THE Gamer

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

ISSUE 2

CALLING THE SHOTS

Manager Gabe Kapler talks about his new role leading the Giants

+

SERIES PREVIEWS

NEW RULES FOR 2020

MEET WILMER FLORES

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Above: Giants manager Gabe Kapler is thrilled to be working in San Francisco.
Cover photo: Suzanna Mitchell

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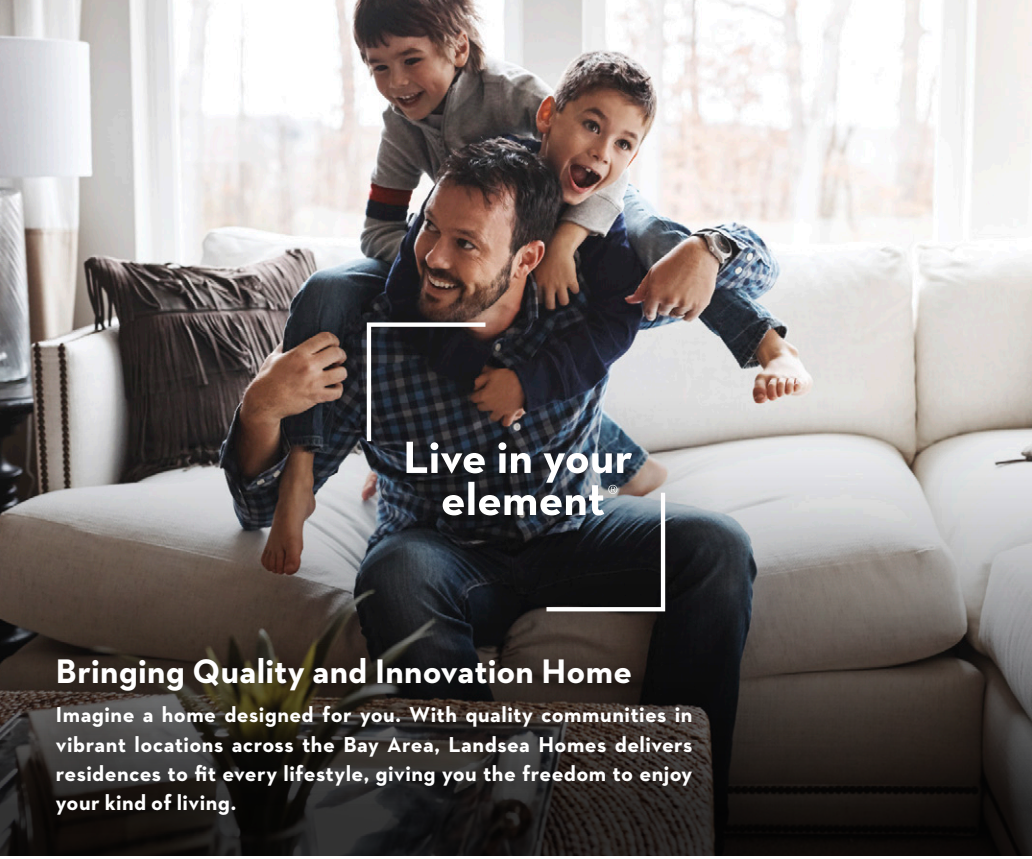

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DODGERS, PADRES AND RANGERS

The first month of the 2020 season will see the Giants facing longtime rivals from Southern California as well as two American League West teams from Texas.

Cody Bellinger

Los Angeles Dodgers

- The Dodgers lineup includes 2019 NL MVP Cody Bellinger and superstar Mookie Betts.
- The Giants will play a pair of series in Los Angeles (July 23–26 and Aug. 7–9), before the Dodgers visit Oracle Park (Aug. 25–27).
- Los Angeles has a strong pitching staff, led by ace lefty Clayton Kershaw and All-Star closer Kenley Jansen.

San Diego Padres

- Superstar third baseman Manny Machado, first baseman Eric Hosmer and up and coming shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. pack the lineup.
- The Giants host the Padres for two series (July 28–30, Sept. 25–27) and will visit Petco Park for one series (Sept. 10–13).
- The Padres will bring back their brown and yellow uniforms this season.

Texas Rangers

- The American League Rangers feature slugging second baseman Rougned Odor and outfielders Joey Gallo and Shin-Soo Choo.
- The Rangers will visit Oracle Park for the only regular season matchup with the Giants (July 31–August 2).
- The Rangers will play home games in a new ballpark, Globe Life Field, this season.

