

A's News Clips, Monday, November 1, 2010

Cam Inman: Aaron likes these Giants more

By Cam Inman, Bay Area News Group

Count Henry Aaron among the Giants' newfound admirers.

"I'm very impressed in the way they handle themselves," Aaron said Sunday before Game 4. "They play as a group. No one excites you that much, but they know how to win."

The last time Aaron and the Giants crossed paths, in 2007, Barry Bonds was en route to supplanting Aaron as baseball's all-time home run king. Asked about having to follow those Giants, Aaron interjected: "I didn't HAVE to pay attention."

But, clearly, this time around is easier. These Giants seem to bring a twinkle to Aaron's eye.

"You don't get a chance to see them as much as the Yankees, so you don't get a read on them as well," Aaron added.

And he loves the matchup, knowing that either the Bay Area or Texas is about to have its first World Series victory parade.

"This is good for baseball, to have two teams like this," Aaron added.

HOME RUN PRINCE: Aaron was on hand to present an award named in his honor to the season's most outstanding offensive performers: Toronto's Jose Bautista and Cincinnati's Joey Votto. Commissioner Bud Selig introduced Aaron at the news conference, calling his long-time friend "the most prolific slugger in the history of the sport." Selig seemed to slight Bonds again when he said watching Aaron play in the 1950s and '60s was a privilege "like nothing else I've ever seen, to this day."

DANVILLE HOOT: This wasn't Nate Schierholtz's first World Series start. Nine years ago, he started in the American Legion World Series, for the Danville Hoots under coach Don Johns. "It was in Yakima, Washington," Schierholtz recalled. "We lost in the first rounds. It was fun anyway."

Schierholtz learned he was the starting right fielder for Game 4 when teammate Aaron Rowand texted him.

"I'm living a dream," Schierholtz said, "but it still feels like a game at the same time. It's weird to think we're the only teams playing. It's more fun than watching at a sports bar or at home on the couch."

NEXT TOPIC: Thankfully, Aubrey Huff has hit his first career postseason home run, a 404-foot blast down the right-field line that put the Giants ahead 2-0 Sunday. Now those media scoundrels can stop harassing him about his choice of skivvies. (No sooner was that sentence written when a couple Giants writers joked in the press box about Huff's rally thong.)

A'S UPDATE: Asked about the A's potential move to San Jose, Selig said what he has been saying for months. It's almost like a recording at this point.

"The committee is hard at work and will report back to me sometime after this Series is over," Selig said. "They have a lot of work to do. They're examining all aspects. When they're done, the committee will report to me, I'll talk about it, hopefully in the near future."

He declined to share his views on a potential San Jose ballpark until he sees the committee report.

LINEUP CHANGE: Giants managing general partner Bill Neukom ditched his Game 3 cowboy boots for black and orange sneakers. If you must know, he also wore tan pants, not blue jeans or a Stetson hat.

TIME MANAGEMENT: Just below some steps near the Giants dugout is a television that was showing the Patriots-Vikings game on Fox an hour before Game 4 was to begin on the same network. Asked the score, a baseball official tersely replied: "I don't care about the score. I want it to be over."

SOUND OF MUSIC: Tim Flannery, the Giants third base coach and an accomplished musician, took a quick break from batting practice to meet Lyle Lovett, who sang Sunday's National Anthem. "I saw you at Red Rocks (in Colorado) and at Humphreys (in San Diego)," Flannery said while patting his heart.

OFFICIAL SCORER: Regardless of your political views, this was a great sight: After the ceremonial first pitch by George W. Bush, standing alongside his father, former first lady Barbara Bush was seen keeping score from the family's front-row seats.

Your SF Giants: Who are these guys, anyway?

John Shea, Chronicle Staff Writer

The buzz from Game 4 of the 106th World Series at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington:

-- The Marketing Arm, a Dallas-based sports and entertainment marketing agency, ranks nobody from the Giants or Rangers on its celebrity DBI list of top 100 most marketable sports personalities. Most marketable Ranger at No. 104: **Nolan Ryan**.

Most marketable Giant at 269: **Tim Lincecum**, who's just ahead of **Dale Jarrett**, **Cristiano Ronaldo** and **Michael Johnson** and just behind **Nastia Liukin**, **Mark Sanchez** and **Lou Holtz**.

-- The agency has another list of top 2,600 celebrities - not just athletes, but actors, musicians, politicians, etc. - and Lincecum's the only Giant mentioned, at 1,562. (No A's.) Lincecum scores well in two areas: endorsement and influence. His endorsement score is on par with **Antonio Banderas**, **Maria Shriver** and **Robert Duvall**. As for influence, he ranks with **Pete Carroll**, **Judd Apatow** and **Jon Bon Jovi**.

-- Lincecum is known by about 30 percent of U.S. customers compared with 85 percent for **Joe Montana**.

-- How do you get to be a famous singer like **Lyle Lovett**? Fail at baseball. Before performing the national anthem, Lovett told Eavesdrops he was a shortstop and pitcher until age 12, then his hitting failed him, so he quit baseball and got into music. "I owe my music career to bailing out of baseball," he said.

