

Frustration Mounts for Oakland A's Fans Amid Losing & Team's Plan to Move to Las Vegas



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The Oakland A's were once a proud franchise that boasted the third three-peat in the history of Major League Baseball during the early 1970s. The dynastic squad was led by Hall of Famers Reggie Jackson and Rollie Fingers. About a decade later, A's fans were treated to yet another dominant era as [Mark McGwire](#), [Jose Canseco](#), and Ricky Henderson led the team to three straight AL pennants (1988, 1989 & 1990) and one World Series title over the San Francisco Giants in 1989. Back then, the Oakland A's were a national brand that ranked among the MLB's top five teams in fan attendance. But things changed in the early 2000s when ownership traded superstars like Mark McGwire to the St. Louis Cardinals (one year before he broke the single-season home run record) and Tim Hudson to the Atlanta Braves while opting not to re-sign superstars like Jason Giambi and Miguel Tejada. Operating with a meager payroll, a roster full of journeymen, and one of the oldest stadiums in the MLB, the A's remained reasonably competitive behind the "Moneyball" strategy of their brilliant general manager, Billy Beane. They made the playoffs eleven times between 2000 and 2020, but that accomplishment has been marred by their 1-15 record in elimination games during that stretch.

In recent years, the franchise has fallen on hard times. After several failed attempts to build a brand new ballpark in Oakland, the A's remain in limbo at a facility that *Sports Illustrated* called the 29th worst baseball stadium back in March. To make matters worse, the A's are off to a 12-49 start following an off-season where they traded away their best position player, Sean Murphy, and starting pitcher Cole Irvin. This year's team is also a serious threat to break the all-time worst regular season record in MLB history (the Cleveland Spiders finished the 1899 season 20-134).

In April, the Oakland A's signed an agreement to purchase 49 acres of land in Las Vegas, Nevada. One month later, the team co-owned by John Fisher announced plans to build a 1.5 billion dollar stadium on the Las Vegas Strip, complete with 30,000 seats and a retractable roof. The new ballpark should be ready by opening night in 2027. But for a team that entered the 2023 preseason with the 22nd-ranked farm system in baseball, it could be quite some time before they can field a group of cornerstone players that they can afford to award with long-term contracts—assuming they reach their potential. Soon, the franchise's hope of returning to the playoff picture may rest on developing minor-league standouts such as Tyler Soderstrom and Zack Gelof. In the meantime, they remain locked into their current lease at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, where they currently have the worst attendance record in Major League Baseball.