared at first in two games at Sacramento.

Bochy said Hanson could be on the disabled list up to two weeks.

San Francisco Chronicle

Giants return home, pound out 10 runs in win over Reds

John Shea

Brandon Belt swung his mightiest, made solid contact and sent a ball into the China Basin night, only to watch it die at the warning track in center field.

It was the first inning of the Giants’ homestand, and it was easy to imagine it would be one of those nights in which the bats would succumb to the marine layer and the opposing team, which came to San Francisco with a six-game win streak.

But the Giants succeeded in an area Monday night that they’ve mostly failed in this season - hitting with runners in scoring position and two outs - and it proved the difference in their 10-7 victory over the Reds.

The Giants entered play with a .191 average in those situations, the lowest in the National League. Some of their worst work at the plate came in the biggest situations, especially when considering the team’s overall average ranks a respectable fourth in the NL.

The vibe suddenly changed while much of Monday’s crowd settled into AT&T Park.

Belt’s long fly ball was the second out and came with two aboard -- Andrew McCutchen doubled, and Buster Posey walked - and instead of continuing the trend, the Giants kept rallying.

Evan Longoria sharply singled to center for his team-leading 22nd RBI, and Brandon Crawford lashed a two-run double to left. The next inning, McCutchen hit another double, this one with two outs to score Gregor Blanco, so two-out hits accounted for the Giants' first four runs.

Good situational hitting remained the theme the rest of the night as the Giants scored twice more in the third and three times in the sixth. Belt hit a solo homer in the eighth, the marine layer failing to keep this one in the yard.

Five of the Giants' 14 hits were doubles, and McCutchen collected his 1,500th career hit in the same season that Longoria, another former face of a franchise who was traded to San Francisco in the offseason, reached the 1,500 club.

It was a refreshing twist for a team coming off an up and down trip in which the Giants swept the Braves but dropped six straight to the Phillies and Pirates before taking Sunday's finale in Pittsburgh.

The Giants were out-scored 49-20 runs in the seven games, so obviously it wasn't only about the offense. In large part, the starting pitchers got knocked out early, at least until Derek Holland threw his best ball of the season Sunday.

Monday, Chris Stratton was handed a 6-1 lead through three innings and barely stuck around long enough to get the win. He gave up Tucker Barnhart's two-run homer in the fourth and another homer to Scott Schebler leading off the sixth.

Stratton was pulled after walking the next batter, and manager Bruce Bochy was forced to use his bullpen for the final four innings. Pierce Johnson and Cory Gearrin threw shutout ball, but Jose Valdez surrendered Adam Duvall's three-run homer in the ninth.

Making it worse for Stratton was that he gave up a double to pitcher Sal Romano and walked another pitcher, Jackson Stephens. Romano lasted 2 1/3 innings, and the Giants pounded him for six runs on eight hits.

The Reds replaced manager Bryan Price with Jim Riggleman after 18 games, but nothing changed in the win-loss column until last week when the Reds won six straight including a four-game sweep at Dodger Stadium.

MLB.com

Cutch's milestone helps Giants outpace Reds

Michael Wagaman

SAN FRANCISCO -- Giants outfielder Andrew McCutchen didn't see much difference between his 1,500th career hit and the 1,499 that came before it. Just another notch in his big league career, nothing more, nothing less.

"I played long enough to do it, that's what I always say," McCutchen said after doubling twice in San Francisco's 10-7 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday night. "I don't want to stop at 1,500. It's another hit. Hopefully I keep going and hopefully get 1,500 more."

McCutchen might have downplayed his milestone moment but it continued a rising trend for the 31-year-old.

The two doubles extended McCutchen's hitting streak to 13 games, longest active streak in the National League. It also raised his average to .259, not bad for a guy who was batting .198 less than three weeks ago.

"He's a five-tool player," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "The bat, the speed, his arm ... everything."

Brandon Belt had three hits, including his seventh home run, to go with three RBIs to help San Francisco end the Reds' six-game winning streak.

The Giants have won two straight since dropping six in a row.

They did it with plenty of offense on a night when starting pitcher Chris Stratton (4-3) struggled. The right-hander pitched through traffic most of the night, allowing four runs on nine hits in five-plus innings.

