

ANtics

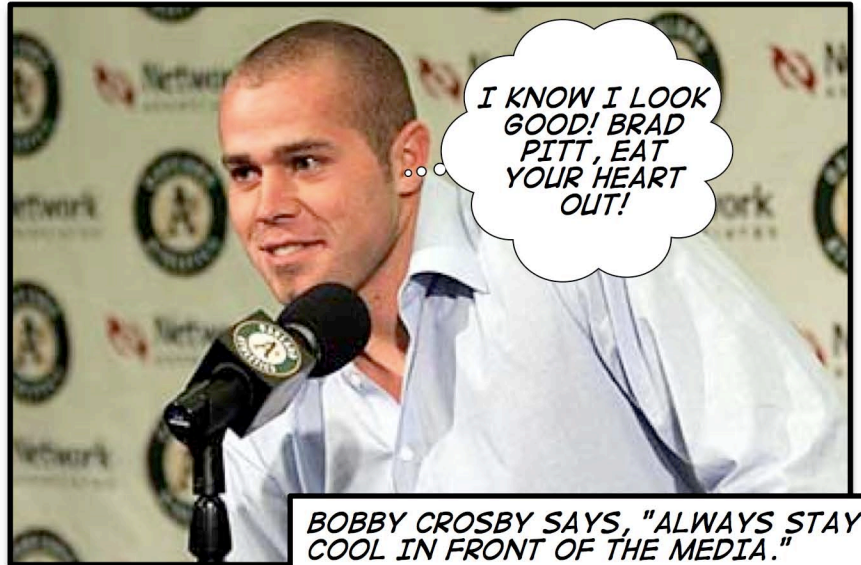
Episode I



IN THIS WEEK'S EPISODE, YOUNG OAKLAND A'S STARS TEACH US THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GAME!



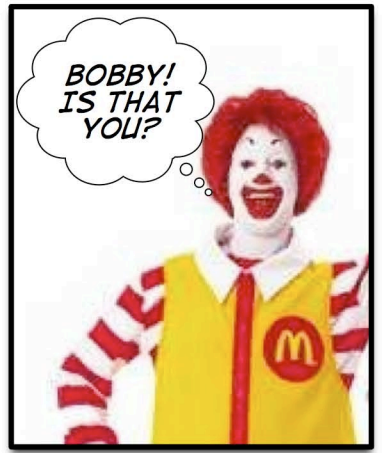
NICK SWISHER SAYS, "KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL WHILE IN THE FIELD."



BOBBY CROSBY SAYS, "ALWAYS STAY COOL IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA."



BOBBY KIELTY SHOWS US HOW TO PROPERLY SLIDE INTO THE BAG! HAIR-O-DYNAMIC!



RICH HARDEN DEMONSTRATES THE SPLIT-SEAM FASTBALL!!!

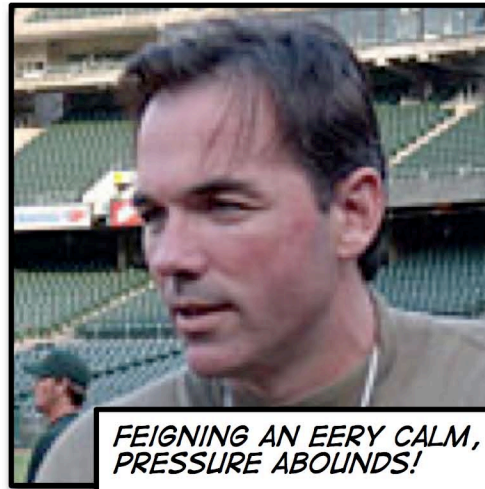


MAYBE NEXT WEEK, JOE!! STAY TUNED...

IT'S NOT EASY BEING BILLY BEANE AT THE TRADING DEADLINE...

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Episode II



FEIGNING AN EERY CALM, PRESSURE ABOUNDS!



GET ME A POWER HITTER, BILLY!



FOR THE LAST TIME, SABES... YOU HAVE **NOTHING** I WANT!



GRRR!!

WHILE OTHERS WERE DEEMED **MENTALLY UNFIT** TO TRADE BY OTHER OWNERS...



SOME A'S TOOK COMFORT KNOWING THEIR STRUGGLES LEFT THEM **UNDESIRE**D, AND THEY WOULD STAY PUT...

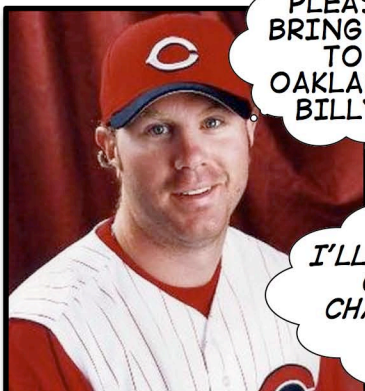
.164!

CHECK OUT THESE GUNS!

BUT WITH THE A'S STEAMROLLING THE LEAGUE, HE STOOD PAT!



TO REACH BILLY, SOME PLAYERS TRIED POSTURING...



PLEASE BRING ME TO OAKLAND, BILLY!

I'LL EVEN TAKE CARE OF CHAVY'S TWO DOGS!

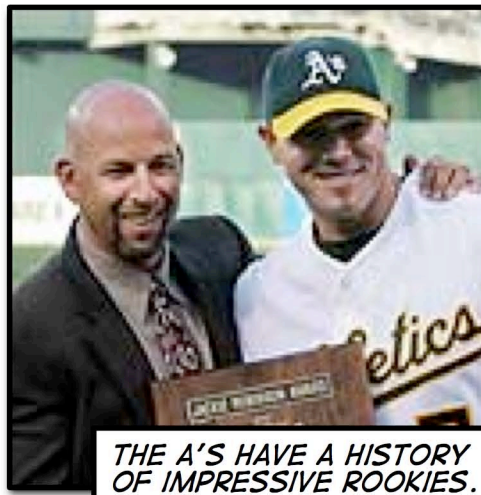
WHILE OTHERS SENT PERSONAL LETTERS...



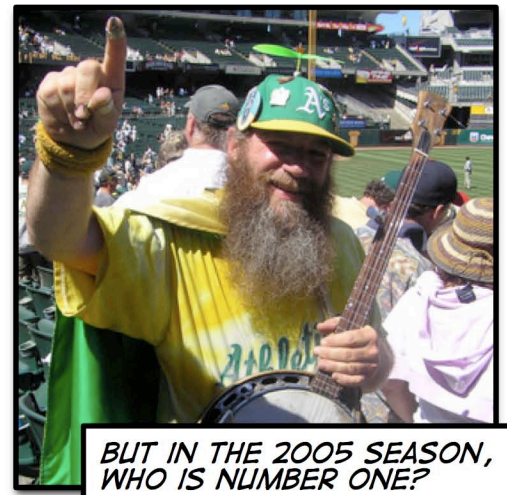
WAS THAT THE RIGHT MOVE? STAY TUNED...

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Episode III



THE A'S HAVE A HISTORY OF IMPRESSIVE ROOKIES.



BUT IN THE 2005 SEASON, WHO IS NUMBER ONE?



SWISHER SAYS, "ME. I **BUST MY BUTT** EVERY DAY, AND LEAD ALL ROOKIES IN HOMERS AND RBI."



FOULS DIDN'T HURT AS MUCH IN SACRAMENTO!

JOHNSON SAYS, "ME. I'M HITTING .323 WITH 10 HR AND **RARELY STRIKE OUT**."

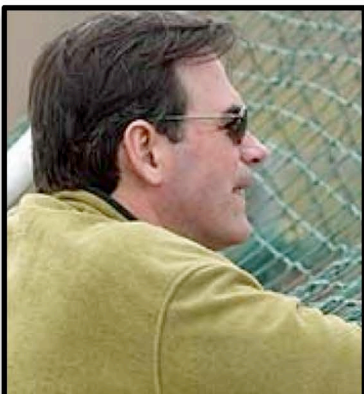


STREET SAYS, "ME. I SET A **NEW RECORD** FOR A'S ROOKIE CLOSERS AND DRAW LADIES TO THE GAMES."

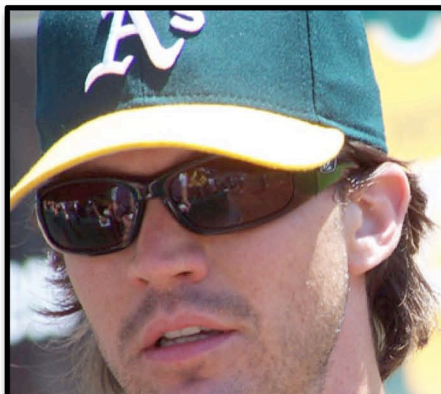


HEY RED SOX! EAT MY DUST!

BUT HASN'T 2005'S RUN BEEN A FULL TEAM EFFORT? WE ASKED SOME NOTABLE A'S FIGURES...



"THE WHOLE IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS."



"IT'S A ZEN THING. WE ARE AT PEACE WITH OURSELVES."



"I LIKE TO THINK OF WINS AS THE CREAM FILLING OF A HOSTESS CUPCAKE. THEY'RE SWEET, AND YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH."

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Episode IV



Woo-hoo!

THE A'S HAVE SEEN THEIR SHARE OF LATE INNING CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR, BUT THURSDAY'S WIN AGAINST THE ANGELS WAS SOMETHING **NONE HAD EVER SEEN!**



SO, LIKE, THE PITCHER TOTALLY DROPS THE RETURN THROW...

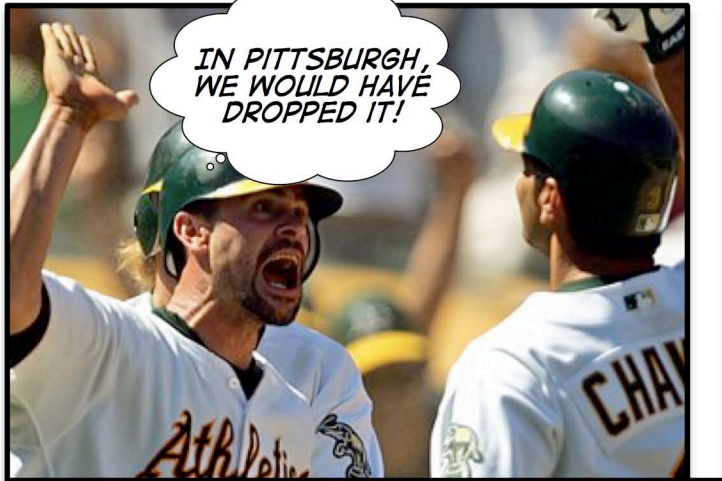
I WAS THERE, BILLY!

THE BASEBALL WORLD IS STILL ABUZZ FOLLOWING K-ROD'S **UNBELIEVABLE FLUB.**



HAD THE UMP CALLED IT A STRIKE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!

AND ANGELS APOLOGISTS CONTINUE TO MAKE EXCUSES...



IN PITTSBURGH, WE WOULD HAVE DROPPED IT!

BUT KENDALL'S **ALERT PLAY** HAD PUSHED THE A'S INTO FIRST PLACE AS HE CROSSED HOME!



SCIOSCIA'S GOING TO HAVE MY LEGS BROKE FOR THIS ONE.

PLINKED DOWN ON HIS **PONDEROUS POSTERIOR**, WHAT WAS K-ROD PONDERING?



FRIGGIN UMP! WAIT... THE BALL! **KENDALL!** MUST GET... DAMN!



Victory!

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Episode V

He's Ba-ack!



WITH FAN FAVE ERIC BYRNES BACK IN OAKLAND WEARING AN ORIOLES UNIFORM, THE SERIES AGAINST BALTIMORE WAS AN **ODD ONE**... AND WE LEARNED ERIC HAD MUCH TO DO WITH IT.

EVEN IF I GO HITLESS IN THE SERIES, THE A'S WILL FEEL MY WRATH!



TO A SWARMING MEDIA, BYRNES HINTED SOMETHING BIG, BUT NOBODY KNEW **THE CURSE** HE HAD IN STORE!

C'MON BYRNESIE. THE TRADE WAS ALL BILLY!



MACHA BEGGED FOR HIM TO REVEAL HIS SECRET!

BUT THINGS STARTED TO GO AWRY!



A'S HITTERS STOPPED MAKING CONTACT!



AND THE PITCHING BEGAN TO STUMBLE!

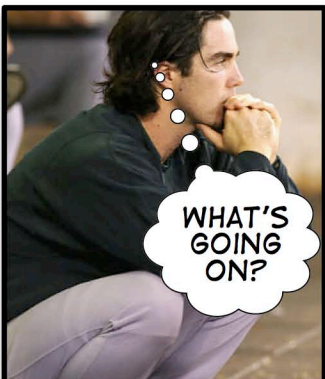
CROSBY SUMMONED AID FROM A PALM READER...



THIS LINE SAYS YOU WILL HAVE LONG LIFE.

THAT'S NOT HELPFUL!

WHAT'S GOING ON?



THE A'S COULD ONLY SIT AND WATCH...

I THINK I'VE GOT IT!



AS BYRNES TURNED HIS OFF-BALANCE QUIRKS AGAINST THEM.

THAT'LL SHOW THOSE GUYS WHO'S THE MAN!



HOW LONG WILL THE "BYRNES CURSE" LAST? STAY TUNED...

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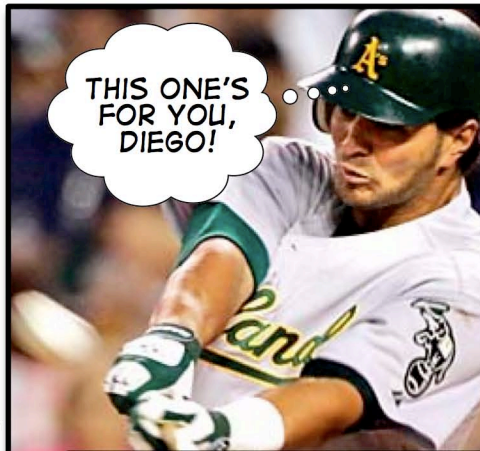
Episode VI



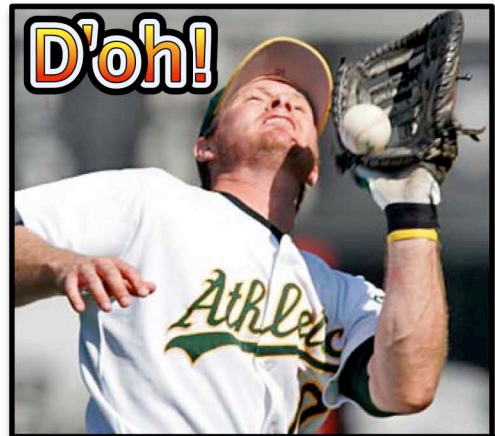
SOME A'S HAVE GIVEN AN **ALL-OUT EFFORT** IN 2005, BUT THE UP AND DOWN SEASON SUGGESTS THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT TEAMS LEADING **A SECRET DOUBLE LIFE!** WE INVESTIGATE...



DURING THE RECENT WIN STREAK, IT'S BEEN ALL FUN AND GAMES!



WITH HOME RUNS GALORE!

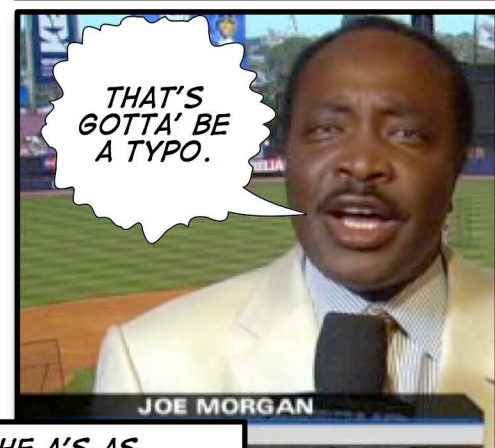


BUT WHEN THINGS WERE BAD, THEY CAME IN BUNCHES!



