



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the first Inter-brand All-Star Superhero Baseball game on ESPN! I'm Chris Berman.

And I'm Joe Morgan! Welcome to wonderful Hammermill Park here in Salt Lake City! I know there are going to be a lot of questions coming into a game like this, even if it's just for bragging rights.

CB Where do you want to start Joe?

JM Well, let's start with the park. The park was a jointly funded by the owners of the two teams: Wayne and Stark Enterprises. The name came from the sponsor, Hammermill, who is one of the largest paper suppliers on the planet.

CB And who better to sponsor a comic book game than a paper supplier? Let's move to the lineups. There are some controversial decisions for these teams, wouldn't you say Joe?

JM Exactly. The first one that pops into my mind is Bruce Wayne's decision to pull a Ted Turner and manage the team himself.

CB Well, we know his alter-ego wouldn't want it to be anyone else, don't we?

JM That's so true, Chris. I think the easiest decisions were about the mascots.

CB If we're basing anything on that, I've got to give the edge to DC. Beast Boy can be whatever comes to mind and that should entertain anyone. I mean, come on, *Howard the Duck*? Surely Marvel could have done better than that.

JM I don't even want to get started on that. Let's look at the rules. No flying tops the list.

CB With superheroes you'd think flying would be natural but it would wreak havoc on the defense and air traffic control.

JM Right you are Chris. So that limited the choices for the line-ups, although some people in the game do have the ability to fly, they're prohibited from using that power.

CB Another power that has been limited is energy projections. No heat vision or power blasts or matter manipulation. Destroying the ball is out in any league.

JM I have a feeling that we're going to see some destroyed with the bats today.

CB How true. Also no multiple people with the same power group. So DC couldn't have made an all-Green Lantern team. Or one of Superman, boy, girl, dog, hamster... whatever.

JM Although I think DC has stretched it a bit by having Plastic Man and Elongated Man in the lineup.

CB Oooh, that was a bad pun.

JM What? Oh, sorry about that. Anyway the claim is that they both use different methods of stretching.

CB Kind of pushing it but...

JM The commish let them get away with it. With very little protest, I might add. I think the two groups just want to get the game started.

CB And this should be interesting since each team has only two players that can come off the bench.

JM I think that could come into play later.

CB The home team has taken the field, lets look at the defense.

JM Behind the plate for DC is probably the most controversial player for the team, the demon Etrigan. I don't know how he's going to call the game but it should be interesting.

CB I think that cowled guy in the dugout's calling the game.

JM Probably true. At first, the Man of Steel, Superman. Around the horn they've got, Booster Gold at second, The Flash at short and Wonder Woman at third. In the outfield there's Plastic Man, The Martian Manhunter, J'ohn J'onzz and Elongated Man in left.

CB That's a pretty good defense there Joe. And the starting pitcher is Aquaman! That's a bit different that what I would have thought.

JM Especially since this isn't your father's Aquaman. This one's gone Jim Abbott on us. It will be interesting to see how he uses that spear on his right arm.

CB Well due up first for the Marvel team is Quicksilver. It's going to be hard for me to do that nickname thing this game... they've already got them! The speedy shortstop steps into the box against the King of Atlantis.

JM Actually I think it's interesting that we have two Kings of Atlantis here today. Namor is on the bench for Marvel.

CB Maybe that will come into play later? Who knows? Here's the first pitch, curveball hit weakly down the left side! Wonder Woman comes in and makes a great throw to first but not in time as Quicksilver has just slid into... where is he? Ah! Slid into third!

JM There's something you don't see in the majors.

CB And the Flash doesn't look too happy about it.

JM I think he'll get his chance soon.

CB That's true. Now up is Elektra. Probably up here to sacrifice.

JM Didn't she do that in the book?

CB Couldn't tell ya Joe. But we're right, a perfect bunt down the first base line. Aquaman barehands it to first for the out. I don't see him but I think Quicksilver is already in the dugout.

JM That's right Chris. He's down there... I think he's taunting Flash.

CB Oh, boy. I sense a rivalry! Now up, it must be clobberin' time 'cause it the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing steppin' into the box with Marvel already up one-nil. Here's the pitch... WHOA!!! DEEP to center field... back, back, back... but wait!! Holy Cow! I forgot, The Martian Manhunter can stretch too! As he robs Benji Grimm of a homer.

JM That's just one of his many powers. Y'know Chris, I'm surprised he's not more popular than he is. He's a shapeshifter. He stretches. He flies. He's damn strong. He can even walk through walls. He's probably more underrated than Rafael Palmiero.

