

America's past time is showing less family appeal

Douglas Smith
Caught in the Grasp

America's pastime is one of fun, skill, and food. It is such a weird combination, but it's known the ballparks are filled with joyous faces munching on a hot dog and cheering on their favorite players. Of course, one of the other attractions at the ballpark has always been the organ. Would baseball be the same without the famous "charge" cheer or, for Pirate fans, the "let's go Bucs" chant? I highly doubt that the same luster would fall over the fan-filled stadium. The organ seems to be fleeing the stadiums at a rapid rate as the highly priced players begin to choose their own theme music.

Think about this: most organ players last many, many years at their respective stadiums for creativity and ability. Their job is to find something about the next batter that can be incorporated into a song over the public announcement speakers. During the years of many Pirate division titles, their veteran organist, whose name escapes me at the moment, found a new way to make Andy Van Slyke exciting every time he came to the plate.

Now the theme music has become something to spark the player instead of exciting the crowd. Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't the major league players good enough to come up to the

plate in a pressure situation without having to get ready by hearing fifteen seconds of their favorite song? Yes, I do like some of the songs that are played. For instance Brian Giles usually has "Kryptonite" by Three Doors Down playing over his approach to the plate. Still, all of this becomes very repetitive.

Even if I do like the song or bit being played, it does not mean that it cannot get old. Jason Kendall chooses the popular "Oh You Didn't Know..." from the Road Dogg in the World Wrestling Federation. This is a reference to being very good, which Kendall is. However, both times I saw the Pirates at Three Rivers Stadium Kendall went a combined 1-for-7. This was also at a time when Kendall was not accepting a deal worth sixty million dollars. Having music to pump him up and thinking he is worth more than sixty million in a city never willing to spend that much, he should have been producing day in and day out.

Okay, so that may have been a bit of a tangent, but nevertheless it does deal with this new trend. There are those players that choose some very interesting selections as their entrance music, if you will. Derek Bell of the New York Mets chooses "Big Pimpin'" by Jay-Z. It is a good song, but a better choice to go out clubbin' than to hit a Randy Johnson fastball. Just as a note, Bell has been going downhill in his production the second half of the year.

I know this whole column may seem like a waste of time to read at this point, but hear me out. Think about how much this takes away from the family aspect of our pastime. How many times have you seen your father bust out in Jay-Z? My dad used to know the words to "Can I Get A..." but that is a whole different article in and of itself. You can actually bond with your family if they are playing the old cheers that we are all used to.

Still, we have somewhat of a large dilemma on our hands. Some players do not have a real song that they want played. This should just mean play the organ, right? Wrong! This is especially untrue at Camden Yards in Baltimore. The promotions and public relations people decided that they would just start picking songs for the players. I can understand that they find it a new challenge to come up with a fitting song that everyone in the stands will comprehend for a certain player. Still, playing a top 40 song in today's baseball stadiums is nothing like Charlie Sheen's character in *Major League*.

This also seems like such a hassle to me. Do you know how much trouble it is to be able to use some of this music or these catch phrases? We have to deal with copyright laws.

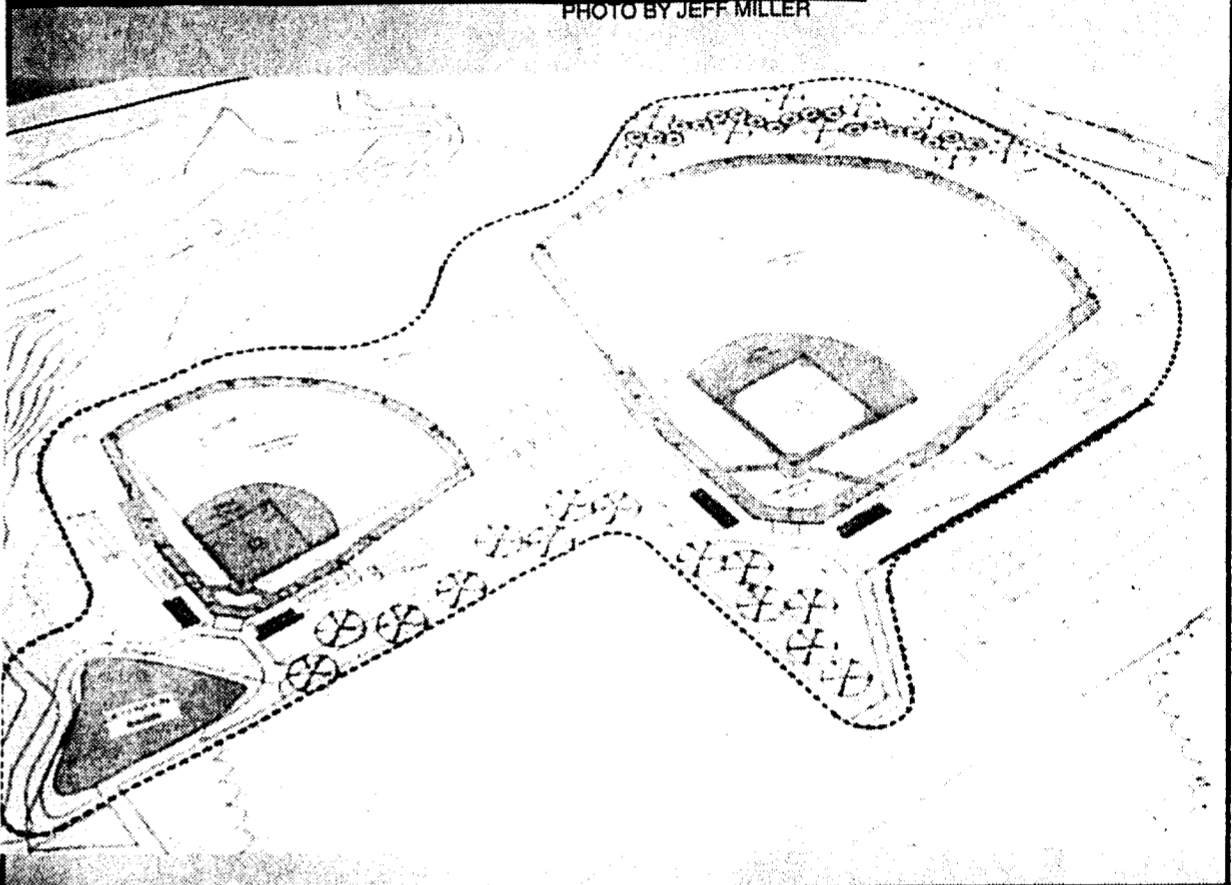
Once again this may seem like worthless information, but this just irks me. I would be pleased to hear your thoughts on this subject.

