<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento's streak snapped in 8-1 loss to El Paso</td>
<td>River Cats</td>
<td>Arnold-Gordon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versatile Stratton gives SF rotation flexibility</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker has oblique strain, will miss Rox series</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Hundley has been a huge addition for Giants, but will he be back in 2018?</td>
<td>CSN Bay Area</td>
<td>Pavlovic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giants take heat: 95 degrees at game time, and then it soared</td>
<td>SF Gate</td>
<td>Shea</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hundley's homer lifts Giants in 10th</td>
<td>SF Gate</td>
<td>Shea</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hundley delivers walk-off homer in extras as Giants top Cards</td>
<td>Mercury News</td>
<td>Gackle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sacramento's streak snapped in 8-1 loss to El Paso

By Evan Arnold-Gordon / Sacramento River Cats

West Sacramento, CA - The Sacramento River Cats (63-76) saw their season-high five-game winning streak come to an end as they fell 8-1 to the the El Paso Chihuahuas (72-68) Saturday night at Raley Field.

El Paso did their damage tonight against Sacramento starter Jose Flores, touching him up for seven runs (six earned) over his five frames tonight. The Chihuahuas pushed four runs across in the third inning and added three more in the fifth. In both innings, El Paso took advantage of Sacramento errors. On the night, the River Cats failed to retire El Paso in order in any inning.

Ryan Lollis drove in the lone River Cats run, knocking in Slade Heathcott in the sixth inning, preventing the shutout. Sacramento dropped their record to 1-18 when scoring one run this season.

Game three tomorrow will feature left-hander Andrew Suarez (6-5, 3.19) for the River Cats and right-hander Tim Melville (0-0, 9.00) for the Chihuahuas. First pitch is set for 5:05 p.m. (PT) and the game can be heard live online at rivercats.com and on the air on ESPN 1320.

Postgame Notes

Lollis: First baseman Ryan Lollis extended his hitting streak to four games...is hitting .571 (8-for-14) over that span with three RBI.

Duggar: Centerfielder Steven Duggar finished 2-for-5, his third two-hit game with the club...Duggar is now hitting .462 (6-for-13) against left-handed pitching this season.

Rehab Report: Left fielder Austin Slater went 1-for-3 in his second rehab appearance with the River Cats...played seven innings before being replaced by Wynton Bernard

Flores: Right-hander Jose Flores allowed a season-high six earned runs tonight...has struggled in his two starts against El Paso, allowing 10 earned runs in seven innings pitched (12.86 ERA).

Swiped: Sacramento allowed four stolen bases tonight...as a team, have allowed the second most in the league this season (111)...Flores has now caught two of 16 would-be base stealers and catcher Jeff Arnold has caught just one in 18 attempts.

Versatile Stratton gives SF rotation flexibility

By Jonathan Hawthorne / MLB.com

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Giants' rotation shuffles continued Saturday, when they tabbed Madison Bumgarner to start the series finale against the Cardinals while bumping up Jeff Samardzija for Saturday's start.
Samardzija, who took Chris Stratton’s scheduled spot, spun his fourth career shutout Monday against the Padres. Giants manager Bruce Bochy said he was prepared to summon Stratton in Friday's 11-6 loss to the Cardinals. The game was tied in the ninth.

"Strat's got experience pitching in the 'pen," Bochy said. "We're a little short right now and we need some help there."

But if Stratton, who owns a career 2-2 record and 2.67 ERA as a starter, doesn't pitch out of the bullpen Saturday or Sunday, the Giants are "leaning toward" using him Monday in the series opener against the Rox in Denver.

"He's going to get his innings in," Bochy said of Stratton. "We just happen to have six starters right now. Trying to keep them all going. He [Stratton] has the most experience of being a swingman, even though he's young -- it's been his role. He's done such a great job of it that we don't think it's affecting him."

Should Stratton go Monday, Matt Moore will likely be bumped back to the team's series against the White Sox with Ty Blach starting Tuesday. Bochy said the decision officially is TBD.