CB Well, that may be pushing it a bit Joe. But I do see your point. That's probably not the last time we'll see something like that today is it?

JM On both sides, Mr. Fantastic is playing center for Marvel.

CB Well, two outs and here's... I can't see. He's reflecting an awful lot of sun.

JM That would be Colossus. He only had a bit part in X-Men 2, but he's a big guy, whom, I'm told, plays baseball often with the X-Men in the books.

CB Lets see what he can do here. Another first pitch hit. This one's nailed to center too and HOLY COW! It went *through* the Manhunter for a home run!!!

JM I wasn't expecting that Chris! But Manhunter's tough, see he's already pulled himself together and ready for the next pitch.

CB This next batter should be interesting. Goliath, as I understand it, is only as strong as his size.

JM But he can grow both ways. This is Dr. Henry Pym we're talking about here. He was the original Ant-Man too! And, yep, he's shrinking to minuscule size. No strike zone at all. And Etrigan just called for the intentional walk.

CB No surprise there. So one on, two outs and here's our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man!

JM It's interesting to note that Spidey is prohibited from using his webbing in the game.

CB That's one of those special rules for the game. No gadgets. That's probably why we don't see Iron Man, Batman or the Green Lantern Corps.

JM That's right Chris.

CB Here's the first pitch to Spidey and it's lined but right at Green Lante... sorry, Booster Gold for the third out.

JM This first half-inning's been full of surprises. The rest of the game's definitely going to be interesting so stick around.

Bottom 1st

CB Here's the Flash to lead things off. And the first pitch is bunted down... oh it doesn't matter apparently. The ball is still rolling toward the mound but Flash has already appeared at each base!! That's a *bunted* inside-the-park-homer.

JM Not going to see that in the bigs either, are we Chris? Quicksilver looks a bit miffed.

CB I think Flash is taunting him a bit. Well, turnabout's fair play. Lets look at the Marvel D. Behind the plate we have Benjamin J. Grimm, the Thing. Around the horn

we've got Colossus at first, Elektra at second, Quicksilver at short and Wolverine at third. In the outfield there's Spidey in left, Mr. Fantastic Reed Richards in center and Goliath in right.

JM He's not going to get walked with a strike zone that big.

CB I think he is at full size now Joe. And we've got the Great American Icon, Captain America on the mound. If it's anything like the top of the inning, we're probably not going to see too many pitches get by anyone. We're getting a report from Dave Campbell in the DC dugout. Dave...?

DC This is Dave Campbell in the DC dugout...

CB (muttering) we know that Dave.

DC The Flash has just been reprimanded by The Bat for taunting Quicksilver.

JM What was he doing Dave?

DC Apparently he was singing "Anything you can do, I can do faster," really loud. He better stick to the superhero stuff because he doesn't have much of a voice. Back to you.

CB Well, that's interesting. Here's Booster Gold stepping up to the plate now. I thought all of his powers came from gadgets Joe.

JM So did I, Chris. Maybe he's got a surprise power we don't know about.

CB Maybe not Joe. He just struck out on three pitches.

(skipping to later in the game)

Top of the seventh

CB This has been an incredible game.

JM I have to agree with you on that Chris. Even discounting the wardrobe malfunctions by Wonder Woman and Elektra.

CB But they finished the play before fixing themselves. Great professionalism.

JM So here we go in the top of the seventh with DC up 10 to 6. I must admit I was expecting more offense. There have been some wonderful defensive plays in the contest.

CB And this comes as a surprise, Cyborg is coming in to relieve Amazo.

JM Well, Cyborg is in tight with Robin, who, of course, is in tight with The Bat.

CB Robin's done quite well too coming in to relieve Booster Gold at second.

JM It's a shame Booster didn't last past the second inning and we hope he's doing well after taking that liner off the bat of Wolverine.

CB Hey, he held on to the ball. Would you say that's the play of the game?

JM Actually I've got to give it to Elektra's double play. Quicksilver got so cocky he tripped on her sac bunt and Wonder Woman threw her out easily.

CB Sorry Pietro. He's got a point. I've never seen anyone do that before.

JM So here's Colossus, who's gone 4-4 in the game with 2-homers, a double and a triple and 5 of Marvel's RBI. And with Rogue on third, this is a prime RBI opportunity.

CB Well, here we go. Colossus steps in and here's the first pitch. *A liner back up the middle that hits Cyborg in the pitching arm!!* The ball ricochets right into the stands. Even Flash couldn't catch up with that one.

