

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



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WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, LEO LEVY?

by Paul Ringel

Somewhere in the picture on page 1, there might be a man named Leo Levy. His name appears on a *Boston Herald* list of “Royal Rooters” traveling to New York for the pivotal final series of the 1904 American League baseball season, and this picture was taken during that trip. No other mention of him appears in either the *Herald* or the *Boston Globe’s* coverage of the series, but he does pop up in a *Herald* article on August 13, 1897, when the *Herald* singled him out as “one of the old guard on the Boston grounds.” The same article also identifies a man named Sam Levy as both a member of the “cloak brigade” and “one of the good old Boston rooters in the capacious grand stand.” Sam’s presence at games is additionally noted in 1890, 1891, and 1894 articles, but that’s it. No other *Globe* or *Herald* articles ever again mention either Levy in connection with Boston baseball.

I’ve been researching Leo and Sam Levy, along with several other Bostonians of the same period, for my new project on the Royal Rooters, a group of baseball fans who became nationally celebrated between 1897 and 1918 for their fervor and their raucous cheering tactics. I’m interested in why this early group of noted sports fans chose to root for the city’s professional baseball teams, but also in the fact that behind the group’s predominantly Irish-American leadership (which has been recognized previously by Ken Burns and other students of the early professional game) lay a diverse group that included old-line Brahmin Protestants, Jews, a few women, and perhaps even African Americans. I’m fascinated by the contrast between this intermingling in the stands and barrooms and the stark divisions between Protestants and Catholics that existed at the time throughout the city and even within the Red Sox clubhouse.

So far, Sam and Leo Levy seem to be the best avenues into the relationship between Boston’s Jewish community and professional baseball during this period, but the clues about their lives remain sparse. I was hoping they might be related, but census research suggests that is not the case. There was a Sam Levy identified as a Boston pinochle champion in 1897, one who served as a groomsman at a wedding in Roxbury (where many of the Rooters worked and lived) in 1901, and one selling cloaks at 564 Washington Street in Roxbury in 1904. A Leo Levy was recognized on the society page of the *Globe* for stopping in Saratoga in 1901, and presented as an entertainer at a capmakers’ union benefit in 1903. At this point, though, I’m still not even sure whether these are the same men.

Perhaps it isn’t surprising that I am having trouble finding information on these men who lived relatively obscure lives over a century ago. Yet this pattern persists even in the lives of celebrated Rooters. Michael T. “Nuf Ced” McGreevy is omnipresent in the city’s newspapers and makes regular appearances in the national sporting press during the first two decades of the 20th century, but finding additional information about him beyond these



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sources has proven challenging. Even John F. “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald, United States Congressman, Mayor of Boston, and grandfather of President John F. Kennedy, thus far appears to have left behind a remarkably small paper trail relative to his political stature.

This scarcity of evidence is a new experience for me; in my last project, one of my primary challenges was whittling down the overwhelming collection of available resources into a manageable set of data. Thus it’s possible that I need to develop more effective research strategies, or that the information I am seeking is in the large collections of materials that remain on my to-do list. Yet I am starting to wonder whether there is a broader issue at play here. Why was it easier to find information about relatively obscure editors and ministers who lived over 200 years ago than about relatively famous men who lived into the mid-20th century?

One archivist has suggested that local politicians such as McGreevy or Fitzgerald may have been reluctant to commit their ideas or practices to paper, and I think he may be on target. With the rapidly expanding world of digitized historical collections of printed material, the possibilities for finding information are exponentially greater than they were even a dozen years ago when I was researching my dissertation. This wealth of information sometimes makes us believe that we can recover the stories of anyone who lived

GAMES AND BIOPROJECT

Since our last newsletter was distributed, the BioProject has published profiles of the following Deadball Era figures: Mike Hopkins, Stan Baumgartner, Art Griggs, Joe Shannon, Bill Hunter, George Hunter, Jim Stanley, Carl Spongberg, Roy Hitt, and Ted Jourdan. Meanwhile, recent features published by the Games Project include an account Detroit’s record-setting comeback in the American League’s very first contest as a major league. As always, we urge you to check out these interesting and informative pieces if you have not already done so.

within communities where printed materials were omnipresent. But for individuals such as the Levys, who may not have been fully engaged with these print-centered cultures, or those such as McGreevy and Fitzgerald who may have chosen to keep parts of their lives hidden from those cultures, that recovery process may be much more challenging. It’s important to remember that even as we dig deeper into the past through more creative practices and more accessible information, we’re still only scratching the surface of those worlds that can seem so deceptively close to our own.

SABR member Paul Ringel is Associate Professor of History at High Point University, High Point, North Carolina.

BASEBALL WAS FULL OF RUBBER

MORE EVIDENCE OF THE UNFAIR METHODS OF SOUTHERN LEAGUE MANAGER

LITTLE ROCK—Manager Mullaney has with him in this city a live ball which he claims was used by New Orleans when Montgomery played there, June 10, 11 and 12. He says that in the last game when Montgomery was ahead he saw Rickert, of the New Orleans team, switch the regular league ball for a lively ball. Pitcher Maxwell told Mullaney he was not afraid of the ball and he struck men out. For winning the game, Montgomery kept the ball. At Shreveport, Mullaney says, Manager Bob Gilks told him he was aware of the fact that New Orleans had been ringing in rubber balls. He said Frank marked the balls with a little blue mark near the seams and Mullaney claims he found this mark on the ball he had taken at New Orleans.

The ball that Mullaney brought to Little Rock is filled with a wrapped rubber mixture about five times the size of the ordinary rubber ball used in the Reach ball. The yarn inclosing the rubber is not more than a fourth as thick as the yarn in the Reach ball.

The Pittsburg Press, June 27, 1906

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by John McMurray

Even with the large number of new books on the Deadball Era published annually, it is worthwhile on occasion to recall prior works which illuminate figures who may have fallen a bit outside of the Committee's view. One such person is writer Grantland Rice. Known best for his writing for the weekly magazine *Collier's*, Rice himself was never a major league beat reporter, recognized instead for his prolific columns that touched on many sports and which often included a poem and clever twists of phrase. While Rice's connection with baseball may seem attenuated relative to, say, the more regular interactions with players that Ring Lardner or Heywood Broun enjoyed, Rice nevertheless was influential in several important episodes of the Deadball Era.

Rice's impact is given a comprehensive and thoughtful treatment in *Sportswriter: The Life and Times of Grantland Rice* by Charles Fountain, published in 1993. That Rice — a colossal figure in American sportswriting — has been the subject of only a few biographies (though two other volumes on him were published in the 1990s, including one by William Harper of more than 600 pages) may suggest that Deadball Era researchers would be better served to spend more time examining the role of reporters of the time, as these writers served as an essential liaison between the game and its burgeoning fan base.

Consider that when Ty Cobb famously sent postcards under various fictitious names to try and promote himself as a young player, he sent them to Rice, recognizing the impact of the then local reporter's writing. "He is a terrific hitter and faster than a deer," said one, while another asked: "Have you seen Ty Cobb play ball yet? He is the fastest mover I've seen in baseball." Rice subsequently wrote a column about the budding star which was overflowing with praise. That Cobb was in the major leagues within a year is often credited in large part to his surreptitious interactions with Rice.

In 1916, as Babe Ruth was firmly establishing himself as a star pitcher, it was Rice who suggested that praise for Ruth's pitching prowess was overblown. Fountain noted that, in contrast to the praise that Rice often bestowed on young stars, he chided Ruth for being out of shape and exclaimed that "Ruth is still too young at this business to be classed with Rube Waddell or Eddie Plank or Nap Rucker." Rice went on to say "quite a stretch of time lies between Ruth and lasting greatness." It is reasonable to infer that the biting comments from Rice's widely-read column made Ruth's eventual switch to being a full-time hitter somewhat more palatable to his readers.

In 1917, Rice also used his platform to insist that John McGraw should be suspended for an incident with National League President John Tener. Rice's columns, along with those of several of his contemporaries, drew attention to the matter, applying pressure which resulted in McGraw's eventual suspension. Still, Rice is recognized more so today for helping to shape opinion of the Black Sox as the 1919 World Series scandal grew. He pointed out inconsistency in Eddie Cicotte's play, for instance, saying, "Eddie, instead of jumping swiftly for the ball, took his time with all the leisure of a steel striker." Playing up what Fountain called "the out-of-character aspect of (the team's play)," Rice also used the word "fix" in print early on and also was outspoken on the deleterious effects that the performance of the Black Sox had on the game itself. Again, Rice moved and shaped popular opinion, having an effect on events that followed.

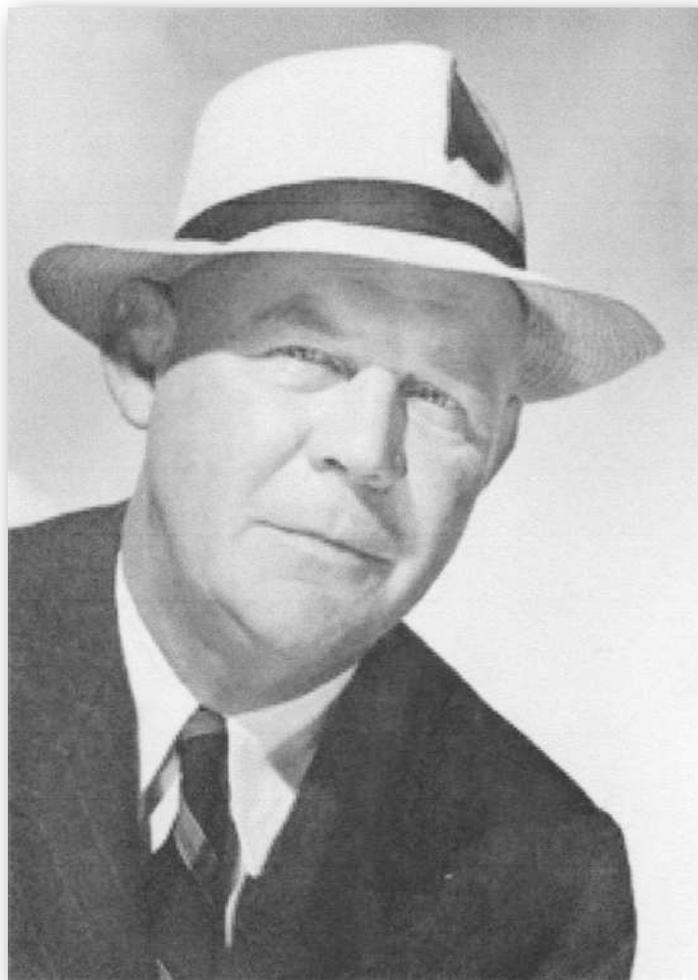
Of course, all contemporary baseball writers enjoyed outsized influence, essentially serving as the voices for particular teams to an audience which had few other outlets. But Rice himself had a disproportionate impact on the sporting scene of the early 20th century. In an interview with *The Inside Game*, Fountain said: "Rice was a combination of baseball-reference.com, the whole ESPN empire, and whoever passes as sports journalism celebrity today." His column had an extraordinary influence.

There were other moments when Rice was ahead of his contemporaries. Rice himself noted “Every one (*sic*) knows the reserve clause in baseball will not stand the test of American law,” a sentiment uttered by few in the press at the time. There was also an element of craftsmanship to his writing, as Rice was strategic in his pronouncements while retaining an air of positivity. As Fountain points out in the book, although Rice disapproved of Connie Mack selling his Philadelphia Athletics players, thereby plunging the team into mediocrity, Rice did not take Mack to task for it in print; rather, he praised Charles Comiskey for being aggressive in purchasing players, as Rice knew that his own opinions about Mack would be inferred by readers.

Rice in part set the tone for sportswriting of the time, writing with what Fountain calls “respect for the intelligence and the involvement of the reader.” The same approach applied when Rice was writing about minor league baseball for the *Nashville Tennessean* from 1907 through 1910, his only time as a baseball beat reporter. Rice’s approach was literary and classically-based, deriving in part from his appreciation for Latin and the subtleties of language more generally. A phrase such as “the tumult dies” (in Rice’s famous “Game Called” poem from 1910) or a reference in a column to “crack slabsmen” imbue his work with creativity.

