

ADVERTISEMENT

# HUFFPOST SPORTS

News Web

SEARCH >

f Like 276K

April 24, 2011 | Log In | Sign Up

f Connect

FRONT PAGE

POLITICS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA TECH COMEDY SPORTS STYLE WORLD FOOD LIVING IMPACT EDU LOCAL

SPORTS SPORTING NEWS FOOTBALL BASKETBALL BASEBALL SPORTS CRIME

Get Alerts

**Michael Giltz**  
Freelance writer and raconteur

GET UPDATES FROM MICHAEL GILTZ

FAN RSS EMAIL f Like 1

## Why I Love Baseball

Posted: 03/ 8/11 02:40 AM ET

React > Inspiring Funny Typical Scary Outrageous Amazing Infuriating Extreme

Follow > Baseball, Movies, Fans, Major League Baseball, Sports, Sports News

SHARE THIS STORY

10 78 5 27  
f share tweet email comment

Get Sports Alerts

Sign Up

Submit this story

So Major League Baseball is running a contest to pick some lucky (?) baseball fan who will spend an entire season eating, sleeping, drinking, breathing and blogging about baseball. They'll watch every game humanly possible, give interviews, write stories about it, tweet, blog, crack wise, sing, you name it. A friend sent me a link to the entry form. (I'm a devoted Yankee fan with two season tickets in the bleachers.) Then another friend sent me the link. Then another. And another.

I glanced at the rules and info and realized I would never get picked. I know a lot about movies and music and TV and a lot of other topics. I know a lot about the Yankees. But baseball in general? I'm no expert. I find it

challenging enough to keep up with the ins and outs of one team. (Now tennis I could yabber on about....) But one of the questions on the entry form caught my eye: why do you love baseball, in 500 words or less? Why do I love baseball? I suddenly found myself waxing poetic (when I wasn't checking the word count). Nothing brings out the sentimental fool in a fella quite like baseball. So here's what I wrote. I could have gone on and on, but here it is in about 498 words. When you're done, tell me why *you* love baseball.

### WHY I LOVE BASEBALL

My love of baseball -- and especially the New York Yankees -- came through the movies. I grew up in South Florida when there was no major league baseball team based there. Until I moved to New York City in 1991, I'd never been to a baseball game -- not little league, not softball, not the minors, not the

ADVERTISEMENT

### HUFFPOST SOCIAL NEWS

FOLLOW US



MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

1 of 2



**WATCH: Two New Yorkers Take A Taxi To Los Angeles**

f Like 2K



**9/11 Responders Warned They Will Be Screened For Terrorism Ties (EXCLUSIVE)**

f Like 20K



**Poll Shows One Potential Presidential Hopeful In Striking Distance Of Obama**

f Like 1K



**Popeater: Brad and Angelina's Strict Nanny Requirements**

f Like 1K



**Shelterpop: Unplugging Appliances: Do I REALLY Have to Do This?**

f Like 1K



**What To Do About Smelly Feet**

f Like 664

**Noam Chomsky Is the World Too Big to Fail? The Contours of Global Order**

pros.

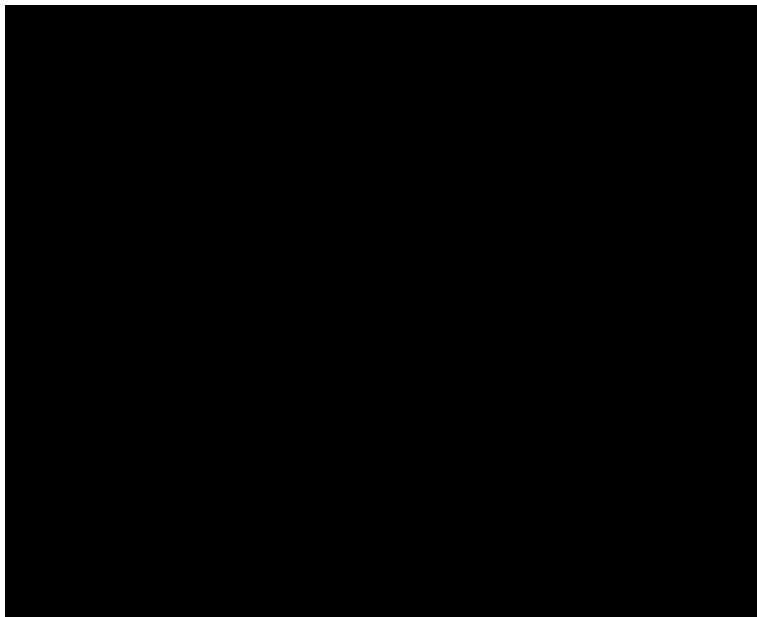
But I loved the movies. And some of the best sports movies of all time have been baseball movies. *Bull Durham*. *Pride Of The Yankees*. *Bang The Drum Slowly*. *Eight Men Out*. *Field Of Dreams*. *Fear Strikes Out*. So I was primed to love baseball when I entered Yankee Stadium in May of 1991 and sat in the front row of the upper deck just past first base. I came back a few weeks later and then again. And then again.

