

CNN's Larry King: Hugo Chávez 'fascinating' — 'He loves the Cincinnati Reds'

By Jeff Poor - The Daily Caller 4:45 PM 12/10/2010



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The ability of Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chávez to charm celebrities seems to be a never-ending feat. Beyond the normal cast of characters, [like Oliver Stone, Sean Penn and Danny Glover](#), Chávez has managed to add another fan to his roster.

As part of his departure tour from CNN, after 25 years at the [network](#), King appeared on [NFL Network anchor Rich Eisen's Dec. 8 podcast](#) and raved about his fascination with dictators, specifically Chávez.

"You know who's fascinating?" King said. "Dictators. Chávez was fascinating, from Venezuela — one, because he's a crazy baseball fan."

According to King, Chávez is a fan of the Cincinnati Reds, which should give the people of Cincinnati something to hang their hats on, as well as a fan of the team's manager, Dusty Baker.

"Talking to him before, he's like a nut baseball fan," King continued. "And you would think of all the teams — who would he root for? The Cincinnati Reds. He loves the Cincinnati Reds. But how knowledgeable is he? The last time I saw him — 'What do you think of Dusty Baker? Did I tell ya?' These guys know — if you know a sport, you get captivated by the sportscaster. But he really knows baseball. He used to play [baseball](#)."

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, a CNBC anchor, once offered an explanation for Chávez's ability to charm media and celebrity types. Having interviewed him previously, she recently described him for [an audience at the Cato Institute](#) as "funny," "charming," and "a seductor," which she concluded as being "dangerous."

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