

Phils rally to beat SF

By Janie McCauley
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Wilson Valdez doubled home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, Jayson Werth's three-run double with two outs in the ninth rallied Philadelphia after Tim Lincecum left the game, and the Phillies beat the San Francisco Giants 7-6 on Wednesday to avoid their first sweep of 2010.

Ryan Howard snapped a career-high 65 at-bat homerless streak in the fifth when he sent the first pitch from Lincecum into the left-field seats. It was Howard's first homer since agreeing Monday to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension.

Lincecum, the two-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, struck out 11 in outdueling Cole Hamels and was poised to win his fifth straight start to begin the year until closer Brian Wilson blew it.

Nate Schierholtz had an RBI double in the bottom of the 11th for his career-high fifth hit but it wasn't enough on a day the Giants stranded 16 baserunners.

Ryan Madson (1-0) pitched one inning for the win despite allowing an RBI single to Andres Torres in the bottom of the 10th, Torres' third RBI of the game. Nelson Figueroa finished for his first career save.

Schierholtz's 11th-inning double moved Juan Uribe — aboard on a pinch-hit single — to third and brought up Eugenio Velez. He grounded into a fielder's choice to first and Howard threw

home to save the tying run on a close call at the plate.

The Phillies added an insurance run in the 11th on Velez's fielding error in left when he dropped a routine fly by Shane Victorino.

Brian Schneider scored for Philadelphia in the top of the 10th on a wild pitch. Sergio Romo (0-2) was the loser.

The homer by Howard was just the second of the year allowed by Lincecum, and Howard's three career clouts against the Giants' ace are the most by anyone.

Lincecum had thrown 98 pitches when he went out to start the ninth but was done after a one-out walk to Victorino. Fans booed when manager Bruce Bochy removed the right-hander. Wilson then blew his first save in five chances.

Lincecum and Hamels combined for 21 strikeouts. Torres drew a go-ahead, bases-loaded walk from Hamels in the sixth and also hit a tying RBI double in the fifth, but the bullpen couldn't keep a 4-1 lead.

Lincecum struck out the side in the second and reached double digits in strikeouts for the 21st time and the second this year. Hamels did so for the 13th time and first in 2010.

After Torres' walk in the sixth, Edgar Renteria followed with a two-run single.

Howard hit a two-out double to right in the seventh, sliding in to make sure he was safe after Schierholtz threw him out when he slowed up on a similar play during a 6-2 loss Tuesday night.

The reigning NL champion Phillies avoided their first four-game skid since dropping four straight at Houston last Sept. 4-7.

PHILLIES

Phillies

Giants



Associated Press photo

Pirates catcher Ryan Doumit (left) tags out Milwaukee Brewers' Jim Edmonds at home plate.

Pirates win in 14

By Colin Fly
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Ryan Doumit got the best of Trevor Hoffman again and Garrett Jones' two-out, run-scoring double in the 14th rallied the Pittsburgh Pirates past the Milwaukee Brewers 6-5 on Wednesday.

Doumit homered off the all-time saves leader for the second straight day to start the ninth, tying it 4-4. Andrew McCutchen hit the second of his two homers in the 10th for Pittsburgh, but Milwaukee rallied for a run off Pirates closer Octavio Dotel on Casey McGehee's one-out single.

Akinori Iwamura singled to lead off the 14th inning and Jones delivered a double down the right-field line off Brewers reliever Manny Parra (0-1).

Pirates reliever D.J. Carrasco (1-0) got the victory with three scoreless innings.

Both team made mistakes in extra innings that extended the game.

In the 12th, Pittsburgh started with consecutive singles from McCutchen and Jones, but Lastings Milledge popped up a bunt attempt foul that catcher Gregg Zaun caught and doubled off McCutchen at second.

In the 13th, Edmonds led off with a walk.

After Zaun popped out, Edmonds stole second and Alcides Escobar hit a soft single. Edmonds tried to score, but Milledge's weak two-hop throw from left field got Edmonds because Doumit blocked the plate effectively. It's been a puzzling start for the 42-year-old Hoffman.

He's blown four opportunities this year after the all-time saves leader failed just four times all last year.

Both he and manager Ken Macha have said physically that he's fine, but the bad outings have piled up. His ERA actually dropped to 13.00 after allowing his sixth home run this season compared to just two last year.

Doumit hit the first grand slam Hoffman had ever allowed in 995 appearances in the Pirates' win on Tuesday off a fastball. This time, Hoffman only threw changeups to Doumit and the burly switch-hitter connected on the fourth one clocked at 74 mph by flicking it just over the right-field wall.

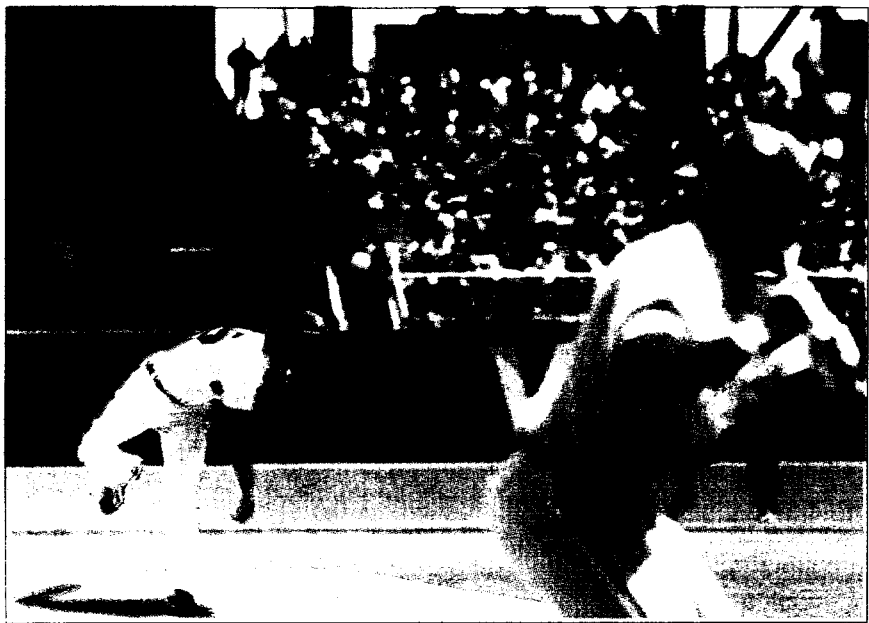
Hoffman got out of the inning and McCutchen jumped on reliever Claudio Vargas' first pitch of the 10th to give Pitt, a 5-4 lead. But Dotel couldn't hold it.

Ryan Braun doubled with one out and after Prince Fielder was intentionally walked, McGehee singled with a bouncer up the middle that plated Braun and made it 5-4. Edmonds popped out and Zaun walked to load the bases, but Escobar popped out weakly.

PIRATES

Pirates

Brewers



Associated Press photo

Tim Lincecum (left) delivers a pitch to Phillies third baseman Placido Polanco.

Outstanding Seniors, congratulations on behalf of the Panhellenic Council and your chapters. Thank you for your service and dedication to your organization, and good luck in the future!

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