



SABR Pictorial History Committee Newsletter

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HELLO AND GOODBYE

THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE A LOW-ON-SUBSTANCE, HIGH-ON-VISUALS FIRST TRY BY YOUR NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR. I WILL ASK SOME QUESTIONS TO DRAW RESPONSES FROM YOU ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, THAT WILL NO DOUBT SEND THE NEWSLETTER IN A DIFFERENT FUTURE DIRECTION. SO LOOK UPON THIS AS A DEVELOPING PRODUCT.

TOM SHIEBER DESERVES MORE THAN A FOND FAREWELL. TOM CREATED THE COMMITTEE BY GAINING BOARD APPROVAL IN 1994. HE HAS CHAIRED ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT NATIONAL CONVENTIONS; SOLICITED, INSTITUTED AND MONITORED OUR LARGEST PROJECT – THE COLLECTION OF AN IMAGE OF EVERY ‘CUP O’ COFFEE’ M.L. PLAYER; AND KEPT US ALL MOVING FORWARD. MEANWHILE, HE GOT HIMSELF INTO ALL KINDS OF WORK BY WINNING A SABR BOARD SEAT AND THEN MOVING TO COOPERSTOWN TO WORK FOR THE BB HALL OF FAME AS THEIR WEBMASTER. TOM HAS LABORED LONG AND HARD TO GET US ON OUR FEET, AND I THINK WE SHOULD BE READY SOON TO GO FOR THE EXTRA BASE. LET’S RAISE A LENS, A PENCIL, A PEN, OR A PAINTBRUSH TO TOM – HE ALWAYS OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES!




The 1924 Sacramento opening day ceremony was dedicated to Tom Shieber, who retired from the position of Chair only months before. As you can see they wished him ‘Success.’












As baseball becomes more 'globalized' baseball histories will be meshed, and we will all become part of a much larger soup, with ingredients from all parts of the planet. These locales all produce interesting images, photographs, art, and advertising, which will be presented on these pages over many issues. But very seldom will a picture tell a story perfectly. This, I think, is one of those. It tells the story of the love of Cuban baseball fans for Martin Dihigo. This is really more of a snapshot, a 4x5 print, which captures the jubilation of a chance encounter in Tropical Stadium in Havana. The photographer was probably as surprised and delighted as his subjects. Below is an unused ticket from a Tokyo Giants game last season.

GIANTS LIVE 2000

あなたも来な祭りや 三日月もない。



東京ドーム

伊藤ハムシリーズ セ・リーグ公式戦

東京ドーム

指定席 **B** ¥3,700

(入場前切り取り無効)

6月7日(水) 午後6時

巨人-阪神

1階席 1塁側 B067ブロック

20ゲート 07通路 46列 389番

6月 7日(水)

B

指定席

GIANTS LIVE

WE NEED HELP

John McMurray has been in charge of the photo cataloging project aimed at finding a picture for all the obscuranti - the players who barely appeared in the Majors - one at bat, 1/3 inning pitched, or establishing a similarly brief record. But John is overwhelmed and needs help.

John is looking for 3 volunteers. First, one who can log into the spreadsheet all information on player images submitted. The second would

serve as correspondent for the Committee, to thank all those who have submitted images, and keep us informed as to progress. And the third is need to answer requests for images which may come in to the Committee in a number of ways. This person would provide photocopies or other format images to researchers. But, we are just beginning, and will not be prepared to provide much until our efforts are harmonized. So -

CAN WE ... ?

PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE TO PROVIDE HISTORICAL (AND MAYBE INTERNATIONAL) PLAYER & TEAM VISUAL INFORMATION FOR PERPETUITY?

- Can we begin to pool our knowledge, bring together our lists, open our libraries, and unite our efforts to create THE baseball database, which I believe, after years of work, can become the first and finest resource for images of baseball players and teams. I do think this is the destiny of this Committee. It will be an ever-growing compilation for which we will always be thanked.

- We now have spreadsheets completed or in process for NY Clipper woodcuts, Harper's woodcuts, the pictorial contents of many books, the Police Gazette, the cup of coffee guys, the SABR Photo Archive, and much more. But all are stored and organized separately. Can we determine a way to unify these lists, and build that database as a repository for all future discoveries?