Construction Continues



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

This is the progress being made on the new baseball and softball complex being built adjacent to the tennis courts and Station Road. By the pictures, it looks like there is a long way to go, but it promises to be better than the last setup for the fields. The layout is below.



Behrend Scores

There are no scores this week due to no action. Check out the Herb Lauffer Memorial Soccer tournament this weekend and check back next week for all the results.

Major League Baseball

(As of 8/30)

American League East

Team	W	L	GB
New York	73	55	-
Boston	69	60	4.5
Toronto	69	62	5.5
Baltimore	59	72	15.5
Tampa Bay	57	74	17.5

American League Central

Team	W	L	GB
Chicago	77	54	-
Cleveland	69	59	6.5
Detroit	65	65	11.5
Kansas City	61	70	16
Minnesota	59	73	18.5

American League West

Team	W	L	GB
Seattle	71	60	-
Oakland	69	61	15
Anaheim	67	64	4
Texas	58	73	13

American League Wild Card

Team	W	L	GB
Cleveland	69	59	-
Boston	69	6	.5
Oakland	69	61	1
Toronto	69	62	1.5
Anaheim	67	64	3.5
Detroit	65	65	5

National League East

Team	W	L	GB
Atlanta	78	54	-
New York	78	54	-
Florida	64	67	13.5
Philadelphia	56	75	21.5
Montreal	55	74	21.5

National League Central

Team	W	L	GB
St. Louis	74	58	-
Cincinnati	66	65	7.5
Chicago	56	74	17
Milwaukee	56	75	17.5
Houston	55	77	19
Pittsburgh	53	77	20

National League West

Team	W	L	GB
San Francisco	74	56	-
Arizona	72	59	2.5
Los Angeles	70	62	5
Colorado	67	65	8
San Diego	64	67	10.5

National League Wild Card

Team	W	L	GB
Atlanta	78	54	-
New York	78	54	-
Arizona	72	59	5.5

League Leaders

(as of 8/28)

American League--Batting

Batting Average	Player	Team
.371	Garcia parra, BOS	BOS
.361	Delgado, TOR	TOR
.360	Erstad, ANA	ANA
.341	Sweeney, KC	KC
.341	Stewart, TOR	TOR

Home Runs

Player	Team	Runs
Delgado, TOR	TOR	39
Thomas, CHI	CHI	38
Glaus, ANA	ANA	37
Batista, TOR	TOR	36
Justice, CLE-NY	CLE-NY	34
Martinez, SEA	SEA	123
Thomas, CHI	CHI	120
Delgado, TOR	TOR	118
Sweeney, KC	KC	116
Williams, NY	NY	109

Stolen Bases

Player	Team	Bases
Damon, KC	KC	38
DeShields, BAL	BAL	31
R. Alomar, CLE	CLE	29
Henderson, SEA	SEA	29
Cairo, TB	TB	26

American League--Pitching

Victories	Player	Team
18	Wells, TOR	TOR
16	Pettite, NY	NY
14	P.Martinez, BOS	BOS
14	Hudson, OAK	OAK
14	Helling, TEX	TEX

