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Letters to the Editor

Published: July 9, 2011

To the Sports Editor:

Re "A Hit Closer for Jeter," July 7: [Derek Jeter](#) is three hits away from 3,000 and is a certain first-ballot Hall of Famer. While this is a wonderful feat, he would need 1,259 more hits to tie [Pete Rose](#). Hasn't Pete's stay in purgatory been long enough and what better way to celebrate Derek's achievement by forgiving Pete and allowing him to be in the Hall. Tom Armstrong

Newtown, Conn.

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To the Sports Editor:

Derek Jeter will be the 28th in the history of this sport to reach 3,000 hits. It is reported that well over 16,000 have played Major League Baseball since Abner Doubleday invented the error and the double play.

In a game dominated by numbers, in which every possibility is catalogued and chronicled, where meanings are sometimes hard to define, this one is different. It began on May 29, 1995.

Since then, our own lives have been altered in so many ways.

But through the disappointments and the distractions, through the boredom and the repetitiveness, through the slumps and the aches and pains, through it all, he has persevered. And so, 3,000 awaits. It is a tribute to sustained excellence, good luck and an intense desire to succeed. Robert S. Nussbaum

Fort Lee, N.J.

Borg Was an Anomaly

To the Sports Editor:

"Left-Handers Have Edge in Slice and Singularity" (June 27): Is Rafael Nadal an anomaly like Bjorn Borg? The two-handed Nadal is the undisputed king on clay, as were the single-handed players like Rod Laver, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer on grass.

But for Borg, the majority of grass-court champions were single-handed backhand players. Borg was an anomaly who prevailed on grass because of his superb fitness and ice-cold temperament. On the contrary, Roland Garros has witnessed champions who are mainly two-handed backhand players, the three-time [French Open](#) champion Gustavo Kuerten being a recent anomaly.

Therefore, the empirical data establishes that in slow surfaces like red clay, two-handed backhand players have some distinct advantages over single-handed players. On the

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contrary, serve-and-volley loving single-handed players have lifted Wimbledon trophies year after year by taking advantage of their booming serves and deft volleys.

So, the enigma of Nadal's success on grass underlines his fitness and his placid demeanor on and off the tennis court like Borg had displayed with his volatile compatriots like Ilie Nastase, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe. Pinaki Mazumder

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Advice for Clemens

Re "Best Friend and Ex-Teammate to Confront Clemens at Trial" July 6: It still bothers me that the C.E.O.'s of American tobacco companies were allowed to walk after lying to Congress about the addictive nature of nicotine and the health risks of cigarettes, the miniature weapon of mass destruction that will cause 1 billion deaths in the 21st century.

Roger Clemens might do well to learn what Congress is addicted to and ask baseball executives if they want to either claim immunity because of the precedent set by cigarette C.E.O.'s, or give Congress what it really wants most, money. ROGER NEWELL

San Diego

Interleague Failings

To the Sports Editor:

Re "When All Seems Lost, Mets Rally to Win" July 4: Reading your coverage of the Yankees-Mets series reminded me what I've thought many times about M.L.B. interleague games. We've had them for more than a dozen years, but it still looks awkward to watch "asymmetric" teams (with different player setups) playing against each other.

If everyone plays one another, as happens now, then there is no reason to separate the teams in two distinct groupings or leagues. Simply, the teams with the best percentage (independent of their league affiliation) should match in the playoffs and World Series. I much prefer the old system of two champion teams from different leagues facing each other at the end of the season. Emilio Zebadúa

Mexico City

A version of this letter appeared in print on July 10, 2011, on page SP6 of the New York edition with the headline: Divining Meaning From Jeter And 3,000.

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