

## A's News Clips, Wednesday, February 3, 2010

### It's time to give announcer King his due

Ray Ratto, San Francisco Chronicle, 2/3/2010

Jon Miller's latest honor, as the winner of the Ford C. Frick Award for baseball broadcasting, is one of those no-brainers that really was a no-brainer - as in, "You mean he wasn't in already?"

Which brings us to Bill King, who hasn't won, and at this rate might never win. Not the Frick, not the Pete Rozelle Radio-TV Award and not the Curt Gowdy Media Award. None of them.

And that remains an amazement.

King, the definitive voice of the Raiders and Warriors, and longest-serving voice of the A's, has come close to the Frick before only to fall in 2007 to Kansas City Royals broadcaster Denny Matthews, and it is a weird tribute to King's career that the Frick is actually his best shot even though most people believe he was better at football and basketball than baseball.

The problem of course is that King is the classic case of out-of-sight, out-of-mind greatness. He died in 2005, his work was almost exclusively in radio, and his gifts were too broad for easy categorization.

He isn't in the Pro Football Hall of Fame through the Rozelle Award because the award has been given almost exclusively to TV broadcasters and executives. The only two radio figures to win in 22 years were Buffalo's Van Miller and Pittsburgh's Myron Cope.

He isn't in the Basketball Hall of Fame through the Gowdy Award even though many of his contemporaries are. Marty Glickman, Chick Hearn, Johnny Most, Marv Albert, Al McCoy, Rod Hundley, Bill Campbell and Bob Wolff have won, but as the award drifts toward national TV figures, King, as neither, is at a growing disadvantage.

And the Frick Award has gone to broadcasters representing every team except Arizona, Colorado, the Los Angeles Angels, Montreal and Toronto. The A's come close to non-representation, as Byrum Saam, known mostly for his work with the Phillies, also did A's games from 1938 to 1953. That's 57 years ago.

None of this touches on King's incandescent skills, because that's a matter of listening, and listening is an individual matter. We can tell you to trust us on this, but either you heard him and already know, or you haven't and won't bother.

But because nobody has heard him in four full years, most people outside the greater Bay Area have never heard him and almost nobody ever saw him, the chances that he will enjoy some sort of renaissance of attention seem increasingly slim. He might be that most accursed of great figures in his chosen profession - the best broadcaster not to be in a Hall of Fame. Not "the" Hall of Fame. "Any" hall of fame.

Therein lies the one note of melancholy at Miller's award. Not that he doesn't have it coming, because that is an argument only an idiot would suggest. He won because he was a baseball man first, last and always, and because he is as contemporary as it gets. He won because he deserved to win.

No, Miller's victory reminds us not only of his work, but that King is now one year further away from getting any level of the recognition he deserves.

And one year further away is the nature of the world in which we live. Kobe Bryant broke Jerry West's all-time Lakers scoring record Monday, and the broadcasters promptly declared him the greatest Laker ever. Not West or George Mikan or Elgin Baylor or Magic Johnson or Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, all of whom have legitimate claims to be made on their behalf, but Bryant, who should be part of a long and spirited discussion with the others.

Nobody remembers Mikan, fewer and fewer remember West and Baylor, and Johnson and Abdul-Jabbar are 20 years removed from their zeniths. Time, put simply, marches on. These days, time is at a dead sprint, and the rearview mirror looks like a silent film that runs twice as fast as real life.

King is in the rearview mirror, and barring some extraordinary effort from his contemporaries still in the business, is almost sure to stay there. An Internet vote from interested fan/devotees is no savior, as King is not a household name save here. That was tried in 2007, and it didn't work then, either.

No, King's case and cause will have to be carried by his fellow Hall of Fame broadcasters, those who remember him as one of theirs even as others forget. They will have to invoke his name to the decision makers as not merely a contemporary but an equal. His story will have to be told without the common visual props of the day, as a word-of-mouth exercise from those who knew his work best.