- The first question I am asked about the Committee by non-picture people: 'when is the picture encyclopedia going to be ready? We can't wait!' If we all put in the work together, we can build this resource.

ESTABLISH UNIFORM POLICIES FOR FILING IMAGES?

Perhaps we can adopt a format already in use, such as that used by the SABR Photo Archive

ESTABLISH USAGE GUIDELINES FOR THOSE REQUESTING IMAGES?

Describe volunteer's duties, and fee schedule to cover expenses.

DETERMINE A PHOTO REPRODUCTION/PUBLISHING POLICY FOR THE FUTURE?

The policy established by the SABR Photo Archive could work well for us. This is a legal issue.

BEGIN ACCUMULATING NEW PICTORIAL COLLECTIONS, SUCH AS

Cartoons

NY Daily News Sunday color photos

Guides (Tom Shieber is already working on this)

The Sporting News Premiums

Team Picture Packs sold at the ballpark

Team Yearbooks and scorecards

All books pictorial.

DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER TOPICS AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, OR ACTIVELY DEBATE THEM IN THESE PAGES? YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE HELPFUL.



Davey Jones in 1908.

It looks like a lot of work, and it is. But it is also our fun, and the best way for us to add to baseball lore. Feel free to volunteer for whatever project would please you most.

Remember, we do have lots of time!

EDITORIAL

In the world of art, photographs can be revered as aesthetic creations, worthy of equal consideration with painting and sculpture. Photographs as objects are displayed in galleries and museums. Photographs are celebrated in art books, museum catalogs, and in collectible reproduced series. Other images, found on posters, prints, and various other forms of ephemera have an established following in institutions of both history and art.

In the world of publishing, photographs are usually treated as second-class additions to a text. They are used as decoration, seldom used to explicate a text, but only as rudimentary eye relief. And though demeaned by many publishers and authors alike, they are nearly always required by book producers to make a volume "complete." Most sports publishers do not employ photography to its fullest, nor do they recognize aesthetic values in imagery, other than for "boosting sales." Photographic books are dismissed by pseudo-academics as "not real history."

Researchers have long understood how to

exploit imagery to its fullest. But, it is unfortunate that much of this information enters the historical flow without a footnote. For example, when it is demonstrated from a period photograph that the Brooklyn Robins' uniforms changed in 1910, it will be recorded as an historical fact, and printed as such. Subsequently, when asked for a reference for this fact, a textual reference will be given, and no mention at all will go the photo or the researcher who provided this information.

