

Frankly

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Anyway, no such "touching" occurred during this game. But the same coach knocked us out of the playoffs, so kudos to you, *TM*, and your fine staff. Nice to hear that some of the parents called to congratulate you after the playoff win. Just wonderin' how many congrats you got during the regular season?

So let me get this straight. Some misguided zealot out there is organizing a campaign to get disgraced Dodger slugger Manny Ramirez voted into this summer's MLB All-Star game? Ramirez, the steroid cheater, is suspended until July 3, but is still garnering votes for this summer's game, which takes place in the city of Budweiser, St. Louis, on July 14.

Man-Ram the pharmaceutical man was fourth in the balloting amongst National League outfielders. Maybe someone should organize a write-in campaign for the diminutive Dodger outfielder Juan Pierre, who has been lights out as Ramirez' replacement.

What do we know about Mr. Pierre? Well, the dude is 31-years-old, bats and throws left. Signed a megabucks free agent contract with Los Dodgers back in November of 2006, guaranteeing the Punch and Judy slapper \$44 million smackeros for the next five years. Had a pretty darn good season in '07, playing in all 162 games and leading the league in bunt hits and singles.

And what was Pierre's reward for a pretty darn good season in '07? First he was sent to the bench when GM Ned Colletti apparently went temporarily insane and signed fatty free agent outfielder Andruw Jones to a ridiculous two-year albatross of a contract. Jones was immediately penciled in to the centerfield spot in the lineup, managed to hit about a buck thirty, or half of his weight.

When the Dodgers finally gave up on Jones, they were oh-so-fortunate enough to receive a very early Christmas present when the Red Sox had had enough of the quitter Ramirez, and gift-wrapped him for the Dodgers. So Jones was out, Ramirez was in, and Pierre stayed anchored to the bench, occasionally surfacing as a pinch runner and fill-in outfielder.

Fast forward to 2009, when it again appeared that Pierre would have to bide his time on the pine, all the while collecting his hefty paychecks. But alas, Manny was caught cheating and skulked back to Florida, Pierre was inserted into the starting lineup, and, voila, the Dodger express keeps a-rolling toward the postseason.

Check out his stats. Pierre is hitting .374, scoring runs and being a pest on the base-paths. And is quite probably playing the game steroid-free. •

State

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gundo Power keeps moving forward with its modernization program – despite a court ruling on AQMD credits that has devastated business throughout the region.

As I told the Board of Supervisors just a couple of weeks ago, in El Segundo alone the court ruling freezing AQMD credits has cost business a billion dollars. Senator Rod Wright's bill, SB696, must be passed and become law to remove the pollution credit freeze and let businesses grow, especially in this economy.

One example of companies moving forward despite the ruling is Chevron. Their huge investment in improvements at the refinery, hundreds of millions of dollars already, shows what can be done when business is allowed to determine its own future. By the way, the Chevron refinery is the highest-valued parcel in Los Angeles County for property tax purposes at \$2.4 billion.

2009 will not be an easy year for business, but our firms will make us the leader in the region – I am confident.

But it isn't all business in El Segundo. A lot else has been happening, too.

The Douglas Street gap closure project was completed and two-way traffic was restored in the spring of 2008. The project is not only a great public works improvement, we're already seeing new business activity and investment interest along the Douglas Corridor as a result of this change.

Public safety is always the number one priority here. That's why crime rates are at a

17-year low, thanks to our Police Department and its dedicated people. Those dedicated people include the likes of Ray Garcia and Scott O'Connor. It's been a year since these two brave officers were shot and seriously injured while policing a theater, but nobody's forgotten it. That's why they are both now Medal of Valor Winners. Congratulations to both of them for their service to our city far above the call of duty.

And soon a soaring pedestrian bridge over El Segundo Boulevard will allow safe and secure access between Los Angeles Air Force Base and the Aerospace Corporation across the street.

Unplanned electrical outages, which had plagued our city and Manhattan Beach for over a year, disrupting residents and businesses alike, dropped dramatically in 2008, as Southern California Edison implemented a revved-up program to replace and repair an aging infrastructure.

Assemblymember Ted Lieu's legislation and judicious persuasion were critical factors in making the utility's turnaround a success.

Last year we also broke ground for our new Fire Station Two at Campus El Segundo, where construction is well underway. The new station will provide our firefighters with a state-of-the-art facility – and will be the first LEEDS-certified public safety project in the South Bay.

(Next week the Mayor discusses the conservation, education and LAX and more....) •

Stanley Cup

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involved in my wedding many moons ago, has a slant on the Cup finale. His theory is "Screw Marian Hossa." Apparently SW is ticked off because the goal-scoring star Hossa jumped ship in the off-season, moving from the young and upcoming Penguins to the veteran winners in Detroit.

Doing a little research with SW last Saturday while watching game one before he departed in search of his next discounted libation, one could only hear the bitterness in his comments. Maybe he was a little distraught because at age 50, he wasn't going to make it to the NHL?

