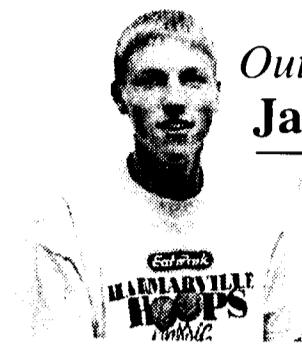


# The difference between a bat, a ball, a fine and a suspension



**Out of Bounds**  
**Jason Snyder**

There's a war in New York, and bats and balls are flying everywhere, literally. After beaming Mike Piazza in the head with a baseball this past July, Yankee pitcher Roger Clemens went one step further this past Sunday, lobbing part of Piazza's broken bat in the direction of the Mets' slugger.

Clemens, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, has recently been fined \$50,000 for his actions, despite stating his ludicrous claim that he thought the shattered bat was a baseball. It's apparent that the Cy Young Award measures only talent in pitching baseballs, not knowing what they are or what you are supposed to do with them after they are hit.

Let's imagine we are Roger Clemens for one moment. Our rival team containing our most disliked player is visiting us for Game 2 of the World Series. The player that we just nailed in the head with a baseball is up to bat. We know that we have to pitch clean, given the history, so we do. Unfortunately, Piazza gets a piece of the ball (with his bat, not his head), and with it sends a foot-long piece of his shattered bat to our feet.

Now here's the dilemma. Do we look at the object before we pick it up to make sure that it is the baseball and not part of the bat that we just saw and heard shatter? Or do we close our eyes, feel around and pick up whatever object we feel first?

To make Clemens' story make sense, let's suppose we kept our eyes closed. So now, we have an oblong object in our hand with sharp edges. Knowing our previous knowledge about how sharp and jagged baseballs are, we now have another decision to make. Do we take this long, sharp, jagged and surprisingly heavy "baseball" and throw it to first base to record an out, or do we keep our eyes closed and heave the ball to where our imagination is telling us first base is?

Again, for Clemens' sake, we keep our eyes closed and throw the "baseball" where our imagination tells us to.

Oops. Our disliked Mets slugger happens to be in the path of our "baseball" which just misses his feet by an inch or so. After opening our eyes, we see that the object we threw wasn't a baseball, it was a bat. Oh well, someone else from our team had their eyes open and got the out. The moral of the story: a ball is round and light in weight. A bat is heavy and gets sharp edges when it is broken. Also, keeping your eyes open during the World Series is usually important for success.

So with that said and a lesson learned for all, why don't MLB officials open their eyes and come to terms with what really happened?

As stupid as Clemens' explanation is, there isn't a law in baseball that allows

morons to "plead stupidity." So how can a player get away with a \$50,000 fine (pennies for a MLB pitcher) for throwing a baseball bat at his enemy? For some reason, it is as if stupidity is contagious among MLB players and officials when it comes to decision making in October.

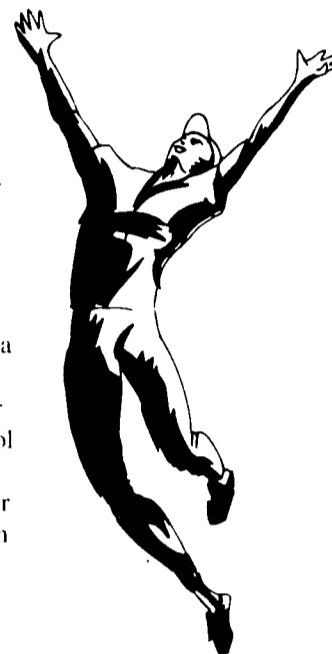
When Roberto Alomar spit in the face of an umpire just a couple of years ago, baseball held off his suspension until the opening of the next season. Now, Clemens throws a bat at someone, finishes his eight, two-hit shutout innings of baseball and can pitch another game if the series goes that far.

What is the moral of this story? They are basically saying that all is fair in love, war and the baseball playoffs. We can put a five-year old in time out for swinging bats at people, but we can't put the almighty Yankee pitcher in the dugout for a game.

It's sad enough that a five-year old knows more about self control than Roger Clemens. It's even more sad that a first grade teacher knows more about discipline than Major League Baseball's disciplining committee.



**BASEBALL**



**MONEY FINE**



**BAT**



**SUSPENSION**

Snyder's sports column appears every two weeks.

