

Year One

Because I was born and raised in the Chicago area, I still peruse the online suburban newspaper; I guess it's to get my news "fix" because let's face it – good news is boring. The more serious or tragic the news, the more interesting it is, and my local daily newspaper just doesn't do it for me – I mean, local news is interesting, but not in the same way. So lately as I've been reading Chicago news, I couldn't help but notice these all over the place:



So what is the deal? What is Year 1? It's no secret that the Chicago Cubs are under the new management team of the Ricketts family this year, so I'm sure it has something to do with that. And it's an unfortunate reality that the Chicago Cubs are also the team in baseball to have been without a World Series title the longest... so I guess management figures that maybe if they just reset time altogether and start from the beginning, the Cubs might have a shot this year. Two or three months from now, we will have a clearer outlook as to how the "new" team can really play. But what if the Cubs go nowhere this year, and we fans find ourselves chanting our infamous October mantra, "Maybe next year..." – what then? Will 2011 be Year 2? Let's hope we don't have to find out. GO CUBBIES!

Light At The End Of The Snow

Bank

Can it be? There does seem to be an end to the winter. After the last two days of up to 10" of snow, I got a cheery email ad. MLB pitchers and catchers are to report on February 17 (THAT IS ONE WEEK FROM TODAY FOLKS!). Full team squad report on the 23rd. Spring training game one for the Bombers is March 3rd against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In unrelated sporting news... can you believe that there is a lack of snow at the site for the Olympic Games. Snow had to be transported to Canada for the start of the games on Friday. Seems inconceivable with the storms that have ravaged the East coast in New York, D.C. has had multiple storms measured in feet instead of inches. I'm sure most of us would gladly relinquish some of the white stuff to our neighbors to the north.

Back On The Hardwood

So much for retirement, eh? Tonight, my Uncle Bob returned to take command of yet another high school basketball team. He coached the high school girls for 12 years and retired. Last year, he co-coached the boys team and retired after the season ended. Finally last summer, he got the itch again while on the golf course and is now coaching the varsity girls team of his alma mater's biggest rival.

I really get a kick out of watching him perform. Very emotional, vocal, and BOY CAN HE PROJECT (of course, I have known that most of my life ☹)! Most of the family went to his return game tonight to support him... fun times, although... His team did well until the final act when the girls could not

hit the broad side of a barn (the girls scored two points in the fourth frame) . The score was tied 28 a piece at the end of the third act and even through the first two or three minutes of the final period. I think the three pointer by the opposing team took a lot of the wind out of their sails. But as Uncle Bob said, they have a lot of work ahead of them.

SIX IN A ROW!

WOO HOO!!!! Game day party that seemed like a pre-Thanksgiving feast. I certainly ate like it was a feast... well, just call it another holiday! But OSU has now defeated the dreaded "Team from the North" six years in a row with an awesome 21-10 victory including an end zone interception turned TD on the Wolverines first series! Now.. outright Big Ten Champs off to Pasadena on New Years Day!

Joshua, whom I was mildly surprised to see at the house, was anxiously awaiting kickoff time. At half-time, I challenged him to a good ol' game of the ORIGINAL Donkey Kong (not the newfangled Super Mario endless array, but the original quarter munching variety... on the Wii). I surprisingly defeated him. After that, we saw little of the 13 year old (so much for the football game).

Then, I learned that Jeff is planning to take Elizabeth to see the new Twilight movie tomorrow after her play wraps. Honestly, I don't get the hype... too much, I think. Maybe, one day I will sit and watch it to see what it's all about; it looks like a teenage, vampire meets girl with a werewolf best friend love triangle. I'll pass.

So, now off to church... then to watch my niece on stage with a couple other little ones.

GO BUCKS!!!!

Don't You Looove The Smell Of Roses

The fact that it comes after an overtime victory is even sweeter. The Buckeyes are off to Pasadena on January 1, 2010 after defeating the Iowa Hawkeyes 24-27 in OT after kicking a field goal. Let's hope that Coach Tressel and his squad can pull it together this time and bring home a bowl victory.

I had to keep getting updates from my cell phone while at work all afternoon. The last I knew it was 24-17 in the 4th quarter... not over yet. At 7:50, my sister came in and gave me the final overtime score. Apparently, the fact that Iowa's main quarterback was out of commission following an injury last weekend did little to quell the Hawkeye's spirits. However, the ol' Scarlet and Grey came out on top and speculation is they will be facing either Arizona or Oregon on New Years Day.

Bring on THE GAME next Saturday... **G00000000 BUCKS!**

Day Planning

A Saturday off with nothing scheduled?! What am I to do? Nice to have one off every other week, but then I go crazy coming up with fun things to do. Well... I volunteered myself to help

in the reorganizing of the Huber costume room so we can begin blocking scenes while we await the usage of the grand stage. What's this you say? A costume room large enough to rehearse in? Sounded unbelievable to me, too until last winter when I saw for myself while looking for costume pieces for Grandpa Prophater. I had grown accustomed to a small, cramped closet full of things that by a show's end is always in need of an overhaul. Well... maybe once that \$5 million complex is built...

