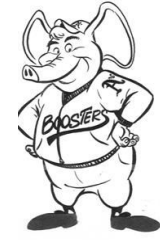


# Oakland A's Boosters Newsletter



**JUNE 2019**

ROOTED IN *Oakland* SINCE '68

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: In This Issue...

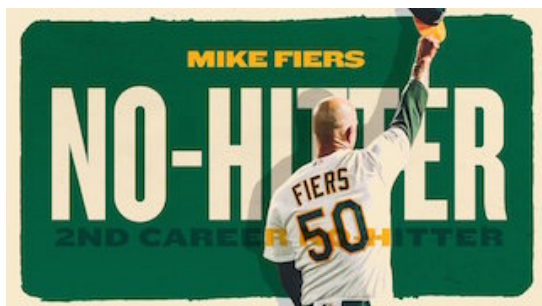
- RSVP to luncheons with our new Booster phone number! FindAs4FUN: **(346) 327-4386**
- We now have the **2019 giveaway** to Booster members! Check page 3 to see what it looks like.

## Booster Luncheons:

All 2019 Booster luncheons are in Shibe Park Tavern (formerly known as the West Side Club). The A's will have a motorized cart available for those who need assistance in climbing the hill between Oracle and the Coliseum. Doors open at 11am, food service starts at around 11:30am, program starts at approximately noon.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
June 1	Chalk Talk – Saturday MEMBERS ONLY	Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum – No RSVP is necessary. Chris Giles is the guest! 11am doors open, 12noon program
July 27	Luncheon - Saturday	Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum
August 16	Chalk Talk – Friday MEMBERS ONLY	Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum
Sept 6	Luncheon - Friday	Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum



Congratulations to RHP **Mike Fiers** for throwing a no-hitter for the A's on May 7<sup>th</sup>! The no-no is the 8<sup>th</sup> Oakland no-hitter and the 13<sup>th</sup> franchise no-hitter.

## President's Message By Shannon Starr

In my last message I mentioned my faith in our boys and they are not disappointing me. Great winning streak we have been on. As Lou Trivino pointed out at our Booster Luncheon yesterday, it is important to remember that while losing a few games in football may mean the season, in baseball it's just a small bump. Not that losses do not add up, just that we need to remember there is a bigger picture.



So how about that May 7<sup>th</sup> game. I was at the game to celebrate Dick Callahan's 1000<sup>th</sup> game. It also happened to be the 26<sup>th</sup> year anniversary that my husband and I started dating. My husband was not shocked at all when I told him I wanted to celebrate at the game. We arrived early so I could be sure to say hello to Dick, then we waited. Yep, nothing like a 5-6-hour round-trip drive when your husband gets up at 4:30am and then a 1 hour and 45 min game delay because the left field lights wouldn't turn on. Was it worth it – YOU BET!! Not only did we see Dick and congratulate him, we celebrated our dating anniversary with our friends in the Right Field Bleachers and oh yah we got to watch Fiers pitch a No-No!! Who needs sleep when you can have a game like that!

Have you been keeping up with our Facebook page? Did you know that the A's have set aside a certain number of some of the giveaway items to give out to Booster members at some of our luncheons? Our April luncheon was the Pet Calendar that was being given out that night and the Bob Melvin Manager of the Year pin. Our May luncheon yesterday was the Chapman Gold Glove Bobble Head. What a treat!! You never know when there will be a gift for members and what it will be. If you are reading this and are a current Booster member not in CA, look for a gift in the mail soon. Not only are you getting the new Booster bag but also a special surprise.

I haven't been able to get to as many games yet this season as I would like, darn jobs, they get in the way (haha). I do hope to be back out for a game real soon. If you see me, say hello and introduce yourself. I hope I get to see each of you at our June 1st Chalk Talk. This will be one of two Saturday events designed for members who cannot come during the work week.

### Luncheon Details:

**Luncheons are in Shibe Park Tavern for 2019. And the entrance fee for the luncheon is \$22 for members, \$27 for non-members (\$1 discount for cash or check payments). You'll get a delicious buffet lunch, which includes a choice of two entrees, salad, starch and a dessert, plus soft drinks and iced tea are free. Doors open at 11am, buffet lunch begins at 11:30am.**

**The entrance to Shibe Park Tavern is between the Coliseum and Oracle Arena. At the top of the ramp, go through the glass doors on the left and take the elevator to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Shibe Park Tavern is to the right.**

Please remember to **RSVP one week prior** to each luncheon so that the East Side Club can have enough food on hand. You can RSVP at the Booster website, [oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com), and even pay in advance on the website or pay at the door. Email [oaklandasboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandasboosters@gmail.com) or (346) 327-4386.

