

World Series: The best thing money can buy

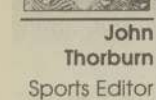
Decades ago, a fan could buy a hot dog at a professional ballpark for less than a dollar.

The taste was unique, the smell was unique.

Today, a hot dog costs up to five dollars in some stadiums.

The mustard is runny, the color of the dog is green and the taste is bad enough to give a person heartburn.

For those baseball fans that braved the sob stories daily broadcast by NBC to watch this year's World Series one thing was evident. The game has changed.



John Thorburn
Sports Editor

Now, let's not sit and ponder why the game has changed like every other sports analyst

is doing around America.

Let's look at what the game has lost, or better yet, what the Florida Marlins' Game 7 victory over the Cleveland Indians symbolizes.

During the 1996-97 off-season, the Florida Marlins played the arbitrary field sacrificing an estimated \$80 million dollars in acquiring big-name players like Moises Alou, Bobby Bonilla, and Alex Fernandez. The Miami area was granted a major-league team five years ago, and struggled their opening seasons as do most expansion teams.

The Marlins unloaded a large number of players and cash to rebuild for their championship run, which is evident in having only one player on the roster that was a Florida Marlin during their inaugural season.

Now, while some critics say that the Marlins organization should be shunned, I applaud their multi-million dollar deals that enabled them to win this year's World Series.

But what about the small market teams like the Milwaukee Brewers or the San Diego Padres that don't have the capital to obtain big name players?



Who plays for those teams again?

I bet they've got great hot dogs in San Diego.

It seems these days that the only teams that carry some history with them are those teams that can't lure the superstars of baseball.

The Seattle Mariners, playing in the old, grey Kingdome, are currently building their new outdoor ballpark for both economic and community reasons. The new stadium is expected to enhance the feeling that baseball is a family sport and will hold some private boxes for fans but not nearly as many as Jacobs Field in Cleveland or Pro Player Stadium in Florida contains.

Yankee Stadium, perhaps the most well-known park in sports, is full of history. You can't miss it when you walk into the grandstands, it hits you in the face. If it doesn't, some Yankee fan will.

The game is changing. Maybe someday "Take me out to the ballgame" will be replaced by "Whoomp there it is" or that ever annoying "Jock Jams" song.

With the addition of two more teams, the Devil Rays and the Diamondbacks, we can only look forward to more changes in the upcoming years.

I can't wait to see the color of the hot dogs in Arizona.

Marlins rally to win first title

ADAM CRUM
Staff Writer

The Florida Marlins proved that money can buy happiness.

After Florida's exhausting win in Game seven of the World Series, the talk of the town is not about the Marlins championship, but rather that they could be under new ownership next year. Wayne Huizenga, the Marlins' current owner, has threatened to sell the team after losing \$33 million this year. Huizenga spent over \$80 million on free agents and he brought in manager Jim Leyland.

Huizenga hasn't said for sure that he is going to sell the team, but he did make reference to it during the playoffs. With all the talent Florida brought in this year, Huizenga expected to fill the seats all year. That did not happen. Now, with the possibility of new ownership, the Marlins could lose key free agents like Moises Alou, Bobby Bonilla, Kevin Brown, Jeff Conine, Robb Nen, Devon White and Al Leiter.

Gary Sheffield and Alex Fernandez are two players that will definitely be back next year because they have a no trade clause in their contracts. If Huizenga does sell the team, Leyland, who won his first World Series in 34 years of coaching, could retire. Although Huizenga basically bought Florida a World Series, he may have hurt the team and city more than anything else.

It wasn't easy for Florida in the fall classic. They trailed in every game,

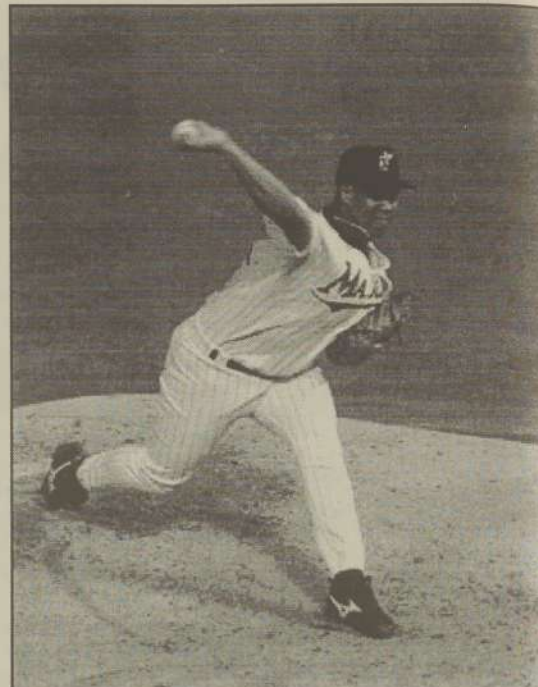
but managed to come back in four of the games. In Game three, Florida trailed 7-3, but scored four runs to tie the game and then scored seven in the ninth to record a 14-11 win. In Game five, the Marlins were down 4-2, when Moises Alou hit a three run home run to put Florida ahead 5-4. Florida went on to win 8-7, taking two of three games in Cleveland.

