

Sports nut cracks dictionary

By Steven Weldon
Associate Sports Editor

Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out to the crowd. Buy me
some peanuts and Cracker Jacks ... I
won't ever get back!"

You don't pay attention to base-
balls may be the first thing that
comes to mind when you think about
baseball. You have no idea what it means,
it's not catchy ... and has something
to do with baseball.

The song, "Take Me Out To The
Ball Game," was written in 1908 by
Albert von Tilzer and lyricist
Lorenz Hart, both of whom
never attended a baseball game
while writing the song! The song
became the unofficial anthem
of America's Pastime and is sung
at ball parks across the coun-
try during the seventh inning, in-
cluding the seventh-inning
stretch where everyone in the stadi-
um gets up after (probably) sitting
for most of the game and in-
cludes "Take Me Out To The
Ball Game."

There are some sports terms you
may not be familiar with, that will
be more familiar with sports!

Basketball:

Points in the Paint: You'll
hear this and say, "Where's the paint
on the floor, and how do players
know the area where the paint
is? It actually means how many
points are scored in the area directly
under the basket extending to the
free-throw line. Typically, the team
that controls the points in the
paint has the advantage in the
game."

Rebound: OK, people
want the ball off a miss and
what is known as a rebound
is how can a whole team grab
the ball. This statistic is counted when
the ball goes to no one in particular
such as a miss off the rim
and bounces a few times with no
one touching it. Once a player on the
offensive team grabs it, it's known
as a rebound.

**Double-Double, Triple-
Double:** Sounds pretty cool right?
If a single player collects
double-digits in two
or three (triple) statistical