WHO ARE THESE A'S? THEY LOSE 2 OF 3 TO THE ROYALS, GET SWEEP BY BALTIMORE AT HOME, AND NOW YOU TELL ME THEY'RE IN FIRST PLACE?

IS THAT RIGHT?



JOE MORGAN

THE NATIONAL MEDIA, STRUGGLING TO PIGEON-HOLE THE A'S AS OVERACHIEVERS OR **SMALL MARKET PRETENDERS**, IS CONFUSED.

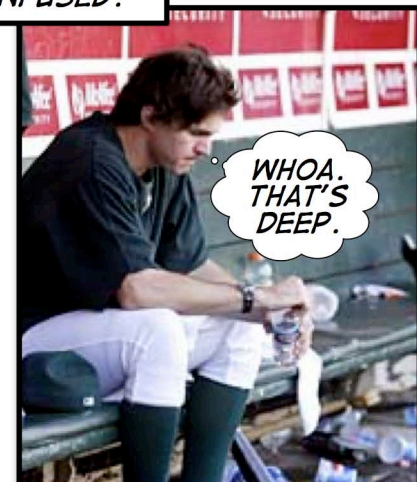


THE WAY I SEE IT, WE HAVE TO FUNCTION AS A TEAM, AND NOT LET OUR INDIVIDUAL EGOS GET IN THE WAY.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL? WE ASKED TEAM LEADER BOBBY CROSBY.



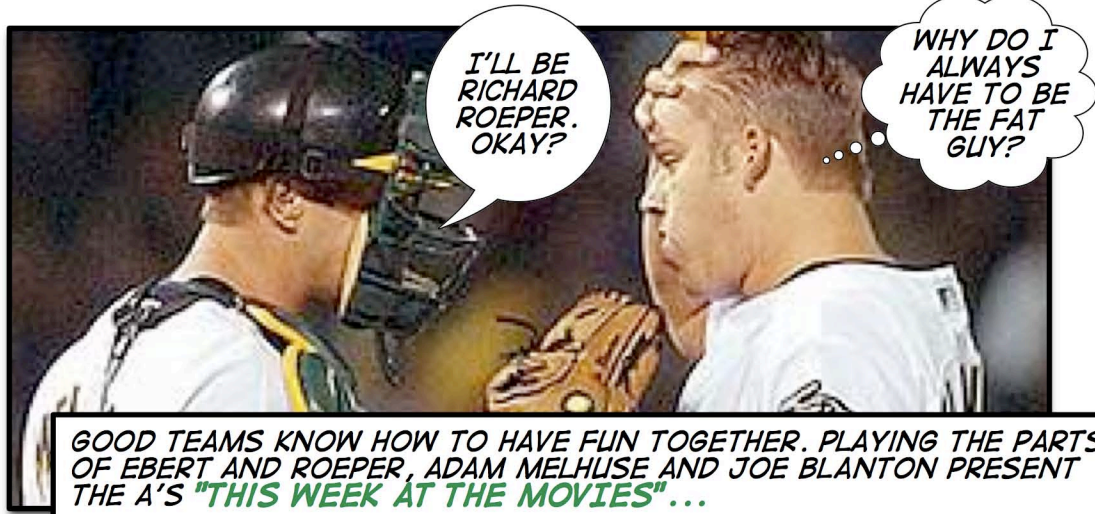
WHAT HE SAID, MAN.



WHOA. THAT'S DEEP.

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Episode VII

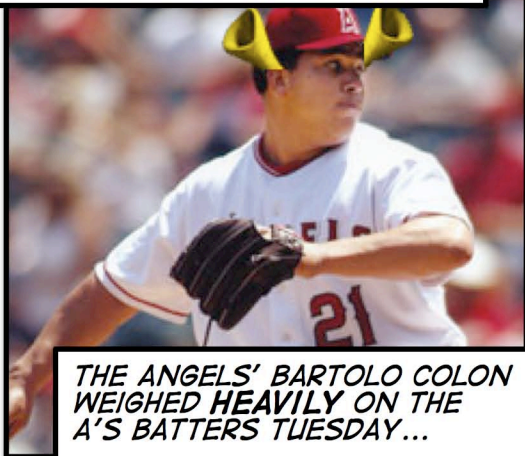


I'LL BE RICHARD ROEPER. OKAY?

WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE FAT GUY?

GOOD TEAMS KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER. PLAYING THE PARTS OF EBERT AND ROEPER, ADAM MELHUSE AND JOE BLANTON PRESENT THE A'S "THIS WEEK AT THE MOVIES"...

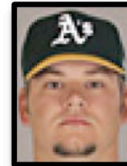
FIRST, "RETURN OF SHREK"!



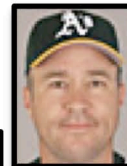
THE ANGELS' BARTOLO COLON WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE A'S BATTERS TUESDAY...



BUT **KIELTY'S HOMER** GAVE THE A'S THE WIN, SETTING OFF A MAD CELEBRATION!



"I FOUND THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THIS FILM HIDEOUS. YOUNGER VIEWERS SIMPLY SHOULD NOT VIEW THIS PRODUCTION."



"I AGREE - THIS WAS THE UGLIEST SHREK I'D EVER SEEN. BUT I WAS AMAZED BY THE PLOT AND GRAND FINALE!"

SECOND, "SLINGBLADE II"!

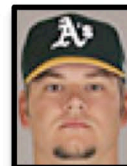


I LIKE THEM FRENCH FRIED PERTATERS... MMM HMM

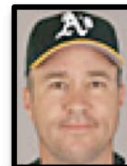
"BILLY BOB" JOHN LACKEY SHUT DOWN THE A'S OFFENSE...



BUT A LATE INNING RALLY WAS KILLED WITH SWISHER'S POP-UP...



"I CAN'T FIGURE THIS GUY OUT - IS HIS MOUTH EVER CLOSED? IF IT DOES, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT."



"I FOUND THIS STORYLINE WEAK. BELOW-STANDARD ACTING AND PLAYERS DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW THEIR ROLES."



THAT STUFF WILL ROT YOUR BRAIN, GUYS!

OUR FILM DUO'S ANTICS DREW MANAGERIAL WRATH!

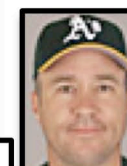


KENNY, STOP BEING SUCH A FOGEY!

.. AND BEANE STEPPED IN TO DEFEND THE PLAYERS!



"WELL, ADAM, WHAT DO WE HAVE ON TAP FOR THIS NEXT WEEK'S FLICKS?"



"I WAS THINKING ABOUT 'MARINATED MARINER.' SOMETHING WITH ACTION AND DRAMA!"

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Episode VIII

Ninja Mojo!

MACHA IS KNOWN FOR HIS RELAXED COMPOSURE - BUT NO LONGER, AS WE SAW MARTIAL ART FURY UNLEASHED ON A CLUBHOUSE DOOR! THIS WEEK, WE PRESENT "KEN MACHA - KUNG FU MASTER!"



YOU WANT A PIECE OF THIS? LET'S THROW DOWN, CLOWN!

MACHA OFTEN RELIES ON REPUTATION TO INTIMIDATE UMPIRES...



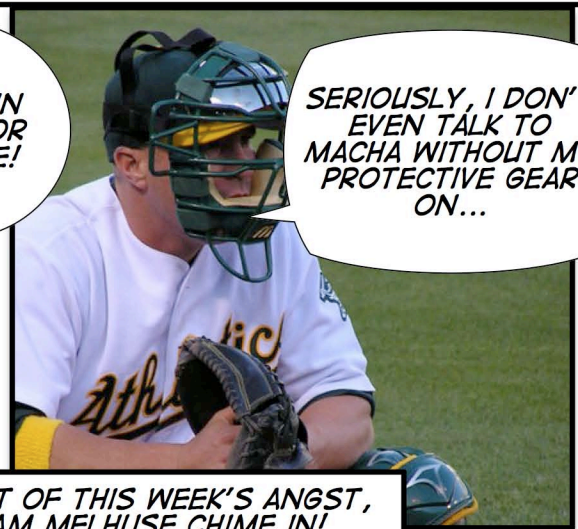
IT'S LIMA SLEEPY TIME!

AND OPPOSING PLAYERS WHO'VE CROSSED HIM HAVE SPENT QUALITY TIME IN THE DIRT - ON THEIR BACKSIDE!

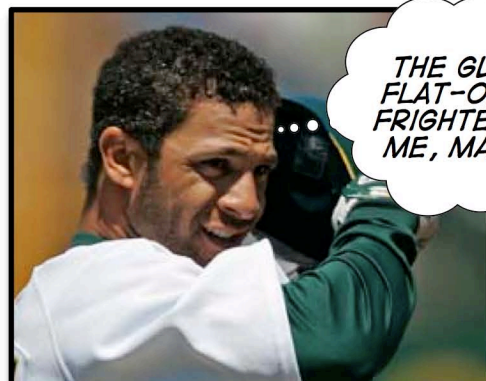


I WAS IN FEAR FOR MY LIFE!

BLANTON, TARGET OF THIS WEEK'S ANGST, AND CATCHER ADAM MELHUSE CHIME IN!



SERIOUSLY, I DON'T EVEN TALK TO MACHA WITHOUT MY PROTECTIVE GEAR ON...



THE GUY FLAT-OUT FRIGHTENS ME, MAN.



THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE MACHA "CASUALLY" TURNING IN THE LINEUPS OR SIGNALING A PITCHING CHANGE, FEAR THE EVIL INSIDE!

WHO OR WHAT WILL BE MACHA'S NEXT VICTIM? STAY TUNED...

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Episode IX



SERIOUS LEATHER - ACTIVATE!

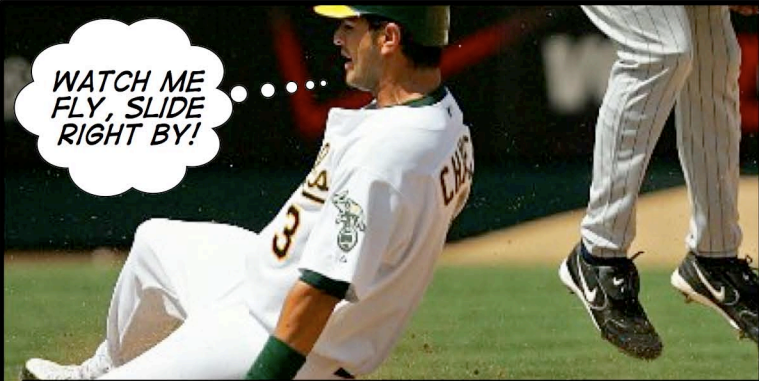
FOUR GOLD GLOVES. 25 HOME RUNS. 94 RBIS MID-WAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER. PRETTY GOOD STATS. BUT IT IS ENOUGH? THE ANTICS DIVE DEEPER AND INVESTIGATE... IN "HOT CORNER HEAT"

POW!



SLAP ME SOME SKIN!

AFTER SIGNING A HUGE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT LAST SEASON, SOME EXPECTED ERIC CHAVEZ TO WALK ON WATER - AND CURSE HIS VERY EXISTENCE ANY TIME HE MAKES OUT. YET THROUGH THE DIN HE'S LED THE TEAM IN HOME RUNS, RBI AND RUNS SCORED ALL SEASON!

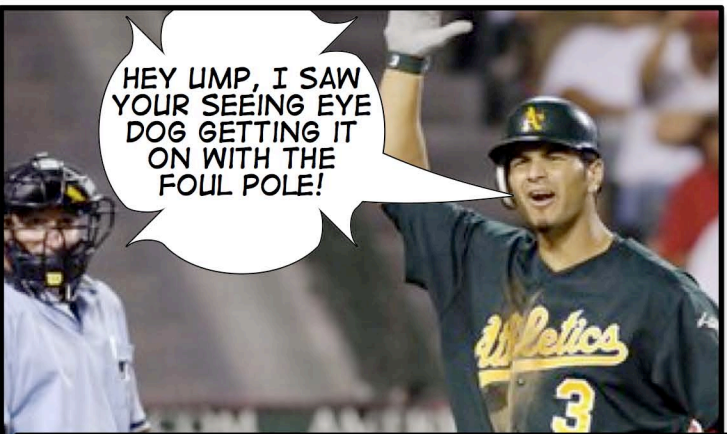


WATCH ME FLY, SLIDE RIGHT BY!

CHAVEZ IS SECOND ON THE TEAM IN STEALS - AND HAS NOT BEEN THROWN OUT ALL YEAR...

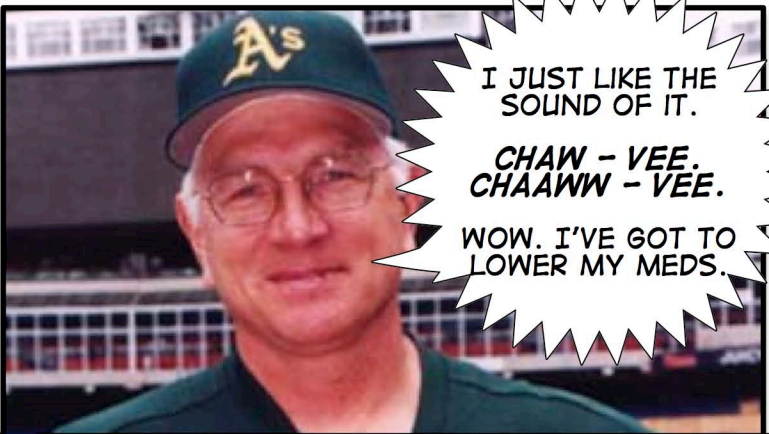


AND HAS ANCHORED THE A'S UP AND DOWN OFFENSE ALL YEAR LONG - LEADING IN BOTH AT BATS AND GAMES PLAYED.



HEY LIMP, I SAW YOUR SEEING EYE DOG GETTING IT ON WITH THE FOUL POLE!

IN A NEW TWIST FOR 2005, CHAVY HAS SPOKEN UP MORE - MAKING SURE HIS VOICE IS HEARD.



I JUST LIKE THE SOUND OF IT.
CHAW - VEE.
CHAAWW - VEE.
WOW. I'VE GOT TO LOWER MY MEDS.

AND ALL THIS HAS MADE MACHA'S JOB MORE SIMPLE AND MORE SECURE. AS YOU CAN TELL...

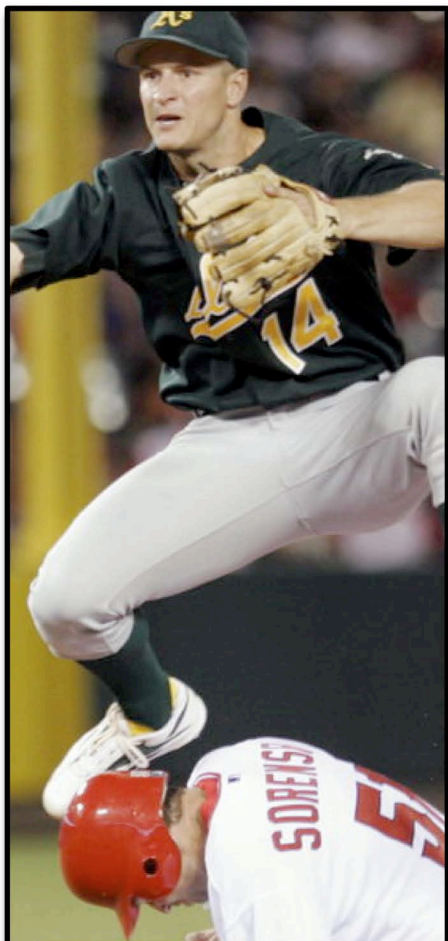
THE BIG SERIES AWAITS...

