

Massachusetts

Bonding
Through
Baseball

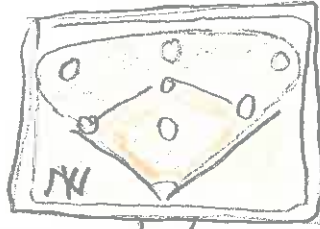
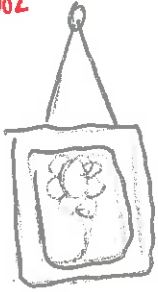
By:
Katrina
Martinez

New
York

Florida



Circa 2002



Baseball has always played a huge role in my life. Some of my earliest memories are of watching the New York Yankees on television with my little brother, Ruben (aka Run). Our parents always tried to take us to games at Tropicana Field in Tampa, whenever the Yankees were in town. Needless to say, those early Yankees games on TV and live instilled in us a love for baseball.

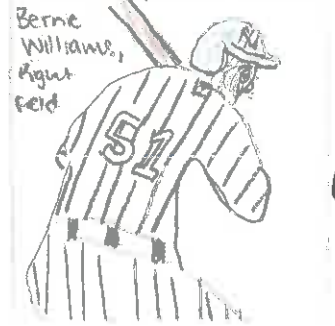


... Now batting for the Yankees... No. 2, Derek Jeter, No. 2!

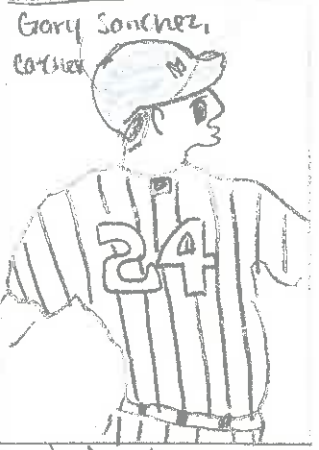


OUT!

When we first started watching, the Core Four (really 5) were running the team. TV Baby Bombers taken over — Harmon Judge, Frank Sanchez, and others. When I was younger, I loved the Spring baseball was coming. My life was simple — I could watch the games whenever. But then, I graduated high school.



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Spring Time



Pine View
Class of
Graduate

Air Airlines

(ish) ←

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Going to winter meant more work and less baseball. I couldn't watch games on TV or I couldn't watch games.



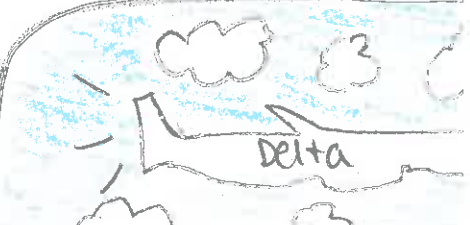
Eventually, I realized how to make more time for it.

