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Smith: Anne Scioscia serves up more than tasty food on 'Chase 'N Yur Face' TV show

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BY MARCIA C. SMITH / STAFF COLUMNIST

ANAHEIM – The Angels were in Boston last Saturday when Mrs. Mike Scioscia was back in Anaheim, tying on an Angels apron as the celebrity guest chef on the Internet cooking show of a young Angels fan.

Their studio was the sixth-floor teaching kitchen at The Ranch Restaurant and Saloon, the same steakhouse where Angels reigning AL MVP Mike Trout celebrated his \$144.5 million contract extension with a 58-ounce ribeye and where former Angels slugger Mark Trumbo used to hop on stage to play guitar with the band.

Anne Scioscia, the funny, high-spirited and perfectly coiffed wife of the Angels manager, sauntered into the kitchen when the director shouted, "Action!" for the latest episode of "Chase 'N Yur Face."

Bright stage lights, two cameramen and a guy holding a boom microphone circled her as she shook hands and traded "howdy" with The Ranch executive chef Michael Rossi and the show's Angels-T-shirt-sporting host, Chase Bailey, 13, of Irvine.

Scioscia knew the script but got to make up her own lines, acting as herself, which means going with the flow as most wives of baseball-players-turned-managers do.

Mike Scioscia, the longest-tenured manager in baseball, has been at the Angels' helm for 16 seasons, just about half the time he and Anne have known each other.

The couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in January. They met three years before they married, thanks in part to chocolate chip cookies.

Back in 1982, Anne McIlquham and a friend went to a Dodger game on a whim, and 21-year-old Anne took notice of the "receiver," Dodgers catcher Mike Scioscia.

Upon hearing that Scioscia and other players would be signing autographs the next night, Anne returned to the ballpark with homemade cookies.

A Dodger Stadium security guard saw that Anne was disappointed at not being able to meet Scioscia and connected the two after the game.

Anne greeted 23-year-old Mike with the cookies. He tore off the plastic wrap and began eating. They had their first date 20 days later. The security guard, Jesse, attended their wedding.

It might have been love at first bite, and those famous cookies landed Anne Scioscia in front of the camera.

Chase delivered a smile, handshake, strong eye-contact and his line, "Nice to meet you, Anne," several times for the repeated takes that had Scioscia doing the two-step in her tall, black boots for part of the morning.

(She does her own stunts.)

"I'm very happy to be here," Scioscia said, volunteering her time like Rossi and other well-known local chefs and celebrity guests to appear on a show that has more than entertainment value.



Anne Scioscia, wife of Angels manager Mike Scioscia, gives a hug to Chase Bailey, 13, during taping of his cooking show 'Chase 'N Yur Face.'

ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ANNE SCIOSCIA'S THE (TASTES HEAVENLY EVERY TIME) CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- In a large bowl, beat together one cup softened butter, 3/4 cup sugar, 3/4 cup brown sugar, one teaspoon vanilla extract and two eggs.
- In a medium bowl, sift in 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, one teaspoon baking soda, one teaspoon baking powder and one teaspoon salt.
- Slowly add dry to wet ingredients.
- Stir in two cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips.
- Refrigerate dough until chilled.
- Scoop tablespoon-sized dollops of dough onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
- Bake 10 to 12 minutes at 375 degrees.

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