



Dugout News

Former A's make trip to all star game memorable



Mrs. E with Darrell, Cameron, Nikki and Kelly Miller in Kansas City.

Pat Eberly was treated to an outing at the major league All Star Game in Kansas City July 10 by former A's catcher Darrell Miller. Miller had called Mrs. E the day before the game to see if she would be interested in tickets for the event as he had received news that his son Darrell, Jr. had been selected to play in the California High School All Star game & they would be going back before the Kansas City game.

Accompanied by daughter Jill & Scott Sunderman, they were able to go early enough to have lunch and a long visit with Darrell, his wife Kelly and two youngest children prior to the Miller's departure for the airport. Darrell, Jr., also a catcher, will be attending USC this fall and is hoping to come back to Clarinda next summer to follow in his father's footsteps with the A's. The senior Miller said he wanted his son to have the same "Iowa experience" he did, as he felt it was a time that

helped him mature both as a player and a man. Jared Sunderman joined his parents and grandmother for the pregame festivities that included a BBQ and concert by country singer Luke Bryan, as well as the game. Miller played major league ball with the California Angels from 1984-1988 and is currently the director of the major league baseball Urban Youth Academies that are being developed throughout the country.

Parent's week always special



Each summer the A's schedule their annual Parent's Week during the Fourth of July week and this year was very special. The turnout was great and many of the visiting parents spent an extended period of time in Clarinda getting to know our community. On the Fourth, a picnic was held at the Clarinda Lutheran School for the players, their parents, host parents, A's board and Auxiliary members. This is always a good time for the program to thank the parents for sharing their sons for the summer and for them to get acquainted with their sons host family.



Clarinda home to work by prominent artist

When Ozzie Smith presented the bust of the late Merl Eberly to the community last January he made a gift that was not only a tribute to his former coach & friend, but also a work of art by an acclaimed artist. Harry Weber, the sculptor of the piece is internationally known & respected for his collection of work. His sports figures are prominent features at 12 different professional and amateur stadiums including Busch Stadium in St. Louis and Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, as well as a major display at the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. He was named the National Sports Artist of the Year by the United States Sports Academy in 2011.

Covering a wide range of subjects Weber's work is on display in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, the Museum of Fine Arts in Newport, RI as well as the National Dog Museum to name just a few. Two of his sculptural groups have been designated National Lewis & Clark sites by the Federal Parks Department.

His body of work can be viewed at www.harryweber.com for those interested.

Work continues on book

Over the Fourth of July week Mike Tackett was back in town to continue doing research and interviews for the upcoming book he is working on with the Eberly family. Tackett is the managing editor and Washington Bureau Chief for Bloomberg News and his wife Julie, who accompanied and helped with interviews on this trip, works in television in the DC area. Mike says that each trip he has made since January, plus the phone interviews he has done in the past six months, are so valuable in laying the ground work of the story of how three entities - Eberly - the A's program - the community of Clarinda - came together to make such a great narrative. At this time the working title is "Summer Ball A Man - A Team - A Town. They have been impressed with our community since their visit during the 2010 season when their son Lee was a pitcher with the A's. "There are so many layers to this story and it is fascinating to uncover them and see how so many things came together through the years," Tackett said. "I can't begin to express my appreciation to all those who have taken the time to visit with us and to share their connection to the overall picture." Anyone who has not been contacted and would like to share some of their memories of the program and Clarinda can contact Pat Eberly and she will set up an appointment for his next visit or give your contact information to Tackett.

Fireworks display popular again this year

Thanks go to the Clarinda Academy for hosting a free night at the ball field July 3 for the 4th of July fireworks following the A's game. As in the past there was an overflow crowd to watch the show and more people had come early to take in the ball game also. A big thank you goes to Clarinda Fire Chief Roger Williams and his staff for their help in putting on the display and to all who donated toward the cost of the fireworks that night. Businesses who contributed to the fund included Bank Iowa, Ritchie Funeral Home, Eye Care Associates, Page County State Bank, Brown's Auto, Herald Journal, Page County Federal Savings & Loan, Lied Center, Hy-Vee, Ice House, Shore Motor, Nordland Realty, Clarinda Regional Hospital, Lisle Corporation, Snyder Auto, Akin Building, Foster's Amusement, McDonald's, Eickemeyer Funeral Chapel, Barker Implement, Weil's Clothing, S & S Appliance, Walker Funeral Home, Herzberg Chiropractic, Page County Farm Bureau, Curling Iron, Raymond James Finance, Sump Insurance, Cardinal Auto, Easter's, Vaughn's Café, Wallin Plumbing, SW Iowa Mutual Insurance, Runza, Easter's True Valu, Clarinda Chamber of Commerce, Ralph and Helen Furst, Elaine Armstrong and Bob Burham. Be sure to stop in and thank these people for their continuing support of community activities.

Season wrap-up to come

When we went to press the A's regular season was over and they were starting the NBC Central USA Regional Tournament. As you read this they will have finished their season or are heading to the NBC World Series in Wichita. In the August edition of the Dugout News there will be a final wrap for the season with the team's record, the leaders both offensively and on the mound and thoughts from A's board president Gary Ulmer and manager Ryan Eberly. A's board of directors, auxiliary and management thank everyone who has helped in any way this season and for the fans who supported them this summer.

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We're Cheering for a Home-Run Season!

Good Luck to the Clarinda A's

We know you have the talent and the heart, so now we're wishing you the luck for a season that hits it out of the park. Go, team!

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