

The B-List: Haiku Results

Written by {ga=stevebuffum}
Thursday, August 07 2008 7:00 PM -

The results are in: Casey Blake inspires haiku. Lots and lots of haiku. The results are in, and Buff tells you all about the Third Annual Walt Svirsky Commemorative Haiku Contest. You know, 'cause the Indians didn't play.

This year's Haiku Contest was much harder to judge than those in years past: I got a lot more entries, and the quality was pretty darn good. Sure, the occasional reader forgot to count to five or seven, but there's lots of good stuff here.

There were a number of different approaches: the Beard/Chin, the Clutch Hitting, the Grinding, the Trade ... and there were a number of common themes. But ultimately, I chose to evaluate the poems in separate categories. There are a LOT that deserve Honorable Mention, but here are the category winners:

In the Beard/Chin Category, the winners are **Jason Laurianti** and **Justin Truitt**:

Jason

So, the Beard is Gone
Fasano's 'Stache Has No Friend
Wedge May Grow His Own

Justin

Blake, we will miss thee
Virile chin cut from granite
Sometimes a fungus

In the Grinder/Fan Reaction Category, the winners are **Mike Perry** and **Michael Barnauskas**

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Mike

Casey at the bat
Shapiro's grinding dreamboat
In the tribe no more

Michael

My Mom Hates Casey
Blake's in la-la land Mother
Happy Birthday Mom

And in the Actual Poetry Category, the winners are **Paul Anderson** and **Roger Evans** :

Paul

Terror at the plate
Is it delight or sadness?
Panic in your glove

Roger

Blake curls aging ash
Splinters at home plate drifting
In Indians' void

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To single out everyone who deserves recognition would dilute the meaning, but here are a few that I especially enjoyed for one reason or another:

Alan Florjancic for his message board reference:

Casey Blake is gone.
Board posting at all time low.
Sledge silently weeps.

Anna and/or Laura Burley for her/their sincere fandom in the face of much vitriol over the years:

Casey I'll miss you
Two thousand miles from Cleveland
I'll still watch you play

Jack Mager for a concise synopsis:

Oh bearded wonder...
A career year helped us get...
Top prospects for you!!!!

Jon Cooper for a career summary:

Casey Blake, Tribe star?
Flourished under Wedge, for sure
Bench jockey elsewhere

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And **Barry McBride** for the minimalist purity:

Blake Blake Blake Blake Blake
Blake Death Blake Blake Blake Blake
Blake Blake Death Death Blake

I liked a lot more of these: please enjoy, and thanks to everyone who entered!

Jason Laurianti

Casey Blake was
A fake in Two Thousand Eight
More Garko Than Ryan

Wedge Told Casey "Bye"
The Two They Shed a Tear While
The Cleveland Fans Cheered!

Cleveland Curse Lives On...
As Casey Goes to Contend
Dodgers Sweep in Four

Career Seasons Bring
On The Changes You Deserve
Good Luck Casey Blake

Casey in the Field:
More Positions Than a One

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Night Stand - That's Trade Bait

Casey's Eye Was Keen
His Bat Was Strong in '08
Yet we kept the 'Looch?

Lots of Casey Gear
In the Indian's Team Shop
Sells More Than Del-looch

CC vs. Blake
One is going to be League Champ
Cleveland Curse Lives On

He Cleaned Wedge's Spikes
Neatly Pressed His Uniform
That's the "Go-To" Guy?

The Bases Loaded
And The Ball Goes Through His Legs
That's Casey To Us

Matt Vanderfeen

Casey at the bat
You can't miss what never was
Utility man

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Runners not scoring
Starter for the Tribe spelled doom
Underperforming

Blake - always hustles
Fun to watch - like paint drying
But chicks dug the beard

Mike Perry

Sweet soft beard on chin
Whiskers for all Ohio
Now in Dodger Blue

Prospects are desired
Aging veteran with high cost
Silly Dodgers paid

Need a solid glove
With some pop in wooden bat
Dodgers still have needs

Paul Kormerl

Uncertain we'll miss
Mighty Casey at the bat
After a fine trade

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The Beard played them all
Except for two positions
With which he's replaced

Worthless with runners,
Now he only hits in clutch,
Trade this anomaly!

David Swader (or David S. Wader)

A gigantic chin
That was not meant to chagrin
Did belong to him

Patrick Fischbach

Driving in runners
You excelled better than most
No more runners home

Charles Buffum

Now at third: Marte.
There is no joy in Cleveland,
Casey has bailed out.

From fourteen out to
only one, Casey Blake scores

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while we sink deeper.

The gamer is gone.
So what? So is the season.
Fans get a Wedgie.

Michael Guzak

Good-Bye Mountain Man
Don't Let The Coast Corrupt You
You'll Be Mountin' Men

Justin Truitt

Loved by a few fans
Infuriating at times
Bearded enigma

Marte makes me cry
Blake made him rot on the bench
Come back home Casey

Michael Heinbach

Casey Blake is gone
I'm not sure I care at all
Oye Como Va

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Ben Warburton

Your beard will be missed
Delucci can go as well
I love drinking beer

So Luche gets to stay
While CC Walks away
I want to vomit

Wedge loved your hustle
I hated your OPS
Billy Beane conurs

Blake always played hard
did whatever he was told
Wedge equals man crush

Doug Lombardi

Casey Blake for two?
What about Gark and Soo Choo?
No value for slow and blah.

Rich Swerbinsky

The fans wanted more
But you more than enough

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Still hate Torre's guts

Nicholas Swerbinsky

That guy must be good:
They let him wear number one!
Blake is not pooppy!

Bob Sanok

Good-bye Casey Blake.
We got some prospects for you.
See you back next year!

Chris Koch

casey blake was here.
he played everyday. why?
utility man.

Brian Palicia

Thrived at the hot corner
Matured when he was at bat
It was a fine beard

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Mickey Ferguson

What is all the fuss?
Casey Blake was adequate
Brought us fine prospects

Casey Blake's best move
Was leaving the Indians
Prospects good; Blake? Eh.

Michael Kraft

Guaranteed homerun
When there are no ducks on pond
RISP a dirty word

Dave Derrenburger

casey blake is gone
we got carlos santana
guitar hero, not

good-bye casey blake
wedge wants all those pictures back
how else to explain???

favorite grinder
wedge will miss the bearded one

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i say good riddance

versatility???
so what??? give me more talent
grinders are losers

casey a dodger
jay leno wants his chin back
beware of razor

Julia Simon

Blake's doing it all
For freakin Torre, not us
Thanks shap - here's hoping

Barry McBride

They called me Death
I was not their final end
Call the basement home

The kind of player
Mike Hargrove would really love
But the Tribe is done

Mediocre player
Perfect for Dolan's ballclub

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But now is too old

Exciting? Not much
Stable and steady and dull
California bound

Uncredited Appearance

Casey Blake sucks!
Does he suck? Why yes, he does!
Blake sucks! Wedge's fault.

Farewell, Casey Blake
Number One in our programs
But not in our hearts

Paul Richardson

Chuck Norris Sibling
Ride your beard to victory
There in Anaheim

Indians season
Deal or No Deal is on now
What's the difference?

Mary St. Cyr

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Men on the bases
Casey comes up to the plate
Pitcher starts to smile

Erik Mosley

Strike looking, ball, ball
Strike looking, ball, swinging strike
Casey at the bat