

THE RUMBLE

AN OFF-THE-BALL LOOK AT YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS CELEBRITIES



Hebrew teacher's NBA closeup

Einat Ben-Avi is a Hebrew teacher by day and a basketball TV reporter by night. Ben-Avi (above), a 5-9 former Israeli junior national team center, works for Sport 5, the largest TV sports station in Israel. Last year, the 24-year-old Tel Aviv native decided she wanted to see what it would be like to live in the U.S. So she got a job as a professor teaching Hebrew studies at Bard University in upstate Annandale.

But Ben-Avi, who also did modeling in Israel, wanted to continue her sports-journalism career. She reports on the NBA for Sport 5, doing player

'Tooning in the Mets SNY trio's never been more comical

The Post first reported it in last week's *NYP TV Sports* section, now here's a sneak peak at SNY's new animated ad campaign to promote its Mets broadcast team of Ron Darling, Keith Hernandez and Gary Cohen (left to right).

Each of the broadcasters recorded voiceovers for the spots, which feature the three sitting

on a couch watching their own telecast. The ads are set to premier this weekend, and will air on a number of networks, including SNY.

"We had a good time doing it together," Hernandez told The Post's Pat Reichart.

"I said to Gary, 'Did you ever see yourself being

a cartoon character in your career?' Cause I certainly didn't." But I think the fans will get a kick out of it."

SNY is considering expanding the concept into a weekly cartoon series, an idea that was suggested by Hernandez. The show could air on Saturday mornings and

may include cameos by Mets players.

"I think my character is a little bit dashing and a little bit goofy, just like I am in real life," Darling said. "I was hoping I'd look a little bit like Speed Racer; he was my favorite cartoon character as a kid."

The commercials also can be viewed at SNY's Web site, sny.tv. Peter Puck could not be reached for comment.

