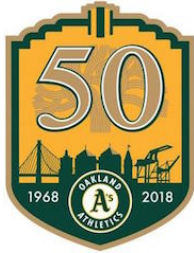


Oakland A's Boosters Newsletter



AUGUST 2018

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE OAKLAND ATHLETICS AND THE OAKLAND A'S BOOSTER CLUB!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Please reserve a full 7 days before the luncheon. Doors open at 11am, lunch starts at 11:30, and the speakers commence around noon. Our luncheons always feature someone from the Oakland A's organization, plus an A's memorabilia raffle, and a great lunch!

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Aug 24	Reservation Deadline for the August 31st Luncheon	Email Shannon at oaklandasboosters@gmail.com , call her at (916) 934-9443, or log onto www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com
Aug 31	Reservation Deadline for the September 7 th Luncheon	
Aug 31	Luncheon - Friday	East Side Club, Coliseum
Sep 7	Luncheon - Friday	East Side Club, Coliseum

President's Message By Shannon Starr

Wow – can you believe as I write this our boys are only 2 games out of 1st place? This season has been incredible and I know you agree with me in hoping it just keeps getting better and better. I can't wait to see where this team goes!



Have you ever thought about where these players start out? What it takes to make it to the Major League? Athletics players that are drafted out of High School or brought in from international locations usually start out in the AZ League. Often called "fire league" or "rookie league," the AZL season starts in the summer shortly after

the draft. Games are at 7pm because the AZ summer temperatures are usually triple-digit. Some of the players have not even turned 18 years old yet. These guys room together and pay rent out of the small amount of pay they receive. Full of determination they soon realize that being the “star” in High School or their country does not automatically translate to the “pros”. In the heat of an AZ summer they begin to hone their skills and start the long road that may or may not lead to the majors. For the A’s players those steps may include any of the Minor League ‘farm’ system -- Class A Short Season (Vermont Lake Monsters), Class A (Beloit Snappers), Class A Advanced (Stockton Ports), Double-A (Midland Rockhounds), Triple-A (Nashville Sounds), and if they have what it takes, eventually MLB Oakland Athletics. Some players will skip levels while many will never make it to the top. Some may make it but not for the A’s if they get traded to other teams’ “farm” systems. (I think as A’s fans you may have heard about trades – thankfully not as much this season.)

I bring up the rookies because recently the Booster Club was able to provide support for the A’s AZL team. After an “away” game the players were provided a hot dog, water bottle and bag with apple, chips and a cookie. 50 meals were put together and handed out. Each of the bags was sealed with a label printed with our Booster Club name and logo so these young players would know that we support them.



I don’t know if I can really express to you the gratitude these boys showed at such a small gesture. As I stood lined up with some local fans handing out the meals, it took a bit for the players to realize we were giving them something. My personal belief is that being a “star” and getting drafted usually leads to people wanting something from them. Probably not too often that someone just wants to do something for them with no expectations in return. The look of shock, surprise, joy and gratitude when they realized we were there to provide for them and let them know we support them made my heart glad. Each player expressed sincere gratitude as they were handed their items, taking time to thank each volunteer. These players know they have talent but are still humble enough to appreciate support. They are often far from home and the international players often speak limited English.

If you get a chance, go watch these boys play. If you truly enjoy baseball these games are for you. Played without the sound systems and flash, I suggest you bring plenty of water because there are also no concessions. AZL games are baseball at its purest form. Players with talent just playing a game they love hoping to prove themselves and make it big one day.



Michael Cheang and his family enjoy the A’s-Giants game on July 21. Michael won the game tickets that Dick Callahan donated at the February Booster Kick-Off!

August 3rd Luncheon!
Our guest was former A's player/NBC broadcaster Bip Roberts!

Thanks to the A's and NBC Sports for sending one of our favorite personalities and an A's former player, Bip Roberts to our early August luncheon!



Thanks to Dawn Kepler for the luncheon photos.

A's Win Bridge Trophy!



After a year in the making, the Bridge Trophy – made out of leftover steel from the demolished Bay Bridge – was ready to be presented to the winner of season's matches between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's. Because of a numbers game, it turned out that whoever won the last game between the two would take away the trophy.

Matt Chapman hit a chopper off his bat in the bottom of the 10th inning that Sunday, and Brandon Crawford, a gold glove, couldn't field it, and so with the walk-off, the first Bridge Trophy contest ended.

In a slick piece of designing, the A's logo was moved from the right side of the trophy to the top. We had a rivalry before with the Giants, but now we have hardware to go with it.



Mural discovered at W. Grand Avenue & Telegraph (below right)

(left) Former A's player and current MLB Network host Eric Byrnes was honored by the Sonoma Stompers on July 17. Eric asked people to support his "Let Them Play Foundation" at the game. Booster board member Joan Riebli met Eric during the event and exchanged memories of Byrnes playing for the Oakland A's!



Mickey Morabito

2018 marks Mickey Morabito's 38th season as the Athletics' director of team travel. He's responsible for arranging the transportation and accommodations of the team during spring training, regular season plus post season.

Mickey worked for two of the most highly successful managers in baseball, Billy Martin and Tony La Russa. They couldn't be more different. "Tony would always say the season is a marathon," Morabito said. "He didn't want the players to be too high or too down. That wasn't Billy's way at all. Every game was the seventh game of the World Series."

Mickey insists that the tempestuous Billy Martin saved the A's franchise in Oakland. The previous A's team had lost 108 games under manager Jim Marshall; Billy Martin, who was born and raised in Berkeley, managed the team into a better 83 – 79 record, and second place.

