

Re: This Week In Baseball
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TWB #916

Act One – “Behind the Scenes at the All-Star Game”: This week TWIB took the viewer inside the All-Star game both on and off the field for a compelling and unique experience. This included a pre-game motivational pep talk by Hall of Famers George Brett to the American Leaguers and Ernie Banks to the National Leaguers.

The day began with an 18 block red carpet parade in the heart of Manhattan that brought a touch of class to the event, as all-stars past and present saluted the fans and chatted among themselves. On the night of the mid-summer classic baseball, both celebrated its present and honored its past, as one of the greatest collections of Hall of Fame members gathered by the fabled left field monuments. As all-stars were introduced and took their positions, they were joined by the immortals of Cooperstown. Once everyone was in position, the owner of the New York Yankees George Steinbrenner was driven to the field.

This is the final season for Yankee Stadium and this was an unforgettable farewell ceremony. The cherished venue will be replaced by a brand new stadium for the 2009 MLB season.

Educational theme: Extrinsic motivation can be successful; however, intrinsic motivation is more valued. Intrinsic rewards are self-fueling and long lasting.

Educational theme: Paying honor to the past is necessary to seeing the future. Sports history is part of the excitement of athletics for both fans and players.

Educational theme: Celebrations are most appropriate ways to say “Good Bye” to friends and hallowed ball parks, such as Yankee Stadium.

Act Two – “Josh & the Derby”: Justin Morneau of the Minnesota Twins won the “Home Run Derby” but Josh Hamilton of the Texas Rangers stole the show.

Hamilton put on an unprecedented display of power in the first round of the derby by hitting a record 28 home runs, including one over the right field bleachers. Josh selected seventy-one years old, Clay Council, to throw to him in the derby. Council has thrown batting practice for more than thirty years.

Hamilton was a first round selection of the Tampa Bay Rays, but he blew his four million dollar bonus with drug addiction. Currently, he is drug free and having a brilliant re-birth of his career. Josh has wisely chosen this opportunity to use his celebrity as a platform to fight drug addiction and to demonstrate how to make your life better.

Educational theme: Documentation of athletic achievements and record setting performances are part of sport history. Many baseball traditions are based upon such historic performances that are a measure of accomplishment and standards of achievement.

Educational theme: Maintaining ones health is directly related to educational achievement, quality of life and economic productivity.

Educational theme: The intentional abuse of illegal drugs is improper and unsafe; however, it is never too late to get help. Admitting the problem is the first step, and then one may turn to various counseling, support groups and treatment centers.

Act Three – “Clutch”: The answer to the TWIBIA question is Hank Greenberg, who holds the record for the most RBI at the All-Star break. Hank had 103 RBI at the break in 1935 and he still didn’t make the All-Star team!

The 24 “Pitch, Hit and Run” finalists spent All-Star week at Yankee Stadium. This is MLB competition for more than six hundred thousand boys and girls that is conducted through four thousand local competitions. The competitions involve three skill sets – pitching for accuracy, running for speed and hitting for contact and power. The winners were honored with an on the field ceremony.

TWIB reported on MLB’s effort to renovate the Castle Hill Little League fields as part of the Urban Initiative Program. Actually, the celebration at Castle Hill got the MLB All-Star celebration underway. This once run down complex now has the look of a modern well-manicured Little League facility. This is a place for children to play better baseball and enjoy themselves with a positive attitude.

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

Educational theme: Pitch, Hit and Run is a skills competition about playing for pride and performing as best as one can. Competition is the essence of athletics. Play your best and your best will be good enough.

Educational theme: Facilities are important parts of the athletic experience because the important need of young athletes is to have fun and to feel worthy.

Educational theme: Giving back to the community through various community service activities is important to the life of a community and its cultural aspirations.

Act Four – “Baseball is ...”: Baseball is an All-Star Summer concert in Central Park with the legendary rock and roll superstar Bon Jovi holding court.

The next day Yankee Stadium played host to the best of the minor leagues with the Futures Game. TWIB followed former first round draft pick, Matt LaPorta, as he savored the experience of Yankee Stadium. LaPorta said that he was “...amazed to see his name in the Yankee Stadium locker room.” Matt visited the left field monuments honoring the greatest Yankees of the past, including Mickey Mantle and Lou Gehrig. The USA squad lost to the World team, but Matt enjoyed the unbelievable moments.

The *Big League Blast* segment featured the Texas Rangers Josh Hamilton, who hit the baseball over the bleachers in right center field during the *Home Run Derby*.

Educational theme: Music and art are ways to enhance a celebration.

Educational theme: The selection of future stars is a way to recognize a player’s potential, as well as, market MLB for the future.

Educational theme: The establishment of new record performances leads to the enduring symbol of achievement and the object of great attention. Competition is the essence of athletics. Power hitting contests are demonstrations one of the five “baseball tools.” The five “baseball tools” are running speed, arm strength, fielding skill, hitting and hitting with power.

Act Five – “How ‘bout that!”: Featuring the live music of “Three Doors Down” from their pre-HR derby concert in Yankee Stadium, TWIB showed the top moments of the season’s first half. Three Doors Down expressed their gratitude to be involved in the grand finale of Yankee Stadium. Clips featured the historic moment of President George W. Bush throwing out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium at the first game of the 2008 season, numerous game winning walk-off home runs, sensational diving and leaping catches, John Smoltz’s 3000th career strikeout, Manny Ramirez’s 500th career home run, Lance Berkman’s red-hot streak and Jon Lester’s no-hitter.

Educational theme: Landmark performances in a legendary career are informal ways to evaluate performance, activity and achievement. It is an account of athletic history collected, written and preserved for future generations.

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 has carefully observed the required effort and the bio-mechanics of premier athletes, then the movements can be easily copied and performed by the learner. Then the student is physically educated.