



HOUSTON ASTROS

2014 Official Game Magazine

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LEADING OFF

SEASON TICKET HOLDER **GEORGE WEBB**

Season ticket holder since 2000

Q:

When did you attend your first Astros game, and what do you remember most from your experience?

Who is your all-time favorite Astros player?

Who do you think will be a "player to watch" this season?

What is your favorite or most memorable Astros game that you attended?

What are your favorite ballpark foods?

Q: Have you ever caught a foul ball?
How many? How close have you come?

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a Season Ticket Holder?

Q: What do you like most about where you sit?

A:

My first Astros game was in June of 1984. I had just graduated from high school in New Orleans, and I was visiting my uncle who lived in Houston and was an original Astros Season Ticket Holder. That was my first Major League game and the start of a lifelong fandom. As a student at Rice, I went to many more games, including the 1986 NLCS against the Mets, but it all started with my Uncle Charlie. One of the bricks outside Minute Maid Park commemorates him.

Lance Berkman – also my all-time favorite Rice Owl! I have known him since his college days. He's a great player and a great guy.

I think we can expect a really good season from Jason Castro – and a good catcher is a great asset. My wife and I know some of Mark Appel's family, so we will certainly be rooting for him as he progresses through the organization. Castro and Appel are both Stanford guys, but I figure Stanford is sort of the Rice of the west.

It was really two games: in June 1989, the Astros played a 22-inning game against the Dodgers on a Saturday night, and then a 13-inning game against them the next day. I wasn't living in Houston at the time, but I had come to Houston that weekend with some friends to catch a couple of games. We got the equivalent of four games in 24 hours, and the Astros won both. The Saturday game ended around 2 in the morning when Rafael Ramirez slapped the game-winning hit over the head of Fernando Valenzuela, who was playing first base. The Sunday game ended with Mike Scott hitting a sacrifice fly. And oh yeah – a guy named Biggio caught most of those innings.

I have to say bratwurst and Saint Arnold beer.

Not at Minute Maid, but a few at the Astrodome. The most memorable was when I had gone to the game with a husband and wife who were friends of mine. The ball was headed right for her head, and if I hadn't caught it, it would have hit her squarely. So I did my good deed for the day.

Two things in particular: The first is knowing that we have my same great seats for every game. The second is that having season tickets means that my wife and I end up going to more games than we otherwise would – and going to more ball games, rather than fewer, is a good thing.

Our seats are EXACTLY behind home plate, so we have a perfect view of every pitch. They say that the confrontation between pitcher and batter is the essence of baseball, and we get to see it unfold in each at-bat. We can tell if a pitch catches the corner of the strike zone or if it just misses. Often you'll see the fans in other sections (who don't have as good a view of the plate) complaining about an umpire's call, but the folks in our section can tell that the umpire got it right.