TOP TO BOTTOM: TONY AVELAR, S.F. GIANTS

Giants Fan Cutouts: Fans can't attend games at Oracle Park in person, but here's the next best thing. Put on your Giants gear, upload a photo, and the team will put it in a seat. Each cutout costs $99, and fans will get to keep it at the end of the season. For information, go to **mlb.com/giants/fans/cut-outs**.

ROCKIES, ASTROS AND ATHLETICS

The Giants will have a pair of four-game series against the division rival Rockies, a single series against the Astros, and two weekend series against the other Bay Area baseball franchise.

Nolan Arenado

Colorado Rockies »

» The Rockies offense is led by two-time All-Star shortstop Trevor Story and four-time Silver Slugger Nolan Arenado at third.

» The Giants will play two series in Colorado (Aug. 3–6 and Sept. 1–2) and one at Oracle Park (Sept. 21–24).

» The Rockies hope closer Wade Davis can shut down opponents in late innings.

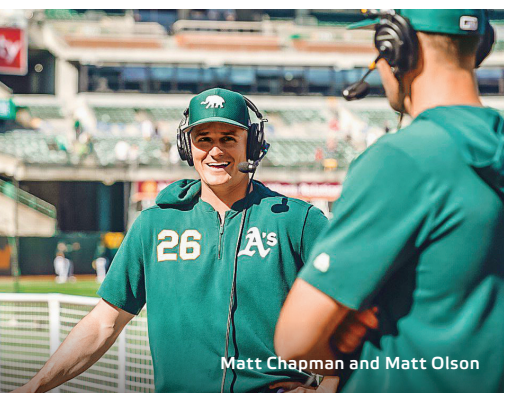
Houston Astros »

» The defending American League champions are led by second baseman José Altuve and outfielder George Springer.

» The teams will play a single series in Houston (Aug. 10–12).

» The Astros pitching staff features Cy Young Award-winners Zack Greinke and Justin Verlander.

José Altuve



Matt Chapman and Matt Olson

Oakland Athletics »

» The Athletics boast an infield with two Rawlings Gold Glove winners—Matt Chapman and Matt Olson.

» The Giants will host a weekend series (Aug. 14–16) then travel to Oakland a month later (Sept. 18–20).

» Starters Sean Manaea and Mike Fiers have thrown no-hitters for Oakland.

TOP TO BOTTOM: ANDY KUNO, ALEX BIERENS DE HAAN, COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND ATHLETICS

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ANGELS AND DIAMONDBACKS

The Giants will play four consecutive games against the American League West Angels in August and will face old friend Madison Bumgarner during three straight weekend series against the Diamondbacks.

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim »

» Three-time AL MVP Mike Trout leads an Angels lineup that also includes sluggers Shohei Ohtani and Anthony Rendon.

» The Giants and Angels will play four consecutive games Aug. 17–20—the first two in Anaheim and the final pair at Oracle Park.

» The teams faced each other in the 2002 World Series.

Arizona Diamondbacks »

» The D-Backs signed ace southpaw Madison Bumgarner, who won 119 games with the Giants from 2009 to 2019.

» The Giants will host two series at Oracle Park (Aug. 21–23 and Sept. 4–7) and travel to Phoenix for one series (Aug. 28–30).

» The outfield includes 2019 All-Star Ketel Marte and Starling Marte (no relation), who was acquired from Pittsburgh this past offseason.

Ketel Marte

Upcoming schedule » Plan your Giants-related schedule for the next three months.

JULY/AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
19	20 6:40 OAK	21 6:45 OAK	22	23 7:08 LAD	24 6:40 LAD	25 1:10 LAD
26 7:08 LAD	27	28 6:45 SD	29 6:45 SD	30 6:45 SD	31 6:10 TEX	1 6:10 TEX
2 1:05 TEX	3 5:40 COL	4 5:40 COL	5 5:40 COL	6 12:10 COL	7 6:40 LAD	8 6:10 LAD
9 1:10 LAD	10 6:10 HOU	11 6:10 HOU	12 4:10 HOU	13	14 6:45 OAK	15 4:07 OAK
16 1:05 OAK	17 6:40 LAA	18 1:10 LAA	19 6:45 LAA	20 6:45 LAA	21 6:45 ARI	22 6:15 ARI
23 1:10 ARI	24	25 6:45 LAD	26 6:45 LAD	27 5:05 LAD	28 6:40 ARI	29 5:10 ARI
30 1:10 ARI	31					

