

Re: This Week In Baseball

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TWIB Show #1205 "Cleveland Indians"

Act One "Chris Perez/ Indians": The Cleveland Indians are in first place in the AL Central Division. They are the talk of MLB because of the complete brand of baseball played. The anchor of the bullpen is Chris Perez, who has a flair for ninth inning drama. A day in the life of the Indians' closer normally involves lunch and a save – in that order. The reason Chris loves pitching and closing is that he sees every at-bat as a competition. Chris throws a fast ball in the low to mid 90s and a swing and miss slider. Since last September, no AL pitcher has more saves than Perez. Since the All-Star break in 2010, Chris owns a 1.19 ERA and has saved more than 91% of his opportunities. As a result of the Indians' pitching staff and mainly their bull pen, the Indians have picked up right where they left off last year.

Educational theme: Sports nutrition is a crucial component in today's athletic training program. Whether your goal is to lose weight, gain weight or simply dedicate yourself to a healthier lifestyle, properly fueling your body is absolutely necessary.

Educational theme: In baseball, a save is credited to a pitcher who finishes a game for the winning team under certain prescribed circumstances. The number of saves, or percentage of save opportunities successfully completed, is an oft-cited statistic of relief pitchers.

Educational theme: Love of competition and the game are passed on from generation to generation. Passion for baseball is a powerful emotion. It is an ardent love and boundless enthusiasm of a uniquely American way of life.

Act Two - "Shin Soo Choo": The Indians are off to their best start in nine seasons. They have a five-tool player in right field. Shin-Soo Choo is from South Korea. Choo was the only AL player to hit .300 and finish with more than 20 steals and 20 home runs in each of the last two seasons. He nearly did not get his chance to develop in the Majors Leagues because as a South Korean citizen he was required to serve two years of military service before age 30. The only exemptions granted are for exceptional performance in international competition, especially in prominent games. At the Asian Games, Choo had a final opportunity to win the gold medal and earn an exemption. Brimming with confidence, Choo hit .571 with three home runs and 11 RBIs to lead South Korea to the Gold Medal, earning an exemption for himself and nine other players. First and foremost, Choo was playing for his country -- Korea.

Chris Perez was asked the *TWIBIA* question -- other than Choo, who is the only other big league player with at least 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases in each of the last two seasons? The answer is Hanley Ramirez.

Winning Road Trips celebrates the teams and players that know how to win away from home. Andre Ethier is making history with every base hit. Andre set the mark for the longest hitting streak in April with 24 consecutive games.

Educational theme: There are five measured baseball skills -- hitting for average, hitting for power, running speed, arm strength and defense. A player who demonstrates all five tools is called a "five tool player."

Educational theme: Representing one's country is a form of patriotism. It is a

demonstration of national loyalty. Recognition is earned through superior performance. This formal acknowledgement is meant to show appreciation by reward of public honor. **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 Three - "Pepsi Max": This week on Pepsi Max, TWIB returned to the MLB Man Cave to visit with Mike O'Hara and Ryan "Thickish" Wagner. This week the two intrepid super fans were fitted for authentic customized jerseys of their favorite team -- the Yankees and Orioles. Arizona Diamondbacks all-stars Justin Upton and Chris Young visited the Fan Cave for some fun and games. Later, former Diamondback Luis Gonzalez dropped by and they recalled one of the greatest moments in World Series history -- Gonzo's walk-off base hit that won the 2001 World Series for Arizona.

Gillette presented *The Rookie of the Month*, which honors the league's top rookies throughout the season. This week, Chicago Cubs second baseman Darwin Barney hit his first career home run.

Educational theme: Fans and communities often establish passion for teams and individual athletes. There is an importance for spectator support. Wearing official team gear is a way of showing loyalty and support.

Educational theme: Recalling landmark events in a career are informal ways to evaluate performance, activity, and achievement. It is an account of athletic history collected, written and preserved for future generations.

Educational theme: Landmark performances are those that mark a turning point in history. An athletic accomplishment with historical significance is one that is marked for preservation by aficionados, players and national governing bodies of sport.

Act Four - "Diamond Demos": Youngsters were encouraged to execute the fundamentals of the game. The experts at MLB Network, Harold Reynolds and Larry Bowa had Hall of Famer Roberto Alomar speak about his right and left-handed stance. The switch hitting Roberto did have slightly different stances from each side of the plate. Roberto believed the key to being a good hitter is feeling comfortable at the plate, getting your stance, then seeing the ball and hitting it.

Going All Out is a segment that honors special players who continually show maximum effort. On Opening Day this year, Cleveland paid tribute to the most iconic player in Indians history -- Bob Feller. He began his career as a 17-year-old prodigy. Discovered on an Iowa farm, Feller quickly advanced to the big leagues, where he became the youngest pitcher to win a MLB game. Using less sophisticated instruments than modern radar guns, his fastball was once timed at 113 MPH; thus the nickname "Rapid Robert." Bob led the majors in strikeouts seven times, threw three no-hitters, 12 one-hitters and won 266 games. During World War II, Bob served in the Navy for four years and lost MLB time at the height of his career. In those years, Bob only wanted to win WWII. Feller is a decorated veteran and a Hall of Fame pitcher. They call him the greatest of all the Indians.

Big League Blast takes us to Milwaukee, where Ryan Braun hit his ninth home run to become the National League leader.

Educational theme: Sports pedagogy is an important aspect of the learning process.

Demonstration and explanation are initial steps in the process. Children learn best by watching and mimicking athletic performance.

Educational theme: The glory and romance of sport are preserved in the chronicles of landmark performances because history is written by the victors. Documenting important events in a career creates the history of the present for if you lose sight of the past, you will lose sight of the future.

Educational theme: Mandatory military service has many pros and cons. It is a primary position and a basis for democracy.

Educational theme: Clutch performances occur when a player delivers prime efforts time after time.

Act Five - "How 'bout that!": The best plays and moments of the week were presented to the song "*My Body*" by *Young The Giant*. This was a collection of great athletic plays. Outfielders made numerous diving, sliding, tumbling, and leaping catches. Infielders turned perfect double plays and made strong throws to first base. Young fans shared time with the MLB players. There were a few interesting moments involving fans catching baseballs and a broken bat stuck in the ground.

Educational theme: Teachers and coaches can utilize this as an opportunity for instruction.

Educational theme: Excitement and drama are components of competitive athletics. It enhances the fun and interest for both players and fans in 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.