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Episode X



IT COMES DOWN TO THIS - THE A'S **MUST WIN** AGAINST THE ANGELS. WILL WE SEE HIGH FIVES?



MARK ELLIS SAYS THE A'S CAN MAKE THE LEAP...



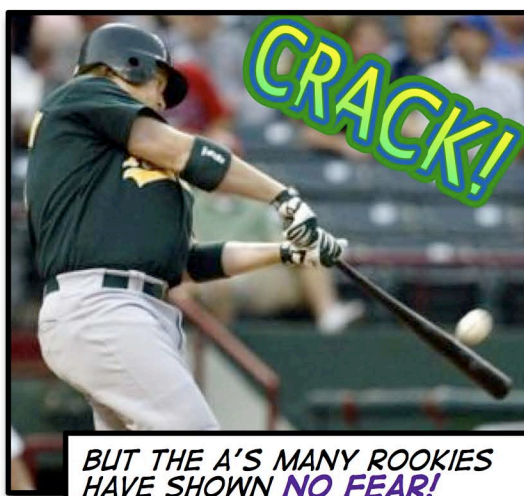
ZITO POSTULATES...

PRESSURE IS THE PRODUCT OF PREPARATION DIVIDED BY PERSPIRATION...



I JUST GET ALL CHOKED UP!

WHILE OTHERS AT TIMES HAVE BEEN OVERCOME BY THE EMOTIONS OF THE RACE...

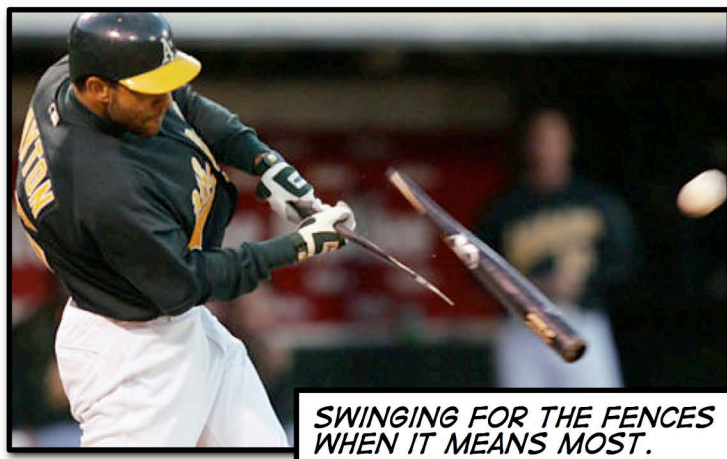


BUT THE A'S MANY ROOKIES HAVE SHOWN **NO FEAR!**



CHAVY, TAKE WITH YOU THIS MOJO, AND WITH IT YOU CAN ACHIEVE GREATNESS...

AND TEAM LEADERS GIVE IT THEIR ALL...



SWINGING FOR THE FENCES WHEN IT MEANS MOST.

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Episode XI



YOU KNOW, I WOULDN'T WATCH SO MUCH TV IF THEY LET ME PLAY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...

TO HELP RECAP THE 2005 SEASON, A'S PLAYERS ADAM MELHUSE AND JOE BLANTON REPRISER THEIR ROLES AS EPERT AND ROEPER, IN THE A'S "THIS WEEK AT THE MOVIES"...

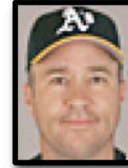
FIRST... THE PITCHING...



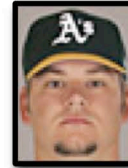
CUPCAKES!



THE A'S ARMS KEPT THE TEAM IN A TIGHT DIVISION RACE, WITH STRONG STARTERS AND A CONSISTENT BULLPEN...



"WITH HUDDY AND MULDER GONE, I WAS NERVOUS, BUT FROM STARTERS TO CLOSER... **WOW.** BIG THUMBS UP FROM ME."



"ALL THE LADIES I SPOKE WITH SAID THEY FOUND #55, BIG COUNTRY JOE, VERY ATTRACTIVE. GOOD GUY TOO, I UNDERSTAND."

THEN... THE HITTING...

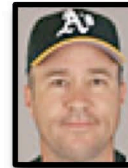


GONE!

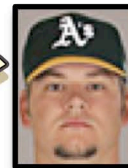


Holy Toledo!

THE A'S BATS SHOWED FLASHES OF BRILLIANCE, BUT WERE LARGELY UNRELIABLE, ESPECIALLY VERSUS NEW PITCHERS...



"THERE WERE SOME HIGHLIGHTS HERE. 16-0 AGAINST THE GNATS, CHAVY'S 100 RBI... BUT WAY TOO MANY SHUTOUTS AND NO CONSISTENCY."

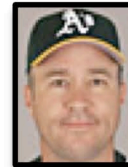


"DON'T GET ME STARTED. WHAT'S A GUY GOT TO DO TO GET SOME RUN SUPPORT? A HOME RUN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WOULD BE NICE TOO, JASON!"

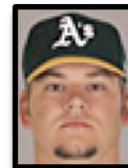
FINALLY... THE COACHING...



THE A'S COACHES MADE BAFFLING MOVES, AND STUCK WITH LINEUPS FAR TOO LONG, BUT COAXED A STRONG SEASON...



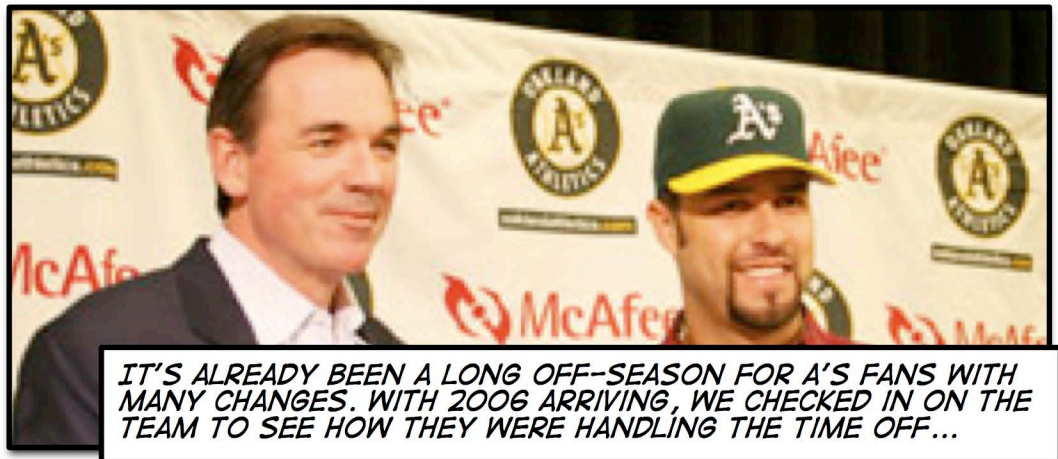
"WASH AND MACHA TOOK A TEAM THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO WIN AND WE NEARLY MADE THE PLAYOFFS? WHAT'S TO TALK ABOUT?"



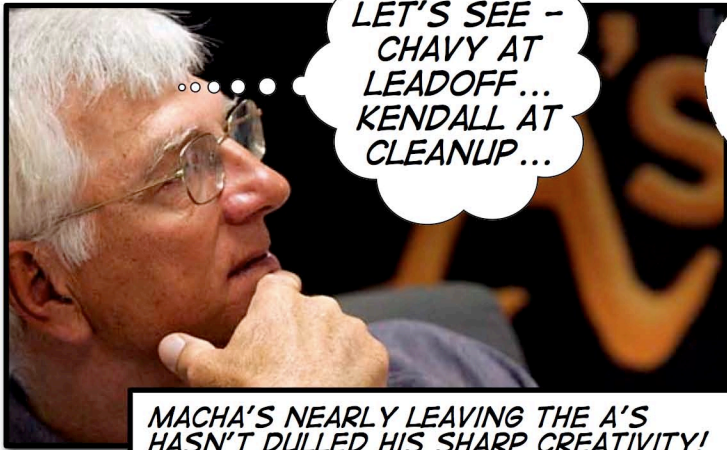
"THEY'RE GREAT AND ALL, BUT I WISH THEY'D ENFORCE HOW MY WIFE AND I RAISE SWISH. **GROUNDING IS GROUNDING!**"

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Episode 2.1



IT'S ALREADY BEEN A LONG OFF-SEASON FOR A'S FANS WITH MANY CHANGES. WITH 2006 ARRIVING, WE CHECKED IN ON THE TEAM TO SEE HOW THEY WERE HANDLING THE TIME OFF...



LET'S SEE -
CHAVY AT
LEADOFF...
KENDALL AT
CLEANUP...

MACHA'S NEARLY LEAVING THE A'S
HASN'T DULLED HIS SHARP CREATIVITY!



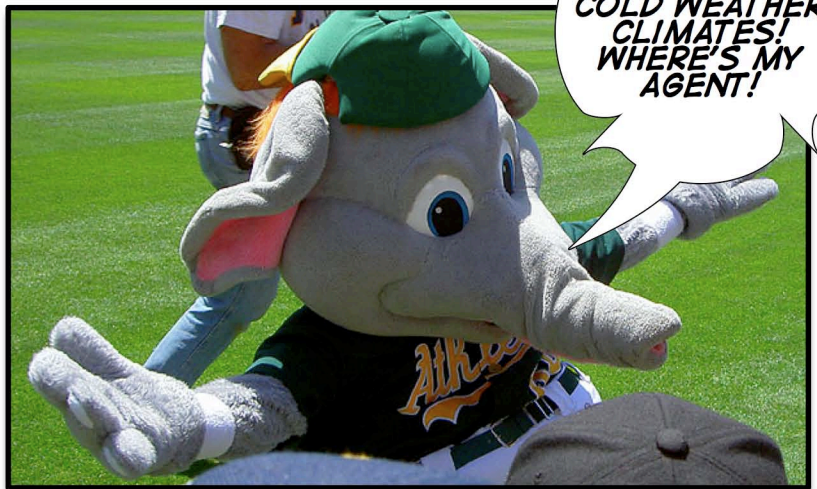
DUDE, I
THOUGHT HE
WAS GONE!

DON'T YOU
EVER READ
THE PAPER?
GEEZ!

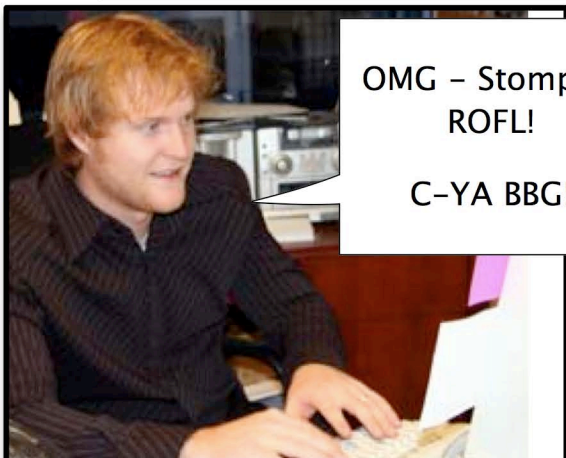


IT'S ALL ON
THE TABLE -
THE JAYS ARE
VERY
INTERESTED
IN STOMPER...

ARE WE SEEING CHANGE FOR CHANGE'S
SAKE? WHEN WILL IT ALL END?

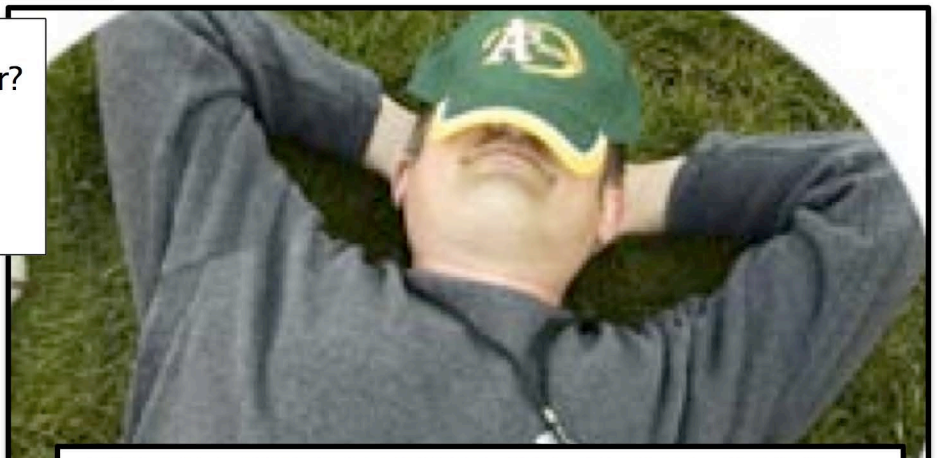


I DONT DO
COLD WEATHER
CLIMATES!
WHERE'S MY
AGENT!



OMG - Stomper?
ROFL!
C-YA BBG!

DJ'S MOVED ON, POST-HATTE...



AND ZITO? BARRY IS TRYING NOT TO OVER-THINK IT
ALL - HE'LL BE READY. PRETTY STABLE - FOR A LEFTY.

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Episode 2.2



GO, BABY, GO...

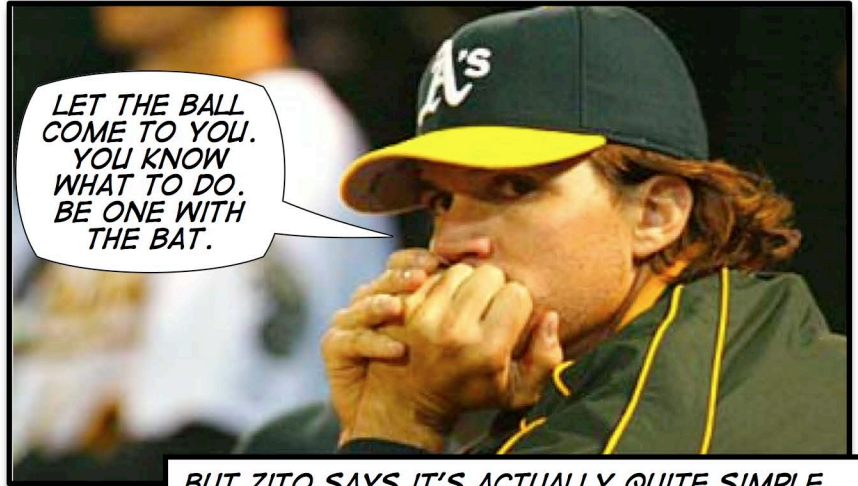
THE A'S 2006 SEASON IS **RAPIDLY APPROACHING!** IS THE OFFENSE READY AFTER A WINTER OF CHANGE?

IF I GET MORE THAN 4 RUNS A GAME, I'LL EAT MY HAT. DON'T THINK I WON'T.



JOE BLANTON'S A TAD SKEPTICAL...

LET THE BALL COME TO YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. BE ONE WITH THE BAT.



BUT ZITO SAYS IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE.



THIS IS MONEY.

AFTER ALL, A'S OWNERSHIP STEPPED UP.



Let's Go Oakland!

AND FANS ARE GOING NUTS ABOUT THEIR CHANCES!



THOUGH SOME THINGS DIDN'T CHANGE...

