

A's News Clips, Wednesday, December 21, 2011

A's FanFest returns after three-year hiatus

Several players past and present to appear at Oracle Arena

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Following a three-year hiatus, A's FanFest is set to return on Jan. 29 and will feature appearances by several former and current players, including Joe Rudi and Jemile Weeks.

Sponsored by Comcast SportsNet California, FanFest will be staged at Oracle Arena from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. PT. Among the highlights are free autographs, free photos with the team's four World Series trophies and former A's legends, and question-and-answer sessions with Weeks, manager Bob Melvin and 20-game win streak hero Scott Hatteberg, among others.

"Fans will have unique access to their favorite A's players and the chance to meet some of the new additions to the 2012 club," said Jim Leahey, A's vice president of sales and marketing. "We're excited to be holding the event in the Oracle Arena for the first time, which will provide a wonderful environment for interacting with our players and legends as we kick off a season in which we will be celebrating some of the greatest moments in A's history."

The 2012 season marks the 40th anniversary of the 1972 World Series championship and the 10-year anniversary of the 20-game win streak -- both of which will be celebrated through in-season events, including Rollie Fingers Bobblehead Day on April 21 and Scott Hatteberg Bobblehead Day on Aug. 18.

FanFest will bring about many members of the A's 1972 team. Along with Rudi, the A's plan to embrace World Series MVP Gene Tenace and Vida Blue.

Admission is free for 2012 season-ticket holders and priced at \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 14 and under. Parking is free for all fans, who will also have the opportunity to purchase individual game tickets for the upcoming season while there.

Betancourt back with Kansas City

San Francisco Chronicle, STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Yuniesky Betancourt is back with the Royals after agreeing to a one-year contract, the team announced Tuesday.

Betancourt, who played for the Royals from 2009-10, started at shortstop for the NL Central champion Brewers last season, batting .252 with 13 homers and 68 RBIs. Kansas City has Alcides Escobar at shortstop, so Betancourt will provide versatility and experience off the bench. He will back up Escobar and provide a right-handed bat behind Mike Moustakas at third base.

Betancourt was part of the trade that sent pitcher Zack Greinke from the Royals to the Brewers for Escobar, center fielder Lorenzo Cain and righthanded pitchers Jeremy Jeffress and Jake Odorizzi.

Milwaukee declined a \$6 million option on Betancourt for next season.

A's FanFest: Free autographs and question-and-answer sessions with A's manager Bob Melvin and second baseman Jemile Weeks will be featured at Oakland A's FanFest 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at Oracle Arena.

In addition to Melvin and Weeks, the event will include appearances by Gene Tenace, Joe Rudi and Vida Blue, part of the team's 40th anniversary celebration of the 1972 World Series championship.

Briefly: The Rays re-signed right-handed reliever Joel Peralta to a one-year contract, avoiding arbitration. Peralta went 3-4 with a 2.93 ERA in 71 appearances last season, helping the Rays make the playoffs. ... The Phillies hired former general manager Ed Wade as a special consultant. Wade was dismissed last month as Astros GM.