Buster Posey, Brandon Crawford and Evan Longoria added two hits apiece. Crawford and Kelby Tomlinson drove in two runs each.

The Giants had 14 hits overall but it was McCutchen's milestone moment that highlighted the night for San Francisco.

The five-time All-Star doubled and scored as part of a three-run first inning then got No. 1,500 in the second when he doubled in Gregor Blanco, both off Reds starter Sal Romano, who surrendered six runs in 2 1/3 innings. McCutchen flied out twice and reached on an error and scored in his other three at-bats.

"Sal has been doing a really good job for us. His stuff wasn't as sharp tonight," Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman said. "He was out there competing like he always does but it just wasn't quite coming out of his hand the way it had been lately, and the Giants made him pay for it."

McCutchen, one of two players in the Major Leagues to have six hits in one game this season, joined teammate Longoria in reaching 1,500 hits this season. Longoria recorded his 1,500th career hit May 5 in Atlanta.

"Facing him for so many years, Longoria as well, it's somebody else that you have to game-plan and worry about," Posey said. "When you add a guy like that to the lineup, whether he's being

as productive as he has in the past or not, it's still going to help lengthen your lineup out."

The Giants needed all of the offense to slow down the streaking Reds. Tucker Barnhart and Scott Schebler both homered off Stratton but the Giants turned two double plays, including a strike-'em-out-throw-'em-out in the sixth.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Better the second time: Blanco made a big gaffe when he let Joey Votto's single in the third skip past him in left field for an error. That allowed Votto to take second, but Blanco stranded him there when he made a diving catch on Scooter Gennett's sinking liner to end the inning.

Doubling up: The Reds trailed, 6-4, but got the tying run to the plate with one out in the sixth after Stratton was knocked out of the game. The Giants escaped the jam when reliever Pierce Johnson struck out Billy Hamilton and Posey threw out Rosell Herrera trying to steal second base for an inning-ending double play.

"Buster's throw, what a beautiful throw," Bochy said. "He came out of the chute and put it right on the money, which he had to. To me, that was probably one of the turning points in the game."

SOUND SMART

Crawford got off to a slow start during the first month of the season but has heated up over the past two weeks, going 21-for-57 (.368) over his last 13 games.

HE SAID IT

"We stay away from him. He's miserable. That's what's tough on these guys, when they can't do that." -- Bochy, talking to reporters pregame about injured pitcher Madison Bumgarner's demeanor when he's unable to pitch

UP NEXT

Left-hander Ty Blach (3-4, 4.20 ERA) pitches the middle game of the series for the Giants on Tuesday and will try to get back on track after getting roughed up in his last start. Blach was charged with five runs over 4 1/3 innings, a stark contrast to his previous two outings when he allowed three runs over 13 2/3 innings. Right-hander Tyler Mahle (3-4, 3.86) goes for Cincinnati.

MLB.com

Bumgarner takes big step, returns to mound

Michael Wagaman

SAN FRANCISCO -- Giants left-hander Madison Bumgarner threw off a mound Monday for the first time since suffering a broken pinkie on his pitching hand, moving the 2014 World Series MVP one step closer to returning to the big league club.

Bumgarner's bullpen session was limited strictly to fastballs.

"I felt good," Bumgarner said. "I've been throwing offspeed stuff on flat ground. Today we just did all fastballs because it was just 20 pitches."

It was a big step in Bumgarner's recovery. The four-time All-Star, who missed a large chunk of 2017 with shoulder and rib injuries, hasn't pitched in nearly two months. He was hit in the hand by a line drive in San Francisco's final exhibition game in Spring Training and underwent surgery the following day to have three pins inserted.

The pins were removed and Bumgarner was given clearance to resume throwing earlier this month.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy said the plan is to have Bumgarner throw two more bullpen sessions then he will face hitters next week when San Francisco begins an eight-game road trip in Houston. If all goes well and there are no setbacks, Bumgarner will then head to the Minors to begin a rehab assignment.

Bumgarner will throw 30 pitches and include his offspeed arsenal during his next two bullpens.

"He looked good," Bochy said. "He was letting it go. If you watched the bullpen today, you'd think he's making his next start. It's where he's at. The issue right now, he's got to build some stamina and strength because he hasn't been throwing that much."

Bumgarner was originally placed on the 10-day disabled list and was transferred to the 60-day DL on April 11. He's eligible to come off May 25 but Bochy indicated that's not likely to happen.

