

Incredible Baseball!

I am a baseball fan. The baseball season started not even a week ago, and I've already seen, well, I won't say that I've seen enough good baseball for the season – #1 because I don't want to jinx the rest of the season, and #2 how could there ever be enough good baseball for a fan? What I'm trying to say is, this season so far (all six days of it) has been incredibly satisfying – especially for a Cubs fan such as myself. The Chicago Cubs, my team of choice, has been involved in two rubber games – for those who aren't familiar, a rubber game is a game that will decide who wins a series. Of the two series the Cubs have played so far this season, both have come down to the rubber game. The Cubs won their first rubber game against the Houston Astros, thus winning the series, and tonight they are vying against the Milwaukee Brewers for the rubber game of their second series of the season.

The Cubs / Brewers series has been nothing short of incredible. These teams are rivals almost as notorious as the Cubs / White Sox, but then again, nothing can compare to cross-town rivalry across divisions. This weekend, we'll settle for some up-the-lake rivalry. I have to admit that on Friday night, I was disappointed. I stayed out in the living room, sacrificing myself for our game night taking place in the dining room, to watch the end of the Cubs/Brewers baseball game. The game was 2 – nothing Brewers until the 4th inning when the Cubs were able to score, making it 2-1. The Cubs were able to score again in the 6th, when Koyie Hill hit a 2-run homer to allow the Cubs a lead. But they just couldn't hang on to it, and the Brewers scored and won in the bottom of the 9th. But it was their home opener, so we should give the guys *something* for their efforts, right? So they got a win, and Saturday night, we were back in business... we listened to the game on the radio on the way home from the Toledo Zoo.

The game was a leapfrog match; 3-2 Milwaukee by the time we tuned in. But somewhere along the Ohio turnpike, the Cubbies tied it up. Then we got home and turned on the tv before we even unloaded our dollar store purchases and turned on the living room light. We did get the sleeping kids out of the car, fyi. I might be a fan of baseball, but I'm not criminally insane enough to abandon the wee-ones to slumber in the car – hehe. We turned on the tv in the living room just in time to watch a little bit of leapfrogging, baseball-style. Alfonso Soriano hit a 2-run homer to bring the Cubs into the lead and would eventually be the fate of the game, leading us to a rubber match on Easter Sunday.

As I posted earlier, we had a wonderful early Easter Sunday, and after church and brunch, we decided to have a lazy day. Well, kind of, I had to tackle Mount Washmore, which I did, but then I was able to enjoy the baseball game once it came on at (very late for a Sunday) 8pm. And this game is the entire reason why I'm writing this post – what an *incredible* game! First off, Alfonso Soriano began the game with a homer on the first pitch – AGAIN! That guy also hit a homer on the very first pitch of the season this year – not to mention the fact that his homer is what put the Cubs in the lead during last night's game – that guy is on FIRE!!! So anyway, the Cubs got themselves 4 runs ahead of the Brewers tonight, and then the Brewers got a grand slam to tie up the game – but wait – Reed Johnson grew springs in his shoes, and he jumps up and grabs that ball from homerun-dom, saving the Cubs and their lead! Across the remaining innings, they increase their lead and win the rubber game for the second time this season of the two series they've played – WHEW! It's baseball time again!!!

And I should mention, the Cubs winning this second series of the season is probably due to my hat. I'm very superstitious about my Cubs baseball hat. I was so busy with my 4 kids that I forgot to wear my hat until Saturday (when the Cubs needed some help, I might add), so I wore it all day on Saturday, and

they ended up beating the Brewers, which means that my hat has the power this year to do great things. Even though we had a lazy Sunday and didn't go anywhere today, I wore the hat around the house and what happens – CUBS WIN!!!!!!

Cutest Cubs Fan Ever!



Enough said.

Another Spring Thing

I haven't written much about baseball this year, but the 2009 season starts very soon. Teams are wrapping up spring training, and the final rosters for the start of the year are being set.

At this time of year, every team has a chance to make it to the world series, everyone starts out in the same place. I am rooting for the [Tigers](#) for the 46 year. I will say 46, since I

don't remember really thinking much about pro ball until the year of my 4th birthday. I went to a game before that, but it could have been any game, any time. I was told it was in Detroit and against Cleveland. I don't even remember who won. I do remember being upset that Detroit traded away Rocky Colavito, I think I was 5 then. I knew Colavito hit home runs, I liked home runs. Funny thing to remember. But I have been a Tiger fan for all the life I can remember. I'm hoping they do well this year. Last year was a bit of a disappointment, but after sticking through some of the years they've had, it wasn't really too bad.

I'm also going to root for the [Cubs](#), unless they happen to play Detroit in inter-league ball, or maybe the Series. I never really had a National League team I liked. I have good friends who like the Cubs, so I will be a transplanted Cubs fan. I hope they do well this year too.

