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UIC Baseball Enjoys Day At Comerica Park Thanks To Tigers Centerfielder Curtis Granderson

Former Flames standout hosts current UIC squad for a game between Tigers and Twins.

May 30, 2006

[Photo Gallery](#)

Detroit, Mich.- In between a road trip from Toledo to Wright State two weeks ago, the UIC baseball team was able to take a detour to Detroit and catch a Major League Baseball game between the Tigers and the Minnesota Twins at Comerica Park thanks to former Flames standout and current Detroit star centerfielder [Curtis Granderson](#).

Granderson hosted the Flames for game at Comerica on May 18th, taking time to greet the players and coaches before the contest.

The Flames then journeyed around the impressive six-year-old stadium before heading to their seats to cheer on Granderson, giving the outfielder a standing ovation as he entered the left-handed batter's box to lead off the game and every time he stepped to the plate thereafter.

"For him to think enough of our program to want to have our team there is great," said UIC Head Coach [Mike Dee](#), "but more importantly you can tell that he was genuinely excited that we were there watching him, and our guys were excited to see him. They consider him one of us and one of them. It was a neat experience for our players.

"The thing that stands out to me is how Celia [Bobrowsky, Director of Community Relations for the Tigers] just went on and

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UIC Head Coach Mike Dee poses for a photo with former pupil and current

on about what a quality person Curtis is and how he's always available to do things in the community, whether it's reading in a grade school or that sort of thing.

"Although that doesn't surprise me, it's still nice to hear that Curtis is still well-grounded and is still the guy he was when he was a member of this program."

Granderson took time to pose for a group photo with the team and give his former coaches an update on his life in the major leagues and away from the field.

Even as he made his way back to the clubhouse to get ready for the game, Granderson honored the autograph requests from a swarm of young Tigers fans in the Comerica bleachers.

Granderson went 3-for-5 at the plate and made an impressive running grab toward the right centerfield wall on Torii Hunter's deep fly ball for the final out, securing the Tigers' 5-3 victory and the team's seventh consecutive win.

Dee talks about Granderson with great pride, and not solely because of his professional baseball success.

"I am very proud of Curtis and what he's accomplished both as a student and obviously as a professional player," said Dee. "I'm happy for him...whether he was in the big leagues or not isn't going to change my opinion of him.

"I'm very happy for him and any player that has an opportunity to go on and play professional baseball, but I'm much more impressed and proud of the person that he is," continued Dee. "To me that's a job, and it's no different than another player who is a teacher or a businessperson or anything else. This one happens to be a little bit more public. It's the quality of his character that pleases me more than anything else."

Detroit Tiger Curtis Granderson before a Tigers-Twins game at Comerica Park.

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