Morabito, who grew up in New York, had been a Yankees batboy at age 18 and their public relations director at age 25. That meant he was thrust at a tender age into what he called the "Vicious Triangle" of Steinbrenner, Martin and slugger Reggie Jackson. In the late 1970's, Steinbrenner, Billy and Reggie were constantly at odds with each other, and Mickey was in the middle of it.

"You'd come in and some days Reggie and Billy would be together and they'd be mad at George," Morabito said. "Some days Reggie and George were mad at Billy. Or Billy and George were mad at Reggie. You'd come in and say, 'Who's on what side today?'"



When Billy Martin was fired again by Steinbrenner in 1980, and then hired by the Oakland Athletics, Mickey Morabito joined him.

"I've been a part of six World Series — three with the Yankees and three with the A's," Morabito said. "You think of the players that played all of those years. I'm very lucky."

Morabito also argues that La Russa's 1988 – 1990 A's teams should be considered nearly on a par with Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine" of the 1970's as some of the greatest teams of all time.

During a "getaway" day on a given road trip, Morabito can be heard in the press box making calls to airports, hotels and bus companies, giving updates on the pace of the game and notifying all parties of when the A's can be expected to land in the next city.

Mickey estimates in all those years he has traveled more than 2 million miles.



Did you pick up a Booster jersey yet? The button-down jersey honors the 50th Anniversary of both the Oakland A's and the Booster Club.

Colors: Gold or White. Both with Kelly Green lettering.

Cost: \$20

Sizes available as of August 4th:

Small, Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL – check the website for exact details.

Order your jersey at www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com. Look for "50th Anniversary Jersey" at the top.

Available from the Oakland A's Booster Club only!

Not My First No-Hitter

By Linda Burnett

On April 21, 2018, I was there in my seat, right next to my friend Dawn. By the 5th inning, I started really paying attention, and, being careful in my wording, I said to Dawn, "The Red Sox have no hits." She knew what I meant immediately.



Pressure mounted in the Coliseum with each inning, and by the 8th, with each pitch! Only during the playoffs have I felt such strain. Nobody's going to the bathroom or getting a beer. We're all standing, and we stop breathing with each pitch, cheering on Sean Manaea.

Each pitch, every swing of the bat in the top of the 9th was agony! But finally, with the last out, we leaped from our seats, as we watched catcher Jonathan Lucroy grab Sean and lift him skyward. A no-hitter! Dawn and I hugged each other and jumped up and down, tears of joy in our eyes!

It wasn't easy. We had help from the official scorer as well as the umpires. I think I learned that night that a no-hitter, an achievement like that, is a team effort. And I, as a fan in the stadium, was part of that team.

Red Sox fans politely left our row before the ninth began, saying, "Good luck to your team." I found that just a little amazing. They knew they'd have better days.

So I witnessed a no-hitter. But this wasn't my first...

July 1990 found Ruth and me in Chicago during one of the hottest weekends they had endured in some time. Trying to escape the heat, we decided to go to a Chicago White Sox game (against the New York Yankees) on July 1st at the old Comiskey Park. The old park was due to be torn down, and we would agree – we couldn't fit into the tiny seats, seats that had been built for very small men (very few women would go to ballgames in 1910, when it was built). So we roamed around the stadium, looking for a cool area and larger seats.

Andy Hawkins was pitching for the Yanks and was having a pretty good game. In the 8th, Hawkins got the first two batters on infield pop-ups. Then Sammy Sosa, in his first full season in the majors, hit a ground ball to third. Mike Blowers booted that ball. Then Sosa stole second. Hawkins walked Ozzie Guillen, a guy who swings at everything coming his way, so not an easy thing to do. Then Andy walked Lance Johnson to load the bases. Robin Ventura hit a fly ball to rookie left fielder Jim Leyritz. Leyritz was a catcher and a third baseman but had been put into left field by Yankees manager Stump Merrill. Leyritz dropped the ball and three runs scored.



Thinking that was the end of the no-hit bid, and absolutely miserable in this antiquated park, we left. Little did we know that all those runs were unearned.

Four runs scored, but there were no official "hits." Andy Hawkins made history: a no-hitter, to be sure, and the most runs allowed in a no-hitter.

Hawkins' final line: 8 innings, 4 runs, 0 earned, 5 walks, 3 strikeouts, 1 stolen base. Ugly. And I saw most of it. This game has since been listed as one of the worst no-hitters of all time.

I did learn something that day: DON'T LEAVE A GAME! Or at the very least, be sure to check your stats. You never know, you might be seeing a no-hitter.

Want to become a **Booster Club** member? Need to renew?
Go online at www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com
or give a check/cash at any luncheon to Kristina Varela, our Membership chair.
Dues are \$26 annually (minus \$1 for cash or check).



(left) Here's a photo of OF Ramon Laureano on his first night in the big leagues, taken by Booster president Shannon Starr. We think she captured the moment perfectly.

Merchandise Discounts

The Athletics are once again giving Booster Club members **15% off merchandise** purchased at the Coliseum this season. You will need to **show your Membership ID** and a valid DL or ID card to receive discount.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Luncheons are in the East Side Club. 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. Rolls/butter, soft drinks, iced and hot tea are free. Doors open at 11am, buffet lunch begins at 11:30am.

When attending the luncheons, **park in Lot K** (under the BART bridge – see the map below), and use the elevator up to the East Side Club entrance on the 3rd floor.

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. Or contact Shannon directly at BoosterStarr@gmail.com or (916) 934-9443.

Check out our new and improved Booster website!

www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com
We have a new section called "History," which tells newcomers all about our Booster past.

Booster website: www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub
Want to comment on something in the newsletter? Write Linda at catattack77@yahoo.com.



STADIUM PARKING MAP