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 5:40 COL	2 12:10 COL	3	4 6:45 ARI	5 6:15 ARI
6 1:05 ARI	7 5:05 ARI	8 6:45 SEA	9 6:45 SEA	10 6:10 SD	11 6:10 SD	12 6:10 SD
13 1:10 SD	14	15 6:40 SEA	16 6:40 SEA	17	18 6:40 OAK	19 1:10 OAK
20 1:10 OAK	21 6:45 COL	22 6:45 COL	23 6:45 COL	24 12:45 COL	25 6:45 SD	26 6:15 SD
27 12:05 SD	28	29	30			

7/13/20

HOME EXHIBITION | HOME
ROAD EXHIBITION | AWAY

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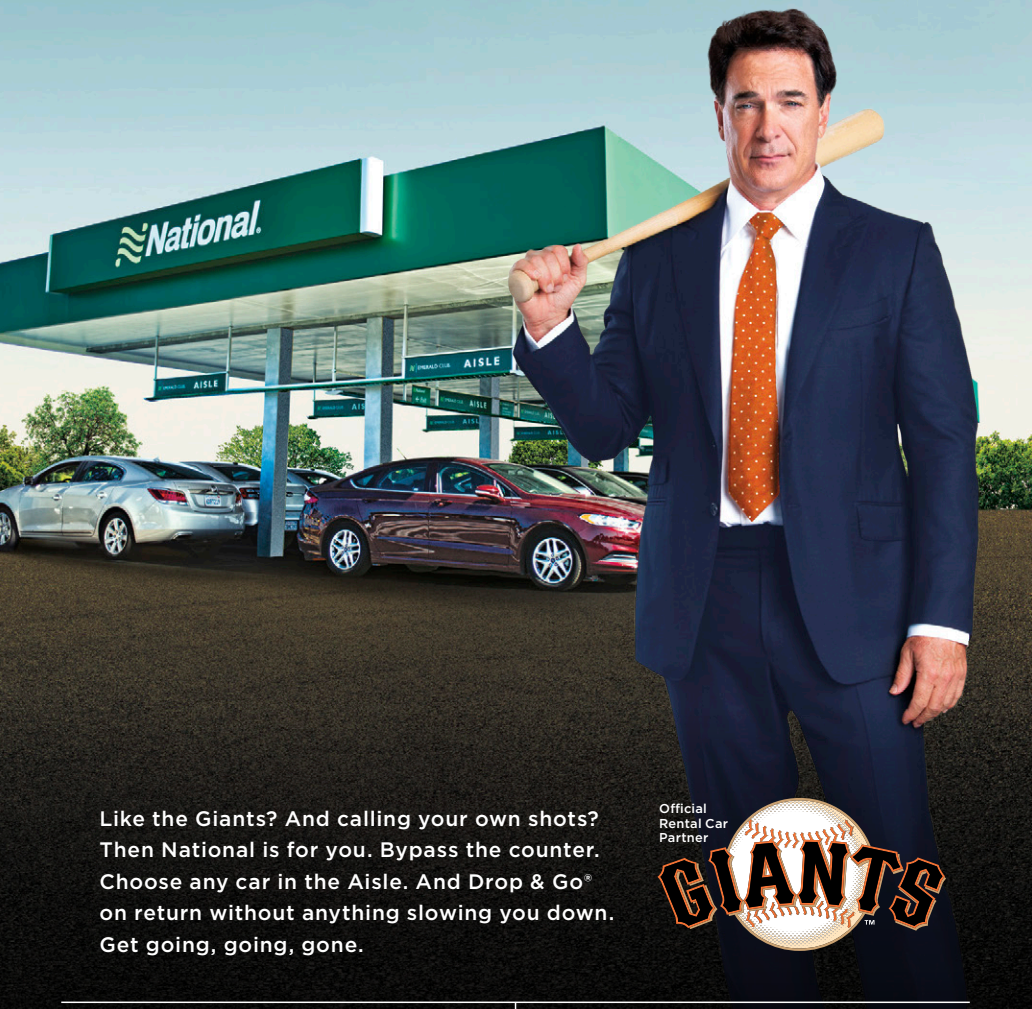

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RULE CHANGES FOR 2020

Fans will notice a number of significant changes to the way the game is played during the 2020 season.

In order to play ball during the COVID-19 crisis, Major League Baseball has created some significant new rules this season. Here's a quick review.

» Universal designated hitter

Every team will use the designated hitter to avoid overtaxing pitchers by having them hit in the lineup.

» Runner on second to begin extra innings

During the regular season, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run.

