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Pitchers hurl, knitters pur!

By [Mary Delach Leonard](#)

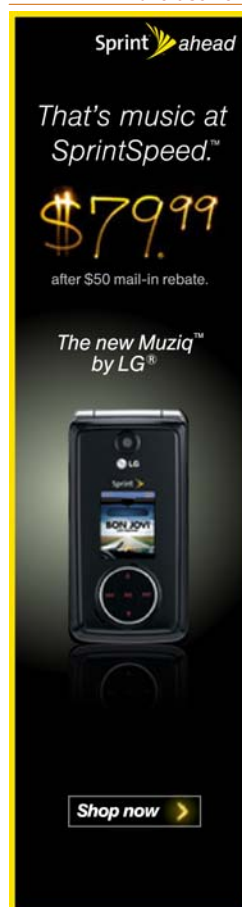
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
08/14/2007



Aug. 6, 2007: Rose Murray (center) holds up a stitched banner that reads Go Cards that she helped knit with her friends for Stitch N Pitch night at the Busch Stadium.
(Dan Eldridge/P-D)

bag handed out to 850 fans who participated in Stitch N' Pitch at the ballpark Aug. 6, a promotion sponsored by local craft stores and the National Needle Arts Association.

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The fans in Section 361 were in a needling mood on a hot night at Busch Stadium with the home team down by three runs.

As San Diego sailed a home run over the outfield wall, Chris Harrison 40, of St. Louis, muttered, "That is not supposed to happen."

But he didn't drop a stitch.

The husky Harrison was determinedly working a strand of powder blue yarn onto a knitting needle, though he had yet to decide what he was crafting. He got the supplies free in a goodie

The idea is that people can knit, crochet or do needlepoint just about anywhere, so why not at the ballpark, said Sandy Kulash, one of the organizers. Twenty-five major league teams are holding Stitch N' Pitch nights this season.

Harrison is a computer network engineer who started knitting several years ago at the urging of crafty friends. He said baseball and knitting go together just fine.

"The sticks are smaller and the balls are made of yarn, but other than that ..." he said, shrugging.

With the temperature in the high 90s, most of the crafters gave up on the scarves and hats and other needlework projects they had brought and, instead, waved bright-red cardboard fans to stir the muggy air.

Tickets were sold at craft stores at discounted prices, and needlework demonstrations were held before the game. Kulash, who owns the shop Knitorious in St. Louis, said the goal next season would be to shoot for cooler weather.

Lynn Futch, 36, of Wentzville, was knitting a dish cloth in Cardinals red.

"It's really something different: a fun way to get out and knit," said Futch, who came with her mother, Kathy Schindewolf, 57, of Lake Saint Louis.

Futch had only one nit: "I wish it was April."

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