



MARINERS INSIDER

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Mariners Insider

Former Mariner Guardado takes on autism

Post by [Larry Larue](#) / The News Tribune on Jan. 13, 2012 at 8:16 am with [1 Comment](#) »

When he closed games for the Seattle Mariners from 2004-2006, **Eddie Guardado** was serious enough to save 59 games while – off the field – terrorizing teammates with a penchant for practical jokes.



Eddie Guardado

Now retired, the affable lefty and wife **Lisa** have a new cause: autism. It's one that hits close to home, because their daughter **Ava** was diagnosed with it in 2007.

Living in Southern California, the Guardados have established a foundation with a more immediate goal than finding a cure.

"These kids can't wait 10 years for the research. We have to use what works now ... the earlier the better," Guardado told **Teryl Zarnow** of the Orange County Register.

The Guardados donated \$27,000 to buy i-Pads for families with autistic children, and have organized a Stars & Strikes celebrity bowling tournament Jan. 29 with men like **Adrian Beltre**, **J.J. Putz**, **Jamie Moyer**, **Eric Chavez**, **Torii Hunter**, **Vernon Wells**, **Michael Young** and dozens of others participating.

"The people we ask are good ball players and good human beings."

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"What kind of person are they? They could be well known, but at your bowling event they could be an idiot," Guardado said about the All-Star cast. As for why he's doing it: "We want to put hope into people's hearts."

You can [read Zarnow's story here](#) and, if you'd like to learn more about the foundation or get involved, [visit it's online site](#).

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Coach81
JAN. 13, 2012 AT
11:23 PM

Good luck and God Bless, Eddie. A true class act and pro's pro. Pitched hurt and without his best stuff on a lot of occasions, never complained, and was a pretty successful pitcher during the Steroid Era.



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ABOUT



Larry LaRue has been The News Tribune's Mariners beat reporter since 1988, following an eight-year stint covering the Angels for the Long Beach Press-Telegram. He's been a Baseball Writers Association of America member since 1980.



Ryan Divish has been with The News Tribune since 2006 covering a variety of sports, including baseball, the Mariners and Rainiers. Ryan played baseball at Dickinson State University.

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