I have another friend who roots for the [Yankees](#). Well, I can't say much there. I was taught "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything." Well, I guess I hope the Yankees do well when ever they play a Central Division Team that isn't Detroit. That is really hard for me to say, since I was always had two favorite teams (The Tigers, and whoever is playing the Yankees). □

Another friend of mine roots for the [Cleveland Indians](#). I would like them to do well (they are in my home state after all), just not as good as the Tigers. Something has to be said for state pride. Ohio should produce at least 1 .500 team. There are two pro teams in the State, at least one of them should do well. I don't know any [Cincinnati](#) fans off the top of my head.

So check your local listing, schedules and root for the team of your choice. It is a long season, I hope there is some excitement in October.

Another one gone...

I heard and read that Baseball player/hall of famer/tv announcer George Kell died. I am just a bit too young to remember his ball playing days, but I do remember him announcing the games on television.

My brother and I used to watch the ballgames on TV just and his voice gave more to the game. With Ernie Harwell on the radio, we had wonderful announcer either on TV or radio.

Just another sad day for me. Memories shared with my late brother. A voice from my past gone. Sad thoughts for me today.

Ahh... A Relaxing Baseball Game And A.... LOSS?!?

I had a really stressful day yesterday. The kids went completely crazy at night – was it a full moon? I didn't check. Even if that was the case, other little things kept going wrong also. Little things – things that really shouldn't matter. Except that when those little things are added up, they equal *one bad day*. So I thought I could beat my stress by looking forward to watching some BASEBALL on TV. Yes, that's right, I said BASEBALL on TV! And it's only early March – we haven't even changed the clocks yet!

I just happened to look on tvguide.com yesterday to see if I could look forward to a new episode of Lost, and I noticed

that my favorite baseball team, the Chicago Cubs, were set to play their cross-town rivals, the Chicago White Sox and it was going to actually be on tv in our little corner of NW Ohio! Even though it's only spring training, that brightened my mood considerably since it's been MONTHS since I've gotten to watch baseball. With the way my day was going, I was sure something would go wrong – the tvguide had made a mistake and we didn't get it, Vegas (where the game was played) would disappear into a sinkhole, something like that. But 10:00 finally rolled around, and the game was on! AND, the teams were putting in their starters rather than their scrub players, which meant real, actual baseball to watch! So I felt better; I relaxed and sat down to watch the game, and of course, that's when my two middle children (the trouble-makers of the brood these days) decided to start fighting. So it wasn't peaceful, but I did get to watch the game. And it was a good game – the Cubs were down, but then they tied it up, but of course the Sox came back to win. A disappointing outcome for such an otherwise great game. But the good news is, it was only spring training so who cares who won!

After the game I left WGN on the tv, and I was treated to an episode of the old tv show Alf. Remember Alf? It was a sitcom from the 80's about a family who discovers an Alien Life Form (ALF), and takes him in to live with them. Alf is a furry wise-cracking puppet with an affinity for cats (to eat!), and the family must keep him secret so he doesn't get taken away. Alf was a huge fad in the 80's; there were toys, lunchboxes, a cartoon spinoff, you name it. After the Alf episode, on came the Steve Wilkos show (he's the former bodyguard from the Jerry Springer show who now has his own trashy talk show – I wrote about this in a previous post, probably because of my disbelief that they would actually give this guy air time). And that was my cue to hit the sack for my lovely 4½ hours sleep. So far, today has been a little better, although our trouble-making 4-year-old is at school. Tonight I'm looking forward to a brand spankin' new Office

episode – YIPPEE! But first I have to get through a few boring meetings. Sure hope I don't doze; I am awfully tired!

It's THAT Time Of Year!

Shortly after this blog post is published, the countdown timer on my site will change – but that's a great thing. It used to count down until the [Chicago Cubs'](#) first game of 2009 Spring Training, but since that game is TODAY (!) that countdown timer will soon be edited to count down until the first real SEASON Cubs game of 2009 – YIPPEE! So here's to hoping the Cubs win today (and every day!), even though it's just spring training!

Now I have to go see if I can find the first game of spring training on a tv channel in the rural expanse of Northwest Ohio! GO CUBBIES!!!

Super (fun) Bowl

I am much more of a baseball fan than a football fan (see my countdown timer to the first game of Cubs spring training to the right). But I will admit that I love watching football; mainly because my husband loves it, and I love to see him enjoy things that make him happy. Oh, that and the fact that whenever he watches football, it's become sort of a tradition with us that he gives me excellent backrubs! So while I couldn't care less who won yesterday's Superbowl, (although I chose the Cardinals to root for because it's always fun to

pick a team and scream and shout and get into the game) I did have a great time watching it.

We had decided to have a get-together; a fun evening filled with friends and food (too much food! We had to have pizza for dinner again Monday and will have it twice more this week just to get rid of all the extras!). Because I have 4 kids, I didn't get to see all of my favorite part of the Superbowl – the commercials. But that's ok, I'm sure I can catch them online somewhere if I'm so inclined. The ones I did see were pretty good – I especially liked the Potato Head one (think it was for tires). It just cracks me up when Mrs. Potato Head changes into her 'angry' eyes, hehehe! I also really liked the careerbuilder.com commercial with the moose head on the wall – I won't spoil the rest of it because I recommend you go out and find it yourself if you haven't seen it. I missed the newest E-Trade.com commercials with the talking baby, so those I will have to find because I always enjoy those. Oh, and I'll have to see the latest chapter in the saga of the Budweiser Clydesdales...

