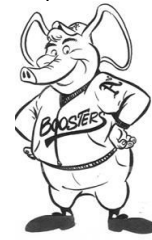


Oakland A's Boosters Newsletter



MAY 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**
- **Our 2019 member giveaway will be arriving soon!**

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 |
|------------------|---|--|
| May 17 | Reservation Deadline for the May 24th Luncheon | Email oaklandasboosters@gmail.com, call us at (346) 327-4386, or log onto www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com |
| May 24 | Luncheon - Friday | Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum |
| June 1 | Chalk Talk - Saturday | Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum |
| July 27 | Luncheon - Saturday | Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum |
| August 16 | Chalk Talk - Friday | Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum |
| Sept 6 | Luncheon - Friday | Shibe Park Tavern, Coliseum |

President's Message By Shannon Starr

It's May and our boys are currently on the road. They seem to be struggling a bit, but I firmly believe they will turn it around. It's early in the season still. While I hate to see them lose, I still have faith in them.



I have to say it bothers me to see people post mean and hateful things about player(s) that are struggling. I get it fans are passionate about their team. I am one of them but you can be passionate without being hateful. Trust me when a player is struggling they don't need you to tell them, they know. I hope as serious A's fans you are taking the time to support players and the team and not spending time bashing them.

I am amazed at how fans yell at players, like they could actually play better. Seriously people, you are fans, not players. These boys have worked hard to get where they are and trust me they want to play well, they want to stay in the Bigs!!

Ok, done with my little rant. Let's show support for our team!!

On a much happier note our incredible luncheon MC and Oakland A's Announcer, Dick Callahan, is about to celebrate his 1000th game. I am planning on being in attendance on May 7th for that one.

Did you make it to our first luncheon of the season? Every member in attendance was provided a Melvin Manager of the Year pin and a new A's Pet Calendar, courtesy of the A's. Several members won the opportunity to meet our speaker, Frankie Montas, in person and get an autographed baseball.

I am pleased to announce that this year's member gift will be here for our next luncheon on May 24th, and you never know if the A's are going to have a gift for members, too!! I hope to see all of you there.

Remember to use the Booster email (oaklandasboosters@gmail.com) and not my personal one for your reservations. We are trying to have all the reservations go to one location to make it easier to track.

If you cannot email you can also call our new Booster number FindAs4Fun and leave a message. Keep in mind if you want a call back please be patient as this is handled by volunteers and most have full-time jobs. Thanks in advance for your patience.

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 3rd 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, and even pay in advance on the website or pay at the door. Or contact Shannon directly at BoosterStarr@gmail.com or (346) 327-4386.

Chalk Talk Details:

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 1st and August 16th**. 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. No food will be served at the Chalk Talks. We're told there will be a limited number of autographs available on a lottery-type basis.

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, or by calling and leaving a message at FindAs4FUN (346) 327-4386.

You can still buy the **Booster 50th Anniversary jersey**, available in yellow or white. They're on sale for \$20 each at our website, www.OaklandAthleticsBoosterClub.com. We can have a jersey for you at a luncheon if you let us know in advance. Contact Shannon at BoosterStarr@gmail.com.



Mary Meiring has decided to "retire" from the Booster Club after 30+ years of service to the club. Mary's was usually the face we saw when we came to each luncheon. She handled each luncheon for us, dealing with the restaurant, and in the last few years, the A's kitchen in the Coliseum, and was the keeper and promoter of the Bill King Scholarship Fund. She is also a past Booster Club president, and provided sage wisdom to the board over many years. We will miss you, Mary, and thank you for your service!

Thanks to the A's for giving all of our luncheon attendees on April 19th two giveaways: **the Pet Calendar (the giveaway that Friday night)** and the large **Bob Melvin Manager-of-the-Year pin**. We really



appreciate it!

The Las Vegas Aviators

Booster member **Mike Barnbaum** watched the Las Vegas Aviators in action in early April as they battled the Sacramento River Cats in Sacramento. The Aviators are the A's Triple-A team. Below is his take on the game:

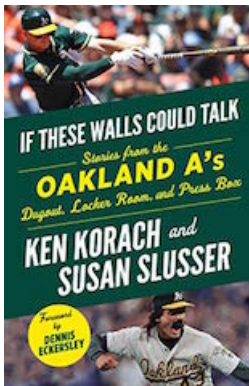
“Tonight, from all that I am reading, was not a good night at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum as the Oakland Athletics fell to Houston, 9-1. Better news for the team is that their Triple-A affiliate, the Las Vegas Aviators Baseball Team, hit a 3-run home run, and in their last chance, down 4-3 to Sacramento in the top of the ninth inning, sent nine men to the plate in what turned out to be a 5-run inning, enroute to an 8-4 victory. The win puts Las Vegas at 11-2 on the young 2019 season. If you're around Raley Field in the city of West Sacramento, come check out the Aviators (Athletics) and watch them fly to victory.”

Photos by Mike Barnbaum.



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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 Eckersley!

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!

Booster website: www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub
The Booster newsletter is written by Linda Burnett.

Stuck in Cincinnati

By Linda Burnett

Stuck in Cincinnati with nothing to do? Go to the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum. I wasn't watching baseball much in the 1970's, but I do remember the Big Red Machine and names like Tony Perez, Joe Morgan and Pete Rose.

