

Thanks for the baseball lessons Dad

As I sat at home this weekend, pondering life, the universe and everything, I began to think of my dad. No, wait, don't turn away. This is not going to be one of those sappy "Wonder Years" type pieces. It was Father's Day and all.



MARK SMITH
Sportswriter

Anyway, I began to think about my dad and the relationship that we've developed over the years. What had brought us together? We certainly don't have that much in common. The guy is four decades older than I am. Talk about a generation gap. His idea of music is Lawrence Welk and Glen Miller. I'm more of an Eagles and Police man. Even the birth of rock and roll was after his time.

So what was it that gave us common ground? What connection could a man who lived through the Korean War and a punk kid who lived through Arthur "The Scud Stud" Kent's television coverage of the Persian Gulf War possibly make?

Well, the answer, quite simply, is baseball. When I was young I could not get enough baseball. Every night I would wait for dad to get home so he could hit me some grounders in the backyard. For a couple of hours every night, Dad and I would work together. He would show me how to master those short-hops and I would work so hard trying to get it.

Even when he was hitting me those balls, he was teaching me something more. I never had much natural talent around the diamond, so Dad taught me to work hard to improve. "If you want something bad enough, you've got to work hard to get it," he would tell me. That pretty much holds true for anything in life. Was he teaching me baseball or a valuable lesson in life? The world may never know.

Now that I have the benefit of a little age, I can look back on those days and realize that being with my dad was much more than baseball practice. It was father-son bonding. I learned that even though Dad listened to some lousy music, he really knew baseball. I respected him for that. I guess I still do.

Probably a lot of people connect with their fathers that way. They find something that they like to do together and do it. It could be fishing or golf or anything. Fathers have a lot to teach us; they have wisdom to share with their children. Just think of all the things that your dad taught you. He might have taught you to drive or, more simply, to walk. He might have taught you to tie your shoelaces and he might even have taught you to sit on the potty without falling off.

I would just like to say thanks to all the dads in the world who helped us play baseball, drive cars and eat solid foods. Happy Father's Day, Dad.

Yes! Chicago wins title for third straight time

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The Chicago Bulls, with the clock running out, showed the guts and grace of a champion.

They beat the Phoenix Suns 99-98 Sunday night to win their third straight NBA title on John Paxson's 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds to play. Phoenix's last chance at extending the NBA Finals to a seventh game ended when Horace Grant blocked Kevin Johnson's jumper from just beyond the foul line with a second to play.

Michael Jordan, who led the Bulls to the previous two titles, ran into the stands to retrieve the ball.

"This is a reward for all the hard work," Jordan said.

Paxson's 3-pointer lifts Bulls over Suns, 99-98

The Bulls were clearly a team in trouble before setting up for their last shot, having scored but nine points in the quarter — all by Jordan — until Paxson's wide-open 23-footer from the left side.

The play started with Jordan passing to Scottie Pippen, who threw the ball down low to Grant. Grant then kicked the ball out to Paxson at the 3-point arc. With Phoenix playing back in anticipation of a closer shot, the 6-foot-2 guard hit nothing but net and gave the Bulls a finals record 10 3-pointers in the game.

Chicago joined the Minneapolis Lakers from 1952-54 and the Boston Celtics from 1959-66 as the only teams to win as many

as three consecutive NBA titles.

Jordan scored 33 points for the Bulls and finished with the highest scoring average in finals history, 41.0, eclipsing Rick Barry's 1967 standard of 40.8.

The Suns, who held Chicago without a field goal for the first 6:39 of the fourth quarter, led 98-94 before Jordan's court-length drive for a layup closed the Bulls within two. Dan Majerle's airball caused a 24-second violation, giving Chicago possession and setting up Paxson's winner.

Even if the Bulls aren't the best team in history, they certainly are the most successful road team in the NBA Finals. In winning three consecutive titles, they are

are 8-1 in the championship series away from Chicago and just 4-4 at home.

Chicago won despite blowing an 87-79 lead in the fourth quarter and hitting just five of 18 shots in the final period. The Suns, who got 21 points and 17 rebounds from Charles Barkley and 21 points from Majerle, were five for 21 in the last 12 minutes and missed seven of their eight shots from the field. Johnson had 19 points and 10 assists.

The Bulls made 10 of 14 3-pointers, surpassing the finals record of nine set by Phoenix in its triple-overtime victory in Game 3.

