

**Re: This Week In Baseball**  
**Air Date: September 4, 2010**

## **TWIB Show #1122 "Ballpark Jobs"**

**Act One - "Bat Boy":** TWIB focused on a group of individuals, bat boys, who work tirelessly behind the scenes at MLB ball parks. Javier Herrera was first a longtime LA Dodger fan and now he is their bat boy. Javier was nervous at first, but now he is making his dream job a reality. His routine begins about one hour prior to the Dodger's batting practice, when bats, balls and helmets are set in place. During batting practice, Javier gets some exercise shagging fly balls and delivering baseballs to the BP pitcher. When his pre-game duties are completed, he focuses on quality control for the in-game equipment. Javier feels that if he does his job right, he in some way plays a role in the Dodgers' success. Post-game work for Javier involves picking up of equipment and washing uniforms.

**Educational theme:** Aficionados are enthusiastic devotees to a sport, team and/ or player. Sports fans particularly have fun watching baseball. Sometimes that devotion results into the opportunity for a career in baseball.

**Educational theme:** Dreams are often goals, aims or aspirations. Children must learn that goal setting is the initial step to intrinsic motivation. If you don't have a plan for success, you have a plan for failure.

**Educational theme:** Baseball is a business. It is a commercial endeavor to provide players, employees and customers with the most affordable service and products. There are numerous opportunities for employment in baseball, other than player or coach.

**Educational theme:** Serving as the bat boy is an excellent way for youngsters to learn the game of baseball, especially the strategies, tactics and intricacies. Learners learn from learners.

**Act Two - "Grounds Crew":** Another rarely seen ballpark job is that of the grounds keeper. The special artistic beauty of a baseball field is the work of the grounds crew. The labor involves consistently watering and mowing the grass to make it game ready. Some of the most

important tasks are the proper preparation of the pitching mound, the home plate area and the infield. Other responsibilities include painting the lines, edging the grass and cutting logos into the grass. The groundskeeper's greatest reward is the appreciation of the ball players, some of whom consider Anaheim the best manicured field in the big leagues.

The *TWIBIA* question was who holds the record for the most hits in one season at Angel Stadium since it opened in 1966? The answer is Darin Erstad with 135 hits in his home ball park in 2002.

The *Winning Road Trips* segment salutes the teams and players that are able to win away from home. Adam LaRoche of the Arizona Diamondbacks became the first visiting player ever to hit home runs into McCovey Cove at San Francisco's AT&T Park on consecutive days.

**Educational theme:** This is an example of the application of the science of agronomy. It involves soil and plant management, and use of the principles of scientific agriculture. Agronomists normally are required to have a bachelor's degree to obtain a rewarding and productive job.

**Educational theme:** Pride and passion in their work are powerful emotions, a boundless enthusiasm, and a love to play the game of baseball and its many components.

**Educational theme:** Athletic facilities are designed to create an atmosphere for fans and competitors. These monuments filled with passion are of part a community's culture.

**Educational theme:** Recognition 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:** 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 Refresh":** The *Pepsi Refresh Project* reexamines the men and moments in MLB history that helped change the world by breaking down barriers and building communities.

The behind-the-scenes look at ballpark jobs continued in the clubhouse of the Chicago White Sox with equipment manager Vince Fresso. Since 1985, Vince has been handling all the White Sox tools of the trade. The responsibilities vary at home and on the road, including remembering the individual superstitions of each player. Pitchers are relatively low maintenance, but are practical jokers. Hitters are a bit more vocal with their demands. It is a family atmosphere in the White Sox clubhouse and it is these life-long relationships that he has established with the coaching staff and players that are the most meaningful. Fresso's best recollection is that of the 2005 White Sox winning the World Series.

The *XM Call of the Week* comes from Turner Field in Atlanta, where the Braves' Brian McCann hit a game-winning home run against the Florida Marlins with the help of video replay. The umpires initially ruled the ball in play, but they conferred, and then viewed the video that clearly showed a home run.

*Gillette Rookies of the Month* honors the top rookies in both leagues each month of the season. The Cincinnati Reds Aroldis Chapman MLB debut produced consistent 100 MPH stuff. The Cuban defector pitched one perfect inning against the Milwaukee Brewers.

**Educational theme:** Family and friends are the roots of one's stability. "Baseball families" are to teach, provide and protect their members of the organization. The journey to greatness is embraced and taught by the extended "baseball family."

**Educational theme:** Modern baseball equipment has evolved into state-of-the-art tools to advance sport to new levels of excellence. It is the highest level of development for the enhancement of athletic performance and fan enjoyment. Players are particularly aware of the results of using the best equipment.

**Educational theme:** Superstitions are mysterious qualities of enchantment filled with rituals, spells and charms. Winning is the residue of design.

**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 are encouraged to learn

to execute the fundamentals of the game. Former MLB star Harold Reynolds spoke about covering second base on the attempted steal and tagging the runner. Harold demonstrated straddling the bag and slapping the tag down. He also clearly explained several common mistakes that lead to the runner avoiding the tag.

*The Going All Out* segment is a close up look at players who have gone the extra mile. The NY Yankees entered the final month of the regular season hoping to defend their World Series title. Through the Second Annual Hope Week, the Yankees reached out to the community to help people in need. One honoree was the teenaged quad-amputee Jorge Grajales. The Dyken Family are volunteers to "Healing the Children" and they are the host family for the Panamanian born youngster. The NY Yankees surprised the young Yankee fan by showing up at a pool party held in his honor. Jorge inspired fellow Panamanian Mariano Rivera and some of his favorite players with his positive attitude and the overcoming of incredible obstacles. It was both a tremendous surprise and fun for Jorge. The Yankees not only wish to do what is right for others, but to encourage others to reach out to someone in need of assistance.

*The State Farm Big League Blast* salutes Vlad Guerrero, whose homer gave the Rangers a 6-4 lead over the KC Royals. Vlad now has 99 RBI.

*Step Up To The Plate For Your Health* featured Roger Caplinger, the head athletic trainer for the Milwaukee Brewers. Roger encouraged athletes to try many things to integrate physical activity into one's daily life other than going to the gym. Roger suggested walking to work or taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

**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:** Quad-amputee is the absence of four limbs. Numerous groups seek to reach out and to empower people affected by limb loss to achieve their full potential through education, support and advocacy.

**Educational theme:** It is the responsibility of adults to motivate and inspire the younger generations about our way of life, customs and the

culture of a community. Charitable works and community service are excellent ways to serve.

**Educational theme:** Exercise is a way to relieve stress and maintain physical fitness. The plan for fun leads to the wise utilization of one's time. The plan to maintaining good health leads to a long and successful career.

**Act Five - "How 'bout that!":** The plays of the week were presented to the song "*Unstoppable*" by *Runner Runner*. TWIB continued to show the best plays of the week in MLB. The segment featured the spectacular debut of Aroldis Chapman, a fantastic and creative double play started by Alexei Ramirez, a three home run game by Jay Bruce, a spectacular play by Lorenzo Cane, an unfortunate blooper, several exciting base running slides and finally a corrected umpiring error.

**Educational theme:** The skills and effort necessary to play baseball at the elite level of competition are the result of outstanding athletic ability and many years of practice and playing baseball, first as a youngster.

**Educational theme:** This is a collection of great baseball plays. The journey to greatness is one step at a time with purpose and passion.

**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.