The runner placed on second base at the start of each half-inning will be the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter, or a pinch-runner. However, if the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter is the pitcher, the runner placed on second base may be the player preceding the pitcher in the batting order. This rule will not be in place for the postseason.

» Position players pitching

There will be no restrictions on position players pitching in 2020.

A rule change installed this past offseason would have required teams to designate every player on the active roster as either a pitcher or a position player, and position players would have been unable to pitch unless it was extra innings, their team was ahead or trailing by more than six runs, or they had qualified for the "two-way" designation. That rule won't be in place during the 2020 season.

» Suspended games

If weather forces a game to be cut short before it is official, it will be continued at a later date rather than started from scratch.

» Unsportsmanlike conduct

Players and managers will be expected to maintain physical distance from all umpires and opposing players on the playing field whenever possible. Players or managers who leave their position to argue with umpires; come within six feet of an umpire, opposing player or manager for the purpose of argument; or engage in an altercation on the field will be subject to immediate ejection and discipline, including a fine and a suspension.

Infielder Donovan Solano applies hand sanitizer during practice. Giants players will follow MLB sanitation guidelines all season.

SUZANNA MITCHELL

» Wet rag for pitchers

Pitchers will be permitted to carry a small wet rag in their back pocket to be used for moisture in lieu of licking their fingers. Pitchers will not be able to access the rag while on the rubber, and they must clearly wipe the fingers of their pitching hand dry before touching the ball or the rubber. Water is the only substance that will be allowed on the rag.

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Above: Giants players and coaches work out at Oracle Park in preparation of the 2020 season.
Below: Brandon Crawford and Pablo Sandoval show off new versions of "game face."

SUZANNA MITCHELL

Above: Manager Gabe Kapler and infielder Wilmer Flores bring new energy to the Giants in 2020.
Below: Giants players run windsprints during a preseason training session.

SUZANNA MITCHELL

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26 7:08 LAD	27	28 6:45 SD	29 6:45 SD	30 6:45 SD	31 6:10 TEX	1 6:10 TEX
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SEPTIEMBRE

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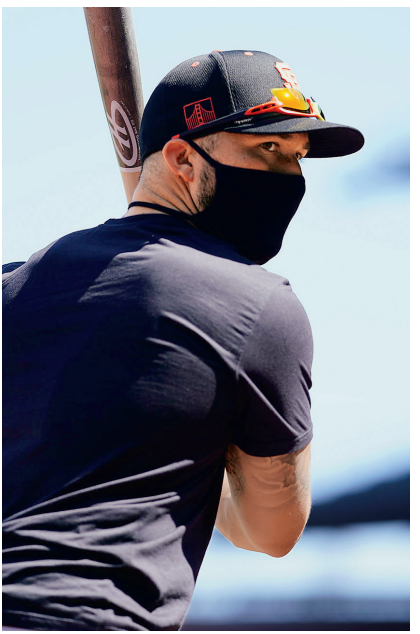
Above: Infielder Mauricio Dubón plays catch during Spring Training 2.0.
Below: Infielder Yolmer Sánchez works out with a medicine ball and his bat at Oracle Park.



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Above: Alyssa Nakken makes Major League Baseball history by becoming the first woman to coach on-field while coaching first base during a preseason game against the Oakland Athletics.