With time, Rice’s reputation has suffered as the core principles of journalism have changed. No longer do reporters ignore or brush aside the off-field behavior of athletes, as Rice did, nor do they serve as universally-happy mythmakers, intent on shaping a positive view of sports from top to bottom. “The role of the sportswriter at that time was to sell newspapers and tickets, and not necessarily in that order,” said Fountain.

Fountain suggests in the book that Rice’s rhapsodic, and usually uncritical, approach to covering star players would likely see him today banished to a local paper reporting on the exploits of high school athletes rather than taking on the hard-hitting issues of the day in professional sports. But the opposite side of that



Grantland Rice

coin, according to Fountain, is that even if Rice had wanted to expose the character flaws of players he covered, he likely would not have had a receptive publisher:

Had Rice written a piece about Ty Cobb that showed Cobb in all his complexity and nuance, Rice would have had a hard time finding a place to publish that,” said Fountain. “I doubt very much whether his syndicate of newspapers would have wanted that in a sports column, and I doubt very much whether *Collier’s* or any of the magazines that he wrote for would have wanted that in a profile. Readers wanted heroes in those days, wherever they were. He delivered what newspaper publishers and readers and magazine publishers and readers wanted at the time. Had he delivered anything else, they wouldn’t have bought it.

Rice now is often impugned for his lofty prose, with critics typically referencing his effusive 1924 column about Notre Dame's football team. ("Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again," wrote Rice. "In dramatic lore they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction and Death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden.") Still, whether he was analogizing major sporting events to Civil War battles or linking star athletes to figures from Greek mythology, Rice's soaring prose helped to define sportswriting in his era.

Independent of whether one appreciates Rice's writing style and approach, he is an important figure in the history of sports journalism and one who impacted the Deadball Era. Fountain's work makes one appreciate how intertwined Rice was with the Deadball Era, even if Rice himself, because of the wide scope of his writing, is not viewed as a baseball reporter first and foremost. Rice's baseball columns are one illustration of the impact that Deadball Era writers and reporters could have on the game, and his extensive body of work underscores how important a role a writer could play at a time when newspapers were indeed king.

TACOMA THEATER
See the Big Games on
THE STAR
BALLPLAYER
Direct Western Union
Wire
All the movements of the
players and the ball displayed.
Any Seat 25c

The Tacoma Times, October 13, 1914

According to a ruling by the National Commission yesterday, there will be no more presents for players who take part in the series for the world's championship which follows the close of the pennant races in the two big leagues. The Big Three—Ban Johnson, Harry Pulliam and Garry Herrmann—yesterday issued notice to this effect, the following detailed rule to govern the contest for the World's championship being announced:

"Rule 17.—Neither one of the contesting clubs shall be permitted to pay a bonus or prize to any or all of its players who may take part in the series, either before or after the same has been completed, and the Commission will retain the certified check which each club is required to deposit under Rule 6 until such time as they may be satisfied that there has been no violation of this rule, then said certified check shall be cashed and credited to the funds of the National Commission."

Barney Dreyfuss started the habit of presenting to players who had been in the world's championship series part of the club's share of the receipts, and Brush of New York and Shibe of Philadelphia followed suit in the series of 1905. In 1906 Comiskey presented the White Sox with a wad, and last season both Yawkey of Detroit and Murphy of Chicago turned over a large portion of their share of the receipts to the players on the respective teams.

The Paterson (New Jersey) Press, August 14, 1908

From Baltimore emanates the information that 10-cent baseball will be inaugurated there today. As far as we can learn that is the kind of pastiming that has been in vogue there all season, only two-bit pieces and upwards have been demanded at the gate. This remark is more convincing as we view the Terrapin's position at the heel of the Federal League.

The Washington (D.C.) Times, August 13, 1915

THIS WAS NO GREASY KID STUFF

by **Joseph Wancho**

You may be able to visualize the scene from your very own living room: "I'll take 'Hall of Fame' for \$400 Alex." Alex asks, "I was an outfielder on a World Series winning team, coached in the Rose Bowl, coached back-to-back championship teams in the NFL, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame." The contestants stare blankly and offer no response. Alex says "We were looking for Earle "Greasy" Neale. Pick again."

One question that comes to mind is where on earth did William and Rena Neale's boy receive such a nickname? "There was a boy I grew up with in Parkersburg, W. Va., and he was a kind of Huckleberry Finn. His parents didn't pay him much mind or discipline him in any way. He wasn't too particular about his appearance, and one day I called him 'Dirty Face' or 'Dirty Neck' or some such thing, and he got even by calling me 'Greasy,' because I had worked for a time as a grease boy in a rolling mill. The other kids picked it up, and it stayed with me for life. Of course, some sportswriters wrote that the nickname referred to my elusiveness as a ball carrier in football and a base runner in baseball. But it was that boy back home who gave me the name," explained Neale.¹ Later in his life, Neale was hired as an assistant football coach at Yale University. The "high-brow set" at the New Haven campus did not approve of his moniker. "No point in changing now just because I'm in the Ivy League," said Neale.²

Neale left Parkersburg High School after the ninth grade to take a job in the steel mills. However, he returned to school after two years. The school's football team did not have a coach, and Neale, being the oldest squad member, took the reins of the team. He found that he had an aptitude for coaching and enjoyed mentoring the younger boys on the team.

Greasy Neale enrolled at West Virginia Wesleyan College via a football scholarship in 1912. He was

noted for his fast, slashing running ability whether it was at his familiar end position on the gridiron or stealing bases on the diamond. But at West Virginia Wesleyan College he was also a cage star. He scored 139 baskets one season, outstanding in an era when offensive play on the hardwood was slow and methodical. But baseball was his first and true love and he never lost sight of his dream of playing professionally. His participation in football and basketball was just a means to keep in shape and bide his time until baseball season came around.

Neale signed on with Class C London of the Canadian League. He knocked around the minor leagues, until the trail took him back to his home state of West Virginia, and Class B Wheeling in 1915. A friend of Neale's named Jack Lewis wrote a letter to Cincinnati Reds owner, Garry Herrmann. Lewis recommended that Herrmann take a look at Neale. Greasy was tearing up the Central League with his bat, on the way to batting .351. Hermann dispatched a scout to Wheeling to take a look at Neale. The reports were favorable on the left-handed hitting outfielder and the Reds signed him. But Neale had caught the coaching bug, and while he was about to embark on his major league career, he also started his career coaching football. His first coaching job was at Muskingum (OH) in 1915, after he wrapped up the baseball season at Wheeling.

Greasy broke into the majors in 1916, becoming the starting left fielder for Cincinnati. Buck Herzog was the Reds skipper, and according to Neale, Herzog was his favorite manager. "A lot of fellows didn't like Buck, but I played better ball for him than anyone," said Neale. "He handled me perfectly. One day, I went to bat four times without even getting a semblance of a hit. I barged into Tommy Griffith's territory, pulled a fly ball away from him and dropped it. I charged in on a ground ball and it went through me for three bases. I overthrew third base for my third error of the afternoon. I was feeling pretty low about it, but after the game Buck put his arm around my shoulders and told me that my misplays came from trying too hard and not to

worry about any of them. Now can you understand why I played my heart out for him?"³

Unfortunately for both Neale and Herzog, Buck was replaced in mid season after posting a 34-49 record. He was sent to the New York Giants on July 20 along with catcher Red Killefer in exchange for outfielder Edd Roush, pitcher Christy Mathewson, and infielder Bill McKechnie. The sun was setting on Mathewson's brilliant career, and his acquisition was made so that he could take Herzog's place in the dugout. Roush, a budding star was inserted into center field. The move did not sit well with Neale. Although he was just a rookie, he felt that he had earned the right to play center field. Whenever a fly ball went out to left-center, Neale would never holler that he was going to make the catch. Sometimes he would make the play, other times he wouldn't. Roush had to learn to be able to watch the ball and Neale at the same time in order to decide his course of action: go after the baseball, or cut behind Greasy to let him take it. This went on for about three weeks. "I want to end this Roush," Neale told him. "I guess you know I've been trying to run you down ever since you got here. I wanted that center field job for myself, and I didn't like it when Matty put you out there. But you can get a ball better than I ever could. I want to shake hands and call it off. From now on, I'll holler."⁴

If Neale thought that he was being slighted by his new manager, he may have been hasty. Mathewson was well aware of the talents of the young outfielder. "Ambition and headwork," Mathewson answered when asked about Neale's best attributes. "This kid's always on the job, and wants to improve himself and there's action under his cap. He studies his position and never makes the same mistake twice. Watch his batting next year, for example. He'll be a greatly improved hitter."⁵ Mathewson knew what he was talking about as Neale's batting average climbed 32 points from .262 his rookie year to .294 his sophomore year. With Griffith in right, Roush in center, and Neale in left field, the Reds had a formidable outfield. Roush and Neale both had good speed on the base paths, as one or the other



Greasy Neale, Cincinnati Reds

led the team in stolen bases over the next few years.

Neale was the Reds' starting right-fielder in 1919. His batting average tumbled to .242. It would seem almost improbable that Neale led the team in hitting in the World Series that year, batting .357 and collecting 10 hits. Yet he did and no other Cincinnati player came even close to him. Perhaps it went largely unnoticed because his hits were of little consequence. Three of his safeties came in the 9-1 shellacking of the White Sox in Game 1. While three more hits came in a Game 6 loss to Chicago. Although the Sox may have been the favorites to win the series, the Reds were no pushover. Roush led the National League in hitting with a .321 average. Jake Daubert, Larry Kopf, and Heinie Groh were more than capable batsman. The pitching staff was led by Dutch Ruether, Hod Eller, and Slim Sallee. The three starters won a combined 60 games. But it was not so much that the Reds won the World Series. As history has taught us,

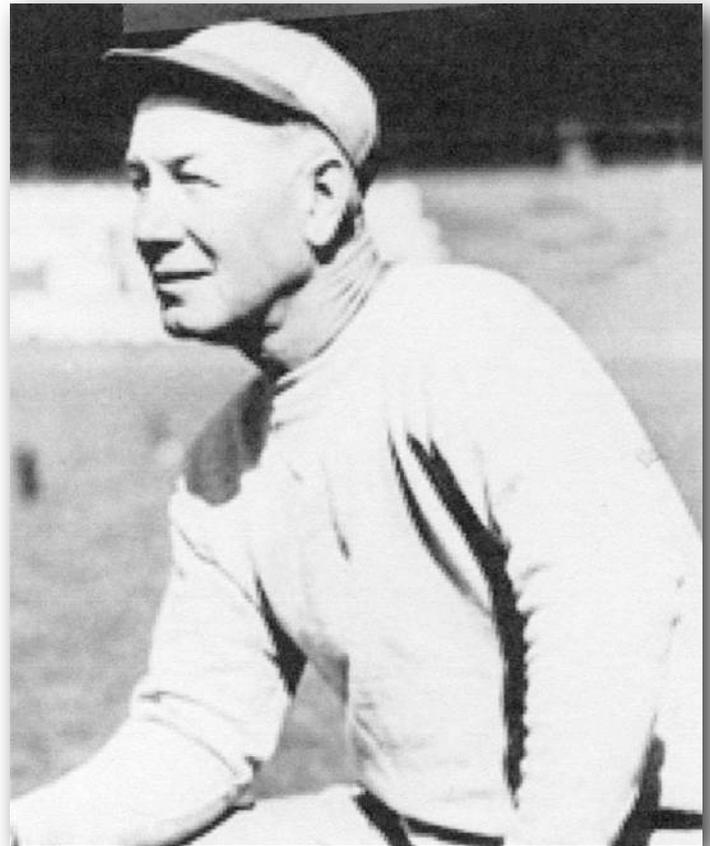
members of the Chicago team conspired to throw the Series. The White Sox may as well have put a bow around the World Championship and handed to the Reds as if they were a Secret Santa.

“I hit .357. Got a triple off little Dick Kerr, the honest pitcher,” Neale told a group one evening at a cocktail party. “Matter of fact, I think they were all honest after that first game. The ones in on the deal didn’t get the payoff they were promised. The rest of the games were straight, I am convinced. Series went eight games, you know.”⁶ Neale could never be convinced that the fix was in for all eight games.