"I don't think so," the Giants skipper said. "It'll be a little bit after that. He's on schedule. Nothing's changed with his schedule. It's just a matter of when we bring him up."

Bumgarner was encouraged by getting back on the mound but wasn't making a big deal out of it.

"It wasn't like I was surprised I felt good because I've been feeling good the whole time," Bumgarner said. "It's hard to find the happy medium and try not to ramp it up too fast and then cause a setback in your arm getting ready and getting in shape. But it's hard also to hold it back. I feel like we've been definitely aggressive but not too aggressive."

Therein lies the rub for the Giants.

While they no doubt need Bumgarner back in the rotation, they need to be careful not to rush him back.

Bochy acknowledged they made that mistake with Jeff Samardzija after Samardzija began the season on the disabled list with a pectoral injury. Samardzija pitched five scoreless innings

against the Los Angeles Angels in his first start April 20 but has yet to pitch six innings.

"We brought him up probably a start early with the thought that we had to cover in the bullpen when he pitched that game down in Anaheim," Bochy said. "He was limited to around 75 pitches then so we probably could do the same with Madison."

Breast cancer survivor honored

Helen Hughes Struck, the Giants' Honorary Bat Girl, was honored during a pregame ceremony Monday. Struck was diagnosed with an aggressive form of invasive breast cancer in late 2014 when she was 35 years old. Struck continued working full-time as a public defender during five months of chemotherapy followed by multiple surgeries, and she and her husband recently adopted a baby boy.

Major League Baseball's Honorary Bat Girl program was introduced league-wide in 2009 to raise additional awareness and support for the annual "Going to Bat Against Breast Cancer" initiative celebrated on Mother's Day. Proceeds from the sale of special pink gear, including caps and dugout hoodies, will benefit Susan G. Komen and Stand Up To Cancer, and the Giants are holding an auction of Mother's Day jerseys.

Injury updates

- Closer Mark Melancon (right elbow flexor strain) threw 25 pitches in a bullpen session and will throw once more, possibly to hitters, on Thursday. "Mark threw all his pitches, he wasn't hesitant on anything," Bochy said.
- Second baseman Joe Panik (sprained left thumb) played catch and is slated to begin dry swinging with a bat later this week.

The Athletic

Jonathan Mayo on strengths of the MLB Draft, the top pick, how the Giants and A's might approach it and more

Melissa Lockard

The MLB Draft is less than three weeks away and teams are starting to solidify their draft boards. There is plenty of uncertainty at the top of the draft this year, with mock drafts split on what direction the top five teams will go in.

MLB.com draft and prospect expert Jonathan Mayo has been a leading source of information on amateur and minor league prospects for more than 20 years. He and fellow longtime prospect expert Jim Callis head up the prospect and draft coverage for MLB.com and MLB Network.

The network and its website will have full coverage of all three days (June 4-6) of the draft, and

Mayo will be one of the analysts throughout the process. The first day of the draft will air on TV and stream on MLB.com. Days 2 and 3 can be found exclusively online.

With the draft quickly approaching, I caught up with Mayo last week over the phone to get his thoughts on the overall strengths and weaknesses of the draft, how the Giants and A's might use their top picks and more.

You can catch up on all of our MLB draft coverage [here](#).

Melissa Lockard: You've been following this draft class for a while. What is your take on the strengths and weaknesses of the class?

Jonathan Mayo: Every year it gets tough to answer that question because every scout's job is to nitpick, so every class has been picked apart. I think going in, high school pitching seemed to be the real strength. The problem with that is that a couple of key guys have gotten hurt. Some minor, some less minor, or status unknown, so that's made it a little harder to figure out.

For the most part, people see this class as being better in terms of depth than it is in terms of high-end talent.

ML: It sounds like right-hander Casey Mize (Auburn) is the player the Tigers have targeted with the number one pick. Do you think that's a fair assumption, or it is a little more up in the air than that?

Mayo: I think it's still undecided maybe only because there are some medical question marks (with Mize). He's missed some time, although it's all been minor injuries, but he has missed some time. That's the one thing holding him back.

