

Cook & Son Bats' Blog

Todd, Tim and Kellan Cook love Baseball, the Seattle Mariners and trekking around the country to visit stadiums and watch games. These are their stories.

Tim's Second Season, Stadium, & League (6/30/07)

So it was June 2007 by the time [Tim's second MLB game](#) rolled around. Tim was about a year and a half old by this point and he was running around on his own and ready to have some fun at the game.

Unfortunately, Tim's second game wouldn't feature the Mariners. Instead, I introduced Tim to the National League and two teams competing for the N.L. East crown, the Phillies and the Mets. Tim's second game would take place at his second MLB stadium, Citizens Bank Park.

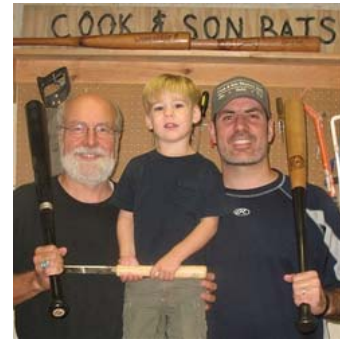
At about 70 miles, Citizens Bank Park is the closest MLB stadium to our home in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia is the closest "big city" to our home. But in a year and a half of life, Tim had not yet visited the city where his parents met back in 1999. So, I decided to take him down early to see a tiny bit of the city before the game.

I had bigger plans, but time was running short before the game. So all we did was visit Rittenhouse Square:



I lived about 5 blocks from Rittenhouse Square when my wife and I met, and I'd walk through the Park everyday on my way here or there. Tim loved running around the Park for a short while. And then we were off to

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South Philadelphia.

We attended this game with a group of people from my office. Tim was a lucky little guy. His second game was also his second game in a suite! We arrived as the game was beginning, said our hellos, and started doing what you do in suites -- we started eating tasty food:



That table behind us had 3-4 tasty hot dishes in which we over-indulged...well, at least I did.

Here is a look at the suite:



To the left, that's a look from the entry way through the suite. To my left as I took that picture is a kitchenette area featuring various drinks, chips, crackers, dips, cheese trays, etc. And against the wall to the left (off camera) is a large flat screen for those who want to watch the game on TV rather than turning 90 degrees to their right and watching it live.

In the picture to the left, do you see the blue sky and clouds painted on the ceiling? The middle section of the ceiling looks like a nice sunny day and it has a picture of the Philly Phanatic skydiving into the suite. The middle picture is Tim pointing up at the Phanatic. He thought it was really cool.

Above to the right is a view of the field from the suite. When I took that picture, I was still standing in the main "suite" part of the suite. In front of me is a standing counter (actually, it also has tall chairs) and on the other side of the counter are three rows of stadium seating for the folks in the suite.

Here is a panoramic view of the field from the bottom of our three rows of stadium seating (featuring Tim in the bottom right corner):

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3. COOK & SON'S MLBLOGS READING LIST:

The Baseball Collector:
 Zack Hample's blog. Lots of great pictures and stories.
The Happy Youngster:
 Nick Yohanek's blog. He's probably catching a home run right now.
TxBaseballFan:



FYI, I made that panoramic view from screen shots of a video clip I took of the field, so its not normal photo quality. But I think it does the job.

Tim ran around the suite like crazy and provided comic relief for my colleagues. But after a while, he wanted to explore outside the suite. The main level of suites at Citizens Bank Park has its own concourse (just above the main concourse). Its just a big elevated walkway with access to all of the suites, but no concession stands, etc.

Tim and I exited our suite and he started running down the walkway toward home plate and then around toward LF. I took a video of him running and took the following screen shots from the video clip:



To the left is a view of the suite level concourse. This picture is just foul of third base. The suites and the field are to our right. The banners hanging to the left are hanging above the main concourse and are just inside what I consider to be the stadium's main entrance (between home and 3B).

Above to the right is a view of the main entrance taken right around that hanging Jimmy Rollins banner shown in the picture to the left. Just to the left of the main entrance is McFadden's Restaurant & Saloon. Across the street to the right of the picture you can see the Spectrum, which Pearl Jam is closing down this weekend. [Click here](#) for a peak inside the Spectrum and see how Pearl Jam tied the World Series and Seattle-connection, Raul Ibanez, into their recent concert.

Back to the game. We reached the end of the suite level concourse and I found someone to take our picture with All-Time Mariners Career Wins Leader, Jamie Moyer:

Brian Powell blogs about the Rangers and games with his daughter.

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17 season of Pirates futility can't keep Matt Peaslee down. His Pirates blog is good stuff always has a winning record.

Hail To Ichiro:

Straight from Osaka, Japan, Nao gives us short informative tibits about our Seattle Mariners.

Baseball Experiences:

One of Tim's favorite MLBloggers and Citi Field compadres, check out Joe's "Baseball Experiences."

Everything Baseball:

Tim's other favorite MLBlogger, check out Alex as he blogs about "Everything Baseball."

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In 2006, I'd been hoping all season that Moyer would pitch for the Mariners during Tim's first game, but sadly he was traded before the trade deadline...and before Tim's big day at the park. If he had to be traded I was happy he went to Philadelphia where Tim and I would still be able to see him pitch.

After a little roaming around, we returned to the suite and it was time for an important "first" -- Tim's first ice cream at the ballpark (in fact, I think this was also his first ice cream of his life):



As you can see, it wasn't Tim's first ice cream helmet (not quite yet). But it started a grand tradition -- ice cream at the ballpark -- it is a tradition

that would just be made better with the introduction of the ice cream helmet on a later date.

Of course, soon after the last picture, I captured another (related) "first"...



...Tim's first ballpark "ice cream face."

And then there was nothing left to do but get our picture with the field...



...and watch some National League baseball.

The game didn't go so well for the Phils. They **lost** 8-3. The star of the game was Mets centerfielder Carlos Beltran who went 4-5 with 2 HR, 3

RBI and 3 runs scored. Paul LoDuca and David Wright also hit homeruns for the Mets.

Not much good happened on the Phils' side of the box score. Ryan Howard was 2-4 with a homerun and 2 runs scored. Carlos Ruiz was also 2-4. But J.A. Happ earned the loss in his major league debut, and his only major league action in 2007.

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