

Braves Best Bumgarner

Written by Mike Kelly
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Madison Bumgarner, who has simply dominated the opposition for many years, suddenly finds himself searching for answers

The San Francisco Giants left-hander lost his third consecutive game Friday night in a 4-1 loss against Atlanta at AT&T Park in San Francisco. The Braves sent him to the showers in the third inning. Bumgarner (0-3 in four starts), who has astronomical earned-run-average of 7.79, coughed up four earned runs in 2 2/3 innings of work.

"I felt like I had some of the best stuff I've had since I've been here," Bumgarner said. "I guess I'm just having some bad luck right now. I'm trying not to change things and trying not to get frustrated. It's good to have guys like Jeremy Affeldt around to talk with. I realize everybody goes through this. It's hard and I'm trying to deal with it. Nobody said it was easy. The best hitters in the world is who we're facing. I guess it's all part of the growing pains."

Ironically, Bumgarner became the youngest pitcher in franchise history at the age of 21, to beat the Braves in the clinching game of the National League Divisional Series at Turner Field last fall.