

06.04.2009

6/4/09: Just How He Likes It

Giants 5, Nats 1: After Randy Johnson had a bad outing in his return to Arizona and a scrappy but shaky effort in his return to Seattle -- nights where it seemed nerves played a factor -- I had little hope for him to notch his 300th win on the first go, especially against a team that [hit him fairly hard](#) last month.

But thanks to the postponement, the weather, being on the road, being in [an unfamiliar jersey](#), and the fact that half of Washington is busy managing multi-billion dollar loans to inept conglomerates, there was very little fanfare once the Big Unit took the mound. The few hardy fans in attendance were huddled under the overhangs, the media on hand were probably hung over, and his own teammates had a second game in the rain to deal with. It was all probably to his liking, given how understated he was during the post-game interview sessions. Not exactly Mr. Personality. Come on, Randy! It's 300 wins, fer crissakes! So what if [Cy Young is still kicking your ass!](#) OK, I know you were joking when you said you only needed 211 more wins to catch Cy. So maybe you are enjoying the moment.

If I might suggest, slice off a few red stitches of the game ball and give them to Emmanuel Burriss, who made the play of the night -- the week? the year? -- to help you out of a jam with a [wicked smaht double play](#).

Oh, and the Giants won the rain-shortened second game 4-1. Matt Cain was the winning pitcher, he has a good curveball, and [here's why](#). He pitched five innings and got credit for a complete game. How stupid is that? If he beats Johan Santana by one for the N.L. Most Complete Gamer of the Year Award, Santana will have a major complaint to file with the statistical authorities.

While we're at it, how about this one: Why does an RBI fly ball get a cool name (sacrifice fly) and not count as an at-bat, but an RBI grounder is an 0-for-1, plus no cool name? Why aren't there "sacrifice grounders"?

Next up: The Giants take on the Florida Marlins and [Abdullah Ibrahim](#) takes on Yoshi's S.F. this weekend, with some tickets going for \$10. Are you kidding me? Jazz bargain of the year. If you order online, use "senzo" as the discount code on the order form.

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- PITCHERS**
- Affeldt (3.5 M)
 - Cain (2.65 M)**
 - English (AA)
 - Hinshaw (AAA)
 - Howry (2.75 M)
 - Joaquin (AA)
 - Johnson (8 M)
 - Lincecum (.65 M)
 - 60-day DL - Lowry (4.5 M)**
 - 60-day DL - Martinez**
 - Matos (AAA)
 - Medders (.475 M)**
 - Miller
 - Pichardo (AAA)
 - Romo
 - Sadler (AAA)
 - Sanchez (.455 M)**
 - Sosa (AA)
 - Valdez (.40 M)
 - Wilson (.48 M)
 - Zito (18.5 M)

CATCHERS
Holm (AAA)
B. Molina (6 M)
Whiteside

INFELDERS
Aurilia (1 M)
Bocock (High A)
Bowker (AAA)
Burriss
Frandsen (AAA)
Gillaspie (High A)
Guzman (AAA)
Ishikawa
Renteria (7 M)
Rohlinger (AAA)
Sandoval
Uribe (1 M)

barton | [June 5, 2009 9:16 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

That's a wicked cool demonstration. I'd always assumed there was no such thing as a "late-breaking" curve ball but this is the first time I've been able to understand what's really happening--i.e., the curve is continuous but the ball appears to jerk in one direction at the point where the eye picks it up.

Thanks for finding the site.

Johnny Disaster | [June 5, 2009 11:01 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

I believe the ground ball is scored differently because on the grounder the fielder has the (theoretical) option to make a play at home and chooses instead to take the out. With a fly, you have hit the ball far enough to have given the defense no choice.

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[January 2009](#)
[December 2008](#)
[November 2008](#)
[October 2008](#)
[September 2008](#)
[August 2008](#)
[July 2008](#)
[June 2008](#)
[May 2008](#)
[April 2008](#)
[March 2008](#)
[February 2008](#)
[January 2008](#)
[December 2007](#)
[November 2007](#)
[October 2007](#)
[September 2007](#)
[August 2007](#)
[July 2007](#)
[June 2007](#)
[May 2007](#)
[April 2007](#)
[March 2007](#)
[February 2007](#)
[January 2007](#)
[December 2006](#)
[November 2006](#)
[October 2006](#)
[September 2006](#)
[August 2006](#)
[July 2006](#)
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[April 2006](#)
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