

Weekly Wiffle Thoughts Vol. 3

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Opening Day Is In Sight

Hey everyone, I apologize for being on a couple week delay here, but I'm back again for my third volume of my "Weekly Wiffle Thoughts." This week, I'll share my thoughts on the field construction and pre-season scrimmage day last week. Last Sunday, commissioner Sam Skibbe, his dad, and myself gathered all the field materials and began construction in the midst of an absurdly hot St. Louis afternoon.

This marked the first time I helped build the wiffle ball field and despite the ridiculous humidity, it was quite the experience. The common man would probably imagine that building a simple little wiffle ball field would only take a matter of minutes. I mean come on, you just have to slab some cheap fence up in the outfield and you're done, right?

After a couple cold man sodas and about two hours later, we had completed the field layout and it was an absolutely beautiful sight. After a quick mowing job of the infield by Sam's dad, Sam and I were eager to do some quick batting practice and see if our "deep" field dimensions were sufficient. Thirty or so swings later for each of us resulted in only a handful of home runs and we thought this year's field might in fact be a pitcher's park. Well, we were wrong.

The first official scrimmage of the 2012 pre-season was a battle between Pirates members Grant Steward and myself, going up against Cardinals captain Sam Skibbe and Brewers captain Peter Leicht. The Pirates scouting report is a pretty clear one. We will be able to mash the ball with the best of them, but our pitching will be the determining factor this season. Twenty plus runs later, Sam and Peter got done with their beat-down of the Pirates and Grant and myself walked away from the field with our heads down. Thankfully, a voyage to get a delicious Mountain Dew Icee lifted our spirits during the steamy Sunday afternoon.

After arriving back home, with my exquisite Mountain Dew Icee in hand, I couldn't help but have a smile on my face. My mind was racing with the thought of wiffle ball and I know the season is clearly in sight. The other thought of mine had to be how much the Skibbe family loves wiffle ball. Watching Sam and his dad construct the field for the TENTH consecutive year was a pretty cool sight to see. The true passion and love of the game doesn't go un-noticed from those two. Hell, even their dog "the blur" joined us for some of the festivities and he was as excited as any of us.

Here's to another successful SWBL season and I'm very eager to see this league make the next step to the world of competitive wiffle ball play. Be on the lookout for my next WWT as I will have an exclusive interview with Pirates celebrity endorser, Curtis Ford.

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