

A's News Clips, Monday, February 8, 2010

Athletics deal Eveland to Blue Jays

Club to get player to be named later or cash considerations

By Jane Lee / MLB.com 2/7/2010

OAKLAND -- The A's traded left-handed pitcher Dana Eveland to Toronto for a player to be named later or cash considerations on Saturday.

The transaction comes just five days after the 26-year-old Eveland was designated for assignment.

He began and finished the 2009 season in the starting rotation but mostly saw action at Triple-A Sacramento, where he went 8-6 with a 4.94 ERA in 21 starts. Meanwhile, he struggled during three stints in Oakland, going 2-4 with a 7.16 ERA in 13 games -- nine of which he started.

Originally acquired from Arizona in the Dan Haren trade following the 2007 season, Eveland leaves Oakland with a combined 11-13 record and 4.92 ERA in 42 games (38 starts) through two years. Just two out of the six players received in that trade -- Brett Anderson and Chris Carter -- are still with the A's.

Oakland had 10 days from the time Eveland was designated to trade, release or send him to the Minors if he cleared waivers. The club now has only five days to do so with the other two players designated on the same day -- infielder Gregorio Petit and outfielder Willy Taveras, who was acquired in a trade with the Reds.

A's trade lefty pitcher Eveland to Toronto

[By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune](#) 2/7/2010

The A's traded left-hander Dana Eveland to the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday for a player to be named later or cash considerations.

Eveland, 26, was designated for assignment Monday along with infielder Gregorio Petit. The A's have until Thursday to trade or release Petit, or send him to the minors if he clears waivers.

After being acquired from Arizona as part of the Dan Haren trade in December 2007, Eveland went 9-9 with a 4.34 ERA in 29 starts in 2008. He struggled last season and spent most of the year with Triple-A Sacramento.

Considering the A's are stocked with young pitching, Eveland welcomed a change of scenery. He said Blue Jays officials told him he'll be competing for a rotation spot.

"I'm happy to go pitch for another team and compete for a spot in spring training, where in Oakland it was going to be tough," he said.

Two reports Saturday said the A's have agreed to terms with right-hander Michael Feliz out of the Dominican Republic, though the team has yet to confirm it. Feliz reportedly would get an \$800,000 bonus, with the deal pending a physical and age investigation, not uncommon for players coming out of the Dominican.

The Dominican Prospect League web site lists Feliz's age as 16. A scouting report on that site says the 6-foot-4 Feliz boasts a fastball in the 91-93 mph range.

In July 2008, the A's signed another 16-year-old Dominican, right-hander Michael Ynoa, to a \$4.25 million bonus, the largest a major league team has given to an international amateur not from Cuba.

A's trade left-hander Eveland to Jays

Associated Press 2/7/2010

The A's have traded left-hander Dana Eveland to the Blue Jays for a player to be named or cash considerations.

The 26-year-old Eveland was designated for assignment by the club Monday. Though Eveland began and ended the 2009 season in the A's rotation, he mostly pitched for Triple-A Sacramento.

He went 2-4 with a 7.16 ERA in 13 appearances and nine starts during three stints with the A's and was 8-6 with a 4.94 ERA in 21 starts at Sacramento.

Eveland came to the A's in the trade that sent Dan Haren to the Arizona Diamondbacks in December 2007.

Bedard back with Mariners: Despite shoulder surgeries and disappointment in Seattle during each of the last two seasons, free-agent left-hander Erik Bedard is coming back to the Mariners.

General manager Jack Zduriencik announced that the team and the oft-injured 30-year-old agreed to a one-year contract with a mutual option for 2011.

The contract is expected to have a base salary worth a fraction of the \$7.75 million Bedard made last season.

Bedard is rehabilitating with a physical therapist in his native Canada following surgery in August to repair a torn labrum in his pitching shoulder. Last week, Mariners trainer Rick Griffin said the recovery time for the procedure is 10-12 months. That would have Bedard making his season debut in June at the earliest.

Gammons: A's faced with obstacles

Stadium, budget issues force GM Beane to be creative

By / MLB.com

It's not like Oakland was ever a baseball town like St. Louis. Even when the Athletics were in the midst of winning three consecutive World Series titles from 1972-74, owner Charles O. Finley had members of the front office distributing box lunches in the press box, and the Coliseum was hardly ever filled.

Then, after they won their fifth consecutive divisional title in 1975, Finley saw with free agency coming that he couldn't survive by trying to hold onto his very talented veteran players. He cited how Connie Mack twice won and then dismantled the team in Philadelphia and tried to follow his lead, attempting to sell Vida Blue, Rollie Fingers and Joe Rudi to the Yankees and Red Sox on June 15, 1976 -- a month before a historic labor agreement took effect giving teams six years of Major League control over players before they could go to free agency -- only to be blocked by then-Commissioner Bowie Kuhn. By the late '70s, the Coliseum had been nicknamed "The Mausoleum" and about all that was memorable was M.C. Hammer giving Finley the play-by-play via a press box phone.

