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# Take your game out to the ballgame

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**LEAH SHAFER**  
**GIRL TALK**

Walt Whitman once said, "I see great things in baseball. It's our game – the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors ... and be a blessing to us."

But who would have guessed that blessing might include relationships?

Paula Duffy (right), founder of Incidental Contact, a sports learning site for women ([inci dentalcontact.com](http://incidentalcontact.com)), says relationships can and do benefit from baseball.

Duffy encourages women to learn about sports both for their own enjoyment and as a possible way to make a love connection. So we asked her what it is about baseball and sports that can have such a great impact on our love lives.

*E-mail Leah about your sports love connections at [lashafer@gmail.com](mailto:lashafer@gmail.com).*

**Q: What if a woman has little to no interest in baseball or sports, but she wants to meet men? Is it fair to "fake it"?**

**A:** Well, I'll give you my standard line whenever I'm asked about this: Where does faking get us on other "fields of play"? If you are trying to bond through sports, you're in for watching a lot of games or talking about them. Faking it will get you a phone number at a bar and one date ... maybe.

**Q: How can a woman go about learning the rules of the game?**

**A:** If you go to the bar with some basic knowledge, talking to fans around you, making it plain that you're taking up the game and look at it as a journey full of fun, the guys will be encouraged to help out. But if you go in without knowing a single thing, you might get lucky to find a guy that isn't interested in the game who'd rather pick up a great lady.

**Q: Why do you think sports bars are a good place to make a romantic connection?**

**A:** The 3 Cs, as I like to say: commonality, comfort and chemistry. Men are in their comfort zone in sports bars, and if you provide the common interest (knowing about sports), you can determine more easily if there is chemistry. It beats an old photo of



FILE 2004/Staff photo  
Cozying up to a sports fan might mean some rainy days at the ballpark, like these Rangers fans had.



someone on an Internet site who writes a snappy e-mail.

**Q: Should a woman wear gear for the team she's rooting for?**

**A:** There is no doubt that you will be taken more seriously with gear on; I get men talking to me at the car wash, at stoplights, in the bank and elsewhere just because I have on my gear.

**Q: If a woman meets a guy who is rooting for the opposite team, is a connection still possible?**

**A:** Yes! Sports fans love nothing more than disagreeing about their preferences. Couples who root for the college teams they attended love nothing more than trash talk and wearing the gear around the house all year long. It is exciting, gets the juices flowing, a little bit of a racing heartbeat ... sounds like foreplay to me!