

Register | Login

MLB.com

POWERED BY

Search

MLB Sites

News Audio & Video Scoreboard Schedule Roster Stats Community Fans Progressive Field Tickets Shop Auction Mobile Fantasy

News

- Indians News
- Probable Pitchers
- Depth Chart
- Press Pass
- RSS News Feeds

Game Face

07/11/2007 10:00 AM ET

Stitch N'Pitch melds two traditions

Indians fans bring their needles to the park for event

By David Briggs / MLB.com



e-mail this page

CLEVELAND -- Terri Swisher and her 12-year-old daughter, Loren, are looking forward to autumn.

And not just because they expect their favorite team to be locked in a pennant race. That's when the cover of blankets will allow the two Tribe fans to secretly take part in their other favorite pastime: knitting.

Not that there can't be a mid-season exception. Last month, the Swishers were part of the some 250 needle-wielding fans gathered in Jacobs Field's right-field mezzanine for Stitch N'Pitch night.

"This makes it legal for us to knit," Terri said with a laugh.

On one of 23 Stitch N'Pitch days scheduled across the Majors this year, nearly all of section 307 had their hands busy. They knitted, crocheted, cross-stitched, needle-pointed, and most importantly, had fun.

It's a hobby that's growing across baseball. After the Seattle Mariners drew 1,600 people at a knitting day in 2005, similar events took off.

Stitch N'Pitch days were held at 11 big-league parks last year, and the number has more than doubled this season. At Jacobs Field alone, attendance this year was up 150 fans from last summer's event.

"Baseball is an American tradition, and needle arts is an American tradition," said Patty Parrish, the executive director of the National Needle Association. "So we're just bringing the two together."

That hasn't been difficult. Many local shop owners have come to realize that plenty of their customers follow the Tribe.

"And I mean hardcore," Parrish said.

For the Swishers, a normal night at home would find the mother-daughter tandem navigating their needles in front of an Indians game on the tube.

"To do something that you'd be doing anyway, but here, it's awesome," Loren said. "Watching something that you love makes it great."

It was the same natural fit for Peggy Strang, owner of French Creek Fiber Arts in Avon.



Over 250 fans turned out with their knitting needles for Stitch N'Pitch night. (Cleveland Indians)

MORE COVERAGE

Indians Headlines

- Sizemore becoming All-Star regular
- Lee honored to be named AL starter
- Tribe continues dominance of Rays
- Sizemore an odd fit for Derby
- Indians welcome break despite streak
- More Indians Headlines

MLB Headlines

- Sheets to shoulder load for NL as starter
- Lee honored to be named AL starter
- All-Star Game: Tickets | Rosters | Coverage
- Hitters looking to drive ball out at Derby
- All-Star Game starting lineups announced
- More MLB Headlines

ADVERTISEMENT



::: This Edition: July 11, 2007 :::

This edition's Game Face features:

- **Doby: The forgotten trailblazer**
- **Indians lead the way in going green**
- **Stitch N'Pitch melds two traditions**

"It's just great to be sitting here with my knitting buddies," she said. "Seeing everyone smiling is wonderful. The one thing about knitting is that it gives instant friendship."


Well, there's one other thing, too.

"It makes the losses a lot easier to take," said Erica Kuntz, of Cleveland.

Why?

"Because even if the Indians didn't accomplish anything," Strang said with a laugh, "we did."

David Briggs is an associate reporter for MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

[e-mail this page](#) 

[Official Info](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Statement](#) [Help/Contact Us](#) [Job Opportunities](#) [Corporate Marketing](#)



© 2001-2008 MLB Advanced Media, L.P. All rights reserved.

The following are trademarks or service marks of Major League Baseball entities and may be used only with permission of Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. or the relevant Major League Baseball entity: Major League, Major League Baseball, MLB, the silhouetted batter logo, World Series, National League, American League, Division Series, League Championship Series, All-Star Game, and the names, nicknames, logos, uniform designs, color combinations, and slogans designating the Major League Baseball clubs and entities, and their respective mascots, events and exhibitions.

Use of the Website signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)(updated 03.22.05).