## Chalk Talk Details – FREE, but only Members are invited:

The A's wanted to work with the Booster Club on a new concept: **Chalk Talks**. There will be two Chalk Talks this year, **June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>**. An A's player or official will be invited to talk to us. These events are free, but only Booster members will be allowed to attend. The events will be held at Shibe Park Tavern. 11am doors open, 12noon program begins. We're told there will be a limited number of autographs available on a lottery-type basis. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, **COO Chris Giles** will join us! There will be hot dogs and drinks for sale. We will also have a raffle/auction at the Talk.

## Announcements:

Please remember to RSVP a week in advance of each lunch so we'll know how much food to request. You can RSVP at the website, [www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com), or by calling and leaving a message at FindAs4FUN (346) 327-4386. No RSVP is needed for the Chalk Talk – just show up, but only if you're a Booster member!

You can still buy the **Booster 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary jersey**, available in yellow or white. They're on sale for \$20 each at our website, [www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com](http://www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com). We can have a jersey for you at a luncheon if you let us know in advance. Contact [oaklandasboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandasboosters@gmail.com)



The Booster Club is giving each current member a **Booster bag for the 2019 season!** It's translucent and has the Booster elephant mascot in green on it. And it comes zippered with handles! We started giving out the bags at our May 24<sup>th</sup> luncheon.



Congratulations to our luncheon MC, Public Address Announcer **Dick Callahan, for announcing his 1,000<sup>th</sup> A's game on May 7<sup>th</sup>!** How cool that he achieved this milestone while calling a no-hitter!

Dick was awarded his own A's jersey (the number is 04 to commemorate 2004, when he first joined the A's), and then threw out the first pitch. Many Boosters attended just to honor Dick. We are pleased to report that his pitch finally reached the plate.



Booster Board member **Wendi Harder-Montag** participated in the Breast Cancer Survivor walk on Mother's Day!

If you know of a Booster member who has taken ill, please let us know! Contact our new Sunshine Committee chairperson, **Bea Soria**, at [SoriaBeatriz4@gmail.com](mailto:SoriaBeatriz4@gmail.com). We'd like to let them know we're thinking of them.



Booster website: [www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com)  
Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub](http://www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub)  
The Booster newsletter is written by Linda Burnett.

## Gold Bases for One Game Only

The Oakland A's used gold-colored bases during the club's home opener in 1970, another one of Charlie Finley's great ideas. The Rules Committee subsequently banned the innovation after one day.

"It should make the players want to reach base more often," said Finley in an April 13, 1970 San Francisco Chronicle article.

Can you imagine, though, if the gold bases had been allowed to continue, Rickey Henderson hoisting his 939<sup>th</sup> stolen base – in gleaming gold - over his head? That would've been quite the picture!

## Road Trip to Seattle!

We weren't sure which Seattle we'd get: the one that went on a tear in the beginning of the season, or the one that slowed down in the beginning of May. Still, the Mariners are always a tough match for our Oakland A's.

While it seems I go to Seattle once a year to watch the Mariners at Safeco, this year seemed different. The ballpark is no longer Safeco Field. It's now T-Mobile Park. Every stadium or arena seems to be selling its name these days. And, in addition, the Mariners have decided to reboot their roster. They sold off almost all of their name players. No longer is Robinson Cano or Nelson Cruz part of the M squad.



But the mistake would be thinking that the Mariners are no longer competitive. They are.



What I like about going to Mariners games is that the A's and Mariners seem very competitive and play each other tough. They're not built alike, for sure, but the games always seem to be on the line in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. That was certainly true for the two games in Seattle in May.

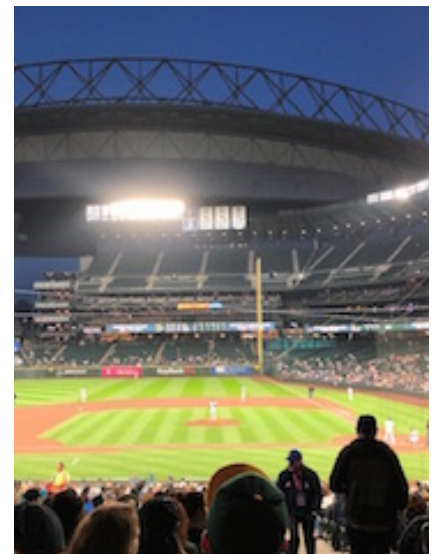
In both, starting pitching was spotty but still, for the most part, got the job done. However, the bullpen couldn't hold the line.

The A's hit five home runs – FIVE – in Monday night's game! Two of them were by Khris Davis. But each of them was a solo shot.

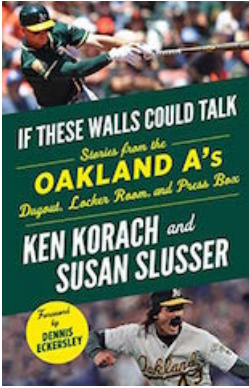
The A's ended up losing in the ninth, 6-5. And in the second game, the A's led in the top of the ninth, but the Mariners came back in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> and won, 4-3.

