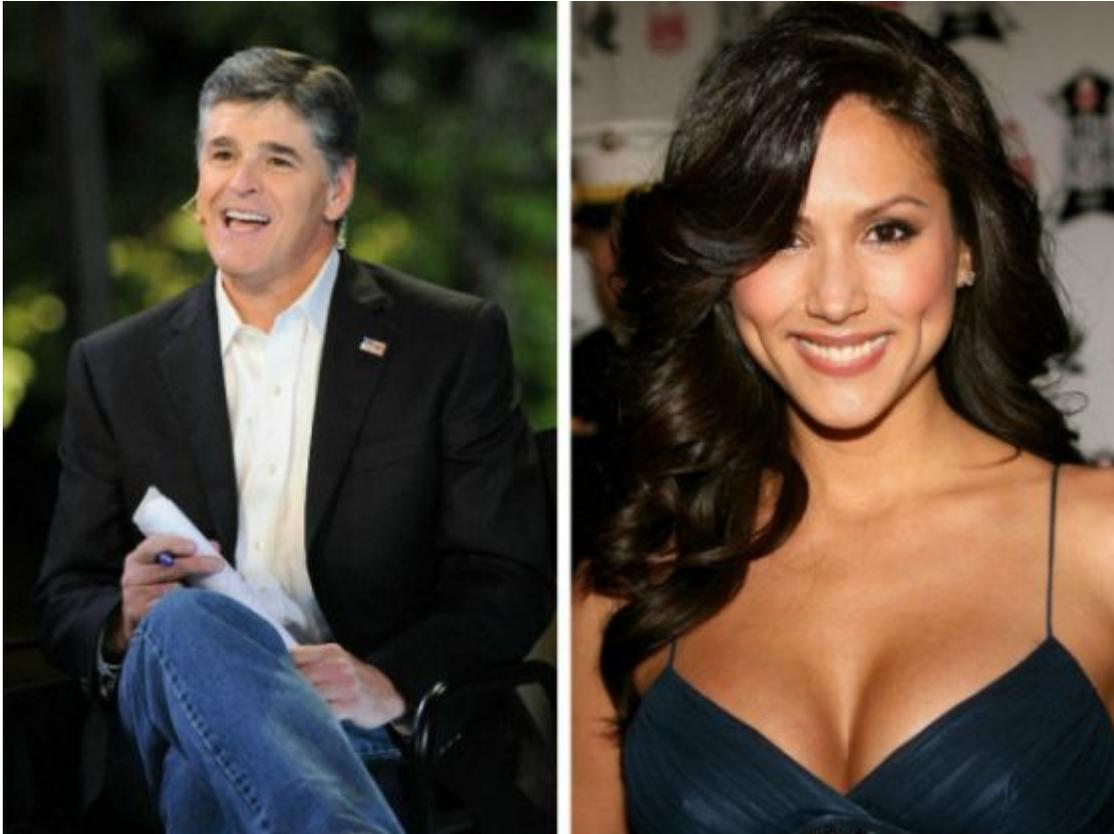


Published: July 3, 2012 Updated: 9:58 a.m.

Fox host Hannity bets against Angels, will wear Trout jersey on air if he loses



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Leeann Tweeden has been modeling and appearing on TV for years, but her greatest achievement might be getting **Sean Hannity** to wear an Angels jersey at the end of the season. Will it happen? In the meantime, click on the photo to see more photos of Tweeden throughout the years.

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

By **LONDON HALL** / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

How would you like to see Sean Hannity wearing a Mike Trout jersey on Fox News?

Yes, that Sean Hannity. The conservative radio and TV host who's either a truth-teller or a blowhard, depending on your political inclinations.

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He's a big-time New York Yankees fan, but he might have bitten off more than he can chew by entering into a bet with [Leeann Tweeden](#), the model, TV correspondent and activist. She's a big-time Angels fan, and last week she and Hannity started [talking smack about their respective teams on Twitter](#).

[\(Click the photo to see more of Tweeden.\)](#)

If the Yankees have the better season (with "better" still to be codified, but generally meaning who advances further in the playoffs), Tweeden has to appear during a regular segment she does on the "Hannity" TV program, wearing a Derek Jeter jersey. If the Angels fare better, Hannity will don that Trout jersey.

"I would love that," Tweeden said. "Please. Oh my God. Come on, Angels. And the Angels are picking it up. The Yankees have lost Pettitte and Sabathia. This is our chance to catch up."

A mix of bikinis and sports

Tweeden, 39, gained stardom through her modeling career, appearing on the covers of [Maxim](#), [FHM](#) and [Playboy](#). But she knows her sports, too. For years she was more than just the token babe on "The Best Damn Sports Show Period" on Fox, with Tom Arnold, John Kruk and

John Salley. Whether she was wearing a catcher's mask or a car-racing helmet, the self-described tomboy had to prove herself – to jocks and to jock-watchers at home.

