



FRIDAY FOLLIES

July 18, 2008

Hey

July 18, 2008

Funny, funny baseball story this week.

I was reading the paper this week about two baseball players from a small town in Mississippi that would be playing at Harbor Park on the same night and what a coincidence that was. Well, the real coincidence came in when I read the name of one of the players and realized that he had to be the son of one of my best childhood friends. The player's name was Jonathan Van Every and, well, how many Van Everys can there be in the state of Mississippi, right?



The neighborhood where I grew up was pretty much all boys. The Perry boys lived on one side of me, the Van Every boys on the other, and the Stud-dard boys were down the street. For that reason, and because I have a brother who is five years older whom I adored and mimicked every step that he took, and also because I was a HUGE tomboy, I would often spend my time with David, Gene, and Kelsey Van Every. These guys were more than neighbors, they were like family.

I wanted so much to play baseball with them and bugged them so much that they finally consented and told me I could play the "getter" position. (When the ball goes out of bounds - I was the "Getter.") I have always joked about that, but the truth is, I think I was probably 12 before I realized there was no such position on a baseball team.



Anyway, here is a photo of me, my brother, Larry, Kelsey, and Gene, and another of me tagging along in a snowball fight.

So, when I saw this article in the paper, I called my sister who still lives in Mississippi and said this HAS to be Gene or Kelsey's son. I think one of them settled in Brandon, MS? She got on the internet and tracked them down for me and said, "Yes."

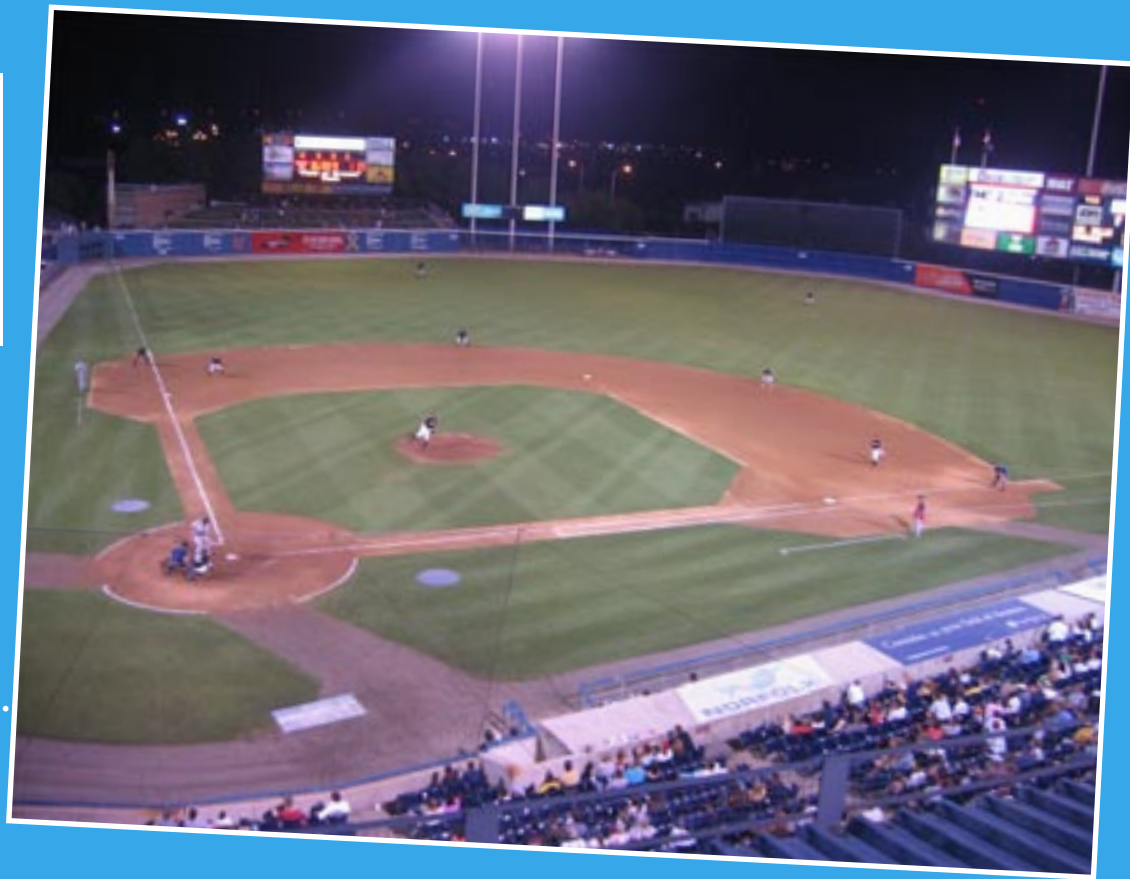


Armed with that little bit of information, I asked Ken if he could arrange for me to meet this Jonathan Van Every after the game that night. He said sure, that he would arrange it.

Once at the game, I was sitting between Ken and the General Manager. I lean over to the GM and asked all bubbly, "What position does Van Every play?" Dave looked at me kinda funny and said, "Ahh... center field."

When the Tides ran out on the field, I looked and the center fielder was a handsome, young black man. Hmmm...

At one of the other games this week, we actually went up on the roof above the press box and took this photo. Very pretty night.



I then leaned over to Ken and said, "That can't be Van Every!"

Ken laughed and explained that Van Every does not play for the Tides. He plays for Pawtucket - the Triple-A team for the Red Sox!

