

Commentary: Bumgarner Great, But Bochy Good, Too

BY TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

The easiest decision Bruce Bochy had all night was when to put Madison Bumgarner in the game.

The hardest thing was supposed to be deciding when to take him out.

Actually it wasn't that tough. You don't win three World Series in five years without knowing that sometimes the best buttons are the ones not pushed.

The hottest pitcher on the planet wanted the ball in the one game that mattered most. Once he got it, the unassuming man just starting to get some credit as one of the great managers of his era stayed out of his way.

"Our horse was out there and we rode him," Bochy said. "He was throwing so well there was no way I was taking him out."

A World Series that struggled to get noticed will now likely be long remembered, thanks to a laconic lefty who won it almost by himself. Bumgarner took the ball on two days of rest in the fifth inning and never came close to giving it up, even when a misplayed single to center put the tying

run on third base with two outs in the ninth.

A lot of managers would have gone for their closer by sheer habit by then. Bochy merely stood and watched as Bumgarner got Salvador Perez to foul out to third baseman Pablo Sandoval to cap a World Series performance that brought back memories of pitchers from the past with names like Koufax and Gibson.

"I think the best word that comes to mind is legendary," first baseman Brandon Belt said. "I'm just glad he brought me along for the ride."

Give Bumgarner credit — and plenty of it — for rising to the occasion in a 3-2 win in a World Series that went all the way to the final out of Game 7 before being decided. He won two games, saved the final, and was virtually unhittable each time he took the mound.

But give Bochy credit, too, for refusing to bow to pressure and start his ace in Game 4, a game the Giants desperately needed in San Francisco. Give him credit also for opting not to start Bumgarner in Game 7, even when he knew an aging Tim Hudson probably didn't have what it took to last many innings against the Kansas City Royals.



DAVID EULITT/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT
San Francisco Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner, right, celebrates with catcher Buster Posey after winning, 3-2, in Game 7 of the World Series against the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

Finally, give him a third World Series ring for bringing Bumgarner in to start the fifth and letting his ace do the rest.

"I was trying to think along with Bochy and was thinking maybe three (innings) out of him," catcher Buster Posey

said. "But he just kept rolling. It was unbelievable."

The same might be said of the most improbable of the Giants' three World Series runs with a team that returned only Posey as a position player from the 2010 World Series. It was

just a month ago at Dodger Stadium where the Dodgers paused long enough in celebrating their division win to glance over at the Giants' dugout and see Bochy and his coaches tipping their caps to them.

After going through the wild card game to win a third title, maybe it's time others start tipping their caps to a manager who just seems to find ways to put his players in a position to win.

"He always has faith in us and he shows it," Belt said. "We pick up on it and it makes us play better."

The Giants rewarded Bochy's faith in them when it counted most, less than 24 hours after getting blown out 10-0 in Game 6. They scratched out a couple of runs early, got the go ahead run in the fourth, then sat back and watched as Bumgarner retired batter after batter in despite throwing 117 pitches on Sunday in San Francisco.

Setup man Sergio Romo watched what was happening and didn't even bother to stretch. He knew he wouldn't be needed on the one night in baseball when pitch counts meant nothing.

In the dugout there was no discussion about when Bum-

garner might come out. Bochy simply let his star pitcher do his thing, and five innings of two-hit ball later the Giants were world champions.

Afterward, the talk was about dynasties and with three titles in five years the Giants certainly qualify, even if few outside the Bay Area can figure out how they do it. Great pitching helps, of course, but the sum of this team seems to always be better than the players you see on the field.

That's the mark of a good general manager in Brian Sabean, and a man who is in his 20th year of managing in the big leagues seems to have the job down pat.

"They know what kind of guys to bring in here," Bumgarner said. "They're winners, they got it in their DNA."

That includes the pitcher whose name will be in the record books among the World Series greats.

But don't forget the manager. He's not too shabby, either.

