



Giants miss out on youth



Triples alley

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Chief-Sports Writer

A wise person once said, "jealousy makes no man a better man." Thats not true, but I try to tell myself that every day. More so now that the biggest fish, pun intended, Miguel Cabrera, has been shipped along with Dontrelle Willis to the Detroit Tigers. Now Detroit puts together a strong lineup that rivals only the BoSox and Yankees.

Cabrera is every bit the monster that his numbers portray. He puts up numbers that you have to look over twice to fully comprehend. His resume includes a .313 AVG over a five-year career with 100 runs, 189 hits, 31 HR's, and 118 RBI's.

The only issue with Cabrera was his playing weight. Since he arrived in '03 for the fish at 185, he has ballooned to 255 pounds this past year, which probably caused his National League leading errors he committed at third.

However, there is very good news for Detroit. Both L.A. Dodgers catcher Mike Napoli and Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen have seen Cabrera and both were surprised at the amount of weight he has lost.

Honestly, I wasn't sure if Cabrera was going to be able to keep himself at a suitable playing weight, especially after hearing the Giants were strongly pursuing a trade for him.

Then again, the Giants couldn't get Cabrera without parting with either Tim Lincecum or Matt Cain. Just the thought of having one of the best, young hitters in the game at the moment would delight even the most casual Giants fan.

Therein lies the problem. Trading a part of the face of the Giants franchise. It likely would have received the type of reaction that ensued after the Matt Williams for Jeff Kent deal in the 90's, which didn't end up being so bad, considering Kent helped the Giants reach the World Series.

Don't think for a second that the Giants weren't testing the waters for a possible Lincecum-Cabrera or Cain-Cabrera swap.

If it weren't for the fact that the Marlins asked for the moon in the form of Lincecum and Cain both, we may have seen the only strength of the Giants organization quickly be diminished for just one bat.

Now with biggest bat of the market going to a team in the high-powered American League, the Giants must look from within and do some serious evaluating.

Could they scratch and claw through the year with kids Kevin Frandsen, Rajai Davis, Fred Lewis leading the youth? Or will the roles of veterans Rich Aurilia, Randy Winn and Dave Roberts be expanded?

Hopefully the organization sticks with the pre-announced "youth movement" that was once suggested.

2007: Simply crazy

From Boise State's "Statue of Liberty" play in overtime to upset Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl in January, to the Colorado Rockies making their first World Series, let alone playoff appearance in franchise history, 2007 has been anything but an ordinary year in the world of sports.

It was a year full of game-winners, major upsets and complete turnarounds for the best and the worst of teams.

There were many clutch plays in 2007. From Peyton Manning's game-winning touchdown pass to beat the favored New England Patriots in the AFC Championship game, to a walk-off home run by Dalton Carriker that helped Warner Robins, Georgia win the 2007 Little League World Series over Japan and a game-winning home run by Yorvit Torrealba propelled the Colorado Rockies through the NLDS and, eventually into the World Series.

Let's not forget about Division I-AA .Applachian State blocked a field goal to defeat Michigan and Bo McNally's fourth quarter



First and 10

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

interception of Josh David Booty helped Stanford upset then number two USC.

Notre Dame football went from the best to worst, along with Cal going from possibly being number one to becoming unranked as they lost six of their last seven games. The Golden State Warriors "believed" their way into NBA playoffs for the first time in over 10 years and upset the heavily favored Dallas Mavericks in the first round. The Philadelphia Phillies lost their 10,000th franchise game in the regular season and still found themselves in the NLDS for the first time in over 10 years, but were swept by the Colorado Rockies, who found themselves in the playoffs for... the first time in franchise history. The Oakland Raiders and San Francisco 49ers hit an all-time low as the New England Patriots and Dallas Cowboys hit an all-time high.

From Peyton Manning finally winning his first Super Bowl to David Beckham moving to Los Angeles to play for the Galaxy

of the MLS, 2007 was also full of great accomplishments and debuts.

As Peyton (finally) won his first Super Bowl, his coach, Tony Dungy, became the first black NFL head coach to coach in and win a Super Bowl. Barry Bonds finally became the all-time home run king as he surpassed Hank Aaron's 755 mark, asterisk or not. Meanwhile, Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to reach the 500 HR mark with the Yankees.

Brett Favre broke the record for touchdown passes in a career against Minnesota, surpassing Dan Marino, and two weeks later broke the record for most interceptions thrown in a career.

David Beckham, along with Victoria and kids, made the move from highly known Real Madrid of to the L.A. Galaxy. And yes, soccer has gained in popularity since his arrival this past summer.

It was also a year of loss. From the deaths of Broncos' cornerback Darrent Williams to the passing of college football coach Eddie Robinson, to the recent death of Redskin safety Sean Taylor, this year has been a year to also realize there's more to life than sport.

With 2007 almost in the books, we now look ahead to 2008. With a year this crazy, who knows exactly what'll come next.

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