

**Re: This Week In Baseball**

**Air Date: July 23, 2011**

## **TWIB Show #1217 "Hall of Fame"**

**Act One "Roberto and Stand Pat":** The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown is where the greatest MLB players are immortalized. TWIB looked at this year's inductees.

One of the best second basemen in MLB history is Roberto Alomar. His priority was to play great defense, and in his prime he racked up 10 Gold Gloves, the most by any second baseman. Alomar was a .300 switch hitter with some power and a "five tool" player with great baseball instincts. The pride of Puerto Rico, Alomar finished with more than 2700 base hits, and was selected to 12 consecutive MLB All-Star games. Roberto's MVP performance in the 1992 ALCS led the Blue Jays to their first of back-to-back World Series Championships.

It is only proper that Alomar is enshrined with the General Manager who brought him to Toronto. Pat Gillick is the great architect of the Blue Jays' championship teams. Gillick guided the Blue Jays from a first-year expansion team in 1977 to their first championship in 1992. Pat built winners in Baltimore and Seattle before leading the Phillies to the 2008 World Series title. Gillick knows how to build a championship ball club.

**Educational theme:** Selection to the National Baseball Hall of Fame is an individual honor and an achievement that is recognized by all. 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.

**Educational theme:** Clutch performances occur when a player delivers prime efforts time after time. The glory and romance are preserved in the chronicles of landmark performances, because history is written by the winners.

**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:** Leadership by example is based on a spiritual quality; the power to inspire others to follow. Putting together a team is a process that only takes a few good men. Every revolution began with small groups of people.

**Act Two - "Blyleven":** Hall of Fame inductee Bert Blyleven, who won 287 games and helped the Minnesota Twins win their first World Series, waited nearly 15 years to be notified of his election. Bert Blyleven's strike out pitch was his "knee buckling" curve ball. In 1986, he passed the 3000 career strikeouts mark, then finished with more than 3700 -- fifth best in MLB history. A native of the Netherlands, Blyleven is now in his 16th full season as Twins' color analyst. His infectious fun-loving character is a part of his identifying mark. Enshrinement into the Hall of Fame is a childhood dream come true.

Brian McCann was asked the *TWIB/A* question. What pitcher had the most career wins without even one 20 win season? The answer is Dennis Martinez, aka "El Presidente," with 245 victories without a 20-win season.

*Winning Road Trips* celebrates the teams and players that know how to win away from home. The Texas Rangers came to Seattle and left the Mariners reeling. The Rangers swept four from the Mariners, which was their third straight series sweep. Then the Rangers extended the season's longest winning streak when they shut out the Angels for their 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive win, the second longest streak in club history.

**Educational theme:** Recalling phenomenal career records and landmark performances are methods to evaluate performance, activity, and achievement. It is an account of history collected, written, and preserved for future generations. Remembering accomplishments gives fans a greater appreciation of winning and championship achievements.

**Educational theme:** Actions define a man's character. This is a wonderful example of one with great athletic talent, a pleasant sense of humor and an out-going personality. Children would be wise to emulate this model of achievement.

**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:** Win with dignity and lose with pride. Winning is of importance when there is something of value at stake. Winning, like success, is a habit that becomes a way of life. Children are given opportunities to learn the value of achievement through playing baseball.

**Act Three - "Pepsi Max":** Once again from the high-tech, interactive, hardball haven called "The MLB Man Cave,", TWIB and the two intrepid baseball fans continued to answer the question - what would it be like to watch every inning of every MLB game for the entire season of 2011? Last week the fellows were in Arizona at the MLB All-Star Game, but now they are back in their New York lair. They played host to NY Mets pitcher Dillon Gee, who has television ambitions – that is, he wants to be on Sesame Street. To accommodate Dillon, MLB set up a Sesame Street Audition Tape. The script was a classic Sesame Street alphabet skit for young children. "Today's Fan Cave is brought to you by the letter Geeeeeee."

Gillette presented *The Rookie of the Month*, which honors the league's top rookies throughout the season. Cincinnati Reds' shortstop Zack Cozart got a base hit in every game of his first full week in the big leagues, including his first MLB home run. Zack started his major league career with a seven game hitting streak.

**Educational theme:** Using humor to maximize learning is a sound teaching technique. There are numerous benefits of adding humor to an educational activity, such as, understanding key points, and relaxing students in moments of anxiety and tension.

**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.

**Educational theme:** Rookies are first year players who are inexperienced at the Major League level of play. 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 - "Diamond Demos":** To play baseball one must execute the fundamentals

of the game. MLB expert Harold Reynolds asked the great Albert Pujols about hitting the baseball. Pujols explained the term "inside the ball." It means getting the bat in the necessary position to hit the ball to all fields. Pujols concentrates on taking the knob of the bat towards the ball. Albert gets the knob inside and towards the ball. This creates a very compact and efficient swing.

*Going All Out* is a segment that honors special players who continually show maximum effort. The signature event in Cooperstown is induction week, but the Hall of Fame Classic has also become a fan favorite. It begins with a parade down Main Street where fans line up to see the stars in a middle America hometown atmosphere. The excitement level rises, when the former MLB players arrive at Doubleday Field. Hall of Famers, Gold Glove Award winners, sluggers and flame throwing pitchers, including Goose Gossage, Dmitri Young, Bill Lee, Reggie Sanders and Mike Timlin may have had more fun than the fans by simply playing the game they love. It was much like a friendly pickup game played as a youngster.

*Big League Blast* featured an eye-popping moon shot that went more than 455 feet by Arizona's Brandon Allen. It is the longest home run ever hit to right field at Chase Field, the home of the Diamondbacks.

**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:** Baseball is considered to be the most difficult sport to master. Hitting a baseball is considered the most difficult skill to master in the game.

**Educational theme:** In athletics, iconic players and performances are recognized as enduring symbols of achievement. They are respected and held in high esteem by aficionados. This respect is earned by achievement, accomplishment and approach.

**Educational theme:** Aficionados are enthusiastic devotees to a sport, team and/or player. Sports fans particularly have fun watching baseball. Fun can simply be defined as the wise use of one's time.

**Educational theme:** Legends are unverifiable stories handed down by tradition and accepted as historical truth. They are popularly regarded as a mixture of fact and myth. For both fans and players, legend is a source of fun and interest in the American institution called baseball.

**Act Five - "How 'bout that!"**: The best moments of the week were set to the song "*Boys Will Be Out For a Fight*" by *The Filthy Souls*. This is still another unbelievable demonstration of the skill, effort and creativity needed to play the game of baseball. Infielders were shown diving to make sensational catches, then throwing from various positions to complete the play. Outfielders also dove to rob hitters of base hits. There was a series of strong throws to get outs. Humorous moments of base runners stumbling, fielding errors and fan's enjoying the moment were featured. Umpires were shown ejecting players and coaches. Hitters smashed long home runs. And finally, players and fans celebrating winning and the game were shown.

**Educational theme:** Teachers and coaches can utilize this as an opportunity for instruction. Sport pedagogy involves the demonstration and explanation of baseball biomechanics, strategies, skills, and mental aspects of athletic performance.

**Educational theme:** Sportsmanship is the practice of behaving with fairness, courtesy,

and the attitude of a gracious winner or cheerful loser. One's desire for good sportsmanship must be equal to one's desire to win.

**Educational theme:** Emotional celebrations are excellent ways to rejoice that often result in team bonding and improved performance. It is the optimal use of energy to relieve the anxiety and stress of competition.

**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.