"Before I opened my mouth, it was like, 'OK, what does she have to say?' But I'd interview someone for a second, and they'd get it right away. They realized I wasn't stupid, that I did my homework, and I knew what I was talking about."

She met a great many athletes, including one she never expected: While trying to get to Game 2 of the 2003 World Series at Yankee Stadium, she got stuck at the Long Beach airport when her flight was cancelled. She phoned JetBlue, frantic. "I said, 'I've got to get to New York because I'm going to the World Series. Then I hear this guy behind me, and he said, 'Yeah, me too!'"

That guy was Jered Weaver, who was a 21-year-old junior at Long Beach State. Jered was trying to get to the World Series to see his brother Jeff pitch for the Yankees; Tweeden knew Jeff from her work on "The Best Damn Sports Show."

She and Jered got on a flight the next day. "He and his roommate let me stay on the couch," she said.

A man in uniform

Ever since she got on TV, men have never really stopped hitting on Tweeden. "It doesn't even faze me anymore. It's just part of the deal."

In 2003 she started dating the same guy who shut out the Yankees in Game 6 of that World Series she was trying so hard to get to. That was Josh Beckett.

They broke up in late 2004. That was just before Tweeden departed for a whirlwind six-stop USO tour to entertain American troops stationed in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany. Tweeden had been using her celebrity to support the troops since the 9/11 attacks, and [on this trip](#) she was accompanied by Robin Williams, John Elway and Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Tweeden emceed the shows, and when it was time for the troupe to fly from northern Iraq to Kuwait and eventually home, she discovered that an Air Force pilot she'd met back in the States, Capt. Chris Dougherty, happened to be the one flying them aboard a C-130 transport plane.

"I sat up in the cockpit with him, and in the meantime Robin Williams is up there, talking to the crew on the radio. And in the back, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs is throwing footballs with John Elway," Tweeden said. "From that moment I knew I wanted to date Chris, and when we landed I totally pursued him."

She and Dougherty were married on July 4, 2010, in Virginia, and they live in L.A. He's now a JetBlue pilot while also serving in the California Air National Guard.

From sports to politics

Tweeden has been an Angels fan ever since she moved to L.A. Even as she hosted NBC's "Poker After Dark" (a job she's had since 2008, a year after "Best Damn Sports Show" ended), she filled in as host of "Angels Weekly" and helped out on "Angels Live" pre- and post-game broadcasts on Fox Sports West, but her sports gigs have given way to her charity work and her increasing interest in politics.

She helped start a nonprofit called [Heroes & Patriots](#), which assists veterans and their families. She's also involved with [Operation Mend](#), a group that uses the surgical resources of the UCLA Health System, including the facial-transplantation program at the David Geffen School of Medicine to help vets who've been deformed by their battlefield wounds.

"For some of these guys, it's life-changing," she says. Talking about severely burned vets, she adds: "After they've recovered from their injuries, what are they going to do, go back to Podunk, Iowa? You're a hero for a minute, and then people look at them like they're freaks. The least we can do is get them as close to 'normal' as possible."

Wounded vets often have a lot of down time while they wait for their procedures, and on July 8, the Angels will treat 100 of them to a game against the Orioles.

Supporting men and women in the armed forces is also a cause dear to Hannity, which is one reason she's a frequent guest on the [Great American Panel](#) on his Fox TV show. Another is her bluntness.

"She's so smart and well informed and articulate," Hannity said by phone. "She's the real deal."

Tweeden, who's working on a political science degree, said she leans conservative on fiscal issues but is moderate on social ones. "If you're gay and you want to get married, that's fine. I'm not going to tell you how to live your life."

What she can't stand is people who are uninformed about the big issues. "Some people live in a bubble. I'm kind of embarrassed about my generation, and the generation behind me."

"I have my own opinions, but I try not to be too polarizing. I just hate being lied to. I hate being talked down to by politicians."

Back to the bet

Hannity grew up on Long Island and is a Yankees die-hard. He tries to goad you into a debate about them. Which is part of his job description, after all.

"Look I'm gonna be honest, I'm a big Pujols fan. He's just really, really talented, that's all there is to it. That said, the Yankees have a better team."

And he's perfectly willing to wear a Trout jersey if he's wrong about that. "Oh my gosh," he says. "The only good news would be, it would get me out of wearing a tie. I hate wearing a tie."

He seems not to realize that Tweeden still has a soft spot for the Yankees, particularly Jeter, whom she met in Florida when they were both teenagers – she an aspiring model and he a draft pick of the Yankees. So wearing a Jeter jersey wouldn't be that great a punishment for her.

"When Jeter retires," she says, "I don't know if I'll still be a Yankees fan."