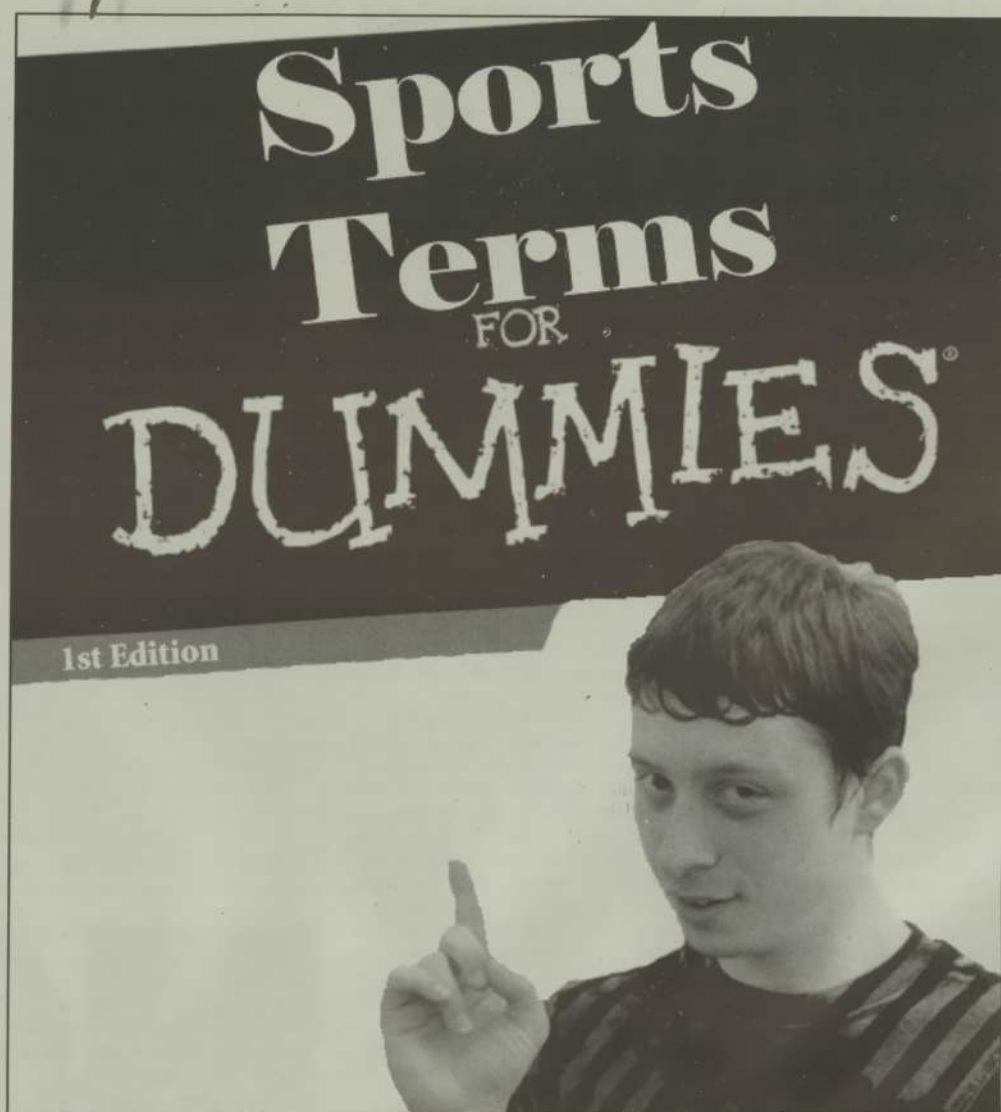


Photo illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

categories. An example would be 20
points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists.
This was the Portland Trail Blazers'
Brandon Roy's first-ever triple-dou-
ble, which he attained on Feb. 1,
2008.

4. Field Goal: Usually field goals
are associated with football. In bas-
ketball, a field goal is a shot taken on
the court.

5. Three in the Key: You can
stand anywhere on the court you
want for as long as you want. You
won't get anything done by just
standing, unless you are in the 'key'
or as covered earlier the 'paint.'
Being in the key for three seconds on

offense is against the rules of basket-
ball. Why? The rule was developed
to discourage the larger players on
the court from standing under the
basket for easy baskets. In the pro-
fessional game, they have defensive
three seconds, where a defensive
player cannot stand in the key. This
is to prevent a 'goalie' mentality for
the defense.

6. Rip City: If you've been
around Portland for a while, you
probably have heard this. Rip City
started as a phrase coined by former
Portland Trail Blazers radio play-
by-play man Bill Schonely. The
ball went through the net and made

a quick 'rip' sound, and Schonely
instinctively proclaimed 'Rip City!'
The phrase would go on to represent
the city and team to this day, 40 years
after it was invented.

Baseball/Softball:

1. Bloop: Bloopers are always
funny, especially when they're on
TV. It's even funny in baseball. When
a player has a 'bloop' hit, it means
they hit the ball into the outfield but
close to the infield. The thing that
makes it a 'bloop' is the fact that
the ball drops just right between the
defensive players on the infield and

outfield so they cannot catch it and
record the out.

2. Double-play, Triple-play:
One of the most exciting things to
see at baseball/softball games is a
double- or triple-play. This is where
the defensive team collects two (dou-
ble) or all three (triple) outs on one
ball hit into play. A common double
play is shortstop to second baseman
to first baseman with a runner on first
base going to second and the batter
running to first base.

3. Doubleheader: Baseball is not
fun in the rain, which explains why
games are not played with drizzle.
This is where a doubleheader comes
into play. If a game is rained-out, or
play is suspended for any reason,
another day the same two teams will
play two games in one day!

4. Designated Hitter: A desig-
nated hitter is a player who hits in
place of the pitcher, who are gener-
ally not good at the batting aspect of
the game. The DH, as the player is
frequently referred to, is only used in
some leagues.

5. Grand Slam: First thing that
comes to mind ... pancakes ... eggs
... sausage ... grits ... Oops! Wrong
thought process. A grand slam in
baseball is what happens when all
three runners on base are brought
to home base by the batter hitting a
home run.

6. Rally Cap: Your team is down,
late in the game. They'll need to rally
to come back. Everyone begins to
take off their baseball caps ... and
put them on backwards? What is
regular practice today as a super-
stition started back in 1942, when
Detroit Tigers fans would switch to
their rally caps to inspire the team
to a come-from-behind victory. In
the 1945 World Series against the
Chicago Cubs, with Game 5 tied at
2-2 in the sixth inning, Tigers players
were noticed to have their rally caps
on. In the same inning, Cubs first
baseman Phil Cavarretta let the ball
roll between his legs on a fielding
play, allowing four Tigers runners
to score. The Tigers would go on to
win the game and the World Series.
From then on, fans across the world
began flipping their hats the wrong
way. The belief stems from giving
up your own personal dignity for the
sake of the team.

This is just the tip of the ice-
berg! Look for more sports terms
for dummies in future issues of *The
Clackamas Print*!