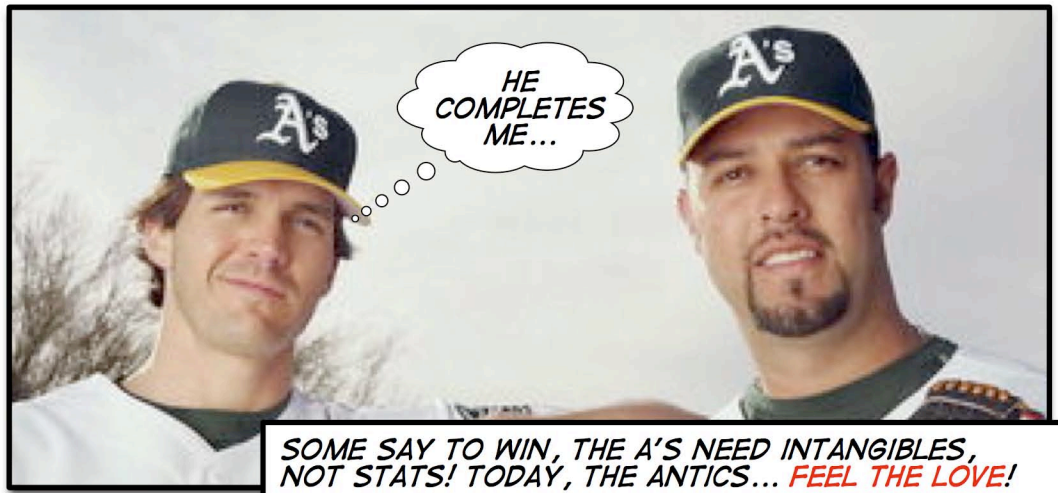


DUDE... THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS A HOME RUN. TRY IT SOME TIME.

AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT HOW YOU PLAY FROM THE BENCH, IT'S HOW YOU PLAY IT ON THE FIELD. THE A'S ARE READY.

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Episode 2.3



SOME SAY TO WIN, THE A'S NEED INTANGIBLES, NOT STATS! TODAY, THE ANTICS... **FEEL THE LOVE!**

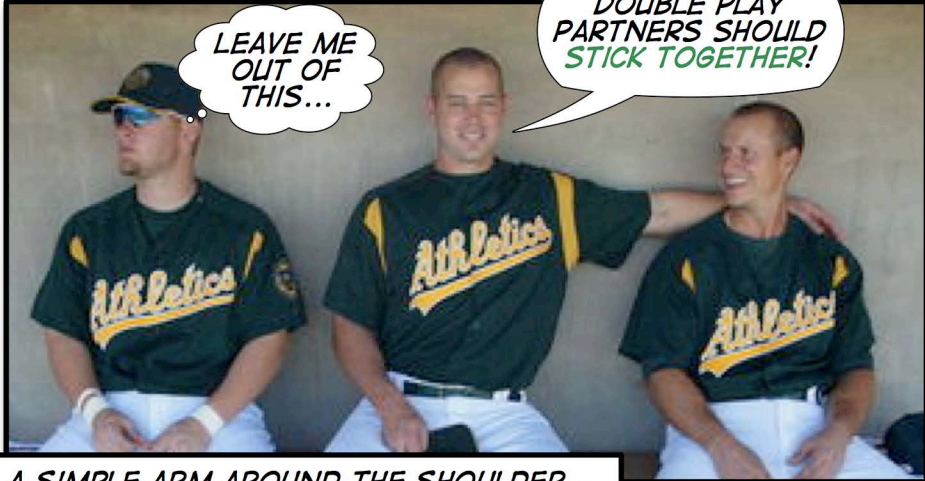


IT COULD BE AS LITTLE AS A FIST BUMP...



CALL ME THE "BIG HEART"!

OR A SMILE ON A TEAMMATE'S FACE.



LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS...

DOUBLE PLAY PARTNERS SHOULD STICK TOGETHER!

A SIMPLE ARM AROUND THE SHOULDER...



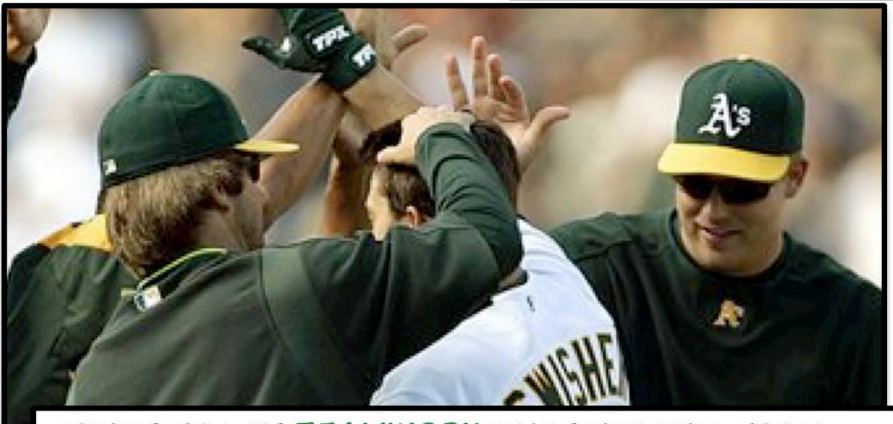
NEVER LET ME GO.

OR A **WARM EMBRACE...**



THESE ARE MY BOYS!

IT'S MORE THAN OPS, AVERAGE, ERA; OR IF MILTON'S 3 FOR 5 TODAY...



CRITICS TELL US **TEAMWORK** LEADS THE WAY, FROM GAME TO GAME AND PLAY TO PLAY - THROUGH THE RACE ... IT'S **HEART** THAT WILL BRING US TO FIRST PLACE!

ANtics

Episode 2.4

WITH 2 WEEKS TO GO, A'S PLAYERS STILL HAVE MUCH TO PROVE IN SPRING TRAINING. THE ANTICS INVESTIGATE IN THIS WEEK'S EPISODE: "PINS AND NEEDLES"...



DID I LEAVE MY KEYS IN THE CAR?



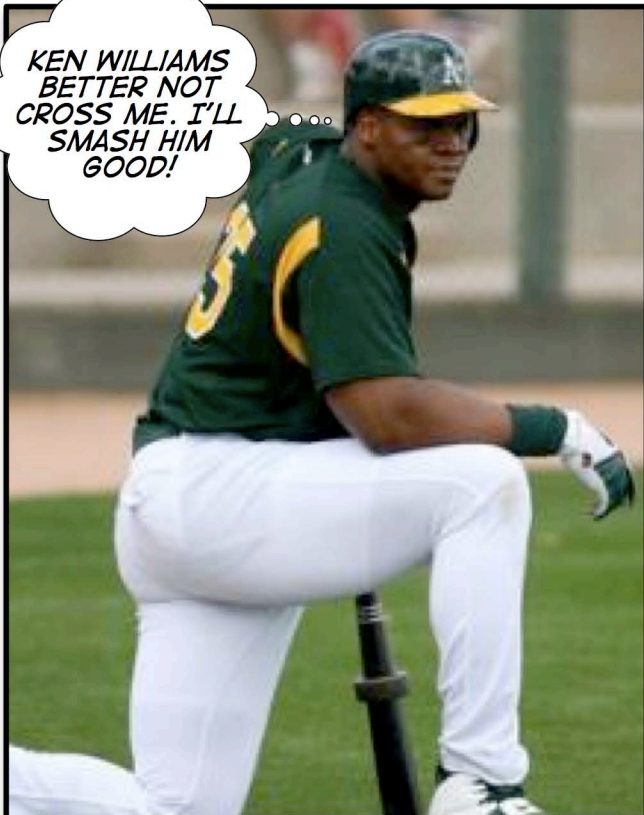
IT'S MILTON O'BRADLEY NOW.



SO, I WAS LIKE, WHAT... THEY WANT ME TO THROW THE GUY OUT? WHAT FOR?

WHILE SOME A'S REGULARS DISCUSS ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE REGULAR SEASON...

MILTON BRADLEY IS TRYING TO BE A POSITIVE CLUBHOUSE INFLUENCE...



KEN WILLIAMS BETTER NOT CROSS ME. I'LL SMASH HIM GOOD!

THOMAS IS EAGER TO HAVE A RUNNING START - EVEN IF THE DOGS SAY NO.



Home Run!

AND CHAVEZ EXTENDS A TORRID SPRING - ONE THAT WILL CONTINUE... RIGHT?



Put Me In, Coach!

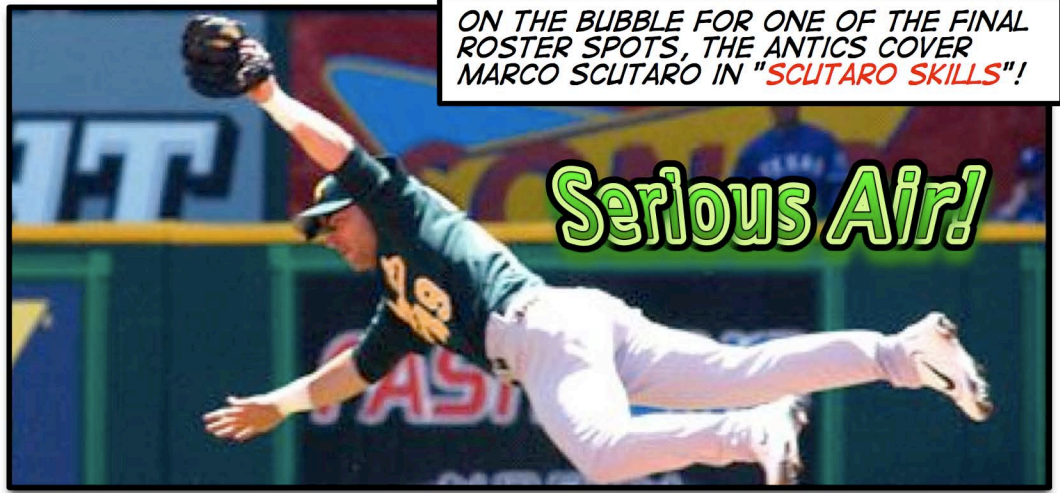
AND IN THE DESERT OF PHOENIX, A LOT OF GUYS YOU MAY NEVER HEAR FROM AGAIN... WILL TRY THEIR HARDEST - FOR THIS IS THEIR ONE SHOT.

ANtics

Episode 2.5

ON THE BUBBLE FOR ONE OF THE FINAL ROSTER SPOTS, THE ANTICS COVER MARCO SCUTARO IN "SCUTARO SKILLS"!

Serious Air!



EAT SCOOT
BOOT,
YANKEE
TRASH!



A DOMINANT
FIELDER, SCUTARO
HAS A 60-GAME
ERRORLESS STREAK.

OUCH!

THINK THIS
HURTS? HAVE
YOU SEEN WHAT
I CAN DO WITH
A JUMP ROPE
AND A RUSTY
BUICK?



SCUTARO OWES HIS PROWESS
TO TREMENDOUS FLEXIBILITY.



POW!

HE'S SHOWN FOCUS FOR
MANY GAME WINNING HITS...

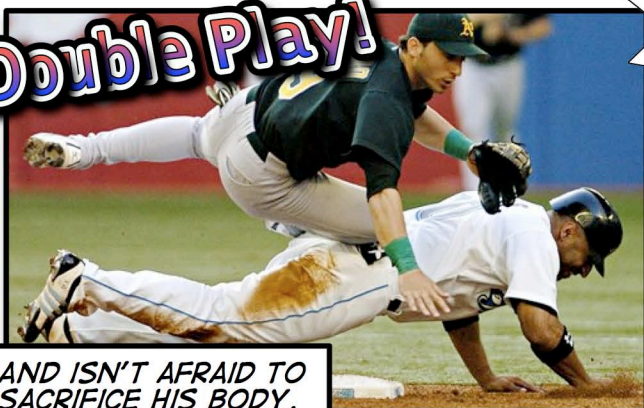
ALWAYS WATCHES THE
BALL INTO THE GLOVE...



I'M NOT
LEAVING THE
FIELD! I'M
SECOND BASE!

BUT IT'S
YOUR TURN
TO BAT.
GEEZ!

Double Play!



AND ISN'T AFRAID TO
SACRIFICE HIS BODY.

THE TYPE OF TEAMMATE WHO KNOWS HIS
ROLE, AND WON'T BE EAGER TO LET IT GO.



ANtics

Episode 2.6



SURE... VOLUNTEER TO DO IT ALL YOURSELF! SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME!

THE STADIUM, FANS AND PLAYERS ARE READY FOR 2006 TO START. SOME ARE PICKING THE A'S TO WIN IT ALL! THE ANTICS CHECK IN WITH THE TEAM FOR THEIR **2006 PREDICTIONS...**



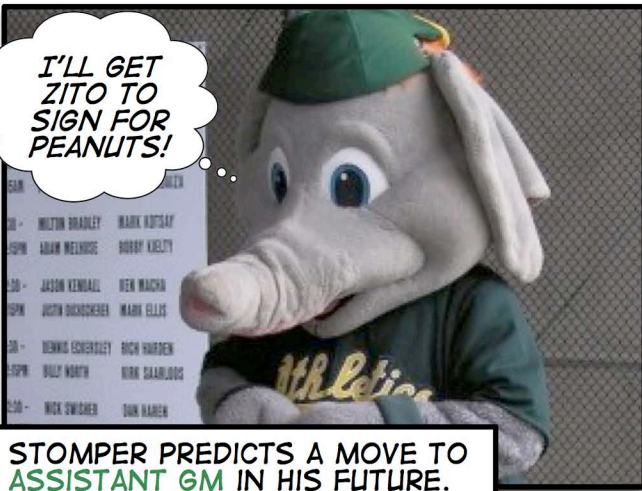
200 K's!

HARDEN CLAIMS HITTERS WILL BUCKLE FROM HIS FIERCE STARE...



I HAVE A SIDE BET WITH CHAVY THAT WE'LL BOTH HIT 40. BUT I CAN DO IT IN FEWER GAMES.

STREET SAYS LEADING THE LEAGUE IN SAVES SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL...



I'LL GET ZITO TO SIGN FOR PEANUTS!

STOMPER PREDICTS A MOVE TO ASSISTANT GM IN HIS FUTURE.



KNOCK IT THROUGH THE HOLE, THE OUTFIELDERS WILL BUMP INTO EACH OTHER, AND I'M HOME FREE!

KENDALL PREDICTS HE'LL HIT A HOMER THIS YEAR... INSIDE THE PARK.



IF DJ RUNS THROUGH MY STOP SIGN, HE'S A DEAD MAN.

WASH... A SORE RIGHT ARM FROM WAVING GUYS IN TO HOME - WHEN HE SAYS SO.



IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE A SOUTHPAW. BUT YOU COULD START TWICE IF YOU LEARNED TO THROW RIGHTY!

AND BOTH ZITO AND MACHA EXPECT 95 VICTORIES - IF THEY CAN WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES...

ANtics

Episode 2.7



THIS WEEK... THE ANTICS TEAM UP WITH A'S SHORTSTOP BOBBY CROSBY FOR *CROSBY WELLNESS CLINIC 101!*



YOU MEAN I GET PAID WHETHER I PLAY OR NOT?