He's the one guy who's separated himself the most with his performance this year. He's doesn't have the same track record in terms of success throughout his career, but he's been the most dominant week-in and week-out while playing in the best college conference in the sport. He is the odds-on favorite but there's been no indication from the Tigers — at least that I'm aware of — that they've decided that pick. I think they're still thinking about the best direction to go in.

ML: The Giants seem like they've been even more oblique about what direction they would like to go at the second pick. Historically, they've favored college players but have occasionally gone high school, too. Do you get the sense they are zeroing in on anybody, or are they a real wild card at this point?

Mayo: I think they are a real wild card, and some of that is the nature of this draft class. Typically by now, and even last year — and last year's class was a little up in the air — but there were four or five guys that you knew were the top four or five picks. You didn't necessarily know the order, but there was a select group to choose from. That's not necessarily the case this year. There may be eight to 10 guys who are all floating around the top 10-15 picks. It's

made it hard to pinpoint.

Let's go with the assumption that the Tigers are going with Mize. Then the Giants can really do whatever they want. They've done a little bit of everything in terms of who they take. When you pick that high, you really need to take the best available player. So then it's just a question of who you think that is, and they're not a team that you can say, "they are always going to think the best available player is a college guy."

They took a high school hitter last year (Heliot Ramos). Obviously, picking two and picking in the 20s is a whole other thing. It's going to be interesting to see. I think a lot of teams are going to be scrambling and working until the last minute to figure out who their first pick is going to be.

ML: With depth being a strength in the class, do you think the A's are sitting in a good spot at nine in the sense that they might be able to get a talent comparable to one of the guys going in the top-five since there hasn't been a lot of separation at the top?

Mayo: Yeah, I think that's a very good observation. There is a very good chance that they could get a player who is every bit as good as a player that goes two or three from where they're picking at nine. There are a bunch of college players who are likely to be there at that pick. Obviously, they like to cross people up and occasionally go with the high school hitter, too. If they wanted to go with a high school pitcher, they could, but that's not something that they've done. I hope they do, so I can yell at (MLB Network anchor) Greg Amsinger on the draft show again.

Travis Swaggerty (OF, South Alabama) is a player who comes to mind; he's the guy I gave the A's in the mock draft that I did — although those things become obsolete the moment that they run. But he's a name that is somewhere in that ballpark. He also could go two. And the Tigers are looking at him, too. The fact that he could go anywhere from the very top down to 10 speaks to the point that the A's are, in a lot of ways, in an enviable position by picking in that range of the draft. I think they could get a really good player.

ML: Is the fact that right-hander Brady Singer (Florida) has fluctuated up and down the draft boards this spring creating some instability in terms of who could go in the top-10?

Mayo: He's not going to fall very far when all is said and done. I think the two things that have added to that volatility with him is 1) not everyone loves the arm action, and 2) he started out this year just OK, but not terrible. He wasn't getting beat around, but the stuff wasn't quite as crisp. That's been ticking back up of late.

He's got three years of track record, though. That's really hard to pass up on and is why I ended up putting him at two to the Giants. He's undoubtedly in their mix. And the Tigers are still looking at him. Could he get past one or two? Yeah. I don't think he gets past five with Cincinnati.

Sometimes when you have a guy who's been in the spotlight for so long, there's a little bit of almost prospect fatigue. It's easy to nitpick at just about anything. And I understand it. If you're picking a guy at one, two or three, you're talking about a lot of money. You want to be sure, but he's been awfully good for a really long time, pitching for one of the best college programs in the country with a really deep pitching staff, and he's been in that weekend rotation the whole time.

(The Florida rotation) has had first-round picks the last couple of years and he's been right there with them performance-wise. Even if people are nitpicking at him, when push comes to shove, they're going to look at the track record and the success and the feel for pitching and the overall stuff. That whole package means he won't go too far down in the draft.

ML: Is this a draft where teams try to get guys to sign under slot in the top-five or 10 so that they can sign some of the guys who fall in the second or third round to first-round money?

Mayo: There's a chance of that, yes. The bonuses are so high (in the top-10) you could make the argument that you can take one of the guys who you think are one of the better players, save a little money and still have money to be aggressive going after a guy who slides a little bit, especially if you're picking one or two. Especially one. No one's signing for full pick value at 1-1. You could take a guy like Royce Lewis like the Twins did (at 1-1) last year — and he was still going to be a top-three or four pick no matter what — and still save money.

