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Club-A-Rama v2.0

WEEK 3

PANDA

1984 LOS ANGELES ZOO



In honor of the birth of a new Panda cub at the National Zoo here near MOLDVILLE headquarters, we have shuffled around the planned schedule for v2.0 of the Club-A-Rama to reissue the ever-popular **PANDA** this week!

About the size of a stick of butter, the National Zoo in Washington, DC announced that it's giant female panda, Mei Ziang, gave birth to a cub this past Sunday night! Zoo officials suspected that Mei Ziang was pregnant after she started spending extended periods of time licking and cradling toys. (We are SO high-tech these days, aren't we!)





News of the panda cub's birth attracted quite the crowd at the panda press conference!



These are the proud parents Mei Xiang and Tian Tian inside the indoor portion of the panda enclosure at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, DC.



This is the second child for the happy couple. At left is her first cub, a boy, Tai Shan, born in 2005. The name Tai Shan was chosen after 200,000 suggested names were cast in a contest (it means "peaceful mountain".)

All three giant pandas are the property of China, and the Chinese government had an agreement requiring Tai Shan be sent to China at anytime after he turned two.

Though the Chinese government permitted Tai Shan to remain at the National Zoo 2 years longer than the agreement, when he was 4 (in 2009), Tai Shan flew home with great fanfare (and breaking news coverage as I recall) to China, leaving his parents behind. His new home is the Bifengxia Panda Base, in Ya'an, Sichuan.



Mei Xiang and Tian Tian are the National Zoo's second pair of giant pandas. You might remember that the first pair, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing were donated to the US by China in 1972, shortly after President Nixon's historic visit to China. Ling-Ling died in 1992 and Hsing-Hsing in 1999 without producing any cubs that survived for more than a few days.

It is estimated that there are only about 1,000 or so giant pandas left living in the world; with 100 in captivity.



This is the actual original pewter sculpture from which Eldin Irwin made the **PANDA** moldset 30 years ago!



The **PANDA** moldset was made by ELDIN IRWIN and operated in the 1980s at the LOS ANGELES ZOO, likely in 1984 in conjunction with the arrival at the LA ZOO of Yun Yun and Ying Xin for a three-month stay just in time for the Summer Olympics. The moldset as originally made and used at the LA ZOO (shown above) is not engraved.



The **PANDA** moldset was also used at LOWRY PARK ZOO in Tampa, FL, presumably used in conjunction with their red pandas, but the particular souvenir that Club-A-Rama members will get is engraved "MOSI 2000". MOSI refers to the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, FL.

Don't you think the NATIONAL ZOO should have a MOLDVILLE machine to mint souvenir **PANDAs**?!

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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