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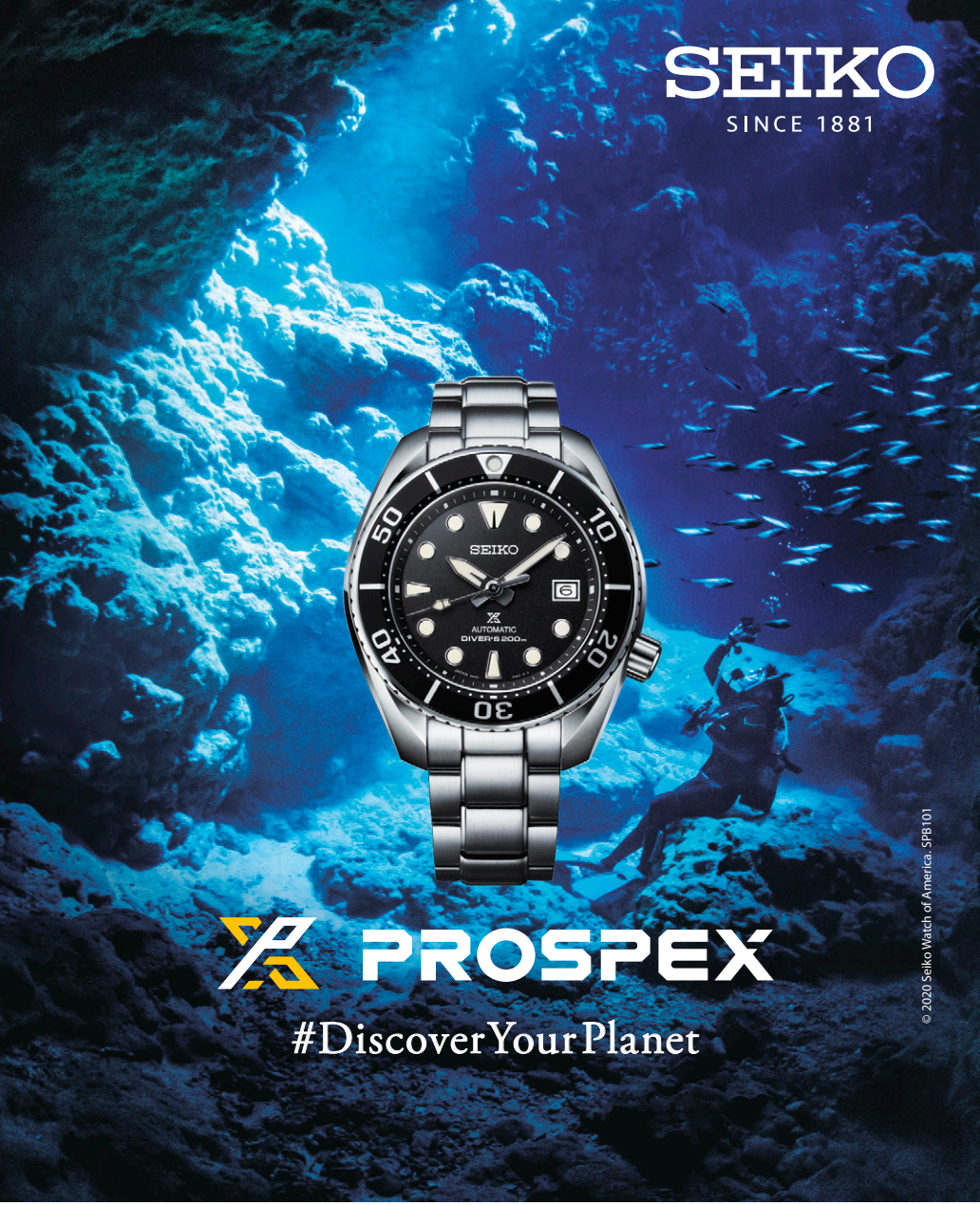

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FAST FACTS

Wilmer Flores » Infielder

The Giants have a new face on the infield this season. In February, the team signed Wilmer Flores, a premium infielder who played six seasons for the Mets and one for the Diamondbacks before joining the Giants. Here are some quick facts about the Venezuelan native.

1. He's a big guy who can play every infield position. Flores stands 6-2 and weighs 213 pounds. Flores has played more Major League games at second base than any other position, but also has significant experience at first base, third base and shortstop.

2. He's got pop. Flores hit his first Major League home run on Aug. 11, 2013 off Heath Bell of the Diamondbacks and he smashed 68 homers from 2013–2018 for the Mets.

3. He plays with passion. Flores caught the attention of baseball fans in 2015 when television cameras spied on him moved to tears while playing shortstop. Flores believed he was about to be traded to the Brewers, but the trade fell through and he hit a walk-off homer for the Mets two nights later.

4. He comes through in the clutch: Flores hit a walk-off homer on July 9, 2018 to become the Mets' franchise leader in walk-off RBI with 10 game-winners.

5. He was solid last season. Flores hit .317 with nine homers in 89 games for the Diamondbacks in 2019.

BORN: Aug. 6, 1991

BECAME A GIANT: Signed a two-year deal on Feb. 12, 2020

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Q&A: GABE KAPLER

The Giants new skipper talks about his goals for the 2020 season and why he's thrilled to be in San Francisco