Or maybe there were underlying reasons for his flip attitude? In fact, I think I could figure out the genesis of his somewhat sardonic comments, but I don't fancy a libel suit, so I will demur. But then again, anyone who knows me at all can figure out my slants too, right?

And in conclusion to the week that was... Last Saturday was one crummy day, baseball-wise, for me. It was supposed to be the day that the Mighty Mariners continued their relentless pursuit of a Little League championship, but that hope went down the drain earlier in the week. No Mariner game to be played Saturday. So I started out the day watching the Babe Ruth Battlin' Beavers play game one of a doubleheader against the

league-leading Stars.

The Beavers played the Stars tough, but dropped the first contest, and then were steamrolled in game two. So the kid's team was swept, although they did regroup to pick up a win on Sunday.

Stayed away from the Little League field Saturday, still smarting from the ousting of the Mariners. As I mentioned, I watched a bit of game one of the Stanley Cup playoffs, with another eye on the Magic's series-clinching win over the Cleveland LeBrons. Returned to the mansion to catch the tail-end of my Angels' tilt with the Seattle Mariners. Angels were up 3-0 with two out in the top of the ninth when Halo closer Brian "Tito" Fuentes coughed up a three-run homer.

They keep saying that Fuentes leads the AL in saves, which must be true or they wouldn't keep saying it, but the dude makes me extremely nervous when he takes the hill, chucking those side-arm frisbee-like pitches up to the plate.

Anyway, the Halos ended up losing in extra innings, 4-3, to drop another game behind the Texas Rangers in the AL West. But Mike Scioscia's crew miraculously rebounded on Sunday afternoon, overcoming an early seven-run deficit to hang a 9-8 loss on the Mariners. All's well that ends well, I guess. •

Eagles

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work in stopping the Saints with a quick 1-2-3 inning. In the bottom half, Nootbaar doubled to left field and McCullough hammered a fastball 370 feet for a two-run home run for a 2-0 lead. The Saints tied the game with a couple of hits and smart baserunning. In the bottom half of the second inning, Richard Seigel singled and Brice Savage walked. Both moved up a base on a passed ball. But the Eagles couldn't capitalize with runners in scoring position and one out.

In the third inning, the Eagles took another two-run lead when McCullough singled and came around to score on Booterbaugh's double. Seigel followed that up with an RBI single, scoring Booterbaugh to make it 4-2. Nootbaar was replaced on the mound by Doucette in the fourth inning and San Dimas countered with single runs of their own, with one run a piece in the fourth and fifth innings to make it 4-4.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Eagles once again took the lead with an odd rally. Seigel struck out with two outs, but the ball got away from the catcher and Seigel was on base. Savage then walked and both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Nootbaar promptly singled in both runners and the Eagles had a 6-4 lead. But San Dimas would score two unearned runs in the top of the sixth to tie the game once again. In the bottom half of the inning, consecutive singles by McCullough and Palmer and a sacrifice bunt by Logan Erickson put runners in scoring position. Seigel once again singled to right to drive in McCullough, but Palmer was tagged out at the plate in a

close play that could have gone either way. "I thought I was under the tag easily," he said.

Clinging to a one-run, 7-6 lead in the top of the seventh inning, Schaffhauser was sent in to relief Doucette. The first batter he faced walked into a pitch and the Saints eventually loaded the bases. San Dimas squeezed home the tying run and then two batters later, the Saints hit a grand slam and the Eagles fell behind for the first time in the game 11-7.

In the bottom half of the seventh, Quiñones doubled to right field to start the inning and Nootbaar singled. That was followed up by a run-scoring single by Doucette. With the Eagles down 11-8 and runners on the corners and no outs, Doucette was picked off first base. During the rundown Nootbaar attempted to score, but the Saints threw home. With a high tag and Nootbaar seemingly under the tag, the umpire rang up the first out of the inning. The Eagles never threatened again and came away on the short end, losing 11-8.

It certainly was a game for the ages and one the Eagles ostensibly had but couldn't hold onto in the end. The Eagles outthit the Saints 14-12, led by Nootbaar and Seigel who both finished 3-for-4 for the day, while Justin McCullough was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. For the Eagles, it was a bitter end to a season with so many highlights and one that most won't forget—especially the final game. Former Eagle Bruce Dobos (1968) summed it up saying, "It certainly was exciting, had a lot of action and a spectator's game even if we did lose." •

Don't Miss Out!

AYSO Soccer Registration

Thursday, JUNE 4 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, JUNE 13 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Children will be placed on teams to the extent we have volunteers!

ESHS Library, 640 Main Street
AYSO Soccer Camp Aug 3-7th
Register at www.aysooccamps.org Toll Free: 888-867-6222
Pre-register at www.eayso.org
AYSO Hotline: 310-322-9760



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