There were whispers at one point that teams, including the Tigers, were looking at Jarred Kelenic, the high school outfielder from Wisconsin. I'm sure they had conversations because every team needs to have a Plan B because of the pool system. Teams more or less know what guys are willing to sign for before they take them. You may roll the dice a little bit, but it's within a framework. I can't dismiss that out of hand, but I don't see that happening because I really think that you take Casey Mize 1-1, he's not going to sign for full slot value (\$8,096,300). To an extent, you could probably make that argument.

Could you have a guy who lines up talent-wise at 12-15 and have him go six? I could see that. I don't know that you'll see a team really reaching. The Braves did that when they took Ian Anderson (in 2016). Everyone said that was a reach in order to get him to sign under-slot, but Ian Anderson was pretty good. Most people had him down a little bit further.

Maybe the only real example of a big reach was Hunter Dozier when the Royals did that (in 2013). And the system has changed a little more since then, but they took Dozier at eight, and that was so they could sign Sean Manaea (who they took at No. 34), who's turned out to be pretty good (laughs). So they had a plan in place and they really liked Hunter Dozier. I don't think they thought he was the eighth-best player in the draft, but they liked him more than a lot of the industry did. And that's the other thing that figures into this wild card equation is that it only takes one team and if one team really, really like a guy, then to them, it's not as big of a reach even if they know they're going to save more money on the pick.

The Athletic

Giants' bats come alive in booming win over the Reds

By Melissa Lockard

First the ground shook, then the Giants rolled.

Three minutes after first pitch on a cool Monday night in San Francisco, a magnitude 3.5 earthquake shook the Bay Area. Ten minutes later, it was the Giants who were bringing the boom on Reds starting pitcher Sal Romano.

With one out in the first inning, Andrew McCutchen got the rally started with a rocket double to left that came off his bat at a scorching 106.2 mph. Buster Posey walked, and after Brandon Belt's hard line drive to center was caught by Billy Hamilton, Evan Longoria came to the plate looking to deliver in a situation the Giants have struggled to convert for much of the season — a two-out, run-scoring opportunity.

Longoria came through on this occasion with an RBI single and then Brandon Crawford delivered a two-run double to give the Giants a 3-0 lead. Although the Reds would pull within two runs on two occasions during the game, the Giants would never trail in a game they would go on to win, 10-7.

Before that tone-setting first inning, the Giants were hitting .191 with runners in scoring position and two outs. The Giants would tack on another two-out run in the second.

"Those are the things that win ballgames for you. Those two-out hits, clutch hitting," manager Bruce Bochy said after the game. "Throughout our lineup, we have professional hitters that know how to drive in runs and have a nose for the RBI. I said that's going to get better and, not just going on tonight, you'll see the rest of the season we'll get better there."

The middle of the Giants' lineup was particularly potent, stringing together hits in the way that the front office envisioned when it added McCutchen and Longoria this offseason. The two through five slots of the lineup featuring McCutchen, Posey, Belt, Longoria and Crawford went a combined 11 for 23 with seven doubles, a home run and eight RBIs in the game.

"The biggest thing I always noticed even before I got here was that the line was always moving from one guy to the next guy to the next guy, one out, two outs, it didn't matter," McCutchen said. "I think that's just what we have to do here. We have a lot of guys who can swing the bat. We don't feel like we have to do too much personally and carry the weight of the team on our shoulders. We just have to do our jobs and the next guy will show up and do his and we showed that tonight."

Posey said the additions of McCutchen and Longoria put that much more pressure on the opposing staffs.

“I think as much as anything to me, after facing (McCutchen) for so many years — and Longoria as well — it’s just someone else that you have to game plan and worry about,” he said. “It’s another person the opposing pitcher and catcher have to really bear down on. When you add a guy like that to the lineup — whether he’s being as productive as he has been in the past or not — it’s going to help lengthen your lineup.”

McCutchen has been producing like the McCutchen of old in recent weeks. He’s batting .364/.453/.500 in 12 games in May. His second double of the game was his 1,500th career hit. McCutchen downplayed that accomplishment after the game — saying it really only meant he’d played for a long time — but said he could feel the lineup starting to come together.

“We’re all starting to swing the bat a little bit,” McCutchen said. “I still feel we have the potential to be even better than where we are and do it more consistently. Hopefully we can show up tomorrow and do the same thing.”