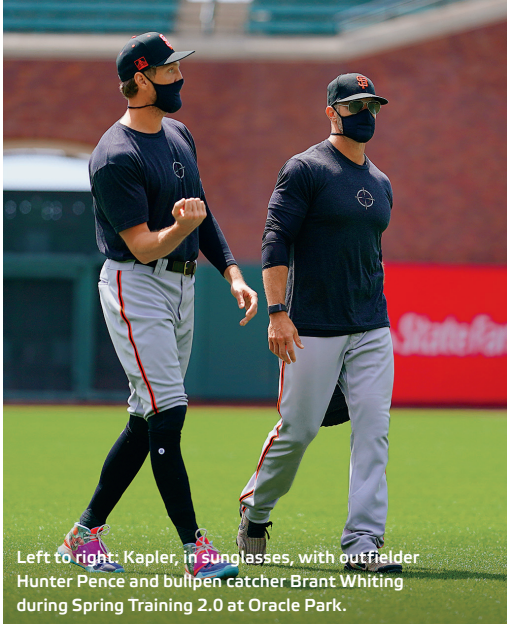
BY PETER CROOKS

SUZANNA MITCHELL

Gabe Kapler

The baseball season can't come quickly enough for Giants skipper Gabe Kapler, who is thrilled to be leading the team that represents one of his favorite cities in the world. Kapler, who turns 45 on July 31, says the unique structure of the shortened season schedule presents unique and exciting challenges for the Giants to compete in 2020.

***The Gamer* caught up with Kapler to discuss his approach to leading the Giants through a 60-game schedule against Western Division teams.**



Left to right: Kapler, in sunglasses, with outfielder Hunter Pence and bullpen catcher Brant Whiting during Spring Training 2.0 at Oracle Park.

The Gamer: You came to San Francisco as an opposing player and manager many times. What were your impressions of the city before coming to work here?
Kapler: It is one of my favorite cities in the world. I grew up loving hills and water and bridges. I love restaurants. San Francisco has everything I want and from a baseball perspective, we have one of the better ballparks in the league. The Giants fans are a loyal and passionate group; it is going to be great to play for them this season.

The Gamer: While the fans won't be in the stands this season, what can you say about the relationship a manager has with the team's fans?
Kapler: I see the relationship that the manager and the team have with the fans as a partnership. When a fan base and a team are in harmony, it can be magical.

There is some responsibility on the shoulders of the manager to reach out to the fans to recognize what is important to them and to deliver that product. The best fans want to win games, but they also want to see hustle and smart plays. I feel confident that we will deliver a good product to the fans this season.

The Gamer: Which manager did you learn the most from during your playing career?
Kapler: I have taken cues from many different managers; I could not narrow it down to just one.

Certainly Terry Francona, Joe Maddon and Johnny Oates are on that list, as well as Dave Anderson and Dwight Lowry, who I played for in the minor leagues. They all brought different perspectives, and they taught me a great deal about the game.

The Gamer: Which players are you most excited to be working with?
Kapler: This is a great bunch of guys. Mike Yastrzemski stands out as not just an emerging star player in the National League, but also as a top-shelf human being. He's very professional and a team player, so that's one guy I'm excited to

"We see health as a competitive advantage. ... I really think health is going to be the difference to see which team goes to the postseason." —GABE KAPLER

SUZANNA MITCHELL

work and share the dugout space with.

I would also mention some of the younger guys who are coming up through the system—Pat Bailey, Joey Bart and Heliot Ramos. They are players who are going to have important roles with the team not just in the near future but over the next five to 10 years.

The Gamer: Just after you signed with the Giants, you mentioned that you were reading up on San Francisco and were looking for great books about the city. I wanted to follow up and see what you have come across.

Kapler: I read *A Book of Walks,* Bruce Bochy's book about walking the neighborhoods of San Francisco. It is fantastic. It has been really helpful and I've been using it quite a bit as I walk the city.

The Gamer: The COVID-19 situation has thrown a huge curveball into your inaugural season as the Giants manager. What was it like to keep in touch with your players and coaches after Spring Training was halted and the season was in limbo?

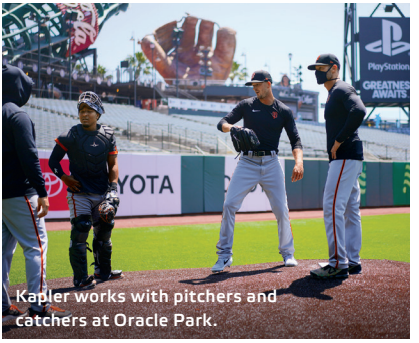
Kapler: We genuinely wanted to connect with all our players and we took care to reach out to them regularly. That meant Zoom calls, Facetime and Whatsapp conversations. We used every method we could and made sure that the players knew we were there. Our coaches kept track of everyone's workouts.

