



THE SUBWAY SERIES



The Inside 47 TRACK

GOING AT IT — FAN TO FAN

Amazin' fans know, you still gotta believe

WHEN I was a kid, the only sport I really cared about was baseball and the only team I rooted for was the Mets. One of the only memories I have of my grandfather is going with him to Shea for one of my first of many Mets games. I remember leaving that day with a big, white blow-up Mets bat and a small wooden one with the logo branded into the barrel; it's still floating around my house.

When I was growing up, my parents instilled in me and my sister

ANTHONY STABILE



that hate was one of the worst things in the world — except, of course, when it came to the Yankees. I hated the Yankees and still do to this very day. In the 80s, my father used to say that if the Yankees played the Russians he'd root for the Russians. Now he'd root for the Iraqis and so would I.

The Yankees have gotten lucky in the first two games. That's right — lucky. The Mets have made some stupid mistakes and even I'll admit that a team like the Yankees are going to jump on those mistakes.

I had a theory about Roger Clemens when he pitched for the Red Sox in the '86 World Series and LOST to the Mets. I thought he was a complete idiot.

That thought was confirmed on July 8 when he attempted to end the career and perhaps the life of Mike Piazza, and again on Sunday night when he threw the barrel of a broken bat at Piazza's legs. He said he thought it was the ball.

Roger, you idiot, you are supposed to throw the ball to first base to record an out. I know, I looked it up. You remember first base, Roger? The same base where the ball went through Buckner's legs when you LOST to the Mets in '86.

Yeah, the Mets are down 2-0 but they were down 2-0 in '86 too, weren't they, Rocket? Oh, that's right Rog, you don't remember because you went and shaved after you pitched Game 6 because you thought you were gonna celebrate on the mound at Shea. WRONG!!! I was at Game 7 and remember a celebration on the mound but I could have sworn the Mets were celebrating, right, Rocket?

So I implore all of you Mets fans out there — put on your hats and jerseys tonight and root like you have — as I noted before. And like I have for 23 years — BELIEVE!! Because it's like Tug said — if you're a Mets fan, YA GOTTA!!

This Subway Series is already over

"BRING on the Yankees," Mets fans pleaded after watching their team clinch a World Series berth. Funny how a couple of days can change half a city's tune.

Now, the talk has shifted to how the Yankees get every call, or how the Yankees payroll makes it unfair for everyone else to compete, or, better yet, how the Yankees are just lucky.

The truth is, that's all talk from people who can clearly see the end right over the horizon.

ADRIATIK REXHEPI



What people should be talking about is how the Yankees have shown why they've won three of the last four World Series, and why they're on their way to their third straight. What they should be discussing is how the Yankees have fundamentally outplayed the Mets.

The Yankees run out every ground ball and pop-fly. They make very few mistakes. They take advantage of their opponents' misuses. The Mets, plain and simple, don't.

If the Mets' Tim Lincecum runs the bases hard in Game 1, this series could be tied. If the Mets don't make three errors in Game 2, it could be 2-0 in favor of the boys from Flushing.

It's a good thing it's not going very far in this world. The reality is the Yankees are baseball's premier franchise, past and present.

Call Yankee fans arrogant for thinking they have the greatest team and the greatest stadium in the greatest town. You think we care? The fact of the matter is that until someone wins 25 world championships, we are the greatest. The cream of the crop, baby, that's all you need to know.

Now the Yanks are going to prove it. We want a sweep, though. None of that winning in five or six stuff; we want to show why the guys who play at Shea will always be second-class citizens in this town. The Mets are in trouble, and with El Duque going against former scab Rick Reed in Game 3 tonight, the Amazin's should be reeling.

It gets better, though. To end it off, Joe Torre might throw ex-Met David Cone in Game 4 to put the final nail in the coffin. How great is that? Not even Shakespeare could devise a better plot.

Ahh, to be a Yankees fan in October. To watch the Mets fans bite their tongues and empty their wallets on lost bets. Dude, I tell ya, nothing can be better.



Dueling deli owners Jeffrey Bank, a Yankee fan, and partner Chris Metz, a Mets fan, clown around outside their Upper West Side deli.

A SLICE OF SPICE

Upper West Side eatery serves up a little Subway Series on rye

By NEIL GRAVES

The Bible says a house divided against itself cannot stand — but the good book never said anything about a restaurant in the midst of a crazed Subway Series.

At Artie's Delicatessen on Broadway on the Upper West Side, the partner owners are about as divided as Sinatra and LL Cool J fans — and are dragging the staff along with them.

"I'd say it's a third Yankees, a third Mets and a third that don't care," said co-owner and Yankee rooter Jeff Bank of his staff. "We have one Red Sox fan, though — but we're going to cut his pay."

His partner Chris Metz, 43, said rooting for the Amazin's was fated in the stars.

"My last name is Metz so I became a fan automatically in 1962," he said.

Their eatery has separate entrances with doors reading "Mets fans only, Yankee fans please use other door" and vice versa.

"We've had parents go to one door and the kids through the other," said Bank, 34.

Artie's also has a laundry list of ballpark-themed specials including one take-me-out-to-the-ballgame item that has the delivery person chucking peanuts at the customer.

"We give them everything they're used to at the park," said Bank, with Metz finishing the sentence for him, "including the attitude."

The guys said they spent all day Saturday dialing for ducats to Games 3-5, but couldn't get through to the Mets phone order line. So they did the next best thing — placed a sign in the window of the 1930s style shop:

"Will trade pastrami for tickets."

So far, no takers.

"We're offering a year's supply," Bank pointed out. "And if the seats are real good, we'll throw in a Dr. Brown."

As for who'll be wearing the crown next week, there is no agreement even though the Yanks are up two-love.

"It's done, it's over," needed Bank. "Four-game sweep. The Mets are folding like a deck of cards. We might be in trouble if the Mets could concentrate on their

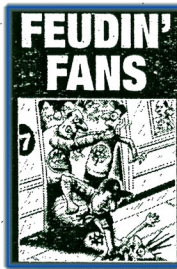
base-running."

To which Metz got downright nasty with some trash-talking of his own.

"What about Hillary?" he said, flicking a scorching wink. "She's a Yankee fan."

For once the loquacious half of the Borscht Belt comedy team had no comeback.

"Hillary?" Bank haplessly echoed. "I take no responsibility for her."



Did Roger Clemens intentionally throw the bat at Mike Piazza?

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