

(Notes originally intended as reporter's notes for op-ed. Remarks in parentheses added after the game. Notes below are edited.)

10-11-12

pre-game

Timelessness -- cell phone in pocket, not looking at the time

-----@msn.com (Bruce M-----) -- guy on my left -- grandfather in baseball circa 1910, uncle in baseball (in 40s?)

Jessica Caylyn -- (singing) national anthem

jet flyer shown on jumbotron (recorded video? no jets flew over that I saw)

fans wave gold rally towels toward end of national anthem "land of the free"

MC Hammer (an artist) -- first pitch -- seems skinnier -- he flashes sign language shown on the jumbotron (V 2 ___ = peace 2 you?)

gold rally towels again -- lots of gold everywhere -- reminds me of Christo! (the artist)

6 umpires -- (I'm thinking:) time to get our game on

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#14 (DET Austin Jackson, Outfield, R-R, 6'1", 185 lbs, DOB: Feb. 1, 1987, age 25)

1) (First pitch) foul tip -- foot

2) X-swing (swing and miss)

Crowd standing

3) on feet X3 out 1

#52 (DET Quintin Berry, Outfield, L-L, 6'0", 175, Nov 21, 1984, age 27.8)

4) O

5) Foul to left side bleachers

"It's a little electric more early." (Comment by neighbor:)

6) O

7) Double to left-center, well hit

bat boy goes to 2nd to get (glove)

#24 DET Miguel Cabrera, Infield, R-R, 6'4", 240, April 18, 1983 (age 29)

8) Foul tip, foot area

(Bruce tells me:) First triple crown since 1967 (?) Yastrzemski. I answer that was before my time. Bruce says it's (achieving a triple crown) "Pretty awesome."

9) grounder, 5 -3 out

Runner (Berry, #52) stays at second

#28 (DET Prince Fielder, Infield, L-R, 5'11", 275, May 9, 1984, age 28)

(Bruce tells me he got a) home run yesterday to left.

Infielders shifted to the right

10) X

11) X swing

(Fans waving gold rally towels) YELLOW!! Loud X2

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12) 6-3 ground out

(I ask Bruce about the pitches thrown by Parker in the top of the first. Bruce said) change-up pitches "Keep 'em off balance... It's when they start changing the speed." (Hard for batters to find the fastballs they're looking for to hit.)

(Pitcher for Detroit is Justin Verlander) #35 (R-R, 6'5", 225 lbs, Feb 20, 1983, age 29)

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middle 1st

(I chat with Bruce about the positioning of the players and how they shifted right for Prince Fielder, #28. Bruce replies that) video histories are kept on all players to see how they bat vs. every pitcher. (I remark that it used to be that the pitchers had to rely on their memory.)

#4 (OAK Coco Crisp, Outfield, 5'10", 185 lbs, S-R, switch hitter, throws right, Nov. 1, 1979, age 32.8)

(Coco has a) slanted batting stance (batting left, his body forms a graceful curve in relation to the pitcher, "as if" a pitched ball that hit his body might roll up his body in the curve and be headed upward in an arc.)

13) X – call(ed strike)

14) O

15) X - swing (and a miss)

16) (Coco) puts one leg forward while pitch is in the air

16) O (ball)

2 - 2 count

17) X Foul behind plate

Organ: "Let's go Oakland!"

18) X3 - swing out

Oakland fans in the right field bleachers are waving big flags. They're sitting up kind of high off the field.

#5 (Stephen Drew, Infield, L-R, 6'0", 190 lbs, March 16, 1983, age 29)

19) Pitcher throws ball with a kind of big arc in the motion of his throwing hand.

19) O (ball)

20) O

21) Pitcher has "body swivel" in his motion before pitching

21) X swing and miss

22) foul back

Jumbotron scoreboard: "LET'S GO OAKLAND"

23) No swivel by pitcher this time, 96-mph pitch

23) X swing and miss

#52, Yoenis Cespedes, Outfield, R-R, 5'10", 210 lbs, October 18, 1985 (age 26.9)

24) Swing-away, fly ball to same spot as previous double, but a little more toward center field, ball hit harder than last double and travels at faster speed. It's tighter this time than last double in term of Cespedes making it to 2nd base. No slide. The timing was close (making it without being tagged out.)

#15 (Seth Smith, Outfielder, L-L, 6'3", 201 lbs, September 30, 1982, age 30)

Smith wearing brace on right ankle.

