



INJURIES IN SPORTS ARE ALL PART OF THE GAME

By Kerry Schmidt 07-10-2005

Torn ACL, MCL, hamstring; broken foot, arm, et al; concussions, sprains and many other assorted ailments land players on the DL.

With nothing but dull baseball going on, and waiting for football camps to open, I searched long and hard for some material

That's why Al Gore invented the internet. I stumbled on this material, injuring my right wrist on my computer mouse.

Yep, playing sports can get you hurt.

Here's a good start on the really tough injuries.

Right-handed pitcher Jeff Juden missed a week with an infected tattoo. But Arsenal soccer star Freddie Ljungberg topped him. Ljungberg missed four weeks and needed surgery due to a reaction to tattoo ink.

Rugby players are known to be pretty tough guys. Jans Hansen, of the Australian A team, missed four matches due to a hand he injured by signing too many autographs. Yep, tough guy.

Speaking of broken bones, Rockies shortstop Clint Barmes broke his collar bone when he fell on the stairs carrying a load of venison. You could say it was a big misSTEAK.

Getting plenty of rest is important for athletes.

Dangerous, too. While sleep walking in his hotel room, golfer Sam Torrance mistook a potted plant for an intruder and cracked his sternum fighting the "invader."

While sleeping in bed, A's right hander Rich Harden strained his shoulder reaching for the snooze button.

Then you had Glenallen Hill. In 1990, he had "a very scary" nightmare about spiders and had to go on the DL with self-inflicted cuts and scrapes. And, he never even woke up.

Then you had outfielder Terry Harden. He separated his shoulder while making the windmill gesture for a runner to come home from third base.

Manchester United goal keeper, Alex Stepney, chewed out his teammates so harshly that he dislocated his jaw. That's telling 'em!

Injuries can be a real pain in the a.. In 1982, prankster Kirk Gibson pulled the locker stool from under pitcher Dave Rozema, causing him to fall on his backside, wherein he had a bottle of cough syrup in his back pocket. The prank had everyone in stitches.

Turning the other cheek many years back (1923), Boston rookie Clarence Blethen slid into 2nd base – with his false teeth in his back pocket. Puts new meaning to "I bit my cheek."

Here's my favorite IQ injury. Pitcher John Smoltz burned his chest and blood-stained his shirt while ironing it. While he was wearing it!

Left handed pitcher Brian Anderson also burned his face with an iron in his hotel room. No details on how that happened.

With so many night games, getting a tan is difficult. Orioles' outfielder Marty Cordova fell asleep in a tanning bed, badly scorching his face.



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And Ricky Henderson also fell asleep, with an ice pack on his ankle and suffered frostbite. In August.

Here's one I remember watching on TV. In 1997, Redskins QB Gus Ferotte scored the third rushing TD of his career. Wanting to celebrate as is the custom, Ferotte banged his head against the stadium wall. He knocked himself out and missed the rest of the game, and, was never quite the same. Hey, for a measly \$18 million salary, what do you expect? Another TV NFL moment I remember. In 2001, Arizona FG kicker Bill Gramatica kicked an easy 42-yard FG early in the first quarter. For some reason, he was so enamored with himself that he jumped wildly into the air. But he had a rough landing and tore his ACL, thus missing the rest of the season. Hard to believe, but he was soon released by the Cardinals.

Here's one I think we all can sympathize with. In 2002, pitcher Adam Eaton stabbed himself in the stomach with a knife. How? He was trying to get that blankity blank wrapping of a DVD. Man, if anyone could invent a little opening device that easily does that, there's a new millionaire.

Outfielder Oddie McDowell sliced up his finger while buttering a dinner roll and Curt Simmons cut off a toe mowing the lawn. Hey, when you make five million a year, can't you afford to have someone do that for you?

Speaking of money, that can get you hurt also. Tony Gwynn broke his middle finger while closing the door on his Porsche before entering the bank. At least he was thus unable to make an obscene gesture.

Spain's goalkeeper, Santiago Canizares was ousted from the 2002 World Cup when a bottle of Aqua Velva fell on his foot. I assume he does not suffer from stinky feet.

And of course many of you remember Vince Coleman getting partially wrapped up in the field tarp during the '85 league championship series.

In 2004, Tom Glavine was taking a cab from the airport to Shea Stadium when his cab was involved in an accident. He lost his Christmas "two front teeth," and needed stitches for a cut lip.

More Glavine. Broken ribs are extremely painful. In 1992 he broke one vomiting up an airplane meal. Proof positive for all the jokes about airplane food. Of course, can you remember back when they actually served you some?

Kevin Mitchell also injured himself vomiting in '92. When asked what caused him to vomit, he replied, "Sometimes I just do that." OK.

Sammy Sosa did not get sick, he just sneezed big time. Tore a rib muscle. Do steroids make for big sneezes to tear big muscles?

Speaking of ribs, Wade Boggs bruised his while pulling on cowboy boots. He lost his balance and fell into a couch. I wonder if a BBQ was going on.

Hall of Famer Bill Dickey jumped for joy after the Yankees clinched a pennant.

Unfortunately, he was in a low ceilinged dugout, and he knocked himself out cold.

Striking out is something no hitter wants to do. Well, not only did former Tigers' slugger Rob Deer (not another venison joke) get K'd, but he did so in spectacular fashion. He swung – and missed – so hard he broke his wrist.

Players often ride stationary bikes to keep warm, even 30 years ago. Steve Trout did, and badly bruised his shoulder when he fell off.



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Now I will end with my all time favorite injury. In 1992, then Giants manager Roger Craig cut the back of his right hand when he snagged it on the hook of his wife's bra. Hey, at least it was his wife.