"Moore could help us out in the 'pen or he could pitch in Chicago," Bochy said.

Johnny Cueto could pitch the Colorado series finale on Wednesday. Cueto allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings Friday in his first Major League game in 1 1/2 months.

"It's kind of where we have him lined up," Bochy said. "We're going to try and stay flexible here depending on what happens."

Worth noting
• Outfielder Austin Slater begin his rehab assignment at Triple-A Sacramento Friday, going 1-for-3 in five innings. He's due to play seven innings Saturday.

"He got through it fine," Bochy said.

Parker has oblique strain, will miss Rox series

By Jonathan Hawthorne / MLB.com

SAN FRANCISCO -- An MRI exam taken on Saturday showed Giants left fielder Jarrett Parker sustained a mild oblique strain on his left side during Friday's game against the Cardinals.

The Giants initially listed Parker, who started 24 of 29 games in August, as day to day. But Giants manager Bruce Bochy said Parker won't be available when San Francisco travels to Denver for a three-game set beginning Monday.

"Right now, I would say he's going to miss the Colorado series," Bochy said. "We're hopeful this will clear up enough so that he can play in Chicago [against the White Sox on Friday]."

With expanded rosters, the Giants don't need to place Parker on the disabled list.
Parker on Friday said the symptoms started earlier in that night’s contest and got progressively worse. He left the game during the fifth inning.

Gorkys Hernandez becomes the team’s everyday left fielder with Parker sidelined. Hernandez has had an offensive surge recently, hitting .312 over his last 58 games, though he went 0-for-3 with a strikeout in Saturday’s 2-1, 10-inning win over St. Louis.

Parker missed 96 games earlier this season after fracturing his right clavicle. He returned from the disabled list on Aug. 3.

**Nick Hundley has been a huge addition for Giants, but will he be back in 2018?**

**By Alex Pavlovic / CSN Bay Area**

SAN FRANCISCO — The Giants brought Michael Morse back in part because they felt the clubhouse needed an infusion of life. Pablo Sandoval’s return was also spurred by that search for energy, for that unidentifiable factor that can make the the sum greater than the parts.

The real answer, though, has been on the roster all along. Throughout a terrible, dragging season, teammates have quietly pointed to Nick Hundley as a heartbeat, a daily source of energy and enthusiasm.

The backup catcher is Hunter Pence Light when it comes to positivity, even in a year such as this one. Hundley can hit, too, and he showed his power stroke off in the 10th inning Saturday. On a day when the Giants looked headed for a one-hit loss, Hundley smoked a pitch into the arcade section for the second walk-off homer of his career. The 2-1 win set off a celebration at home plate filled with splashes of water and Powerade, as players happily embraced a soak on a day when temperatures soared past 100 degrees.

Hundley changed his shirt before talking to reporters. When one asked if he had cleared that high wall in right before, he smiled.

“Yeah,” he said flatly. “About 20 minutes ago.”

Hundley can keep a group light, but the Giants like him for more than his clubhouse demeanor. He is a seasoned pro, and after Saturday’s game he said it hasn’t been hard to stay ready, noting that he owes it to Buster Posey to fill in ably, and the Giants owe it to the rest of the National League to play hard down the stretch.

Hundley’s on-field contributions have stood out all year. He has a .723 OPS and six homers in limited time. He ranks fifth on the club with 22 doubles.

“He’s a pleasure to have on the club,” manager Bruce Bochy said. “His energy, his enthusiasm, the talent. He brings a lot of experience into every game. It’s allowed me to rest Buster more and he’s a threat up there. It’s been fun to have him here.”

The question now: Will Hundley be back?
He signed a one-year, $2 million deal at the end of January and has more than exceeded expectations. The organization’s best catching prospect, Aramis Garcia, only just recently reached Double-A, so it would make sense to give Hundley another whirl, especially with some uncertainty about what might happen down the line with Brandon Belt, and how that might affect Posey’s playing time mix. Of course, there’s a chance someone out there might look at Hundley as an everyday catcher, or someone who can split time with a younger backstop.

