

Yoenis Cespedes offers reason to talk about A's

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Assorted thoughts on the [A's](#) signing of Cuban star Yoenis Cespedes:

-- Don't write this off as another lame move by an organization going nowhere. Actually, the "nowhere" part is accurate, until further notice, but this is a world-class athlete who has been compared to Bo Jackson and Raul Mondesi. If he's any good at all, the A's have finally given people reason to care.

-- Many insiders assumed Cespedes had a built-in haven if he'd signed with the Miami Marlins, whose new ballpark adjoins the "Little Havana" neighborhood. According to a CBSSports.com report, Cespedes backed off "because of the potential circus playing in a city with a huge Cuban exile population."

-- Hard to tell if the A's should take that as good or bad news. Cespedes might wonder about the wisdom of his choice when he sees the spacious dimensions, enormous foul territory and minuscule crowds at the Coliseum. And it *will* be a circus if Manny Ramirez is signed.

-- Forget the notion of the A's losing Cespedes at the end of his four-year contract. He's 26 years old, and there are always questions surrounding the validity of a Cuban player's age. His time is *right now*.

-- Interesting that Chili Davis is the A's new hitting coach. Cespedes loves to admire his dead-pull power, which could vanish in a hurry against right-handed breaking pitches. Davis should remind him of the success he's had (video footage is readily available) taking those curves and sliders to the opposite field.

-- Let Coco Crisp have center field, no problem, and let Cespedes play right. It's not as if you're tossing a pie-thrower out there.

-- Hard to fathom why people are comparing Cespedes to other Cuban players who have struggled in the major leagues recently. This is the country that produced Tony Perez, Campy Campaneris, Tony Oliva, Minnie Minoso, Luis Tiant and Camilo Pascual, among many others. We seldom see their best, since most of the great Cuban talents stay home, but this could be an exception.

-- [The Giants](#) quickly dropped out of the running on Cespedes, believing he was too much of a gamble to warrant a big contract. The A's are long overdue for an in-your-face statement.