The Passage of a Baseball Era:
The Death of Harry Caray

By Bill Russolesi
Staff Reporter

This past week the baseball community took a devastating blow when Chicago Cubs’ announcer Harry Caray died. In a career that lasted 35 years, Caray did broadcasts for the St. Louis Cardinals and Browns, the Chicago White Sox, and the Chicago Cubs.

Major League Baseball not only lost a broadcaster, it lost one of its best ambassadors. Caray was the kind of announcer every town needs. He was bright, colorful, fun, and he loved baseball. During the seventh inning of home games for the White Sox and later the Cubs, Caray lead the crowd in “Take Me Out To The Ballgame.” As an avid baseball fan, I always looked forward to tuning into the Cubs’ game and listening to Caray. He did not have the best voice, but he brought warmth to games and made it exciting to watch. If the game was close or if it was a blowout, I always stayed tuned into the Cubs’ game. Even stayed tuned into the Cubs’ game when the Boston Red Sox (the team I root for) were on another station.

Baseball today is in a state of unravel! The game needs people who can make fans both young and old who will watch the games. Caray promoted the game better than most. Caray was part of a dying breed of announcers who still make the game fun to watch. Today there remains but a handful of people who can still call a game of baseball and make it fun to watch. Keith Olbermann and Bob Costas are two such individuals who still have a passion for baseball.

Every game that Caray did was historic, because we knew that one day it would end. Caray was more than an announcer though. He was a friend to the game and to the fans. Caray was a rare jewel! Baseball will go on and so will the Chicago Cubs. Yet, like fans around America I know that baseball will not be the same without Caray in the broadcast booth.

Harry Caray was an original. His passion came from within his heart and soul, and he passed on that passion to fans that listened to him. Like a lot of people, I regret that I never got the chance to go to Wrigley Field and experience the emotions, drama, and love that Harry Caray brought on to the fans in Chicago. The younger fans are the ones who will never get the chance to listen to Caray call a game, feel his love for baseball, or lead the crowd in “Take Me Out To The Ballgame.” The love that Caray shared is something that baseball fans will never forget.

On Tuesday evening, March 3, 1998
Shawn Dunwoody, Visual Artist, will open a multimedia installation in the Cardinal's Nest from 6 to 7:15 p.m. There will be a soul-food dinner, door prizes, and live music!

And Then:
Robert Ricks, performance poet, will perform four of his monologues, with music, in Basil 135 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This performance will leave you breathless!

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