The Gamer: The 2020 schedule is wild—regular season series against the A's, Angels and Mariners but nothing against the National League Central or Eastern divisions. How has the new schedule affected your approach to managing the team?

Kapler: One of the most exciting events of the summer was getting the schedule. That made the season seem real. Everyone on our staff and club is ready to go, and we are excited to be a part of something uplifting in the country.

Having a 60-game schedule changes a lot in terms of managing. This season is a sprint—we will jump right into a pennant race on Opening Day. If you had said we would be in a pennant race at the end of July, I would have been very pleased. I'll sign up to be in a pennant race at the end of July.

We see health as a competitive advantage. We will adhere to the required protocols and try to be as healthy as possible. I really think health is going to be the difference to see which team goes to the postseason.



Kapler works with pitchers and catchers at Oracle Park.

SUZANNA MITCHELL

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64 SHAUN ANDERSON

31 TYLER ANDERSON

46 ABIATAL AVELINO

86 PATRICK BAILEY

73 CALEB BARAGAR

77 JOEY BART

9 BRANDON BELT

61 ROB BRANTLY

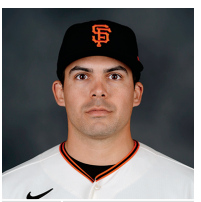
53 TREVOR CAHILL

94 ALEXANDER CANARIO

65 SAM COONROD

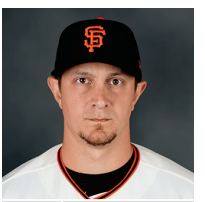
35 BRANDON CRAWFORD

47 JOHNNY CUETO



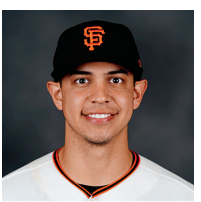
87 TYLER CYR

49 JAYLIN DAVIS

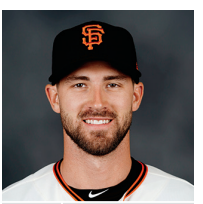


12 ALEX DICKERSON

84 CAMILO DOVAL



1 MAURICIO DUBÓN



6 STEVEN DUGGAR

41 WILMER FLORES

ANDY KUNO, SARA WILDMAN (CALEB BARAGAR, ALEXANDER CANARIO, CAMILO DOVAL)

PLAYERS

97 JARLÍN GARCÍA

39 RICO GARCIA

34 KEVIN GAUSMAN

58 TREVOR GOTT

68 ZACH GREEN

0 BILLY HAMILTON

43 TYLER HEINEMAN

52 DANY JIMÉNEZ

10 EVAN LONGORIA

73 MARCO LUCIANO

89 LUÍS MADERO

70 JOE McCARTHY

51 CONNER MENEZ

78 CARLOS NAVAS

93 TREVOR OAKS

8 HUNTER PENCE

60 WANDY PERALTA

80 HELIOT RAMOS

37 JOEY RICKARD

57 DERECK RODRÍGUEZ

ANDY KUNO, SARA WILDMAN (MARCO LUCIANO, HELIOT RAMOS)

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PLAYERS

71 TYLER ROGERS

33 DARIN RUF

29 JEFF SAMARDZIJA

2 YOLMER SÁNCHEZ

48 PABLO SANDOVAL

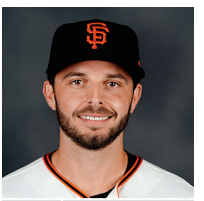
67 SAM SELMAN

98 JOSE SIRI

13 AUSTIN SLATER

18 DREW SMYLY

7 DONOVAN SOLANO



59 ANDREW SUÁREZ

90 LUIS TORIBIO

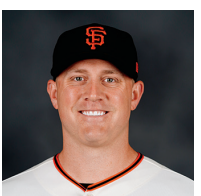
66 ANDREW TRIGGS

82 CHADWICK TROMP

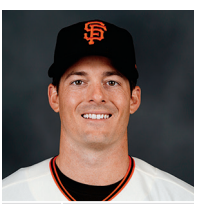
56 TONY WATSON

62 LOGAN WEBB

85 WILL WILSON



83 SAM WOLFF



5 MIKE YASTRZEMSKI

ANDY KUNO, ALEX TRAUTWIG/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (JOSE SIRI), SARA WILDMAN (LUIS TORIBIO)

