

A's News Clips, Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Cody Ross agrees to terms with Red Sox

San Francisco Chronicle

Cody Ross says he has agreed to sign with the Boston Red Sox, giving them an experienced bat to help replace J.D. Drew in right field.

Foxsports.com and ESPN.com reported the contract is for one year and \$3 million. Ross told the Associated Press in a text message late Monday that the deal won't be finalized until he takes a physical.

The 31-year-old Ross batted .240 with 14 home runs and 52 RBIs for the Giants last season while playing at least 22 games at every outfield position.

Ross was the 2010 NL Championship Series MVP for the Giants and helped them win the World Series that year after they picked him up off waivers in August.

He expressed his thanks on Twitter to San Francisco fans and wrote: "Looking fwd to meeting the redsoxnation fans!!"

Gomes signs with A's: Johnny Gomes grew up an A's fan in Petaluma, and he said Monday that his love for baseball really began with the 1989 World Series between Oakland and the Giants. "That's when I decided this is what I want to do," he said by phone.

Now, Gomes, 31, officially is a member of the A's after passing his physical Monday. He signed a one-year deal worth \$1 million, and he can earn \$200,000 more with incentives.

Gomes said the A's stood out for him this offseason as a strong opportunity, in part because he has played for a low-payroll team that was given little success in a tough division before - the 2008 Tampa Bay team, which went from 96 losses and last place to the World Series.

He had a down season in 2011, batting .209, but hit 14 homers and drove in 43 runs in 311 at-bats.

- *Susan Slusser*

Briefly: The Yankees say Jorge Posada is going to announce his retirement today at Yankee Stadium. ... New Astros owner Jim Crane says he is considering changing the name of the franchise as well as its uniforms when Houston makes the move to the American League West in 2013. ... The Padres have agreed to terms on a \$2.7 million, one-year contract with left-handed pitcher Clayton Richard. ... Left-hander Mitch Stetter and right-hander Sean Green agreed to minor-league contracts with the Rangers. ... Kevin Millwood signed a minor-league deal with the Mariners.

Giants, Sergio Romo agree: 1 year, \$1.575 million

San Francisco Chronicle

The Giants cleared their final potential arbitration case besides Tim Lincecum's on Friday when they reached a one-year deal with reliever Sergio Romo worth \$1.575 million. Romo gets slightly more than the midpoint between his formal request of \$1.75 million and the team's offer of \$1.3 million.

The Giants started the offseason with 13 potential arbitration cases, their most ever and most in the majors this year. They traded three (Jonathan Sanchez, Ramon Ramirez and Andres Torres) and acquired two (Melky Cabrera and Angel Pagan).

They also let Jeff Keppinger and Eli Whiteside leave as free agents (before re-signing Whiteside) and settled with Romo, Cabrera, Pagan, Ryan Vogelsong, Santiago Casilla, Pablo Sandoval, Emmanuel Burriss, Nate Schierholtz and Mike Fontenot. Those 10 (including Whiteside as a free agent) will earn roughly \$25 million in 2012, or \$3.5 million more than Lincecum alone can make if he goes to a hearing and wins.

Lincecum has asked for a record \$21.5 million against the Giants' offer of \$17 million, also a record. Hearings are scheduled for Feb. 1-21 in St. Petersburg, Fla., though the parties are negotiating.

Arbitration was afforded to players with three to six years of major-league service time, plus the top 17 percent of players with two to three years - the "super-twos." Under the new collective bargaining agreement, that will rise to 22 percent.

-Henry Schulman

Gomes deal: Petaluma's Jonny Gomes agreed to a one-year deal with the A's that is expected to pay the 31-year-old outfielder a base salary of about \$1 million in 2012. The deal will be announced when Gomes has completed a physical.

- Susan Slusser

Carmona apologizes: The Cleveland Indians pitcher known as Fausto Carmona made a tearful apology as he was released following his arrest for allegedly using a false identity to play baseball.

"I ask for the forgiveness of my fans, the government of the United States and the Cleveland Indians for this situation," he said upon leaving court in the Dominican Republic, where a judge released him on bail of about \$13,000.

Police arrested him Thursday outside the U.S. consulate in the Dominican. Officials said that his real name is Roberto Hernandez Heredia and that he is 31, not 28 as he claimed.

Peña deal: The Rays and Carlos Peña reportedly agreed to a \$7.25 million, one-year deal.

Drumbeat: Jomny Gomes on coming to A's, Coco Crisp, ticket sales

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser, 1/24/2012, 7:58am

Johnny Gomes grew up an A's fan in Petaluma, and he said Monday that his love for baseball really began with the 1989 World Series between Oakland and Giants.