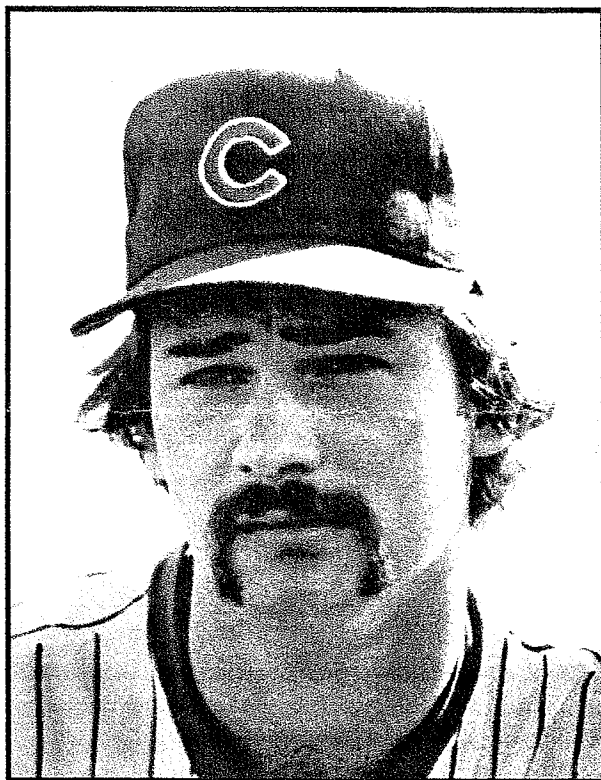
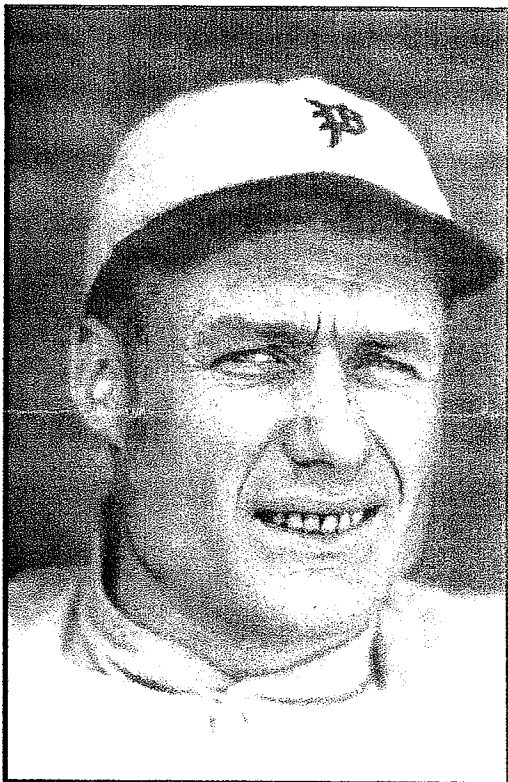
This short-sighted understanding and elementary use of historical imagery is a problem that we in SABR face, and this committee faces in particular. One of my goals in accepting the committee chair is to begin to educate the Society about the use of imagery, both in research and in publishing. I am quite sure I will be educated myself in aspects of baseball imagery that will come to light. Indeed, open minds among us will bring continuing benefits, and with persistence, we can open some less imaginative minds to new possibilities.

--Mark Rucker, Committee Chair

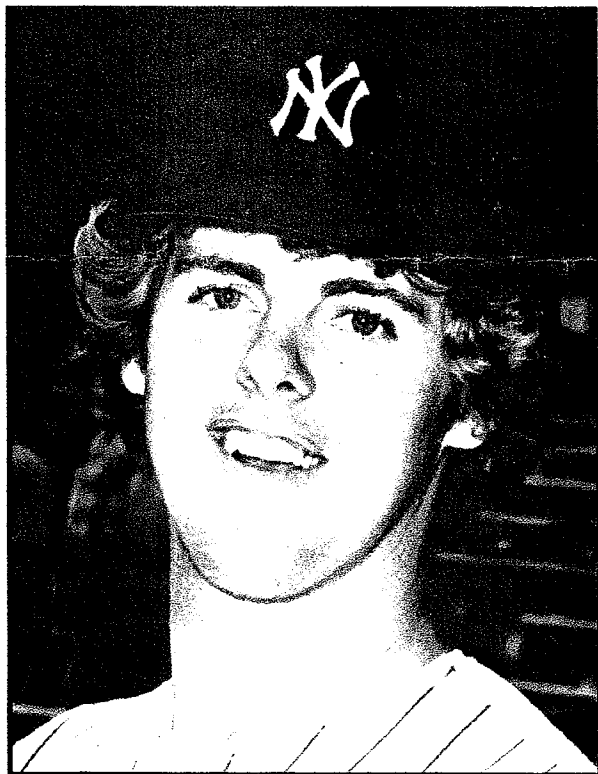
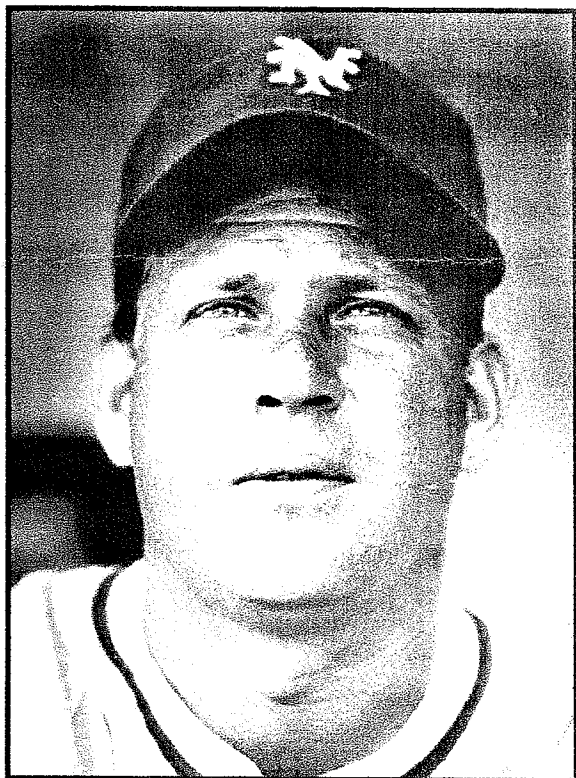