As for halftime, I'm not a fan of "The Boss", so I wasn't paying attention to Bruce Springsteen's performance. I am glad to note, however, that he didn't incur a wardrobe malfunction ala Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson circa Superbowl XXXVII in 2004. Also during halftime, there was a special 3D event. We had picked up enough pairs of 3D glasses for the party at a store ahead of time (we actually got enough to last us until Superbowl L!), but in my opinion, they should have given a few minutes warning for people to get their glasses ready. We had ours ready because they did mention it in the 2nd quarter, but I didn't get a chance to get my regular eyeglasses to wear underneath, which guaranteed an absence of 3D for me. But other people seemed pretty impressed... I have seen the preview for Monsters Vs. Aliens in the movie theater and it looks really funny – I'm looking forward to that movie coming out.

Well, anyway, much fun was had by all. We had originally intended to make this a game night / Superbowl party, but by the time the big game ended, there wasn't any time for board games. Next time! And oh yeah, I should report that the Pittsburgh Steelers won the Superbowl, in case you're using my site for a news report ☐

Tidbits From The Earth

Each week the hometown newspaper has a column entitled, "Did you know?" It is a list of little known facts (little known to the general public... there maybe some who do know everything). A few of these are facinating:

Did you know...

- that until 1978, Camel cigarettes contained minute particles of real camels (Always wondered how they came up with that name)
- that in 1943, a Parisian street mime got stuck in his imaginary box and consequently died of starvation (I would have guessed suffocation or claustrophobia)
- that you should never hold your nose and cover your mouth while sneezing, as it can blow out your eyeball
- that aardvarks are allergic to radishes, but only during summer months (I like to think that I am alergic to them year-round)
- that approximately one-sixth of your life is spent on Wednesday's (why could it not be on a Friday or Saturday on game nights?)
- that polar bears can eat up to 86 penguins in a single setting
- that every three days a human stomach grows a new lining

(what happens to the old ones?)

- that watching an hour-long soap opera burns more calories than watching a three-hour long baseball game (must be from the laughing one does while watching the suds. I would have to disagree especially when watching a football game at C & L's... of course that is not baseball)
- THAT IN SARATOGA FLORIDA IT IS ILLEGAL TO SING WHILE WEARING A BATHING SUIT (why and how about singing in the nude... not that I would want to push the envelope)
- that about one-third of all Americans flush while still seated on the toilet (ok...)
- that on average, every chocolate bar contains at least three insect legs (mmm.... good)

Now that I have educated you all, go out and have a Snickers bar, go to Saratoga and sing in your bathing suit, and laugh those calories away watching a soap opera.

Disappointment Is An Understatement

I am still a Cubs fan; I will admit it. Even after the 2003 Steve Bartman episode, after the 100+ (now it's officially time to add the + to 100) year World Series drought, and the disasterous playoffs of the 2007 and now 2008 seasons.

I just cannot believe the season is over. The season started off so promising this year, and picked up momentum all summer, only to leave us bewildered and disgusted in October once again. So what happened that made them look so terrible during all the playoff games?!?

You know what? I don't even want to talk about it. At least I don't have to worry about missing the World Series while I'm in Florida! Frickin' Cubs. Maybe next year... UGH!

The test of Time

The final game at Yankee Stadium had an effect on this true Yankee Hater... For years I've rooted for any team but the Yankees. If the Tigers weren't playing, my favorite team of the day was whoever was playing the Yankees. That said, Yankee stadium was one of the last great baseball parks. So much history will be lost.

In the American league only Fenway remains as one of the "Old" parks. In the National league, only Wrigley field (home of the cubs) remains as one of the old parks. 1912 and 1914 respectively these two ball fields are the last to stand up to the Test of Time. From the Green Monster to the Ivy covered walls, baseball is just a bit different at these two parks.

These are not the cookie cutter parks from the 60's and 70's with their artificial turf and half circle outfield walls. The old parks do have some home field advantage. These are not the parks from the 80's and 90's that had closer to little league dimensions (ok, I'm stretching it a little), but check out the dimensions of Camden Yards and Jacobs Field (excuse me Progressive Field). The old parks, Yankee Stadium, the old Tiger Stadium, even Cominsky park and Cleveland's Municipal park had character.

They have tried to do that with some of the recent ball fields, but only time will tell if they made good decisions. Ballparks that were new in the early 70's are now gone too.. Why didn't fields in Houston, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh last more

than few decades.

I'm not sure of the future of the two oldest ballparks in the major leagues, but I would love to see both last until at least their 100th anniversary. I'm sure there are plans in the works, if not already in development for these cities, but wouldn't it be something if they could hold off until 2012 and 2014. We need more things that can pass the test of time..