



Raider sports fans revel in late night games

Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks and Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – It’s early in the morning, around 4 a.m. to be precise, and while most of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers are sound asleep or winding into the second half of their night shift, a special breed of Soldier is wide awake and full of energy. They are the sports fans.

“I am just so glad to watch the games, so I really didn’t care what time it comes on,” said Pfc. Johnny Lyon, a Lawrenceville, Ga. native, who was up early Monday morning to watch the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies face off in the Major League Baseball World Series. “Baseball is my favorite sport, and I would stay

up all night to watch this World Series if I had to,” said Lyon, an intelligence analyst with the Raider Brigade. “Only true fans can say that and not these bandwagon fans.” Many Soldiers decide to use facilities such as the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center, which is open 24-hours a day, to watch the World Series and other sporting events.

Others purchase televisions and take advantage of the free Armed Forces Network television signals running into their housing units. “When I got here I didn’t expect to be able to watch the World Series, but now I can track it like I did back at home,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Deramus, a Bessemer, Ala. native.

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“It does help that I work at night because I am up anyways for those games.”

In the tactical operations center, or TOC, the brigade night battle noncommissioned officer Sgt. 1st Class Steven Burns has a con-

stant stream of news and information passing in front of him during his 12-hour shifts. Sports scores, incidentally, are among that information.

As the World Series takes place, Burns checks out highlights and scores and

broadcasts them to fellow fans in the TOC whose duties don't allow them to watch the games live.

Once baseball season is over, he said he already has his next target lined up: college football. After that he'll move onto the National Football League

Super Bowl in February, college basketball's March Madness and then the National Basketball Association's playoffs in April.

By the time football season comes back around, Burns explained, he knows his tour is almost up and it will be time to go home to Fort Lewis, Wash.

“I know that when the World Series is over, I have just a few months left before my mid-tour leave,” said Deramus,

a 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. imagery analyst. “Then I will have a few more months after that until I get back home to my wife.”

He added that it doesn't matter who you're cheering for, Yankees or Phillies, during these World Series as long as Soldiers realize that their mission here is to do their job so that everyone can get back home to their families and to watching sports at a reasonable hour.



(Top) Staff Sgt. Sherman Barto (Right) and Spc. Peter Moore (Left), a couple of Raiders, watch the World Series during their lunch break. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.)



(Top) Two Soldiers from 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Staff Sgt. Kevin Deramus (right), a Philadelphia Phillies fan, and Pfc. Johnny Lyon (left), a New York Yankees fan, stay up watching the World Series at 4:30 a.m., while most are sleeping at Camp Liberty. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.)

“Baseball is my favorite sport, and I would stay up all night to watch this World Series if I had to.”

***Pfc. Johnny Lyon
imagery analyst
Headquarters and Headquarters Company***



Alex Rodriguez rejoices after becoming a World Series champion for the first time. (Getty photos)



The Yankees celebrate their 27th World Series title after beating the Phillies. (Photo by Elise Amendola/AP)

What do you think about the New York Yankees winning the World Series?



“I got to represent the Yankees”

*-Sgt. Natasha Kelley
native of Niagara Falls, N.Y.,
HHC, Bde. paralegal*



“The best team money can buy won.”

*-Spc. James Garcia
native of Austin, Tx.,
HHC, Bde. battle radio telephone
operator*



“The Yankees must’ve sold their souls to the devil.”

*-Sgt. Maj. Brian Hollis
native of Boston, Mass.,
4-2 SBCT operations sergeant
major*

RAIDER ROLL-UP...



Sunday November 1, 2009

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CONSTITUTION -- As he prepares to depart, Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby, commanding general of Multi-National Corps -- Iraq, thanks Col. John Norris, commander, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, for the opportunity to visit with 4th SBCT and 6th Iraqi Army Division Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bryce Dubee, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.)



Tuesday November 3, 2009

BAGHDAD --An Iraqi child smiles and gives a high-five to Spc. Eric Marquez, an infantryman and native of El Paso, Texas, assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during a short break in a joint patrol of the area in northwestern Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO)

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