

Bumgarner Wins Third Straight

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Madison Bumgarner is making up for lost time.

With the 2011 season coming to a close, and with the World Champion San Francisco Giants about to miss the post-season party this season, Bumgarner, who began the year losing his first six decisions, is starting to heat up. He's won his last three starts, and he's dominant during that stretch.

Bumgarner handcuffed the Los Angeles Dodgers for five innings on Sunday as the Giants (76-70), who trail the Arizona Diamondbacks by 8 1/2 games for first place in the National League West and the Atlanta Braves by 7 1/2 games in the NL Wildcard race, coasted to an 8-1 win at AT&T Park in San Francisco. Bumgarner went five innings, gave up an earned run on five hits, walked three and struck out eight in picking up his 11th win of the year.

And Bumgarner (11-12 with a 3.33 earned-run-average) has been extremely stingy in his last three outings. In his last three wins against the Chicago Cubs, the San Diego Padres and the Dodgers, Bumgarner has logged 21 1/3 innings, given up three earned runs on 12 hits with six walks and 32 strikeouts with a 1.27 ERA.

And six of his wins this year, including each of the last four, have come after Giants losses. The Giants were mired in a three-game slide before Bumgarner's gem on Sunday. The lefthander will most likely pitch again this coming weekend, when the Giants venture to Denver to play the Colorado Rockies.