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Modeling the Environment

Should Major League Baseball Adapt a System That Uses Instant Replay?

Baseball: America’s pastime. Think about all the times you’ve heard family members, friends, or people walking down the street talking about last night’s game, or who their favorite all-time player is. Though it has been around since the 1800’s, baseball has not changed its rules or regulations from how it began. The players have become stronger, and the game is now more of an international sport opposed to only our nation’s game, but that has not changed the rules one bit. However, in recent discussions, there have been arguments whether Major League Baseball (MLB) should adopt a new policy that allows the umpires to look at instant replays in regards to controversial calls during the game. On one hand, people have argued that this is a necessity for the game, and it will only make it better as umpires miss calls all the time and there needs to be a way of correcting their mistakes. On the other hand people think that this is what makes the game of baseball so great. They love the feeling of “Boo-ing” an umpire after they feel that he missed an important call, one that might change the outcome of the game. Lastly, people argue that if all the other sports do it, then why doesn’t baseball do it? One would respond to this by saying that baseball is not like all other sports for a reason. As mentioned previously, baseball is America’s pastime; it is unique and different from all the other sports. Adding an instant replay to baseball would make it just like the rest of the sports, and taking away from the individuality that has made baseball so beloved by so many different people.

In recent discussions of the game of baseball, a controversial issue has been whether or not Major League Baseball (MLB) should instate instant replay. On one hand, people argue that baseball should be kept the way it is and not adapt an instant replay policy, however on the other hand it is essential that they do. According to espn.com, umpires miss 20% of close calls throughout the course of the season. Any one of these close calls could cost a team a win or loss in a critical game, and any one game could be the difference between a team making the playoffs, or winning the World Series, and there can be millions and sometimes even billions of dollars at stake. With all that being said, why would you want to put that in the hands of a human who is only right four out of five times? Wouldn’t you rather play it safe and get the correct call every time? Some people also say that this would take away from the originality and integrity of the game that has not changed its rules for over a century. Why change it when there is no need to? Because it needs to be; plain and simple. All the other major sports in the United States have made the adjustment, now it is baseball’s turn. Make a new method where the call is right 100% of the time instead of just 80% of the time. It could cost players and fans a lifetime of asking themselves “what could have been,” and force them to live with regret knowing that it could have turned out differently. Let’s eliminate that all together and in the process install instant replay in the MLB.