-- **Bud Selig's committee is in its 19th month investigating the A's ballpark situation - one month shy of George Mitchell's probe into the history of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball. The commish said the committee will report to him after the World Series. How long after? "I don't know," he said. "They've still got a lot of work to do."**

-- Cincinnati's **Joey Votto** and Toronto's **Jose Bautista** were presented the **Hank Aaron** Awards as the best hitters in their leagues, and Votto said Hammerin' Hank's old teammate would be proud, referring to Reds manager **Dusty Baker**.

-- Aaron on the Giants, in the postseason for the first time since the **Barry Bonds** era: "I am very impressed with the way they handle themselves. No one excites you that much, but they know how to win. To have these teams here, Texas and San Francisco, is great for baseball." Aaron admitted, as an Easterner, he didn't see much of the Giants until the postseason.

A's send Meloan, Souza to Sacramento

Gross, Larish opt to become free agents as club shapes roster

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The A's shuffled their 40-man roster on Saturday, outrighting Gabe Gross, Jeff Larish, John Meloan and Justin Souza to Triple-A Sacramento. Gross and Larish elected to become free agents.

Gross, 31, spent the entire season with the A's, but received sporadic playing time. He hit .239 with one home run and 25 RBIs in 105 games (54 starts). The outfielder carried a .309 average through June, but hit a dismal .188 over his final 68 games and was not expected back next year.

Playing time also came at a premium for Larish, who was recently sent home with a broken toe from winter ball in Venezuela, where he was 1-for-13 in four games with Leones del Caracas before the injury.

The 28-year-old Larish, claimed off waivers from the Tigers on Aug. 3, showed flashes of power but ultimately struggled with consistency at the plate, going 10-for-58 (.172) with two home runs and eight RBIs in 23 games (14 starts) during two stints with Oakland.

Seven of those starts were in left field, marking his first appearances in the outfield in the Majors or Minors. Larish also saw a dose of action at designated hitter, as well as the infield corners when third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff and first baseman Daric Barton were injured.

Meloan, meanwhile, missed the entire season after undergoing Tommy John surgery on his right elbow on March 30. Fellow hurler Souza split his season between Double-A Midland and Sacramento, but was sidelined the final month with a stress fracture in his right elbow.

Souza went 2-2 with six saves and a 3.38 ERA in 28 relief appearances for Midland and proceeded to tally an 8.00 ERA in five outings with the River Cats.

AL Reliever says the toughest Yankee to face is ...

By Andrew Marchand, espn.com

Here are five questions on the Yankees with Oakland A's reliever **Craig Breslow**. Breslow, who was called the smartest player in baseball by The Sporting News, grew up in Trumbull, CT, attended Yale as a molecular biophysics and biochemistry major. The only thing he asked is that we promote his foundation, which, of course, we were more than happy to do.

It is called the Strike 3 Foundation and it fights against Childhood Cancer. For more information, please see the bottom of the Five Questions.

1) Who is the toughest hitter to face in the lineup? Why?

Breslow: In my opinion Robinson Cano has made himself the toughest hitter in the Yankee lineup. I say that with no disrespect to the other guys, a number of whom are certain Hall of Famers. However, given the progress that Cano has made, and that he is just entering the prime of his career, his potential is limitless

2) What do you try to do against Robinson Cano?

Breslow: Cano has really turned himself into a great hitter. Previously, if you could get the ball in on him, you could get him out, however he has really made an adjustment and is pulling the ball inside and also staying through the ball away and driving it to the opposite field. There is no secret to getting him out. It's a battle

3) Who is the guy you respect the most on the Yankees?

Breslow: Derek Jeter. I think that's pretty clear. As much for his off the field reputation as his on field accolades. His career is worthy of enshrinement in the Hall of Fame, but to be able to serve as the face of the most celebrated franchise in sports, while maintaining a squeaky clean image is remarkable.

4) Who is the most disciplined hitter on the team?

Breslow: I would say that the lineup in general is very patient and disciplined, but **Mark Teixeira** is a guy who comes to mind who always has a high OBP and gets himself into hitter's counts.

5) You went to Yale, who is the smartest player in baseball?

Breslow: Well, the Sporting News seemed to have cast a pretty undisputable list. Kidding, I have gotten to know **Ross Ohlendorf** and am definitely impressed by his intellect. He would have to get my nod.

About Craig's Charity: *The Strike 3 Foundation on November 13th, 2010, for the Third Annual First Pitch Celebrity Gala, benefiting pediatric cancer research.*

Held at the Hilton Hotel in Stamford CT, the gala gets underway at 6:30 p.m. and features live entertainment, and both live and silent auctions. The event dress is Cocktail Attire. A block of hotel rooms have been reserved, see the link below to book rooms at our special rate.

This year's First Pitch Gala will be hosted by Bobby Valentine (former MLB player and manager and current ESPN analyst) and Karl Ravech (host of ESPN's Baseball Tonight and SportsCenter).