

Bumgarner Streak Halted By Dodgers

Written by Mike Kelly

Friday, 23 September 2011 08:53

Madison Bumgarner has had it on cruise control since late August.

Despite a sluggish start that saw the left-hander lose his first six decisions of the season, he methodically worked his way back by winning 12 of his next 18 starts. That effort left Bumgarner, who probably has one start left in the regular season, with a 12-12 record. It also got the San Francisco Giants back in the pennant race.

San Francisco (84-72) began the night trailing the Atlanta Braves by just 3 1/2 games in the National League Wildcard race. And Bumgarner was superb during his recent stretch. He was 5-0 with a stingy 1.23 earned-run-average. But it all came to a screeching halt Thursday night. The Los Angeles Dodgers roughed up Bumgarner for four runs on nine hits in just four innings and defeated the Giants 8-2 at Dodgers Stadium. The loss leaves the Giants four games behind the Braves in the wildcard race with six games left to play. Bumgarner (12-13 with a 3.32 ERA) may have one start left next week when the Giants return home to close out the regular season against the Colorado Rockies. The Giants are in Phoenix to play the Arizona Diamondbacks this weekend.