Hundley said the question is “a futuristic” one.

“I’ll talk about it when the time comes,” Hundley said. “Those questions, I don’t answer (right now).”

But …

“I love these guys,” Hundley said. “The people in this clubhouse are winners. It hasn’t been the best year, but these guys are great to come to work with and play with.”

If the Giants are intent on trying to contend next year, bringing Hundley back would be a smart move. On Saturday, he allowed the group to have some fun on a day when it looked like Jeff Samardzija’s gem would be wasted. He allowed one run through seven, but Lance Lynn was a bit sharper, throwing eight one-hit innings. Lynn was at just 101 pitches, but Mike Matheny turned to the bullpen and it cost him. About 20 minutes later, Hundley walked it off. The Giants are happy with any win at this point, but players took a bit more from it coming from such a popular teammate.

“He’s one of the best (teammates) I’ve ever had,” Samardzija said. “You like to see it happen to a guy like that.”

Giants take heat: 95 degrees at game time, and then it soared

By John Shea / SF Gate

So the hitting conditions are advantageous in this weather? Balls flying off bats? A hitters’ paradise?

So true Friday.

Not so true Saturday — at least until Nick Hundley’s walk-off homer in the 10th inning.

For most of the day, Jeff Samardzija and Lance Lynn turned AT&T Park back into a pitchers’ yard, each showing efficiency and dominance through much of a game witnessed by fans using makeshift fans. Newspapers, programs, foam fingers. Anything to circulate air.

The first-pitch temperature was 95 degrees, and it soared from there — matching the second-hottest game in the 18-year history of the Giants’ downtown ballpark. Only a June 14, 2000, game with the Reds, which began at 97 degrees, was hotter.

“I signed here for the fall football weather,” said Samardzija, a former Notre Dame wide receiver. “Let’s see if that comes back soon.”
Unlike Friday night’s game, which featured 17 runs and 26 hits, Saturday’s matinee mostly was about well-placed pitches, soft contact and swings and misses. The teams combined for seven hits, four by the Giants, who had one entering the ninth.

“I kind of figured it would be a different day,” Samardzija said. “They played a long one last night. With the quick turnaround coming this morning, you knew both lineups would be dragging a little bit. You want to attack the zone and not give them too much to hit.”

Manager Bruce Bochy credited Samardzija and Lynn for the lack of hitting. “Two pitchers on top of their game as good as we’ve seen all year,” Bochy said.

Briefly: Jarrett Parker’s MRI exam showed a mild oblique strain on his left side, according to Bochy, and the outfielder will miss the upcoming series in Denver. He could be available next weekend in Chicago. ... Samardzija has given up two earned runs in 22 innings over his past three starts. He pitched on his normal four days’ rest in place of Chris Stratton, who was an option for long relief this weekend and is penciled in to start Monday.

Hundley’s homer lifts Giants in 10th

By John Shea / SF Gate

Nick Hundley will be a free agent after the season, and he and the Giants seem a perfect match.

“I love these guys,” the catcher said. “People in this clubhouse are winners. It hasn’t been the best year, but these guys are great to come to work and play with.”

In the Giants’ lost season, Hundley has been productive backing up catcher Buster Posey and getting his share of big hits, his latest a 10th-inning walk-off home run in Saturday’s 2-1 victory over the Cardinals at AT&T Park.

Hundley slugged Ryan Sherriff’s 92 mph fastball over the right-field wall, a rare feat for a right-handed batter, and was mobbed at home plate by teammates who appreciate his contributions and energy.

Jeff Samardzija, who gave the Giants an opportunity to win with seven dominant innings (one run, two hits, nine strikeouts), called Hundley “an amazing teammate, one of the best I ever had. He brings emotion every day to the team, playing or not.”

