



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MLB and Susan G. Komen Honor 'Honorary Bat Girl' Winners on Mother's Day **'Honorary Bat Girl' Will be Recognized by Oakland A's Sunday**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Major League Baseball and Susan G. Komen for the Cure will recognize the winners of the 'Honorary Bat Girl' contest, incredible MLB fans who are going to bat against breast cancer in their daily lives, during a special pre-game ceremony on Mother's Day. All 30 Clubs will host their 'Honorary Bat Girl' during scheduled Mother's Day celebrations; visiting teams on Mother's Day will select another date in May to honor their 'Honorary Bat Girl.' The initiative was developed to raise additional awareness and support for the annual Going to Bat Against Breast Cancer® initiative, a joint partnership between MLB, its licensed partners and Komen for the Cure, the world's largest breast cancer organization.

For the second consecutive year, MLB and Susan G. Komen for the Cure launched an online search to find an Honorary Bat Girl for each of the 30 MLB Clubs. Since February, fans from across the country have been sharing their stories of inspiration and hope, and how they are supporting the fight against breast cancer. Nearly 1,000 testimonials were submitted online at MLB.com, the official web site of Major League Baseball, by breast cancer survivors, advocates and supporters of the cause, and one winner per Club was selected by a celebrity panel of judges and over 4 million fan votes.

The winner of the 'Honorary Bat Girl' contest for the Oakland A's is Raquel de la Torre. De la Torre, who resides in Sacramento, was first diagnosed with breast cancer was in 1994 at the age of 19, when she had a lumpectomy and it was benign. Then in November 2005, through self exam, she found two lumps in her right breast, which through the diagnostic process confirmed her biggest fear – breast cancer. De la Torre was the 11th woman in her family to be diagnosed and unfortunately, was not the last, as in 2006 her older sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the past few years, De la Torre has participated in a number of breast cancer walks and helps with local organizations to help raise awareness and funds for women without insurance.

"The whole experience has given me insight and I believe that being a breast cancer survivor is like being a member of a sorority," explained de la Torre in her testimony. "A sorority that one did not pledge or ask to be a member of, but a sorority that one is proud to be a part of once you are there. It's because of this belief that I participate with and support the Susan G. Komen organization every chance I get."

On Mother's Day (May 9, 2010), the A's will honor de la Torre prior to the A's 1:05 pm game against the Tampa Bay Rays. De la Torre will watch batting practice from the field prior to being presented an A's jersey and pink bat in a special pre-game ceremony. She will then watch the A's vs. Rays game from the "Pinked out for the Cure Zone," which will seat local Komen for the Cure survivors and their families.

In addition, hundreds of MLB players will use pink bats on Sunday, which will be stamped with the MLB breast cancer logo. Many players also will wear pink wristbands and the symbolic pink ribbon for breast cancer awareness will be displayed on player uniforms, as well as on all on-field personnel.

Game-used Louisville Slugger pink bats will be auctioned off on MLB.com at a later date to raise additional funds for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Fans can purchase their own personalized pink bat at MLB.com or slugger.com, with \$10 from the sale of each bat benefiting Komen for the Cure. In addition to promotional support, Major League Baseball Charities has committed \$50,000 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

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