

America's Pasttime #1
by
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AMERICA'S PASTTIME - PART 1.

Note: The entire visual sequence for this script is footage from a real baseball game edited together so we see the same pitcher and the same batter intercut with shots of the crowd, managers and other players. The important point is that the graphic banner on top of the screen that usually gives game information always says: Score: 0 to 0, Inning: Top of the first, Outs: 0, Strikes: 0, Balls: 0. Also the pitcher and batter pose and prep and spit and scratch, but a ball is never thrown.

The announcer BOBBY VAN VANDENGELDER is heard first.

BOBBY

Welcome folks, to The Milwaukee Brewers TV network, I'm Bobby Van Vandengelder here, and as always, at my side is my partner Buck Buckwalter. Well we're just shy of 15 minutes into the top of the game here between your Milwaukee Brewers and The St. Louis Cardinals, and we've yet to see a pitch thrown in what's turning out to be a real barn burner between pitcher Alexis Hernandez and lead-off batter Tommy Williams.

We hear Bobby's color commentator side-kick BUCK BUCKWALTER, who's an ex-player, has a Southern drawl and is moderately drunk.

BUCK

That's right, Bobby, neither of these guys is giving an inch to the other. This is a classic example of a battle of wills. I remember when I was catching for the Aberdeen Hoofbeats in Triple-A Cactus League...I was facing Tony LaHoya--

BOBBY

--The Left-Handed Canon of San Pedro--

BUCK

--yep, and we stood toe-to-toe, eye-ballin' each other for over sixteen hours. Of course about fourteen of those was spent throwin' over to first to hold the base runner, Gary Simonson--

BOBBY

--Who, incidently, batted 302 for the Boise B-Cups in 1983. Well, as always, it's time for your Miller High Life Trivia Question of the Game.

(MORE)

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BOBBY (CONT'D)

Brought to you by Miller High Life, the
champaign of bottled beers. We try to fit
about a dozen or so of these into an
inning. And the next question: What
American League East shortstop,
originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma slugged a
262 on-base percentage between 1974 and
1979, won 2 golden gloves and stole 62
bases, and all with just one
testicle...his left.

(laughing.)

And I can see my partner, Buck Buckwalter
chuckling, because when I said one
testicle, I know the first name to pop
into his head was--

BUCK

Jimmy Shine.

BOBBY

Jimmy Shine, right, the great switch-
hitter with the Cleveland Indians from 73
to 80. But, if you remember Buck,
although Jimmy did play the position mono-
orchid, his remaining testicle was his
right one. And you fans out there
remember his left nut ended up resembling
a small shriveled grape due to the fact
his mother took the drug Thalidomide
while Jimmy was still in the womb.

BUCK

Of course Jimmy was lucky, he might've
ended up being nicknamed Flipper instead
of the Ragin' Raisin.

BOBBY

So if you fans out there know the answer
to our Miller High Life Trivia Question
just dial 1-800-555-1800 and win a free
case of Miller High Life. It's the Miller
High Life Trivia Question brought to you
by Miller High Life the champaign of
bottled beers. And at this time I've been
asked to request that ABC Political
commentator George Will not call in.
Seems George has been a bit of a phone
hog lately, so...give 'em a break,
George, let somebody else answer for a
change.

BUCK

That man's got some head of hair, doesn't
he?

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BOBBY

So, we're just shy of twenty minutes into what's turning out to be a real pitchers duel here between your Milwaukee Brewers and the St. Louis Cardinals. And I tell you, Buck, the tension here is so thick you could cut it with a knife.

BUCK

Just like pea soup.

BOBBY

And when they do eventually throw a pitch in this game, this place is gonna erupt.

BUCK

Pure mayhem.

BOBBY

Well we'll take a break in the action for this commercial message. You're watching the Milwaukee Brewers TV network.