

Jim Rice Saves a Life

Name _____

On August 7, 1982, Tom Keane and his sons, Jonathan and Matthew, drove from their home in New Hampshire to Fenway Park in Boston so they could watch their beloved Red Sox play. They had great seats along the first base line, with a glorious view of the park's iconic Green Monster - the famous home run-robbing, 27-foot-tall left field wall. "It was a seat that everybody would dream of when they had little kids and you wanted to get them close to the action. It was just ideal." said Tom Keane.

The game was everything they had hoped for. It was tied 2-2 in the fourth inning as Dave Stapleton, Jonathan's favorite player on the Red Sox, came to the plate. Richard Dotson was pitching for the opposing Chicago White Sox. Stapleton saw a pitch he liked but was late with the swing, resulting in a pulsating line drive foul ball. The ball zipped into the stands so fast, that it was hard to tell where it went. Tom Keane, however, heard a sickening thud, and for a split second thought the foul ball had ricocheted off the wall of the Red Sox dugout. Then he heard a scream, saw blood flowing, and realized Jonathan had been struck in the head by the 100 + mile per hour foul ball.

Red Sox slugger Jim Rice was one of baseball's biggest stars. The 6'2" 205-pound all-star outfielder was known for his power, his strong throwing arm, and for his bad temper, especially toward reporters. Rice, who guarded his privacy intensely, also heard the horrific thud. He reacted immediately. Rice sprinted from the dugout and leapt into the crowd. He quickly corralled the bleeding child in his arms and hustled him into the dugout where he was immediately attended to by Red Sox Physician Dr. Arthur Pappas. It was a surreal scene that took less than a minute. Jonathan, however, was in serious condition. Dr. Pappas realized he had sustained a severe injury and needed emergency surgery. Jonathan was rushed to the hospital and surgery was performed to relieve the pressure on his brain. Five days later Jonathan left the hospital. It was clear that Jim Rice's quick thinking saved his life, but doctors couldn't be sure that John would ever fully recover.

Today, Jonathan has no recollection of the foul ball, but has indeed made a full recovery. He credits Jim Rice for saving his life. "He's a hero in my mind. He is somebody that saved my life, and I thank God for him being there." In a recent interview, Rice, who works as a baseball analyst, opened up about his heroism. "I see me carrying my kid. I see me being a parent, being a father, being someone that is able to think about others. If that was my child, I would want somebody to react the same way." Jim Rice was elected to the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame in 2009, in his final season of eligibility.

1. According to Tom Keane...

- a. He and his boys were driving from Massachusetts to see the Red Sox
- b. He and his boys were sitting next to the “Green Monster”
- c. He and his boys drove to New Hampshire to see the Red Sox
- d. He and his boys had great seats in which to watch the Red Sox

2. Which is TRUE about the timing in which Jonathan was struck?

- a. Richard Dotson was at bat
- b. The Red Sox were winning
- c. It was the fourth inning
- d. Dave Stapleton was pitching

3. What paragraph gives background information about Jim Rice in 1982?

- a. Second
- b. Third
- c. Fourth
- d. None of the above

4. Who is to blame for what happened to Jonathan?

- a. No one; it was a matter of bad luck
- b. Tom Keane; he was an irresponsible person
- c. Jim Rice; he should have acted faster
- d. Dave Stapleton; he should not have hit a foul ball

5. Immediately following Jonathan’s surgery...

- a. doctors knew he would make a full recovery.
- b. doctors believed he would never recover.
- c. doctors weren’t sure if he would recover.
- d. Jonathan returned home.

6. Which of the following best summarizes Jim Rice’s quote in the final paragraph?

- a. There is more in life than baseball
- b. I would hope that someone would act in a similar way if my child was injured
- c. I always hoped that Jonathan would make a full recovery
- d. I’m just glad I was there to take care of Jonathan when he needed me

7. What word could replace “recollection” as it is used below?

Today, John has no **recollection** of the foul ball, but has indeed made a full recovery. He credits Jim Rice for saving his life.

- a. anger
- b. mystery
- c. problem
- d. memory