

A's News Clips, Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Oakland A's sign Bartolo Colon to one-year, \$2 million deal

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

The A's signed free agent right-hander Bartolo Colon to a one-year, \$2 million contract on Tuesday, adding a veteran arm to a rotation that's been depleted by trades this offseason.

An agreement had been in place for about a week, but Colon, 38, needed to pass a physical for it to become official. He's expected to join a starting five that includes Brandon McCarthy and Dallas Braden but is very unsettled beyond them.

Colon went 8-10 with a 4.00 ERA in 29 games (26 starts) last season for the New York Yankees, after he missed all of 2010 with elbow and shoulder injuries.

When the A's shipped Trevor Cahill to Arizona and Gio Gonzalez to Washington in December, they traded away 39 percent of their wins and 28 percent of their innings pitched from the past two seasons. They followed up by trading closer Andrew Bailey to Boston and also dealt two rotation candidates, Guillermo Moscoso and Josh Outman, to Colorado.

Left-hander Brett Anderson, a returning starter, will miss at least the first half of the season while returning from reconstructive elbow surgery. And even Braden is a question mark to begin the season as he comes back from shoulder surgery.

So the A's need Colon, a two-time All-Star, to eat up innings. He is 161-113 with a 4.09 ERA over his 14-year major league career. But how much does the 2005 A.L. Cy Young winner have left in the tank?

He went 5-2 with a 2.96 ERA over his first 10 starts last season. After a strained left hamstring sent him to the disabled list, he returned to go 3-7 with a 4.81 ERA over his final 16 starts.

The A's have yet to announce the signing of outfielder Jonny Gomes, but that might come as soon as Wednesday. Gomes, a right-handed hitter, is in line to get outfield or D.H. at-bats against left-handed pitchers.

Jose Canseco wants to DH for the Oakland A's

By Joe Stiglich, Oakland Tribune

Jose Canseco recently saw the movie "Moneyball," and he has an idea for a Hollywood ending to his own baseball career.

The former Bash Brother reached out to A's general manager Billy Beane via Twitter, looking for a shot to sign with the A's as their designated hitter. Canseco, now 47, was the 1988 American League MVP with Oakland but hasn't played in the majors since 2001 as a member of the Chicago White Sox.

Though he says he's spent the past decade trying to get back to the majors, watching "Moneyball" -- the Oscar-nominated movie based on a book written about Beane, his former teammate -- renewed his passion.

"I'm trying my hardest and damndest," Canseco said Tuesday in a phone interview with this newspaper. "I can't get anybody to give me a chance. I saw the movie "Moneyball", and I was amazed at what Billy had to go through. I guess if you love something ... that movie really got my juices flowing. I love baseball, people don't know that about me. I miss it so much."

As recently as 2011, Canseco served as a player/manager for the Yuma Scorpions of the North American independent league. He recently began working out at On Deck Baseball Academy in Las Vegas, where he now lives.

He said he still weighs 250 pounds, right around his playing weight, and swings the same size bat -- 36 inches, 35 ounces -- that he always did.

He claims to also be tutoring a group of minor leaguers at the academy.

"I'm 47, so my legs are not going to be what they were, but my bat speed and hands are still the same," he said. "I can't believe how fast (they are). I'm shocked how I haven't lost a beat there."

The chances of any team giving Canseco a look are far-fetched.

He slugged 462 homers in the majors, but he's resurfaced in the limelight in recent years for much more controversial reasons. He wrote a tell-all book in 2005 -- "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big" -- in which he not only admitted his own steroid use but blew the whistle on former teammates such as Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi and Rafael Palmeiro as alleged steroid users.

Canseco posted his e-mail address to his Twitter account, inviting Beane to contact him. He has yet to hear from the A's GM.

"You know what my dream would be?" Canseco said. "I would love to come out to the Oakland Coliseum again and take batting practice. If anything, just do that."

The former right fielder has drawn headlines for other exploits seemingly out of left field.

He fought former child actor Danny Bonaduce to a draw in a celebrity boxing match in 2009. That same year, he lost a mixed martial arts bout to Choi Hong-man. He also appeared briefly on the show "Celebrity Apprentice" last year.

Canseco said he doesn't feel his wacky off-field exploits might hurt his chances of being taken seriously by major league teams.