These were extremely competitive and exciting games, and I'm glad I went. You may not know who plays outfield for the Mariners, but you know they're playing hard, just like our A's players.

One interesting take on this road trip of mine – there were no 40,000-fan Mariner crowds. Each night averaged a little over 11,000, and it seemed that at least half of those were Oakland A's fans. I joined in whenever our section started chanting, "Let's Go, Oakland!" All of us were high-fiving each other when the A's made a great play. We had a lot of fun.



## If These Walls Could Talk

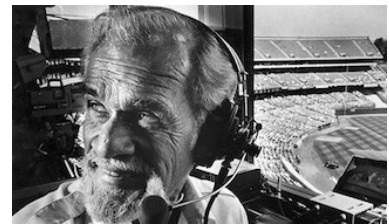


A's beat reporter **Susan Slusser** and broadcaster **Ken Korach** have written a book, **If These Walls Could Talk: Oakland A's: Stories from the Oakland A's Dugout, Locker Room, and Press Box**. I cannot recommend this book more highly. I laughed and I cried, and that was just by reading the foreword by Dennis Eckerley!

The book contains career highlights – some sad, some funny – by our two correspondents, as well as interviews with Rickey Henderson, Dave Kaval and other important A's figures. What does Ken do to prepare for a broadcast? How did Dave Kaval handle the defeat when the site near Laney College was voted down by the school board? And be prepared for lots of little stories about Ken's predecessor, Bill King.

This book offers several windows into the A's past, present and even future. You'll love it!

Do you want to help keep Bill King's memory alive? You can donate to the **Bill King Scholarship Fund**. The scholarship is given to a deserving journalism or broadcasting major in college once a year, and the check (\$5,000) is given to the recipient by our own A's broadcasters and the president of the Booster Club. Please send any checks (made out to the Oakland A's Booster Club) to:



**Chris Cypret**  
**ATTN: Oakland A's Booster Club**  
**P. O. Box 22144**  
**Sacramento, CA 95822**

**This year's check will be given out in a pregame ceremony on the field June 18th. Look for us!**

The A's have refined the designs for the **new Howard Terminal ballpark at Jack London Square**. The result is a new circular shape.



## The May Luncheon! Reliever Lou Trivino

Dick Callahan started off the luncheon by recounting a little of his 1,000<sup>th</sup> game. Several things happened at that game. First, Dick received his jersey and threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Then the lights in left field became a two-hour maintenance delay. And then Mike Fiers threw a no-hitter. Dick was nervous for another reason: he had invited friends and relatives to attend the 1,000<sup>th</sup> game he was announcing for the A's, and it looked like for awhile that the game might be called. "Everyone was leaving the next morning," he explained. But this very memorable game was finally played, Dick announced his thousandth game, everyone was happy. When Dave Kaval saw him later, Dave said, "So, you ready for your 2,000<sup>th</sup> game?"



Lou Trivino is not your stereotypical jock. This guy is a thinker, almost philosophical. Every answer he gave to our questions was well-thought out, as he tried to include all sides of the question.

He's 6'5", much taller than anyone else in Shibe Park Tavern. He said, "Manaea might be a tick higher, but that's because of his hair." As you can see, Lou also has a subtle sense of humor.

His injury a few weeks ago was a weird one. Lou said, in a self-deprecating way, "I'm not much of an athlete. The ball hit me in the thumb." He was out a week. What messed with his control was not the thumb when he finally did return. "It didn't feel the same. I have a routine, I throw every day. This (injury) wouldn't let me do that. It took me awhile to regain the feeling (in my thumb). That game in Cleveland was the best I've felt. I feel really good right now. Hopefully I won't walk three batters in a row."

What does the pitching coach say to you when he comes to the mound? "Usually when Emo comes out, I'm screwing up. I've never had a pitching coach come out and say something amazing," he laughed.

One thing Dick Callahan wanted us to know about Lou Trivino is that he talks to his dad a lot. Every day he and his dad have a conversation. "If the team isn't going well, dad will ask, 'Did you have a team meeting?' We don't have a lot of team meetings, so I answered, no. 'Well, why not?' said Dad."



How do you handle umpires? Lou thought he was throwing strikes in his last outing, but the ump didn't agree. "I was very upset. At the same time, I wasn't throwing well." Lou said he's well aware that umps will give a close pitch to a pitcher well known for throwing strikes, especially if they don't argue. He referenced Roy Halladay. "Doc Halladay earned the respect for years and years by not complaining. I'm not going to give (the umpire) a reason to not call (strikes). I've never blown up at an umpire."

Lou talked a little about how the game and the athletes have changed. "When I got drafted, the average fastball was 89. Now it's 94.5. The 3, 4 and 5 starters are now throwing 100 mph. Like Frankie (Montas)."

We heard that Lou Trivino volunteered to come to the Booster luncheon. Thanks, Lou! We'll be cheering for you!