

Re: This Week In Baseball
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TWB Show #1003

Act One - "Dodgers": This week TWIB featured the LA Dodgers as they reviewed the powerful lineup of the men in Dodger blue. Manny Ramirez joined the Dodgers in July of '08 and nearly singlehandedly led them to the playoffs. Manny is a lovable character and fan favorite who is seldom challenged by pitchers. His great hitting craftsmanship frequently helps others in the batting order. One such recipient is Orlando Hudson who is leading the club in hitting. The Dodgers feed off Manny's confidence and composure. The team has an excellent mix of veterans and young players and both the infield and outfield is loaded with talent, enough to give Dodger fans dreams of post-season play in October.

Educational theme: Building a competitive team is the essence of winning. It is a critical to work together as a team and less as individuals. Baseball managers play their best nine, not necessarily the best nine players.

Educational theme: Goal setting, enthusiasm and ambition are key principles of success. The initial step is to set the goal, then to perform with enthusiasm, and then comes the inspiration to be great. One should remember that good is the enemy of great, because good is simply not good enough.

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: The difference between a good day and a bad day is one's attitude. It is a key principle of success. "The strength of the wolf is in the pack, and the strength of the pack is in the wolf." *Rudyard Kipling*

Act Two - "Tommy": Tommy Lasorda managed the LA Dodgers for 21 years and is internationally recognized as an ambassador of the game. Tommy began teaching Japanese the American game of baseball in 1965.

This past winter the Japanese Emperor bestowed on him one of Japan's highest honors -- The Order of the Rising Sun. For nearly 50 years, Tommy has been the baseball bridge bringing Japanese players to MLB, such as pitcher Hideo Nomo, the first Japanese player embraced by the American people.

In the World Baseball Classic, Japan proved its prowess by repeating

as the champions of international baseball. Team Japan featured present day MLB stars such as Boston's Dice K and Seattle's Ichiro. Lasorda complimented the Japanese success by saying, " We've seen how much the Japanese players have improved and it's all worthwhile because of the time you spend with them, work with them."

The answer to the *TWIBIA* Question is the Atlanta Braves' Bobby Cox, who's managed the most NL post-season games with 125.

Winning Road Trips cited the Florida Marlins, who have this season's longest winning streak with six straight.

Educational theme: The Order of the Rising Sun is Japan's second most prestigious decoration. It is conferred on non-Japanese nationals. It is awarded in the name of the Emperor.

Educational theme: Ambassadors are often unofficial messengers or representatives of sport.

Educational theme: International baseball has grown to the point where many foreign baseball teams are now competitive with teams in the United States. Baseball is the fastest growing sport in the world.

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 - "Fresh Faces - Hudson": The fresh face in LA is second baseman Orlando "O Dog" Hudson. The talkative Orlando put his name in the record books when he hit for the cycle to become the first Dodger to do it since 1970. O Dog has won over fans with hustle, positive attitude and talent. Like Hudson, the LA fans are very passionate about their Dodger blue and their Dodgers.

On Jackie Robinson Day this month, Hudson proudly wore #42 to pay respect to the man who opened the door for Afro-Americans and others of ethnic backgrounds in the USA.

The *Radio Call of the Week* came from the Bronx, where the Yankees Melky Cabrera ended a 14-inning and five hour baseball game with a two run walk-off home run.

TWIB presented one of this month's candidates for "Rookie of the Month." It's Toronto Blue Jays' pitcher Rickey Romero, who is undefeated in three starts.

Educational theme: The cycle in baseball terminology 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: 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: Fans passion for their favorite teams is a powerful emotion with boundless enthusiasm.

Act Four - "All Star Classics": Tommy Lasorda's true passion is the Dodgers. Lasorda says "... (the Dodgers) are the greatest organization in the world." He lovingly represented the Dodgers at many MLB All Star Games. Perhaps the most memorable was as the third base coach in 2001. That's when Tommy, while avoiding a broken bat, tripped and fell backwards in a classic roll that would have made a gymnast proud. The crowd cheered when they recognized Tommy was unharmed.

Manny Ramirez is the featured star in the "*Big League Blast*" segment. Manny hit a monstrous home run at Minute Maid Park that left the stadium, went over the railroad tracks and onto the street.

Educational theme: A positive self image allows one to turn problematic issues into achievement and pleasure.

Educational theme: Comical events are humorous and amusing behaviors that elicit laughter and relief. Sometimes it requires one to enjoy an embarrassing moment.

Educational theme: Landmark events are documented to recognize peak performances to informally evaluate performance, activity and achievement.

Act Five - "How 'bout that!": TWIB presented the best plays of the week - set to the music of Mastodon. A grand slam and other dramatic home runs were featured. "Gold Glove" catches, diving snags, home run robbing catches at the fence, creative defensive maneuvers and many sensational defensive plays were shown. Humorous misplays and bloopers made for an enjoyable ending to the show.

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.