

OFF THE FIELD WITH ... **TRAYCE THOMPSON**

BY JON WEISMAN

Dodger outfielder Trayce Thompson broke out of his NBA All-Star brother Klay's shadow by hitting 12 homers in the Dodgers' first 81 games, but fans in Los Angeles are still getting to know him. Here, Thompson fills in some of the blanks, including his favorite pastime away from the National Pastime, and why he doesn't join in on social media ...

What do you like to do when you're not playing baseball?

I think the biggest thing is golf. I love golf. It's tough to do it during the season. I didn't play at all last season, and I feel like I had more success in baseball and I'm superstitious, so I haven't played this season. But in the offseason, I played a lot of golf.

When did you take up golf?

In my third offseason (2011-12), I really started to play. That's when the NBA lock-out was happening, and so Klay was home and we played a lot of golf. And once he left, me and my buddy Nolan Arenado of the Rockies, we hit together in the offseason, so we were playing golf a lot. Now in the offseason, we'll play two or three times a week.

Do you have any favorite TV shows you like to watch?

I watch all the HBO shows like "Game of Thrones," "Entourage," "Silicon Valley," but my favorite is "The Office." I'll watch at least an episode a night.

How about movies?

Me and Corey (Seager), we watched (the latest) "Ninja Turtles" in Pittsburgh. I love to go to the movies, but it has to be a bigtime movie coming out. ... I really just like to go to the movies to eat popcorn.



What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I used to be kind of a chunky kid. Everyone looks at me now, and I'm kind of lanky and rangy, but when I was a kid, I was definitely on the stockier side. I kind of stretched out my sophomore year of high school.

What's your philosophy on social media?

I think it's great to relate to fans and everything — I think that's awesome. But I just feel like, I didn't grow up wanting to be a baseball player so I could be famous. I wanted to just play baseball. I feel like sometimes it can be distracting. I also don't like going to dinner when everyone's on their phones. I like to relate to everyone and communicate. ... I don't really like to rely on my phone as much as other people, I guess.

Do you have a favorite memory from watching baseball when you were a kid?

I think just all the Home Run Derbies, because we grew up in the Northwest — we were big Mariners fans, and watching (Ken Griffey Jr.) and all those Home Run Derbies, that was pretty cool ... seeing all those guys up close and personal.