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SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

S.D. PLAYOFFS
CLASS 11AAA
First Round, Oct. 30
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, Rapid City Stevens 14
Sioux Falls Lincoln 65, Rapid City Central 7
Brandon Valley 17, Sioux Falls Washington 7
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 34, Aberdeen Central 19
Semifinals, Nov. 7
S.F. O'Gorman (6-3) at S.F. Lincoln (9-0), 4:30 p.m.
Brandon Valley (7-2) at S.F. Roosevelt (8-1), 7:30 p.m.
CLASS 11AA
First Round, Oct. 30
Brookings 34, Watertown 13
Harrisburg 33, Mitchell 6
Pierre 50, Douglas 28
Yankton 43, Huron 21
Semifinals, Nov. 7
No. 4 Harrisburg (5-4) at No. 1 Yankton (9-0)
No. 6 Pierre (4-5) at No. 2 Brookings (7-2)
CLASS 11A
Quarterfinals, Nov. 3
No. 8 Chamberlain (5-4) at No. 1 Madison (8-1), 6 p.m.
No. 7 Vermillion (5-4) at No. 2 Dell Rapids (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Lennox (5-4) at No. 3 West Central (7-2), 7 p.m.
No. 5 Belle Fourche (5-4) at No. 4 Hot Springs (7-2), 7 p.m. CT
CLASS 11B
Quarterfinals, Nov. 3
No. 8 Canton (6-3) at No. 1 Parkston (9-0), 7 p.m.
No. 7 Groton Area (6-3) at No. 2 Custer (8-1), 7 p.m. CT
No. 6 Bon Homme (6-3) at No. 3 St. Thomas More (8-1), 7 p.m. CT
No. 5 McCook Central-Montrose (9-0) at No. 4 Aberdeen Roncalli (9-0), 7 p.m.
CLASS 9AA
Quarterfinals, Nov. 3
No. 8 Kimball-White Lake (7-2) at No. 1 Arlington (9-0), 6:30 p.m.
No. 7 Lyman (7-2) at No. 2 Gregory (9-0), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Garrison (7-2) at No. 3 Deuel (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 5 Elkton-Lake Benton (7-2) at No. 4 Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central (8-1), 6 p.m. at Wessington Springs
CLASS 9A
Quarterfinals, Nov. 3
No. 8 Chester Area (5-4) at No. 1 Philip (9-0), 7:30 p.m. CT
No. 7 Warner (7-2) at No. 2 Howard (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 6 New Underwood (8-1) at No. 3 Alcester-Hudson (9-0), 6 p.m.
No. 5 Potter County (8-1) at No. 4 Woley-Wessington (9-0), 7 p.m. at Woley
CLASS 9B
Quarterfinals, Nov. 3
No. 8 Eureka-Bowdle (5-4) at No. 1 Hamlin (9-0), 7 p.m.
No. 7 Dell Rapids St. Mary (8-1) at No. 2 Canistota (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Avon (7-2) at No. 3 Faulkton Area (8-1), 6 p.m.
No. 5 Harding County (8-1) at No. 4 Faith (8-1), 8 p.m. CT
NEB. PLAYOFFS
CLASS C2
First Round, Oct. 31
No. 16 Lutheran High Northeast (6-3) at No. 1 Battle Creek (9-0), 7 p.m.
No. 9 Malcolm (8-1) at No. 8 Archbishop Bergan (7-2), 7 p.m.
No. 12 Gibbon (8-1) at No. 5 Aquinas Catholic (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 13 Southern (7-2) at No. 4 Hastings St. Cecilia (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 14 Stanton (7-2) at No. 3 Freeman (8-1), 7 p.m.
No. 11 Harrington Cedar Catholic (7-2) at No. 6 Sutton (9-0), 7 p.m.
No. 10 Fillmore Central (7-2) at No. 7 Oakland-Craig (8-1), 6 p.m.
No. 15 Southern Valley (6-3) at No. 2 North Platte St. Patrick's (9-0), 7 p.m.
CLASS D1
First Round, Oct. 30
Amherst 50, Ansley-Litchfield 22
Bloomfield 56, Scribner-Snyder 56
Blue Hill 55, North Central 29
Bruning-Davenport/Shickley 50, Omaha Christian Academy 0
Burwell 52, Perkins County 20
Clarkson/Leigh 34, Harrington-Westcastle 26
Creighton 56, Twin Loup 7
Diller-Odell 67, High Plains Community 30
Elm Creek 67, Arapahoe 22
Friend 62, Cross County 8
Fullerton 72, Sutherland 30
Guardian Angels 64, Pawnee City 2
Heartland 74, Nebraska City Lourdes 6
Hemingford 71, Shelton 14
Howells/Dodge 60, Cedar Bluffs 14
