

Re: This Week in Baseball

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TWB #924

Act One -- "The Rangers": The Rangers are not playoff bound, but they are building something big in Texas with an eye on the future. The failure to make the playoffs is certainly not due to lack of effort. Their powerful lineup leads MLB in runs scored, hits and slugging average. Texas believes it has the makings of a youthful and special lineup for a long time. The leader is five-time all-star Michael Young. Young is only the seventh MLB player in history with five consecutive 200 hit seasons. His consistent approach is an example of baseball excellence, especially because he leads by example.

Young's best student may be second baseman Ian Kinsler, who has developed into a star. Prior to his season ending injury in August, Ian was leading the AL in hits, runs, and total bases. Undoubtedly, Ian is destined for greatness.

But the biggest star of the Rangers this year may be the sensational Josh Hamilton. In the 2008 Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium, Josh amazed the baseball world with an incredible display of power, hitting that will be remembered forever. In only his second MLB season, Hamilton is a legitimate MVP candidate. Currently, Josh leads the AL in runs batted in.

Educational theme: Putting together a team is a process that only takes a few good men. Every revolution began with small groups of people.

Educational theme: Leadership by example is based on a spiritual quality; the power to inspire others to follow. Learners learn from each other.

Educational theme: It is what you learn after you know it's all that counts. The only way to get better is to get smarter; therefore, don't be seduced by the allure of mediocrity.

Act Two -- "Ian and Wires": Kinsler wore a wireless microphone to give viewers an inside look as to what the Rangers say and do prior to the game. Pre-game warm-up was shown. Candid dugout talk was heard. And the post-game celebratory hand slapping was witnessed. TWIB then showed some of their favorite moments of players who were "miked-up" during the 2008 season. They caught everything both on and off the field to give the viewer a closer look into the game of baseball.

Educational theme: Modern technology, such as wireless microphones, gives us an unprecedented opportunity to listen in on candid comments of MLB players to help us better understand baseball.

Educational theme: Fun can be defined as wisely using one's time. It is a primary motivation for the actions that one takes.

Act Three -- "Clutch": The answer to the TWIBIA Question is Julio Franco, who is the Rangers second baseman who holds the record for the most runs scored in a season. Julio scored 108 runs in 1991, the year he won the batting title.

The viewers voted for the Clutch Performer of the Month of August to decide the winner. The nominees were Raul Ibanez of the Seattle Mariners, Cliff Lee of the Cleveland Indians, John Santana of the NY Mets, Brad Hawpe of the Colorado Rockies, Carlos Pena of the Tampa Bay Rays, and C.C. Sabathia of the Milwaukee Brewers. The winner is Milwaukee's C.C. Sabathia, who was 5-0 with a 1.12 ERA in August.

The XM Radio Call of the Week comes from San Francisco where legendary TV announcer John Miller added to the drama and excitement of a game winning triple in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Educational theme: Trivia is a seemingly superfluous and insignificant event; however it is an important component of baseball legend, lore and tradition. For both fans and players, trivia is a source of fun and interest in the American institution called baseball.

Educational theme: Voting is a right and responsibility of good citizenship. Children participating in an election by expressing their choice may learn that their votes are meaningful. Hopefully, this will carryover into adulthood.

Educational theme: Excitement and drama are components of competitive athletics. It enhances the fun and interest for both players and fans in the game of baseball.

Act Four -- "Baseball is...": Baseball is the Game of Presidents. Current President of the United States, George W. Bush was a previous owner of the Texas Rangers. He spoke about the advice he got from Derek Jeter prior to throwing out the first pitch, and articulately described his love of the game. Bush said about baseball, "It is a team sport. Individual accomplishment is good. But individual accomplishment for a greater good is more important."

Baseball was taught to Bush by his father. The President does what he can to inspire youngsters in all walks of life to play ball. He hosts an annual dinner at the White House where he brings in legends and current baseball stars for a casual social evening. He hosts an annual T-Ball game for kids on the South Lawn. And like many previous presidents, he throws out the symbolic first pitch of the MLB season. But his greatest experience came during the 2001 World Series at Yankee Stadium. When he walked from the dugout toward the pitching mound, fans of all persuasions and political parties began a spontaneous chant of "USA - USA - USA." It was in response to the unprovoked terrorist attack of 9/11. It was a genuine feeling of patriotism and resolve.

The Big League Blast segment featured the hot hitting Carlos Delgado of the NY Mets. Carlos has hit two home runs in two consecutive games. In appreciation to the great season that he is having the Mets fans chanted, "MVP - MVP - MVP."

Dugout Chatter caught candid comments from the Baltimore Orioles outfielder Luke Scott and the Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Brett Myers.

Educational theme: To understand Americans one must understand the game of baseball. Baseball in many ways defines the best philosophies of the American culture. The American lexicon is filled with words and phrases that originated with baseball, such as, "three strikes and you are out."

Educational theme: It is the responsibility of adults to motivate and inspire the younger generations about our way of life, customs and the culture of a community.

Educational theme: Patriotism is the love and devotion to our national heritage and national interests. It is contrary to multiculturalism and globalization. Baseball has the remarkable ability to bring communities together, more so than any other sport.

Act Five -- "How 'bout that!": The best plays of the week were set to the music of Oasis from their new release "Dig Out Your Soul." This is the normal collection of outstanding plays and effort demonstrated by MLB players. There are numerous diving, sliding, leaping and running catches by infielders and outfielders. Two close plays at home plate, including a runner's collision with the catcher is shown. Several creative and spectacular double plays are shown. Also, a few plays that resulted in injury are shown. The NY Yankees Derek Jeter's 2519 base hit was documented, as he passed the great George Herman "Babe" Ruth on the base hit list at Yankee Stadium.

Educational theme: Documenting landmark achievements is the history of the present. But if you lose sight of the past, you lose sight of the future. This is the glory and romance preserved in chronicles.

Educational theme: The artistic value of sport can be found in the beauty, grace, and rhythmic movements of elite athletes. The aesthetic quality of a well-executed play enhances the appreciation of baseball.

Educational theme: Once the student-learner has carefully observed the required effort and the bio-mechanics of premier athletes, then the movements can be more easily duplicated and performed by the learner. The student is then physically educated.