JM Batman is out to the mound with John 'Green Lantern' Stewart and team trainer Ray 'The Atom' Palmer to check on Cyborg. Dr. Fate is getting up in the pen. It should be interesting to see what kind of magic he can put on the ball.

CB Actually it looks like they've reattached the arm, so Cyborg's staying in.

JM Y'know, even though Rogue scored on the play, Colossus looks really distraught.

CB Yeah. The big guy has a heart of gold. Which may go with the metallic exterior, right?

JM [laughs] Yeah I guess so.

CB Uh oh. It looks like a pinch-hitter is coming in for Goliath. It's the HULK! They've been keeping him rather restrained on the bench. I understand that Professor Xavier has been holding him in check while managing.

JM There's double duty for you!

[from field] HULK SMASH PUNY BALL!!!

CB This should be interesting. Cyborg looks really nervous out there. And is his arm leaking something?

JM Could be? I don't know if hydraulic fluid is considered to be an illegal substance like pine tar. Let's see if we can check on that.

CB Here's the pitch and, oh NO! I guess hydraulic fluid is not good for pitching as that one got away and the Hulk has been hit by the pitch!

[from field] HULK SMASH PUNY METAL MAN!!!

JM Whoa!!! One bound and the Hulk is on the mound!

CB And Cyborg is heading for the showers... on Mars! I've never seen anyone hit so hard. I thought Beast Boy eating Howard the Duck in the sixth was brutal. Both benches have cleared. Hulk is being restrained by Superman, Sasquatch, Amazo, Lobo, Etrigan, Wonder Woman, Vision, Mr. Fantastic and it looks like Drs. Fate and Strange are casting some kind of spell to calm him down.

JM Whoa! There goes Etrigan! Another one into orbit. I hope he's ok!

CB This may end the game right here. There are too many people trying to restrain him. And there's something going on in center. It looks like Flash and Quicksilver are getting into it!

JM How can you tell? It's all just a blur to me.

CB Then who else could it be?

JM Good point. There are fights breaking out all over the field. Fate and Strange look like they're countering each other's spells.

CB Wolverine looks like he's unsheathed the claws and is going after Robin. I wonder what that's all about?

JM We just got word from the umpires that this one has been called.

CB Folks, we're going to go back to SportsCenter while we try to sort this one out. Final score after six: DC 10 Marvel 7. We'll see you soon everybody. For Joe Morgan, I'm Chris-

JM Chris! Duck!!!

Box Score

		AB	R	H	RBI
Quicksilver	SS	5	3	3	0
Elektra	2B	2	0	0	1
Thing	C	4	1	1	0
Colossus	1B	5	2	5	6
Goliath	RF	0	0	0	0
a-Hulk	PH	0	0	0	0
b-Namor	RF	0	0	0	0
Spiderman	LF	4	0	1	0
Reed Richards	CF	4	0	1	0
Wolverine	3B	4	0	1	0
Captain America	P	2	0	2	0
Rogue	P	2	1	2	0
TOTALS		32	7	16	7

		AB	R	H	RBI
Flash	SS	4	4	4	4
Booster Gold	2B	1	0	0	0
a-Robin	2B	3	1	1	0
J'ohn J'onzz	CF	4	1	1	1
Superman	1B	5	2	4	3
Wonder Woman	3B	4	1	4	0
Plastic-Man	LF	5	0	0	0
Etrigan	C	5	0	2	1
Elongated Man	RF	4	0	0	0
Aquaman	P	2	0	0	0
Captain Atom	P	0	0	0	0
Amazo	P	1	1	1	1
Cyborg	P	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		38	10	17	10

2B Colossus
 3B Quicksilver, Colossus
 HR Colossus
 Sac Elektra 3

2B Wonder Woman 2
 3B Superman
 HR Flash 4, Superman, Amazo
 Sac none

	IP	H	R	ER	K	BB
Captain America	3	8	5	5	6	0
Rogue	3	8	5	5	8	0
TOTALS	6	16	10	10	14	0

	IP	H	R	ER	K	BB
Aquaman	3.0	6	3	3	4	2
Captain Atom	2.0	3	2	2	0	0
Amazo	1.2	3	2	2	1	1
Cyborg	0.0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6.2	13	7	7	5	3

HBP - 1 (Hulk by Cyborg in 7th)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	FINAL	H	E
Marvel	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	7	16	0
DC	2	1	2	3	0	2		10	17	0