Cincinnati slipped to third place in 1920. Neale had a so-so year, batting .255, but his 29 stolen bases were a career high. He had been shifted to right field and led NL right fielders in putouts with 342. Still, the Reds packaged Neale and pitcher Jimmy Ring together and sent them to the Philadelphia Phillies for pitcher Eppa Rixey. But during the spring, Neale struck a secret deal with the Phillies, whereby Neale would be paid \$6,000 at the end of the season. However after appearing in only 22 games, the Phillies waived Neale. Cincinnati claimed him and scoffed at the \$6,000 contract. Greasy appealed to Commissioner Landis, and the Reds were on the hook, ultimately compensating Neale for the full amount.

Neale was again on the Reds roster in 1922, although he played sparingly. He did appear in three games in 1924, but at 32 years old, his major league career was over. Neale played in 768 ballgames, batting .259 for his career. He totaled 72 doubles, 50 triples, 200 RBI, and 139 stolen bases. Neale’s career fielding percentage was .972. But Neale was also keeping busy in the off-season as a collegiate football coach. He returned to his alma mater to coach at West Virginia Wesleyan (1916-1917), and thereafter led teams at Marietta (1919-1920), Washington & Jefferson (1921-1922), and Virginia (1923-1928). Neale doubled as the baseball coach at both Marietta and Virginia.

Neale had success on the college level. In 1917, his WWV squad was a three-touchdown



Coach Neale, Philadelphia Eagles

underdog to interstate foe West Virginia. But Neale’s boys executed their single-wing offense to perfection and blanked the Mountaineers, 20-0. His 1921 team at Washington and Jefferson went undefeated, topping traditional powers Pitt, Syracuse, and Detroit. Although there were other teams who were undefeated that year (Cornell, Penn State, and Lafayette), it was a surprise to most when the invitation to the 1922 Rose Bowl was extended to the Washington & Jefferson Presidents. Their opponent was the University of California Golden Bears, who were installed as 14-point favorites. Sportswriter Jack James of the *San Francisco Examiner* remarked “All I know about Washington and Jefferson is that they are both dead.”⁷

The Presidents could only afford to send 11 players on the trip west. Although not many gave the Easterners much of an opportunity, outside of W&J that is, Neale was extremely confident. “Nobody gave us a chance,” Neale said later. “But I knew what we could do. I told everyone Cal wouldn’t score on us. They just laughed.”⁸ The

game ended in a scoreless tie. A 35-yard touchdown run by the Presidents' Wayne Brenkert was called back because of an offside call. The game was notable for other reasons: Charles West became first African-American quarterback to play in the Rose Bowl and Herb Kopf (whose brother Larry had been a teammate and roommate of Neale's with the Reds) was the first freshman to appear in the Rose Bowl.⁹

Neale left college football for a brief hiatus, returning to major league baseball in 1929. "Branch Rickey gave Billy Southworth the managerial post (with the St. Louis Cardinals), and Billy wanted me as his coach. I gave up a good football job to help him, but Southworth was not quite ready for the big time and we only lasted three months. Billy was in a spot in those days because he had to boss a bunch he'd played with — Frisch, Hafey, Bottomley, Wilson and the rest. Later, when he returned to the Cards, he was set for it."¹⁰

West Virginia University was the next stop for Neale. After three years (1931-1933) in Morgantown, Neale accepted the position of backfield coach for the Naval Academy (1934-1940) under Ray "Ducky" Pond. Neale used the single-wing style offense, where the plays used deception (reverses, double-reverses, and misdirection plays) and did not rely on a passing game.

Greasy entered the NFL in 1941, coaching the Philadelphia Eagles for 10 years. Neale was no stranger to professional football. When he was with the Reds in the late teens, he played pro football on Sundays during the off season. Although the Reds had a strict policy forbidding their players from participating in other sports, Neale played under the name "Foster" to get around the team rules. Of course, Neale/Foster was not fooling anyone and the Reds just looked the other way. He played/coached for Canton and Ironton. The legendary Jim Thorpe was the coach of the Canton Bulldogs, and occasionally played, as well. In 1917, Thorpe was also a member of the Cincinnati Reds as a spare outfielder.

From 1944 to 1949, the Eagles, who were in the Eastern Division, finished in second place three times and won the division three times. Neale never hid the fact that he would take ideas from other coaches. After Chicago dismantled Washington 73-0 in the NFL 1940 Championship game, Neale bought the game film for \$156. He studied George Halas' T Formation, and made adjustments to fit his personnel. Neale is also credited with using man-to-man defense on pass plays and developing the present-day 4-3 defense alignment. "I think I was a success as a coach because I wasn't afraid to borrow something that worked for someone else," said Neale. "People in the stands never asked you where you got it. They only want to know if you got it."¹¹

The Eagles lost the 1947 Championship Game to the Chicago Cardinals, 28-21. Philadelphia got their revenge the following year, shutting out the Cards 7-0 in 1948. They followed that up with

ALLIED LEAGUE COUNTING ON THIS CITY

**ONLY SERVICE MEN ELIGIBLE TO PLAY
IN NEW OUTLAW BASEBALL ORGANIZATION**

BOSTON—George H. Lawson, recently discharged from the Canadian Army, in which he was sergeant-major in the Royal Engineers, announced last night plans for the formation of an "outlaw" baseball league, to be known as the Allied League. He said that only men who have seen service in the American expeditionary force or in the allied armies would be eligible to play.

Lawson promoted the "outlaw" United States League a few years ago, and he had assurances of backing which would enable the league to start its season on June 1.

He announced as the probable circuit: Boston, Providence, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto, and Newark. He said grounds were available in all of those cities.

(Providence) Evening Tribune, May 8, 1919

another shutout, blanking the Los Angeles Rams 14-0, thus becoming the only NFL team to win back-to-back titles by shutting out their opponents. However a 6-6 record in 1950 led to Neale's dismissal. "It came as a shock," said Greasy. "We went 6-6, but we lost a total of five games by 18 points. I guess you have to have a championship team every year to satisfy them."¹²

Greasy Neale was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1967. He was enshrined into the National Football League Hall of Fame in 1969. Center-linebacker Alex Wojciechowicz was a member of those championship Eagle teams. Like Neale, he is also a member of both football halls of fame. "I believe that Greasy Neale, in his time, was the greatest coach in football," wrote Wojo. "He was the greatest teacher of fair play, a player's coach. He devoted his life to teaching his men not only sports, but also an understanding and appreciation of life itself. Every player who ever has been coached by him retains an abiding feeling of thankfulness to him."¹³

Lifelong Cleveland Indians supporter Joseph Wancho is the chairman of SABR's Minor Leagues Committee.

NOTES

1. Gerald Holland, *Sports Illustrated*, August 24, 1964.
2. *The Sporting News*, November 17, 1973, 46.
3. Arthur Daley, *New York Times*, April 28, 1943.
4. Lawrence Ritter, *The Glory of Their Times: The Story of the Early Days of Baseball Told by the Men Who Played It* (New York: Macmillan, 1966), 210.
5. *Baseball Magazine*, February 1917, 572.
6. Holland, above.
7. <http://www.washjeff.edu/rose-bowl-replay>.
8. Norman L. Macht, *Football's Last Iron Men* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2010), 27.
9. <http://www.washjeff.edu/rose-bowl-replay>.
10. Daley, above.
11. *The Sporting News*, November 17, 1973, 46.
12. Bill Braucher, *Miami Herald*, February 17, 1969, 1D.
13. Arthur Daley, *New York Times*, November 8, 1973.

BAN JOHNSON PLANS COLLEGIANS' LEAGUE

A.A.U. WILL HAVE FIGHT ON ITS HANDS IF NEW ORGANIZATION IS SUCCESSFUL

George Huff, athletic director of Illinois University, together with president Ban Johnson of the American League, and Hugh Fullerton, of Chicago, plan to make a radical revolt against amateur baseball as practiced in the colleges. Mr. Huff says "amateur rules don't make amateur athletes; they make amateur liars." The revolt is directed against the Amateur Athletic Union. The announcement is made in the current issue of a New York weekly magazine.

The plan is to form a college league, composed of eight or possibly ten clubs, made up of undergraduate players from American colleges. The managers of these teams will be managers or coaches of college teams or graduate coaches. The president of the league will be George Huff. The season will begin about July 15, and a schedule of seventy-seven games will be played.

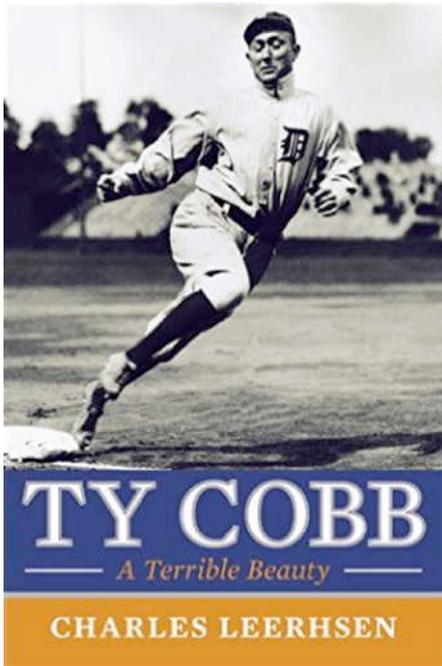
The games will be played at American League parks during the absence of the major league clubs, or at National League parks. It is planned to have the season end about September 1, and the players will be paid a salary for their work, together with their hotel and traveling expenses.

A percentage of the gate receipts will be put aside to establish a fund to endow scholarships in universities and colleges. All the contests will be under the jurisdiction of the National Commission.

The Washington (D.C.) Times, April 8, 1913

The best black pitcher in the country is said to be a left-hander called Kid Carter. This Carter, they say, would command a fabulous salary if he were a white man.

The Pittsburg Press, Dec 14, 1901



**TY COBB—A
TERRIBLE BEAUTY**

BY CHARLES LEERHSEN

2015. Simon and Schuster
[ISBN: 978-1451645767. 464
pp. \$27.50USD, Hardcover]

Reviewed by

Mark Armour

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When Charles Leerhsen began working on this book, he tells us in its pages, he believed Ty Cobb to be “a racist and a mean, spikes-sharpening son of a bitch.” Leerhsen came by this belief honestly: from the popular Cobb biographies, from Ron Shelton’s movie *Cobb*, from *Field of Dreams* (which idealizes an entire era of ballplayers, except Cobb, who was a “son-of-a-bitch”), from Ken Burns’ documentary on the game’s history. As he begins his research, a lot of the standard Cobb stories begin to

ring false, especially Al Stump’s absurd accounting of Cobb’s final days, first published as an award-winning magazine article in 1962 and later as a book in 1994.

Leerhsen comes to believe, and reports to us, that Cobb was not a racist, or at least no more so than the America of his time, that he did not sharpen his spikes, and that he was liked and respected by many of his contemporaries. Can the author’s change of heart be chalked up to growing too close to his subject? Not solely. The author has done first-rate research, and presents a solid case that Cobb was much more complicated than the monster of Stump’s largely made-up book or Shelton’s related movie. He probably did not sharpen his spikes. There is no evidence that he killed anyone (a claim made by Stump and others). He performed many acts of kindness throughout his life, to black and white people. He could be a charming man who, on occasion, would just snap.

A drawback of the book, at least for me, is that the author frames the narrative around telling us what prior authors or moviemakers got *wrong*, who Cobb was *not*, as opposed to telling us who Cobb was. There is more in this book about Al Stump than there is about Cobb’s wife of forty years.

A staple of the oft-told Cobb story is that he spent much of his life beating the crap out of people, usually people of a

lesser station, and many of them black, with little or no provocation. What we learn here is that several of his victims were actually white, which somewhat reduces Cobb’s sin (he did not discriminate in who he beat up) but hardly eliminates it. Of course, Cobb did have some famous confrontations with black innocents. In June 1908 Cobb attacked a black worker who had the temerity to tell Cobb and his companions not to cross the street because of newly poured asphalt. According to a newsman on the scene, Cobb used racial language before the fight. Leerhsen mitigates the charge of racism by citing some of Cobb’s racially liberal relatives as evidence that he was not a typical Southerner.

In April 1919, as far as can be determined, Cobb pushed an 18-year-old black chambermaid into a hallway, kicked her in the stomach, and knocked her down a flight of stairs, causing her to be hospitalized for several weeks. Cobb was not arrested and it was barely covered in the mainstream press other than a note, weeks after the event, that Cobb was being sued. Leerhsen researches the *Chicago Defender*, a black newspaper, to try to find out how it was resolved. It is not actually clear, though at one point the Tigers team was trying to settle with the victim. Wrapping up the episode, Leerhsen informs the reader that the *Defender* was kind to Cobb in his

obituary 42 years later, and that Cobb had complimentary things to say about black players in the 1950s. All of this is true, but does not change the most important part of the story: Ty Cobb, a large physical professional athlete, pushed a young woman down a flight of stairs.