His story will have to be that of the man whose voice defined an era, whose legacy is incomplete, whose recognition is overdue, and is bordering on never happening at all.

## **Versatile Rosales excited about A's**

### **Day after traded by Reds, he's excited to head to Oakland**

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- When Adam Rosales traveled south of the border to play winter ball for Mexicali this offseason, the 26-year-old utilityman found himself among a plethora of infielders.

Rosales, who grew up manning the middle infield at shortstop, had no time to waste waiting for a turn to play on the diamond rough. He was there to learn -- not watch.

So the always-eager Rosales did just that.

"They put me out there, and I got to learn how to play left field," he said. "I felt like it was the perfect time for me, developmental wise, to go to Mexico and get my at-bats and learn how to play a different position."

Rosales' flexibility and consistent hustle -- no matter where he's placed on the field -- are just two of the many reasons why he quickly became a fan favorite in Cincinnati last year. They're also why Billy Beane and the A's decided to pull the trigger and trade the more seasoned Aaron Miles for him -- and outfielder Willy Taveras, who was promptly designated for assignment -- in a four-player trade with the Reds on Monday.

"Our scouts have seen a lot of him over the past few years," said Beane's assistant general manager, David Forst, "and every single one of them just loves the way he plays the game and really likes his versatility."

In essence, Rosales represents the last key ingredient to the club's offseason recipe for what is hoped to be a playoff-caliber team. The A's now have depth at every position thanks to Rosales' potential to easily stand in for the still-unproven Cliff Pennington at shortstop -- the position at which the Reds drafted Rosales in 2005.

"It will definitely boost my confidence a little, just knowing somebody wants me," Rosales said Tuesday morning while driving near his home in Chicago. "That's what makes leaving the Reds a little bit easier. Any way I can help the team, I'm happy to be a part of it. I'm looking forward to winning."

The utility role is not exactly the most glamorous in baseball, but those familiar with the A's know it's a necessary one given the team's track record over the last three seasons with injuries -- a combined 64 uses of the disabled list.

"That's the role I was playing in Cincinnati, but I definitely don't want to limit myself," Rosales said. "Whatever the team needs I'm going to do, and I'm going to strive to reach my maximum potential."

Sounds like the standard line coming from a young guy simply looking to impress his new team. But Rosales is genuinely excited about the possibilities that come with a different organization -- even if it took him awhile to process it all.

Reds GM "Walt Jocketty called and said they had to make a move, and that there was a better opportunity in Oakland than there was in Cincinnati right now," he said. "It's the first time I've ever been traded. The Reds drafted me and gave me my first opportunity to be a professional baseball player.

"I had a little heartbreak feeling, but that's what baseball is, and I got a call from Billy Beane and he sounded excited to have me as part of the Oakland A's organization, so I was excited as well."

Rosales is also eager to become acquainted with a new league but even more ready to introduce said league to an all-out style of play some have compared to that of former Oakland fan favorite Eric Byrnes.

In 87 games last year, Rosales played all four infield positions while batting .213 with four home runs and 19 RBIs. He collected 49 hits and 26 walks -- all on which his 6-foot-2 frame ran at full speed.

"I haven't changed since I was a little kid," he said. "It's what I've always done. I like doing it. It keeps the energy up for myself and the game, and it tends to rub off a little bit on my teammates. When I was little I ran hard after a home run, although I didn't start hitting them until I was about 12 or 14. But I always ran to my position and played the game like it's supposed to be played as a kid."

As a Cubs fan growing up in Chicago, Rosales watched Brant Brown, "and I remember he ran around the bases really fast."

"It was something different and I thought, 'That's cool,' " Rosales said. "But I've just always learned from my coaches to play hard, and that was the consistent thing I learned each year. So I kept doing it all the way through college and into the Minor Leagues all the way to the Majors."

