

A WHOLE NEW Ball Game

The 2016 baseball season opens on April 3, so we checked out the food at all 30 Major League stadiums and picked nine standout bites—one for each inning. Eater up!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF HARRIS



1 SWEET SPOT COTTON CANDY DOG



Texas Rangers
Globe Life Park

Globe Life Park is famous for its over-the-top franks—the stadium sells 16 options in all. Inspiration for this cotton candy-topped dog came from a player: A concessions manager was brainstorming toppings when he spotted Rangers first-baseman Prince Fielder snacking on cotton candy. The sauce on top is blue cotton candy mixed with yellow mustard (hence the green color).



2 CHICKEN AND WAFFLE CONE



Houston Astros
Minute Maid Park

Forks and knives don't really have a place in the stands, so in Houston, two Southern favorites—popcorn chicken and mashed potatoes—are served in a waffle cone. This year, the chefs are rolling out a toppings bar, including jalapeños, roasted peppers, barbecue sauce, honey mustard and country gravy.

4 CLEVELAND CARAMEL FRIES



Cleveland Indians
Progressive Field

This dish started with a *Chopped*-style challenge: The park's concessions manager asked his team to create a new menu item based on fresh-cut fries—and whatever else was in the kitchen. The result was deep-fried spuds drenched in caramel and chocolate sauce, with a heaping side of whipped cream. Word has it the staffers will sneak you a sample if you're skeptical.



3 CRAB WAFFLE FRIES



Baltimore Orioles
Oriole Park at Camden Yards

What nacho cheese is to most ballparks, crab dip is to Oriole Park: You can order it over chips, pretzels and sausages, but the perennial crowd-pleaser is the crab dip french fry. The chefs tested a bunch of different fries before settling on the waffle cut—its nooks and crannies can hold the most dip.



5 S'MORES BACON ON A STICK



New York Mets
Citi Field

The Pig Guy stand at Citi Field sells three kinds of bacon on a stick, but the fan favorite is the one that's dunked in chocolate and rolled in a crushed graham cracker and marshmallow mixture. Yes, s'mores-flavored smoked pork belly sounds like a bad idea, but most people go from "That's gross" to "This is amazing" in less than a bite.



6 TATER TOT CHOP



Atlanta Braves
Turner Field

It's a rookie mistake to think this sandwich is made with regular waffles—these are Tater Tots pressed in a waffle iron and stuffed with bacon, cheese and jalapeños. The ketchup is infused with Coca-Cola, another Atlanta home team.



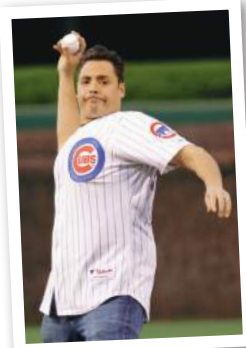
STAR SUPPORT Food Network celebs reveal their favorite teams.

 MASAHARU MORIMOTO Hiroshima Carp 	 KELSEY NIXON Los Angeles Dodgers 	 DAMARIS PHILLIPS Seattle Mariners 	 TRISHA YEARWOOD Atlanta Braves 	 GUY FIERI San Francisco Giants 	 BOBBY FLAY New York Yankees 	 ANNE BURRELL New York Mets 	 DUFF GOLDMAN Boston Red Sox 	 RICHARD BLAIS Oakland A's
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Put Me In, Coach!

These Food Network stars (and baseball fanatics) have game.

Jeff Mauro, a die-hard Cubs fan, threw out the first pitch of a 2013 game. Seven innings later, he performed a rousing rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" over the PA.



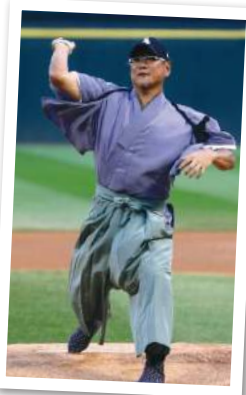
Trisha Yearwood belted out the national anthem before Game 1 of the 2014 Giants-Royals face-off in Kansas City, MO.



In 2014, **Guy Fieri** returned to his home state of Ohio to start a Cincinnati Reds game.



Before he became a chef, **Masaharu Morimoto** was training to be a professional catcher in Japan. He has thrown several first pitches since then, like this one for the Chicago White Sox.



7 **BIGGER BETTER BURGER BLOODY MARY**



Minnesota Twins
Target Field

Like most Bloody Marys, this one comes with a celery stalk. It also comes with a beef stick, a pickle, cheese cubes, pepperoncini and an olive. Oh, and a bacon cheeseburger slider. It took chefs a while to figure out how to serve the drink while the slider was still warm, but their effort was for naught: Many customers spend a few minutes photographing the thing before they dig in.

MAURO, FIERI AND MORIMOTO: AP PHOTO; YEARWOOD: GETTY IMAGES.



8 **PULLED PORK PIEROGI STACKER**



Pittsburgh Pirates
PNC Park

PNC Park ran a contest in 2011 asking fans to designate a signature sandwich, and the Pulled Pork Pierogi Stacker won top honors. It's smoked pulled pork, onion jam and two boiled pierogi on a pretzel bun—all meant to honor the city's Polish and Eastern European residents.

9 **DOWN WISCONSIN AVENUE BRAT**



Milwaukee Brewers
Miller Park

This foot-and-a-half treat might be the most Wisconsin-themed dish in all of Wisconsin: It's two 9-inch bratwursts (a nod to Milwaukee's German population) loaded with sauerkraut, fried jalapeños, cheese sauce and cheese curds, the quintessential Badger State snack. The name "Down Wisconsin Avenue" comes from game announcer Bob Uecker—it's how he describes pitches thrown right across home plate.



AND THE WIENER IS...

Brewers fans know not to leave their seats after the top of the sixth inning. That's when runners dressed as an enormous bratwurst, Polish sausage, Italian sausage, chorizo and hot dog take the field and race around the warning track. (Each sausage represents one of Milwaukee's ethnic communities.) The tradition began in the early '90s as a Jumbotron animation with just the brat and the sausages, but it added humans in seven-foot costumes in 1993. One time, the Pittsburgh Pirates brought a team of giant pierogi to race the Brewers' sausages—and fans have been craving a rematch ever since.