## THE SCOREBOARD

### Behrend Scores

**Women's Soccer**  
Oct. 19 vs. John Carroll L 4-1  
Oct. 21 vs. Brockport L 4-2  
Oct. 24 at Buffalo State W 2-0

**Men's Soccer**  
Oct. 21 vs. Brockport W 5-2  
Oct. 25 at case Western Reserve L 2-1

**Volleyball**  
Oct. 20 at Penn State Altoona W 3-0  
Oct. 21 at Frostburg L 3-0  
Oct. 24 at Pitt-Bradford W 3-2

**Cross Country**  
No meets scheduled.

**Women's Tennis**  
Oct. 18 vs. John Carroll W 5-4  
Oct. 21 at AMCC Tournament

Penn State Behrend 18  
Penn State Altoona 12  
Frostburg 5  
Pitt-Greensburg 5  
La Roche 2

**Men's Golf**  
The season has concluded.

**Men's Water Polo**  
The season has concluded.

### AMCC STANDINGS

(Standings as of October 23, 2000)

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

School	Conference record	Overall
Penn State Behrend	5-0	13-4
La Roche	3-2	13-5
Frostburg	3-2	9-6
Pitt-Bradford	2-3	7-10
Lake Erie	2-3	5-12
Pitt-Greensburg	0-5	0-12

#### MEN'S SOCCER

School	Conference record	Overall
Frostburg	5-0	10-4
La Roche	4-1	6-8-2
Penn State Behrend	3-2	8-7-1
Pitt-Greensburg	2-3	7-7-2
Lake Erie	1-4	1-12
Pitt-Bradford	0-5	4-12

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS

School	Conference Record	Overall
Penn State Behrend	8-0	16-2
Penn State Altoona	6-2	9-4
Frostburg	3-4	5-7
La Roche	1-6	1-6
Pitt-Greensburg	1-6	1-11

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

School	Conference Record	Overall
Frostburg	10-0	26-3
Penn State Behrend	8-2	12-12
Pitt-Bradford	7-3	15-9
Penn State Altoona	5-5	12-10
Pitt-Greensburg	3-6	4-16
La Roche	1-8	2-22
Lake Erie	0-10	0-10

### Major League Baseball Playoffs

#### AL Championship Series

Seattle Mariners vs. New York Yankees  
Game 1: Mariners 2, Yankees 0  
Game 2: Yankees 7, Mariners 1  
Game 3: Yankees 8, Mariners 2  
Game 4: Yankees 5, Mariners 0  
Game 5: Mariners 6, Yankees 2  
Game 6: Yankees 9, Mariners 7

#### NL Championship Series

New York Mets vs. St. Louis Cardinals  
Game 1: Mets 6, Cardinals 2  
Game 2: Mets 6, Cardinals 5  
Game 3: Cardinals 8, Mets 2  
Game 4: Mets 10, Cardinals 6  
Game 5: Mets 7, Cardinals 0

### NASCAR WINSTON CUP

Leaders as of 10/15  
1. Bobby Labonte, 4645  
2. Dale Earnhardt, 4444  
3. Jeff Burton, 4394  
4. Dale Jarrett, 4315  
5. Ricky Rudd, 4272  
6. Tony Stewart, 4210  
7. Rusty Wallace, 4115  
8. Mark Martin, 4042  
9. Jeff Gordon, 3904  
10. Ward Burton, 3809  
11. Mike Skinner, 3514  
12. Steve Park, 3512  
13. Matt Kenseth, 3436  
14. Johnny Benson, 3389  
15. Joe Nemechek, 3246

### National Football League

#### Games for Week 9

Sunday, October 29, 2000  
1:00 PM  
Carolina at Atlanta  
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo  
Detroit at Indianapolis  
Cincinnati at Cleveland  
Green Bay at Miami  
Pittsburgh at Baltimore  
Minnesota at Tampa Bay  
4:15 PM  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants  
New Orleans at Arizona  
St. Louis at San Francisco  
Jacksonville at Dallas  
Kansas City at Seattle  
8:35 PM  
Oakland at San Diego  
Monday, October 30, 2000  
9:00 PM  
Tennessee at Washington

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Our thoughts are with our managing editor who has recently been admitted to the hospital, twice, for flag football related injuries. Everything is a contact sport when Frawley is involved. What were you doing with your finger, Mike? Miyike, Miyike, you broke your finger, not one tiyime, not two tiyimes, but three tiyimes Miyike.

