



Dodgers

50 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR DODGERS

Don't-miss games, true-blue gear
and must-read history to mark the
team's golden anniversary in L.A.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES TIMES | 3.27.08

BY KEVIN BRONSON AND CINDY BERTRAM

In the 50 years since the moving vans arrived from Brooklyn, and in the 20 since the team's last title, Los Angeles' love affair with the Dodgers hasn't waned. Maybe it's the franchise's lineage of colorful players, maybe it's the allure of Dodger Stadium at dusk. But like sun worshipers to the beach, Angelenos are drawn to the grand ol' game even as it has become big ol' business. As the Dodgers mark their golden anniversary in L.A., we offer 50 ways to bleed blue.

SPECIAL NIGHTS

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS

The Dodgers are making quick work of honoring new manager Joe Torre — his **Bobblehead Night** is April 25, the first of five doll giveaways for the season. Best of all? Fans vote online for which player will be immortalized in polyresin at the Aug. 12 giveaway. Voting ends April 3. dodgers.mlb.com/la/fan_forum

BLANKET STATEMENT

Nights in Chavez Ravine can get chilly. Among the team's many giveaways is the **50th Anniversary Fleece Blanket**

supergroup.jsp?group=singlesnight

IT'S OK TO NEEDLE

Don't be surprised if the crowd on June 2 is especially close-knit. It's the National Needle-Arts Assn.'s third annual **Stitch 'N' Pitch**, so be nice to those who bring their needlework. Somebody might crochet you a nice seat cushion. www.stitchnpitch.com

LIGHT MY FIRE

If you haven't been to a **fireworks game** (this year, May 23 and July 12) at Dodger Stadium, there's nothing like it — except maybe those series against the San Francisco

rin helming the team's Spanish-language broadcasts, it gives the Dodgers the distinction of being the only team with two Hall of Fame announcers. **KABC-AM (790), KHJ-AM (930) and various TV affiliates.**

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS . . .

As a guy who, at age 10, "wanted to be Vin Scully" when he grew up, native Angeleno Jon Weisman has been synthesizing media reports, analyzing between-the-lines drama and occasionally venting on his **Dodger Thoughts** blog since 2002. If you're looking for online snark, move on; Weisman and his readers

merely exude true-blue passion. dodgerthoughts.baseballtoaster.com/

. . . OR SPILL SOME VITRIOL

Not recommended for the true-blue fan, or anyone averse to blue language, the decidedly R-rated **Dodger Blues** website throws darts at players, management, ownership, even history. Like the clock that records "Time Since the Last Meaningful Dodger Moment" (going on 20 years). The franchise's lowlights are "celebrated" with an acidity usually reserved for divorce proceedings. Bitter? Yes. Funny? That too. www.dodgerblues.com

[See Cover Story, Page 6]