

Bumgarner Blanks Braves

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 15 June 2013 08:35

Madison Bumgarner is on the upswing again. Normally a slow starter, Bumgarner got off to a strong start by winning his first three decisions. He gave up seven earned runs in his first six appearances.

But since that time, the left hander from South Caldwell High, hit a bumpy road. Bumgarner lost four of his next five starts with four no-decisions. He coughed up 23 earned runs during that stretch, and his earned-run-average, which stood at 1.55 at the end of April, ballooned to 5.17 by the end of May.

But Bumgarner is back on track (at least for now) again. He tossed seven scoreless innings, scattered two hits and struck out ten, one shy of his season high (he had 11 against the Braves in a 10-1 win on May 11) as the San Francisco Giants defeated the Atlanta Braves 6-0 Friday night at Turner Field in Atlanta, Ga. The win also came one day after Matt Cain was similarly dominant in leading San Francisco to a 10-0 shutout of the Pirates on Thursday.

Bumgarner, pitching one year and one day after Cain's perfect game against the Houston, Astros did not allow a baserunner until B.J. Upton walked with two outs in the fifth. Bumgarner then struck out Dan Uggla, who remained at home plate to argue the called third strike with umpire Gary Darling. Chris Johnson broke up his no-hit bid with a lead-off single in the sixth. It was Bumgarner's best outing since May 22 against the Washington Nationals. Bumgarner gave up an earned run on four hits in seven inning with five strikeouts. The Giants lost that game 2-1 in ten innings. Bumgarner didn't figure in the decision.

The win also keeps the Giants (35-31) in sole possession of second place in the National League West, just 1 1/2 games behind the first-place Arizona Diamondbacks.

Photo Courtesy: Madison Bumgarner, PHOTO SUBMITTED