

Received(Date): 7 MAY 2001 09:38:57
From: Helgard C. Walker (CN=Helgard C. Walker/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
To: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
Subject: : POOL REPORT 5-6-01

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)
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CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-MAY-2001 09:38:57.00
SUBJECT:: POOL REPORT 5-6-01
TO: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
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05/07/2001 09:38 AM -----

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Pool Report
T-Ball game at the White House
6 May 01

Bush helicopter arrived behind the White House at 2:27 p.m. and he greeted a line of players, parents and others who waited for him behind chain link along the rim of Bill Clinton's old running track. Laura followed him out. Spot walked on his own but Barney, a lap dog if I ever saw one, was carried by Laura. George P. Bush also stepped off but opted against working the crowd. Bush went indoors and exchanged his blazer for a thick green fleece - odd given the shorts-like weather but that was his call. At 3 p.m. he stepped onto the field and opened the game with the usual self-deprecating humor (Red Sox great Nomar Garciaparra stood nearby and Bush said "I peaked. He didn't.) and a recitation of the Little League Pledge, which was included in the programs.

(Earlier, behind the shaded left field fence, Karen Hughes said America's long association with baseball made it an appropriate sport to highlight at the White House. "It was a logical sport because of his love for baseball," said pleasant Hughes, bag-o-peanuts in hand and son nearby.)

C-SPAN carried game so I won't go into details. Bush was not especially animated or loud and spent a good chunk of time signing baseballs and caps for fans in the bleachers, where he sat two rows up. Cutest moment: Tiny Andy

Dirks, 5, looking bored and sitting cross-legged in center field waiting for the ball to come his way.

Unfortunate all white versus all black lineup:

Red Sox players, who hail from the District's upper Northeast neighborhood, are African-American, as was their manager and coach. By contrast, white Rockies and their white coaches and managers hail from upper Northwest. Game moved along quickly and 30 minutes later the Red Sox had defeated the Rockies 8-5. Don't let anyone tell you that no one kept score because they sure as heck did, especially the parents.

Families grabbed spots at 25 picnic tables and scarfed down burgers and dogs.

More games are planned but none scheduled. However, stadium was being dismantled ever before the players headed home. (Colors run if red, white and blue bunting gets wet.)

NBC's Bob Costas, who like a lot of these famous people are shrimps when you

see them in person, delighted crowd with his play-by-play and told me later that he would love to be invited back to announce more games. He expressed surprise at the skill level of the players, whom he had expected to "have trouble just getting the ball out of the infield."

Spokesman Jim Wilkinson says balls, caps, etc. were donated. No estimate, he

says, on taxpayer costs to stage the game.

Bush left around 4 p.m. to return to White House. Lid announced.

Vince Morris
New York Post

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