

Bumgarner Brilliant In Defeat

Written by Mike Kelly
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Madison Bumgarner could author a novel on heartbreak and disappointment.

The lefthander suffered his eighth loss of the season last night, despite one of his best performances of the year. Bumgarner coughed up one earned run on eight hits with no walks and seven strikeouts over seven innings.

On any given night, those impressive numbers are good enough to win a game rather easily. But that's not the case for Bumgarner. The San Francisco Giants, who have had problems giving him run support all season, dropped a 3-0 decision to Cincinnati Wednesday night at AT&T Park.

Bumgarner, who has lowered his earned-run-average to 3.23 on the year, has only given up 12 earned runs in his last seven starts (1.78 ERA). But he's only 2-4 with a no-decision during that stretch.

The Giants have scored all of 20 runs during those seven starts, an average of 2.9 runs-per-game. Despite the loss, the Giants (35-28) still own a one-game lead on Arizona for first place in the National League West. Bumgarner won't pitch again until June 15, when the Giants play the Diamondbacks in Phoenix.