

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

'It's hard not to be unhappy about the situation.'

— **Clint Frazier, Yankees outfielder, who has bounced between the Bronx and Triple A despite strong play this year**



GETTY IMAGES/ELSA

218

games played by Lance Thomas for the Knicks, second-most on the team since 2014

Multifaceted captain

Knicks' Thomas loves catching fish

BY ANDREW COHEN
Special to amNewYork

By land or by sea, Knicks captain Lance Thomas is fueled by a competitive fire that needs to be satisfied "at all times." Now that the season is over, the Brooklyn native fills that void with his competitive offshore fishing team, Slang Magic.

While Thomas refers to his competitive nature as "second to none," he has the utmost respect for his opponent while out at sea. Especially for the yellowedge grouper, his favorite fish to eat.

"I don't like just catching fish and putting them in the boat if I'm not going to eat them," Thomas told amNY at the Pig 'N' Whistle in midtown. "I have too much respect for Mother Nature to do that."

Thomas, 30, was introduced to fishing as a student at Duke by teammate Kenjuan Nichols. The two first went fishing on a lake in Durham, North Carolina, and he marvels at how far he's come in the 10 years since.

"I didn't even like touching the fish or the bait," Thomas said. "I'm from the North. I'm not doing that. I stuck with it, now I'm grabbing marlin by the bill, and when a big shark comes at me on the boat, I



JIM MCSAAC

Brooklyn native Lance Thomas has his own competitive offshore fishing team, Slang Magic.

get the hook out of it. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be doing this."

Now, after the NBA season ends, Thomas relocates to where his boat is docked in Venice, Louisiana, to join his nine-member crew and prepare for a series of tournaments along the Gulf Coast.

Slang Magic's website has

plans to feature autographed memorabilia from Thomas, where all proceeds generated will be donated to New Heights NYC, an organization that helps inner-city youth transition into college. Thomas himself benefited as a high school student from New Heights.

Fishing has opened many doors for Thomas, both now

and once his playing days are over.

"I have a competitive void that needs to be filled at all times," Thomas said. "When my body doesn't allow me to run up and down and play the game of basketball, I'll have a smooth transition to another sport that is competitive but also something I'm in love with."

BRIEFS

Cup-winning Caps coach Trotz resigns

The Capitals announced Monday that Barry Trotz will step down from his role as head coach and not return following the team's Stanley Cup-winning season.

"Barry Trotz informed the organization today of his decision to resign as head coach of the Washington Capitals," the team



Trotz

wrote in a statement. "We are obviously disappointed by Barry's decision, but would like to thank Barry for all his efforts the past four years and for helping bring the Stanley Cup to Washington."

This was the last season of Trotz's four-year deal, and he wasn't offered an extension before the season, but once Washington won the Stanley Cup, an automatic two-year extension was triggered, according to a person familiar with the situation.

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

Kanter's father sentenced to prison

Mehmet Kanter, the father of Knicks center Enes Kanter, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Turkish government, Kanter's representation confirmed to The Oklahoman on Monday.

Enes Kanter has been an outspoken critic of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kanter is also a supporter of Fetullah Gulen, a Turkish political figure in exile in the U.S. who is in direct opposition to Erdogan.

Kanter's outspokenness has made him and his family a target of the Turkish government. Last summer, Kanter's family home in Istanbul was raided by Turkish government and his father was arrested. Mehmet, a professor, was released after five days in custody on the condition that he regularly report to a police station.

(TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE)

Yanks topped in suspended game

Aaron Boone, baseball lifer, called the circumstances "a first rodeo for me."

He wasn't the only one.

At 5:07 p.m. Monday the Yankees and Nationals resumed their game from May 15, which was tied at 3 as the home team came to bat, the rest of that night washed out by rain.

Less than 10 minutes later Juan Soto, a 19-year-old rookie who introduced himself rather loudly to the Yankees with a two-homer game last Wednesday at the Stadium, got them again in Washington.

Soto, who started the season in Low-A before being plucked from Double-A May 20, ham-

YANKEES	3
NATIONALS	5

in Washington

mered a two-run homer off Chad Green with one out in the sixth, the outfielder's sixth homer in less than a month helping send the Yankees to a 5-3 defeat.

"I wish he was climbing the ladder more routinely and was in Double-A now," Boone said with a smile afterward of Soto. "What can you say? Nineteen [years old] and obviously doing really well and has hurt us a couple of games."

Soto wasn't promoted until

May 20. According to Elias, Soto's debut will still be noted as May 20, though an asterisk will record his appearance in a suspended game May 15.

The clubs were to play a second game roughly 30 minutes after the conclusion of the resumed game.

The resumption of that game originally was to be made up before the regularly scheduled game between the clubs the night of May 16, but an unrelenting rain in the D.C. area also postponed that game, pushing the two contests to Monday.

"It's been," Boone said Monday afternoon, "an odd day looking at it all."

(NEWSDAY)



GETTY IMAGES/MITCHELL LANTON

Chad Green took the loss in Game 1 of a doubleheader.