The Haas family bought out Finley in 1980 and through the creative genius of team president Roy Eisenhardt and his subsequent hiring of a brilliant attorney named Sandy Alderson, the franchise was revived in the early '80s. Rickey Henderson, Dave Stewart and the now-Bash-terisked "Bash Brothers" team won one World Series, three pennants and four division titles from 1988 to 1992.

They once again stripped the roster down and Alderson and general manager Billy Beane rebuilt the club. With Beane at the helm, the Athletics began a run in 1999 of eight consecutive winning seasons, including five playoff appearances.

Hey, the A's have a 110-year history of being down at the crossroads of relocation in Philadelphia, Kansas City and Oakland (Finley once tried to move the club to Louisville, as well), and after three seasons averaging 75 wins, they are back at that crossroads, a day away from where they want to be.

The Coliseum has been trashed by the NFL's answer to Hell's Angels. The A's drew slightly over 1.4 million fans last season, the fewest in the Majors. Matt Holliday hated the place. Beane offered more years and more money to free agents Adrian Beltre and Marco Scutaro than did the Red Sox, and both ended up in Boston. Unless a compromise can be struck with the Giants on territorial rights in San Jose, to save the franchise owned by his college roommate Lew Wolfe, the future may once again raise the specter of contraction.

Beane is trying to restore the Athletics to take the Bay Area's eyes off Tim Lincecum and The Kung Fu Panda, Pablo Sandoval. It's not as if they were dreadful; they won 75 games, more than eight other teams, and their run differential (-2) was better than 13 teams. Andrew Bailey won the American League Rookie of the Year Award.

But because their payroll must remain in the mid-\$50 million range, their resources are far from that of the Angels (\$120 million), Mariners (\$100 million) or even the Rangers (\$80 million). Beane signed Ben Sheets for \$10 million, Coco Crisp for \$5.25 million, and then ate \$1.3 million in the Aaron Miles-Willy Taveras deal to grab left side utilityman Adam Rosales. He then re-signed Michael Wuertz and Justin Duchscherer to deals that were two years, \$5.25 million and one year at \$2 million, respectively.

Yet, whether it's Baseball Prospectus' PECOTA or the numerology used by different teams, the A's are considered serious contenders in the AL West. These prognostications for the upcoming season show the A's win totals ranging anywhere from 80-82 and six games out of the AL West, to one team's formula, which has them winning 89 games, more than any AL team not based in New York, Boston or St. Petersburg.

What Beane tried to do in 2009 was get Holliday, Jason Giambi, Orlando Cabrera and some veteran players to join what turned out to be the youngest pitching rotation in the league. That didn't work; after winning two of their first three games (against the Angels), the A's never got over .500 for the rest of the season. But some development occurred, as Brett Anderson became one of the best young left-handed pitchers in the league and Bailey (1.84 ERA, 49 hits in 83 1/3 innings and a 91-24 strikeout-to-walk ratio) closed for a bullpen that was one of the two best in the league, with Wuertz (52 hits, 102 strikeouts in 78 2/3 innings), Brad Ziegler and Craig Breslow. And this bullpen should be better with Joey Devine coming off injury.

Now with Sheets, Anderson, Duchscherer, Dallas Braden, Trevor Cahill and Vin Mazzaro, the staff should be good from start to finish.

OK, the offense didn't work, finishing ninth in the AL in runs, last in homers and 12th in OPS. But between the ninth, first and second holes, manager Bob Geren can play around with Crisp, Ryan Sweeney and last year's revelation, Rajai Davis. Kurt Suzuki can hit second or third, Kevin Kouzmanoff, DH Eric Chavez, Jack Cust and Daric Barton can all bat somewhere in the middle. The pitching, theoretically, will cushion the pressure as they bring their young position players up from Sacramento during the season. Some of the prospects who could see time in Oakland this season are outfielder Michael Taylor (acquired from Philadelphia through Toronto in the Roy Halladay trade this offseason), first baseman Chris Carter (92 home runs over his last three Minor League seasons), infielder Adrian Cardenas, first baseman-outfielder Sean Doolittle and second baseman Jemile Weeks, a former first-round Draft pick.

"By the late part of the season, we should have a pretty good young team," Beane said. "We just have to have some patience."

If the Athletics do win the division, perhaps it will attract enough attention to give the franchise the hope of a real ballpark. But it will not be easy. The Angels are always good. Seattle and Texas turned their teams around last season with serious defensive upgrades, and the Mariners now have Cliff Lee to go with Felix Hernandez. The AL West had the best record outside its division of any of the six in baseball.

The Athletics are 160 games above .500 over the last dozen seasons, and if the stadium had been maintained and honed as a baseball-only facility, maybe it would have worked. Even with the possibility that the A's could be the best team in their division in 2010, right now there doesn't seem to be much hope that the franchise can ever be much more than fattening frogs for snakes.

Too bad. Intelligence and competence should matter, but in this case it doesn't, which is how the Raiders rule and the A's are pleading to find a way to get them into San Jose, or out, period.