Earned Run Average

Player	Team	E.R.A.
P.Martinez, BOS	BOS	1.77
Clemens, NY	NY	3.65
Lopez, TB	TB	3.70
Helling, TEX	TEX	3.78
Sirotko, CHI	CHI	3.84

Saves

Player	Team	Saves
Jones, DET	DET	36
Koch, TOR	TOR	32
Lowe, BOS	BOS	31
Rivera, NY	NY	29
Sasaki, SEA	SEA	29

Strikeouts

Player	Team	Strikeouts
P.Martinez, BOS	BOS	226
Mussina, BAL	BAL	168
Colon, CLE	CLE	164
Finley, CLE	CLE	156
Clemens, NY	NY	150

Shutouts

Player	Team	Shutouts
P. Martinez, BOS	BOS	3
22 Players tied		1

National League--Batting

Batting Average	Player	Team
.397	Helton, COL	COL
.353	Hammonds, COL	COL
.350	Castillo, FLA	FLA
.347	Piazza, NY	NY
.340	V. Guerrero	

Home Runs

Player	Team	Runs
Sosa, CHI	CHI	43
Sheffield, LA	LA	40
Bagwell, HOU	HOU	39
Bonds, SF	SF	38
Edmonds, StL	StL	36

Runs Batted In

Player	Team	RBI
Sosa, CHI	CHI	118
Helton, COL	COL	116
Bagwell, HOU	HOU	106
Giles, PIT	PIT	106
Griffey, CIN	CIN	106

Stolen Bases

Player	Team	Bases
Castillo, FLA	FLA	50
Goodwin, COL-LA	COL-LA	43
E. Young, CHI	CHI	43
Womack, ARI	ARI	37
Wilson, FLA	FLA	28

National League--Pitching

Victories	Player	Team
17	Glavine, ATL	ATL
16	Johnson, ARI	ARI
15	Elarton, HOU	HOU

Earned Run Average

Player	Team	E.R.A.
Johnson, ARI	ARI	2.41
Brown, LA	LA	2.71
Leiter, NY	NY	3.08
Person, PHI	PHI	3.19
Maddux, ATL	ATL	3.20

Saves

Player	Team	Saves
Alfonseca, FLA	FLA	36
Benitez, NY	NY	35
Hoffman, SD	SD	35
Neu, SF	SF	31
Aguilera, CHI	CHI	28

Strikeouts

Player	Team	Strikeouts
Johnson, ARI	ARI	278
Astacio, COL	COL	186
Brown, LA	LA	172
2 Players Tied		170

Shutouts

Player	Team	Shutouts
Estes, SF	SF	2
Hernandez, SF	SF	2
Johnson, ARI	ARI	2
Sanchez, FLA	FLA	2
Schilling, PHI-ARI	PHI-ARI	2

Nascar Points Standings

1. Bobby Labonte	3,458
2. Dale Jarrett	3,367
3. Dale Earnhardt	3,263
4. Jeff Burton	3,238
5. Rusty Wallace	3,168
6. Tony Stewart	3,060
7. Ricky Rudd	3,017
8. Mark Martin	2,996
9. Ward Burton	2,984
10. Jeff Gordon	2,825

2000 U.S Open (Tennis)

(as of 8/29)

Men's First Round Action

(ranking in parentheses)

Marat Safin (6) def. Thierry Guardiola
7-5, 6-7(5-7), 6-4, 6-4

Alex Corretja (8) def. Paradon Sicachaphan
7-6 (7-2), 6-0, 6-0

Andre Agassi (1) def. Alex Kim
6-4, 6-2, 6-0

Thomas Enqvist (7) def. Mariano Puerta
3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2

Pete Sampras (4) def. Martin Damm
7-5(6-3), 6-3, 6-2

Yevgeny Kafelnikov (5) def. Orlin Steneberg
6-7(5-7), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3

Women's Second Round Action

Venus Williams (3) def. Kvetoslava Hrdlickova
6-1, 6-1

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (9) def. Sonya Jeyaseelan
6-4, 6-1

Jennifer Capriati (15) def. Henrietta Nagyova
6-2, 6-2

Monica Seles (6) def. Anne Kremer
6-3, 6-4

This year's U.S. Open runs until September 10th in Flushing Meadows, New York. Watch for updates in *The Beacon* as it gets closer to the final round.

National Football League

This is the schedule for the opening weekend of the NFL season for 2000/2001.

Sunday, September 3, 2000

1:00 PM
San Francisco at Atlanta
Jacksonville at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Kansas City
Chicago at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at New England
Detroit at New Orleans
Arizona at New York Giants
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Washington

4:15 PM
Philadelphia at Dallas
New York Jets at Green Bay
San Diego at Oakland
Seattle at Miami

as of 8/31
Tennessee at Buffalo

Monday, September 4, 2000

9:00 PM
Denver at St. Louis

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