Game seven was one for the ages. Cleveland rookie pitcher Jaret Wright held Florida to one hit through six innings and took a 2-0 lead into the seventh inning. Bonilla hit a solo shot in the bottom half of the seventh to cut the lead in half.

Cleveland went to closer Jose Mesa in the ninth. After retiring the first hitter, Mesa gave up back-to-back singles to Alou and Charles Johnson. With one out and runners on the corners, second baseman Craig Counsell hit a sacrifice fly to right field, tying the game up, 2-2.

After a scoreless 10th, the Indians threatened in the 11th, but came up empty. In the bottom half, Bonilla hit a single up the middle to start the inning. Catcher Greg Zaun popped out to pitcher Charles Nagy on a bunt attempt, leaving Bonilla at first with one out. Counsell hit a bouncing ball towards Tony Fernandez at second, but the ball went right under Fernandez's glove. Bonilla raced to third, putting runners at first and third with one out.

After an intentional walk to Jim Eisenreich, Devon White hit a ground ball to Fernandez, who threw



home to get the force. The bases remained loaded, but with two outs. Shortstop Edgar Renteria, who struggled at the plate the entire series, stepped up to the plate. Renteria lined the 0-1 pitch up the middle, just over the glove of Nagy. Counsell came home to score the winning run and gave the Marlins their first world championship in only their fifth year of existence. It was Renteria's sixth game-ending hit of the year.



Cougars struggle at championships

ADAM CRUM
Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly what Clackamas' cross country teams had in mind.

Both teams struggled this past weekend, when the Cougars competed in the Southern Region Championships at Chemeketa Community College. The women ran a very disappointing race, with only three runners finishing. Because they failed to finish five runners, the Cougars ran an incomplete race.

Mt. Hood won the championships, with Lane, Clark and Chemeketa finishing second through fourth, respectively.

The women were led by Tyana Moralez, who finished 10th overall with a time of 21:08. Emily Schmierer wasn't far behind, finishing 13th at 21:30. The only other finisher was Anthea Dejarnette, who finished 23rd at 22:12.

Both Moralez and Schmierer earned second team honors for the Southern Region. Coach Jack Kegg was extremely pleased

with the performance of Schmierer.

"Emily had a particularly good race. It was one of her best times of the year and this course wasn't that fast."

The men fared a little better than the women, however, they did not run to their potential. The Cougars finished fourth with 102 points. Lane edged out Mt. Hood for first place, with Clark finishing third. Andy Bradley finished 13th with a time of 27:16 to lead the Cougars. Bradley's finish was good enough for second team All-Southern Region.

Other top finishers for the Cougars included Jason Bennett, 19th at 27:53, Tim Winter, 22nd at 28:00, David Lemarr, 24th at 28:21 and Jay Hawkey, 30th at 28:52. Winter and Hawkey cracked the Cougars' top five for the first time this year. Despite not finishing as well as he had hoped, Kegg was happy with the performances of Bennett, Winter, and Hawkey.

Clackamas hosts the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] Championships on Saturday,

Nov. 8. Kegg feels the men's team can be competitive if they run to their potential.

"We need to have our top three guys have good races and be a little more competitive early on."

According to Kegg, the Community Colleges of Spokane are the favorite. With the competition as tough as it is, Kegg knows it's not going to be easy.

"We'll see if we can get in the top three and win a trophy. It's going to be difficult because the best team in our conference [Spokane] didn't win it this week."

The favorite on the women's side is also Spokane. Kegg believes his team will borderline on finishing third or fourth. A top three finish would earn the Cougars a trophy.

"We'll have all five of our ladies back for the NWAACC and we'll hope to see if they can win a trophy too."

Cross Country

• The Cougars host this year's NWAACC Championship meet on Nov. 8 --Clackamas claimed the title last fall in the men's competition and the combined team competition.

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