A point Leerhsen repeatedly makes is that Cobb's kindness to black people at a particular time and place suggests that his cruelty at another time and place was not racially motivated. Is it not possible that Cobb liked black people well enough, but demanded they treat him with a degree of deference and became enraged when they did not? (It is perhaps interesting that all of Cobb's known physical altercations took place during the season in northern cities, and not back in Georgia where he spent every winter.) Is it also not possible, even likely, that his views in 1952 had evolved considerably from those he held 1918?

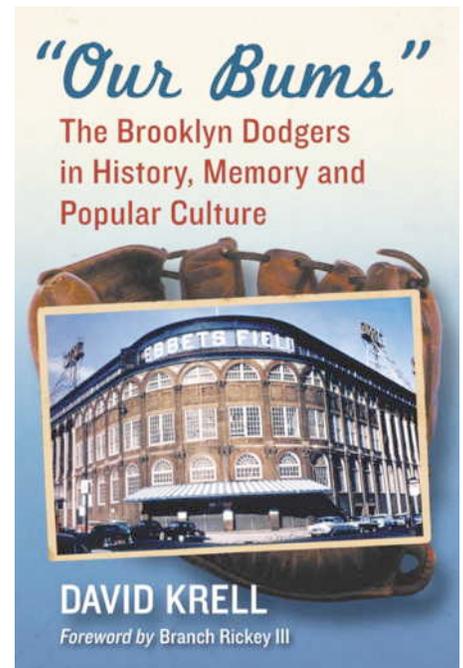
Cobb was a tremendous ballplayer, a very intelligent man on and off the field, and

the most interesting person in nearly every room he walked into. Leerhsen captures this Cobb very well, which makes his frequent misdeeds even more troubling. The reader wants Cobb to be a better man than he was. He was not a hardscrabble backwoods Southerner, he was a learned, well-to-do man who dressed well, and carried himself like a kingly figure even as a young man. Cobb did many good things in his life.

The takeaway of all Cobb biographies, including this one, is that he was a somewhat sad figure. Despite all his gifts, he lived much of his life angry and bitter at someone or something. He did not seem to have any real friends, people that could tell him the hard truths about what he was doing. His relationships with his five children — one of whom later said she was afraid of him her entire life — were, to be kind, complex. He spent the end of his life essentially alone. In baseball's long history, Cobb has few peers as a player. But off the field, there seems to be very little happiness in this book or in this life.

PUBLISHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As newsletter readers have been informed, the courtesy copies of the books reviewed in this issue were generously supplied to us by their publishers. *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* was published by Simon and Schuster. Order by telephone: 800-223-2336 or via email: Purchaseorders@simonandschuster.com. *Our Bums* and *In Cobb's Shadow* were both published by McFarland and can be ordered by telephone: 800-253-2187 or email: info@mcfarlandpub.com. We encourage your patronage.



OUR BUMS: THE BROOKLYN DODGERS IN HISTORY, MEMORY AND POPULAR CULTURE

BY DAVID KRELL

2015. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland

[ISBN: 978-0786477999. 240
pp. \$29.95USD, Hardcover]

Reviewed by

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Brooklyn Dodgers literature is famously thick with contributions by such esteemed writers as Roger Kahn, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Pete Golenbeck. Is there room on the bookshelf for another? David Krell attempts to carve such a niche by infusing the "soul" of *Our Bums* with, as he states it, "the memories of fans." The recollections of more than 50

of these fans constitute the core of the book and differentiate *Our Bums* from *The Boys of Summer* or *Bums*, both of which centered on the players' recollections, as well as from *Wait Till Next Year*, a personal memoir.

Krell's history of the Brooklyn franchise unfolds over nine "innings" — chapters — that are essentially chronological, but with a heavy focus on the 1950s. Seven of the nine "innings" deal with the team's history from 1950 through 1957, their final season in Brooklyn, or with the move to Los Angeles. Beyond that being the era of the Dodgers' greatest Brooklyn-linked glory, there's a second inevitable reason for this leaning. If you're going to premise a book on fan recollections, it helps that the fans are still alive. In 2015, that's something that cannot generally be said of many pre-1950 Dodger faithful.

This imbalance could be a letdown for fans of prior eras of Dodger baseball, including the Deadball era. Discussion of the seasons from 1906 through 1919 — a period that encompasses the opening of Ebbets Field, the 1916 pennant, and the rise of Zack Wheat — is confined to just nine pages of the 192-page text. The full detailing of Brooklyn's 1916 pennant — the first since the syndicate days of 1899-1900 — is as follows: "Robinson brought Brooklyn to the World Series in 1916, his third season as manager. But 1916 belonged to the Boston Red Sox."

It is the approximately 50 story-telling fans who enable Krell to convey the population's relationship to the team, and thus give the book its backbone. Arnie Korfine is one such fan. A semi-retired sales executive, he recalls as a youth occasionally running into broadcaster Vince Scully at the Prospect Park train station and walking with him to Ebbets Field. "Sometimes I got penny postcards and gave them to Vin with my address and a stamp on them," Korfine recalls. "He would put the cards into the players' coat pockets and the players would drop them in the mail." Kenneth Prager, now director of clinical ethics and professor of medicine at Columbia University, grew up in the Midwood section of Brooklyn. "For me, going to Ebbets Field was like the holy of holies," he

said. "When we got to the seats, my mother unpacked the tuna fish sandwiches. ... Just the sight of the Dodgers ... playing in the green grass was the most wonderful sight that could be."

If the substance of these recollections is the book's strength, then the presentation of them is its weakness. The author is an attorney and most of the stories — I counted 125 in 192 pages — are presented in lawyerly deposition form; that is, they are verbatim. If people tended to express their recollections concisely, this would be no problem. But then if people tended to express their recollections concisely, everybody would be a storyteller and there would be no need for writers to rephrase, distill, and re-order as a means of highlighting the good stuff.

A POPULAR DECISION.

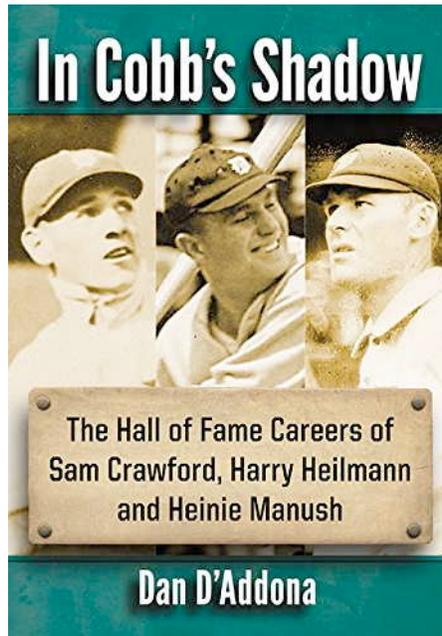


If Uncle Sam Should Give a Verdict Against the Alleged Baseball Trust.

The Topeka State Journal, March 16, 1912

Because people don't express themselves concisely, digesting the essence of many of Krell's stories is like eating a pomegranate. There's juicy substance inside, but getting to it requires effort that is not user-friendly. The problem is illustrated in a 420-word passage provided by Ted Hollembeak, a municipal judge in Emporia, Kansas. He writes of following the Dodgers from his home in the Midwest as a kid, of first being able to watch the 1953 World Series on TV, of his appreciation for Jackie Robinson, and decades later of his children being aware of his love of the Dodgers. He then concludes as follows: "My son died during the Persian Gulf War. He served in the Army. He played third base in high school and American Legion ball. I played semi-pro ball when I was 16, then went into the Army and played the Midnight Sun game in Alaska that starts at midnight. I played second base. This was in my final assignment in Alaska from April, 1960 to mid July 1961. When I went to the Royals fantasy camp, I played 2nd base and the outfield. To honor my son, I wore his #23."

It is entirely possible — indeed appropriate — to simultaneously honor Judge Hollembeak's son for his sacrifice, mourn with the judge at such a painful loss, thank him for his own military service, and wonder what any of that has to do with the Brooklyn Dodgers.



**IN COBB'S SHADOW:
THE HALL OF FAME
CAREERS OF SAM
CRAWFORD, HARRY
HEILMANN AND
HEINIE MANUSH
BY DAN D'ADDONA**

2015. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland
[ISBN: 978-0786497164.
224pp. \$29.95 USD,
Hardcover]

Reviewed by
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In the first decade of the 20th century there was a forgotten dynasty, one that was more likened to the Buffalo Bills than the New York Yankees. That team was the Detroit Tigers. They captured three consecutive American League pennants between 1907 and 1909 but never were able to reach the pinnacle and add a world championship to their resume. The era also saw the

emergence of one of the greatest yet most controversial players in the history of the game, Ty Cobb. While most historical writings about this team have centered on Cobb's exploits both on and off the field, there were three other Hall of Famers that played alongside him in his career: Sam Crawford, Harry Heilmann, and Heinie Manush. In his book *In Cobb's Shadow*, author Dan D'Addona highlights and celebrates the careers of these three great players.

An award winning journalist and the Sports Editor for the *Holland Sentinel* in Holland, Michigan, D'Addona opens with the biography of Sam Crawford. The section on Crawford dominates the book, accounting for almost 70% of its pages. "Wahoo Sam" perhaps deserves this attention because next to Cobb he was arguably the second greatest player in the history of the franchise. Crawford's story is certainly interesting, starting with his days trying to learn to be a barber, to traveling around with a local nine and living on a diet of beefsteak and bread, to launching his professional career in the Canadian League, and ultimately to his major league debut with the Cincinnati Reds in 1899 at the young age of 19.

D'Addona recounts Crawford's rise to the majors in a well-researched manner, although at times there are too many long excerpts taken from other sources that break up the flow

of the story. There is also perhaps too much game-by-game recap where the story might be better served with some highlights of the season and some detailed anecdotes instead of just the stats. As the section on Sam concludes, the author does a wonderful job of detailing the end of his career and the disappointment he felt at just missing the 3,000 hit plateau, even though it came at a time when 3,000 hits might not have meant as much to the players as it does today. It was an interesting revelation as was D'Addona's synopsis that a mere 39 hits perhaps cost Crawford his rightful entrance into the Baseball Hall of Fame in a timelier manner. The section ends with a wonderful tale of Cobb, who did not get along with Crawford when they were teammates, lobbying hard for his fellow Tiger to be

awarded the sport's highest honor, which finally came to fruition 40 years after his retirement.

The final third of the book focuses on the fine careers of Harry Heilmann and Heinie Manush. Heilmann hit .342 over 17 seasons in the majors, including 15 with Detroit in a career that amassed 2,660 hits and four batting titles, while eclipsing the .400 mark in 1923. Manush played for six teams during his 17 years in the majors, finishing with a batting average of .330. He gained much of his acclaim during his five years in Detroit at the beginning of his career where he was a member of one of the greatest outfielders in history (with Cobb and Heilmann) and won his lone batting title in 1926, hitting .378. While writing a much more concise

bio for both men than he did for Crawford, D'Addona did a nice job detailing their baseball careers, using the same format as with Crawford, though once again the excerpts were occasionally too long and interrupted the flow of the story. Nevertheless, again as with Crawford, D'Addona did a outstanding job of summarizing their careers as well as nicely wrapping them up and putting them into perspective with his "Forgotten Legacy" chapters on each.

The use of prolonged excerpts aside, overall *In Cobb's Shadow* is an extremely well-researched book and a good read, recommended not only to the Tiger fans interested in learning about their early championship squads but for baseball fans in general who enjoy the rich history of the game.

NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Inside Game is pleased to welcome to the committee the following SABR members who have expressed interest in the Deadball Era:

Fred Collignon
Paul Gardner
Timothy Hannan
Michael Harvey
Jeff Masten
Seth Moeller
Adam Penale
Adam Reilly
Gabriel Schechter
Kevin Trusty

We look forward to their active participation in committee endeavors. These new committee members, as well as our newsletter contributors, can be contacted via the SABR directory.