Manager Bruce Bochy said Hundley is “a pleasure to have around the club. His energy. His enthusiasm. The talent. He brings a lot of experience. Brings it every game. ... It’s fun to have him here.”

The Giants have major issues to address in the offseason, including center field, third base and the bullpen, but the catching combination of Posey and Hundley has been perfectly fine.

Posey is signed for four more years, so the question is whether Hundley will be back in 2018. He got a $2 million contract in January, almost an afterthought to the $62 million deal given to closer Mark Melancon (Hundley’s teammate at the University of Arizona), and figures to get more on the open market — especially if there’s a team willing to give Hundley an everyday job.
Hundley didn’t want to address his free agency with a month left in the season but emphasized his fondness for his teammates.

He’s hitting .260 with six homers and 22 doubles, fifth most on the team in just 223 at-bats. Pitchers commend his work behind the plate, and he has thrown out 34 percent of runners trying to steal, not far from Posey’s 37 percent.

“Obviously, the season hasn’t gone the way we wanted,” Hundley said. “There’s a lot of pride in this clubhouse, a lot of fight in us. There’s a lot of guys who won championships in here.

“To play a team like the Cardinals, who are still fighting for the playoff race and to come out and get a win, it’s really important. It’s important for us, and it’s important for the league. The rest of the league deserves our best shot, too.”

Hundley had rough at-bats early in the game against Lance Lynn, who yielded one hit in eight scoreless innings and retired Hundley on a bases-loaded forceout to end the first inning.

Hundley popped out and flied to deep right his next two at-bats. The flyout gave him a good indication of how the ball was traveling on a sizzling day with the first-pitch temperature at 95 degrees, matching the second hottest day in the 18-year ballpark’s history.

The next time Hundley hit a deep fly to right, he knew it was gone. He also homered down the line in right in the Giants’ final game before the All-Star break. Saturday’s was his second career walk-off homer, his first since 2009 as a Padre.

Dexter Fowler’s RBI single in the fourth gave the Cardinals a 1-0 lead into the ninth. Posey’s bloop single scored Hunter Pence to tie it.

A day after the Giants’ bullpen surrendered nine runs in three innings in an 11-6 loss, Cory Gearrin, Steven Okert and Derek Law combined for two perfect innings (five strikeouts), and Sam Dyson overcame Fowler’s leadoff triple in the 10th to set the stage for Hundley.

Hundley delivers walk-off homer in extras as Giants top Cards

By PAUL GACKLE / Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO — In a Murphy’s law season, Nick Hundley is proving to be a bright spot for the Giants, giving the squad a serviceable backup to catcher Buster Posey and a plethora of intangibles with the determined attitude that he brings to the clubhouse.

On Saturday, he gave the Giants more than intangibles, delivering a walk-off home run to lead off the 10th inning of a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

The home run snapped the Giants four-game losing streak.

“There’s intangibles that go with this game that other guys feed off of,” starting pitcher Jeff Samardzija said, emphasizing the importance of Hundley’s role on the team.
“Some guys are energy, emotional guys. Some guys are pretty flatlined and show up every day and do their jobs, so you need those guys that come here and have energy every day and just love to be here. That stuff is contagious throughout the team.

The Giants signed the veteran catcher in the offseason to give the team more depth and experience behind the plate. The move is paying off as Hundley is proving to be a more reliable option than 2016 backup catcher Trevor Brown, batting .260 with six home runs and 25 RBI in 80 games, one of the handful of things that has gone right for the Giants this season.

“He’s a pleasure to have on the club,” manager Bruce Bochy said. “His energy, his enthusiasm, the talent. He brings a lot of experience. He’s into every game. He’s just done a terrific job in the games he’s played. It’s allowed me to rest Buster more and he’s gotten huge hits for us.”

The veteran catcher said his approach is simple: show up at the ballpark ready to play, mentally and physically, every day.

“It’s my job to be prepared,” he said.

