

Re: This Week In Baseball
Air Date: September 12, 2009

TWB Show #1023 - "Angels"

Act One - "The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim": All MLB teams face adversity during the season, and this year, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim had more than their share. They had 60% of their starting rotation injured at the start of the season, but that was nothing compared to the death of young pitcher Nick Adenhart at the hands of a drunk driver. In the off season, closer Francisco Rodriguez went to the Mets and they also lost first baseman Mark Teixeira to the Yankees. Brian Fuentes and Kendry Morales were called on to replace them and both men have played incredible baseball. Another new addition was the talented veteran Bobby Abreu, who changed the dynamic of the lineup. The Angels are incredibly productive. In fact, at the end of one game in August, all nine players in the Angels line up finished the game hitting .300 or better. The Angels also added starting pitcher Scott Kazmir to bolster their staff.

Manager Mike Scioscia has had the greatest impact on the club by keeping the Angels united and focused. Mike is one of the best managers in baseball as determined by his success. The longest tenured manager in the American League, Mike has averaged nearly 90 wins a season and led the Angels to the title in 2002. Scioscia expects hustle and aggressive base running. The Angels play the game hard and are focused on the single-minded quest to get to win the World Series.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia caught almost 1400 games for the Dodgers. The *TWIBIA* question was who caught the second most games for the Dodgers. The answer is Johnny Roseboro, who caught 1218 games behind the plate.

Educational theme: A person or team with character makes overcoming adversity the first order of business. There is no education like adversity.

Educational theme: Problems are only opportunities. Nothing is predestined: The obstacles of your past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings.

Educational theme: Leaders are first to see the need, envision the plan and empower the team for action. By the strength of the leader's commitment, the power of the team is unleashed. True leaders have the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.

Educational theme: Hustle is a habit. It doesn't take ability to hustle. It takes pride and desire. There is no excuse for not hustling. Hustling makes one look like a quality player.

Educational theme: Goal setting is the initial phase in the pursuit of excellence and success. Goals provide direction, milestones, timelines, needs, work habits, sacrifices and purpose for all actions. Done properly goal setting is the essence of intrinsic motivation.

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.

Act Two - "Adenhart Tribute": Earlier this year, the LA Angels of Anaheim lost a teammate and friend in Nick Adenhart. The night of his death, Nick threw six scoreless innings in just his fourth MLB start and was destined to be a key player in the organization. But that night he and two friends were killed by a suspected drunk driver in a late night automobile accident. The

Angels naturally cancelled their next game, as the players, coaches and fans grieved. Everyone was dazed and was daily reminded of the tragedy. During the healing process, the memory of Nick served as an inspiration. To remember Nick, the Angels wear a #34 patch on their jersey and hang his jersey in their dugout for every game while fans leave mementoes outside Angels Stadium.

Educational theme: Kubler-Ross describes the five discrete stages of grief as denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance; however, these are highly personal emotions.

Educational theme: Life is short, so learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Educational theme: Obituaries are published notices of death. Modern media often has video clips which are tastefully used to tell the story on one's life and career.

Educational theme: Mementoes and memorials are marked by the tension between celebration and mourning. They are a persistent method to honor the memory of a person.

Act Three - "Clutch": The voting for the August Clutch Performer of the Month Award ended and the winner was determined. The nominees were Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers, Carlos Pena of the Tampa Bay Rays, Ubaldo Jimenez of the Colorado Rockies, Kendry Morales of the Angels, Phil Lee of the Philadelphia Phillies, and the winner was Hideki Matsui of the New York Yankees. They respectfully call him "Godzilla" especially because he is not overwhelmed by the pressure of the moment.

The Rookie of the Month honors the top rookies in both the American and National Leagues. Mike Brantley was called up by the Cleveland Indians and made his father, former big leaguer Mickey Brantley, proud. Michael became the 20th player since 1954 to debut with an eight game hitting streak.

The *Radio Call of the Week* came from Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, where Derek Jeter made Yankee history. Jeter singled to tie the great Lou Gehrig with the most hits ever by a NY Yankee.

Educational theme: Voting rights are guaranteed by the 14th and 15th amendments by the US Constitution. Hopefully, youngsters will learn the significance and value of voting when they vote for The Clutch Performer of the Month. Hopefully this will carry over into adulthood.

Educational theme: Honors and recognition are symbolic of athletic achievement and character that are regarded as something special. It is satisfying to know that fans really respect one's accomplishments and how it was done.

Educational theme: Playing under pressure requires one to practice under pressure. Sports pedagogy must include situational instruction to overcome the stress of competition. There is a sense of calm and control for those who can perform under pressure.

Educational theme: Milestone performances are important events in the history of baseball, especially a player's career. An athletic accomplishment with historic significance is marked for preservation by aficionados, players and governing bodies.

Act Four - "Roberto Clemente Award": Once again, 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.

In 19 MLB seasons, Al Leiter had an outstanding career on the baseball diamond, but his commitment to the community is equally impressive. Al and his wife established Leiter's Landing, a foundation to make children smile and to make a difference in their lives. For Al

giving back came naturally. He believes it is part of the job to be connected to the community and to assist many wonderful charities. In recognition of his philanthropic efforts, Al received the Roberto Clemente Award in 2000.

The *Big League Blast* featured the Yankees hero Nick Swisher, who hit a walk off home run to beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Winning Road Trips salutes the teams and players that know how to win on the road. Scott Feldman of the Texas Rangers has won 12 games. He is 16-4 and has the most road wins in a single season by any pitcher in Rangers history.

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: Character is the basic element of a person. It is who you are and what you do when nobody else is looking. The character of a person is critically evaluated by fans, media, prospective employers, etc.

Educational theme: Community service and charitable works are acts of civic responsibility. Students learn to serve through school community programs and in-school projects.

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.

Act Five - "How 'bout that!": The plays of the week were presented to the music of *Used* from their album *Artwork*. Video of fans and vendors were shown, as they gleefully watched the game. Several outstanding diving defensive plays were made by outfielders, infielders and catchers. An incredible diving and sliding catch of a ground ball, followed by a strong throw to first base to get the out was shown. Two game winning walk-off home runs were shown. Ichiro Suzuki's 200th MLB hit this year was featured, as was Derek Jeter's base hit to tie Lou Gehrig for the Yankees record for most hits with 2721. TWIB showed the finish of Chris Carpenter's one-hit shutout. And finally, the Milwaukee Brewers "around the horn" triple play was cited.

Educational theme: Spectators enjoy attending and watching MLB. It is simply a good time. Entertainment is an important aspect of Major League Baseball. Unique characters and personalities are a source of fun and interest for both fans and players alike.

Educational theme: Landmark performances are important events in the history of baseball, especially a player's career. An athletic accomplishment with historic significance is marked for preservation by aficionados, players and governing bodies.

Educational theme: An "around the horn triple play" is when runners are forced out in reverse order -- third, second and first to get all three outs in an inning.

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.