CONVICTED OF BETTING ON BASEBALL

SAN FRANCISCO—The first conviction under the Walker-Otis anti-betting law, passed last winter, [was] obtained yesterday when Charles Schwartz was found guilty in the Superior Court of having placed a bet on a baseball game. Sentence will be imposed [tomorrow]. Two years is the maximum penalty.

BASEBALL BETTOR TO GO TO JAIL

SAN FRANCISCO—Charles Schwartz, who was convicted of violating the Walker-Otis anti-betting law by placing a bet on a baseball game, was sentenced [yesterday] to 30 days in jail.

*The Philadelphia Record, December 30, 1909
and January 1, 1910*

**ACCURATE RBI RECORDS
FOR PLAYERS OF THE
DEADBALL ERA:
PART 8 — THE PLAYERS ON
THE 1916 DETROIT TIGERS**

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

In previous articles in the title series I have presented the results of my research efforts for the Detroit Tigers players who amassed the most runs batted in on the team during each of the final three seasons of the Deadball Era, i.e. the 1919-1917 campaigns.¹⁻³ As shown in Table 1, my RBI numbers for those seasons are different from the RBI numbers independently claimed by Lanigan and by Neft for Bobby Veach, Detroit's RBI leader in each of those seasons.⁴⁻⁵

Significantly, because of the comprehensive and in-depth Game-By-Game (GBG) evidence I assembled to support my full-season RBI numbers, my RBI numbers have been accepted by Pete Palmer, who has incorporated them into his database of baseball statistics, which is utilized by Retrosheet.org (for its player profile pages) and Baseball-Reference.com.⁶ In the present article I provide the results of my research on the RBIs achieved by the players on the 1916 Detroit Tigers.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

In order to ascertain accurate RBI records for each player on the 1916 Tigers I endeavored to ascertain the complete details for each of the 670 runs scored by Detroit. "Complete Details" for each run means I sought to identify: (a) the player who scored the run; (b) the run-scoring event [e.g., a 2-RBI triple, a 1-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error); a 0-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error), a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk, a 0-RBI wild pitch, etc.]; and (c) the player who completed his plate appearance during the run-scoring event (i.e., the player who could be credited with an RBI). To obtain the "complete details" for each run I examined the game accounts provided in numerous newspapers to compile a GBG runs-scored and runs-batted-in record for each player

who participated in at least one game for the 1916 Tigers. The daily newspapers that I utilized included the *Detroit Free Press, Journal, News,* and *Times*; the *Boston Globe, Herald,* and *Post*; the *Chicago Daily News, Examiner, Herald,* and *Tribune*; the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*; the *New York Herald, Sun, Times,* and *Tribune*; the *Philadelphia Inquirer, North American, Press,* *Public Ledger,* and *Record*; the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Post-Dispatch, Republic,* and *Star-Times*; and the *Washington Evening Star, Herald, Post,* and *Times*.

With regard to crediting or not crediting an RBI I adhered strictly to the appropriate official scoring rules. Thus, since RBIs were not recorded officially until 1920 and were not defined until 1931, I utilized the 1931 official scoring rules for Runs Batted In:

Runs Batted In are runs scored on safe hits (including home runs), sacrifice hits, outfield put-outs, infield put-outs, and when the run is forced over by reason of the batsman becoming a base runner. With less than two outs, if an error is made on a play on which a runner from third would ordinarily score, credit the batsman with a Run Batted In.
[Rule 70, Section 13]

The complete details for each of the 670 runs scored by the Tigers in 1916 are presented in the Appendix. It is noteworthy to point out that I provided my RBI numbers — and the evidence I assembled in support of my RBI numbers to Retrosheet's Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for their review. Significantly, 100% agreement on the RBI numbers was achieved, the RBI numbers now being presented on retrosheet.org.⁷

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the full-season runs batted in numbers, according to my research, for each of the 34 players on the 1916 Detroit Tigers. Also shown for comparison are the full-season runs batted in numbers according to Neft — which are also shown in each of the various most-recently published hard-copy baseball encyclopedias: *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* (2008); *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (2007); *Total Baseball*

(2004); *The STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* (2000); and *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (1996).⁸⁻¹²

Probably the most-striking aspect of Table 2 is that for four players two or three RBI numbers are given in the “RBIs (Krabbenhoft)” column — Del Baker (7 or 8 or 9), Harry Heilmann (77 or 78 or 79), Bobby Veach (89 or 90), and Ralph Young (42 or 43 or 44). What is the reason for these “either-or” RBI numbers? The explanation is simply that the game accounts provided in the various newspapers did not include sufficient information to confidently assign credit for batting in a run to one player or another. For the four players with “either-or” RBI numbers the uncertainty is due to the four runs scored by the Tigers in the Detroit-versus-Chicago game on July 23, 1916, in the Motor City. The Tigers lost the game by a 9-12 score. Here are the descriptions given for each of Detroit’s nine runs in the accounts by various newspapers:

July 23, 1916 — Detroit vs. Chicago — Detroit scored 9 runs

Second Inning — Detroit scored 1 run

Detroit Free Press (DFP) — “Doubles by Heilmann and Kavanagh and a single by Young brought Detroit one [run] in the closing part of the [second] round.”

Detroit News (DN) — Nothing at all.

Detroit Times (DT) — Nothing at all.

Detroit Journal (DJ) — Nothing at all.

Chicago Tribune (CHT) — Nothing at all.

Chicago Examiner (CHEX) — “Detroit came back with one [run], Heilmann scoring on his own double and a single by Young and Kavanagh’s double.”

Chicago Herald (CHHD) — “Two doubles and a single gave Detroit a run in its half [of the second].”

Sporting Life (SL) — Nothing at all.

The Sporting News (TSN) — Nothing at all.

Third Inning — Detroit scored 4 runs

DFP — “Four hits following an error gave the Jungaleers a quartet [of runs] in the



1916 Detroit Tigers

third, Williams being Chicago's pitcher at this stage."

DN — Nothing at all.

DT — Nothing at all.

DJ — Nothing at all.

CHT — Nothing at all.

CHEX — "... in the third, when the Tigers scored four runs on an error by Terry, a double by Veach, and singles by Heilmann, Young, and Baker."

CHHLD — "In the third an error by Terry, a double by Veach, and singles by Heilmann, Young, and Baker gave Detroit four runs."

SL — Nothing at all.

TSN — Nothing at all.

Fourth Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs

DFP — "The Jungaleers chased Danforth and got themselves a couple more [runs] in their half of the fourth by means of a single, a triple, and a sacrifice fly. Two more hits followed the run making but they were wasted."

DN — Nothing at all.

DT — Nothing at all.

DJ — Nothing at all.

CHT — Nothing at all.

CHEX — "Back came the Tigers in their half [of the fourth]. With Danforth on the mound Dauss hit for a single and Vitt tripled along the first base line, sending in Dauss. Burns' long fly brought Vitt home."

CHHLD — "Dauss busted Detroit's half [of the fourth] open with a single, was followed by Vitt with a triple and singles by Crawford and Veach, which made it two more [runs] for the jungle beasts." [NOTE: This description, while accurate, omits a key element — that Vitt scored on a sacrifice fly by Burns. As stated in the description in the DFP account, the hits by Crawford and Veach came after the run making.]

SL — Nothing at all.

TSN — Nothing at all.

Eighth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run

DFP — "Detroit had a chance to tie in its half [of the eighth], as a triple by Dauss followed by three passes gave it one [run] and filled the bases for Veach. But Veach grounded out."

DN — "In the eighth, with one gone, Dauss tripled. Vitt and Bush were passed. Burns struck out. Crawford walked, forcing Dauss home. Veach was retired on a fine one hand stop by E. Collins.

DT — "The real chance to win came in the eighth, when Dauss led off with a triple. [NOTE: This is not in alignment with the description given in the DN account which states that Dauss tripled with one out.] Wolfgang issued three passes then, and Veach came up with three runs needed to tie, two out, and the bases full. Burns tried to clean up and had struck out. Veach sent a sharp grounder toward right and E. Collins nearly missed it. A one-handed spear snared the ball, however, and the big chance was gone." [NOTE: According to the batting lineup for the Tigers, the only way for Veach to come to bat with the bases loaded and two outs is for Dauss to have tripled with one out (i.e., McKee had been retired leading off the inning).]

DJ — Nothing at all.

CHT — Nothing at all.

CHEX — "In the Tigers' half [of the eighth] Dauss started out with a triple and was forced over the plate when Wolfgang issued three passes interrupted by one strikeout. This brought Russell to the front and he made Veach roll a grounder to E. Collins for the third out. [NOTE: As mentioned in the NOTES given above for the DT description, the DN account states that Dauss tripled with one out and the only way for Veach to make the third out with the bases loaded is for Dauss to have tripled with one out.]

CHHL D — “Detroit came back with one [in the eighth], Dauss getting a triple.”

SL — Nothing at all.

TSN — Nothing at all.

Ninth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run

DFP — “Heilmann singled off Russell’s talons and nearly crippled him for life. Young fanned, but McKee doubled, scoring Heilmann, and Dauss dumped a Texas Leaguer in right. Vitt struck out and then Bush lifted the foul [that was caught by Schalk to end the game].”

DN — Nothing at all.

DT — “There was a flicker in the ninth, but Bush ended the game by fouling to Schalk.”

DJ — Nothing at all.

CHT — Nothing at all.

CHEX — “Russell was unable to handle Heilmann’s grounder, which was later followed by a double by McKee, and one run scored.”

CHHL D — “In the Tigers half [of the ninth] Russell was unable to knock down Heilmann’s grounder in time to get his man and the runner scored on McKee’s double.”

SL — Nothing at all.

TSN — Nothing at all.

SUMMARY of the 9 runs scored by the Tigers

1 (Second Inning) — Heilmann scored on a 1-RBI double by Kavanagh.

2 (Third Inning) — Burns scored (see below).

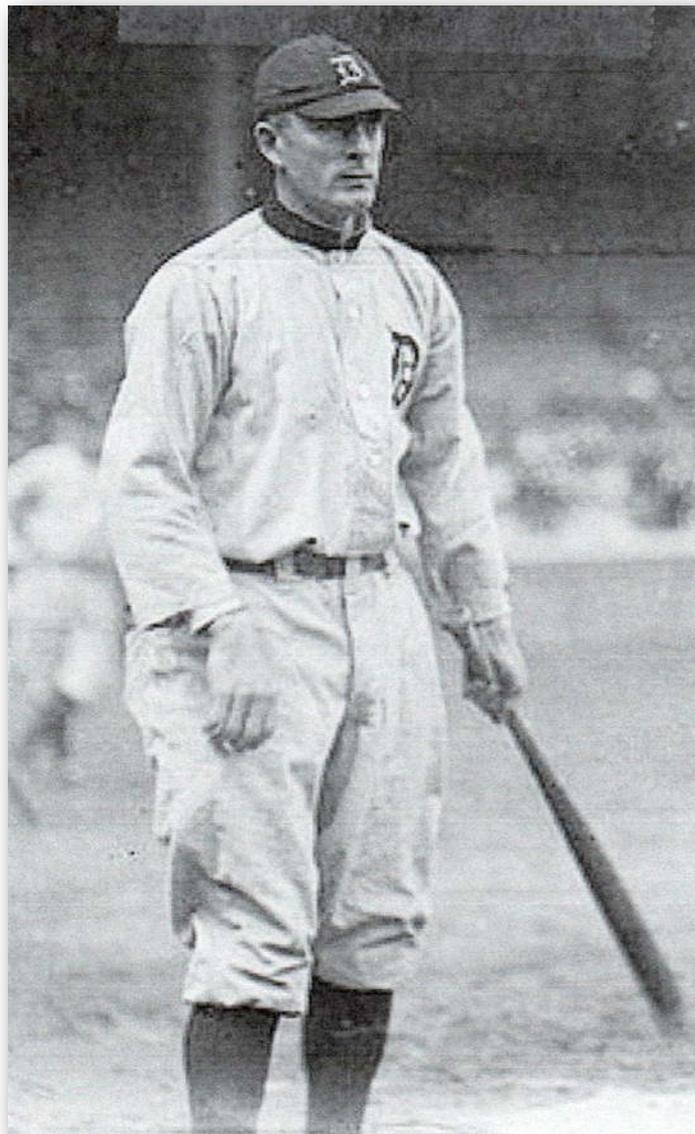
3 (Third Inning) — Veach scored (see below).