A man of many appreciations, including the travel and culture lessons learned while playing and living in Mexico for three months, Rosales never takes the game for granted.

"I'm just a typical baseball player who loves the game and has a passion for the game and wants to win," he said.

At the same time, Rosales is also just a twenty-something looking forward to California weather and a couple of harmonizing sessions here and there with any other willing guitar-playing A's.

"I'm just average," he said of his musical abilities. "I've played since high school but never got too serious. I'll pick it up every once in a while and play a new song."

Chances are it's a tune courtesy of Dave Matthews Band, the group Rosales claims to be his all-time favorite. Oh, and the A's newcomer also sings, too.

"Well," he said with a laugh, "only when no one's watching."

## **Bailey: 'Special honor'**

## **Storied campaign ends with Native Son award**

By KEVIN MINNICK, Courier-Post Staff 2/2/2010

Never in his wildest dreams did Andrew Bailey imagine his offseason would be as exciting as it has turned out.

But here was the 2002 Paul VI High School graduate and Haddon Heights native, back home among family and friends to receive another award for what was nothing less than a storybook rookie season in Major League Baseball.

The 2009 American League Rookie of the Year, Bailey was honored with the Native Son award Monday night at the 106th annual Philadelphia Sports Writers Association awards dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill.

"It's definitely special, a special honor," Bailey said. "It's a privilege to be nominated and win such an award. Being from South Jersey and the Philly area, it's a big deal. I'm definitely proud and very grateful that they're honoring me."

The award first was handed out in 1991. Delran graduate and U.S. Olympic women's soccer star Carli Lloyd was the last South Jersey player to be selected, in 2008.

"Going into the (2009) season, I never thought my offseason would be as hectic or as busy," Bailey said. "It's been awesome and I'm thrilled. I don't take anything for granted and I'm enjoying the time. It's been humbling."

Making the A's as a non-roster invitee out of spring training, Bailey emerged as the team's closer and became one of baseball's top pitchers out of the bullpen. The right-hander set a franchise rookie record with 26 saves in 30 opportunities, striking out 91 and walking just 24 in 83 1/3 innings.

Bailey, Oakland's lone representative in the All-Star Game, finished 6-3 with a 1.84 ERA in 68 appearances.

That's not too bad for a pitcher who had Tommy John surgery in 2005, was taken in the sixth round of the 2006 draft and was a struggling starter at Double-A Midland of the Texas League before a move to the pen rejuvenated his career in the summer of 2008.

"I did it once and everyone asks how I'm going to do it again," Bailey said. "Obviously, you can't translate the stats from 2009 to 2010. You start with a clean slate. There's no pressure. I just have to do my job and do it the best way I can."

"The goal is to build on last year, but I won't be disappointed if the numbers aren't the same. As long as the team wins, I'm happy."

As for the time being, Bailey is enjoying his new celebrity status. But don't think he doesn't realize how special this time is.

"It's funny. You remember the first time a kid asked for your autograph or the first time you saw your picture on a baseball card," he said. "Oakland had all of these promotions with my name on it. My picture is on the schedule."

"I'm enjoying it and it's nice that people recognize me. To be a part of something like that, you dream about that as a kid. What I'm going through now is just awesome. I get a kick out of it."

"Sometimes I think, 'Why me? What did I do that got me where I am today that a million other kids didn't get this opportunity?' I'm having fun with it. You think about others that didn't make it or friends who wish they were in your shoes. I'm just taking every moment and enjoying it. I don't get stressed out about it."

Bailey was scheduled to leave today for Arizona, where he'll begin spring training in two weeks.

"I'm looking forward to spring training. I want to get out there early and get into a routine," he said. "You feel like you've been pulled a hundred different ways this offseason and it will be nice to get out there and relax a bit before we get things started up."

"Each and every year, you always look forward to the next year and want to build off it. I'm going to go out and just do what I can. You can't dwell on a blown save. You just have to enjoy the moment."