



March 31, 2004

PLAY BALL!

"IRON GLOVE" n. sloppy fielding, prone to errors

During his meeting today with baseball's Hall of Famers, Bush announced he would throw the first pitch in the St. Louis Cardinals' home opener against the Milwaukee Brewers on April 5. Recall Bush's record as General Managing Partner of the Texas Rangers: blunders, errors, and mismanagement. Sound familiar?

Bush Traded Sosa: "The Biggest Mistake of [Bush's] Adulthood" (...well, before he took the nation to war under false pretenses)

In July 1989, as managing partner of the Texas Rangers, Bush traded Sammy Sosa to the Chicago White Sox for Harold Baines. Later as a Chicago Cub, Sosa ended the 2003 season with the 10th highest total for career homeruns in major league history. Sosa was the 1998 National League Most Valuable Player and is a six-time All-Star and Louisville Silver Slugger Award winner. In 1999, Sosa was selected to the Cubs' All-Century Team. Bush later called this trade the "biggest mistake of his adulthood." [MLB.com; Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, 7/28/03]

Bush Mismanagement Resulted In Other Teams In World Series

Bush's Texas Rangers Never Reached the World Series, But He Traded a Closer and Fired a Manager Who Went on to Lead Their Respective Teams to World Series Appearances.

In July 1993, Bush traded closer Robb Nen to the Marlins for Chris Carpenter. According to Major League Baseball's website, Nen is considered "one of the all-time premier stoppers." He holds the San Francisco Giants franchise record for saves with 206. A nine-time recipient of Roloids Relief Man Award, Nen led the San Francisco Giants to a World Series appearance in 2002 and was the closer for the 1997 World Champion Florida Marlins. [MLB.com]

One avid Texas Rangers fan called the Nen deal one of the worst five in its history: "The bottom line is, the Rangers dealt one of the three or four best closers in the 90's for a middle reliever that went 6-6 in 74 ballgames with the club." [http://rangers.siegler.net/history/090100_2.html]

In July 1992, Bush fired manager Bobby Valentine. Bush said at the time that "we were concerned about the 1992 pennant race getting away from us." Valentine had won 581 games for the Rangers prior to his firing. Valentine went on to manage the New York Mets and led them a Worlds Series appearance in 2000. [Memphis Commercial Appeal, 7/10/92; Chicago Sun-Times, 7/9/92; mlb.com]

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