Neligh-Oakdale 46, Elgin
Public/Pope John 22
Second Round, Nov. 5
Neligh-Oakdale (6-3) vs. Creighton (9-0)
Elm Creek (8-1) vs. Burwell (8-1)
Blue Hill (6-3) vs. Hemingford (9-0)
Amherst (8-1) vs. Fullerton (9-0)
Diller-Odell (7-2) vs. Friend (9-0)
Guardian Angels Catholic (6-3) vs. Howells-Dodge (6-3)
Clarkson/Leigh (5-4) vs. No. 3 Heartland (9-0)
Bloomfield (7-2) vs. Bruning-Davenport/Shickley (8-1)
CLASS D2
First Round, Oct. 30
Anselmo-Merna 76, Southwest 20
Bertrand 48, Hay Springs 20
Brady 48, Overton 36
CWC 49, Wynot 26
Elwood 56, Loomis 0
Everts/Milligan 56, Red Cloud 6
Falls City Sacred Heart 52, Emerson-Hubbard 13
Garden County 28, Mullen 20
Gilmer 74, Lawrence-Nelson 36
Humphrey St. Francis 70, St. Mary's 14
Kenesaw 54, Meridian 26
Maxwell 62, Medicine Valley 42
Paxton 52, Potter-Dix 40
Randolph 54, Bancroft-Rosalie 14
Sandhills/Theoford 49, Hitchcock County 0
Stuart 48, Osceola 0
Second Round, Nov. 5
Chambers-Wheeler Central (6-3) vs. Exeter-Milligan (9-0), 7 p.m.
Gilmer (7-2) vs. Humphrey St. Francis (9-0)
Kenesaw (8-1) winner vs. Randolph (7-2)
Falls City Sacred Heart (7-2) vs. Stuart (9-0)
Anselmo-Merna (9-0) vs. Paxton (5-4)
Maxwell (8-1) vs. Bertrand (6-3)
Elwood (7-2) vs. Sandhills-Theoford (7-2)
Brady (7-2) vs. Garden County (9-0)
THURSDAY'S NEB. SCORES
Arlington def. Ashland-Greenwood, 25-9, 25-18, 25-18
Central City def. Centennial, 15-25, 26-24, 26-24, 21-25, 15-9
Centura def. Sandy Creek, 25-22, 25-23, 15-25, 17-25, 15-13
East Butler def. David City, 25-22, 25-17, 25-19
Elkhorh South def. Ralston, 25-10, 23-25, 25-12, 25-10
Grand Island Central Catholic def. Lincoln Lutheran, 25-23, 25-13, 25-22
North Bend Central def. Madison, 25-19, 25-16, 25-12
North Platte def. Kearney Catholic, 15-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-19
Omaha Concordia def. Lutheran High Northeast, 25-14, 25-13, 25-12
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Winner, 25-20, 25-20, 25-22
Northwestern def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-12, 25-9, 25-10
Pine Ridge def. St. Francis Indian, 25-18, 25-18, 25-13
Tea Area def. Madison, 25-20, 25-14, 25-21
Hastings def. Seward, 25-19, 26-24
Banner County Triangular
Hyannis def. Banner County, 25-16, 22-25, 25-4
Elkhorh Triangular
Columbus def. Bishop Neumann, 25-22, 25-23
Elkhorh def. Columbus, 25-23, 25-18
Elkhorh def. Bishop Neumann, 17-25, 26-24, 25-19
Heartland Athletic Conference Tour.
Seventh Place
Lincoln Northeast def. Lincoln High, 25-22, 25-10, 25-13
Fifth Place
Lincoln Southwest def. Fremont, 25-18, 25-20, 22-25, 25-13
Third Place
Lincoln East def. Grand Island, 18-25, 23-25, 23-19, 23-11, 15-11
Raymond Central Triangular
Lincoln Southeast def. Lincoln North Star, 25-18, 25-14, 25-17
Holdrege Triangular
Aurora def. Holdrege, 25-17, 25-14
Aurora def. Schuyler, 25-14, 25-13
Holdrege def. Schuyler, 25-12, 25-14
Lincoln Lutheran Triangular
Beatrice def. Lincoln Lutheran, 25-23, 25-17
Norris def. Beatrice, 25-8, 25-21
Norris def. Lincoln Lutheran, 25-15, 25-18
Metro Tournament
Championship
Papillon-LaVista def. Omaha Marian, 25-18, 26-24, 25-16
Mid-State Conference Tournament
Consolation
Boone Central/Newman Grove def. O'Neill, 25-15, 25-14
Boone Central/Newman Grove def. Harrington Cedar Catholic, 23-25, 25-21, 25-21
Third Place
Guardian Angels def. Wayne, 25-14, 25-13, 25-19
Championship
Crofton def. Pierce, 24-26, 25-19, 25-22, 25-21
Raymond Central Triangular
Minden def. Palmyra, 25-11, 25-18
Waverly Triangular
Gretna def. Lincoln Plus X, 25-27, 25-15, 25-20
Lincoln Plus X def. Waverly, 25-14, 25-20

