

# Teammates Rally 'Round Kingman's Rodent

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OAKLAND, CALIF. — ``As the Rat Turns`` continues in Oakland.

Dave Kingman's gift of a rat to sportswriter Susan Fornoff of the Sacramento Bee still is drawing the [focus](#) of attention in the Bay Area. Instead of letting a bad joke die, the A's players were parading around in

``Rat Patrol`` T-shirts Friday. Who produced the T-shirts is not known, although there is strong speculation that it was Kingman.

The situation has gotten so bad that most [members](#) of the team, to show their support for Kingman, won't talk to the media. They felt Kingman received too much criticism for his ``practical joke.`` He was fined \$3,500 by the A's management and threatened with the loss of his job.

``They've asked me not to speak to you,`` said one player, who wished to remain anonymous. ``I like you, but I have to [play](#) with these guys. They are my teammates.`` New Sox [manager](#) Jim Fregosi didn't want to have anything to do with the A's controversy. ``I'm not managing that team,`` he said. ``I'm not going to comment on it.``

-- There was nothing new to report on a Tom Seaver trade. Sox operations chief Ken Harrelson met with Seaver on the field before the [game](#).

-- A's pitcher Joaquin Andujar had another problem Friday. Already on the disabled list with a pulled right hamstring, Andujar was throwing batting practice when he stumbled. He went down in a heap and had to be carried off the field. He was diagnosed as having a sprained left ankle.

-- Fregosi, an avid follower of horse racing, says the Sox have what it takes to be a good closer. They entered Friday's game 8 1/2 [games](#) back of first-place California. ``It's better to be a good closer,`` Fregosi said. ``We'll sit in [the middle](#) of the pack, then hit a good stretch run in the end.``

-- New pitching coach Dick Bosman had a strange feeling when he walked into the Oakland Coliseum Friday. It was the first time he had been there since 1977, when Charlie Finley released him. It marked the end of Bosman's 11-year playing career.

``There's a lot of *deja vu*,`` he said. ``I have memories, pleasant memories. I played with a lot of great players here.``

-- Triple A Buffalo upped its record to 39-30 with a 4-2 victory over Nashville Thursday. Daryl Boston drove in two runs, and ex-Cub Steve Henderson hit his first homer.

-- Sox pitchers had just three complete games going into Friday night`s game. If they continue on that pace, they would finish with seven. The American League record for fewest complete games is 10 by the 1985 A`s. The Dodgers` Fernando Valenzuela has nine complete games this season.