



The Monarch Missive

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Editor: Screech*

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As heartfelt baseball fans the fabric of each of our lives includes threads of each season past. The threads of this great game are woven tightly amongst those that are the memories we hold for a lifetime.

I recall when Thurman Munson died in August of 1979; going outside with a neighborhood friend and playing catch and throwing each other grounders for hours. I was 15 at the time and while playing catch on the side street of our house on 55th kept an eye on the Blue Chevy Nova that my parents would turn me loose in on the mean streets of Lincoln once I reached the sage age of 16. Those threads are forever entwined.

And more recently, Aaron Boone's walk-off home run in the 11th inning of Game 7 of the 2003 ALCS. The dogs, Oreo and Shelly, were the only family members that made it to the end of the game with me; together enjoying a relaxing evening of Yankees-Red Sox baseball. I remember the room we were in and what piece of furniture each of us was lounging on. I also remember the frightened look on their faces when I started jumping around the room screaming as the wayward Tim Wakefield knuckler landed safely in the left field stands.

This summer has brought the high of a wonderful trip to St. Johns Island with Karen and Michael; as well as the low of losing a dear friend way too early in life. Only the test of time will tell, but I already wonder what threads of this game I love will be entwined with these future memories. Possibly the continued unfolding of the career of one who may someday be considered the greatest hitter to ever play the game, Albert Pujols. Maybe it'll be Mark Buehrle's perfect game, followed by 17 additional retired batters to break the record of 41 straight previously held by Jim Barr and Bobby Jenks. Almost certainly the days spent in New York with my HSL Brethren on the 25th anniversary trip will be woven in.

I look forward to reading on the message board what highlights from this season might wind up being woven in to the fabric of each of your lives.

Be well Brothers.