

FLATTMANN FILES

June 2022

“Quality Is No Accident”

WHY THE FLATTMANNS AREN'T BASEBALL PLAYERS But Value Staying Active

A few years ago, my son, Case, expressed interest in playing baseball. I was a bit surprised to hear this; up until that point, he hadn't said anything about wanting to play baseball. And if he was anything like his old man, I figured he wouldn't have too much of an interest in that sport.

Upon hearing this, I thought back to my Little League baseball days. I had a pretty short career as a baseball player. I played for my school for a year or two, just to do something during the off-season after basketball, but I was never that motivated to play. If I'm being totally honest, I was a little scared of the baseball! At least in basketball, when the ball is lobbed at you, it's full of air and made of rubber. Baseballs are leather wrapped around a hard rubber or cork center. Who wants to put themselves in front of that? I sure didn't. (Plus, I saw a softball pitcher get smacked in the face by the ball when I was younger. I think that scarred me!)

But I really respect the sport. I have a lot of great memories sitting in the bleachers as a kid watching my friends play baseball in Little League during the summer. And if Case really wanted to try baseball, I wouldn't stop him.



I felt pleasantly surprised at how excited I was! I managed to snag a spot as the first base coach at one point, but I was soon relegated to dugout duty. That didn't bother me. I was surprised to learn how much I enjoyed watching Case and his team play.

As for Case's reaction, well, that was mixed. He had fun, but he was bored in the outfield. He decided he was more interested in "indoor sports" than standing out in a field waiting for a hard rock to come sailing his way. I guess he is like me!

Prior to the pandemic, we enrolled him in basketball, and he took to it much like I did as a kid. But basketball was one of the sports that was canceled during the pandemic. So, two years ago, we signed

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him up for karate classes. He has really enjoyed it! And he's even excelling in karate. Just this past April, he moved up to his brown belt, which is just two steps away from black belt. He's really putting in an effort in practice and even competes in tournaments.

As a parent, I'm happy to see Case doing something he's excited about. We get to see that with our daughter who plays club volleyball. She transitioned from gymnastics to volleyball about four years ago — when she got too tall for gymnastics — and she has become a natural at the sport. It's fun to see Case do the same in karate. They are both learning the value of commitment and how to overcome obstacles. Those are lessons that will serve them well when they get older.

I also appreciate the way Case's instructor structures their karate training. At the end, they will often ask parents if they have what's called "good job notes." This is an opportunity for parents to share the good things they saw in practice and to say in front of their child and everyone else how proud they are of their child. That's a tremendous opportunity to build confidence and encouragement. It's always a great way to end training.

I may no longer be an athlete myself, but I am enjoying my new role in the bleachers, watching my children practice, play, and excel in their own ways. Whatever it is they choose to do, they will always find me there supporting them — even, apparently, if it's baseball.



-Grady Flattmann

When It Rains, It Pours

A Case Drenched in Disorder

Some people love the rain. After all, there's something magical about thunder rolling through the clouds as lightning illuminates a multitude of raindrops. Yet, if the storm is too strong — or even dangerous to be in — people might not enjoy it at all. And that certainly appears to have been the case in 1996 when an Israeli woman in Haifa, Israel, sued a television station because of their incorrect weather report.

The weather forecaster, Danny Rup, predicted that the day would be beautiful and sunny, but the weather had a mind of its own and ended up being rainy, dark, and gloomy. Because the woman relied upon the accuracy of the report, she left her home without a raincoat or an umbrella and got caught in the pouring rain.

As the old wives' tale goes, if you get caught in the rain, you'll catch a cold. Well, the woman claimed that after being exposed to inclement weather, she caught the flu and subsequently was out of work for four days, had to visit the doctor, and spent \$38 on medicine. Due to such a daunting experience, she also said that she suffered additional stress from the entire situation. The woman ended up taking Channel 2 news station to a small claims court where she sought financial compensation to cover her sickness and suffering — as well as an apology from the



forecaster who wrongly predicted the weather. The woman stated that weather forecasts are legally binding.

Many of us would see this as a frivolous lawsuit, but the TV station settled out of court and the woman received \$1,000 for her pain and suffering and an apology from Danny Rup.

Despite this case, most people take weather predictions from television and radio forecasters with a bit of skepticism thinking that forecasts are just a well-educated guess based on available resources — and it can change on a whim. It's just the nature of it!

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cases, a victim's stalker is someone they know or were once in an intimate relationship with. While it's always important to never engage with your stalker, you can take certain steps to protect your safety and well-being.

