

Re: This Week In Baseball
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TWB Show #1002

Act One -- "Yankee Stadium": TWIB celebrated the opening of two new baseball stadiums in New York City. The Mets now have Citi Field and the Yankees have a new ball park with a familiar name -- Yankee Stadium. Both NY teams were awestruck by their new facilities. In the Bronx, the Yankees tried to build a new home honoring the past while embracing the future.

The Yankees new baseball cathedral took more than two years to build. In an attempt to capture the past glory of the old Yankee Stadium (built in 1923 and known as "The House That Ruth Built") the architects incorporated classic friezes, cathedral windows and the front facade that would lead one to recall the past glories of the great franchise. Memories of winning, tradition, excellence, World Series Championships, and legendary heroes like Ruth, DiMaggio and Mantle help make Yankee Stadium different from any other stadium in the world.

Educational theme: State-of-the-art facilities advance sport to new levels of excellence. It is the highest level of development for the enhancement of athletic performance and fan enjoyment.

Educational theme: Goal setting is the initial step in a successful project. 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: Fame and fortune are passed on from generation to generation. Prolonged achievement creates a positive attitude of expectation for winning. You can tell luck from ability by its duration.

Act Two --"Citi Field": For 45 years, Shea Stadium was home to both the Mets and generations of fans. The dreams of World Series Championships have not changed, but now they too have a new state-of-the-art stadium in Queens. Here the architects paid homage to the beloved ballpark -- Ebbetts Field in Brooklyn. There are many hints of the Brooklyn Dodgers throughout Citi Field, but none more significant than "The Jackie Robinson Rotunda" honoring the man who broke the color barrier in 1947. MLB sought to remind everyone of the monumental impact Robinson had upon baseball and society, when they brought his number 42 out retirement on Jackie Robinson Day. Every MLB player, coach and manager wore number

42 for all to see.

The answer to the *TWIBIA Question* is Tom Seaver and "Doc" Gooden, who are tied for the most opening day victories for the Mets with six each.

In the segment *Winning Road Trips*, the Seattle Mariners currently have the longest road winning streak with four.

Educational theme: Dreams are often goals, aims or aspirations that come true with proper planning. Once they come to fruition fans, players and related team personnel find pleasure in these voluntary visions of ambition.

Educational theme: Traditions are cultural elements passed down from generation to generation, usually by oral communication. In this case, communities identified the various monuments of baseball as part of the game they love.

Educational theme: Robinson is a true symbol of America, especially, excellence, courage and citizenship.

Act Three -- "Opening Days": TWIB looked back at some of the most memorable Opening Day moments in the history of MLB. In 1910 at Washington's Griffith Stadium, U.S. President William Howard Taft began the tradition of throwing out the first pitch of the MLB season. In 1923, "Babe" Ruth hit the first home run in Yankee Stadium. In 1920, Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators pitched a 15-inning shut out. In 1940, the Cleveland Indians Bob Feller pitched the only opening day no run - no hit game. In 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers became the first African-American to play in the big leagues. In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 714th home run to tie the career record "that would never be broken." In 1975, Frank Robinson of the Cleveland Indians became the first black manager in MLB. In 1988, Joe Carter of the Toronto Blue Jays hit three home runs. In 2000, MLB's first opening day game was in Tokyo Japan. In 2001, the Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki became the first Japanese MLB position player. In 2008, the Washington Nationals Ryan Zimmerman hit a game winning "walk-off" home run, which was the first in National Stadium. Then in 2009, Ken Griffey, Jr. returned to Seattle and hit his 8th opening day home run to tie the MLB record.

In the *XM Radio Call of the Week*, TWIB celebrated the life and career of Hall of Fame broadcaster Harry Kalas, long the voice of the Philadelphia Phillies. Harry was loved by fans and players alike. This past week Harry Kalas passed away. He will be missed by all who heard his unforgettable voice, which graced the Phillies games since 1971.

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: Opening Day is a special event because it traditionally marks the beginning of spring and, of course, a new baseball season. Anticipation of a new beginning and the end of "Hot Stove" talk, all are symbolic of Opening Day. Memorable events occur all over the United States and now the world on Opening Day.

Educational theme: History is a vital aspect of sport, especially providing standards of achievement and evaluation, while providing year round fun and interest.

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

Act Four -- "All Star Classics": In 2008, the MLB All-Star Game was held at old Yankee Stadium for the fourth and final time. During the Home Run Derby, Josh Hamilton provided a power hitting display joining the many legendary occurrences of the fabled field. New York City was filled with both past and present All Stars. Many felt it was the greatest collection of Hall of Fame members ever assembled. These men are the living legends of Cooperstown. They took the field with the current All Stars and then honored Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner. The game went 15 innings, as it appeared the venerable stadium did not want to end its reign. With hustle, not power the American League won the game.

In the segment *Rookies*, normally the top first year players in both the American and National Leagues are honored. But with the passing of former Detroit Tigers pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, TWIB looked at his brief and illustrious career. The Bird's amazing 19-9 rookie season and his colorful character and antics of talking to the baseball and personally grooming the mound excited fans throughout baseball. Mark was truly a unique guy who was admired by all.

Educational theme: This group of Hall of Fame members was like a gathering of eagles. They come one at a time. These are special celebrated athletes who represented the best of baseball for more than 60 years.

Educational theme: Entertainment is an important aspect of Major League Baseball, a.k.a., "The Show." Unique characters and personalities are a source of fun and interest for both fans and players alike.

Act Five -- "How 'bout that!": With the music of Rev. Theory, from their album "Light It Up," TWIB showed a sampling of the best plays of the week. There were many diving, reaching and leaping catches in the infield, outfield and at the wall. LA Dodger Orlando Hudson and Ian Kinsler of the Texas Rangers hit for the cycle. Pittsburgh's triple play was shown. Many home runs were also featured. Several humorous misplays and bloopers were shown.

Educational theme: Hitting for the cycle means getting a single, double, triple and home run in the same game. It is a rare multifaceted feat that demonstrates all offensive tools, including hitting, power hitting and running speed.

Educational theme: Documentation of landmark and recognizing peak performances are informal methods to evaluate performance, activity and achievement.

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.