Hundley showed off his strength in the 10th, muscling his second-career walk off home run into the first row of the arcade above Willie Mays wall in right even though he was batting against reliever Ryan Sherriff (0-1) from the right side of the plate.

The Giants reached extra innings because they managed to squeak out a pair of singles in the ninth after getting one hit by Cardinals starter Lance Lynn over the game’s first eight innings.

Hunter Pence started the comeback charge in the ninth by hitting a ground ball single up the middle. After Joe Panik moved Pence over to second with a sacrifice bunt, Posey tied the game by lunging down to bloop a low slider over second baseman Kolten Wong’s head.

Despite the ninth-inning heroics, the Cardinals looked destined to pull ahead in the top of the 10th when centerfielder Dexter Fowler led off the inning with a standup triple to Triples Alley in right-center field.

But right-hander Sam Dyson, who coughed up five earned runs over 1/3 of an inning in the ninth Friday, managed to pitch his way out of the jam, inducing a ground out from Yadier Molina before Pablo Sandoval threw out pinch runner Harrison Bader at the plate on a bouncer to third.

On a breezeless day with temperatures around 100 degrees, the conditions at the pitcher-friendly ballpark appeared to be tilting in the batters’ favor for once. But Samardzija and Lynn proved that great pitching will always clear Mother Nature’s hurdles.

Bochy told Giants’ team president Larry Baer after the game that the duel was, “as good as any we’ve seen all year.”

“When they’re on top of their games, they’re going to throw a great ballgame,” the Giants manager said. “Now, with that said, as you know, it’s hot out there. But that’s baseball. It’s always been played in hot weather and that’s why I credit the pitching to today’s low-scoring game.”

Samardzija, who got the ball in place of scheduled starter Chris Stratton, brought his best stuff, striking out nine batters while surrendering just one run on two hits over seven innings of work. He threw 112 pitches in the scorching heat.
“It was hot out there, man, kind of sneaky,” Samardzija said. “I’ve asked a few people that have been here a while if they’ve ever seen this before. They said no, so it’s pretty wild.

“I signed here for the fall football weather.”

The Shark fanned five-straight batters in the second and third, including the three Cardinals he faced in the latter inning. His lone blemish came in the fourth after he surrendered his first hit of the game to the leadoff batter, Jose Martinez, and his second to Fowler. Martinez scored on Fowler’s single past Posey at first base after he advanced to second on a wild pitch.

After that, Samardzija retired nine in a row and 10 of the last 11 batters he faced. The only Cardinals hitter to reach base against him after the fourth was Molina, who drew a walk in the seventh.

“It’s good to pick up Samardzija,” Bochy said. “That would have been a tough loss for him.”

But Cardinals starter Lance Lynn proved to be just as filthy on the hill for the Red Birds, tossing eight-shutout innings of one-hit baseball.

Lynn, who entered the game with a 4-1 record and a 2.13 ERA since July 1, faced the minimum number of batters possible (18) between the second and eighth innings.

The Giants were glad to see him leave the game before the ninth.

“I don’t think he threw a ball over the middle of the plate,” Hundley said. “He was throwing the fastball on both sides of the plate, executing. He made it really tough.

“Jeez, I thought he did an outstanding job.”

— MRI tests revealed a mild-oblique strain on outfielder Jarrett Parker’s left side Saturday. Bochy said Parker will miss the team’s three-game series with the Colorado Rockies next week, but he’s “hopeful” that the left fielder will be ready to go when they travel to Chicago on the weekend for a set with the White Sox.

— The 95-degree temperature at first pitch tied the second-hottest start in the 18-year history of AT&T Park. The thermometer also hit 95 degrees on May 15, 2008. The hottest start-time temperature (97 degrees) was recorded on June 14, 2000.

— Austin Slater went 1 for 3 in the first game of his rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Sacramento Friday night. Slater is expected to rejoin the Giants lineup during their six-game road trip next week.

— Pablo Sandoval went 0 for 3 Saturday, making him 0 for his last 26 plate appearances.