



I arrived in Goodyear this morning at around 11am with my dad, just in time to catch the very end of MLB batting practice before their road game against the Milwaukee Brewers. If you ever head down to spring training, make sure you swing by the practice fields prior to the away games for this little treat. It's free, and you get to walk right up to the fence and watch the position players hone their craft (and the pitchers goof off shagging flies in the OF). It's also the best opportunity for autographs, and it's about as close as most people will get to major league baseball players. The kids really love it, as there are plenty of home runs pounded over the fence to give them opportunities to get their hands on a ball. And like Crash Davis says, in the show, they hit white balls for batting practice.

As the players and coaches walked away from the field, there were plenty of requests for autographs, but two names rang above all others. "Graaadyyyyyy! Sandyyyyyy!" Both Sizemore and Alomar Jr. obliged the fans and signed for quite a few of the folks who were out there watching. Again, if you go to spring training and only attend the big league games in the stadium, you're doing yourself a disservice and missing half the fun.

After BP ended, I headed over to the minor league fields to see what the kids were up to. It was a camp day in Goodyear, so all of the minors guys were around. The best thing about camp days is that there is a lot of time for individual instruction in addition to live game action. For example, at the beginning of the afternoon, Travis Fryman was on one of the side fields working with Chase Burdette on scooping low throws over at 1B. Later in the day, Burdette was in one of the intersquad games facing live pitching. Some other quick observations from the intersquad games:

• CC Lee is nasty. He has absolutely filthy stuff. He threw two good innings, the first in which he struck out the side in order. His defense let him down a little in the next inning, as he gave up an unearned run off of a double, a couple of errors and a sac fly. But he was sitting consistently between 91-94, and touched 95 a couple of times. When you can throw a 94 MPH sidearm fastball on the black (as he did to K Wes Hodges looking), that's pretty tough for a righty to hit. Check out the pictures below for what it looks like when Lee is coming at you from his sidearm slot.







