

## Ballplayers Take Field with "O" Missing

*The Wired Word for April 26, 2009*

### In the News

At a baseball game against the Marlins last week, two players for the Washington Nationals took the field wearing jerseys with their team name spelled as "NATINALS." The error, which apparently no one noticed until the team was on the field, quickly became fodder for fun-poking comments from bloggers and commentators alike.

Since the Nationals have a dismal record, but had scored their season's first win the night before, someone suggested that it was a celebration that the Nats are no longer oh-fer this season.

Another suggested it was a jab at their perennial rivals, the Orioles.

One writer described it as a "wardrobe malfunction," which gave a new meaning to that term.

In the comments following another article about the jerseys, one reader responded "I dn't knw what yur big prblem is with the missing "o" ... it culd happen to anyne."

The Nationals' front office explained that Major League Baseball headquarters had asked each team to send three jerseys worn by players on this year's opening day to the office in New York and that the replacements arrived with the misspelling.

A few days later, Majestic Athletic, which is licensed by Major League Baseball and currently holds on-field uniform rights for all 30 Major League Baseball clubs, issued an apology through its company president, Jim Pisani. "All of us at Majestic Athletic want to apologize to both the Washington Nationals and Major League Baseball for accidentally omitting the 'O' in two Nationals jerseys last week. We take 100 percent responsibility for this event and we regret any embarrassment for the Nationals organization, players and fans," the statement said.

When the replacement jerseys arrived, the equipment managers checked the backs to make sure that the players' last names were spelled correctly, but it never occurred to anyone to check the team name on the fronts. Nobody in the locker room noticed the mistake either.

During the game, both players changed their jerseys to ones with the correct spelling once the "I'd like to buy a vowel" mishap was pointed out.

More on this story may be found at these links:

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/reliable-source/2009/04/rs-natinals21.html>

[http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20090421&content\\_id=4368396&vkey=news\\_was&fext=.jsp&c\\_id=was](http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20090421&content_id=4368396&vkey=news_was&fext=.jsp&c_id=was)

[http://bizofbaseball.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3185:majestic-athletic-issues-apology-for-nationals-jerseys&catid=30:mlb-news&Itemid=42](http://bizofbaseball.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3185:majestic-athletic-issues-apology-for-nationals-jerseys&catid=30:mlb-news&Itemid=42)

## **The Big Questions**

*Here are some of the questions we will discuss in class:*

1. How should we regard the inexplicable mistakes we make? What should we do about our embarrassing blunders once we realize we have made them?
2. How should Christians regard our humanness? As something to be celebrated? To be kept in check? To be apologized for? To be pushed to its limits? To be etc.?
3. Where are the blind spots in our practice of our faith? What do we fail to see, even though it is right in front of us?
4. What do you mean when you use the expression, "I'm only human"?
5. What does your reaction to someone who points out one of your mistakes indicate about you?

## **Confronting the News with Scripture**

*We will look at selected verses from these Scripture texts. You may wish to read these in advance for background:*

Deuteronomy 28:15, 25-37

2 Kings 8:26

2 Chronicles 22:2

Isaiah 2:5-22

Mark 8:22-26

Psalm 8:1-9