The following season I went to about ten games and soon migrated to the bleachers. Year by year, the number of games increased. And this was when it took dedication to sit in the bleachers. They only sold tickets on the day of the game and if it was a popular one, you had to arrive very early or you'd be shut out. Suddenly, a game that already took three hours to watch was a six or seven hour event. But I was hooked.

First it was the excitement. But now it's the lulls as much as the hits and strike-outs, the chance to chat with lifelong friends I've made in the Bleacher Creature section (and who forwarded me an email insisting I apply). I call it urban fishing. You sit and relax and chat and show a little patience and every once in a while something happens. And this is the amazing part: time after time, you see something you've never seen before.

Until baseball, I never realized how much satisfaction you could receive out of cheering others on. I enjoyed watching sports but always preferred to play them. I never imagined I would be so obsessed with a team, feel such joy over winning a game or clinching a post-season berth. You don't say, "They won!" You say, "We won!" And you mean it.

The winning is sweet, naturally. But that's not why I go to 40+ games a year. It's the humbling awareness that I can study baseball all my life and still have more to learn. It's the mini-dramas that take place during every at-bat. It's watching a player grow and apply themselves and become a star. It's pinpointing the ones that don't apply themselves; the ones who drive you nuts by squandering their chance. It's raging at a move of the manager or a trade by the owner. It's insisting the moves and trades that do work out were ones you championed all along. It's high-fiving the person next to you when you've never seen them before and don't even know their name. It's starting fresh every spring training. It's baseball.



Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of Showbiz Sandbox, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's [available free on iTunes](#). Visit [Michael Giltz at his website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called [Popsurfing](#) and also [available for free on iTunes](#). Link to him on [Netflix](#) and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz](http://www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz)



Like 3K



**AOL Real Estate: Prince William and Kate to Live in Royal Mansion**

Like 56



**TV Squad: Maria Menounos Relives Her Paparazzi 'Wardrobe Malfunction' on 'Lopez' (VIDEO)**

Like 52

#### DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

1 of 5



**Sam Waterston**

[Saving Easter Island's Marine Ecosystems](#)



**David O. Russell**

[FDR Said It All in 1936 -- Who Will Follow in His Steps Today?](#)

#### TOP VIDEO PICKS

1 of 11



**After a couple of bad games in a row, Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo has shaved his beard once again,**

PLAY VIDEO



**Mike Quade credits Jeff Stevens for saving the bullpen; says he has to brush up on his unwritten rul**

PLAY VIDEO



**Blackhawks have a swagger, confidence after back-to-back big wins but aren't getting over-confident;**

PLAY VIDEO

#### MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW



**Versus Announcer Has No Clue Who Won The Game**

#### HOT ON FACEBOOK

1 of 3



**Brandon Marshall Stabbed, In Intensive Care; Wife Is Main Suspect**

Recommend 158



**Brandon Marshall's Wife Out Of Jail After Stabbing**

Like 5



Angels Fans Taunt Carl Crawford With Dollar...



Ann Browne Dead: Sister Of LSU Coach...



Mark Cuban Hit In Face With Object...



Brian McRae Arrested: Former MLB Outfielder Busted...

Sponsored Links

Groupon™ Official Site

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. Get 50-90% off your city's best! www.Groupon.com

DO NOT buy Auto Insurance!

A secret to saving you money now. \$9 Auto Insurance is here! www.Consumer-Insurance.org

TODAY: Samsung 55 LED TV's Sold for \$82!

Auction site to give away 1,000+ LED TV's for \$81.98 EACH! NewsToday4.com

Trade Free for 60 Days.

Plus get up to \$500. Apply at E\*TRADE Securities. www.etrade.com/tradefree

Buy a link here

Loading comments...

Sponsored Links

Groupon™ Official Site

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. Get 50-90% off your city's best! www.Groupon.com

Buy a link here



mayhemstudios RT @sbeasla: What happens when you tickle a little penguin? http://j.mp/dEZjCM via @huffingtonpost

retweet



twsuccess Antoine Dodson Arrested For Marijuana Possession http://huff.to/edLalo

retweet

Quick Job Search POWERED BY careerbuilder

Enter Keyword(s):
Enter a City:
Select a State: - All United States -
Select a Category: - All Job Categories -

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



NBA



Afghanistan



Fast Food



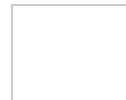
Gas & Oil



NASA



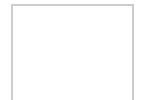
Hockey



Brian Williams



Gabrielle Giffords



Mexico

MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »

SEARCH