25) accidentally tips ball while checking swing, ball bounces toward pitcher

25) 1-3 out

TOP OF SECOND INNING

#21 (Delmon Young, Outfield, R-R, 6'3" 240, Sep 14, 1985, age 27)

26) X (I mistakenly wrote "O" in my notes)

(I'm thinking of the theme of "choice." Bruce and I chat about how it's the) catcher that calls the pitches. (Bruce points out that the) pitcher sometimes shakes off a pitch, (and sometimes a) manager calls (a

particular pitch to be thrown. Bruce says that Buster Posey calls pitches well. Will he be voted best player? He led the league in hitting which is very rare for a catcher, because they get so "banged up" playing catcher.)

27) Very high pop up caught by 3Bman -- OUT

#12 (Andy Dirks, Outfield, L-L 6'0" 195 Jan 24, 1986, age 26)

28) X fastball?

29) X (*notes indecipherable*: pitcher stri---- c---- up)

Crowd stands up and waves gold rally towels -- loud

30) 4-3 safe!

Looks like a bad call by the 1B umpire on the television monitor above the stands. People are angry at the potentially bad call. (Later in the game, I remember the guy sitting on Bruce's left telling me the umps made three bad calls.)

#27 (Jhonny Peralta, infield, R-R 6'2" 215 May 28, 1982)

31) Flyout to CF

#13 (Alex Avila, Catcher, L-R 5'11" 210 Jan 29, 1987)

32) A guy walks in front of me in the row ahead of us, blocking my view. I catch glimpses of the pitch and the batter.

32) O

33) runner on first starts running to 2B

33) X (Avila didn't swing)

SAFE! Stolen base. (This reminds me of Herb Washington, the famous "pitch runner." Rickey Henderson has his number retired and displayed on the tarp in the nose-bleed section over the bleachers.)

34) O

35) X fouled back

COUNT 2 - 2 - 2

Crowd stands up

Jumbotron: WAVE YOUR RALLY TOWELS, people are 1/2 loud

(Lots of gold color waving in the stands)

36) foul back, I can't see because of rally towels

COUNT 2 - 2 - 2

37) Crowd waves rally towels, 1/3 loud

37) Throw is low
37) X - swings and misses -- OUT

High five from guy in front who hesitates & looks at my pen. Guy seems 1/2 drunk, or pretend drunk, joking that I'm a scout. Guy next to Bruce named Jeff chimes in: "He's a Yankee scout!"

(MIDDLE OF SECOND INNING)

Spectators in the aisle with a friend, hugs - kiss (on forehead) - chat

(A pitcher from the dugout) playing catch in the outfield. Also (the Detroit pitcher) is warming up (on the pitcher's mound, throwing a few practice pitches.)

#16 (Josh Reddick, Outfield, L-R 6'2" 180 Feb 19, 1987, age 25)

Cheers

38) X - call

39) X - call

40) deliberate foul off

41) foul back – ~~stalling?~~ tire out pitcher?

42) foul back – ~~stall?~~ tire out pitcher?

43) O

COUNT 1 - 2 - 0

44) X³ -- called strike out

#20 (Josh Donaldson, Infield, R-R 6'0" 220 Dec 8, 1985, age 26)

Fans in right field bleachers waving big flags in a deliberate manner

45) X - call (horns blaring)

46) O - in the dirt

I notice the advertisements for the first time on the left field homerun wall: Overstock.com

47) Batter swinging/moving bat over his head as part of getting ready for the pitch

47) X-tip swing (illegible (back top?))

48) Pop up to shallow right center out

7th position in line up:

#37 (Brandon Moss, Infield L-R 6'0" 210 Sep 16, 1983, age 29)

Wearing a brace on right ankle

49) O snare drum again

50) X - swings and misses

51) O

COUNT 2 - 1 - 2

52) Pitcher swivels whole body as part of delivery -- slight pause -- throws

52) X -- swings and misses

53) O

COUNT 3 - 2 - 2

Crowd on their feet -- I feel rhythmic patterns

54) O - WALK - BB

#36 (Derek Norris, Catcher, R-R 6'0" 210 Feb 14, 1989, age 23)

I notice the 1B coach standing close to runner at 1B

55) Pitch thrown in the dirt -- runner goes -- slide -- OUT!

(GOING TO TOP OF THIRD INNING)

I notice the security guards for the first time (standing in foul territory)

Jumbotron: Warp vision thing to keep the fans entertained

#4 (Omar Infante, Infield, R-R , 5'11", 195, Dec 26, 1981, age 30)
(batting in 9th position in the line-up)

Batter calls time out. Throw off pitcher?

56) O

57) Deliberate and slow wind up by the pitcher, hit to left-center

Bruce tells me this is good for the batter in 9th position to do this, setting things up for good results as the top of the line-up comes up to bat.