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, October 31
FOOTBALL, PREP Neb. First Round: Class C2 — Harrington Cedar Catholic at Sutton (7 p.m., KKYA-FM)
SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD at IUPUI (6 p.m.)
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S Concordia at MMC (7:30 p.m.); Fort Wayne at USD (7 p.m.)
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Niobrara Valley Conf. Tour. (Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee)

Saturday, November 1
BASKETBALL, MEN'S MMC at Grace (4 p.m., KYNT-AM)
CROSS COUNTRY, COLLEGE Summit League Championships at Fargo, N.D. (USD)
FOOTBALL, COLLEGE USD at Youngstown State (1 p.m., KVHT-FM)
SOCCER, MEN'S MMC at Hastings (7:15 p.m.)
SOCCER, WOMEN'S MMC at Hastings (5 p.m.)

VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S Hastings/Jamestown at MMC (1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, November 2
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Dakota State at MMC (6 p.m., KYNT-AM)
SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD at Western Illinois (noon)
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at North Dakota State (1 p.m.)

Art (9-0)
Anselmo-Merna (9-0) vs. Paxton (5-4)
Elwood (7-2) vs. Sandhills-Theoford (7-2)
Maxwell (8-1) vs. Bertrand (6-3)
Brady (7-2) vs. Garden County (9-0)
VOLLEYBALL
THURSDAY'S S.D. SCORES
Alcester-Hudson def. Freeman, 25-13, 25-20, 25-19
Canistota def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 26-24, 25-19, 23-25, 14-25, 15-12
Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 25-10, 25-11, 25-9
Estelline def. Florence/Henry, 25-15, 25-10, 19-25, 19-25, 15-9
Harding County def. Timber Lake, 25-15, 25-18, 25-17
Lemmon def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-13, 25-17, 25-15
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Winner, 25-20, 25-20, 25-22
Northwestern def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-12, 25-9, 25-10
Pine Ridge def. St. Francis Indian, 25-18, 25-18, 25-13
Tea Area def. Madison, 25-20, 25-14, 25-21

Hastings def. Seward, 25-19, 26-24
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Volleyball

From Page 9A

Boone Central-NG 2, Hartington Cedar Catholic 1

ALBION, Neb. — Taylor Lammers had 10 kills and three solo blocks in a losing effort for Hartington Cedar Catholic, as Boone Central-Newman Grove beat the Trojans 23-25, 25-21, 25-21 in consolation action Thursday at the Mid-State Conference Tournament.

