

A Roger Ruhl Memory/Good Story

Major League Baseball All Star Games ... 1971 and 1972

Fox Sports Ohio will aired a replay of the 1971 All-Star Game this Sunday, June 28 at 8p.

The Cincinnati Enquirer's Paul Daugherty wrote a nostalgic piece about this game last year.

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/sports/2019/07/06/column-1971-mlb-dominated-during-baseballs-al-nl-all-star-game/1650396001/>

He vividly remembers July 13, 1971 and being 13 and getting ready to watch the Baseball All-Star Game on a 13-inch black and white TV.

I remember that night, too. Only I didn't watch on TV. I was at Tiger Stadium in Detroit for my first All-Star Game. I was 27 and in my first year as the Cincinnati Reds publicity director.

Publicity directors for most ballclubs were at the game to help Major League Baseball with various PR duties. By virtue of winning the National League pennant in 1970, the Reds' Sparky Anderson was the National League manager. My job was to hang close to Sparky in the lead-up to the game and during batting practice.

As game time drew near and TV was getting ready for the introduction of the players, the National League PR guy was not around ... and it was his job to get the players lined up. An NBC guy frantically yelled to me to get the players ready for the introductions. So I did. Starters were to be introduced first, and then the rest of the team en masse. I borrowed the lineup card from Sparky and set about organizing the players ... Mays, Aaron, Torre, Stargell, McCovey, Bench, Beckert, Harrelson and Ellis.

"I need starters over here," I yelled a couple times, without much response. I looked down toward the end of the dugout and saw Mays and McCovey talking. "Mays, McCovey ... get over here," I barked. Both turned and looked at me as if to say, "Who the f--- is this?" Eventually everyone found his place and the introductions went off OK.

Daugherty writes about Reggie Jackson's memorable home run off the rightfield light tower. I remember it as if it were yesterday. It got out of the ballpark so quick.

Here's another All Star Game memory from 1972 ...

I was the Reds publicity director then and had some press box duties at the game. One memory of the game that I do recall is that I was responsible for Joe Morgan being named the game's MVP. Hank Aaron hit a home run in the 6th inning. A MVP vote by the baseball writers was taken in the press box about the 7th or 8th inning and Aaron got the most votes. When the game went into extra innings, Joe Morgan drove in the game winning run in the 10th. As soon as he did, Jack Lang, one of the NY writers and secretary of the baseball writers association, wondered aloud whether they should take a new vote on MVP. I took that to mean yes, and I quickly

grabbed some ballots from him and started passing them out. They re-voted and Morgan was named MVP.