

Bumgarner Blanks Tigers In Fall Classic

Written by Staff Reports

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The game of baseball emulate everyday life. One day, you can't do anything wrong, and the next, no matter what you do, it just doesn't seem to mesh. Well, Madison Bumgarner has gone through

his share of ups-and-downs this season. Despite winning 16 games (16-11 with a 3.37 earned-run-average) for the San Francisco Giants, the left hander, who led South Caldwell High to a state championship his senior year in 2007, struggled down the stretch. He was 2-4 with a no-decision in his last seven appearances of the regular season. And those struggles continued in the playoffs.

He was 0-2 with a hefty 11.25 ERA in two post-season appearances. But the youngster, who was stellar in winning game four in the World Series against the Texas Rangers in 2010, displayed that brilliance Thursday night in game two against the Detroit Tigers. Bumgarner went seven innings, scattered two hits, walked two and struck out eight as the Giants take a 2-0 lead in this best-of seven series.

"It definitely feels a whole lot better than having our backs against the wall," Bumgarner said.

"But you can't relax. We've got to keep pushing. Just able to make pitches. I hadn't done a very good job of making pitches this postseason so far and this is a team that you're not going to be able to afford to miss with. Buster (Posey) called a good game behind the plate, and they hit some balls hard, but luckily we were in the right spot."

Hunter Pence scored San Francisco's first run on a double-play ball in the seventh, and he drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. The series now moves to Comerica Park in Detroit Saturday night at 8:07 p.m. Ryan Vogelsong (2-0, 1.42 ERA) goes for the Giants; Anibal Sanchez (1-1, 1.35 ERA) goes for the Tigers.

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