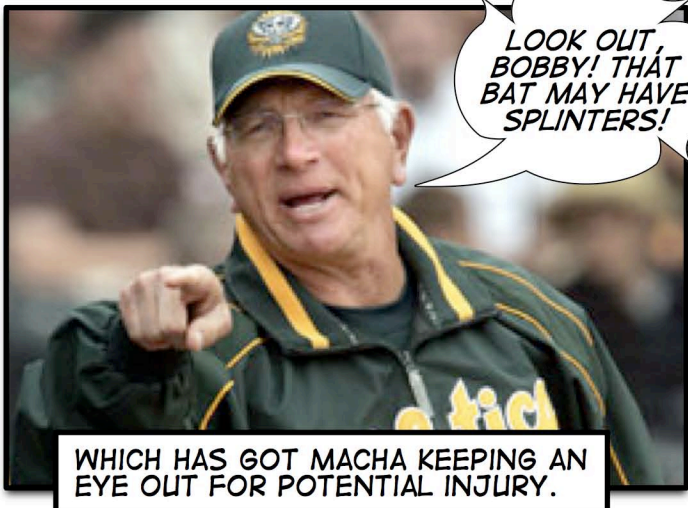
WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION?

TEAM LEADERS SHOULD PLAY EVERY DAY - BUT CROSBY'S SPENT A LOT OF TIME *ON HIS REAR...*



WHAT'S THAT - A BAG OF RUSTY NAILS? I GOT IT!

AND NOT SO MUCH IN THE FIELD...



LOOK OUT, BOBBY! THAT BAT MAY HAVE SPLINTERS!

WHICH HAS GOT MACHA KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR POTENTIAL INJURY.



AND STAY FAR AWAY FROM BASE RUNNERS!

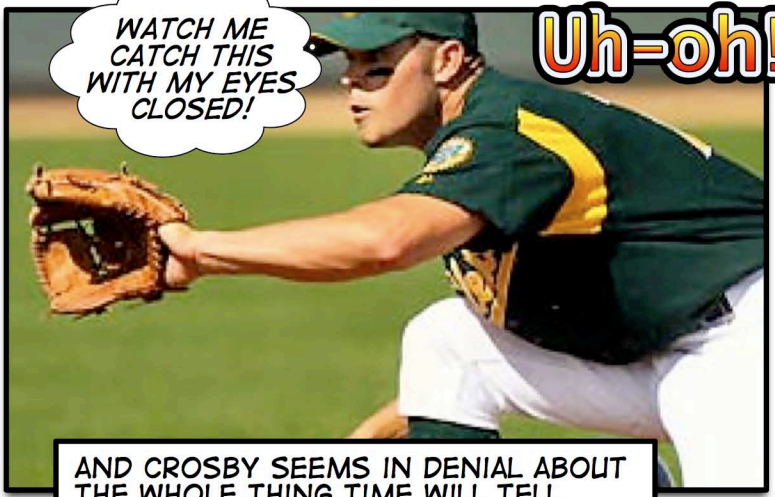
AND BABIES... OR PETS... OR TOILET SEATS...

SO FAR... 3 FEET IS THE PREFERRED DISTANCE.



MY SHRINK HAS A NAME FOR HIM - "SOURCE OF PAIN."

BUT MARK ELLIS SAYS THE BIG PROBLEMS AREN'T WHAT CROSBY DOES TO HIMSELF...



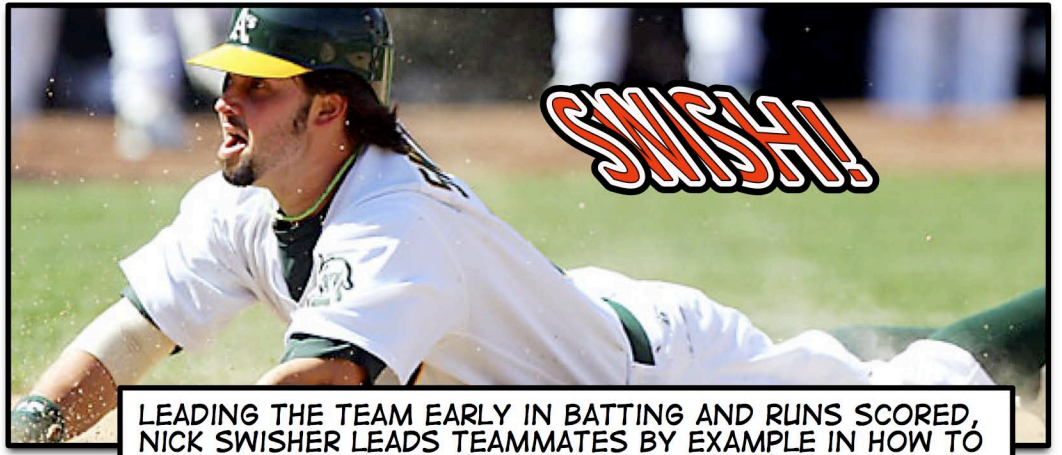
WATCH ME CATCH THIS WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

Uh-oh!

AND CROSBY SEEMS IN DENIAL ABOUT THE WHOLE THING. TIME WILL TELL.

ANtics

Episode 2.8



LEADING THE TEAM EARLY IN BATTING AND RUNS SCORED, NICK SWISHER LEADS TEAMMATES BY EXAMPLE IN HOW TO BATTLE THE DREADED "SOPHOMORE SLUMP"...



I SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE CRUNCHES AND FEWER JANE FONDA TAPES...

BLANTON'S 1-1 BEGINNING HAS LEFT HIM WANTING FOR CONSISTENCY...



I MADE IT TO SECOND. CAN'T I HANG WITH YOU GUYS?

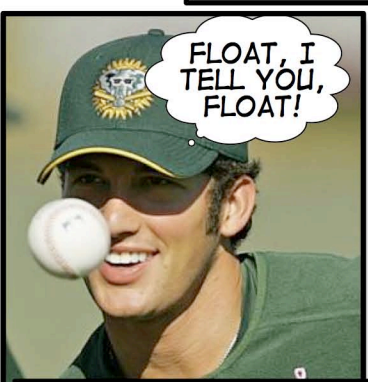
AND DJ'S HAD HIS HAT HANDED TO HIM WITH AN ICE-COLD START.



I CALL THIS... THE KNEE-CHIRO!

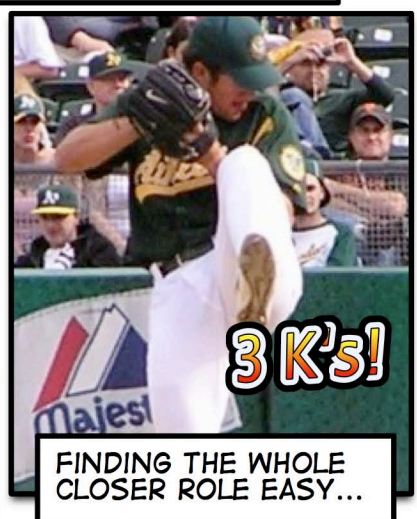
CRUNCH!

BUT SWISHER HAS GONE ALL OUT BOTH AT THE PLATE AND IN THE FIELD!



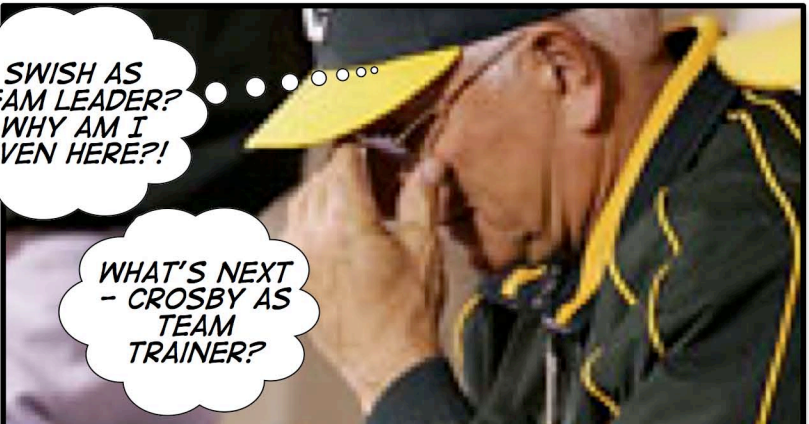
FLOAT, I TELL YOU, FLOAT!

WHILE HUSTON HAS USED HIS MENTAL POWERS TO DABBLE IN THE SUPERNATURAL!



3 K's!

FINDING THE WHOLE CLOSER ROLE EASY...



SWISH AS TEAM LEADER? WHY AM I EVEN HERE?!

WHAT'S NEXT - CROSBY AS TEAM TRAINER?

WHILE MACHA'S PLEASED WITH SWISH'S START, IT OPENS UP ALL SORTS OF NEW PROBLEMS.

ANtics

Episode 2.9



MILTON BRADLEY'S GOING TO PLAY EVERY GAME. JUST TRY AND TAKE ME OUT, SKIP!

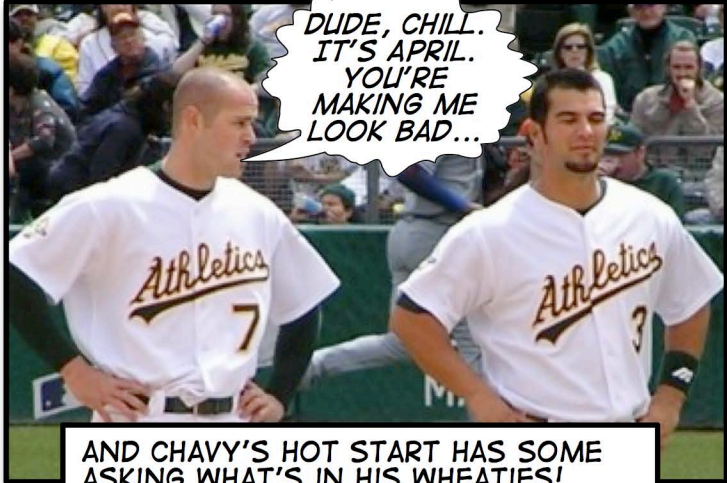
WITH THE 2006 SEASON JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE-TENTH COMPLETE, HAVE WE LEARNED ANYTHING? THE ANTICS TAKE A LOOK AT "EARLY TRENDS, ODDS AND ENDS"!



YO. GREAT FIELDING - GRAND SLAMS. WHATEVER YOU NEED, I'M THE MAN.

In the Zone!

SWISHER IS CHALLENGING CHAVEZ FOR MOST VALUABLE A - AT BAT AND WITH THE GLOVE...



DUDE, CHILL. IT'S APRIL. YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK BAD...

AND CHAVY'S HOT START HAS SOME ASKING WHAT'S IN HIS WHEATIES!



I CALL THIS MY FOUR-FINGERED FASTBALL...

BUT THE MUCH VAUNTED STARTING PITCHING HAS BEEN INCONSISTENT, FORCING THE A'S TO LOOK AT ALTERNATIVES...



DID YOU KNOW A BLOWN SAVE IS SHOWN AS BS? I DIDN'T - UNTIL NOW.

HUSTON STREET HAS PROVEN HUMAN AFTER A DOMINANT ROOKIE YEAR!



CHOKING UP ON THE BAT GIVES ME SUPER-HUMAN POWERS!

GIDP!
again...

... GOOD THING THAT JASON KENDALL HAS DONE HIS PART - MATCHING LAST YEAR'S HOME RUN TOTAL BEFORE THE END OF APRIL!

ANtics

Episode 2.10

THE ANTICS CHECK IN WITH OUR HEROES AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR 8-GAME ROAD TRIP...



I WASN'T REALLY GOING TO GET IT. JUST MUGGIN' FOR GOLD GLOVE VOTES.

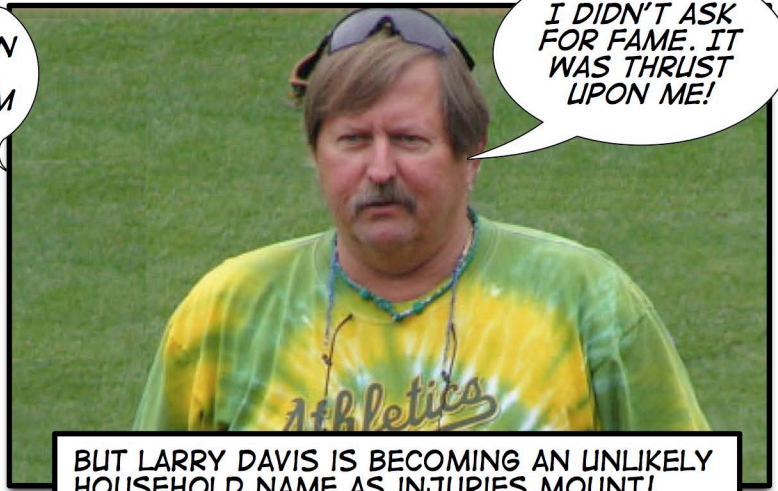
SO, IF I KEEP HITTING JACKS, CAN I GET THE R.O.Y. TROPHY BACK FROM HUSTON?



SWISHER CONTINUES BEING RED HOT AT THE PLATE - FULFILLING HIS POTENTIAL.

I DIDN'T ASK FOR FAME. IT WAS THRUST UPON ME!

BUT LARRY DAVIS IS BECOMING AN UNLIKELY HOUSEHOLD NAME AS INJURIES MOUNT!

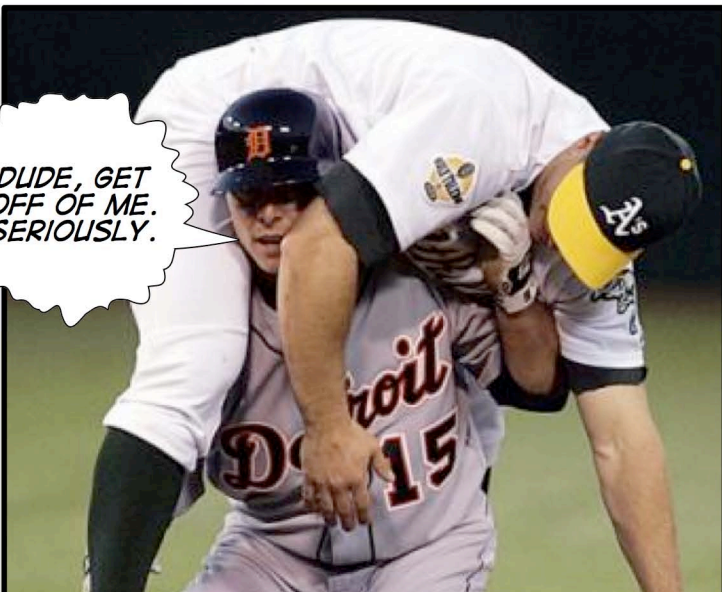


I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOOD UP THAT GYPSY WHO WANTED AN AUTOGRAPH! NOW WHAT?



AND LOAIZA'S OUTINGS ARE LEAVING US ALL SCRATCHING OUR HEADS...

DUDE, GET OFF OF ME. SERIOUSLY.



WHILE MLB WON'T ALLOW BUBBLE WRAP ON THE FIELD, CROSBY HAS LEARNED TO "GO LIMP".

IT'S NEBULOUS. THE PITCHING IS NEBULOUS. HITTING? NEBULOUS. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.



WHAT WILL THE A'S DO TO STAY HOT AMIDST INJURIES AND INCONSISTENCY? WE ASK MACHA...

ANtics

Episode 2.11

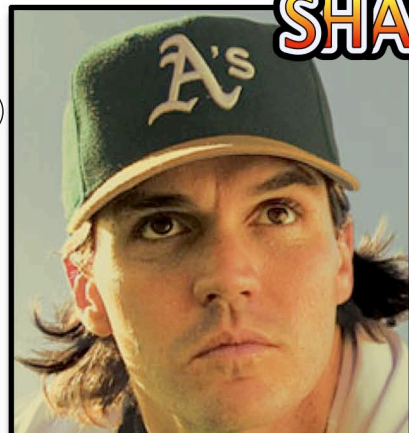


BARRY ZITO'S CURVE ISN'T HIS ONLY KNEE-BUCKLING FEATURE. WE CHECK OUT HIS HAIR'S ROLE IN "A TALE OF TWO ZITOS"!

