

All-time Santo Story Is Sure to Make Rounds

By Paul Ladewski

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There will be no shortage of Ron Santo stories in Cooperstown, N.Y., this weekend, but the one that took place on a cold night at Shea Stadium is sure to be heard more than any.

“There was an old-fashioned, electric heater above our heads,” longtime broadcast partner Pat Hughes recalled at a Cubs Corner luncheon on Tuesday afternoon. “We stood for the national anthem, and all of a sudden, I smelled something burning. I looked around, and Ron Santo's hairpiece was on fire. I did what any good partner would have done – I grabbed a cup of water and splashed it on his head.

“His first thought was, 'Pat, how do I look?' And I lied. I said, 'Ron, it doesn't look that bad to me, not bad at all.’”

And who was the New York Mets pitcher that day? The aptly named Al Leiter, of course.