

Color Commentary

Duo comedy scene by Samuel Stokes

JOE: Crawford steps into the box. Here's the wind-up and the pitch. Low and outside, ball one.

BOB: Low and outside, ball one.

JOE: I just said that, Bob.

BOB: I know, I was just confirming.

JOE: Rodriguez shakes off several signs, and now the wind-up and the pitch. Breaking ball just catches the corner for strike one.

BOB: That's a breaking ball on the corner for strike one.

JOE: Bob, you did it again.

BOB: What's that, Joe?

JOE: You just repeated the call after I already said it.

BOB: Well, that's good that we can agree on the call, isn't it?

JOE: Well, yeah, but that's not your job. I'm the play-by-play announcer. I'm supposed to give the calls, you're supposed to comment on them.

BOB: Oh, I see. I've got it now.

JOE: Here's the wind-up and the pitch. Low and inside, the count is two and one.

BOB: Good call, Joe. Well done.

JOE: No, Bob, you're not supposed to comment on how well I do my play-by-play. You're supposed to comment on the game. You know, talk about the history of the batter, that sort of thing.

BOB: Oh, ok, got it.

JOE: Here's the pitch. 96 mile per hour fastball right down the middle. Crawford takes a big rip but comes up empty for strike 2.

BOB: According to the scorecard, the last time Crawford got a strike was two pitches ago, when the count was one and oh, but that time he got caught looking.

JOE: Uh, Bob.

BOB: Yeah, Joe?

JOE: Usually the color commentator doesn't talk about such recent history. You know? Maybe look more at the batter's life-time history and not just the stats from this very at-bat.

BOB: Oh, alright. That makes sense.

JOE: Here's the pitch, high and outside. Crawford checks his swing. Full count.

BOB: Interestingly enough, the first time Crawford ever worked a full count was when he was on his first Little League team at age 8. He was so cute back then...

JOE: Bob!

BOB: Yeah, Joe?

JOE: Nevermind with the player history, why don't you try coming up with some funny nicknames or catchphrases? Color commentators do that sort of thing a lot.

BOB: Oh, ok, I'll try that.

JOE: Here comes the pitch. Slider just catches the corner of the strike zone.

BOB: And ol' Cross-eyed Crawford is down on strikes! Ring 'em up, ding ding! Goodbye, Cross-eye!

JOE: Yeah, that's it, Bob! Except for one thing.

BOB: What's that?

JOE: Crawford's on our team!

BOB: Oh, right.

JOE: Here comes Johnson to the plate.

BOB: Last time Johnson had an at-bat was in the ninth inning of the game last night. He also had at-bats in all of the previous games this season.

JOE: (*sarcastically*) Thanks a lot, Bob.

BOB: Sure thing, I think I'm getting the hang of this.

JOE: Here's the pitch. Johnson hits a blooper into shallow right field. He beats the throw and he's on with a one-out single.

BOB: Looking back at Johnson's stat history, it looks like he makes singles 100% of the time that he beats the throw to first. Truly outstanding.

JOE: As Stephens steps to the plate, we're going to pause ten seconds for station identification. Bob, why don't you go grab us some hot dogs and sodas? Oh, and make sure you get me one of the new Coke-7s, okay? You know, the seven calorie Coke?

BOB: You got it, Joe.

(BOB leaves)

JOE: Ha, Coke-7. That should keep him busy for a while... Alright, we're back. Here comes the pitch. Stephens hits a ground ball to short. Wilson scoops it up and it's a double-play. We'll be back after this commercial break.... hopefully with a new color commentator!