First and foremost, you must know the signs and tactics of stalking, which include:

- Receiving unwanted emails, phone calls, text messages, voicemails, social media direct messages, or instant messages
- Appearing uninvited at places such as the victim's home, school, or place of work
- Leaving strange or potentially threatening items for the victim to find
- Watching, following, or tracking a victim
- Sneaking into the victim's home or car and doing things to scare the victim or let them know the perpetrator had been there



To keep yourself safe, what can be done? Of course, if you are ever in immediate danger or if someone has made a credible threat, you should call the police right away.

Be sure to carry a charged cellphone with you at all times for this reason. If someone is following you, seek out the nearest safe place to go, whether it be a police station, fire station, public place, or a friend's house. Always trust your instincts: If you feel like something is wrong, it likely is. If you feel like someone may be taking an unnatural interest in you, begin varying your routines and routes a bit. Be careful when posting on social media; don't give out information about where you live, work, or enjoy hanging out. Lastly, try to avoid going places alone. Exercise with a friend if you can and walk to your car with a coworker after work.

Stalking is a serious problem and many people assume that ignoring the behavior will take care of the issue. In most cases, that doesn't happen. When people stalk other people, they violate boundaries in order to make their victims feel unsafe. If you ever fall victim to stalking, it's paramount that you take the necessary steps to keep yourself safe as well as involve law enforcement.

TAKE A *BREAK*



Summer is here, and you know what that means: It's time to break out the barbecue and meat skewers!

Ingredients

For the Marinade

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp chili garlic sauce
- 2 tbsp rice vinegar
- 3 tbsp honey
- Juice of 1 lime

- 3/4 tsp smoked paprika

- 1/2 tsp salt

For the Skewers

- 2 lbs chicken breast, cut into bite-size cubes
- 1 small pineapple, cut into 1-inch cubes

Directions

1. In a bowl, whisk together marinade ingredients.
2. In a reusable freezer bag, combine cubed chicken and all but 1/4 cup of the marinade.
3. Seal bag and massage marinade into the chicken. Chill in the fridge overnight.
4. The following day, preheat the grill to 400 F. Thread chicken and pineapple onto skewers, adding two cubes of chicken for each cube of pineapple.
5. Grill the skewers for 3–4 minutes per side, brushing with the reserved marinade in the final minutes.
6. Serve over rice or with your favorite barbecue sides!

Inspired by RecipeRunner.com

IT'S DAD'S DAY!

6 Gifts Dad Is Sure to Love

Dad is a very important person in your life! Every year when Father's Day rolls around, it can be tough to come up with the perfect gift, whether it be for your dad, a new father, your grandfather, or a father figure. Getting creative can be tricky, but this list is sure to help you with an idea or two for all different price ranges!

Wallet

Why not go really classic and opt for a thoughtful and practical gift? Most men's wallets see a lot of wear and tear. After all, they're sat on, toted around in pockets all day long, and sometimes forgotten about and sent through the wash. A new one just may be in order!

Massage Gun

Massage guns are rising in popularity. To help Dad recover from soreness and injury or just a tough workout, a massage gun will do the trick! The best part is that they range in price, and you can even purchase one on Amazon!

Apple Watch Strap

Does the dad you're celebrating own an Apple Watch? If so, help him customize it with a new Apple Watch strap. You can choose from many materials, colors, and designs so he can blend in or stand out as much as he wants.

A New Cooler

Men love their coolers — it's a foolproof Father's Day gift! Whether Dad loves to camp, fish, tailgate, go to the beach, or barbecue in the backyard, he's sure to appreciate a new way to store ice, drinks, food, or bait!

Tool Bucket Organizer

Is your dad a bit of a handyman? Help him get organized and never lose track of his tools again. Tool bucket organizers come in many forms and, again, can be purchased right online, making your shopping easy!

Bluetooth Headphones or Speakers

If your father doesn't have Bluetooth headphones or speakers yet, he's missing out. The opportunity to jam out wirelessly while working out, cutting the grass, doing hobby work, or just relaxing is effortless with this thoughtful gift.





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When many think of stalking, the common image is likely a stranger prowling around in the shadows of the night, showing up at random places uninvited, or spying on victims from afar. However, stalking can potentially involve so much more.

Stalking is menacing behavior that makes victims feel unsafe and can lead to some terrifying acts. Stalking is more common than you may think: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in every 6 women and 1 in every 17 men have reported experiencing stalking at some point in their lives. For women, roughly 54% experienced it before the age of 25, and for men, 41%. Research conducted by the CDC revealed that stalking can damage its victims, leading to potential depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. It's reported that roughly 68% of female and 70% of male victims received threats of physical harm in connection with stalking at some point in their lives.

Stalking takes place when a person repeatedly harasses or threatens another person. In most

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