After a demoralizing six-game losing streak, the season threatened to get away from the Giants, but a win on Sunday stopped the negative momentum and that carried over into Monday’s win.

“It’s good to bounce back and win a couple of ballgames, especially the way that we won them, getting some big hits,” Bochy said. “We played a very hot team that just swept the Dodgers. It’s tough travel back from Pittsburgh for the fellas. They came out ready to play and I loved the energy in the dugout.”

Posey said the clubhouse, in general, has kept a positive outlook through the ups and downs of the early season.

“I feel like the energy this year has been good, for the most part,” he said. “Gregor Blanco and Pablo (Sandoval) have done a nice job of keeping that going for us even when there seems to be a bit of a lull. No question winning yesterday definitely helped.”

Austin Slater was recalled before Monday’s game when the Giants placed second baseman Alen Hanson on the 10-day disabled list with a strained hamstring. Before the game, Bochy said Hanson’s injury is expected to take 10-14 days to heal. The Giants had been hopeful that Hanson could avoid the disabled list, but an MRI showed a strain that would take more than a few days to recover from.

Infielder Miguel Gómez is expected to be added to the roster on Tuesday. He is currently with Double-A Richmond and the Giants weren’t able to get him to San Francisco in time for Monday’s game, so the Giants brought up Slater to add to the bench.

While Slater will likely head back to Sacramento on Tuesday, he made his presence felt while he was in San Francisco.

Pinch-hitting for reliever Pierce Johnson to start the sixth, Slater drew a walk and stole second,

igniting a three-run rally that would turn a tight game into a 9-4 laugh. Slater remained in the game in left, singling before stealing another base in his second plate appearance. In 16 plate appearances in the bigs this year, Slater has three hits and four walks. For Sacramento, Slater is batting .386/.456/.670 in 88 at-bats.

The question becomes, can the Giants find a way to work Slater into their 25-man roster?

Slater isn't a particularly gifted defensive player, but he's versatile. He's played every position but catcher during his professional career, having recently added first base while with Triple-A Sacramento. While Slater could potentially find a home in the Giants' outfield in the future, all things considered, the club would likely prefer to have Steven Duggar secure center field, Chris Shaw man left and Mac Williamson in right. So the Giants may need to get creative to find a role for Slater on their 25-man roster. They may find inspiration across the Bay.

Chad Pinder looked like a man without a position in the big leagues until the A's put him in the outfield last season. Primarily a middle infielder in the minor leagues, Pinder quickly took to the outfield and has now logged innings at every position except catcher and first base (he did see time at first during spring training). By using Pinder in a utility role, the A's have been able to carry an extra reliever all season and get Pinder into the lineup on a fairly regular basis.

Slater last played in a game at second base in 2015, but he didn't think it would take him long to get back up to speed at the position.

"I've always thought of myself as an infielder playing the outfield," he said before the game.

While a utility role could be in Slater's future, it doesn't appear that that role will materialize for him this season.

"I don't think he's going to play a lot of the infield," Bochy said of the possibility of Slater going to Sacramento and playing some infield. "We told him to take some groundballs at first when he has time. But that usually takes a lot of work. That's a winter project or maybe spring training. It's hard to do that during the season.

"He's having such a big season down there. We want him to just concentrate on having a good year. He's going to play outfield there and we'll see where we're at. It's pretty nice to know we have a guy like that playing so well. Same with Williamson when we called him up, because we've been nicked up and we've had our injuries. We'll see what happens, but he's doing what he needs to do."

Extra Innings

— Madison Bumgarner threw 20 pitches Monday in his first bullpen session since suffering a broken pinkie finger on the last day of the Cactus League. He threw all fastballs and felt good about the session. He's scheduled to throw another bullpen on Wednesday, which is expected to be 30 pitches. Bumgarner will mix in some of his breaking pitches in that session. He has

already been throwing them on flat ground. After that, he will throw again on Saturday and then face hitters when the team is in Houston.

Bumgarner said that he anticipates making at least two rehab starts in the minor leagues. He doesn't have an exact timetable for his return to the rotation.

