

# Texas, Oakland trade superstars

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics in a shocking move Monday night traded slugger Jose Canseco to the Texas Rangers for outfielder Ruben Sierra, pitcher Bobby Witt, reliever Jeff Russell and cash.

Canseco, a two-time American League home run champion, was hitting .246 this season with 22 homers and 72 RBIs.

Canseco, 28, played right field in the top of the first inning against the Baltimore Orioles and was headed for the on-deck circle in the bottom of the inning when he was called back by manager Tony La Russa and was told of the trade.

"I was kind of close to the on-deck circle and (bench coach) Tommy Reynolds called me over," Canseco said. "I thought he was going to tell me to stay back on the pitch and then he told me Tony wanted to see me. When he told me I was traded I was thinking this isn't April Fool's Day. Tony hugged me in the runway."

Canseco then cleaned out his locker at the Oakland Coliseum and sat in the locker room for several minutes in stunned disbelief.

Canseco attended a news conference in the basement of the Coliseum still dressed in his Oakland uniform.

"From their view it makes a lot of sense

## Canseco replaces Witt, Sierra, Russell on Rangers roster

from a business point of view," Canseco said. "Maybe it's an indication it's time to move on."

Canseco's awesome power helped the A's win the AL pennant in 1988 and a World Series title in 1989. They A's also won the AL pennant in 1990 but were upset in the Series by Cincinnati.

"I'm still in shock," Canseco said. "They (the A's) need a lot of pitching and I guess that's what they were looking for."

Canseco has often had some controversial moments with the A's, including this year when he left a game at Oakland in the eighth inning causing the ire of several teammates. His off-field demeanor has also been controversial as he received a number of celebrated speeding tickets and had some public domestic problems with his wife.

The A's, first in the AL West, are taking a chance because Sierra is currently out with the chicken pox. He is also a free agent at the end of the season and will be looking for more than \$25 million over five years.

Sierra is hitting .278 with 14 homers and 70 RBIs. Witt, 9-13 with a 4.46 ERA, gives the A's a

much-needed starting pitcher and Russell will be used as a set up man to Dennis Eckersley. Russell is also eligible for free agency at the end of the season. Witt has signed through 1993 with an option for 1994.

"I'm shocked," Russell said. "I felt pretty secure. I'm optimistic. They've got a good ballclub over there. I'm pretty psyched about it. It still hasn't sunk in. My heart is beating. The ballclub has got to do what it has to do. I feel bad about leaving. I've been here seven years."

Russell is 2-3 with 28 saves and a 1.91 ERA. Witt was 17-10 in 1990 but has often had control problems in his career.

"About a week ago I didn't have any expectations about being traded, but then I saw something in the paper that I was being shipped around," Witt said. "It's better than sitting here on a fourth-place team. Hopefully, I can contribute to the team. I'm looking forward to getting over and helping the team. I just want to contribute."

"We did talk to a lot of teams but this one was very attractive to us and we really didn't know it was going to happen until it did," A's general manager Sandy Alderson said. "Had it not happened we might have done something else."

Canseco entered the season with 209 career home runs and 647 RBIs in six seasons.

## Norwood

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just what it takes to win. That does hurt in certain situations, where opponents are signed on the basis of number of fights rather than skill or ability.

But Holyfield, not one to worry about what outsiders say, merely makes up for his lack of flashy knockout power with a workmanlike assault on his opponent's body.

It's not pretty, but it works. As his matchup with Bowe draws closer this fall, however, Holyfield will have more to deal with than just preparing for Bowe's overhand right. The war between managers might turn out to be as exciting as the fight itself.

Lou Duva, Holyfield's manager of several years, is one of the best known fight men, a salty individual not known for mincing words.

On the other hand is Rock Newman, a flashy type yearning for Don King-dom, which is not the best of aspirations.

Newman drew a great deal of criticism before the Coetzer fight with his mindless apartheid tirade during a pre-fight press conference. Consequently Coetzer, who had been an outspoken opponent of the racist policies in his homeland, had to fight both Bowe and

Newman in the process.

Newman's tactics represent the worst of a bad element in boxing. Promoting machinations outside the ring always lead to adverse affects for fighters. Just look at Tyson and his steady downfall as King slowly gained power.

What all of this spells for Holyfield is the biggest match of his life. Although Great Britain's Lennox Lewis might be the best among heavyweight contenders, Bowe and his entourage form an imposing roadblock, one that is more than just hype. Holyfield's conditioning, unequaled by any other big-name heavyweight, will be of extreme importance as he tries to wade through the pre-fight buildup.

But Holyfield has the one thing on his side that might make the difference - confidence. While other boxers may have the boasting down pat, their eyes often belie what they are saying. Looking into Holyfield's eyes shows that the detractors and critics might be driving him to succeed just to spite them. And in this instance, the detractors might be enough to actually make Holyfield mad.

If Bowe and Newman help wake the sleeping giant, Holyfield might make true believers out of those who love to put him down. But until then, Holyfield has the only believer he needs - himself.

## Volleyball

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That attitude is a must in the suddenly-deep SWC. Perennial front-runner Texas has been joined by A&M, Texas Tech and Houston at the top of the conference, making for the possibility of a title race that could come down to the wire.

"The Southwest Conference is going to be a dogfight," Givens said. "I don't think any team will go through the season undefeated."

The Lady Aggies got a taste of SWC stardom last year when they beat seventh-ranked Texas in College Station, ending the Longhorns' conference winning streak at 69 matches.

"The first time you do something is always the hardest," Givens said about the Lady Aggies' first win over Texas since 1982. "We're not basing ourselves on that one instance, but I think it

proved to them what it takes to play on that level."

"We beat them last year," Edmiston said. "I'd like to beat them two more times before I leave."

The Lady Aggies will get those chances this year, as Texas is just part of a demanding schedule. Conference foes Houston and Texas Tech both earned bids to the NCAA tournament last year, as did non-conference opponents Louisiana State, Florida, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Georgia.

The season opener comes, tonight, when A&M travels to Huntsville to test the waters against Sam Houston State.

"By then, we're going to have had a lot of questions answered," Givens said. "They (the Lady Aggies) are going to be anxious to see someone in a different uniform."

Following the UT-Arlington Invitational this weekend, the Lady Aggies open their home schedule in G. Rollie White Coliseum Sept. 7 against Eastern Washington.

## Associated Press Top 20

Team	Record	Pts.	11. Nebraska	0-0-0	857
1. Miami (43)	0-0-0	1,516	12. Colorado	0-0-0	798
2. Washington (9)	0-0-0	1,458	13. Clemson	0-0-0	751
3. Notre Dame (5)	0-0-0	1,404	14. Georgia	0-0-0	727
4. Florida St. (1)	0-0-0	1,274	15. Oklahoma	0-0-0	676
5. Michigan (1)	0-0-0	1,260	16. UCLA	0-0-0	553
6. Florida	0-0-0	1,241	17. Ohio St.	0-0-0	465
7. TEXAS A&M (1)	1-0-0	1,163	18. N. Carolina St.	1-0-0	434
8. Penn St. (1)	0-0-0	1,125	19. California	0-0-0	379
9. Alabama (1)	0-0-0	1,096	20. Stanford	0-1-0	354
10. Syracuse	0-0-0	957			

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