

Bumgarner wins again

Written by Mike Kelly
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Madison Bumgarner, who picked up his first Major League win last Tuesday against Milwaukee, was at it again on Sunday afternoon.

The lefthander from Lenior, NC, picked up his second win in as many starts as the San Francisco Giants knocked off the Washington Nationals 6-2 at Nationals Park in the nation's capital.

Bumgarner went 6-plus innings (he faced one man in the seventh) and gave up one earned run on seven hits. He struck out six, didn't walk anyone and he did hit two batters as he evened up his Major-League record at 2-2.

"He threw the ball in and out really well. He had that cutter working and was able to throw the changeup for a strike when he needed it," said Giants catcher Buster Posey, who had a two-run triple in the third inning that broke the game open, giving the Giants a 5-0 lead. "Later in the game, he'll start flipping curveballs the third and fourth time through the lineup."

Bumgarner, who has only given up four earned runs in his last 21 innings of work, finally had his 16-inning scoreless streak broken in the seventh. Ian Desmond of the Nationals led off the inning with a single. After Bumgarner left, Desmond stole second base and scored on Christian Guzman's run-scoring single off relief pitcher Chris Ray.

But that was the only blemish against Bumgarner, who wriggled out of a bases-loaded, two-out jam in the sixth. He coughed up three consecutive singles after he retired the first two men he faced. Bumgarner finally got out of the inning on a lazy fly ball off the bat of Mike Morse to close out the frame.

"I feel like confidence is a big thing, and if you have a little bit of success you get more confidence," Bumgarner said. "I'm pretty happy with these last two starts."

In all, Bumgarner threw 103 pitches, 71 for strikes. And he also threw 18 first-pitch strikes. And Bumgarner has completed at least seven innings in all four of his starts this season.

Bumgarner, who was the No. 10 overall pick in the 2007 Draft, is just the latest first-round selection to make his way into the Giants' rotation. Reigning back-to-back Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum was also taken 10th overall in 2006, while Matt Cain was the 25th selection in 2002 and Barry Zito was picked ninth by Oakland in 1999.