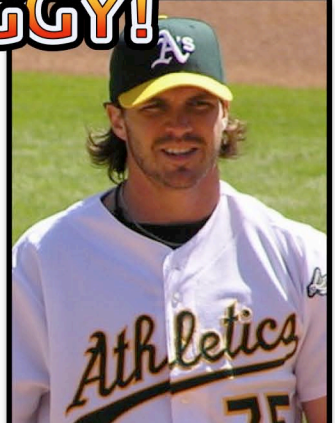


WHO HAS TIME TO THINK ABOUT HAIR? THIS GUY'S GOING DOWN!

IN 2002, BARRY WON THE CY YOUNG WITH A 23-5 MARK, AND HAIR THAT WAS AIR-TIGHT!



SHAGGY!



BUT BY 2005, AFTER TWO SUBPAR CAMPAIGNS, HIS HAIR HAD TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN!



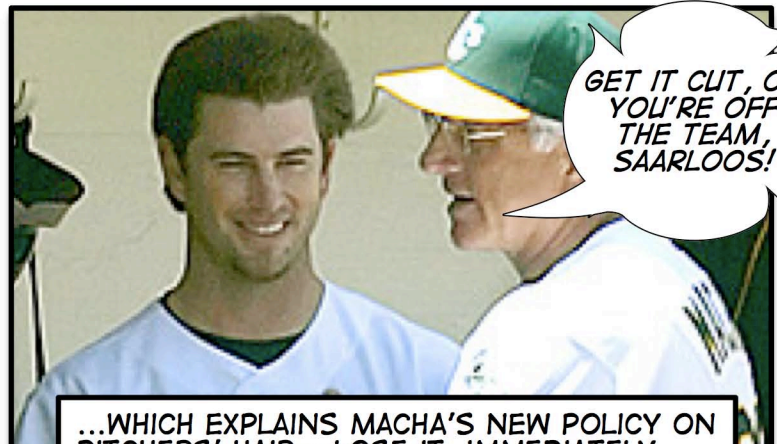
SMOOTH AS A BABY'S BEHIND!

ZITO STRUCK BACK AT THE HAIR, AND REGAINED HIS FORM, SHUTTING DOWN THE ANGELS AND D-RAYS!



Bedhead!

AND OPENING DAY 2006'S 15-2 THUMPING SAW THE HAIR OUT OF CONTROL!



GET IT CUT, OR YOU'RE OFF THE TEAM, SAARLOOS!

...WHICH EXPLAINS MACHA'S NEW POLICY ON PITCHERS' HAIR - LOSE IT. IMMEDIATELY.

HOME RUNS FROM A STARTING A'S CATCHER? THE ANTICS INVESTIGATE THIS ANOMALY IN "MELHUSIN' FOR A BRUISIN'!"

ANtics

Episode 2.12



Hitting Machine!



WOULD MANAGEMENT NOTICE AND GET ADAM MORE PLAYING TIME?

LOOK - I MAY KNOW KLING FU, BUT JASON WOULD LAY ME OUT IF I START ADAM - EVEN IF HE HIT 100 HOMERS!

DID YOU SEE HOW KENDALL WENT AFTER THAT ANGELS PITCHER? I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS.



IN A PAIR OF RARE STARTS, MELHUSE HIT TWO BOMBS AGAINST TORONTO!



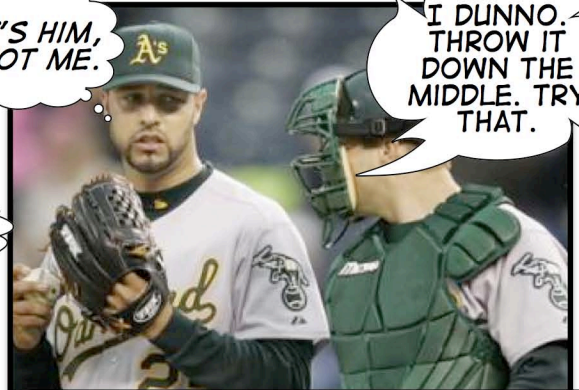
LET'S START EASY. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO THROW A CURVE?

HONESTLY, I HAVE NO IDEA. JASON ALWAYS TELLS ME!

AND... CAN ADAM CALL A GAME AS WELL AS KENDALL?

IT'S HIM, NOT ME.

I DUNNO. THROW IT DOWN THE MIDDLE. TRY THAT.



LOAIZA'S START HASN'T EXACTLY DELIVERED A TON OF CONFIDENCE...



Smackdown!

BUT AFTER KENDALL'S NOGGIN TOOK A FLOGGIN' IN ANAHEIM, ADAM IMPRESSED US ALL AT THE PLATE.



I WISH I'D NEVER HIDDEN MACHA'S GUM. HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME!

YET MELHUSE MAY REMAIN AN ENIGMA, THROUGH A SUMMER... OF DISCONTENT.

ANtics

Episode 2.13

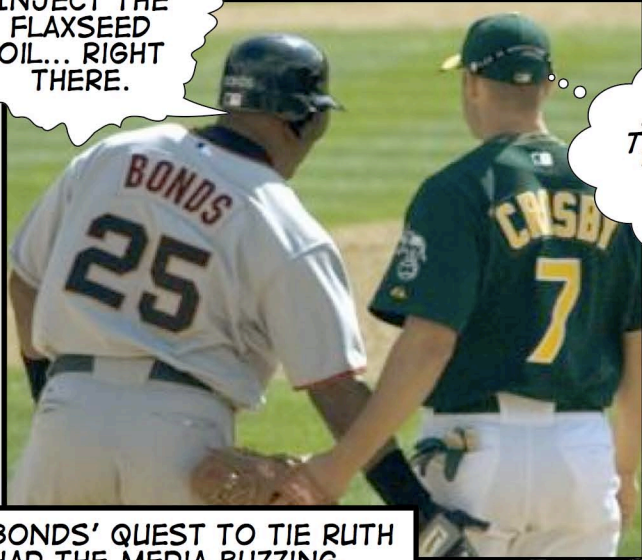


NEXT TIME, I'M CALLING TAILS. FRICKIN' ELLIS. SO DAMN LUCKY.

MACHA SAID I HAD TO DO THIS TO GET A GOLD GLOVE...

THE A'S AND GIANTS GOT DOWN AND DIRTY THIS WEEKEND, AND THE OFFENSE WENT DARK, IN "3 GAMES OF SHADOWS"!

WANT TO BULK UP? INJECT THE FLAXSEED OIL... RIGHT THERE.



BONDS' QUEST TO TIE RUTH HAD THE MEDIA BUZZING...

STOP IT! THAT'S MY "SPECIAL AREA!"

I GOT YOU RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU! NOW SAY UNCLE!

NEVER! MMPHH!



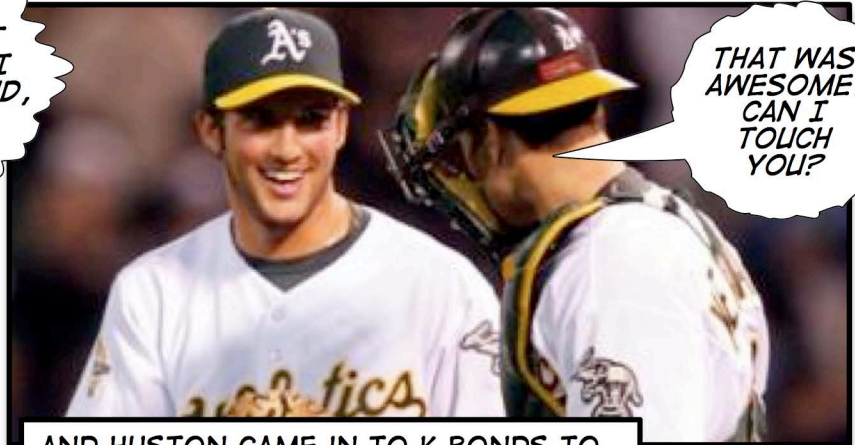
BUT THE GAME ON THE FIELD WAS MUCH MORE THAN ONE HULKING SLUGGER STALKING HISTORY.

BET YOU CAN'T HIT A BOMB IF I TOSS UNDERHAND, EH, BARRY?



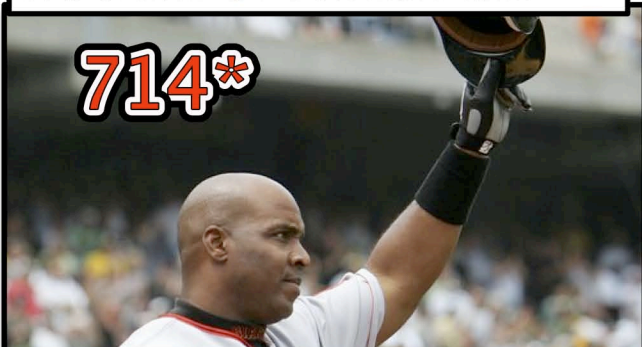
HAREN KEPT THE GIANTS IN CHECK ON FRIDAY WITH A, 1-0 PITCHING GEM.

THAT WAS AWESOME. CAN I TOUCH YOU?



AND HUSTON CAME IN TO K BONDS TO END THE GAME AND PICK UP THE SAVE!

714*



BUT ON SATURDAY, BONDS NAILED #714, DRAWING MIXED CHEERS...

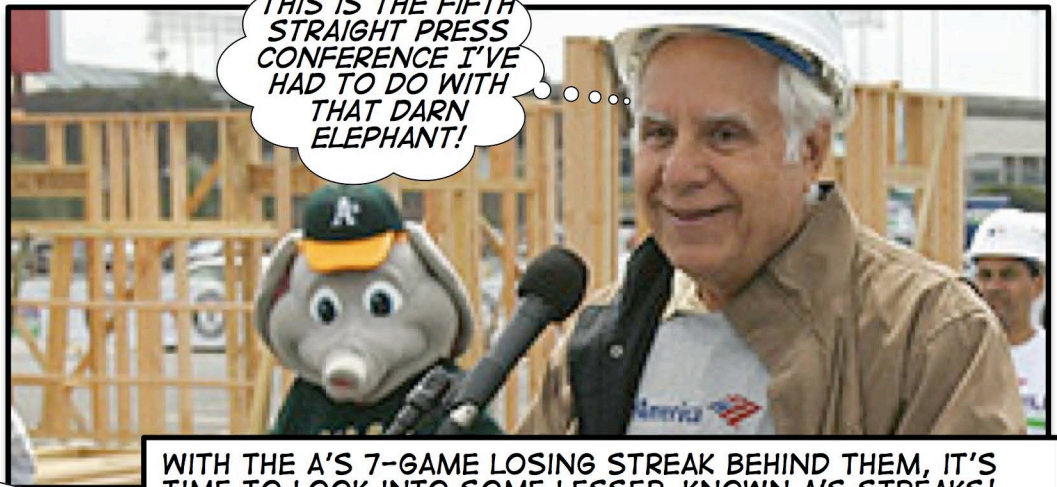
I AM NEVER DRINKING SWISH UNDER THE TABLE AGAIN!



WHILE SUNDAY'S DEBACLE IN THE RAIN HAD THE A'S AND FANS SIMPLY COVERING THEIR EYES.

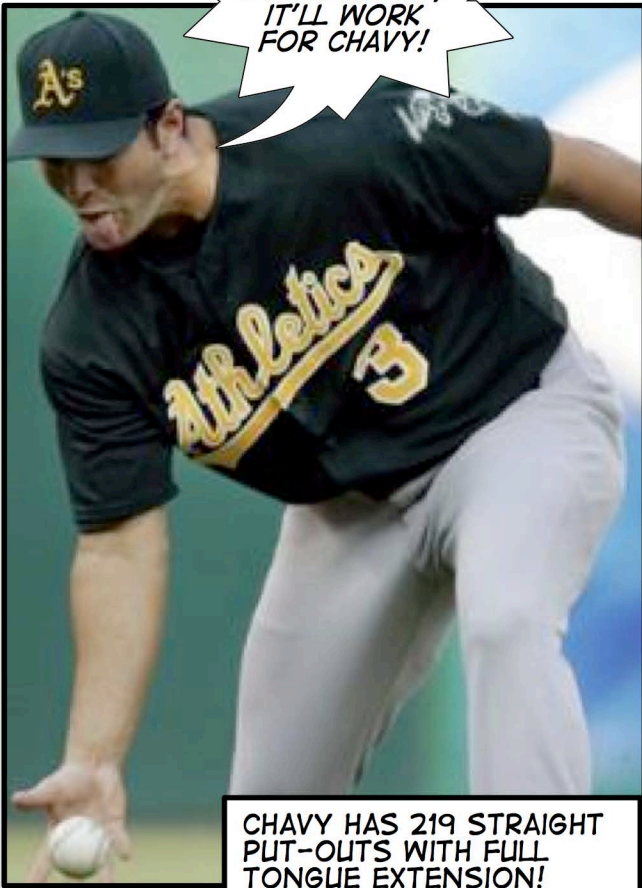
ANtics

Episode 2.14



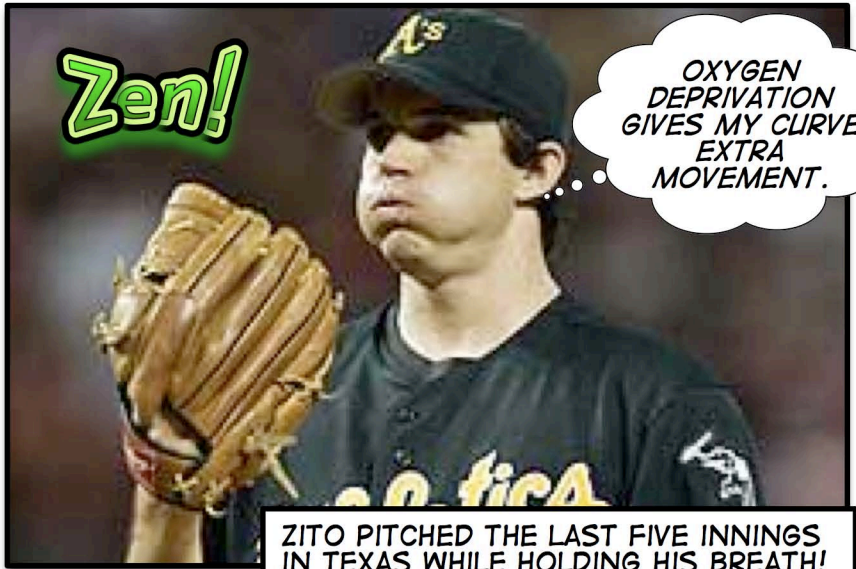
THIS IS THE FIFTH STRAIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE I'VE HAD TO DO WITH THAT DARN ELEPHANT!

WITH THE A'S 7-GAME LOSING STREAK BEHIND THEM, IT'S TIME TO LOOK INTO SOME LESSER-KNOWN A'S STREAKS!



IF IT WORKED FOR JORDAN, IT'LL WORK FOR CHAVY!

