**Baseball Pranks and Stunts**

**Notes**

**Slide 2** – Washington Nationals pitcher, Stephen Strasburg

* Strasburg had an unfortunate incident on May 15, 2012 (his first full year in the majors).
* Although no video exists of the incident…………….**click on picture** of Strasburg to see video of NFL HOF LB Mike Singletary describe a similar incident

**Slide 3** – There is some debate as to whether or not this was a prank – after all, it happened on a day that Strasburg was scheduled to start. The day was cool and rainy so pitchers will often use Icy Hot to help them warm up. However, he did get something in his eyes as the picture shows.

**Slide 4** – Hot Foot

* Hot foot is an old baseball prank
* **Click on picture** to see video of Tigers Don Kelly get a hot foot in 2014

**Slide 5** – Tyler White

* Astros 1B Tyler White was a rookie in 2016. As shown, he used some of his paycheck to buy a brand new 2016 Toyota Range Rover
* **Slide 6** shows White’s car parked in center field at Minute Maid park DURING batting practice. **Click on picture** of car to show video of White’s reaction when learning of the prank

**Slide 7** – Derek Bell

* Car giveaways are common at Fan Appreciation Days held in ML ballparks
* In 1992, during the Toronto Blue Jay’s Fan Appreciation Day, teammate Joe Carter pranked to give away Derek Bell’s prized SUV
* **Click on picture** of Bell to see his reaction when the announcer says “one lucky fan will win Derek Bell's jeep”

**Slide 8** – Bubble gum on hat trick

* **Click on picture** to see video of various “hat tricks” played around the majors

**Slide 9** – Rookie Hazing

* Dress-Up Day is fairly common at the end of the season. Before new rules were implemented, many times the rookies had to fly – in costume – on the team’s last road trip.
* **Slide 9** is picture from Cubs Rookie Dress Up Day
* **Slide 10** is picture from Nationals Rookie Dress Up Day
* **Slide 11** is picture from Twinss Rookie Dress Up Day
* **Slide 12** shows another hazing activity – making rookie pitchers carry refreshments to the bullpen using kids’ backpacks

**Slide 13** – Pie in the Face during post-game TV interview

**Slide 14** – Ball drops caught the interest of the American public in the early part of the 1900’s. One of the first, and most famous, was from the Washington Monument

* **Slide 15** – Washington catcher, Gabby Street (8/21/1908)
  + Journalist Preston Gibson asked Street to attempt to catch a ball dropped from the top of the Washington Monument (so that Gibson could win a $500 bet) – approximately 555’ high
  + Street missed the first 12 balls dropped by Gibson but caught the 13th (and last ball Gibson took to the top)
  + Street got dizzy watching the balls fall the entire distance. So – he got teammate Bob Ganley to watch the first part of the drop then tell Street when to look up to catch the falling ball (total drop time about 4.5 sec)
  + Per watchers, the last ball “sounded like a rifle shot” when it hit Street’s glove at an estimated 145 mph/200 lbs force
* **Slide 16** – Dodger’s Manager Wilbert Robinson (3/13/1915)
  + Dodgers were in spring training in Daytona Beach FL
  + Female aviator, Ruth Law, was flying around practice fields dropping golf balls advertising a nearby course
  + Dodgers got her to fly over field and drop a baseball from approximately 500 ft. Robinson, a former catcher, agree to try to catch the ball.
  + Law took off only to figure out that she forgot the baseball. She did have a grapefruit from her lunch so she dropped it.
  + The grapefruit slammed into Robinson’s mitt and exploded. Covered with liquid (that got in his eyes), Robinson thought it was blood and that he was seriously injured.
  + Casey Stengel claims credit for the prank but most think Law just forgot the baseball and improvised.
* **Slide 17** – San Francisco Seals catcher Joe Sprinz (8/03/1939)
  + On his 37th birthday, Sprinz attempted the most daring ball drop ever – from a Goodyear blimp almost 800’ high. **It did not end well**…………
  + **Slide 18** – Sprinz missed the first four attempts. The 5th attempt hit his glove at an estimated 154 mph. Per a watcher “the ball slammed his glove hand into his face with such force that he broke his upper jaw in 12 places, fractured 5 teeth………………
  + **Slide 19** – ……….broke his nose and Sprinz was knocked unconscious