

Re: This Week In Baseball
Air Date: July 11, 2009

TWB Show #1014

Act One - "Theriot and Fontenot": TWIB featured the Chicago Cubs with special attention to their Cajun double play combination of second baseman Mike Fontenot and shortstop Ryan Theriot. "The Cajun Connection" is comprised of the former LSU teammates who played key roles when LSU won the 2000 NCAA World Series. The question is, can the Cajun duo bring a World Series championship to Wrigley Field, where the fans have been waiting for one for a century?

Theriot is the Cubs offensive leader in batting average, hits and stolen bases. Fontenot is nicknamed "Little Babe Ruth," because of his power. There was some friendly banter between the two men.

Educational theme: Many professional athletes have opted for the opportunity to attend college for an education and also develop their baseball skills by playing college baseball.

Educational theme: Championships are competitions or a series of competitions to determine a winner. There is a psychological need to determine superiority. The most competitive people are drawn to such activities.

Educational theme: Aficionados are enthusiastic admirers and followers of sport. They find pleasure and enjoyment from many aspects of the game.

Act Two - "Koyie Hill": This act was the amazing story of the Cubs switch hitting backup catcher Koyie Hill. As a top prospect of the Dodgers, he made his Major League debut in 2003 then bounced around the majors and minors for the next five years. Following the 2007 season, while rebuilding a window frame at home, Koyie had a serious accident with a table saw that nearly amputated his fingers. With incredible skill, doctors were able to reattach Koyie's four fingers by shaping them around a baseball, thus giving him a better chance of returning to the game he loved. Only four months after the surgery and after many hours of rehabilitation, he reported to spring training. Hill played most of the season at Triple A Iowa, and then was promoted to the majors in September. That inspirational journey continued this season when Koyie made the Cubs roster as the backup catcher.

The *TWIBIA* question was which player selected in the 2000 MLB draft has hit the most home runs? The answer is Jason Bay of the Boston Red Sox with 169 home runs.

Winning Road Trips salutes the teams and individual players that know how to win on the road. The New York Yankees have the longest winning streak in the American League this year. A major factor in the Yankees' success is their legendary closing relief pitcher Mariano Rivera, who earned his 500th save.

Educational theme: Ambition is the strong desire for achievement. It involves love and passion. Love of the game is passed on from generation to generation. Passion for baseball is a powerful emotion. It is an ardent love and boundless enthusiasm of uniquely American way of life.

Educational theme: This is a tale of both modern medical procedures and personal perseverance. One can examine the role of medical personnel and injured patients in the healing process.

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: Winning is a habit and, unfortunately, so is losing. Winning is not a one-time thing. It is an all-the-time thing.

Act Three - "Clutch Winner": First there was a look back at the nominees -- Josh Beckett of the Boston Red Sox, B.J. Upton of the Tampa Bay Rays, Prince Fielder of the Milwaukee Brewers, Derrek Lee of the Chicago Cubs, Tim Lincecum of the San Francisco Giants, and Andre Ethier of the LA Dodgers. The result of the fans to voting for *The June Clutch Performer of the Month Award* was the Giants right handed pitcher Tim Lincecum.

The Rookie of the Month honors the top rookies in both the American and National Leagues. This week TWIB recognized July candidate, southpaw pitcher Brett Anderson, who threw the Oakland Athletics first complete game in nearly a year. The 21-year old struck out nine Boston Red Sox en-route to the shutout.

The Radio Call of the Week was from Tampa Bay where Pat Burrell hit a walk-off home run versus the Toronto Blue Jays that sent Rays fans home happy.

Educational theme: Democratic elections are components of good government and good citizenship. The elective process is the fairest method to select leaders and to recognize celebrities. Students participating in an election by voting for their choice may learn that their votes are meaningful. Teachers and coaches can use the MLB selective process to discuss the significance and importance of voting. Hopefully, active participation will carry over into adulthood.

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

Educational theme: Game winning performances and events lead to excitement and enjoyment for fans and players. For many, it becomes the valuable use of their time.

Educational theme: Recognition of one's talent is an important psychological need of all human beings. To attain self-actualization one must attain esteem to have self-respect and to achieve goals

Act Four - "All Star Classics": TWIB looked ahead at the 2009 All Star Week and the opening of the MLB carnival called All Star Fanfest. This is the ultimate baseball experience for fans. Another event is a free concert featuring singing sensation Sheryl Crow, which takes place under St. Louis' famous landmark arch. Sunday's event is the Future's Game with a chance to see the stars of tomorrow. The All Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game features people who dreamed of playing big league baseball, but obtained celebrity status as entertainers. Then the Home Run Derby features the top sluggers in MLB. All this leads up to MLB's 80th All Star Game held in St. Louis this year.

TWIB announced the eight position starters for both the National and American leagues.

The Big League Blast came from Paul Konerko of the Chicago White Sox, when he hit three home runs in a game.

Educational theme: Carnival is a festival marked by merriment and amusement including games and shows. It is a source of fun for both fans and players.

Educational theme: Competition is the essence of sport. It is a test of skill or ability leading to a rivalry between two teams. Competition is a valuable motivational tool for the promotion of

optimal performance, especially when the consequence is considered to have merit.

Educational theme: Selection to the All Star team is an individual honor and recognition of achievement that is recognized by all.

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

Act Five - "How 'bout that!": The plays of the week were presented to the music of *Rancid* from their album *Let the Dominos Fall*. Several sensational catches by outfielders to rob batters of home runs were shown. Many strong and creative throws by infielders were made to get outs at first base. A few leaping and diving catches by outfielders were shown. The Philadelphia Phillies were shown scoring an incredible 22 runs. Three home run games by Andre Ethier and Andruw Jones were highlighted. Mariano Rivera's 500th save made him only the second player to reach that plateau.

Educational theme: Documenting phenomenal milestones and landmark events is an informal way to evaluate performance, activity, and achievement. It is an account of history collected, written, and preserved for future generations. Recalling accomplishments gives fans a greater appreciation of winning and championship achievements.

Educational theme: Sports pedagogy is an important aspect of the learning process. Demonstration and explanation are initial steps in the process. Since most people are visual learners, this is a good demonstration of how to play the game of baseball.

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.