



Anyone Can Affect History

By Bill Gosse

Posted September 6, 2008

Many people long for the day they can be part of a special moment in history – a chance to be famous.

Sometimes history is made in the blink of an eye. For Olympics swimmer Michael Phelps, it was made by the thickness of his and Jason Lezak's fingernails.

Bill Wambsganss made baseball history for turning the first unassisted triple play in World Series annals. The feat probably took less than 10 seconds to complete and stands out in an otherwise nondescript career.

Current major leaguers Stephen Drew and Adrian Beltre made history when they both hit for the cycle in a game (safely hitting at least a single, double, triple and home-run), becoming the first pair to do it on the same day in 88 years. If it takes as long for history to repeat itself, that feat won't happen again until the year 2096.

Certain criteria determine why events are history-making. Quite often it's the first time the event happened, like the first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary. Sometimes it's because the event hasn't happened in many years.

We are electrified when events are the best that's ever done – like Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and his world records.

My two oldest boys were able to be part of a significant piece of local sports history. They suited up and played in the very first football game in the history of NEW Lutheran High School. As far as I know, NEW Lutheran is the last high school in Packer country to start a football program. Someday, along with eighteen other teammates, they will be able to say they were on the very first Blazer team “way back in '08.”

Who was the first head coach? Who made the first tackle? Who scored the first touchdown? Did they win or lose?

Regardless, they were privileged to be part of a special moment in school history.

Not everyone has the chance to be part of a very first “this” or very first “that”.

Nonetheless, people have the opportunity to make an impact every day.

Those who are giving their best in their callings in life are the ones making real history. Parents, teachers, students, coaches, doctors, policemen, firemen all have the power to affect history by positively carrying out their lives. Whether it's at work or in sports, we can affect the paths of history with a pat on the back, a smile, a handshake or an encouraging word.

These people won't be famous to the masses, but they'll be famous in their own little corner of the earth. They might even be famous to only one person. It makes no difference, because these are the history makers who matter most.