I'm here because Ruth had to go to a conference, and I decided to join her. I didn't venture out because of 20-degree temperatures in the first few days we were there, but finally figured I had to do something. So I went to the museum. I would be attending a Reds game the next day.

There was quite a bit of material in the museum about the 1990 Reds. They fought – you guessed it – the Oakland A's for the World Series. The A's were a juggernaut and were heavy favorites, but then they came up against a rather resilient Reds team. How could the A's have lost?

The A's lineup featured three former AL Rookies-of-the-Year: Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire and Walt Weiss. Pitchers Dave Stewart and Dennis Eckersley were the pride of Oakland. When Dave Stewart came in to pitch Game 1, he had a six-game postseason winning streak going. But the Reds got on him quickly with a two-run home run by Eric Davis in the bottom of the first inning. Later, Davis' single made it 5-0 Reds, and Chris Sabo's single made it 7-0 Reds. The Reds cruised in Game One to an easy victory.

Game Two was closer but did not yield a better result. Bob Welch opposed Danny Jackson. Rickey Henderson manufactured a run for the A's in the first – gets a hit, steals second, sacrifices to third, scores on a groundout. A base hit by McGwire and two walks followed, knocking Jackson out of the game. With the bases loaded, Ron Hassey hit a sac fly and Mike Gallego singled to give the A's a 4-2 lead. However, Reds reliever Jack Armstrong and their bullpen, dubbed the "Nasty Boys," held the A's. Hatcher tripled over Canseco (who was suffering from back spasms throughout the playoffs), and scored on a force play. In the tenth, the Reds broke through to win the game off Dennis Eckersley.

We took the family to Game Three when the series came to Oakland, sure that the first two games were anomalies. Surely the Bash Brothers and the A's superior pitching would take over. All I remember about that game is that Chris Sabo – who the hell is Chris Sabo? – single-handedly won the game for the Reds, or at least that's what it felt like. In Game 3, Tom Browning started for the Reds, while the A's countered with Mike Moore. Moore had had two wins in the 1989 World Series. In the second inning, Chris Sabo put the Reds up 1-0 with a homer. This short, goggle-eyed young man was not known for hitting homers. In the third, the Reds had a seven-run inning and Sabo hit his second homer of the game. The A's now trailed the Reds 8-2. Rickey Henderson's homer in the third made it 8-3, but the A's couldn't catch up.

We were forced to watch Game 4 on T.V., but it didn't look any better. Game 4 was a pitchers' duel between Dave Stewart and Jose Rijo, who were the Game 1 starters. The A's got on the board first when Willie McGee doubled and Carney Lansford singled him in. The game remained 1-0 until the eighth, when the Reds finally got to Stew. Barry Larkin singled up the middle, Herm Winningham followed with a bunt single, and Paul O'Neill reached on a throwing error by Stewart to load the bases. A groundout and sac fly gave the Reds a 2-1 edge, which was preserved by Rijo.



The A's became the first team ever to be swept in a World Series after sweeping the League Championship Series.

Visiting the Reds Hall of Fame Museum brought all of these memories back to me. My bucket list has been amended: I'd like to attend a World Series game where my A's win! I have to tell you, I think that's in the near future. I love the team our A's have become.

I left the Cincinnati Hall of Fame Museum hoping that, in the near future, our Oakland Athletics will have a museum just like this one. We sure have the trophies to furnish it!



The April Luncheon! Pitcher Frankie Montas

When we first meet **Frankie Montas** at the Shibe Park Tavern, we see an imposing dude. 6'2", 245 lbs. As Dick Callahan smirked, "I'd like to be just one of those." But when Frankie starts talking, explaining his life as a major-league pitcher, he becomes the best friend you never had. He's self-effacing, funny, engaging.

One Booster asked, "What are the three hitters you fear the most?" Frankie could only come up with one name: Joe Mauer. Thankfully Joe is now retired from baseball. "I tried as hard as I could to get him out," explained Frankie. "I got him 0-and-2. Twice. Both times I ended up walking him."

What do you feel about the crowd noise? Does it affect you? "The crowd helps me. When you guys are loud, okay, I am going to make a good pitch."

Superstitious? Frankie didn't say he was necessarily superstitious, but he did say there are certain pieces of equipment he wears over and over when he's successful. Cleats. Underwear.

What do you say to Bob Melvin when he comes to take you out of the game? Frankie laughed and said, "Yes, sir." Then he added, "Seriously? You're gonna take me out? He'll reach out (for the ball). Then I hear everybody cheering me."

"I love to play for Bob Melvin. He trusts me. He trusts me to get the job done."

What pitches do you use? "Two-seam fastball, splitter, slider and four-seam. I mostly throw my two-seam. I throw my splitter when I'm in trouble." He added, "They know I have a fastball and a slider. They don't know about the splitter," he said with a twinkle in his eye. That third pitch has really helped him this season.

Who is your favorite catcher? "Both of them are (Phegley and Hundley). They're doing an amazing job. If you're both on the same page, stuff is gonna work out. I love to pitch to both of them."

Do you want your son (who is currently four years old) to play ball? What position? "I would love for him to play, but I'm not going to push it. I want him to go to school. I would like for him to be a hitter. I don't want him to be a pitcher. I've had some rough nights!" he laughed.

Frankie is very grateful to be in the MLB, to be with the A's. "When I get here, I feel welcome. I feel amazing. I hope I'm here for a long time." Let's be sure to go to the ballpark and cheer Frankie on. He loves our cheers!