4 (Third Inning) — Heilmann scored (see below).

5 (Third Inning) — Young scored (see below).

6 (Fourth Inning) — Dauss scored on a 1-RBI triple by Vitt.

7 (Fourth Inning) — Vitt scored on a 1-RBI sacrifice fly by Burns.



Bobby Veach

8 (Eighth Inning) — Dauss scored on a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk to Crawford.

9 (Ninth Inning) — Heilmann scored on a 1-RBI double by McKee.

COMMENT: From the above descriptions and the accompanying box scores and the official DBD sheets one can confidently deduce that the four third-inning runs were scored by Burns, Veach, Heilmann, and Young. Other pertinent information provided in the box scores and official DBD sheets includes the following:

* The error committed by shortstop Terry in the third inning was the only error of the game.

* Each of the four third-inning runs was unearned — Burns' run was unearned because he got on base via an error; the runs scored by Veach, Heilmann, and Young were unearned because they were scored after the third out would have been made except for the error that allowed Burns to get on base.

* None of the White Sox pitchers — including third-inning hurler Lefty Williams — threw a wild pitch or committed a balk.

* The Chicago catcher, Ray Schalk, did not permit any passed balls.

* None of the Tigers players — including the third-inning run scorers Burns, Veach, Heilmann, and Young — stole any bases.

Let's now consider the various possibilities that accommodate the available information to come up with reasonable scenarios for the four third-inning runs. Based on all the available evidence, here is what I come up with for Detroit's third inning:

* Bush was retired. [That Bush was the first batter in the third inning is required by the fact that Vitt was retired for the third out in the second inning. That Bush was retired (either as a batter or as a base-runner) is required by the fact that he did not score any runs in the game.]

* Burns was safe on an error (by the shortstop Terry). [That Burns was the player who reached base via the fielding error is required by the fact that he must have first gotten on base so as to have later scored and that he was not included in the listing of the players who got third-inning hits. Alternatively, Bush could have gotten on base via Terry's fielding error and then subsequently put out as Burns was safe on a fielder's choice.]

* Crawford was retired. [That Crawford was retired in the third inning is required by the fact that he did not score any runs in the game.]

So, at this point we have Burns on base with two outs. Here are all of the possible reasonable (i.e., not far-fetched) scenarios:

==> Veach doubles:

A. Burns scores (1 RBI for Veach); Veach on base:

==> Heilmann singles:

1. Veach scores (1 RBI for Heilmann); Heilmann on base:

==> Young singles:

(a) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Young); Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

(i) Young scores (1 RBI for Baker).

(ii) Young advances to third (0 RBI for Baker).

(iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.

(iv) Baker out on basepath.

(b) Heilmann advances to third; Heilmann and Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

(i) Heilmann and Young score (2 RBIs for Baker).

(ii) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Baker) and Young advances to third.

(iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.

(iv) Baker out on basepath.

2. Veach advances to third base; Veach and Heilmann on base:

==> Young singles:

- a) Veach scores (1 RBI for Young);
Heilmann and Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

- (i) Heilmann and Young score (2 RBIs for Baker).
- (ii) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Baker) and Young advances to third.
- (iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.
- (iv) Baker out on basepath.

- b) Veach and Heilmann score (2 RBIs for Young); Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

- (i) Young scores (1 RBI for Baker).
- (ii) Young advances to third (0 RBI for Baker).
- (iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.
- (iv) Baker out on basepath.

- B. Burns advances to third base; Burns and Veach on base:

==> Heilmann singles:

- 1. Burns scores (1 RBI for Heilmann);
Veach and Heilmann on base:

==> Young singles:

- a) Veach scores (1 RBI for Young);
Heilmann and Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

- (i) Heilmann and Young score (2 RBIs for Baker).
- (ii) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Baker) and Young advances to third.



Harry Heilmann

- (iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.
- (iv) Baker out on basepath.

- b) Veach and Heilmann score (2 RBIs for Young); Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

- (i) Young scores (1 RBI for Baker).
- (ii) Young advances to third (0 RBI for Baker).

(iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.

(iv) Baker out on basepath.

2. Burns and Veach score (2 RBIs for Heilmann); Heilmann on base:

==> Young singles:

a) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Young); Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

(i) Young scores (1 RBI for Baker).

(ii) Young advances to third (0 RBI for Baker).

(iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.

(iv) Baker out on basepath.

(b) Heilmann advances to third; Heilmann and Young on base:

==> Baker singles:

(i) Heilmann and Young score (2 RBIs for Baker).

(ii) Heilmann scores (1 RBI for Baker) and Young advances to third.

(iii) Young scores on an attempted double steal with Baker, Baker being caught stealing after Young crossed the plate, Young not getting credit for a stolen base in accordance with the official scoring rules.

(iv) Baker out on basepath.

As indicated in each of the above scenarios, Baker was retired on the basepath for the third out after reaching first on his single. [That Baker was retired on the basepath in the third inning is required by the fact that Dauss led off the fourth

inning with a single.] Okay, let's now complete the "SUMMARY of the 9 runs scored by the Tigers" by adding the RBI possibilities for the four third-inning runs:

2 (Third Inning) — Burns scored on a 1-RBI double by Veach OR on a 1-RBI or 2-RBI single by Heilmann.

3 (Third Inning) — Veach scored on a 1-RBI or 2-RBI single by Heilmann OR on a 1-RBI or 2-RBI single by Young.

4 (Third Inning) — Heilmann scored on a 1-RBI or 2-RBI single by Young OR on a 2-RBI single by Baker.

5 (Third Inning) — Young scored on a 1-RBI or 2-RBI single by Baker OR on a 0-RBI "steal" of home.

Therefore, for the third inning, the runs batted in numbers are:

Veach — zero OR one (Burns).

Heilmann — zero OR one (Veach OR Burns) OR two (Burns and Veach).

Young — zero OR one (Veach OR Heilmann) OR two (Veach and Heilmann).

Baker — zero OR one (Heilmann OR Young) OR two (Heilmann and Young).

It is important to emphasize that the maximum number of RBIs for the four third-inning runs is four. And so, for the entire game, the runs batted in numbers are: Kavanagh 1, Veach? (0 or 1), Heilmann? (0 or 1 or 2), Young? (0 or 1 or 2), Baker? (0 or 1 or 2), Vitt 1, Burns 1, Crawford 1, McKee 1.

The fact that Neft shows a single-specific full-season RBI number for Baker (6), Heilmann (73), Veach (91), and Young (45) indicates that he and his research staff either found a source that provided complete details for the four third-inning runs that permitted their assignment of single-specific RBI numbers for each of these players in the game OR they chose some scenario to arrive at single-specific RBI numbers for each of these players in the game. Unfortunately, the Day-By-Day records ("ICI sheets") compiled by Neft and his research team are no longer

extant.¹³ Along that line, it is also mentioned that Lanigan also shows a single-specific full-season RBI number for Heilmann (76) and Veach (88).^{4(a)} And similarly regrettable, none of Lanigan's GBG RBI records are extant.¹⁴ Thus at the present time, it does not seem likely that the "either-or" RBI situation is resolvable.

So, how should the "either-or" RBI situation be dealt with by the various providers of baseball statistics?

First of all, it is pointed out that the Elias Sports Bureau, the official statistician for Major League Baseball, does not consider any Runs Batted In statistics before the 1920 season. Therefore, for example, in the most recent (2015) edition of *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*, for the subject of RBIs, the following heading is given (page 25):

"RUNS BATTED IN (Since 1920 — Prior seasons not compiled on official scores)."

Accordingly, the first RBI record mentioned (page 25) is "Most Seasons Leading Major Leagues." The record is shown as:

4 Babe Ruth, AL-NY 1920-1921, 1923, 1926.

Lou Gehrig, AL-NY 1927-1928, 1931, 1934.

Hank Aaron, NL-MIL/ATL 1957, 1960, 1963, 1966.

Thus excluded is Babe Ruth's ML-leading RBI 1919 season (113 RBIs with the AL Boston Red Sox), which, if included, would give The Bambino five seasons of being the ML RBI leader and sole possession of this record.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ [It is mentioned that Hy Myers of the Brooklyn Dodgers was the NL RBI champion in 1919 with 72 runs batted in (according to Lanigan) or 73 RBIs (according to Neft)].^{4,5} Furthermore, in the back-of-the-book section for "ANNUAL BATTING LEADERS," the sub-section "RUNS BATTED IN" (page 382), *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* lists the players who annually lead each league in RBIs beginning with the 1920 season.

So, from the perspective of the Elias Sports Bureau, there is no "either-or" RBI issue because there were no RBIs recorded officially during the



Ralph Young

Deadball Era. And while there were no RBIs recorded officially prior to 1920, there were, of course, RBIs before 1920 — because there were runs scored, there were necessarily runs batted in (officially recorded or not). Furthermore, it seems reasonable that baseball fans and historians would like to know the pre-1920 RBI statistics — even if they were not officially recorded at the time — particularly who holds the various RBI records for players, teams, innings, games, seasons, careers, etc. Thus, efforts have been made over the years to ascertain the pre-1920 RBI statistics.¹⁸

Presently, two highly popular Internet sites for baseball stats are Baseball-Reference.com and Retrosheet.org. Each of these websites utilizes Pete Palmer's database of baseball statistics for the full-season statistics on their "player profile" pages. Furthermore, Baseball-Reference

provides its statistical information to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for use in its publications, such as the annual *Baseball Hall of Fame Yearbook*.¹⁹ Likewise for the on-line *SABR/Baseball Reference Encyclopedia* by the Society for American Baseball Research. So, the salient question is: How will the “either-or” RBI numbers be handled in Palmer’s database of baseball statistics — and subsequently in the users of Palmer’s database of baseball statistics? In order to address this, I provided the penultimate draft of this manuscript — including the Appendix with all of the runs-scored and runs-batted-in details — to Gary Gillette and Pete Palmer for their review.²⁰ After evaluating all of the evidence (and also taking into account that Retrosheet had already concurred 100% with my GBG results for the runs scored and batted in), Palmer concurred with my numbers.²¹

Other current and often-used sources of baseball statistics are the hard-copy media guides published annually by each of the Major League teams. The pre-1920 RBI stats contained in these official team media guides are provided by STATS. So the critical question is, “How will STATS treat the ‘either-or’ RBI numbers?” In order to find out, I provided the penultimate draft of this article to Don Zminda, the Vice President and Director of Research for STATS, for his review and recommendations.²²

Yet another source of baseball stats is the official website of Major League Baseball, MLB.com. Since the Elias Sports Bureau, the official statistician for Major League Baseball, does not recognize any RBI numbers prior to 1920 — because RBIs were not officially recorded until 1920 — MLB.com must get its pre-1920 RBI numbers from another source. As it has developed, back “probably in 2001 or so,” MLB.com obtained Pete Palmer’s database of baseball statistics and since then “has not done much with the data besides adding current years,” according to Pete Palmer and John Thorn.²³⁻²⁴ Thus, MLB.com’s pre-1920 RBI numbers are from Palmer’s old database and do not reflect any changes/corrections subsequently

made by Palmer, such as Babe Ruth’s AL-leading RBI total for the 1919 season — MLB.com still shows Ruth with 114 RBIs even though The Bambino (according to my research) actually batted in 113 runs, the number now incorporated in Palmer’s database of baseball statistics — and currently shown on Baseball-Reference.com.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Similarly, MLB.com still shows Lou Gehrig’s 1934 Triple Crown RBI total as 165 even though The Iron Horse (according to my research) actually accumulated 166 runs batted in, the number now incorporated in both (a) Palmer’s database — and presently given on Baseball-Reference.com — AND (b) The Elias Sports Bureau’s database — and (since 2012) stated in *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*.²⁵ In order to find out MLB.com’s perspective on the “either-or” RBI issue, I also provided the penultimate draft of this manuscript to Cory Schwartz, MLB.com’s the Vice President with the responsibility for the statistics on the MLB.com website, for his review and recommendations.²⁶

Returning now to the query asked above about how should the “either-or” RBI situation be dealt with, I also posed this question on SABR-L. Here’s the feedback that was offered:

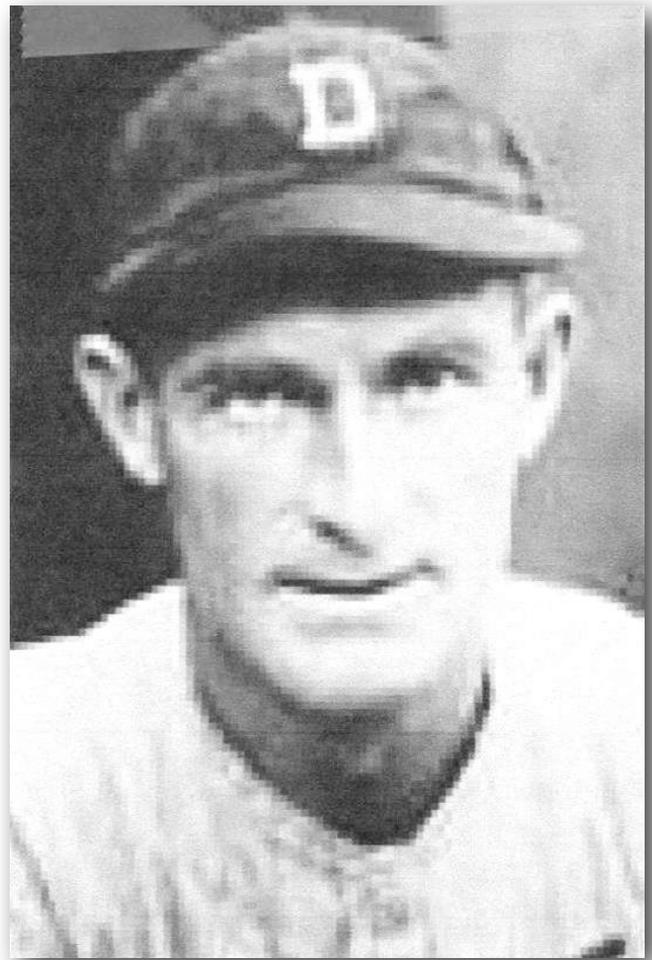
- * John Thorn — “Following a policy Pete Palmer and I established for *Total Baseball*, where we had incomplete data that could not be resolved, we presented the season total in italics, and explained our intent in the key to the stat tables.”²⁷
- * Rich Moser — “... my two cents as a researcher is that I might like to see (in a statistical compilation) just one number in that RBI column for each season, probably the minimum number we’re sure about, and then some sort of dingbat that indicates ‘possibly more than this number.’”²⁸
- * Bob Sawyer — Following up on Moser’s SABR-L posting, wrote, “This is exactly right. Every other approach would risk having more RBI than runs scored, or some similar absurdity. This way the team total can be the sum of the player totals, and the dingbat means that these don’t add up to

the team due to incompleteness of play-by-play data. For individual players, the dingbat means, as it does now, that due to incompleteness of play-by-play information we cannot state whether or not there were even more of these events.”²⁹

These guidances are in complete harmony with the approach being taken by Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette for incorporating corrections of RBI numbers in Palmer’s database of baseball statistics.³

Moving on now to some other items that surface from my research, inspection of Table 2 reveals that my RBI numbers are different from the corresponding RBI numbers claimed by Neft for 15 of the 34 players on the 1916 Detroit Tigers team. Focusing on the nine players who were regular field position performers [Baker (61 games), Burns (135), Bush (145), Cobb (145), Crawford (100), Heilmann (136), Stanage (94), Veach (150), Vitt (153), and Young (153)], it is seen that my RBI numbers and Neft’s RBI numbers are different for seven of the players. The largest absolute-value difference is five RBIs (Crawford). In this regard it is worth reiterating that I assembled rock-solid evidence in support of my GBG runs-batted-in numbers — and the derived full-season RBI numbers — for each player from the game accounts given in multiple independent newspapers (except for Baker, Heilmann, Veach, and Young) AND that my supporting documentation (provided in the Appendix) was independently reviewed by and concurred with by Retrosheet.³⁰⁻³¹ In contrast, there is no such supporting documentation extant for the full-season RBI numbers claimed by Neft.¹³

An RBI topic of particular interest to me is ascertaining the longest Consecutive Games RUN Batted In (CGRUNBI) streak achieved by each player in a given season during the Deadball Era. When I commenced (in 2014) my research on the 1916 Detroit Tigers there was no source of complete RBI numbers on a Game-By-Game basis. While the retrosheet.org website did have a box score for each of Detroit’s 155 games, RBI statistics were not included for 80



Del Baker

games. Thus, my research has now provided the RBI numbers to fill in all of the RBI blanks (except for Baker, Heilmann, Veach, and Young for the July 23 game) in the Retrosheet box score file (and derived player daily files). Examination of the complete GBG RBI information now available on retrosheet.org (and also provided in the Appendix) yields the CGRUNBI results for the players on the 1916 Tigers. Bobby Veach emerged with the longest CGRUNBI streak — a 7-gamer. Next in line behind Veach was Burns with a 5-CGRUNBI streak. Veach’s 7-CGRUNBI streak in 1916 currently ranks second among the team leaders from the twelve Deadball Era teams I have thus far researched, Fred Merkle of the 1912 New York Giants and Chief Wilson of the 1912 Pittsburgh Pirates having amassed CGRUNBI streaks of eight games; see Table 3. Also for comparison, it is pointed out that, according to the 2015 edition of *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*, the players with the longest

CGRUNBI streaks since 1920 are Ray Grimes of the 1922 Chicago Cubs (17 games) and Tris Speaker of the 1928 Philadelphia Athletics (14 games). The record for the longest CGRUNBI streak by Detroit Tigers players since 1920 is 12 games — by Mickey Cochrane in 1934 and by Rudy York in 1940.³²

CONCLUDING REMARKS

To wrap up Part 8 of the title series it is of interest to take a look at the effect of my research on the cumulative RBI numbers for the players who were with the Tigers in each of the four seasons from 1916 through 1919. As it turns out, there were eleven such players — Bernie Boland, Donie Bush, Ty Cobb, Hooks Dauss, Babe Ellison, Harry Heilmann, Bill James, Willie Mitchell, Oscar Stanage, Bobby Veach, and Ralph Young. Table 4 presents the pertinent RBI statistics for these players.

As can be seen, my cumulative RBI numbers are different from Neft's cumulative RBI numbers for ten of the eleven players. The median absolute-value difference is four RBIs (Boland). The greatest absolute-value differences are nine RBIs (Bush), 7-12 (Veach), 7-9 (Stanage), and 6-11 (Heilmann). The absolute-value differences between my cumulative RBI numbers and Lanigan's cumulative RBI numbers for the four players for whom Lanigan's RBI numbers are presently available are eleven RBIs (Bush), 3-5 (Cobb), two or three (Heilmann), and 5-10 (Veach).^{4(a)}

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I gratefully thank the following people for their tremendous help and cooperation in providing me with scans and photocopies of game accounts from newspapers to which they had access: Pete Elwell, Greg Hilton, Mark Moore, Dave Newman, Richard Smiley, and Gary Stone. I also thank Cliff Blau, Gary Gillette, Cassidy Lent, Rich Moser, Pete Palmer, Tom Ruane, Bob Sawyer, Dave Smith, and John Thorn for their guidance and inputs.

The next issue of The Inside Game will feature Herm Krabbenhoft's analysis of runs scored by the 1916 Detroit Tigers.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 3 — The Players on the 1919 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, No. 4 (September 2014), 11.
2. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 5 — The Players on the 1918 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, No. 2 (April 2015), 12.
3. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 6 — The Players on the 1917 Tigers and White Sox," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, No. 5 (November 2015), 1.
4. Ernie Lanigan compiled Runs Batted In statistics *unofficially* from 1907 through 1919, his findings having been reported annually in various publications, such as *The Sporting News*, *Baseball Magazine*, *Sporting Life*, *The (New York) Press*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and others. Lanigan's RBI numbers were also used in several books, such as (a) *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball* by J.G. Taylor Spink (St. Louis: The Sporting News, 1951, and subsequent editions published in 1958, 1961, 1968, 1971, 1981, and 1990), and (b) *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball* by Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson (New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1951, and subsequent editions published in 1956, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979).
5. David S. Neft directed a research effort in the mid-1960s from which an independent determination of RBI statistics for the 1891-1919 period was achieved, the results of which were first reported in *The Baseball Encyclopedia* by David S. Neft (Director of Research, Information Concepts Incorporated), Lee Allen (Historian, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum), and Robert Markel (Executive Editor, Macmillan Company) (New York: Macmillan, 1969, and subsequent editions published in 1974, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1996).
6. Veach's RBI numbers for 1919 (97) and 1918 (84) are currently shown on Baseball-Reference.com (accessed on September 3, 2015). Veach's revised RBI number for 1917 (110) will be shown once Palmer's updated database of baseball statistics are incorporated in Baseball-Reference's database, probably sometime after mid-November 2015.
7. (a) Herm Krabbenhoft, emails to Tom Ruane and Dave Smith, August 7 and 18, 2015; (b) Tom

- Ruane, email to Herm Krabbenhoft, August 18, 2015.
8. Gary Gillette and Pete Palmer, *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2008).
 9. David S. Neft, Richard M. Cohen, and Michael L. Neft, *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007).
 10. John Thorn, Phil Birnbaum, and Bill Deane, *Total Baseball* (New York: Sport Publishing Media, 2004).
 11. Bill James, John Dewan, Don Zminda, Jim Callis, and Neil Munro, *Bill James presents ... STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* (Morton Grove, Illinois: STATS, Inc., 2000).
 12. Jeanine Bucek (Editorial Director), Traci Cothran, Bill Deane, Bob Kerler, Maria Massey, Bob Tieman, Richard Topp, and Ken Samelson (Statistical Director), *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (New York: Macmillan, 1996).
 13. Telephone conversation with David S. Neft on June 25, 2013. The only existing records of Neft's game-by-game RBI data for the the 1905-1919 seasons were destroyed in a warehouse fire.
 14. In an August 24, 2013 email to Tim Wiles, Manager of the Giamatti Research Center of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, I asked if there were any collections of Lanigan's RBI reports and/or compilations. On August 29, 2013, Tim responded — "Neither I nor anyone else here has seen any Lanigan RBI material. We've gone through most of our collections extensively at this point, so I'm inclined to conclude it isn't here." Previously, on August 6, 2013, I wrote to Bill Deane, a former senior researcher at the Baseball Hall of Fame Library, about the availability of a "complete" collection of Lanigan's RBI stats for the 1907-1919 seasons. In an August 6, 1913 email to me, Bill replied, "Unfortunately, I have never seen any of Lanigan's RBI compilations. I was told they were often published in an off-season edition of TSL or TSN, but I've never come across them." Likewise, I also wrote (on August 6, 2013) to Steve Gietschier, the former editor of *The Complete Baseball Record Book* published by The Sporting News, about "comprehensive lists of Lanigan's RBI stats for each season from 1907 through 1919" that were used by The Sporting News in publishing *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball* (see Note 4). Steve replied that to the best of his knowledge, TSN "did not have any raw records compiled by Lanigan." I also wrote to others, including John Thorn, Pete Palmer, and Lyle Spatz about comprehensive compilations of Lanigan's RBI statistics; neither was aware of any. So, it seems, regrettably, that whatever unpublished full-season and/or game-by-game collections of RBI stats which were generated by Lanigan have not survived. Thus far, I have been able to find compilations of Lanigan's RBI stats for the following seasons: 1907 AL and NL (*The Sporting News* and *Sporting Life*); 1911 AL and NL (*Chicago Tribune*); 1912 AL and NL (*The Sporting News* and *Sporting Life*); 1913 AL (*Chicago Tribune*, *The Sporting News*, *Sporting Life*, and *Baseball Magazine*); 1914 Chicago White Sox (*Chicago Tribune*); 1916 NL (*The Sporting News*); 1917 AL (*Baseball Magazine*); 1918 AL (*Detroit Free Press*); 1919 AL and NL (*The Sporting News*).
 15. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Babe Ruth's RBI Record with the Boston Red Sox (1914-1919)," retrosheet.org (Features: Research Papers).
 16. Herm Krabbenhoft, "The Accurate RBI Record of Babe Ruth," *The Baseball Research Journal* (Spring, 2013), 37.
 17. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 1 — The Players on the 1919 Boston Red Sox," *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, Number 1 (February 2014), 1.
 18. An accounting of how pre-1920 season RBIs have been compiled is published in the appendix to this article.
 19. The Hall of Fame is aware of the revisions that I advocate for the career RBI totals of Honus Wagner and Babe Ruth and will adopt them in the next edition of the *National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Yearbook*.
 20. Herm Krabbenhoft, email on September 7, 2015 to Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette.
 21. Pete Palmer, emails on September 8, 2015 and November 6, 2015 to Herm Krabbenhoft.
 22. Herm Krabbenhoft, email on September 7, 2015 to Don Zminda.
 23. Pete Palmer, email on March 18, 2014 to Herm Krabbenhoft: Palmer wrote that MLB.com obtained Palmer's data base of baseball statistics "probably in 2001 or so" and that "MLB has not done much with the data besides adding in current years."
 24. John Thorn, email on July 16, 2012 to Herm Krabbenhoft: Thorn wrote that "mlb.com's data is Pete Palmer's old *Total Baseball* database, with some tinkering by unknown hands."
 25. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Lou Gehrig's RBI Record: 1923-1939," *The Baseball Research Journal* (Fall 2002), 10.
 26. Herm Krabbenhoft, email on September 7, 2015 to Cory Schwartz.

