

A few of my reflections on the Chicago Cubs World Series Championship and the exciting Game 7

- The Cubs players, and manager, are a phenomenal group of professionals and a class act.
- I happy for relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman. He was asked to pitch a lot more than usual in very difficult situations, but he hung in there and responded to the challenge. He could have cracked, but he didn't.
- The quality of the Cubs overall play during the series and Game 7 was great. Stealing bases, tagging up, hitting, fielding, and pitching all made a difference.
- It shows that 'nice guys don't always finish last.' Ben Zobrist, for example, is a Christian. He's a hard worker and a winner (back-to-back World Series Champion). Kyle Hendricks is a quiet, business-like competitor. The Cubs are no longer the lovable losers.
- The Indians kept coming back in Game 7. When it looked like the Cubs were going to win the Indians tied it up, sending it into extra innings. It took extra effort for the Cubs to regain the lead and hold on, as the visiting team.
- Give the Indians credit. They took a highly-talented Cubs team who are young and with lots of pitching to seven games.
- The Cubs showed grit and had to win 3 straight after going down 3-1 in the series. They are resilient winners.
- I'm happy for Theo Epstein. The drought buster. He built a highly-talented team which won 103 games and overcame all the jinxes and curses. (He did the same thing for the Boston Red Sox. He's an amazing baseball administrator.)
- I'm happy for Joe Maddon, the manager. I like the way he led this team, with many young players. I like the way he moved his players around to various positions and sometimes used unorthodox strategy. He taught many things, including how to "accept a walk."
- Game 7 of the World Series was the most exciting sporting event I've ever seen. The feeling I had in Game 7 reminded me of when Nebraska played in the National Championship (football) game when Tom Osborn went for the 2-point conversion and they didn't get it and lost by 1. (At that point Osborn has not yet won a Championship. Later he'd win 3.)
- I loved the teamwork and how you never knew who was going to come up with the next big play. Everyone contributed. It reminded me of the 2014 San Antonio Spurs NBA championship, who won by playing overall quality basketball and team play, not by dominating physically or by a small group super-stars.
- Four big events in my lifetime:
 - A man walked on the moon.
 - The Berlin Wall came down.
 - The terrorists brought down the Twin Towers.
 - The Cubs ended a 108 year drought with a World Series win.
- Kris Bryant is a great player. He won rookie of the year in 2015. In a single game, on June 27, 2016, Bryant hit 3 home runs and 2 doubles. In 2016, and the playoffs, he was a smiling leader, often coming up with big plays, and consistently playing MVP-caliber ball.

Jim Olsen, Macomb, IL ~ 11/2/2016