Opening

Piscotty: So, I felt like I wanted to use my platform to bring some awareness and funding for ALS. My mom was on board with it and we felt like getting something started would be a really cool thing. It actually came about by one of my mom’s really good friends, who has actually been helping us a tremendous amount at the house. She is going to run a couple races and dedicate those to my mom, so we are just rallying around that to raise funding and awareness and also kind of use my platform to attack it in that sort of way. I’m pretty excited about the support we have gotten already, and we’ll keep going.

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle: What kind of response are you getting from people that you know?

Piscotty: Our community has stepped up to the plate to use baseball terms. It has been pretty special. There are people at our house pretty much 24/7. They are all great folks and bring a lot of joy to our family. It’s really just an awesome thing. We are just going to try and rally. The comment stuff that you read in some of the donation pages are pretty heartwarming and bring some tears to your eyes to read those. They have come from our community, from the St. Louis community, from the Oakland community, and we are just very grateful.

Jane Lee, MLB.com: To see what your mom has gone through, how important was it to not only help her but to also help the community as a whole?

Piscotty: It’s relatively hard to watch. To see the progression take place. I feel so bad, and I want to try and put a positive spin on it because they are things that are out of our control and we are just trying to make the best of a bad situation. Hopefully that by what we are doing, we can hopefully get to a point where other folks do not have to go through it. My mom has that same mentality. She feels like she did nothing wrong and was healthy, and it was just one of those things. She wants to use her platform to help others and think she is doing that.

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle: The fact that the A’s and Cardinals have really wanted to support this, what does that mean to you having played for both organizations?

Piscotty: It means a lot. It says a lot about both organizations. Absolutely, in kind of putting family first. Baseball is very important, but sometimes there are other things that may take priority. Again, it’s heartwarming and humbling, and we are so grateful.

Susan Slusser, San Francisco Chronicle: What can people do? Obviously, you have the donation page up, but what are other things people can do to help ALS funding and research?

Piscotty: I think talking about it. It’s one of those things that is hard to talk about, but awareness is step one and then the funding. People have to know about it before they are going to donate, and what have you. I think that is the biggest thing. The ice bucket challenge that happened a few years ago was a tremendous thing, and I think there is a jalapeno challenge that is starting to circle around, and hopefully that catches fire too. It’s things like that day by day and little by little will eventually get us there.