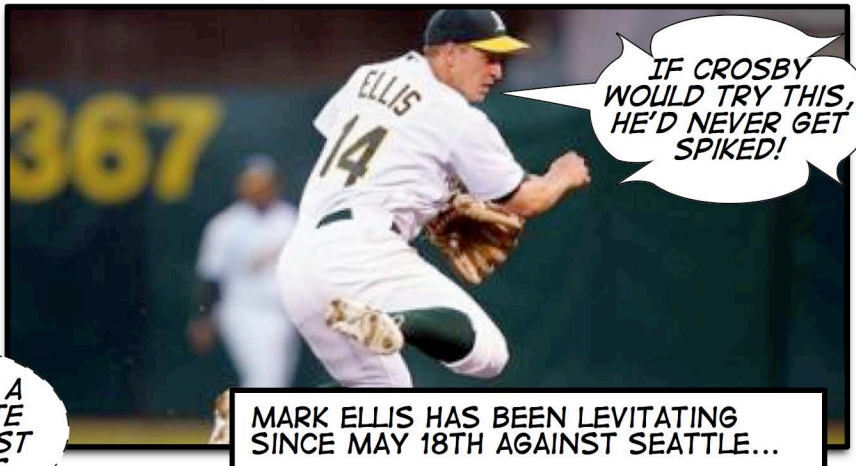
CHAVY HAS 219 STRAIGHT PUT-OUTS WITH FULL TONGUE EXTENSION!



Zen!

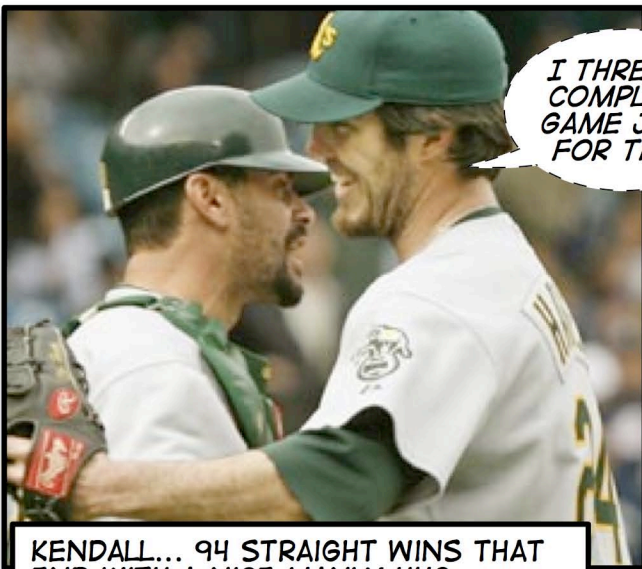
OXYGEN DEPRIVATION GIVES MY CURVE EXTRA MOVEMENT.

ZITO PITCHED THE LAST FIVE INNINGS IN TEXAS WHILE HOLDING HIS BREATH!



IF CROSBY WOULD TRY THIS, HE'D NEVER GET SPIKED!

MARK ELLIS HAS BEEN LEVITATING SINCE MAY 18TH AGAINST SEATTLE...



I THREW A COMPLETE GAME JUST FOR THIS.

KENDALL... 94 STRAIGHT WINS THAT END WITH A NICE MANLY HUG...



DON'T KNOCK THE GUM. IT HELPS ME CONCENTRATE - ER... CONCENTRATE.

AND KEN MACHA'S BEEN WORKING ON THE SAME PIECE OF GUM SINCE SPRING TRAINING. GROSS...

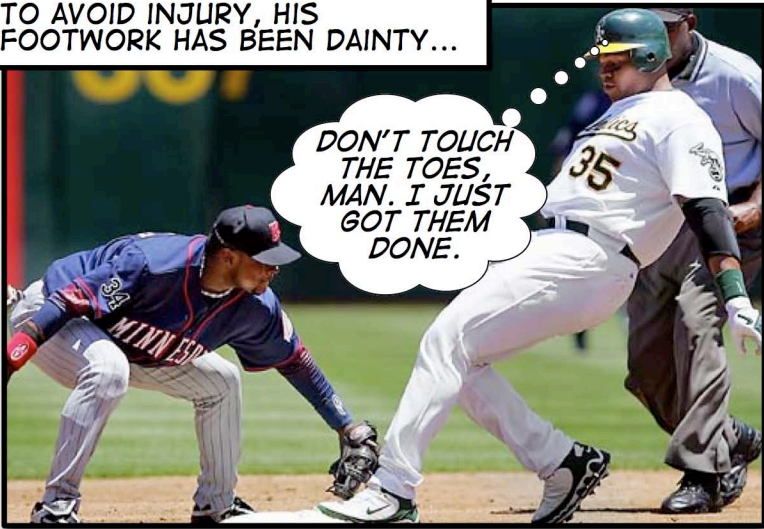
ANtics

Episode 2.15



DESIGNATED HITTERS ARE ASKED TO DO ONE THING - HIT. FRANK THOMAS DELIVERS... IN "A'S BIG MAN ON CAMPUS".

TO AVOID INJURY, HIS FOOTWORK HAS BEEN DAINTY...



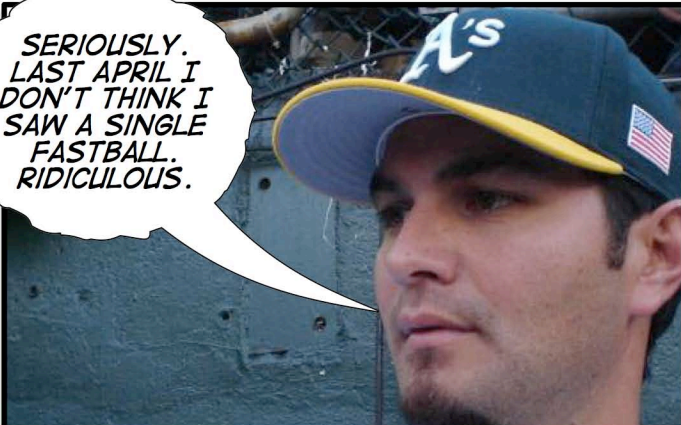
DON'T TOUCH THE TOES, MAN. I JUST GOT THEM DONE.



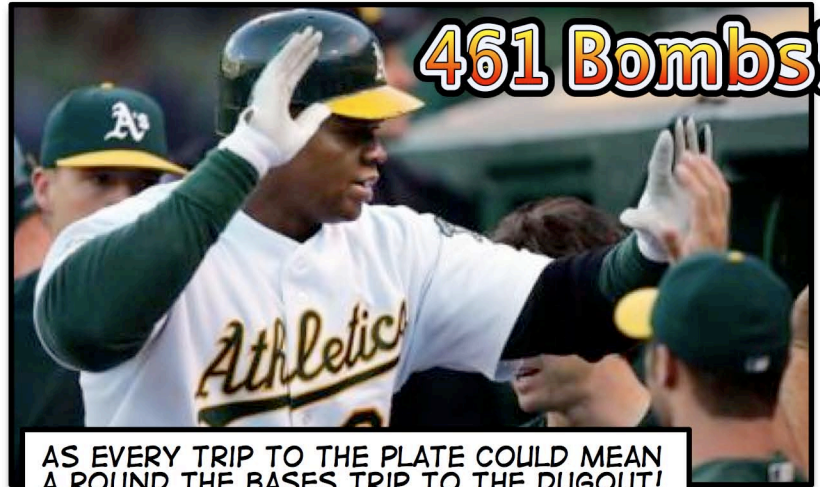
BAM!

BUT THE BIG HURT HAS PROVIDED PLENTY OF MUSCLE!

SERIOUSLY. LAST APRIL I DON'T THINK I SAW A SINGLE FASTBALL. RIDICULOUS.



AND OFFERS PROTECTION IN THE BATTING ORDER FOR THE TEAM'S OTHER SLUGGERS...



461 Bombs!

AS EVERY TRIP TO THE PLATE COULD MEAN A ROUND THE BASES TRIP TO THE DUGOUT!

WHAT WAS THAT? IT WAS A FOOT OUTSIDE, PLUNK!



YES, MR. THOMAS. OF COURSE YOU ARE RIGHT. MY APOLOGIES.

AND AT 6' 7", NOBODY BETTER GET IN HIS WAY.



HE'S #1. I WOULD KILL FOR HIM. PLEASE ASK ME TO KILL FOR HIM...

WHICH IS WHY TEAMMATE NICK SWISHER IDOLIZES HIS EVERY MOVE, EVERY DAY.

ANtics

Episode 2.16

YOU'VE GOT TO HANG IN THERE DJ. PAPARAZZI CAN BE TOUGH.

I'M TRYING, CHAVY, REALLY. BUT I'M HUGE NOW. I CAN'T BE STOPPED.

WITH JOHNSON'S 2 HOME RUNS PUSHING THE A'S TO A SWEEP OF THE HATED YANKEES, IS DJ A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH?

SO LET ME GET THIS RIGHT - THE GUY HAS A GOOD WEEK AND YOU WANT TO PUT HIM IN THE HALL OF FAME OR SOMETHING?

DUDE, IT'S BEEN FUN. BUT I CAN'T COMPETE WITH THAT.

I KNOW MAN, I KNOW. WHAT A MACHINE!

HUSTON STREET THINKS THE FERVOR IS MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING...

BUT FELLOW HITTERS PAYTON AND KOTSAY SEE BIG CHANGES AFOOT.

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MESS WITH THIS. I CAN TURN YOUR "TWINS" INTO MUSH, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.

RUTH, MAYS, AARON AND DJ. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

EGO!

DJ'S RISING CONFIDENCE AFTER A SLOW START TO THE SEASON IS LIKE NIGHT AND DAY.

HE'S ENVISIONED HIMSELF AMONG THE ALL-TIME GREAT HITTERS...

HR!

JUST REMEMBER ME, DJ. IT'S ALL I ASK.

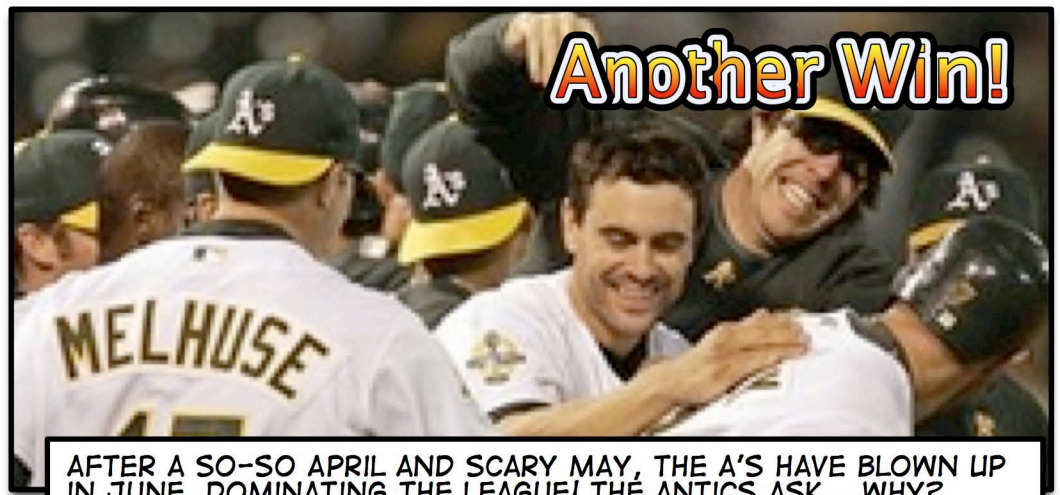
AND AFTER SUNDAY'S PERFORMANCE, WHO CAN REALLY ARGUE? IT'S HIGH-FIVES ALL AROUND...

FOR THE A'S MAY FINALLY HAVE FOUND THAT SUPERSTAR MLB SAYS THEY CAN'T AFFORD.

ANtics

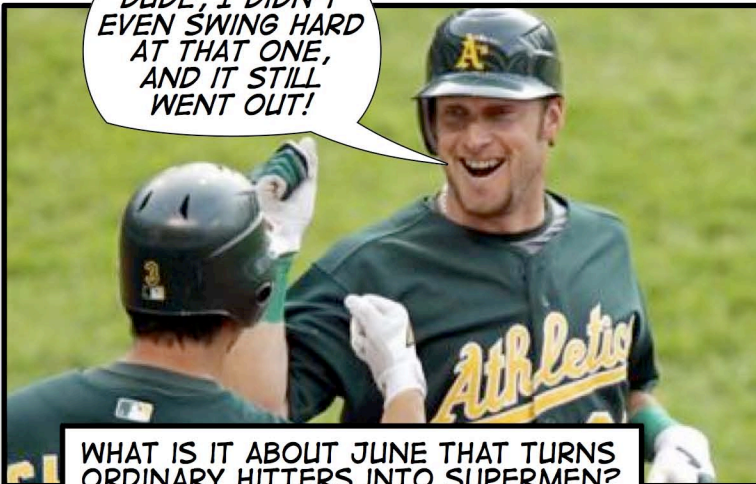
Episode 2.17

Another Win!



AFTER A SO-SO APRIL AND SCARY MAY, THE A'S HAVE BLOWN UP IN JUNE, DOMINATING THE LEAGUE! THE ANTICS ASK... WHY?

DUDE, I DIDN'T EVEN SWING HARD AT THAT ONE, AND IT STILL WENT OUT!



WHAT IS IT ABOUT JUNE THAT TURNS ORDINARY HITTERS INTO SUPERMEN?

HEY, I WAS BUSTING MY BUTT IN APRIL. I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT THE OTHER GUYS WERE DOING.

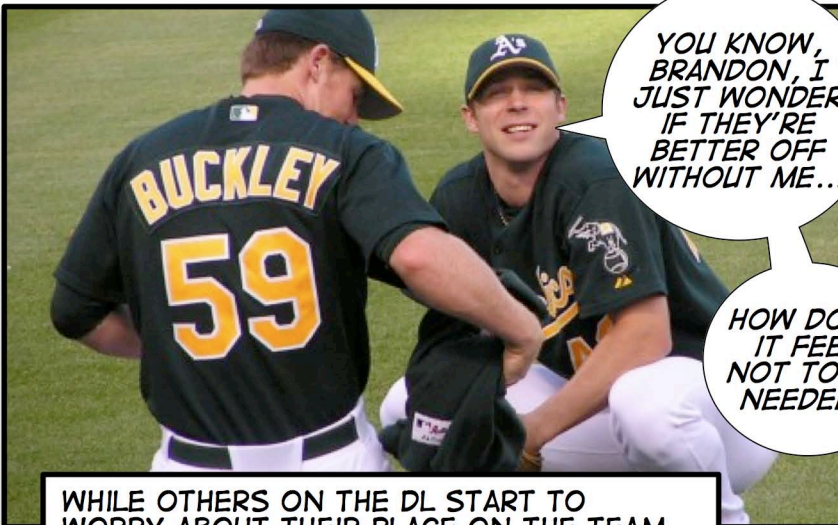
KIND OF TICKS ME OFF, TO BE HONEST.



BUT SWISHER WONDERS WHY HE HAD TO DO EVERYTHING HIMSELF UP UNTIL NOW...

YOU KNOW, BRANDON, I JUST WONDER IF THEY'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME...

HOW DOES IT FEEL NOT TO BE NEEDED?



WHILE OTHERS ON THE DL START TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR PLACE ON THE TEAM...

Clown Power!



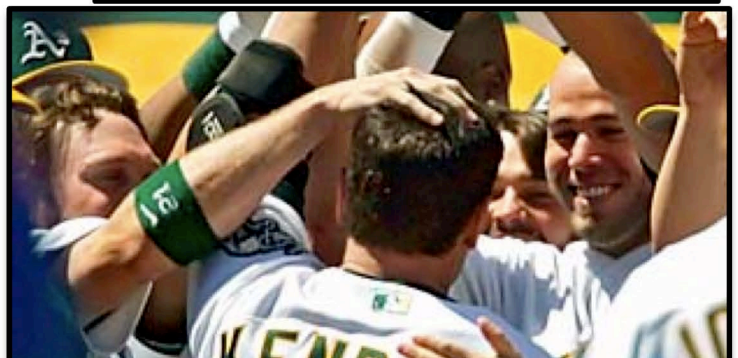
ESPECIALLY AS THOSE WHO STARTED SLOW HEAT UP AND PUSH TO VICTORY...

