



Not only was I there twice during the postseason, I was there several times down the stretch when the Indians had some heated games against the Detroit Tigers en route to winning the AL Central in 2007.

Nothing is better than that Cleveland crowd when Progressive Field is filled up and rocking. There is no better atmosphere. I will always complain and whine about the lack of support for this team in the attendance war. It is definitely sad when this club can't draw 10K for a game.

But the reason that it is so sad is because we've seen this fan base come to bat. And when they come to bat, they usually hit it out of the park. I know tonight that Progressive Field will not only be filled with Indians fans, it will be filled with loud and proud Indians fans.

It is a little depressing that it takes a solidified playoff game for that to happen, but at least it is there. This isn't a team like Arizona, where there's a struggle to fill the park for a playoff game. This isn't a team like Miami where they don't draw a darn thing during the season.

This is a franchise that once sold out 455 straight games. And while I know and fully understand that those days are not only over, but a different time with a perfect storm of circumstances, you can see that drive. This is a franchise that comes to bat for their team when it counts. I've seen it, I've experienced it, I've felt it.

If you are going tonight, and it is the first time you've had that opportunity. Soak it in. Take a minute to look around you when you are on your feet and you can't even hear your own

thoughts in your head. Cherish the high five you give to the person you don't even know sitting right in front of you when a big play happens.

I can't remember if the Indians sold "standing room only" tickets last time they went to the playoffs, but the fact that they are now is awesome. I know that park was jam packed back in 2007 and I know it will be tonight. This is a different atmosphere folks. If you watched the Pirates game last night, you saw what an impact that crowd had. Say what you want, but those fans got to Johnny Cueto and he had early exit because of it.

And even if they wouldn't have gotten to Cueto like they did, those fans were buzzing and it would have been impossible for the Pirates to not get behind their fans and feed off that energy. The Indians players have been asking for it all season. And now tonight they're going to get it. They're going to get a crowd to feed off of. They had a little taste to close out the year, but this is a different animal.

Wear your red. [That's what the Indians are asking](#) . 40,000 people wearing red and screaming their lungs out. They're also giving out rally towels to everyone. They did it in 2007 and trust me, that was a pretty rockin' scene just to see as well. Make it an environment that the home team can feed off of and enjoy playing in.

Do your part if you are going, but most importantly, enjoy it and take it in. These games are special and the Indians didn't lose many in 2007 when they played in Progressive Field. [Make it the advantage it is supposed to be](#)

"It's extremely important," Kipnis said. "To have our city behind us, playing in front of our crowd, that's where home-field advantage comes from. Having your own crowd cheer for you, build you up, get the blood going a little bit more, it makes it more fun to play in and makes the other team a little bit more nervous."

And don't think the club doesn't know what this crowd can be capable of.

"We're expecting a lot of energy," Smith said. "We're all looking forward to it, because none of us have ever really heard it like that. [Asdrubal] Cabrera is the only one from that 2007 team that went to the playoffs. He's probably the only one who's heard that stadium rocking like it can."

Swisher, Giambi, they've played in front of those crowds, so I'm sure they can even hand down the lessons. Cabrera as well, in terms of this stadium specifically. It's important, and something that needs to help support the team tonight.

[COBB VS DANNY]

This is going to be one heck of a pitching match-up. Last night you saw the two team's best pitchers start the game, and that was because both teams weren't exactly in a position where they needed to win their final game, they didn't need to just get in like Cleveland and Tampa, so they could set their rotation up a little more favorably to them.

