

PLAYING THE FIELD

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MLB's All-Star scene has it all

JASON RAJ MCINTYRE
covers the world
of celebrity athletes



Shaking off a three-day hangover, we bring you the good, the bad, and the absurd from the MLB All-Star Game in Detroit.

The Good

Jennie Finch was everywhere, all the time. She's practically MLB's show pony — in the dugout yucking it up with A-Rod; on the field during batting practice joking with Jim Edmonds; and at the parties, getting hounded for autographs.

"Sportscaster" LeeAnn Tweeden told us that she's held true to her vow from six months ago that she would never date an athlete again, after splitting with Florida Marlins pitcher Josh Beckett.

The Bad

Johnny Damon and Mike Piazza 'jammed out' with some unknown band from Detroit prior to the home run derby. Damon looked like the ogre that he is, and if Piazza wasn't married to a Playboy Playmate, we'd mock him, too.

This is how we overheard a friend of hockey star Sergei Federov introduce himself to an attractive brunette: "Hey, I'm with Sergei. Want to meet him?"

David Ortiz struggled to get into the VIP section of the Stuff Magazine party because two of his boys didn't have the coveted blue wristband.

The Absurd

Jennie Finch's amazing legs ... Gary Sheffield, who turned his back to us when we tried to ask him a question ... the radiant glow around Lisa Dergan, the Playboy Playmate who dates White Sox speedster Scott Podsednik.

There's a good chance you don't know Chris Wilcox of the Los Angeles Clippers. When he walked into the party at the Westin Hotel last week for Lamar Odom's charity basketball game, it only took a few minutes of chatting with him to realize he is one of our favorite interviews in all of sports. Here's a smattering:

WHAT'D YOU DO FOR JULY 4?

"I just chilled back at the crib, you know what I mean?"

YOU CAN DATE ANY ACTRESS IN HOLLYWOOD. WHO WOULD IT BE?

"I'll go for a hometown chick. I ain't into no industry chick."

WHO'S THE BEST RAPPER IN THE NBA?

"We be on the bus, or in a limo

after the game, and we always kick a flow. We try to freestyle, but we know we ain't in the rap game."

His realness is refreshing in a world of canned, programmed responses by athletes.

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HOW COULD anything about Jennie Finch, dressed here for the Stuff magazine All-Star party, be considered bad?



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