Of course, there is the OSU/Penn State game today at Happy Valley at 3.30. With 2 weeks to go until **THE GAME** at the so-called Big House. My Saturday off better not be screwed up. the Bucks are 7-2 (4-1 in the Big 10) A rematch of last year's conference co-champs and they are neck and neck for second place in the Big 10 behind Iowa.

Later tonight, I am filling in as song leader at mass. There really are so many there that each person only does one mass every month or so. I will be singing one of my favorites: "Prayer of St. Francis" (*Make me a channel (instrument) of your peace/ Where there is hated, let me bring your love, etc*).

Plus, it sounds like it is going to be a beautiful day with sun and near 60 degrees. Not bad for November 7.

GOOD LUCK BEARS!

I don't have any kids in high school yet, but when I grew up, high school football was a big deal, so I've been kind of following the local high school football team since we moved here, even though there wasn't far to follow them... until now. Our Golden Bears will travel down to Columbus TONIGHT for their first high school football playoff game in school

history!!

BEST OF LUCK GUYS – YOUR TOWN IS BEHIND YOU!!!

I L000VE A Parade

Man, I wonder what time those people got in line to ride the double decker tour buses (remember those well) along the parade route... 37,000 people attempted to get tickets... so many that the server was shut down. The first ticker tape parade for the Yanks since 2000! I bet it is even more exciting in person... nothing like an NYC ticker tape parade. Bombers greats past and present riding through the Canyon of Heroes to City Hall: Yogi and Mr. October joining new heroes Nick Swisher, C.C., Mark Teixeira among others! I see "snow" on the ground and it's only November 6th. Bring on the Fab Four... those who have been THHE HEART AND SOUL OF THE TEAM since 1996! Every time I am the Big Apple, I get a chill but I cannot imagine what the millions of fans lining Broadway are feeling right now.

Even Captain Jeter said that he had forgotten what it felt like after nine years. There's a worker shoveling the snow. **INDEED WHAT A WAY TO CHRISTEN THE NEW HOUSE!** Derek Jeter... what a class act! Attitude, charisma, performance all rolled into one. Wonder if Molly got to meet him along with the Boss a few years ago when his health was better. And there he goes... on his float along with Jorge Posada. An 18 month old heart transplant recipient named Jeter received a special gift from the superstar.

Even NY Governor Paterson... a confirmed Mets fan... is celebrating.

MO! The greatest and most feared saver in Major League Baseball!

And the clincher... Andy Pettitte (name spelled correctly). Winner of the clinching game of the ALDS against the Twins, the ALCS against the Angels, and Game Six against the Angels!

Ok... that's a wrap! Thank you fellow tangenteers for allowing me and putting up with my adoration! I know you all have your own favorites and I fully expect you to do the same WHEN the time arrives.

START SPREADIN THE NEWS!!!!!!!!!!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NUMBER 27!!!!!!!!!! I TOLD YOU YANKEES IN SIX!!!!!! FIRST TIME SINCE 2000 (yes, I know some have never or have not had the feeling for many years). Last night, I saw a picture of a past World Series ring on a friends Facebook profile that positively made me drool. Apparently Molly has a connection in the offices of the **NEW YORK YANKEES!** She was **allowed to wear the ring for a day!** Tonight's hero... **Hideki Matsui**...Godzilla himself. Nearly became the first player in history to hit for the cycle in World Series play. A two run home run, a two run single, a double... just missing the triple. The most uttered phrase in sport's history... "The Yankees are world champions!"

Ol' Blue Eyes is singin now!

MVP... HIDEKI MATSUI!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fans in Japan are celebrating at 1.07PM. 6 of the seven RBIs! Not too bad for a DHer whose contracts expires this year and is questionable?

I was even at work through the first three innings with my cell phone giving updates!

Winning pitcher... Andy Pettite!

Game 5 was a fluke... just getting it back to NYC... and deservedly so to christen the new cathedral right!

Great series... great games... great season! Ok... maybe this will be the end of my Yankee's posts for the next 5-6 months.

And the OTHER fab four: Pettite, Mariano RIVERA... BIG MO, Jorge Posada, **AAAAAND CAPTAIN JETER!!!!!!** OK... **SO MAYBE THE PARADE ON FRIDAY!!!** No thanks to the brilliant (**HA!!!**) COMMENTARY OF JOE SCHMO BUCK!

So... until spring training begins.... **THE YANKEES WIN!**
THAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA YANKEES WIN!

FINAL SCORE.... PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES 3, WORLD CHAMPION NEW YORK YANKEES 7!!!!!!

Back to the Bronx

After returning from being booed at rehearsal... second time we have read through and I'm already being booed... **I'M LOOOOOVIN' IT!!!!!!** I Returned to see the Yanks down 3-1 in the second and it did not get much better after. I'm pleased to say that they never gave in. That dratted combination of Lee-Utley killed us again. Mr. Utley tied Mr. October (Reggie Jackson... even named a candy bar after him) for the most home runs in a single World Series with five... so far, **NO MORE FOR YOU!!!**

So tomorrow night, we go back to 'da Bronx for the magic game six. I have said for the past week or so that it would be six and **BACK TO THE NEW DIGS!**

Final: Yanks 6... Phillies 8.