

## Former Chaparral star Konerko talks about his All-Star experience

Jose E. Garcia *Covering Arizona high school sports.* Wednesday, July 13, 2011

**Paul Konerko's** return to Arizona for Tuesday's All-Star game at Chase Field wasn't spectacular.

His American League team lost, as **Konerko** went 0 for 1 with a walk. But the **former Scottsdale Chaparral star** said he was glad that he got the opportunity to spend the past few days at his Scottsdale home before rejoining his Chicago White Sox team.

I talked to **Konerko** after Tuesday's All-Star game. Below is what he said.

### **On his All-Star at-bats:**

"It was good. I can't complain. I got a couple of at bats. I liked both of the at bats. I was up there scrapping and facing some good pitching. In these games pretty much everybody has quality stuff. If you can get some good swings in and battle up there, you feel good."

### **On whether he was nervous because his family was at the game:**

"Not really. There have been other games I've played in that you know you have some friends and family in the stands, and you know people are watching. But you learn to block that stuff out."

### **On why he's against having the All-Star game determine home field advantage in the World Series:**

"You play 162 games. The two teams playing in the World Series should determine who gets home field advantage. I understand why it's being done, but I think it's kind of weird that somebody on a last place team can have an effect on home field advantage in this game. You know we just take orders and we just do what we do."

"I won a World Series (with the Chicago White Sox) and home advantage is huge, it shouldn't be determined by this game."

### **On whether he thinks San Francisco's Brian Wilson's long black beard is real:**

"It is amazing. It seems like it would bother you by now. It's so big. He's good. You have to tip your hat to him. It's not just the beard. He's pretty good on top of it."

### **On his All-Star experience at home:**

"I had a lot of fun with it. Logistically, with the family and the friends and my kids and having my house here, it was definitely easier to maneuver everything around. You have a lot of stuff at these games that you have to ship off to other cities. I can just drive away and go home tonight. But the game itself and all the festivities are all the same, just a bit easier going for me."