



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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Bob Melvin Introductory Press Conference at U.S. Cellular Field

Billy Beane, A's Vice President & General Manager

Opening statement

"We wanted to use this opportunity to formally introduce someone we're very fortunate was available, someone I personally have a tremendous amount of respect for and that I've known for a number of years. His work has been highly regarded in his previous stops in Seattle and Arizona, and even in leaving those places he still left with the respect of the people he worked for, so much for that the Diamondbacks had brought him back to be a part of their organization. I think that's a real credit to the kind of person Bob Melvin is and the kind of credibility he has in the game. There's not really a script for replacing a manager in the middle of a season, but we were fortunate a guy like Bob Melvin was available. It's with great pleasure that I welcome Bob to the Oakland Athletics. He's a Bay Area native and someone who's very familiar with our organization and the people in it. We're looking forward to having his voice in the clubhouse and looking forward to starting the second half of the season in a positive sense."

On making a managerial change now

"I thought it was the time. I don't know that there's ever a good time. This is always a difficult situation. It's disruptive to everybody. It's been a crazy day for all of us. The team itself had a very difficult travel schedule, as did everybody involved here, including Bob. It's not in the handbook, replacing a manager in the middle of the season. It's new for me, and I believe it's new for Bob, too. We're sort of learning on the run a little bit. Ultimately, you want to have a positive impact, and I have no doubt Bob will. It's great hearing him up here. I have a tremendous amount of confidence in the change that he'll bring."

On specific qualities Bob Melvin brings

"I've known Bob a long time. Back in his days in Seattle, we'd always search each other out. I enjoyed the conversation. It was more than the average baseball conversation. It was very stimulating. One of the things Bob has a great reputation for is his relationship with everybody who works around him, whether it be the front office or particularly the players. He has a great reputation in the league from his former players. That's important in today's game, there's no question about it. Those are the 25 guys you have to live with everyday. He's just a very bright guy. I think he represents sort of the modern-day type of manager. We're fortunate to have a guy like this available. I'm very happy to have him here today."

Bob Melvin, A's Interim Manager

Opening statement

"For me, there's added significance obviously. This is my third managerial job, but coming home to a place where I grew up, went to grammar school, high school, went to the University of California, played for the Giants and understand the history of all these organizations – especially this organization – this really is a dream come true. This doesn't happen very often in baseball where you literally get to come home in the capacity I do."

On the difficulties of taking over midseason

"Obviously, there's a lot going on with getting to know people, from support staff to players to trainers – everybody. It's a little overwhelming, but ultimately at the end of the day, I get to put this uniform on again and do it in a place that I'm home. At the end of the day, hopefully after a win, I can go home and reflect on it. There's just a lot going on."

On if the team can get back into the American League West race

"Absolutely. Look what happened to the Diamondbacks this year. The focus is going to be to slow it down, back it up and play day-to-day. Don't worry about what happened yesterday, don't worry about what's going to happen tomorrow. Let's focus on today and have the energy there each and every day. All the trials and tribulations and some of the things that can play into baseball players over the course of 162 games can really mount on you. Certainly, we want to slow that down and just worry about today."

On concerns with the team

"Being in a losing streak – that's no fun for anybody. It's my job to deflect off of that and get back to doing the things that this team does very well. It's got great pitching, it's got good athletes and we're going to try the game that we're suited to play. We're probably not going to sit around and play for three-run homers a whole lot. We play in a ballpark that's probably more conducive to being aggressive. That's what we're going to try to do."

On organizational advocacy

"It just means being all-encompassing and being all about the organization, and that's what I'm all about. Knowing the history of this team makes it a whole lot easier on me as well. Growing up and watching the A's and now being a part of the organization, I have something to draw from and something to give to the players that are younger and don't have that kind of history knowing this organization."

On style of play

"It depends on the type of players you have. As I was saying earlier, you can't sit around and wait for a three-run homer if you don't have guys to hit three-run homers. You can't run wild on the bases if you don't have guys that can run. I have to adapt to the players more so then they adapt to me. One thing I can tell you is there's going to be energy, there's going to be passion for what they do. We're going to play hard for 27 outs. I know that's cliché and that's heard a lot, but that's the type of style this team needs to play and that's the type of style we will play."

On current staff members

"I know Joel Skinner some and I know Mike Gallego some, Gerald Perry a little bit from the other side. We're all in the same situation. We're all playing for the day like everybody does in baseball for your job each and every day. I have no problem with that. Whether you're a pitcher, catcher, coach, manager, trainer, whatever – there's someone knocking on your door to take your job. That doesn't change, no matter what job you're in or what you do in this game."

On wearing No. 6

"It's for captain Sal Bando of the Swinging A's, no doubt about it. I wore No. 3 in honor of Phil Garner. Sal and he together brought me into the Milwaukee organization. I cut my teeth under Phil Garner as a bench coach and became a manager and wanted to honor him. I felt like it was apropos with the situation being here in Oakland to wear this number. I'll wear it [with pride]."

On being a Bay Area sports fan

"The A's have terrific history. I sat in the Coliseum and watched World Series games there twice. Actually, in that whole facility there, my godfather was the trainer for the Golden State Warriors. I know that whole area very well. I spent a lot of time in the Oakland Coliseum and also in the basketball arena. I'm just a Bay Area sports fan. Obviously, it's easier to root for the team that's winning at the time. I was a big A's fan when they were winning and a big Giants fan when they were winning."

On relationship with Billy Beane

"I think our relationship was how this came together so quickly. This was a difficult situation. It was difficult for Billy, it's going to be difficult for everybody involved here, but I think it came together so quickly because we've known each other so long. We have respect for each other and know what the other one's strengths are. It was an easy couple conversations and then it was done. I don't know that there's too many people in the game, at least for me, that something could have happened this quickly."

On current A's players

"Well, I'm glad to have Brian Fuentes on my side now, because in Colorado, he was a pain in my butt. I'm happy to have him, I already told him that. And Conor Jackson, who I managed in Arizona. I will rely on the staff for the familiarity until I get to know each and every player intimately."