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Twins OF **Jacque Jones** leads off On Deck at 1:15 p.m. ET. Get prepared for the 15 games this evening with previews of every game as well.
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Baseball Perspectives

06/19/2003 10:37 AM ET

An independent fan

By Vicki Salemi / Fans on Base

You know, it's a funny thing about being independent. You get to do all sorts of things and not let anything hold you back, but in some instances, being too independent has its disadvantages.

I've been on business trips by myself, learned to occupy myself by reading a magazine or newspaper in restaurants alone, been on vacations by myself, so going to the movies or even a show without a friend is no big deal. So, when I had a day off and the opportunity to see my Yankees at the Stadium, after not having seen them since last fall, I figured going there and enjoying the game by myself would be no big deal, right?



Fans on Base

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It's amazing how being alone never felt, well, lonely, until I was in The House That Ruth Built. Although I was completely engaged in the game versus the Red Sox, something or rather, *someone* was missing. No one to talk to in between innings, no one to whom I could comment about a good catch a fan made or about who was warming up in the bullpen. The chants of the crowd, the seventh-inning stretch, the intensity that makes me proud to say I'm a New York fan -- it all made me realize the game isn't just a sport. It's not just a pastime. It's an involvement and experience that you get to share with the people you care about.

And when the people who should be beside you are absent and strangers are there instead, the game just isn't the same. Although it can be watched at home alone, there is nothing like being in the heart of the action with people you love to be around.

The one good thing about going alone was the ability to make observations about such sights as fathers and sons high-fiving each other when one of our hometown heroes got a hit, or boyfriends and girlfriends gazing intently at each other. (Game? What game?) And little girls learning the game and recognizing a good bunt when they see one.

At that moment, I realized, going to the game, with the ritual and rites, is all about sharing the excitement, enjoyment ... and even a hot pretzel.

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