

Pete Rose pulls for his son in Dodgertown

By John Nadel
The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Pete Rose kept a low profile, sitting quietly in the stands at Dodgertown watching his son play in an intrasquad game. He hopes to be watching Pete Jr. playing in Los Angeles one of these days.

And Pete Jr. says it's going to happen, later if not sooner.

"I think I've got what it takes," Pete Jr. said Tuesday. "I plan on making the team. I don't plan on playing in [Triple-A] Albuquerque."

And if manager Davey Johnson sends him down?

"I'll bust my tail," Pete Jr. said. "I'm going to be in L.A. at some time. I'm a guy who's got some pop. Left-handed pop looks to be a little scarce around here. I think

Davey Johnson likes tough guys. I come to play."

The elder Rose, the career hits leader who agreed to a lifetime ban for gambling, called Dodgers general manager Kevin Malone during the winter to request a favor.

"Pete asked me to give his son a chance," Malone recalled. "I've known both of them for years. They both have huge hearts. I figured it was a win-win situation. I told Pete it would be tough for [Junior] to make the team. He said, 'No special treatment, all we ask is a chance.'"

And that's the deal. The younger Rose, a 29-year-old whose only major league experience was a brief spell with the Cincinnati Reds 18 months ago, signed a minor league contract

with an invitation to spring training.

And here he is, giving it his best shot.

"Nobody can tell me to stop chasing my dream," he said.

"He knows how to play, he's not going to give up," the elder Rose said. "He's just now figuring out his m.o."

Rose referred to the change his son went through between the 1996 and 1997 seasons. Essentially, Pete Jr., went from a clone of his father to a power hitter, bulking up in the gym from 200 pounds to around 230.

"I'm bigger than he is," the younger Rose said. "It took me longer to figure things out. I had to make a change, and I did. Basically, I've been at this for only a few years."

He recently spent a week with his father, and it helped as he entered spring training.

"It's a plus when you have the hit-king on your side," he said. "He's just unbelievable, a great person, a great dad, a great coach."

And, obviously, a big fan of his son.

The younger Rose had his best season by far in 1997, hitting .308 with 25 homers and 98 RBIs in 112 games for Double-A Chattanooga. He was called up by the Reds and made his only big-league start on Labor Day, going 1-for-3.

The crowd in Cincinnati, where Rose's father played most of his career and later managed, was 31,920. The majority of those tickets were sold after it was an-

nounced Rose was playing.

"The Reds didn't give him a chance," dad said. "They used him to make some money. I know it wasn't [owner] Marge [Schott]. Marge likes Pete. If nothing else, he paid to go to spring training the next year."

It didn't happen that way, and after the younger Rose was asked to go to Double-A in 1998, he refused and asked for his release. He wound up the year playing for the New Jersey Jackals of the independent Northeast League.

The younger Rose remains somewhat bitter.

"Playing in Cincinnati was special, unbelievable," he said. "There will only be one thing better — when I go there as a visitor and get the job done. And it's going to happen."

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Wednesday, March 3, 1999

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
A confrontation can be softened if only you are willing to listen. Try to remember that no one really wants to fight with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
It's an excellent time to implement plans that you may have been putting off. Don't be afraid to take a chance when it comes to love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Familiar words suddenly take on a whole new meaning. You surprise yourself with how expressive you become.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Be moderate in the onslaught of external temptations. You are likely to be seeking a form of escapism at this time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
You may need to remove yourself from the discipline of an authority figure. Those with partners find their relationship reaching new levels.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Something that seemed far in the distance suddenly lands on your doorstep. Try to deal with a delicate situation as tactfully as you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Artists are likely to enter into a rich relationship with their muse. Make the most of a highly creative and fruitful period.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Someone who accuses you of being rude may later understand that you acted in the common interest. Don't be afraid to hold your ground.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Someone could be making assumptions based on ancient history. Words carry far less weight than actions at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Your luck will change for the better as soon as you let it. Do something to shake yourself out of a bout of lethargy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
As long as you show results, no one will care how "over the top" you had to go to do so. Great and lasting deeds are possible right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
If you are worried about your financial situation, seek the counsel of a trusted adviser. An old friend could reappear on the horizon.

YOU BORN TODAY Giving, in all senses of the word, comes naturally and is very important to you. People love you, because no matter how busy you are, you always make time for them. Unfortunately, this also means that you often put your needs on the back burner.
Birthdate of: Jean Harlow, actress; Miriam Jordan, actress; Teruo Nakamura, jazz musician.
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Dilbert

By Scott Adams