Emily Feilmeier had 16 set assists and four kills for HCC, while Monica Arens and Kayla Hochstein both added four kills.

No stats were reported for BCNG.
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC.....25 21 21
BOONE CENTRAL-NEWMAN GROVE.....23 25 25

Hartington Cedar Catholic 2, O'Neill 0

ALBION, Neb. — Taylor Lammers had four kills and two teammates had three as Hartington Cedar Catholic swept O'Neill 25-9, 25-11 in consolation action at the Mid-State Conference Tournament next week.

Kayla Hochstein and Carly Becker both had three kills for the Trojans (9-21), who play Crofton next Monday.

No stats were reported for O'Neill.
O'NEILL.....9 11
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (9-21).....25 25

Other Matches

Elk Point-Jefferson 3, Vermillion 0

VERMILLION — Elk Point-Jefferson swept Vermillion 26-24, 25-21, 28-26, in Dakota XII Conference volleyball action on Thursday.
Vermillion head coach Lenni Billberg had two assists, effective immediately, prior to the match. Lori Jereed will serve as interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

Vermillion Volleyball Coach Resigns

VERMILLION — Vermillion High School head volleyball coach Lenni Billberg resigned her volleyball coaching duties effective immediately, according to a report from the Vermillion Plain Talk.

VHS JV coach Tori Kroll will take over the team to complete the season, including Thursday's match with Elk Point-Jefferson, according to VHS principal Curt Cameron.

Billberg had served as the Tanagers' head coach for 14 seasons. Vermillion was 4-18 entering Thursday's match with EPJ. The Tanagers begin Region 4A Tournament play on Tuesday.

Miranda Stabe had 11 kills and Drew Keuck had 10 kills and 14 digs to lead a balanced EPJ attack. Alicia Gregg had eight kills. Amber Hanson posted 32 assists. Allison Targonski added three ace serves and 16 digs in the win.

For Vermillion, Rachel Finnegan had seven kills and Kayla Stammer had 19 assists to lead the way. Melanie LeCates recorded 17 digs and Caitlyn Siegel had three blocks in the effort.

Both teams will play in the Region 4A Tournament next week.
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (14-13).....26 25 28
VERMILLION (4-19).....24 21 26

Alcester-Hudson 3, Freeman 0

ALCESTER — Sierra McConnell and Kassidy Walth both had 11 kills as Alcester-Hudson swept Freeman 25-13, 25-20, 25-19 on Thursday in Alcester.

Brianna Walth led the Cubs with 18 digs, while McConnell added 14 digs and two aces, and Kassidy Walth added 11 digs and five aces.

Also for A-H (16-10), Tashena Osterkamp chipped in with 11 digs, and Amelia Stone had two aces.
For the Flyers (4-18), Vanessa Dowden recorded five kills, 13 digs and two ace serves, while Shelby Jensen had four kills and 17 digs, and Mady Pravecsek added 19 set assists.
Both teams begin district tournament action

next week.
FREEMAN (4-18).....13 20 19
ALCESTER-HUDSON (16-10).....25 25 25

Dakota Valley 3, Dell Rapids 0

DELL RAPIDS — Meredith Lammers recorded 14 kills as Dakota Valley swept Dell Rapids 25-10, 25-14, 25-9 on Thursday night in Dell Rapids.

Elizabeth Lammers added seven kills for the Panthers (20-3), who begin Region 4A action next week.

No stats were reported for the Quarriers (11-16).
DAKOTA VALLEY (20-3).....25 25 25
DELL RAPIDS (11-16).....10 14 9

MVP 3, Winner 0

WINNER — Makaala Karst had 13 kills and Ivy Haines added 10 as Mount Vernon-Plankinton closed its regular season with a 25-20, 25-20, 25-22 sweep Thursday night at Winner.

