

Dodgers stay busy revamping front office

By Beth Harris

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers are busy revamping their front office, adding general manager (GM) Farhan Zaidi and three other hires in just more than three weeks since Andrew Friedman took over as president of baseball operations.

Friedman was eager to fill several positions ahead of the GM meetings in Arizona.

Zaidi was introduced at Dodger Stadium after 10 seasons as assistant GM of the Oakland Athletics. The 37-year-old, who holds bachelor's and doctorate degrees in economics, said he will have greater hands-on management of the Dodgers than he did in Oakland, where he was more of a sounding board to GM Billy Beane.

"There's such a great amount of potential, that's what excited me," Zaidi said.

Joining him in the Los Angeles front office is Josh Byrnes, a former GM for Arizona and San Diego who will supervise scouting and player development while Zaidi focuses on the major league roster.

"Both guys are going to touch everything," Friedman said by phone from the Dodgers' spring training facility in Arizona. "We're adding an incredibly talented group."

Zaidi is a proponent of advanced



analytics, which makes him a solid fit with Friedman's reputation for building a roster by crunching numbers.

"Farhan has an incredible mind for the game," Friedman said. "For us, information is king and it's about having people who appreciate that."

In leaving Oakland, where Beane's use of statistical analysis was portrayed in the book and movie *Moneyball*, Zaidi joked: "They actually cut out part of my brain on that and kept it there."

Zaidi stressed that the Dodgers will seek a balanced approach between old-school scouting and modern-day analytics.

"I view any new stat or metric with an inherent skepticism," he said. "There's always something that is missing."

Team president and CEO Stan Kasten agreed, adding that the Dodgers will always need "wise old owls" to make decisions in addition to statistics.

Zaidi joins a franchise that boasts a collection of former GMs, including Friedman, Byrnes, and Ned Colletti.

"I think that's a great thing," he said. "Having other people around not just to share responsibility, but to serve as a sounding board, will be great. You can't have too much experience on a baseball

OFF-SEASON CHANGES. Filipino American Farhan Zaidi, the new general manager for the Los Angeles Dodgers, poses for a photo at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The Dodgers are busy revamping their front office, adding Zaidi and three other hires in just more than three weeks since Andrew Friedman took over as president of baseball operations. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

staff." Zaidi grew up in the Philippines, where he played first base in Little League, and is one of the few Muslims in the major leagues.

"I'm a big proponent of diversity in our game, so from that standpoint, I'm proud of it," he said.

Friedman has acted decisively since arriving from Tampa Bay in mid-October, presiding over the biggest makeover of the front office since Guggenheim Baseball Management bought the Dodgers two-and-a-half years ago.

The flurry of moves include Colletti being reassigned as senior adviser to Kasten, and the departures of vice president of player development De Jon Watson and vice president of scouting Logan White.

Gabe Kapler was hired as player development director and Billy Gasparino as amateur scouting director.

Kapler had been working as a baseball analyst for Fox Sports 1 after playing 12 seasons in the majors. Gasparino spent the last four years with San Diego in a similar position.

Mi Hyang Lee wins playoff to claim Mizuno Classic

SHIMA, Japan (AP) — Mi Hyang Lee of South Korea birdied the fifth hole of a three-way playoff to win the Mizuno Classic for her first Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) title.

Lee sank a birdie putt to beat compatriot Ilhee Lee and Japan's Kotono Kozuma. She shot a 69 in regulation to finish tied at 11-under 205 with Lee (70) and Kozuma, who also had a 69 in the final round.

"It was my first playoff ever, so before I started the playoff I was a little nervous," said Lee, who made her LPGA debut in 2012. "I just kept playing and made pars and birdies and the other players played really good. It was exciting when I made the last putt."

The trio parred the first two playoff holes before an exciting third playoff hole where all three players made long birdie putts with the shortest being Mi Hyang Lee's at 25 feet to keep the three-person playoff rolling.

The group exchanged pars again on the 4th playoff hole before Lee tapped in for the win and the \$180,000 winner's prize.

The 21-year-old is the seventh South Korean to win on the LPGA Tour in 2014, and the second consecutive after

Yuna Kim named 2018 Winter Olympics ambassador

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Olympic figure skating gold medallist Yuna Kim has been appointed as an official ambassador for the 2018 Winter Games in her native South Korea.

The organizing committee for the Pyeongchang Olympics announced the appointment, saying it expected "her to take the lead in promoting the games to the world."

Kim, who won gold at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and silver at the 2014 Sochi Games, helped campaign for Pyeongchang during the city's candidacy and was one of the presenters for the city at the International Olympic Committee meeting in South Africa in 2011 when it was selected as host.



PYEONGCHANG PROMOTER. Former South Korean Olympic figure skater Yuna Kim speaks in Seoul, South Korea during a ceremony for her appointment as an honorary ambassador for the 2018 Winter Olympics. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

"The memories that I made with the bid committee are still fresh in my mind," Kim said. "With these memories in stow I am excited to bring the same passion and commitment with me to this new

Continued on page 16

Inbee Park won in Taiwan.

Prior to the tournament, Lee had only three top-10 finishes, including a sixth-place finish at the Reignwood LPGA Classic last month in Beijing.

Laura Davies, who held a share of the lead after the second round and was bidding to become the oldest winner in LPGA history at 51, had a 71 to finish one stroke back of the leaders.

Karrie Webb of Australia and Morgan Pressel of the United States were also among the group of nine players tied for fourth place.

Defending champion Teresa Lu of Taiwan shot a 67 to finish tied for 13th, while second-ranked Stacy Lewis, the 2012 winner, had a 69 and was six strokes off the lead.

The Mizuno Classic was the final stop on the LPGA's Asian tour.



PRIZE-WINNING PUTT. Mi Hyang Lee of South Korea birdied the fifth hole of a three-way playoff to win the Mizuno Classic for her first Ladies Professional Golf Association title. (AP Photo/Joshua Paul/NurPhoto)

Commissioners Fritz and Fish invite all Portlanders to engage in a conversation about the future of...

MT. TABOR PARK RESERVOIRS

Please attend these meetings and give us your feedback

- Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Warner Pacific College, 2219 SE 68th
- Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Warner Pacific College, 2219 SE 68th

Food and childcare provided.



PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Find more information on this project at
PortlandParks.org