Hip Hop Jewelry and the World of Sports

By Diane Weisbeck, 3/22/2014

The thing that stands out right up front when considering bling bling, or hip hop jewelry is drama. This is not timid, subtle, understated jewelry. Hip hop jewelry is about uninhibited boldness. Confident, audacious, some may say powerful designs.

# As sports fans, when our number one favorite player throws down a dunk, intercepts the football and takes it to the house, hits a moon shot and rounds the bases, slaps the puck into the goal, do we whisper bravo? No! We go wild! Uncontrolled whoops and yelps, high fives, shouting and total all out pandemonium is the norm.

The hip hop jewelry designs of dedicated sports fans equal the passion of those diehard sports fanatics. A diamond encrusted basketball sliding spot-on into the hoop. The fire of the iced out diamonds shows the world that this basketball fan is serious.

The passion is obvious of the baseball aficionado, when he is wearing the artistically crafted diamond mitt and diamond “stitched” baseball. Can anyone doubt your devotion to America’s game wearing this?

A football enthusiast? Your team won the Super Bowl? Our course every member of the team deserves those mammoth bling rings. And so do you! Many fans have their team’s Super Bowl rings duplicated so they can celebrate in style with their team.

Big Papi, David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox, a fan favorite, sports a variety of distinctive, thick, heavy chains that reach just to his uniform collar. Assorted professional sports have various rules concerning jewelry, some more strict than others. Largely dependent on risk of injury, the NFL seems to be the strictest about what players wear. Of course the potential danger is greater in football, since a chain around a player’s neck could easily get pulled, (by accident, of course), during a particularly rough tackle.

In baseball, not as many physical encounters take place, so jewelry rules are more lenient; except when a gold necklace of the pitcher flashes in the sun and distracts the batter.

In hockey, players are pretty much covered up, from helmet to skates. Fabulous bling bling could be underneath all those layers, but we’d never know.

The fantastic hip hop jewelry that athletes and sports stars wear is in many cases, more than just for show. The New York Times published a wonderful story about Barry Bonds and his jeweler, on July 13, 2007. To sum up the story, Barry Bonds was given a pendant in the shape of a cross by his grandfather, Robert Bonds, father of Bobby Bonds, former major league All-Star. Barry started to wear the cross in the form of an earring when he was with the Pittsburgh Pirates, as a rookie in 1986. This good luck talisman became a tradition and continued when Barry Bonds became a member of the San Francisco Giants. Bonds had previously connected with a San Francisco jeweler who created a replica cross with the addition of diamonds for Bonds, to wear as an earring. This piece of jewelry became a trademark for Bonds.

One day, in 2000, not long after the San Francisco Giants had moved into their new stadium, the jeweler received a frantic phone call. Barry Bonds was in a panic. He had lost his good luck earring and he had a game the following day. He couldn’t play without it. The jeweler replied that he just couldn’t create a duplicate earring in 24 hours. But Bonds insisted and the jeweler worked throughout the night and fashioned the earring for one of his most famous clients.

As soon as the earring was completed, the jeweler raced to the Giant’s stadium where he found Bonds, dressed in his uniform and about to take the field. Relieved that he could now play ball and grateful to his “designated jeweler” the two became lifelong friends.

The moral of the story? Sports stars need the support of their families, friends, fans, managers, coaches, publicity agents, trainers, lawyers, therapists… but most importantly, their jeweler. Don’t we all?