Megan Bultsma added three blocks for MVP (25-3), while Mikayla Weiss had 27 set assists and 13 digs.
For the Warriors (18-10), Sydney Fritz had 13 kills and 12 digs, Tawny Sherman had 12 kills and nine digs, and Casey Norrid added 13 set assists.
Both teams begin region action next week.
MOUNT VERNON-PLANKINTON (25-3).....25 25 25
WINNER (18-10).....20 20 22

Wildcats

From Page 9A

in front 8-6 at the 4:56 mark of the first quarter.

Later down 18-14 late in the second quarter, Hartington-Newcastle drove down to the Patriots 7-yard line but had a pass intercepted at the goal line just ahead of the halftime buzzer.

"Our defense was out there for a long time, but luckily we were able to make some stops," Clarkson said.

To start the third quarter, the teams traded touchdowns on the first four drives.

Konicek finished the game with 189 yards on 15 carries for the Patriots, while Paprocki completed 4-of-7 passes for 140 yards and a touchdown.

In the loss for Hartington-Newcastle, Jueden rushed for 91 yards and passed for 64, while senior Chris Pavlik ran for 95 yards. Junior Ethan Morten caught three passes for 62 yards.

In the first year of the consolidation, the Wildcats — who still wear the familiar purple and white — were able to fin-

ish with six wins, thanks to the addition of some Newcastle players, Jueden said.

"It's a great start for the dynasty of Hartington-Newcastle," he said. "At first, we didn't have too many Newcastle kids out, but after a few weeks getting to know each other, a few more came out."

"They made a huge impact on the team, and we wouldn't have done as well as we did without them."

You can follow Jeremy Hoek on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Bucks

From Page 9A

"The way they lined up, we wanted to continue to move the ball," Likness said. "Running the ball worked, but when we passed, we shot ourselves in the foot a bit."

However, to start the second half, Yankton drove the length of the field, which was capped off on a 14 yard pass and catch from Strahl to Matt Fitzgerald.

As the quarter was winding down, junior Bashir Abd Al Kream had a 17 yard touchdown run, which extended the Bucks lead to 43-0.

"We were able to get all of our guys in there," Likness said. "It was great experience and we had a few guys who shined for us, but there are some things we can clean up here and there with our second and third teams."

The next drive, Huron founder life, as Bailey Schoenfelder danced his way for an 80 yard touchdown. Yankton had a commanding 43-7 lead going into the fourth quarter.

"We were doing a lot of subbing," Likness said. "They ran hard and our second unit was-

n't quite ready to take that on. They had the ball for most of the fourth quarter."

To start the final quarter, Zach Brown had a 55 yard rushing touchdown, which cut the Yankton deficit to 43-14. As the game was winding down, Sam Carr found Mason Stahly for an eight yard touchdown reception. However, Yankton was able to hold onto the decisive 43-21 victory.

Overall, it was good," Likness said. "We did some things that worked and figured out what we need to work on before our next game."

Unofficially, Yankton racked up 246 total yards. Gant led the Bucks attack with 80 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Strahl added two passing touchdowns through the air. Yankton had a total of six sacks, while Diefenderfer led the Bucks defense with two fumble recoveries.

Huron had 289 total yards, led by Carr with 99 passing yards, a touchdown and 30 rushing yards. Brown and Schoenfelder combined for 160 rushing yards in the loss.

The Bucks did find some areas of improvement they can fix next week in practice, Likness said.

"We need to make sure we have our focus and are all on

the same page," he said. "There were a couple times when we didn't pick up their blitzes. Those are things we can watch on tape and figure out on the practice field."

The Bucks will look to get one step closer to the state championship game, as they host Harrisburg next Friday at 7 p.m., in a semifinal matchup. The Bucks won the regular season meeting with the Tigers this season 31-8.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Likness said. "If we can do it once, we should be able to do it twice. I know Harrisburg is going to do some things a little better than they did the first time we played. We just need to strap it up, go out there and play."

Likness knows how close the ultimate goal is, but knows it won't be given to his team.

"We are a step away," he said. "These kids have worked hard, I feel good for these kids. We were here last year with a 5-5 team. Now, this year we need to correct the ship, and that will be from Crane-Youngworth Field heading east."