Well, now I really felt stupid! I had read the paper wrong! Van Every was there, but he was not on Ken's team! Long story short, Van Every played an awesome game. He scored a home run in the third inning, but it was called back which almost started a riot on the field. Then in the 11th inning - yes - the story gets better - Van Every stepped to the plate and slammed it out of the park winning the game for Pawtucket. Ken just looked at me, smiled weakly, and said, "That's your boy!"

After the interviews and showers, etc. Van Every was escorted to Ken's office. (I am sure he wondered what the heck was going on!) The minute I laid eyes on him, I knew he had to be Gene's son! He looked exactly like his dad! You know, most kids 28 years of age would have looked at a situation like that and would have been like, "OK, lady...Yea... This is great... Gotta go now..."

He was WONDERFUL! He got just as much of a kick out of it as I did. He loved the photos and said he had even seen one of them before that his dad and uncles had. He even took a photo of the photos with his iPhone! Ha! He also talked at length about his family and what they are all doing now. Just very cool. Very mild mannered and polite with a huge grin on his face the whole time. He impressed, Ken, too. Jonathan has had a really good season, and was even called up to the Red Sox for a few games this season. I'll be cheering for him -- that is for sure!

We took the one photo, but I did not realize until later that it was all fuzzy. Too bad. The next day, the paper had a big story about "Van Every's Revenge." Wouldn't you know the one kid I wanted to meet ended up being the one to beat the Tides! It was just too funny...

First Article

SMALL WORLD

The city of Brandon, Miss., has a population of 16,436. Two of its residents were in Harbor Park on Friday. During the offseason, Pawtucket centerfielder Jonathan Van Every and Norfolk relief pitcher Ryan Bukvich live in the small town that sits just off Interstate 20 in Rankin County. “We work out together in the offseason,” Bukvich said. Bukvich, who rejoined Norfolk on Thursday after a brief stint with the Baltimore Orioles, settled in Van Every’s hometown after being born in Naperville, Ill. Bukvich, 30, and Van Every briefly attended Northwest Rankin High School. “We may do lunch tomorrow,” Bukvich said.

Second Article

TRIPLE-A BASEBALL | INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE Home run in 10th snaps Tides’ win streak

2 PAWTUCKET 1 NORFOLK

By Rainer Sabin, The Virginian-Pilot

As fate would have it, Jonathan Van Every would hit a home run Saturday. Nothing could stop him – not the Norfolk Tides, not the wind, not even the umpires.

Van Every crushed a pitch delivered by Jim Miller into the brush beyond the rightfield fence in the 10th inning to give Pawtucket a 2-1 victory at Harbor Park that ended Norfolk’s eight-game winning streak.

It was a satisfying moment for Van Every, the PawSox’s centerfielder who seven innings before had a home run erased.

In the third inning, he sliced a pitch over the leftfield wall that curved near the foul pole. Third-base umpire Manny Gonzalez signaled that it was a home run and Van Every trotted around the bases, seemingly oblivious to the controversy that was about to erupt. After Van Every touched home, Tides manager Gary Allenson staged a protest that prompted home-plate umpire Rob Healey to reverse Gonzalez’s decision and call Van Every’s shot a foul ball.

Seconds later, Pawtucket manager Ron Johnson vehemently argued the overruling and was ejected from the game.

Still, Van Every, who would lash a single to rightfield in that same at-bat, scored later that inning on a ground ball hit by Chris Carter. For much of the game, the PawSox (60-37) clung to their 1-0 lead as starting pitcher David Pauley silenced the Tides (41-56).

He allowed five hits, confounding Norfolk’s batters until the seventh when Luis Terrero followed Oscar Salazar’s bloop single with an RBI triple to tie the game. But Terrero would remain stranded on third base as Mike Costanzo, Omir Santos and Chris Roberson were retired.

The Tides’ inability to push across another run gave Van Every a chance to get revenge. And with one swing in the 11th inning, he did.



We also went to a great birthday party for my best friend, Wendy. Her husband, Kevin, out did himself on this one! It was a pig-pickin’, (maybe one of the best I have ever had) and he had mountains of clams, oysters, and shrimp, a huge tent, and a well known band.

Then -- as if that were not enough -- we were all standing around chatting by the pool and someone screams out, “Look!” as they point to the sky. Kevin had hired an airplane to fly low overhead for about an hour with a huge banner trailing it that said, “Happy Birthday Wend - Love Kal-bone” (That is his nickname and the name of his BBQ sauce.

We couldn't stay very long,
but it was a great party!
Thanks, guys, and Happy
Birthday Wendy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WENDY!



I also had a chance to do some *serious* cooking this past week. I cooked tons of squash for use later, my summer's first pasta medley which is a pasta sauce with many other vegetables - all fresh from the garden, marinated cucumbers, and *two and a half cases* of Plum Conserve! YUMMM! I love that stuff! I actually sold out of it very early last year, so I am going to try to make some extra this year.

All in all, it was a super duper week. Here are a few more photos for my new cookbook. Getting there!

Please pray for our men and women over seas, that they return home to us soon, safe, and successful!
While you are at it, pray for the economy, too!



T*o all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God!) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, New Hampshire, Tampa, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!*

God bless.
Remember, life is short!
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

Don't Forget! Just Judi's Favorites Volume One • Appetizers and Just Judi's Favorites Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch, and Late Nite are now available!

You can get to both from the links page on my website!
Thanks to those of you who have already ordered your copies! Just Judi's Favorites • Volumes Three through Ten are on their way!

Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch and Late Nite may be previewed at:
<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/241008>

Volume One • Appetizers may be previewed at:
<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/24098>

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION. . . 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!