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MANAGER AND COACHES

19 GABE KAPLER

32 CRAIG ALBERNAZ

45 ANDREW BAILEY

45 BRIAN BANNISTER

50 KAI CORREA

63 DONNIE ECKER

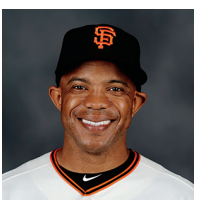
91 MARK HALLBERG

21 ETHAN KATZ

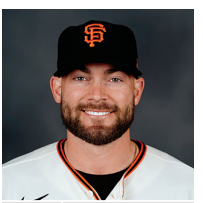
88 DUSTIN LIND

92 ALYSSA NAKKEN

79 NICK ORTIZ



00 ANTOAN RICHARDSON



17 JUSTIN VIELE

23 RON WOTUS

ANDY KUNO

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Furthermore, the award-winning premium rum brand recently achieved Carbon Neutral certification, a huge milestone in Flor de Caña's historic commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly practices, which already included distilling its rum with 100% renewable energy and planting 50,000 trees annually since 2005.

Employees have also been central in Flor de Caña's focus on sustainability. In 1913, Flor de Caña began offering free healthcare to its employees and their families at the company hospital as well as free education to the children of its employees at the company school.

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Flor de Caña has donated clinical alcohol to benefit more than 100,000 people. These donations were made to clients, staff, non-profits such as the American Nicaraguan Foundation and APROQUEN, nursing homes for the elderly, orphanages, hospitals, the Red Cross and the Fire Department. The brand is also supplying alcohol to laboratories that produce hand sanitizer.

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Giants outfielder Jaylin Davis helped create a video in support of Black Lives Matter.

SUZANNA MITCHELL

VOICES FOR CHANGE

Giants players, coaches and front office continue to support the Black community.

» The Giants' Jaylin Davis shared his personal experiences with racism in the weeks following the killing of George Floyd in a blog post. He, along with 60 other Black players in MLB, also created a Black Lives Matter video that aired on June 15. Davis said of the filming of this video, "We wanted to do something positive and show our support for our community in light of what is going on. We wanted to start that conversation. We want to be a part of our own change by coming together and not being afraid to speak up for our community. We want to make the uncomfortable comfortable for everyone. This is the first of many steps that must be taken."

"Unless we all find a way to openly talk and genuinely listen to each other about racism, we have no hope of rooting it out."

– JAYLIN DAVIS, SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

San Francisco Giants players, coaching staff and front office employees continue to work with nonprofit partners and leaders in the Black community to make the organization and its communities more equitable, diverse and inclusive. *To see the blog and video, go to sfgiants.mlblogs.com.*

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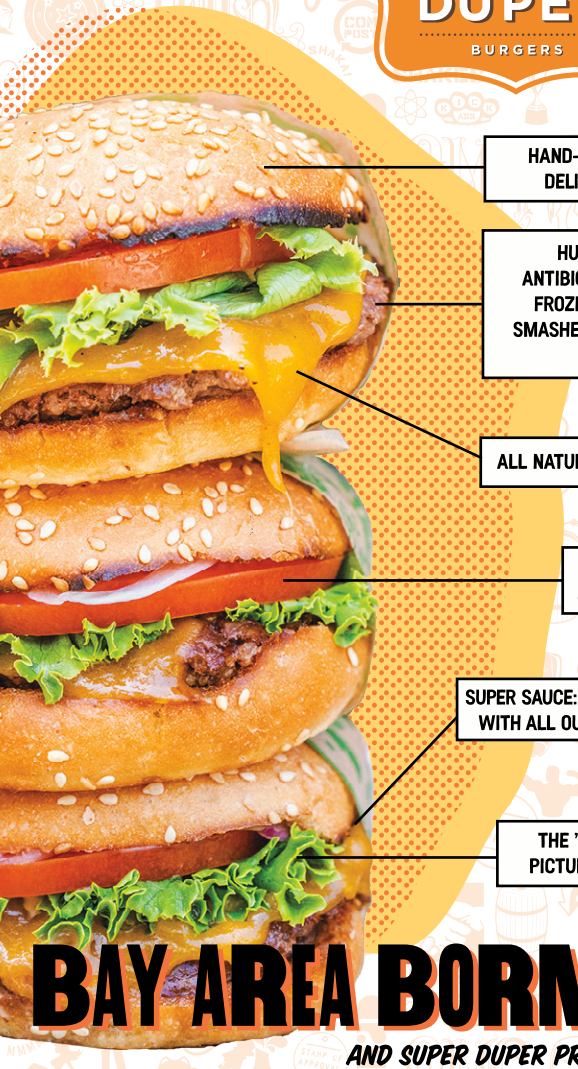

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