AS A'S, WE LIKE A CHALLENGE. IT'S BORING TO RUN AWAY WITH IT FROM DAY ONE. THIS MAKES IT INTERESTING.

HR!



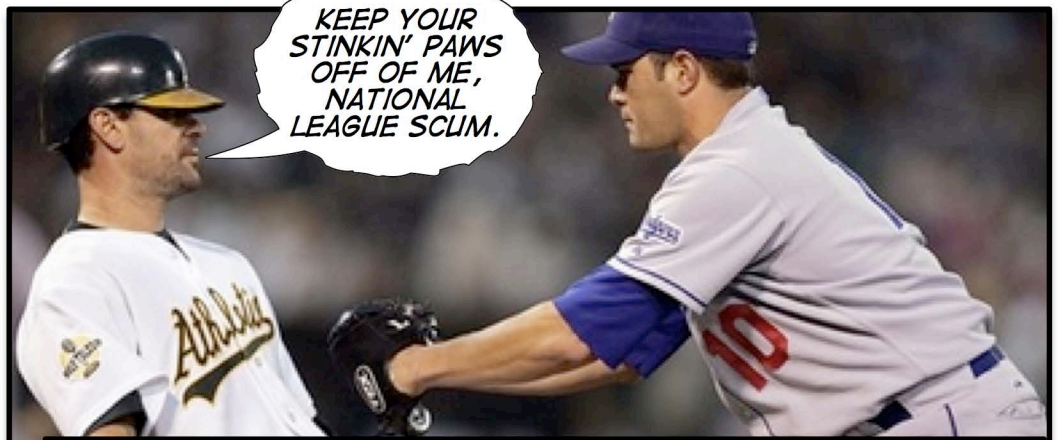
CHAVY PONTIFICATES ON THE WHOLE THING - HAVING SEEN IT BEFORE.



THIS TIME OF YEAR... MIRACLES HAPPEN. EVEN KENDALL HOME RUNS. IT'S A NEW BALLGAME.

ANtics

Episode 2.18



KEEP YOUR STINKIN' PAWS OFF OF ME, NATIONAL LEAGUE SCUM.

THE DH, EXPANSION AND INTERLEAGUE HAVE CHANGED THE GAME. THE ANTICS CHECK IN WITH THE A'S FOR EVEN MORE NEW IDEAS.



CHAVY, YOU AND ME - TOGETHER. WE WOULD BE LINSTOPPABLE!

BARRY, GIVE IT UP. YOUR NIGHT IS THROUGH.

NO WAY, SKIP! I GOT THIS GUY!

SWISHER THINKS PITCHERS SHOULD FACE RIGHTY AND LEFTY HITTERS SIMULTANEOUSLY...

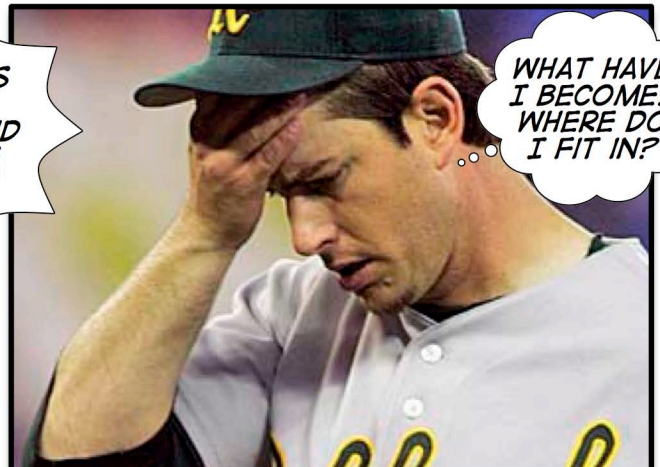
MACHA SAYS AN EJECTION BUTTON FOR THE PITCHERS' MOUND WOULD BE MUCH EASIER.



HEY, ARE THOSE CALVIN KLEINS?

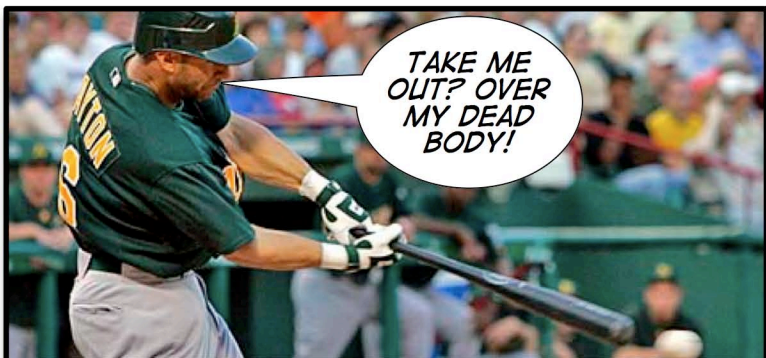
YOU SEE THIS GUY, LIMP? THREE SECOND RULE! THREE SECONDS!!!

KENDALL SAYS IF AN OPPONENT'S CONTACT IMPROPERLY LINGERS, YOU CAN SMASH HIM.



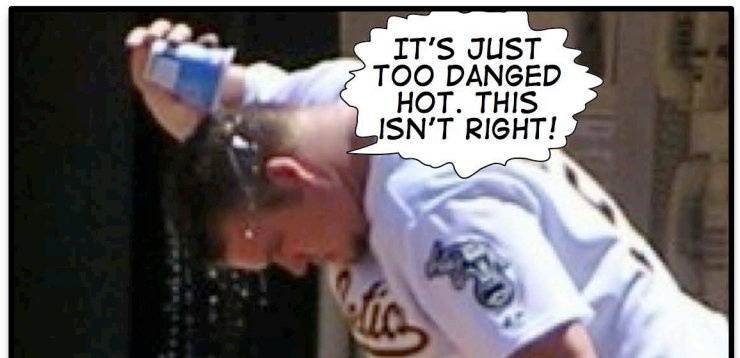
WHAT HAVE I BECOME? WHERE DO I FIT IN? ...

FOR SAARLOOS, A RULE - EITHER YOU'RE A RELIEVER OR A STARTER, NOT BOTH.



TAKE ME OUT? OVER MY DEAD BODY!

PAYTON SAYS HE SHOULD START EVERY DAY AND THAT ALL STARTERS SHOULD GO NINE.

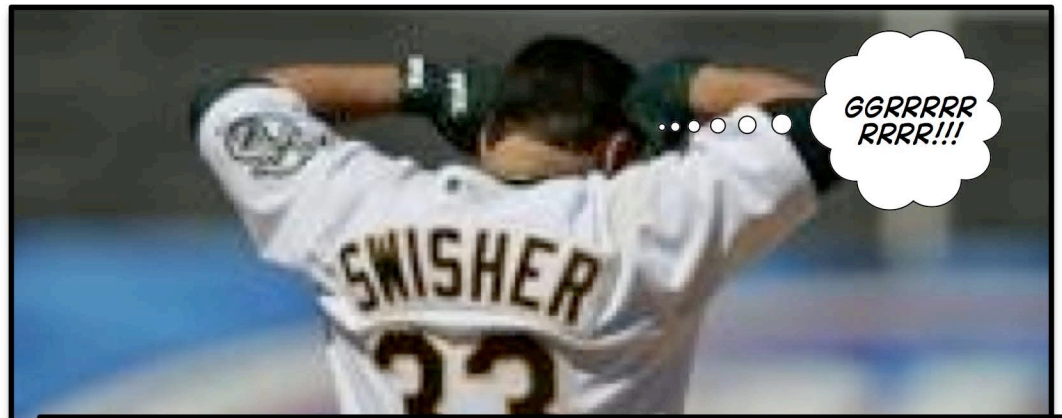


IT'S JUST TOO DANGED HOT. THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

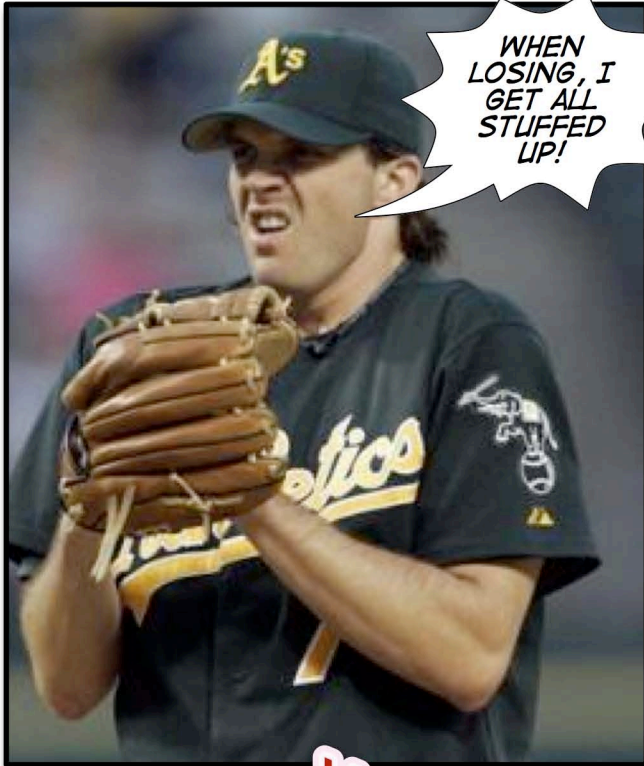
AND BLANTON WANTS TO MANDATE PLAYING INDOORS - WITH AIR CONDITIONING.

ANtics

Extra



ANY TEAM CAN RIDE HIGH ON A WIN STREAK, BUT IF HARD TIMES HIT, HOW DO PLAYERS COPE? WE INVESTIGATE, IN THIS WEEK'S ANTICS!



WHEN LOSING, I GET ALL STUFFED UP!



NOW THIS IS A DOUBLE PLAY I COULD GROUND INTO!

JASON KENDALL TURNS HIS FOCUS TO THE UMPIRING CREW, GETTING A MUCH-DESERVED SPANKING!



Work It!

HUSTON STREET SLIPS INTO "COMFORTABLE" CLOTHES...



MARK KOTSAY TAKES ANGER OUT ON THE EQUIPMENT...



AND RINCON HOPES NOBODY KNOWS IT'S ALL HIS FAULT...

ANtics

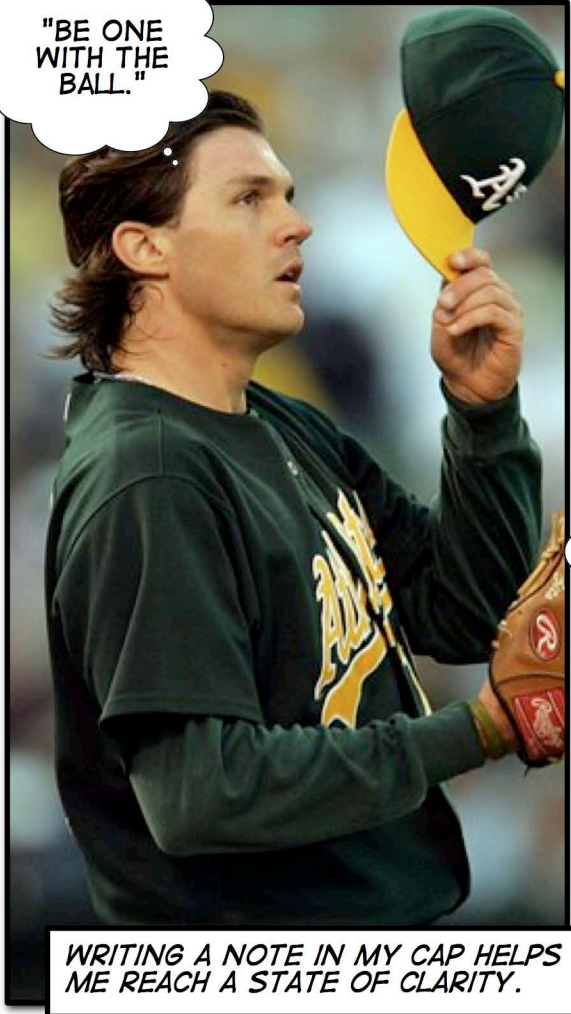
Extra



WHO HAS A CUTER BUTT? ALYSSA OR HUSTON?

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ATTENTION ON THE A'S ROOKIES THIS YEAR... BUT WHAT ABOUT **THE OLD-TIMERS**? WE LOOKED INTO MR. ZEN'S ROUTINE TO LEARN MORE...

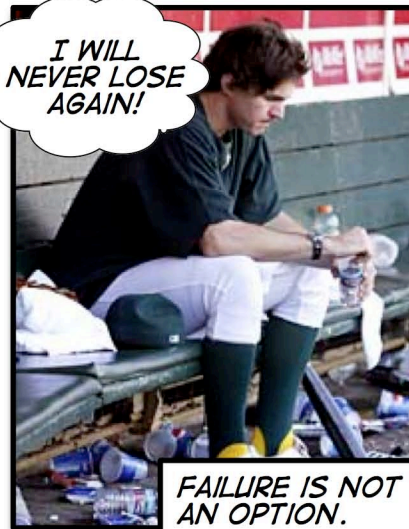
"BE ONE WITH THE BALL."



WRITING A NOTE IN MY CAP HELPS ME REACH A STATE OF CLARITY.

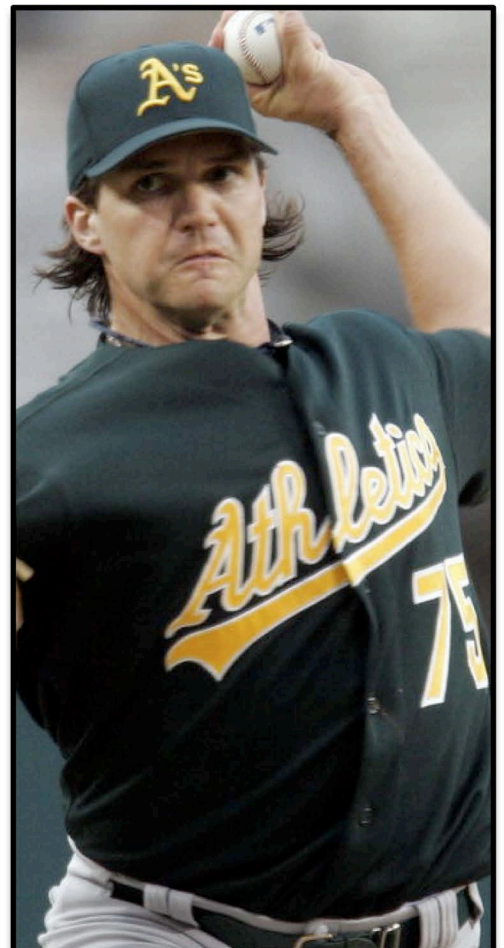


I CHANNEL THE POWER WITHIN TO TRANSFER MY BODY'S **INNER-MOST FORCES** TO ACHIEVE VELOCITY.



I WILL NEVER LOSE AGAIN!

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.



ONLY THEN CAN I **TRANSCEND PITCHING GREATNESS**.



Hot!

THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SELF-AWARENESS AND CONFIDENCE DELIVER ME TO A SUPERIOR PLANE.