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Loose Ends: The Baseball Slut

By: [Claire Zulkey](#)

What a time to be alive it was in 2003, that is, if you were a woman in your twenties and in the attendance at a [Chicago White Sox](#) game. Those of us that fit that demographic were the hottest things at the park, and, honestly, it wasn't a difficult accomplishment. We were a minority amongst the 20,000 other fans, as our competition seemed mainly to consist of little girls, Nancy Faust and plus-sized middle aged women with pronounced back tattoos.

While in the city we were the few, the proud, at the Cell we were queen bees. When we headed back to the North Side for the Crosstown Classic, however, the heat was on. No matter how high we knotted our [Paul Konerko](#) jerseys on our midsections, there were at least three times as many girls there in tighter Cubbie blue tees, shorter denim skirts, higher strappy heels, deeper tans, more convincing off-the-truck designer purses and better seats.

I tend to refer to these young ladies as baseball sluts (it's okay because I'm a woman and I can do that). To be specific, baseball sluts are girls who go to baseball games primarily to drink [beer](#) and meet the guys who will pay for said beer, typically wearing clothing that is more restrictive or uncomfortable than sitting for nine innings requires.

Baseball sluts are profligate at both Sox and Cubs parks, too.

"The telltale signs are similar for baseball sluts for both teams, like jersey t-shirts of whoever the hottest player is at the moment. Hot like handsome, not on-base percentage, of course," muses 20-something Cub fan Tom Suffredin, who in his free time is a noted anthropologist.

Historically, [Wrigley Field](#) has been the stronger magnet for baseball sluts. Thanks to geographic location, it's the more convenient choice for girls who like to party and meet guys and maybe watch a little baseball. More importantly, the neighborhood boasts many more venues where such party girls can go get a jello shot or two post-game.

Is it possible, though, that in recent seasons, good-time girls have been riding the Red Line south, instead of north? Obviously, more fans have turned out to see the Sox in the 2006 season due to the inevitable bandwagon-jumpers. On Sunday they set a home attendance record. However, I began noticing a change as early as 2004, which, coincidentally or not, seemed to be the year that the 1983 Winning Ugly sporting gear seemed to be in higher demand.

Merchandising to the Converts

Baseball sluts like to show their team pride, but it's unsexy to do so in an oversized jersey. The Cubs franchise has been aware of this and have been providing small-sized, breast-enhancing jersey tees for some time, in addition to pink hats and mardi-gras beads. Have the Sox merchandisers now just caught on?

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"Based on the fact that the Sox won the [World Series](#)

"I think the souvenir shops at the Cell have been selling more stuff in pink and baby blue," mused John Moore, a 20-year-old

last year, going to the games are more popular. Women want to be fashionable so more women are going to Sox games ... I've definitely seen more Sox logos being printed on baby tees, pink hats, tank tops and the like. So, yes, I'd definitely say White Sox gear has been more fashionable with the ladies lately.- Wrigleyville Sports Salesman Dylan McGorty

Sox fan attending the Sept. 17 Cubs game vs. the Reds. "Girl-jerseys, too." His girlfriend, Bekki, 17, nodded in agreement, but didn't seem to have much to add to the Travelling Baseball Sluts conversation when asked.

But what does a disenchanting, under-the-drinking limit White Sox fan who's tied down by his old lady know? I needed to check with the sultans of slutty baseball wear. I called Wrigleyville Sports (959 W Addison St).

"Sheerly based on the fact that the Sox won the World Series last year, going to the games are more popular. Women want to be fashionable so more women are going to Sox games. As more and more logos have been rolled out, I've definitely seen more Sox logos being printed on baby tees, pink hats, tank tops and the like," noted salesman Dylan McGorty. "So, yes, I'd definitely say White Sox gear has been more fashionable with the ladies lately. Also, they like those shirts that say 'Sox Appeal' that they sell over at Strange Cargo" (3448 N Clark St).

Well come on, though.

It takes a little more than a "South Side Hit Men" child's L ringer tee to lure a Lakeview gal onto a Red Line train heading to 35th. Are there more than just sartorial choices at play if in fact more baseball sluts are showing themselves (literally) at US Cellular?

"This is important research that must be done," muses Suffredin. "I personally think that the balance has shifted a bit since Scott Podsednik's acquisition.

"The baseball sluts like to go where the action is," speculates sketch comic and Sox fan Justin Kauffmann. "They know that more and more sugar daddies are ending up at Sox Park since ticket prices went up, and rich guys go where the winners are. Besides, doesn't Sox Park sell Mike's Hard Lemonade?"

It is possible, however, that the theory is simply an illusion created by volume and market flooding?

"It may be true that an abundance of slutty White Sox apparel has flooded the market," theorizes former Chicago resident Ken Kim, who now resides in New York and refuses to claim allegiance to either the Sox or the Cubs. "Said abundance would have lowered the price of this good and increased the quantity demanded, and the quantity purchased. So we see more girls, in general, wearing slutty White Sox apparel. Many of the girls buying and wearing the slutty White Sox apparel may not be actual sluts.

"But, because they are spending so much money on gas, and the rates on their one-year ARMs keep adjusting upward, the economic benefit of wearing slutty clothes may now be high enough to offset the social cost of looking like a slut. Therefore, there appears to be more slutty White Sox girls this year."

A Theory-Laden Question

Kim has an additional theory: "Maybe, as time has passed and information has become better, slutty girls have taken notice of the quality and selection of the food at Comiskey over Wrigley. Rather than being limited to a skinny and flimsy hot dog or overcooked and disproportionately small brat at Wrigley, the sluts figured out there is a much wider selection of spicier, bigger, firmer meats that actually fill up a bun. I've heard a few female friends tell me that the meats at Comiskey taste better and are easier to swallow."

This theory however is too laden with over-the-top metaphor to be taken seriously.

Fortunately, for now though it seems that for better co-ed odds, the Cell is still the safe choice.

"There are more trashy sluts at Sox games, but the North side will still have more drunk sluts because of bar proximity," concludes Suffredin. "Even though there are bars in Bridgeport, I have never seen the guy/girl ratio come close to 50/50."

So don't worry, she-Sox fans — go ahead and have that extra Kosher dog, because the competition, while stiffer than before, is still in your favor.

Sadly, however, the season's end is nigh, which, coupled with plummeting temperatures, prevents further scientific study.

Will the Cubs' last-place finish send more female fans Southward come spring? Or will the Sox's lackluster post-break performance results in fair weather femme fans?

We'll find out in six months, when once again, winter parkas are shed for tiny tees in the eternal circle of life.

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