

## Babes of Baseball: D-Back Justin Upton

Written by Nadine Toren

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Television personality and AZfoothills.com columnist Nadine Toren is scouring the area, finding savvy Valley features, bringing readers “on the scene.” Every day she’ll introduce you to [celebrities](#), athletes, and give you an inside look into local events and hot spots. She’ll touch on topical issues, and keep AZ fans posted on all the big talkers around town.



**Ahhhhhhh, Spring Training; a time when we get to enjoy America’s Favorite Pastime visiting a handful of home fields in the Valley. Hot dogs, beer, fans dressed in team gear; for many it’s the most wonderful time of the year, excluding Christmas. And while some are dire sports fans, others savor the view...the view of the players, that is.**

Yes, I took on the tedious task of high-lighting a handful of Spring Training baseball babes, finding out who the guys are off the field.

We took a look at Diamondback centerfielder Chris Young (see previous “On the Scene with Nadine” article), but thought we’d balance things out; talking to his like-brother buddy, Arizona’s right-fielder, Justin Upton.

“I lived with Chris (Young) when I first got here. That definitely made things easier,” said Diamondback right-fielder, Justin Upton.

It was four years ago when Justin Upton launched his D-Back career, and the 23 year old immediately called Scottsdale home during the season.

“There’s so much to do. You can have an nice dinner, go to tons of nightclubs, plus I love all the golf courses. Scottsdale has everything I want in a place to live,” said Upton.

This young Scottsdale sports-star savors checking out nice restaurants like Ocean Club, City Hall, Yard House, and Houston’s. After he finishes a fine meal, you can often catch him out on the town--but you’ll have to search high and low for our local celebrity.

“I’m not going to divulge where I go out at night.”

Ok, he might not divulge where he goes out at night, but we did get the love scoop from our right-fielder.

“Let’s just say I’m not married.”

The unmarried D-Back says a sporty girl will capture his heart. He admits his potential misses must be laid back, attractive, and enjoy watching him play baseball...and for a good reason.

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Upton has a lot to brag about having made the All-Star Team in 2009 while setting career highs in every category.

This Virginia-born babe joined Orlando Cepeda (1959) as the only player in MLB history to compile at least a .300 average with 25 homers, 80 RBI and 19 stolen bases in a single season at the age of 21 or younger in 2009.

He also turned heads *before* making it to the Majors, scoring *USA Today’s* Minor League Player of the Year in 2007.

“This is what I always wanted to do. Once I chose baseball sophomore year in high school, I wanted to play in the big leagues.”

When off the field, Upton is often working out, playing golf, or parking himself in front of the X-Box. (He’s quite the FIFA Soccer fan.)

And truth be told, Upton is also quite a dapper dresser.

“I’m pretty standard; a nice pair of jeans, t-shirt, and I have a ton of shoes.”

Upton is a Scottsdale Fashion Square fan, frequenting Nordstrom and Barneys, but his fashion focus for now is his D-Backs uniform.

He says our home-town team is bound for a World Series sort of season.

And if you’re a fan, get ready to rap; Upton plans on approaching the plate to Kanye West’s “All of the Lights.”

However, his choice of song is subject to change.

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"I run through walk-out songs like it's my job."

Upton says he has that Spring Training itch.

He is ready for the off-season to be over, and is eager to get back on the field, making 2011 a successful year Diamondback fans will never forget.

"This is really a dream come true for me and I'm enjoying every minute of it."



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