27. John Thorn, email on September 10, 2015 to Herm Krabbenhoft.
28. Rich Moser, SABR-L posting on September 20, 2015.
29. Bob Sawyer, SABR-L posting on September 22, 2015.
30. Herm Krabbenhoft, emails to Tom Ruane and Dave Smith on August 7 and 18, 2015.
31. Tom Ruane, email to Herm Krabbenhoft on August 18, 2015.
32. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Discovering and Correcting Errors in Baseball's Official Records for Detroit Tigers Players — Runs and RBIs," presentation given at the Detroit SABR chapter meeting, October 27, 2012.
33. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for Players of the Deadball Era: Part 2 — The Players on the 1906 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, No. 3 (June 2014), 4.
34. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for Players of the Deadball Era: Part 4 — The Players

on the 1912 Braves, Cubs, Giants, and Pirates," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, Number 1 (February 2015), 5.

35. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 7 — The Players on the 1917 New York Giants," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, No. 3 (June 2015), 22.

TABLE 1. RBI NUMBERS FOR DETROIT TIGERS TEAM LEADERS (1917-1919) ACCORDING TO LANIGAN, NEFT, AND KRABbenhOFT.

Year	Player	RBIs (Lanigan)	RBIs (Neft)	RBIs (Krabbenhoft)
1917	Bobby Veach	115	103	110-114
1918	Bobby Veach	74	78	84
1919	Bobby Veach	98	101	97

TABLE 2. RUNS-BATTED-IN NUMBERS FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1916 DETROIT TIGERS

Player	RBIs (Krabbenhoft)	RBIs (Neft)	\Delta [§]	Player	RBIs (Krabbenhoft)	RBIs (Neft)	\Delta
Del Baker	7 or 8 or 9	6	?	Earl Hamilton	0	2	2
(George Boehler)	0	0	—	George Harper	5	3	2
Bernie Boland	3	2	1	Harry Heilmann	77 or 78 or 79	73	?
George Burns	73	73	—	Bill James	2	1	1
Donie Bush	33	34	(1)	(Deacon Jones)	0	0	—
Ty Cobb	68	68	—	Marty Kavanagh	4	5	(1)
Harry Coveleski	7	7	—	(Grover Lowdermilk)	0	0	—
Sam Crawford	47	42	5	(George Maisel)	0	0	—
George Cunningham	4	3	1	Red McKee	6	4	2
Jack Dalton	0	0	—	(Bill McTigue)	0	0	—
Hooks Dauss	5	5	—	Willie Mitchell	3	3	—
Jean Dubuc	9	7	2	Tubby Spencer	9	10	(1)
Ben Dyer	1	1	—	Oscar Stanage	34	30	4
Howard Ehmke	1	1	—	(Billy Sullivan)	0	0	—
Babe Ellison	1	1	—	Bobby Veach	89 or 90	91	(?)
(Eric Erickson)	0	0	—	Ossie Vitt	42	42	—
Frank Fuller	1	1	—	Ralph Young	42 or 43 or 44	45	(?)

NOTE: A player whose name is enclosed in parentheses indicates that the player had zero RBIs and ten or fewer at bats.

§ The |\Delta| column gives the absolute-value difference between my RBI number and Neft's RBI number; an entry enclosed in parentheses indicates that my RBI number is less than Neft's RBI number; a question mark (?) indicates that there is not a definitive absolute-value difference between my RBI number and Neft's RBI number.

TABLE 3. THE PLAYER LONGEST CGRUNBI STREAK FOR SELECTED TEAMS FROM THE DEADBALL ERA.

Year	Team	Player	RBI's	Longest CGRUNBI Streak	Reference [†]
1906	DET	Ty Cobb	41	5	33
1912	BOS-NL	Ben Houser	59	5	34
1912	CHI-NL	Jimmy Archer	61	6	34
"	"	Joe Tinker	77	"	"
"	"	Heinie Zimmerman	104	"	"
1912	NY-NL	Fred Merkle	88	8	34
1912	PIT	Chief Wilson	94	8	34
1916	DET	Bobby Veach	89 or 90	7	this work
1917	CHI-AL	Joe Jackson	81-83	7	3
1917	DET	Ty Cobb	106-108	5	3
"	"	Harry Heilmann	85-88	"	"
1917	NY-NL	Heinie Zimmerman	100	6	35
1918	DET	Harry Heilmann	43	4	2
"	"	Bobby Veach	84	"	"
1919	BOS-AL	Babe Ruth	113	7	17
1919	DET	Bobby Veach	97	7	1

[†] Numeric entries in the reference column are numbers in the References and Notes list at the end of this article.

PLAYERS GO BACK TO ORIGINAL CLUBS

When the major leagues released all ball players last fall at the sudden termination of the season, this was done in order to prevent the athletes from suing the owners for the salary that would have come if the schedule had run its full length.

But nobody had the slightest idea that this meant that all warriors were free agents, tho some of the players tried to stall their way to freedom and higher salaries on the strength of it.

But to inform the public as well as the athletes the National Commission, in all the impressiveness of its dignity, has announced that no player is a free agent.

That was merely a matter of form and to make the records look right. The gentlemen's agreement was binding enough, but not legal.

Toledo News-Bee, January 8, 1919

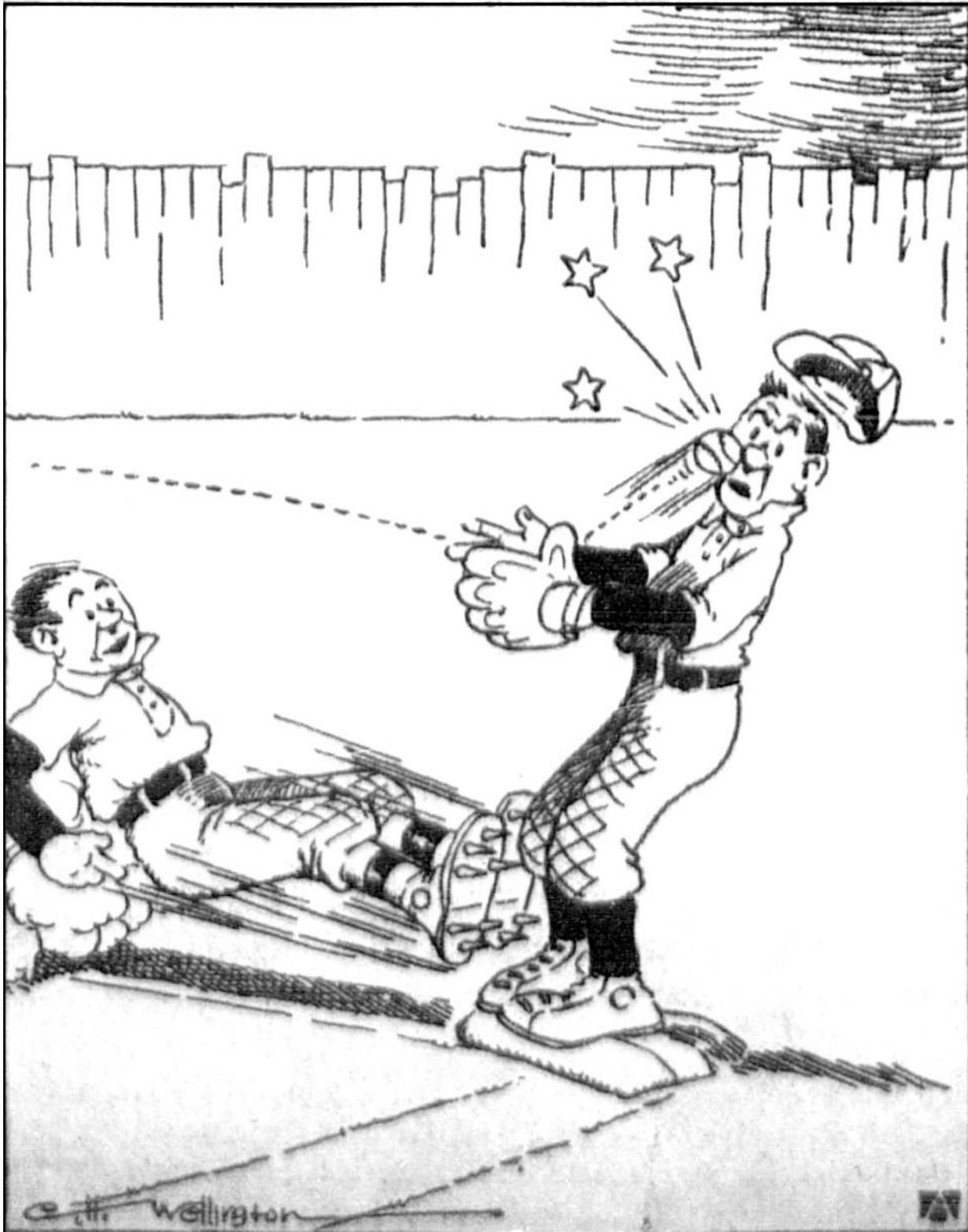


The Spokane Press, June 8, 1907

**TABLE 4. CUMULATIVE RBI STATISTICS
FOR SELECTED PLAYERS FROM THE 1916-1919 TIGERS.**

Player	Year	RBI (Lanigan)	RBI (Neft)	RBI (Krabbenhof)
Bernie Boland	1916	?	2	3
	1917	?	2	3
	1918	?	2	4
	1919	?	4	4
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	10	14
Donie Bush	1916	34	34	33
	1917	22	24	23
	1918	26	22	26
	1919	22	26	33
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	104	106	115
Ty Cobb	1916	67	68	68
	1917	108	102	106-108
	1918	64	64	62
	1919	69	70	67
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	308	304	303-305
Hooks Dauss	1916	?	5	5
	1917	?	2	0
	1918	?	11	12
	1919	?	14	13
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	32	30
Babe Ellison	1916	?	1	1
	1917	?	4	4
	1918	?	2	3
	1919	?	11	13
	TOTAL (191-1919)	?	18	21
Harry Heilmann	1916	76	73	77 or 78 or 79
	1917	84	86	85-88
	1918	44	39	43
	1919	95	93	92
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	299	291	297-302
Bill James	1916	?	1	2
	1917	?	2	1
	1918	?	0	1
	1919	?	1	0
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	4	4
Willie Mitchell	1916	?	3	3
	1917	?	4	4
	1918	?	0	0
	1919	?	1	0
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	8	7
Oscar Stange	1916	?	30	34
	1917	?	30	30
	1918	?	14	16
	1919	?	15	16 or 17 or 18
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	89	96 or 97 or 98
Bobby Veach	1916	88	91	89 or 90
	1917	115	103	110-114
	1918	74	78	84
	1919	98	101	97
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	375	373	380-385
Ralph Young	1916	?	45	42 or 43 or 44
	1917	?	35	38
	1918	?	21	21
	1919	?	25	26
	TOTAL (1916-1919)	?	126	127 or 128 or 129

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



(Philadelphia) Evening Public Ledger, August 4, 1915 (Charles H. Wellington)

Editor's note: Charles H. "Duke" Wellington's early career included illustrations in the 1903 St. Louis Republican depicting events from recent baseball games. By the time of this panel he was an established cartoonist, creator of the long-running comic strip Pa's Son-In-Law and other regular comic features. And The Worst Is Yet To Come had a two year run, from 1913 to 1915.