"That's when I decided this is what I want to do," he said by phone.

Now, Gomes, 31, officially is a member of the A's after passing his physical on Monday. He signed a one-year deal worth \$1 million, and he can earn another \$200,000 with incentives.

Gomes said that the A's stood out for him this offseason as a strong opportunity, in part because he has played for a low-payroll team that was given little success in a tough division before. He believes the lightly regarded 2012 A's can be like the 2008 Tampa Bay team, which went from 96 losses and last place to the World Series.

"We can shock the world, because it's been done before," Gomes said. "Coming from me, it's not hearsay. I've done it, living proof – 25 dudes in the AL East, and we went to the World Series on a \$42 million payroll."

That was the same year that Gomes threw punches at then-Boston outfielder Coco Crisp in an on-field brawl. Now, Crisp is his Oakland teammate.

"We worked out together that offseason," Gomes said with a laugh. "It had absolutely nothing to do with Coco and what he brings, it's that he charged my player. We talked about it that winter. I was like, 'I'd like you on my team,' and he said, 'I'd like you on my team.' We won't be fighting."

Gomes said he hopes to get some time in the outfield, and he believes he's also likely to DH some. He had a down season in 2011, batting .209, but he noted that his on-base percentage was .325 and he hit 14 homers and drove in 43 runs in just 311 at-bats.

Gomes typically draws big crowds when he's in the Bay Area, and he believes that will continue now that he'll be playing in Oakland fulltime.

"I'm going to have to get on the good side of the ticket-booth people, so they hook me up," he said. "And if all else fails, if I totally lay an egg, at least ticket sales will go up."

(This is the full text of a story that wound up being abbreviated in today's Chronicle.)

Inbox: What's the deal with Manny?

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

What's the deal with Manny Ramirez? Are the A's seriously interested in bringing a player like that into a young clubhouse they're trying to develop into a winning club? Doesn't seem like a good influence.

-- Mark N., San Jose, Calif.

I have yet to confirm that the interest in Ramirez is real, making it hard for me to believe that it is, despite ESPN's report that states otherwise. I really don't see Ramirez donning green and gold for several reasons. Sure, he's relatively inexpensive, but he comes with a lot of baggage. He's a two-time performance-enhancing-drug offender, was arrested last year and charged with domestic battery and would have to serve a 50-game suspension at the start of the season. By the time he's eligible to take the field, he'll be nearly 40. And while there's no denying his talent and what he did in the game for more than a decade, he's simply not a great fit for the A's, who already have plenty of DH options.

What is the status of Rich Harden? Is he still on the A's roster? You recently answered a question regarding how the A's 2012 roster will look, and you did not mention him as one of the possible starters. He was my favorite pitcher on the team last year.

-- Nicci H., San Jose, Calif.

Harden was not mentioned because he's a free agent and, at this point, isn't expected to be back in Oakland. For a while, it seemed like a possibility, but unlikely now that Bartolo Colon is on board. The A's aren't about to stockpile veteran talent when they're attempting to build around youth, something they have a lot of in the pitching department. Harden will surely sign elsewhere by spring but likely not before the likes of Roy Oswalt are off the board.

What is the status of Ian Krol? I know he was an A's top prospect and had a bright future in baseball.
-- Shawn B., Genoa, Ill.

The A's are optimistic about Krol after an impressive showing in the instructional league, where he showcased an improved frame of mind following a disappointing 2011 campaign -- one that involved an injury and a suspension that evolved out of an inflammatory remark on Twitter. He's still considered a top pitching prospect, and the A's have worked hard in helping him make improvements off the field to ensure success in the future.

On the A's 40-man roster, Sean Doolittle is listed as a pitcher. Is this a mistake or is he a pitching prospect now?
-- George R., Los Banos, Calif.

No mistake. Too many injuries forced Doolittle away from his role as a position player this year. He's since been making a transition to the mound, where he pitched quite well while at the University of Virginia. The lefty received good reviews this fall in the instructional league, even reaching the mid-90s. He'll enter his second season on the 40-man roster this year, so the A's will have to keep an eye on his options and perhaps decide to move him into a relief role to speed up the process.

So what about Hideki Matsui? Is he coming back to Oakland?
-- Enrique V., Livermore, Calif.

Matsui is still on the market as a free agent, and I suspect he'll be a late pickup for a team not named the A's, who looking to put the finishing touches on their roster before camp begins. The A's very much enjoyed his presence last year, especially in a young clubhouse, but team officials have said they envision the likes of Chris Carter and Brandon Allen having a chance to fill the DH spot this year -- a notion that, again, defies the Ramirez rumor.