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The Old New Thing

Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

It's [the second annual Stitch 'n Pitch at Safeco Field](#). Stitch n' Pitch events for other cities can be found on the [Stitch n' Pitch web site](#). (Channeling Lynne Truss: Ahem, people, the spelling of the middle word is 'n' with an apostrophe fore and aft.) [10am: Fixed sepleling.]

Seattle Times readers [Dave Butner](#) and [Mike Wilson](#) took issue with the event (though Mr. Wilson's outrage bordered on satirical). To me, baseball is like soccer: It's a game whose primary draw is not the actual scoring but rather the anticipation that a run might be scored. It's in the tension that builds as scoring opportunities develop (most of which prove fruitless), not in the actual scoring itself. And unlike soccer, where something exciting could happen at almost any time, in baseball, there are long stretches where you can reliably predict that nothing exciting will occur. Like, say, when the pitcher is taking a walk around the mound scratching himself. In other words, baseball is a social event, not a sporting event. And if you're going to attend a social event, why not do it with people whom you share interests with?

It's not like I don't appreciate baseball. I know when you should perform a double-switch. I know why the catcher sometimes tags the batter with the baseball after a strikeout. I can even explain the infield fly rule. But when I attend a baseball game with friends, we don't talk about baseball the whole time. We enjoy the sunshine, catch up on each other's lives, gossip about friends who aren't present, admire some of the goofball fans in the bleachers. And enjoy a baseball game.

Published Thursday, July 20, 2006 7:00 AM by [oldnewthing](#)

Filed Under: [Non-Computer](#)

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re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 11:05 AM by [Tom M](#)

Cricket is the same. The game may last 5 days and you know that for the majority of the game very little will happen. Sure, runs are scored, wickets are taken, and every now and then there are some moments of sublime individual skill. The real reason people watch the game though is that it's a chance to spend a relaxing day with some friends, drink a few beers in the sun and enjoy the experience of being part of a large and good natured crowd.

re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 11:44 AM by [Tom F](#)

I thought being retentive regarding punctuation was more of a British trait. In the interest of which your apostrophe seems to move around a few times on the 'n'.

The best bit about Cricket I've been told is that the tickets aren't offensively expensive as they often are for other sports.

[I'm not the one moving the apostrophes around; that's how the organizations (mis)spell it! -Raymond]

re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 12:22 PM by [Patrick](#)

It's Lynne, not Lynn. Imagine how she'd react to *that*!

re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 12:50 PM by [Cody](#)

Was the 'sepleling' typo intentional?

re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 1:34 PM by [Todd](#)

So now I'm curious. Why does the catcher sometimes tag the batter with the ball after a strikeout? Better luck for next time?

re: Buy me some peanuts and a set of double-pointed 2's

Thursday, July 20, 2006 1:47 PM by [mph](#)

Todd: Watch closely, and you'll see that this happens when the third strike is in the dirt, or otherwise not caught cleanly (before touching the ground). If first base is unoccupied (or even if it is occupied, but there are two outs), the batter can attempt to run to first base, and must be tagged or thrown out. See rule 6.05, parts (b), (c), and (j), available at:

http://www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/official_info/official_rules/batter_6.jsp

Scobleizer - Tech Geek Blogger ’ Pitch?

Friday, July 21, 2006 9:39 PM by [Scobleizer - Tech Geek Blogger > Stitch n' Pitch?](#)

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