

## A GOOD WORD WITH COACH SPAIN-----SPRING EDITION

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM RYNE SANDBERG'S SPEECH WHEN THE FORMER CUB WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

The reason I am here, they tell me, is that I played the game a certain way, that I played the game the way it was supposed to be played. I had too much respect for the game to play it any other way, and if there was a single reason I am here today, it is because of one word, respect.

It was about doing things right. If you played the game the right way, played for the team, good things would happen.

My managers always said I made things easy for them by showing up on time, never getting into trouble, being ready to play every day, leading by example, being unselfish. I made things easy on them? These things they talk about, playing every day, that was my job. I had too much respect for them and for the game to let them down. I was afraid to let them down. I didn't want to let them down or let the fans down or my teammates or my family or myself. I had too much respect for them to let them down.

A lot of people say this honor validates my career, but I didn't work hard for validation. I didn't play the game right because I saw a reward at the end of the tunnel. I played right because that's what you're supposed to do, play it right and with respect.

I believe it is because I had so much respect for the game and respect for getting the most out of my ability that I stand here today. I hope others in the future will know this feeling for the same reason: Respect for the game of baseball. When we all played it, it was mandatory. It's something I hope we will one day see again.

## LONGTIME COACH

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THE FOLLOWING STORIES ARE A COMPILATION OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED OVER THE YEARS. LONGTIME COACH IS A MADE UP NAME REPRESENTING MANY COACHES.

One longtime football coach had a habit of rolling up his pants legs every time the other team scored a touchdown. One night they got beat 56-0 and it looked like he was wearing Bermuda shorts at the end of the game.

One longtime coach and his team got into a brawl with their heated rival. At the end of the fight this coach was only wearing his pants. His shirt, shoes, and socks were off. At this time this coach was over 60 years of age. No one can still figure how this happened.

One longtime football coach did a radio show after the game with the local radio announcer. This show took place in the press box. Unbeknown to them there was a wasp nest in the small press box. While the coach was talking live on the air a wasp stung him on the elbow. The surprised coach let out a loud expletive on the airways.

The only thing announcer could say was, folks, coach has just been by a stung by a wasp as more expletives followed from the wounded coach.

One longtime basketball coach was being pursued by a school to become their boys' basketball coach. The coach said he would take the job under one condition---that they would let him get new team uniforms. The school board said that would be fine and he was hired. On opening night the team ran onto the court wearing brand new orange and blue suits. The only problem was that the school colors were black and white.

When the Tennessee high school football playoffs began in the early 70's a team had to win their district to go to the playoffs. Many teams with good records were able to go to bowl games. One longtime coach decided to create his own bowl game. His team had finished 2nd in their league with an 8-2 record and he wanted to reward them. The main thing he wanted to do was find a team he knew he could beat. He found such a team and told the coach that at the least you will get a runner-up trophy. The team he found upset his team. At the trophy presentation the runner-up trophy was 6" tall and the winning trophy was 5 feet tall.

#### BASEBALL CAPS AND IQ

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If you like to wear a baseball cap like I do it automatically cuts down your IQ 25%. If you wear it backwards it cuts it down 50%. If you wear it sideways it cuts it down 75% leaving not much to work with.