

**Re: This Week In Baseball**

**Air Date: April 12, 2008**

**TWB #902**

TWIB featured the NL East Champions Philadelphia Phillies and shortstop Jimmy Rollins, the 2007 National League Most Valuable Player. Rollins is the first MLB player to hit for 30 doubles, 20 triples, 30 home runs and steal 40 bases in a single season. Add the Gold Glove Award to Jimmy's hitting, and it becomes clear why he is considered to be one of the premier players in MLB.

In 2007, with 17 games to play, the Phillies were 7 games behind. But they relentlessly closed the gap, and at the final regular season game the anticipation for the NL East Championship was overwhelming for both fans and players. Those emotions of winning the NL East have carried over to the 2008 season with the chance to repeat their play-off success.

The Phillies are a team known to play hard and have fun with the key word being "team." The nucleus is the three legitimate MVP candidates – Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Rollins. Several off-season acquisitions and the re-alignment of the pitching staff has possibly made Philadelphia "the team to beat" once again. Like the Philadelphia fans, Rollins truly believes in his team.

**Educational theme:** Recognition as the Most Valuable Player is a way to call attention to and validate an outstanding baseball season.

**Educational theme:** Team play is the ability to work toward a common vision and the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward the baseball club's objectives. Team play is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

**Educational theme:** Utilization of the affirmation process imprints the desired result in an individual or team. Self-talk, self-image and self-worth are constituent components of championship thinking. As you think, so you play.

**ACT TWO:** In an off the field story, Phillies center fielder Shane Victorino, a.k.a. "The Flyin' Hawaiian," graciously allowed TWIB to visit the home that he shares with pitcher Kyle Kendrick. It is an example of simple living. While showing the kitchen, Shane gave a brief look at the diet eaten by elite athletes. The refrigerator was stocked with juice, yogurt, pudding and water.

TWIB Notes featured the Arizona Diamondbacks Justin Upton, who became the third youngest MLB player to hit home runs in three consecutive games. In doing so, Upton joined the ranks of the legendary Willie Mays and celebrated Mel Ott. The Florida Marlins Ricky Weeks has scored runs in 17 straight games. Finally, Atlanta manager Bobby Cox became the first to manage in 50 different MLB ballparks.

**Educational theme:** This is a particularly insightful look at the wholesome lifestyle of two young men.

**Educational theme:** Proper nutrition is a great way to improve athletic performance. The typical American child's diet is loaded with too much fat. Children must learn "eating to win."

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

**ACT THREE:** The answer to the TWIBIA question is Hanley Ramirez, as to who is the NL shortstop with the second most extra base hits in a season, following Jimmy Rollins' 88 in '07.

The Pitch, Hit and Run competition was promoted. This is a baseball skills competition for boys and girls ages 7 to 14. After putting on the Pitch, Hit and Run uniform, nearly 100 kids were treated to a clinic by the Oakland A's players and manager Bob Geren. The camp featured instruction in pitching, base running, and hitting.

**Educational theme:** Trivia is seemingly insignificant or inessential matters, but is a source of fun and entertainment for fans of all ages. This is much of the lure that makes baseball interesting all year around. This focuses on the public's desire for information.

**Educational theme:** Competition is a method of learning where children thrive by not being spectators.

**Educational theme:** Sports pedagogy involves the demonstration and explanation of baseball biomechanics, strategies, skills, and mental aspects of athletic performance.

**ACT FOUR - "Baseball is...":** Actor, movie director and Cincinnati Reds fan, George Clooney had a devotion to the "Big Red Machine" that made him a better student. There was a program called, "Straight A Tickets," where students earned 2 tickets for 5 games, if they earned straight A's. Clooney's passion for sport does not end with baseball. His new movie "Leatherheads" (football) is currently in theaters.

Fellow "Leatherhead" actor John Krasinsky is a born Boston Red Sox fan. As much as he loved the players like Johnny Damon and Pedro Martinez, he loves Fenway Park more.

**Educational theme:** Intrinsic rewards are the best type of motivation. Utilizing the natural attraction of MLB is an excellent way to promote academic achievement.

**Educational theme:** Spectators have deep and lasting loyalties to teams that contribute to the total meaning of baseball in the fabric of the American culture.

**ACT FIVE - "How 'bout that!":** This signature segment featured the sights, sounds and amazing plays of the week, including a variety of home runs, ugly sliding on the bases, spectacular sliding and diving catches, violent collisions, creative double plays, and fielding errors.

**Educational theme:** Once children have carefully watched the biomechanical motions of MLB players, they can better comprehend, repeat and perform them. To be physically educated children need to learn a variety of loco-motor patterns of elite athletes.

**Educational theme:** The artistic value of sport can be found in the grace, beauty and rhythmic movements of elite athletes.