"Actually it should work for me because that kind of stuff keeps me in shape," Canseco said. "I try to stay in shape as much as possible, so I do the kick boxing, the MMA, celebrity boxing ..."

At the very least, he should have some handy new moves if he ever charges a pitcher's mound.

Outfielder Gomes reaches deal with A's

Oakland adds depth, gives veteran one-year, \$1 million contract

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The A's have added yet another veteran to their outfield mix in right-handed-hitting Jonny Gomes.

According to a source close to the situation, the 31-year-old Gomes has reached a one-year deal with his hometown team for \$1 million, with incentives that could bring it to \$1.2 million.

The A's have yet to officially announce the deal.

With the addition of Gomes, a career .281 hitter against lefties, Oakland solidifies its outfield depth with a player who should nicely complement the left-handed-hitting duo of left fielder Seth Smith and right fielder Josh Reddick. He also offers manager Bob Melvin yet another option at the designated hitter spot.

Gomes, a Bay Area native, posted a .209 average with 14 home runs and 43 RBIs in a combined 120 games for the Reds and Nationals last year. The majority of his appearances came in left field.

He spent the first six seasons of his professional career with the Rays, and since 2003, he has compiled a lifetime .242 average and a .780 OPS. Gomes' most productive season came in 2010, when he hit .267 and drove in 86 runs while appearing in a career-high 148 games for Cincinnati.

A's agree to one-year deal with righty Colon

By Joey Nowak / MLB.com

The Athletics have agreed to a one-year deal with right-handed starting pitcher Bartolo Colon, the club announced Tuesday.

According to a source, the deal is worth nearly \$2 million, and could include a signing bonus.

Colon, 38, has played 14 seasons in the big leagues, most recently with the Yankees. He proved to be reliable at the back end of New York's 2011 rotation, winning eight games with a 4.00 ERA.

The right-hander did not pitch in the big leagues in 2010, and had not won more than six games since his 2005 campaign with the Angels, when he won 21 and was the recipient of the American League Cy Young Award.

A's agree to terms with right-hander Bartolo Colon

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Baseball Writer

The Oakland Athletics and free agent right-hander Bartolo Colon have agreed to terms on a \$2 million, one-year contract, bolstering their depleted starting rotation.

The team made the announcement Tuesday. The sides had an agreement last week pending a physical.

The 38-year-old Colon, a former A's nemesis during his four-year stint with the AL West rival Angels from 2004-07, went 8-10 with a 4.00 ERA in 29 appearances and 26 starts last year for the New York Yankees in his 14th big league season. He won the 2005 AL Cy Young Award.

Last month, the A's traded away starter Trevor Cahill to Arizona and All-Star lefty Gio Gonzalez to the Nationals. Oakland also sent All-Star closer Andrew Bailey to the Red Sox on Dec. 28. On Jan. 16, the A's acquired outfielder Seth Smith from Colorado in a swap that sent right-hander Guillermo Moscoso and left-hander Josh Outman to the Rockies. They were two other potential starters.

"We thought it was important to find another veteran starting pitcher who could give the group of younger arms a little breathing room as a number of them work toward making their first opening day rotation in the big leagues," assistant general manager David Forst said.

When healthy, the hard-throwing Colon has been impressive at Oakland Coliseum where he will now pitch regularly. He is 5-1 with a 2.14 ERA and an opposing batting average of .179 in seven appearances in the A's aging ballpark.

Oakland general manager Billy Beane is in a rebuilding mode with hopes that Commissioner Bud Selig will rule the franchise can relocate some 40 miles south to San Jose and build a new ballpark. But the San Francisco Giants hold the territorial rights to technology-rich Silicon Valley. Selig said at last week's owners meetings a resolution "is very much on the front burner."

He appointed a committee in March 2009 to study the situation.

Colon will join a rotation featuring Brett Anderson and Brandon McCarthy. Left-hander Dallas Braden, who pitched a perfect game on May 9, 2010, against Tampa Bay, is recovering from surgery on his pitching shoulder and it's unclear when he will be ready in 2012.

Braden received a \$3.35 million, one-year contract in mid-December. He made three starts last season before being sidelined by a shoulder injury. He was 1-1 with a 3.00 ERA before going on the disabled list April 18. He had surgery to repair a torn capsule in his left shoulder May 17.

The A's haven't been to the playoffs or posted a winning record since being swept by the Tigers in the 2006 AL championship series.