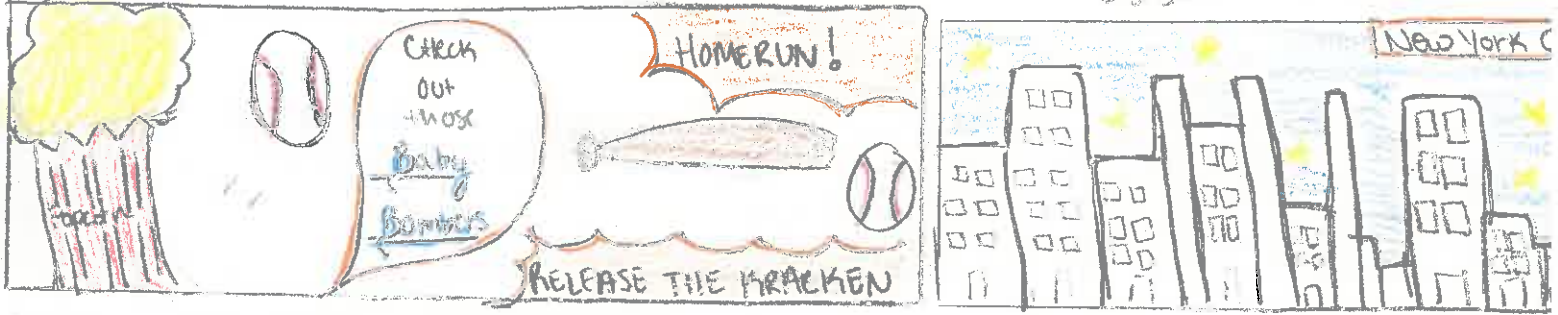
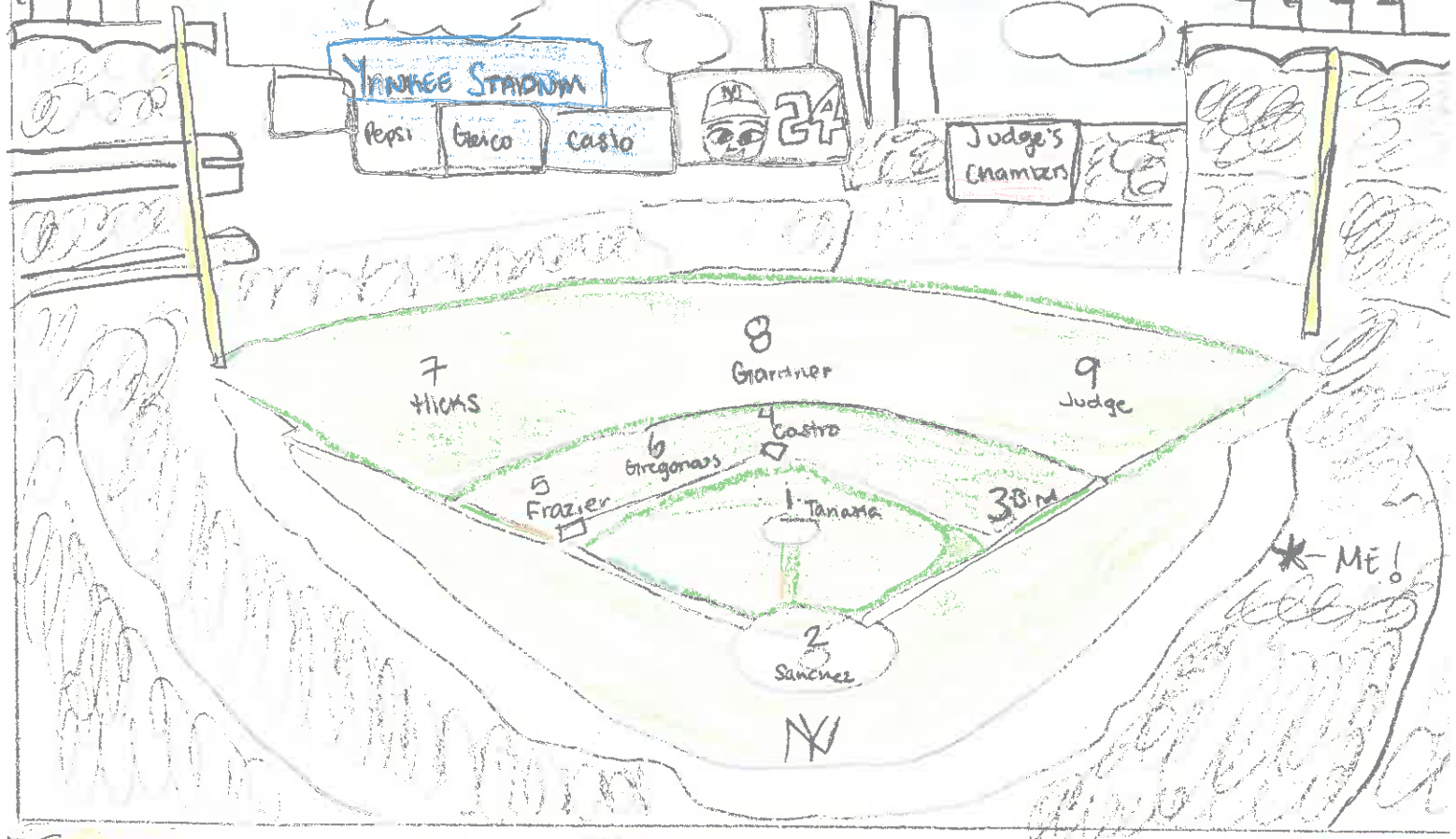


Deciphering my brother's texts can be hard, but basically "Hicks hits it to the sticks" is a pun to say that Aaron hit a home run. Additionally, "ALL RISE" is what people say when Aaron Judge hits a home run because of his last name. In the summer of 2017, I was doing research at Columbia University and could finally attend a game at Yankee Stadium.



I didn't get to go with Ruben but to him throughout the whole year. All he did was send me Yankee puns which made me laugh.





Visiting Yankee stadium in August was one of the best experiences I have ever had. The Yankees lost to the Detroit Tigers that day but I was able to fulfill a childhood dream. Going to college was definitely a strain at first, but baseball has always been able to keep my little brother and I connected. From Florida to Massachusetts to New York, no matter how far apart we are - baseball will always keep us connected. As for the Yankees, they're in the middle of a playoff run - down 2 games but hopefully with the strength and hope to pull through and come out on top. For my family, baseball is the glue.

