

**Re: This Week In Baseball**  
**Air Date: August 22, 2009**

**TWB Show #1020 --"Giving Back"**

**Act One - "John Challis":** The theme of this week's TWIB is people who make a difference. First, TWIB looked at the inspirational life of John Challis. As a high school student, John was diagnosed with liver cancer -- which he decided to fight. His courage to fight cancer also gave him the strength to overcome his fear of being "hit by the pitch" when playing baseball. So even with the cancer, he chose to play baseball. In the heat of a pennant race, John's big chance came when his coach sent him up to hit. John singled to right center field and realized that he had overcome his fear of getting hit. And so, John's message was born. It is "Courage + Believe = Life."

Tampa Bay manager Joe Madden was so inspired by John's story he invited him to spend the day with the Rays when the Rays were in Pittsburgh. John brought a sense of calm and a heavy dose of respect with his message. "Courage + Believe = Life" is now a sign in the Rays' clubhouse.

John's message spread throughout baseball. He was invited to give a motivational speech to his hometown Pittsburgh Pirates. In the speech was a reminder to the players that they "... are some little kid's hero, so don't take it for granted." John died about a year ago, but his message lives on. For example, manager Maddon writes  $C+B=L$  on his daily lineup card. On their way to the 2008 World Series, the Rays believed they could do it, too.

John's courageous message lives on through the Courage for Life Foundation that gives seriously ill young athletes the chance to fulfill their dreams.

**Educational theme:** Fear nothing and don't be afraid to fail. Experience is merely mistakes you don't make anymore. Failure is the chance to begin again ... more wisely and more intelligently.

**Educational theme:** The will to live is the initial step to getting one's life back on track, survival, and happiness. Losing the will to live is fatal.

**Educational theme:** The most effective type of motivation is intrinsic. Students learn to thrive by not standing by, rather by doing.

**Educational theme:** The path one takes is a window of opportunity for one's career. The question is: Does one make the window larger or smaller? Many times it is a question of character and the quality of one's life.

**Act Two - "Matt":** The LA Dodgers Matt Kemp makes a difference both on and off the field. Matt is one of the reasons why the Dodgers are in first place due to his clutch hitting and spectacular defense. Off the field, along with his agent Dave Stewart, he is working to help fight autism. Together they hosted an event called Ante-Up for Autism with the proceeds going to an organization called TACA that helps benefit the families of autistic children. It was a huge success.

The TWIBIA question asked who was the last Dodger to lead the NL in stolen bases? The answer is Davey Lopes, who led the NL with 63 steals in 1976.

With *Winning Road Trips*, TWIB salutes the teams and players who know how to win on the road. The LA Angels have widened their lead in the AL West. On this most recent road trip, the Angels had an incredible .305 team batting average and averaged more than seven runs scored

per game.

**Educational theme:** Autism is a brain development disorder characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. These signs all begin before a child is three years old. Autism involves many parts of the brain; how this occurs is not well understood.

**Educational theme:** Generosity of spirit especially for people in need is a genuine act of charity.

**Educational theme:** One method of measuring baseball skills is to evaluate a player's base running skills. Many "baseball experts" believe the best player on a team is also the best base runner. Stealing bases is one component of running the bases.

**Educational theme:** Somebody has to win, so let the other guy lose; nevertheless, pursue victory with honor.

**Act Three - "Fresh":** At the 2009 MLB All Star Game in St. Louis, MLB honored the ordinary people who daily make an extraordinary difference in their local communities. These are the All-Stars Among Us -- 30 strong -- recognized for their acts of compassion, commitment, and the positive impact they have on the lives of others.

Ryan Housley of Atlanta formed HeroBox, which prepares and ships customized care packages for troops serving overseas. Christine Shively of California turned her hobby of crocheting into Knots-of-Love, which is a charity and makes caps for cancer patients and others in need. Richard Nares of San Diego founded the Emilio Nares Foundation offering information and support to families with children stricken with cancer. After his son Emilio passed away, Richard started the "Ride With Emilio" program that provides families with transportation to and from their treatments.

The *Rookie of the Month* is a segment honoring the top rookies in both the American and National Leagues each month of the season. J. A. Happ of Philadelphia Phillies is 9-2 with a 2.66 ERA that was fifth best in the league.

The *Call of the Week* featured the San Diego Padres' Kyle Banks' exciting inside the park home run.

**Educational theme:** Every community has local charities that are looking for volunteers. Charities rely on volunteers to perform social or educational work, rather than on the government.

**Educational theme:** There are a multitude of reasons for people to be in need of assistance -- disease, finances, mentoring, etc. Through charitable works, young people can use their skills and interests to help others.

**Educational theme:** Rookies are first year players in the major leagues. Generally, they are unknown and on the way to establish a career and fan base. This is basically true in all aspects of life. It is a lesson of humility and compassion.

**Educational theme:** An inside-the-park home run is a four base hit that does not enter the stands. Normally, when a home run is hit, four bases are automatically awarded by the umpire. When the ball stays on the playing field, the runner must run to all four bases and is in jeopardy of being put out.

**Act Four - "Roberto Clemente Award":** Again this week TWIB looked back at previous winners of the Roberto Clemente Award who have done their part to ensure that Clemente's legacy of sportsmanship, positive contributions to his team and community lives on.

For his humanitarian efforts, Dave Stewart received the Roberto Clemente Award in 1990.

Dave's life lesson of giving back began as a youngster in Oakland. Dave remembered all his coaches and the impact each made on the road to three-time World Series champion and a well-deserved honor as Series MVP. Off the diamond, Dave gave back to organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to enable them to have similar opportunities. In 1989, a disastrous earthquake struck the Bay Area during the World Series. The Series was postponed for 10 days. During the postponement, players from both sides aided the cause to help their communities. The two cities established an everlasting bond.

The *Big League Blast* is a high and deep home run hit by Prince Fielder of the Milwaukee Brewers. Fielder now has 30 home runs and 100 RBI.

**Educational theme:** One of MLB's most prestigious honors is The Roberto Clemente Award. It recognizes athletes who have made a contribution to baseball off the field.

**Educational theme:** Acts of charity and community service are volunteered by individuals or organizations for altruistic reasons. It is a most satisfying, fun and productive way of life.

**Educational theme:** Humanitarian efforts are particularly recognized as moral obligations of all people to improve human welfare.

**Educational theme:** For many amateur coaches, the game is an avocation not a vocation. They coach for the love of the game. And also to pass on the sport not only, but greater than it was passed on to them.

**Act Five - "How 'bout that!":** The plays of the week were presented to the music of *Mutemath* from their album *Armistice*. Outfielders were shown making numerous spectacular diving, leaping and fence-crashing catches. Infielders were shown diving to smother ground balls, unbelievably charging slow hit balls, and diving to catch bunted pop ups. Several game-winning and clutch home runs were featured. A series of candid shots of fans enjoying the game of MLB baseball were shown. Mascots and umpires dancing in between innings were shown. Several landmark performances were noted: Derek Jeter passed Luis Aparicio for the most hits by a shortstop; Jim Thome tied Reggie Jackson on the career home run list; and Felix Pie of the Baltimore Orioles hit for the cycle.

**Educational theme:** Fun is the primary motivation for watching and attending sporting events. It is the wise use of one's time that makes it enjoyable.

**Educational theme:** Landmark performances are those that mark a turning point in history. They are athletic accomplishments with historic significance that are marked for preservation by aficionados, players and governing bodies.

**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 the premier athletes, then the movements can be more easily duplicated and performed by the learner. The student is then physically educated.