

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.

Mariners Dominate In The Bronx (9/3/07)

On September 3, 2007, we headed up to NYC to take in a Mariners game in the Bronx. We went with my friend Marc from college. Marc is also from Seattle, but in 2007 he was working in the investment world in NYC. This was the first time I'd seen him since college. And, it was Tim's first trip to NYC and to "The House That Ruth Built" (and Griffey destroyed).

We came up to NYC for the weekend, and we stayed with another friend from college, Davlynn, who also lived in NYC in 2007. The day before the game, Davlynn took us to the American Museum of Natural History...



...where Tim REALLY enjoyed seeing lots of dinosaur bones. Trust me. He looks utterly bored in this picture, but he really loved the museum. So, if you find yourself at 79th & Central Park West in Manhattan, check it out.

We also took Tim to Central Park to play a little baseball on a field that we miraculously found to be empty...

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There were thousands of people in the park and every other field was packed.

Soon, it was time to meet up with Marc and his wife, Angie, and take the 4-train up to the Bronx.

Now, I'm a good baseball fan. So I'm dutifully teaching Tim a healthy disrespect for the pinstriped-team from the Bronx. Upon entering the ballpark, he already had the heebeegeebees from the cramped confines of the ballpark and the overwhelming aroma of corporate greed that would soon bring wall street crashing to the ground:



I assured Tim that there was nothing to worry about. The Mariners would surely destroy the home team. The Mariners would be throwing their young ace, King Felix Hernandez, while the home squad would be trotting out an old goat, a pre-Mitchell Report Roger Clemens. I was ready for a historic Clemens loss, and I would not be disappointed.

So, as the game began, Tim was cautiously optimistic and ready to see his Mariners put on

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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:

a show to remember:



Still, he had questions for me...



"You mean, none of these people like the Mariners? All of these people are Y***** fans?" (sorry for the censoring, Tim isn't allowed to curse)

"Yes," I explained, "so mind your P's and Q's."

By the way, not everyone was a fan of the opposition, that is Marc shown behind Tim's outreached arm. He's a good Mariners fan.

Now, I wouldn't lead Tim astray, it *WAS* a great and historic game. In fact, despite the fact it didn't feature former-and-future Mariners great Ken Griffey, Jr., this is one of the best games I've ever witnessed.

The game started like so many Mariners games do: Ichiro hit a line drive single to right field. So things were already off to a good start. Ichiro extended his hit streak to five games in the five games Tim had attended to date. But that was all the M's managed in the top of the first.

The bottom of the first was the only bad part of the game. King Felix had some first inning jitters and fell behind by 1 run.

But don't worry, the M's came back in the top of the second. Raul Ibanez started off the

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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.

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inning with a single to LCF. Ben Broussard walked. And then Clemens fired a wild pitch to the backstop sending Ibanez to 3B. Finally, Jose Lopez got an infield hit to score Raaaauuuuuuuu! And just like that the Mariners had tied it up 1-1.

Tim was happy about this turn of events:



By the way, check out the old water-soaked wood on the bottom of the upper deck (behind/above us). You don't see that in a modern stadium! Well, really, I think you don't see that anywhere -- not in Boston or on the north side of Chicago, which were much older than this 1970's re-model job.

The top of the second was just the Mariners warm-up act. They were about to lower the boom on their hosts.

Ichiro led off the top of the third inning with a homerun blast to LCF. Not only did he hit give the Mariners the lead (for good), but it was Ichiro's 200th hit of the season for the SEVENTH season in a row! Hooray for Ichiro!!! And hooray for us for being there to witness this piece of history.

Meanwhile, King Felix kept mowing down opposing batters.

In the top of the fourth, the Mariners scored three more runs on a single by Adrian Beltre, hit-by-pitch for Jose Lopez, a double by Yuniesky Betancourt, and another single by Ichiro.

By this point, Tim and I were having a great time watching our Mariners dominate:



Mariners

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At some point in the 4th inning, Roger Clemens hurt his leg falling off the mound awkwardly. In an unprecedented move, Joe Torre brought former Orioles great Mike Mussina into the game in relief. A quick review of [Moose's bio](#) will reveal that this was the ONLY relief appearance of his probably-Hall of Fame career -- 537 games, 536 games started.