"It just depends if they want me back throwing 60 pitches or 100 is basically what it comes down to," he said before Monday's game. "Depends on how the first couple of rehab starts feel. Not results-wise, but how my offspeed stuff is, my command of it. I know my arm feels strong so I don't worry about that, but just the sharpness and command of my stuff. As long as it's there then it's however they want to finish up."

— Mark Melancon also threw a bullpen before Monday's game. Bochy said the session went well.

"He threw all of his pitches," Bochy said. "Full intent on everything. We'll see how he comes out of it."

— Bochy said that Joe Panik is making progress in his recovery from a torn UCL in his thumb.

"He's doing well. He played catch today. He'll continue that," Bochy said. "He's probably a couple weeks away. He's going to start dry swinging at the end of this week with the bat but he's probably a couple weeks away from starting to rehab."

Associated Press

McCutchen gets 1,500th hit in Giants' 10-7 win over Reds

By Josh Dubow

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Andrew McCutchen saw no reason to dwell on his 1,500th hit because he hopes to add many more.

McCutchen doubled in his first two at-bats to reach the career milestone and the San Francisco Giants snapped the Cincinnati Reds' six-game winning streak with a 10-7 victory Monday night.

"It's not a big deal because I don't want to stop at 1,500," McCutchen said. "It's just another hit and hopefully I can keep going and get 1,500 more."

McCutchen sparked a three-run first inning against Sal Romano (2-4) with his first hit and drove home a run in the second with another double. Kelby Tomlinson added a two-run single in the third and Brandon Belt homered and knocked in three runs to give the Giants consecutive wins following a six-game skid.

Tucker Barnhart homered and had three RBIs, Scott Schebler hit a solo shot and Adam Duvall added a three-run homer but the Reds failed to move out of last place in the National League

because of a rough start by Romano.

“I thought I threw some pretty good off-speed pitches, but I just never got in that flow,” Romano said. “I’ve got to be able to bear down and get guys out with two outs. I allowed a lot of two-out hits and then obviously in the third inning with the one-out hits. Just wasn’t sharp.”

The right-hander put Cincinnati in an early hole when Evan Longoria drove in McCutchen with a two-out single in the first and Brandon Crawford added a two-run double.

McCutchen drove in a run with a two-out hit in the second as the Giants scored three of their first four runs after there were two outs.

“You saw the difference when that happens,” manager Bruce Bochy said. “We had some games where we were missing that. We were fortunate we did it tonight because they were scoring runs there, too.”

Tomlinson ended Romano’s night with his one-out hit in the third. Romano gave up six runs over 2 1/3 innings after allowing two or fewer earned runs in his previous five starts.

“He’s been doing a really good job for us,” interim manager Jim Riggleman said. “His stuff just wasn’t as sharp tonight. He was out there competing like he always does but it just wasn’t quite coming out of his hand the way it had been lately and the Giants made him pay for it.”

Chris Stratton (4-3) wasn’t much better, allowing two homers in five-plus innings. He has served up six long balls in his past four starts after permitting none in the previous six dating to last season.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Reds: 1B Joey Votto left in the fourth with tightness in his lower back and might need a day off Tuesday. ... RHP Michael Lorenzen (right shoulder strain) and RHP Anthony DeSclafani (left oblique strain) were sent to Double-A Pensacola on rehab assignments. DeSclafani started and threw three perfect innings. Lorenzen followed and pitched a scoreless fourth. Lorenzen will need about three more outings and could be back in a week to 10 days, Riggleman said. DeSclafani should be ready to return in late May or early June.

Giants: Ace lefty Madison Bumgarner threw off a mound for the first time since undergoing surgery in March to have three pins inserted into the broken pinkie on his pitching hand. ... Giants closer Mark Melancon also threw a bullpen as he works his way back from an elbow injury that has sidelined him all season. ... INF Alen Hanson was placed on the 10-day DL before the game with a left hamstring strain. OF Austin Slater was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento to take his place.

SHAKE IT UP

There was a minor 3.5-magnitude earthquake centered across the bay near Oakland that was felt by some at the ballpark during a plate appearance by Votto in the first inning.

DOUBLED UP

The Giants had a season-high seven doubles, including two each by McCutchen and Crawford.

UP NEXT

Tyler Mahle (3-4) makes his first career appearance against the Giants in the middle game of the series Tuesday. Ty Blach (3-3) pitches for San Francisco.