



MEMBER PROFILE

Cubs Den

For one super fan, Wrigley Field is never far from home. The ultimate baseball retreat is just down his stairs. **BY STEWART McVICAR**

I AM A CUBS season ticket holder and an MLB Insiders Club Lifetime Member. I met my wife at a Cubs game on her birthday in 2005. I proposed to her at a Cubs game two years later. That day, I invited 30 friends and family members to a skybox at Wrigley Field, which turned into our engagement party. In 2008, we had a Cubs-themed wedding. That year, we also bought our dream house.

I knew babies would soon be on their way, and that would mean reducing the number of Cubs games I attended; after all, no one can go to *every* game. But I still wanted to feel like I was at Wrigley Field every day, so in 2009, I set out to build the Ultimate Chicago Cubs Man Cave. My undertaking turned into a four-year project, and I put my heart and soul into it. No detail was overlooked.

Decorating the basement was the easy part. I have been a baseball collector since I was 8 years old, and have accumulated more than 150 autographed bats and 400 signed baseballs since then. My brother Eric and I have collected these personally; none have been purchased. Each piece of memorabilia holds a special memory for me.

Cubs diehard McVicar spent four years renovating his basement into a space second only to Wrigley for watching his beloved team.

Today, my man cave boasts game-used bases, turnstiles, chairs, bats, baseballs, rosin bags, cleats and countless other items. There's even a locker straight out of Wrigley Field, which I mocked up with game-used equipment.

My basement is lined with three brick walls made of the same brick that has been used for all of Wrigley's renovations. I also have autographed bricks from Ernie Banks and Ron Santo built into the walls.

My man cave is 2,300 square feet and can seat 40–50 people. Its focal point is the Cubs-themed bar. Fifty bats line the perimeter of the C-shaped space, and 23 of them have been signed by Cubs legends. Additionally, I've created a Hall-of-Fame section, complete with autographed jerseys and bats from Cubs inductees.

The basement would not be complete without the ultimate game-day entertainment setup: 10 TVs, a 92-inch projection screen and four live feeds. There are also separate bathrooms for men and women, just like at the ballpark, and each one has a TV inside so that no one misses a minute of the action. When there isn't a Cubs game on, guests can play one of my many arcade or table games. I truly believe that I have the best baseball-themed man cave in the country. ◇

Stewart McVicar is an MLB Insiders Club member from McHenry, Ill. If you would like to contribute a story for a Member Profile in a future issue, write to editorial@baseballinsidersclub.com.