

# A Sports Fan Spectacular



On Sept 29th, my wife and I had the privilege to attend game 5 of the World Series- the Boston Red Sox vs the St Louis Cardinals compliments of Dentsply Raintree Essix. We flew from Fresno to St. Louis, arriving on Sunday, the night before the game. Our reservations were for the Hyatt Regency and our room overlooked the St. Louis Arch and Mississippi River. What a view!

After we checked in and got settled, we decided to walk around the downtown area. The Hyatt was just a few blocks from Busch Stadium and game 4 was getting ready to start. We stood just outside the fence and watched the opening ceremony including Rascal Flatts singing the national anthem. The atmosphere was electric as fans were cheering loudly for any play or player being announced. We just kept saying, "how cool was this!"

We continued on and walked around downtown getting a flavor of the city. We settled on a local sports bar, ate dinner and enjoyed watching game 4 on the TV with many local Cardinal fans.

Monday- in the morning, we found out that concurrent with game 5 going on at Busch, just a few blocks south, the St. Louis Rams would be playing the Seattle Seahawks for Monday night football. What a night for sports in St. Louis!

Since we had all day to see the city, we took a tour of the St Louis Arch and went to the top. A great view of the city, Busch Stadium, and the football stadium. That day happened to be the Anniversary of the completion of the arch so many of the remaining architects, engineers, crew men were on site to talk to, sign autographs, and give us insight into the challenges in building the arch. When one man was asked how he was brave enough to stand on the outside of the arch in the wind and with only a rope around his waist, he merely replied, "I was young and had just gotten out of the Marine Corp. I was invincible."

We continued walking around the city looking at the many historical sites. It was amazing to walk in the courthouse where the Dred Scott case was heard, to feel the history, and imagine what it must have been like to live in those racially challenging times.

We asked the locals what kind of foods St. Louis is known for? Ribs and pizza were the answers. Since it was lunchtime, we opted for the St. Louis style pizza. It was a crunchy, cracker-like crust, and thin layered toppings. It was good (having gone to school in downtown Chicago, I must say Geno's East is still my favorite).



That afternoon we headed back over to Busch Stadium as soon as the gates opened, so we could take in the whole spectacle that is the World Series. Around the stadium was a variety of television crews broadcasting their pre-game shows. We gathered near the infield to watch the MLB channel film their live broadcast and watch Peter Gammons talking with the crowd, but a highlight was watching Big Poppy take batting practice. We made two quick observations: 1. he is a very large man, and 2. he can hit the ball really hard.



As game time drew closer, we settled into our well appointed lower level seats and the grand ceremony began. The National Anthem was sung by one of our favorite singers Harry Connick, Jr., and then to the delight of the crowd entered the famous Clydesdale horses to take their ceremonial lap around the field. It began to sink in, this is no ordinary game, this was Game 5 of the World Series. The stadium was packed and alive with energetic fans, especially the group of 60+ year old ladies that sat behind us, with their Cardinals fanatics shirts and red, white, and blue wigs. They were there to watch their team win, and their enthusiasm was infectious. St Louis fans LOVE their Cardinals. That night, John Lister was lights-out as the Cardinals did not have an answer for his pitching. Game 5 went to the Red Sox, and eventually, so did the Series Title.

As life-long sports fans, we truly appreciated the St. Louis experience: the people, the city, the history, and the World Series baseball game. Thank you very much Dentsply Raintree Essix for sponsoring this prize at the ASD Convention. It was a trip of a lifetime for Joely and I that we will never forget!

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