#14 (Austin Jackson, Outfield, R-R, 6'1", 185, Feb 1, 1987, age 25)

58) X -- called

Runner on first

Count 0 - 1 - 0

59) First base coach one foot in, one foot out of 1B coaches box

59) X -- swing

Crowd stands up, gold flags waving 1/2 loud

Drum

60) O

(Crowd:) boo!

Count 1 - 2 - 0

61) Pick-off attempt at 1B

I look up and notice that the concrete overhang above me is blocking some of the light from the flood lights, creating an interesting lighting effect (kind of like in the movie *The Natural*, a romantic feel)

61) Passed ball! Runner advances (Actually ruled to be a wild pitch)

Count 2 - 2 - 0

62) Batter has a squat, bow-legged stance ><

62) *HIT* to warning track -- toward CF -- bounces off wall

Runner scores

Strategy good

63) Bunt attempt, 5-3 out

Bruce tells me that the regular 3Bman is hurt and that Donaldson was brought up from the minors. He got a big double in the 9th inning (last game?)

64) X ()?

65) big bat -- pitcher has big throwing arc

65) Passed ball (Ruled to be a wild pitch, instead of a passed ball)

Runner scores

Detroit 2 -- Oakland 0

66) Parker holds arms up high just before wind up -- makes a deliberate pitch

66) Fly out to right-field 9

#28 (Prince Fielder L-R 5'11" 275 May 9, 1984)

67) Foul to right side

Batter is a big guy -- reaches & strikes out

Lines too long to get a drink (I return quickly to my seat)

Guy holding camera down low to the ground behind home plate

BOTTOM OF THE THIRD (Oakland coming up)

#36 (Derek Norris, Catcher, R-R, 6'0", 210, Feb 14, 1989, age 23)
(8th batter in line up)

I notice the "art" of four people interacting -- umpire, catcher, batter, pitch -- (all four seem connected somehow, almost like in a shallow arc of the ball's path)

#2 (Cliff Pennington, Infield, S-R, 5'10", 193, Jun 15, 1984, age 28)
(9th batter)

Another ankle brace

Guy in aisle down a ways shouts a chant

5 - 3 OUT

1Bman is chubby (#38)

#4 (Coco Crisp, Outfield, S-R, 5'10", 185, Nov 1, 1979, age 22)

Pitcher makes swivel stop -- holds ball - throws -- the art of hiding and misdirection

Ground out

I notice that I can see the pitches better (types of pitch, curve ball, fast ball, etc) if I look up at the TV monitor hanging from the concrete overhang

Technology! A mix of live and artificial

Grounds crew comes out to tidy up the infield

TOP OF 4TH INNING -- DETROIT COMING UP

#21 (Delmon Young, Outfield, R-R, 6'3", 240, Sep 14, 1985, age 27)

Batter has bowlegged stance -- granny stance

Guy in front gives me high-five while I'm holding a pen in my hand. I'm sitting down watching the TV overhead and he says: "Come on UC Davis! Get up!" (Suddenly I'm representing the whole school.)

#12 (Andy Dirks, Outfield, L-L, 6'0", 195, Jan 24, 1986, age 26)

Lined to RF -- OUT

I'm wearing my towel like an ascot. (I felt I needed to do something to make the color visible)

#27 (Jhonny Peralta, infield, R-R, 6'2", 215, May 28, 1982)

6 - 3 OUT

Scoreboard: "Mylene -- Happy 18th Anniversary -- Don" "8th Birthday - Gavin Jones"

(The retired numbers memorialized in the tarp in the nose-bleed section:)

(Above left field:) 9 (Jackson), 24 (Henderson), 43 (Eckersley) --- (Above right field:) 34 (Fingers), 27 (Hunter)

Scoreboard: Birthday -- Darrell Liebman (sp?) Birthday for Audrey Zarrisnsklint (sp?)

Jumbotron shows three "chips" racing each other. The yellow chip wins.

Scoreboard: _____ Bernstein Welcome Liz, Titoe and Mich

OAKLAND UP:

#5 (Stephen Drew, infield, L-R, 6'0", 190, Mar 16, 1983, age 29)

Geometry

"a happening"

Variation -- sometimes the pitcher misses doing what he wants to do

Umpire makes funny, quiet movement

Bruce: "That was a quiet strike out."

#52 (Yoenis Cespedes, outfield, R-R, 5'10", 210, Oct 18, 1985, age 26)

Bruce tells me he's a rookie from Cuba. 12 rookies from Cuba on team. "That's unheard of for a playoff team."

(Batting 3rd in line up)

Blow horn

Exciting line drive

Loud yells

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Excitement

Crowd: "Aww ~~~~~" Caught

Connected (with ball) again. Got double last time

#15 (Seth Smith, outfield, L-L, 6'3", 210, Sep 30, 1982, age 30)

Pitcher seems "looser," like the scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz

Fans arriving late? Or are they sneaking into the better/lower seats?