The Suns scored the first seven points of the period, closing within one as the

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A Softball Complex

Lady Aggies hoping new home brings more respect

By MATTHEW J. RUSH

The Battalion

If Olsen Field can bring success to the Texas A&M baseball team, what does the new facility across the street hold in store for the already successful Aggie softball program?

With the team finishing 20th in the nation, the school has finally decided to build a new softball park for the Lady Aggies. The new field will be deemed a "Mini-Olsen" because of its design, seating capacity and indoor facilities.

Head Coach Bob Brock is excited about the construction and is eagerly awaiting next season.

"I'm really happy for our new facility," Brock said. "It's going to be done really first class."

Brock, who coached his team to a 38-14 record in 1993, looks to repeat his success with returning letterman Kim Gonzalez and All-American Jennifer McFalls. Brock has compiled a 564-187 in his twelve years as Aggie Head Coach.

Former All-American and current assistant coach Shawn Andaya, who played under Brock, has expressed similar feelings towards the new ballpark.

"It's a great thing and I'm real excited," Andaya said.

Andaya, a three-time All-American and a member of the Texas A&M Hall of Fame, added her thoughts on the caliber of stadium that is currently under

works. "It'll definitely be one of the best softball facilities in the country," she said.

One of the tactics in designing and constructing the new field is to draw

larger crowds and more notoriety for the Lady Aggies. The team has had winning seasons in each of Brock's 12 years, but has unfortunately had to play a multitude of road games because of an inadequate facility at home. Now that there

will be a new field, the softball team will hopefully get the respect it rightfully deserves.

"It will definitely help the exposure of

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MARY MACMANUS/The Battalion

What is now a muddy construction site is soon to become the home of the Lady Aggie softball team. The field, currently referred to as "Mini-Olsen," is scheduled to be completed in time for the Lady Aggies' opening day in 1994.

Janzen wins first U.S. Open

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. — With one short swing out of the rough, Lee Janzen took his place in golf history.

Evoking memories of Tom Watson and Lee Trevino, Janzen chipped out of the gnarly grass on 16th hole Sunday to blunt a challenge from Payne Stewart and win the U.S. Open by two strokes.

Janzen, who had won two tournaments in his career, shot a 1-under-par 69 to win the tournament in which he missed the cut three previous times.

"Unbelievable," he said. "I don't think it's sunk in yet. It's just incredible."

He closed with the elan of a champion, with birdies on three of the last five holes to finish at 8-under 272, tying the U.S. Open record held by Jack Nicklaus (1980).

Stewart, winner of the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship, shot a 70. He moved into a share of the lead when

Janzen bogeyed No. 12. Both players were even when Janzen rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on No. 14.

Janzen, a 28-year-old from Austin, Minn., who joined the tour in 1989, was the essence of consistency on the famed Baltusrol course at America's most prestigious tournament. He shot rounds of 67, 67, 69, 69, matching Trevino's U.S. Open mark in 1968 of shooting all four rounds under 70.

Nobody else managed a challenge. Craig Parry and Paul Azinger finished at 277. Watson and Scott Hoch were at 278 while Nolan Henke, Ernie Els, Fred Funk and Raymond Floyd were at 279.

This was an afternoon that belonged to Janzen and Stewart.

Janzen started the day with a one-stroke lead over Stewart and quickly stretched it to two shots when Stewart missed a four-foot par putt on No. 1. But the dramatics came much later, in the

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International Olympic Committee upset with Congressional resolution

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The International Olympic Committee has a message for the U.S. Congress: Mind your own business.

IOC officials reacted with fury Sunday to a U.S. House subcommittee resolution urging rejection of Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Summer Games because of China's human rights record.

"This is interference," said IOC vice president Kevan Gosper. "It takes us back 13 years to the (Jimmy) Carter boycott when the movement was almost brought down."

"It is a most unfortunate intrusion of politics in sport," said IOC director general Francois Carrard. "I see ghosts of the 1980 Carter boycott."

Carter ordered the U.S.-led boycott of the Moscow Games to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Four years later, the Soviets retaliated by leading a boycott of the Los Angeles Games.

"If the U.S. wants to make recommendations to the IOC, that's their right," Gosper said. "But they've got no right to tell individual members how to vote. We take the line that members can decide for themselves. We are very uncomfortable with this resolution and I personally regret it very much."

Gosper is also an official on the Sydney, Australia, bidding committee. Sydney and Beijing are considered the front-runners among the six cities seeking to stage the 2000 Games.

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