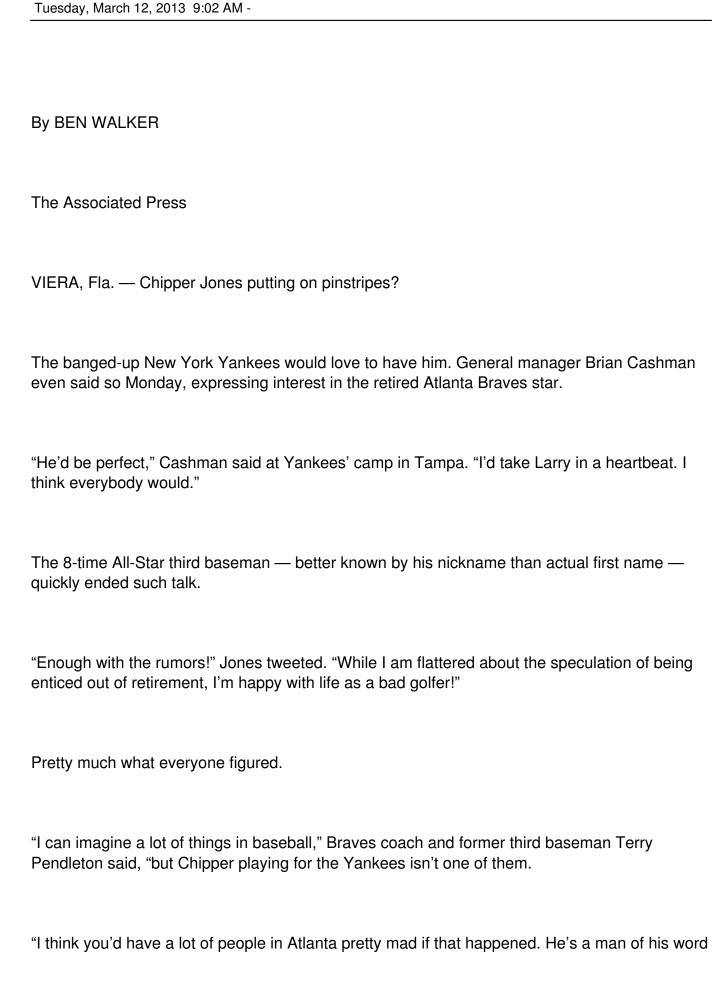
Chipper in pinstripes? Well, Yanks' Cashman tried

Written by Staff Reports



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and he says he's done. But it might help the Yankees with their attendance. I think a lot of Mets' fans would come over to Yankee Stadium to boo him."

Still, it was a fun thought — Jones and Derek Jeter together on the left side of the infield. At least for a minute.

"He has the utmost respect for the Yankees' organization but his legacy is and will always be with the Braves," Jones' agent, B.B. Abbott, told The Associated Press in a text message.

Jones bowed out last fall after playing all 19 seasons in Atlanta, hitting .303 with 468 home runs. A month shy of turning 41, Jones recently spent a few days at spring training with his old team.

In a jam because of injuries, Cashman just threw out the idea.

"I needed to check it off my list. I had to exorcise that demon," he said. "I got my answer quick — like 30 minutes."

The Yankees are on the prowl, however. They are missing third baseman Alex Rodriguez, sidelined until July or longer after hip surgery, and first baseman Mark Teixeira, out until May because of a strained tendon in his right wrist.

Newcomer Kevin Youkilis can play either corner infield spot but not at the same time. He made his first spring training start at first base on Monday against St. Louis.

A more realistic option is 37-year-old Derrek Lee, who hasn't played since 2011, when he hit .267 with 19 homers and 59 RBIs for Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Cashman talked to Lee and the first baseman appeared to be intrigued.

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