Stand up 3 - 2 - 2

Big swing and a miss (as Harry Carey would say. Bruce recognizes Harry Carey's name.)

(END INNING)

DANCE

Kid shows dance moves on jumbotron

Next kid, better, robotic dance, crowd responds.

I'm getting a headache

DETROIT UP

#13 (Alex Avila, Catcher, L-R, 5'11", 210, Jan 29, 1987, age 25)

Put out by 1Bman

#4 (Omar Infante, Infield, R-R, 5'11", 195, Dec 26, 1981, age 30)

Poster: "Oakland does it underdoggy style." (Small poster held by person down below.)

#14 (Austin Jackson, Outfield, R-R, 6'1", 185, Feb 1, 1987, age 25)

Nike Swoosh on Derek Norris' catcher's (chest) pad -- I see on TV while waiting to buy soda

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People watching TV in line -- game continues

My ears are ringing. (Doesn't feel good. I think to myself that I might have left at this point had I not paid \$160 for my ticket.) I plug my ears with my fingers while waiting in line and feel that this is a bad "space" (in front of the snack counter, counterclockwise down a hundred feet or so from the 110 section).

(I see on TV) Ump calls time out. Wasted pitch.

(I'm thinking of Dante's inferno and levels of hell. I buy soda and corn chips and go to men's room. Communal urinals seem an odd way for male bonding. I wonder if these communal urinals go back to the time of the first Coliseum in Rome.)

basic biology

rest room packed

emerge from the netherworld into heaven

rigidly defined rules (like Niklaus Luhman?)

system

I can't sit in the aisle (next to my row, waiting to bother everyone to walk in) geometry -- I need space

(atmosphere in stadium has) otherworldly feel with my ears hurting

I'm thinking of the Angels' World Series Game 7 a few years back and also the 1986 Mets Game 7

now top of 6th inning

pitcher throws like a rubber band

(Top of 7th inning)

Pennington at 2B jumped high -- ball goes over head -- base hit for (Infante)

New pitcher

I ask a father down two rows to the right a ways what kind of hand dance his son had been doing along with the jumbotron before. Father answers that he was copying a very popular Korean singer.

#2 (Pennington) jumps again and almost catches the ball -- runner advances to 3rd -- runners at 1st and 3rd

Ryan Cook taken out after he hit a batter (with a pitch) – scoring a run one run already scored

-----@hotmail.com (I asked Jeff to write his email in my notes:)

Jeff (guy two seats to my left, now my neighbor after Bruce left) says: "Young pitcher... He doesn't have the experience to deal with a big crowd in a pressure situation.... He was the only one to make the all-star game." (I learn much later that Ryan Cook and I both attended the same high school.)

Security is standing ominously on the field to intimidate the crowd

#28 Prince Fielder L-R 5'11" 275 May 9, 1984

I'm thinking of Wittgenstein. (What can I call what I'm doing) "Chasing Wittgenstein's _____(?)_____ "

Another run scores

Guy behind me with boy walks by: "We're starting a slow walk. We did it last night and it worked."
(Superstitious?)

4th run in inning scores

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Crowd disappointed

"Fuck" -- guy in front of me says

Scoreboard: "Last play: E6"

Force out at home

Applause

"I punched the fuckin' seat. Fuck!" (guy in front of me says)

"Control" -- batter steps out -- unofficial time out (Batter backs out of batter's box on his own, creating an unofficial time out. Pitcher pauses and waits for him. This I recognize as a technique batters use to influence the pace and psych out the pitcher.)

Hit to CF -- OUT!

People are restless
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going into bottom of 7th

Umps line up for "God Bless America", sung by Matt _____ -- Like a prayer! Church!
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12 security guards, plus one cop (with military-style brimmed hat) on field

"God bless America ... My home sweet home....."

"Take me out to the ball game... " (Wurlitzer sound on Organ)

(I ask guy in front for his email address)

-----@yahoo.com <--- (written with) bloody hand

#28 Catches high pop up, catcher backed away

(Popular) song (from hit charts with punctuated synthesizer music)-- black woman on jumbotron shown doing sign language: "Call me maybe"

What did I learn? Went looking for art, but found a slice of Lifeworld.

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Art in our lives all the time -- everyday

(We are constantly overlaying our direct, implicit experience of reality with an explicit meta-level of awareness)

Flyout -- top of 9th

(guy in front) -- "Come on, have faith! Come on" (He says to people leaving in the aisle.)

guy in front's girlfriend/wife stands up and yells.

(End of notes)