**Opening Day**

**Notes**

**Slide 4**: Boston Braves Field 1946 – right before Opening Day, the Braves painted the outfield bleachers green. Due to wet, damp weather that night and the morning of Opening Day, the paint did not completely dry.

**Slide 5**: Fans rushed to the Braves offices after the game to complain about damaged clothes. The next day, the Braves posted the following ad in the Boston papers offering to pay for any damages/cleaning. Complaints came in from all around the country.

**Slide 6**: President William Howard Taft was the first President to throw out the first pitch on Opening Day.

**Slide 7**: Notice anything about these pics of President Harry Truman. He was ambidextrous or, as Yogi Berra would say, “amphibious”. The only President (since Taft) to never throw out an Opening Day pitch? Jimmy Carter. Interesting to note that LBJ went 0-3 during his three Opening Day ceremonies.

**Slide 8**: Promotions are big on Opening Day. At Comiskey Park in 1976 (US Bicentennial), the White Sox re-enacted the famous Fiddler, Fife from the Revolutionary War. Bill Veeck, who lost his leg in WWII, portrayed the fifer. GM Paul Richards (in white wig) also appeared.

**Slide 9**: The Little Falls Mets (NY-Penn League) had an interesting Opening Day promotion planned in 1982. Four parachutists were to jump from a plane, land on the infield and deliver the baseball for the opening day first pitch. Unfortunately, the pilot mistakenly dropped them over a softball field ten miles away from the Mets’ ballpark.

**Slide 10**: Bob Feller had perhaps the greatest Opening Day performance by a pitcher in baseball history in 1940 – a cold day where it was 35 degrees at Comiskey Park at game time.

**Slide 11**: As you’ll see from the next day’s headlines, Feller pitched the only Opening Day no-hitter in baseball history. Included in the performance was an at bat by White Sox SS Luke Appling where he fouled of 15 pitches in one at bat, before making the out.

**Slide 12**: Robin Roberts came close to duplicating Feller’s feat in 1955. He pitched 8.1 innings of no hit ball before giving up a hit in the 9th inning. Roberts does hold the record by pitching every Phillies’ Opening Day for 12 consecutive years (1950 – 1961)

**Slide 13**: Walter Johnson holds the all time record by pitching 7 Opening Day shutouts. In 1910, he only gave up one hit on Opening Day……………..

**Slide 14**: The hit happened when one of Johnson’s outfielders tripped over a child in the outfield and the ball went for a ground rule double. (Note: this pic is from Fenway Park but it does illustrate how fans used to sit on the field for sold out games)

**Slide 15**: Ted Williams was probably the greatest Opening Day hitter of all time. He got at least one hit in the 14 Opening Days he played in (including 3 HRs and 14 RBIs). His Opening Day batting average was .449

**Slide 16**: Hank Aaron tied Babe Ruth’s all-time home run record when he homered on Opening Day in 1974.

**Slide 17**: Dwight Evans hit the very first pitch of Opening Day in 1986 from Jack Morris of the Tigers – the only time that’s happened in baseball history. Note that Jack Morris started 14 consecutive Opening Days – but for three different teams – Tigers, Twins and Blue Jays. Gaylord Perry holds the record for pitching Opening Day for 5 different teams – Giants, Indians, Rangers, Padres and Mariners.

**Slide 18**: Frank Robinson holds the record for most Opening Day home runs – 8. His last was hit on 4/8/1975 as player/manager for the Cleveland Indians. This game marked the first time for a black manager in the major leagues.