

Re: This Week In Baseball
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TWB #826

TWIB announced a new contest for fans called “’actober.” It’s during the post-season that fans get to witness some of the most memorable performances. This year, MLB asked fans to reenact their favorite playoff moment – for a chance to win World Series tickets. Amateur movie moguls were encouraged to create home made movies of their favorite baseball moments. Examples of submissions included the following: Kirk Gibson’s ’88 World Series home run; Derek Jeter’s ’01 ALCS flip; JT Snow’s ’02 WS play at the plate; Curt Schilling’s ’04 ALCS bloody sock; and Bill Mazerowski’s ’60 WS winning walk-off home run.

Fans were encouraged to send their submissions to actober.com

Educational theme: Recalling and recognizing historic performances provides much of the interest in sport. These are moments to remember. One must stay in touch with the past to understand the future.

Educational theme: This is a particularly interesting way to permit fans to relive and interpret athletic history in an artistic and creative milieu.

“Act Two”: *The Top Five Favorite Moments of the 2007 Season* demonstrated reasons why this was a special season. TWIB began at Yankee Stadium by showing a humorous bit of a squirrel climbing the right field foul pole to the enthusiastic pleasure of the fans. Several pitchers put their names in the record book with no-hitters – Detroit Tiger Jason Verlander, Chicago White Sox Mark Buehrle, and Boston Red Sox rookie Clay Buchholz. The Boston Red Sox hit four home runs in a row to equal the LA Dodgers performance in 2006. TWIB then recalled the game when the Texas Rangers scored the most runs scored in a MLB game since 1900 with 30 runs versus the Baltimore Orioles. Finally in 2007, fans witnessed a magnificent milestone season with numerous baseball stars establishing career records – San Diego’s Trevor Hoffman with 500 saves; NY Mets Tom Glavine with 300 wins; Houston’s Craig Biggio with 3000 hits; NY Yankees Alex Rodriguez became the youngest MLB player in history with 500 home runs; Cleveland’s Jim Thome with 500 home runs; Texas Rangers Sammy Sosa with 600 home runs; and SF Giants Barry Bonds became MLB all-time career home run leader with 756.

Savor the Good Stuff remembered the 30 seasons of TWIB with a look back at the man who was there when it all began – the legendary Mel Allen. Mel was the voice of TWIB and the voice of baseball, especially with his trademark expression, “How ‘bout that!”

Educational theme: Above all else, children must understand that sport involves fun and entertainment.

Educational theme: Landmark performances are significant moments in sport. Many baseball traditions are based on historic achievements that become the measure of accomplishment and excitement for both fans and players.

Educational theme: Paying homage to a media legend is the perfect way to publicly honor the life work of a legend.

“Pitch, Hit and Run”: The answer to the TWIBIA question was the Philadelphia Athletics Jimmie Foxx, who had 50 home runs and 175 RBI in 1938 – the last man to reach those numbers before Alex Rodriguez did this year.

TWIB next presented some of the most clutch performances from the 2007 season. Particularly memorable season long clutch performances were those of San Diego Padres pitcher Jake Peavy, the Chicago Cubs slugger Aramis Ramirez, the Detroit Tigers slugger Magglio Ordonez, the New York Yankees “hitting machine” Alex Rodriguez, the Philadelphia Phillies premier hitter Chase Utley, and the Seattle Mariners closer JJ Putz.

This week’s *TWIB Notes* spotlighted Jake Peavy’s incredible season on the way to the trifecta of pitching by leading the league in wins, ERA and strikeouts. Since WWII, only three right-handed pitchers have led their league in all three categories.

Educational theme: Trivia is seemingly insignificant or inessential matters, but are a source of fun for fans of all ages. This becomes much of the lore that makes baseball interesting to players and fans alike.

Educational theme: Clutch performers come through with what is needed in the most pressure packed situations. This is a learned skill that can be developed by practicing under pressure. Youngsters must be taught and learn that the challenge of competition is to win -- fairly and squarely by the rules.

Educational theme: Children must learn that pressure situations are nothing to fear, whether in sports, school or life. Rather they are opportunities to prove themselves.

“Front Row Fans”: This week’s Front Row Fan was actor Powers Booth. The *Deadwood* star made it clear in his latest movie, *The Final Season*, that he loves the beauty of baseball and appreciates its history. As a baseball fan, he watches with eager anticipation of the next happening in the game. Booth viewed baseball as “a metaphor for life... everyone has an opportunity.” Powers also noted the statistical record keeping allowed for the comparison of any MLB team regardless of the era when their teams played.

Viewers were reminded to vote for the recipient of *The Roberto Clemente Award*. In this manner, MLB publicly remembers and acknowledges the great Roberto Clemente as a baseball hero both on and off the field, a role model, and an inspiration to all with his pride, dedication to serving others in need.

Educational theme: Movies can document the life and times of people, communities and teams. There are many stories in the daily life of Americans that are never told. This movie tells one of the untold tales that makes America a great society.

Educational theme: Baseball is the game that defines the American spirit. If anyone, including a child, is to understand America, they must learn the game of baseball.

Educational theme: Historical records are vital aspects of sport, especially providing standards of achievement and evaluation, while providing year around fun and interest.

Educational theme: Charity is the act of helping people in need. That giving is an example of moral excellence and goodness. Community service is a method of giving back to the culture to improve society. Children often select these people as role models.

“How ‘bout that!”: TWIB showed the greatest plays of the year. The defensive plays included numerous spectacular acrobatic diving catches, strong-armed throws, and creative and innovative double plays. Offensively, game-winning home runs and base running slides and collisions were featured. The bloopers included fun loving fans and humorous player errors. Finally, several championship celebrations highlighting the joy of victory were shown.

Educational theme: These are highly motivational examples of the excellent skill and maximum effort necessary to play at the elite level of athletics. Children should be motivated to play because it is essential to their physical, mental and emotional development. Play is the method for kids to develop self-confidence and learn the value of teamwork. This brings another meaning to being physically educated.

Educational theme: The easiest way to play the game is through the use of fundamentals. This demonstration of baseball fundamentals shows not only why fundamentals are important to the game ... they are the game.

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