Here's the second piece of history involved in the game, this must be one of the most combined career wins that one team has ever had on the mound in one game. I've tried to get someone from ESPN.com to research and determine if there has ever been more combined wins by a team in one game, but I haven't been able to get the answer. After Mussina gave up two more runs, he was replaced by Chris Britton, who ultimately gave way to Kyle "New York's Finest" Farnsworth. (By the way, I once saw a shirt for sale outside this ballpark that said, "Anybody But Farnsworth." That gave me a chuckle.)

Anyway, as of September 3, 2007, Roger Clemens had 354 wins (and he would NEVER win again), Mike Mussina had 247 wins, Britton had zero career wins (he is still stuck on zero), and Farnsworth had 27 career wins. All totaled, the Mariners faced off against SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT (628) career wins. What do you think, is that a record? I've certainly never heard of a team throwing more career wins in one game.

But all of those career wins were no match for King Felix Hernandez and his (then) 27 career wins. Tim was all like...

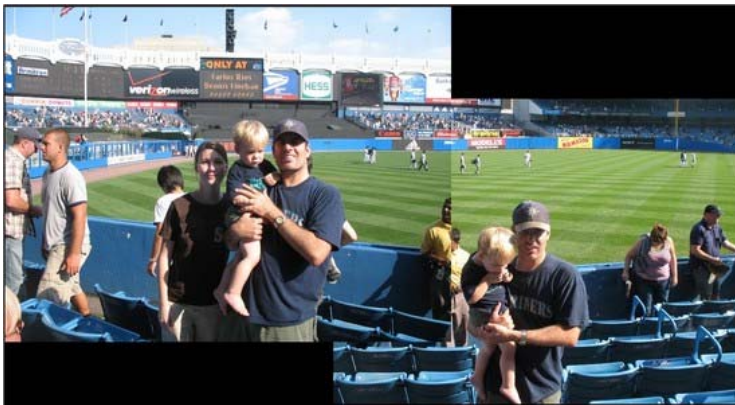


"Dude, our Mariners are seriously awesome!"

The scoreboard showed the happy totals:



After the game, we tried to get a nice family picture, but Tim wasn't into posing at the time (possibly because we'd just sat in ridiculously hot weather for 3+ hours). But combining the two pictures, you can get a semi-panaromic view of the field:



Thanks to the Mitchell Report and the amazing falling from grace of Mike Piazza's favorite opposing pitcher, this game proved to be the final loss of Roger Clemens's former-future-Hall of Fame career. But more importantly:

MARINERS WIN!!!!

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I had tickets to this game, and couldn't go. Although I am a Yankees fan, I would have liked to see Ichiro and King Felix, and Clemens.

<http://bronx-awesome.mblogs.com/>

By King_of_New_York on November 14, 2009 5:25 PM

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Todd,

Thanks for the vivid post. I felt as if I were there and watching the great game live (in 2007, I knew nothing about either MLB or MLBlogs).

Also, my best regard to lovely Tim and graceful Colleen!

P.S. Just found a nice and impressive poem about baseball.

http://buzblog.mlblogs.com/archives/2009/11/the_game_of_life.html

Reading this, I thought of you and Tim. Tim will enjoy his own Little League days soon, won't he?

By nao on November 16, 2009 9:34 AM

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BABU-

Thanks for your comment. Sorry you missed this game. It was a great one, although, as a Yankees fan, you might not have seeing it that way at the time.

NAO-

Thanks your the link to the poem. Little league is still a few years out for Tim, but we'll keep busy hitting balls and running bases in the back yard until then. Glad you enjoyed the post. Thanks for the nice comment.

By cookandsonbats on November 22, 2009 8:28 PM

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Todd,

Thanks a lot for your reply.

visiting the Personal History corner of The Cook & Son Picture Museum, I do look forward to the start of another new entry series: Tim's Learning to Play Baseball. What an impressive overlap between the two snapshot photos of a boy with a bat, you taken by your father and Tim taken by you!

By nao on November 24, 2009 4:11 AM

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FYI, in case anyone ever reads this entry again (and you should because it was a great game!), I wanted to note that I just heard on MLB Network that Steve Carlton (323 wins) relieved Phil Niekro (312 wins) on April 9, 2010 for a combined 635 wins -- or 7 more wins than we saw on the mound for the home team in this game.


By cookandsonbats on April 10, 2010 1:41 AM

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