Newly discovered photo of Ty Cobb bustin' one around 1919.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?



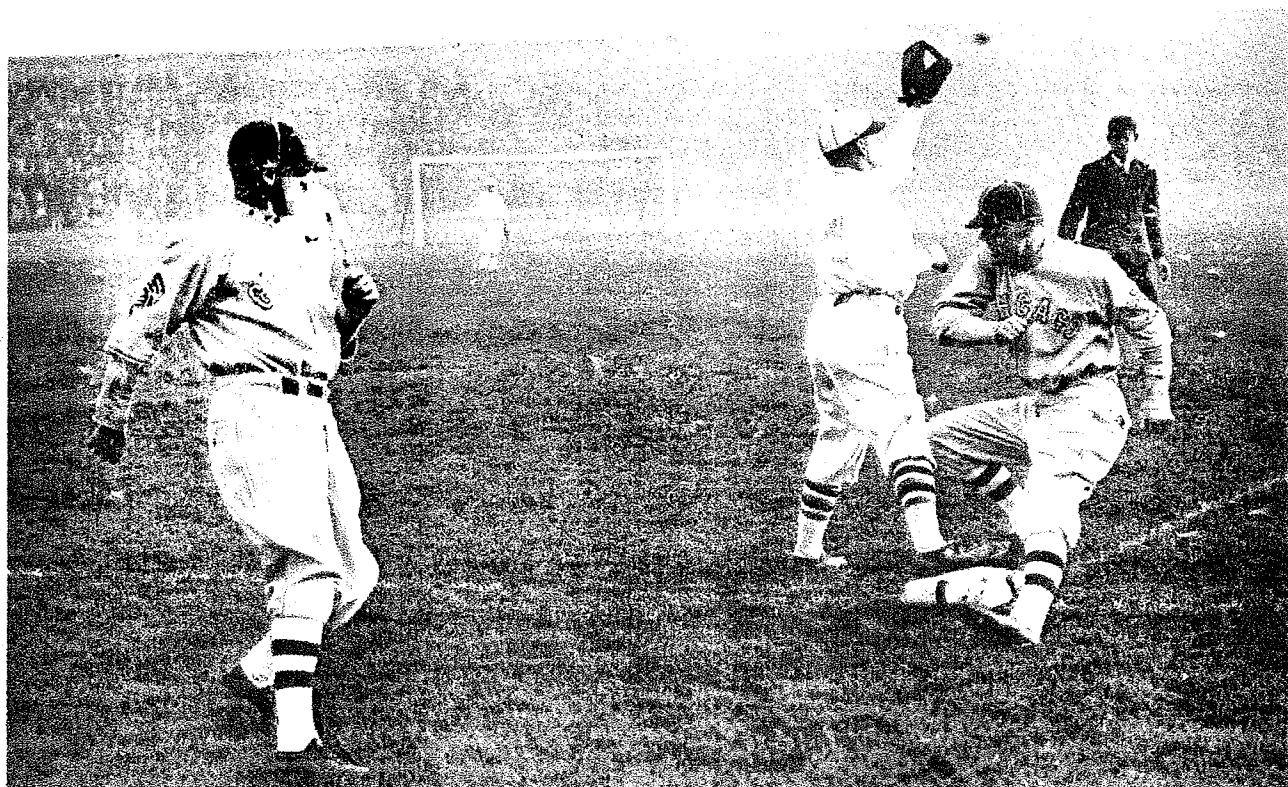
In our continuing effort to put names to faces, here are four to contemplate.
We would love to know who they are.

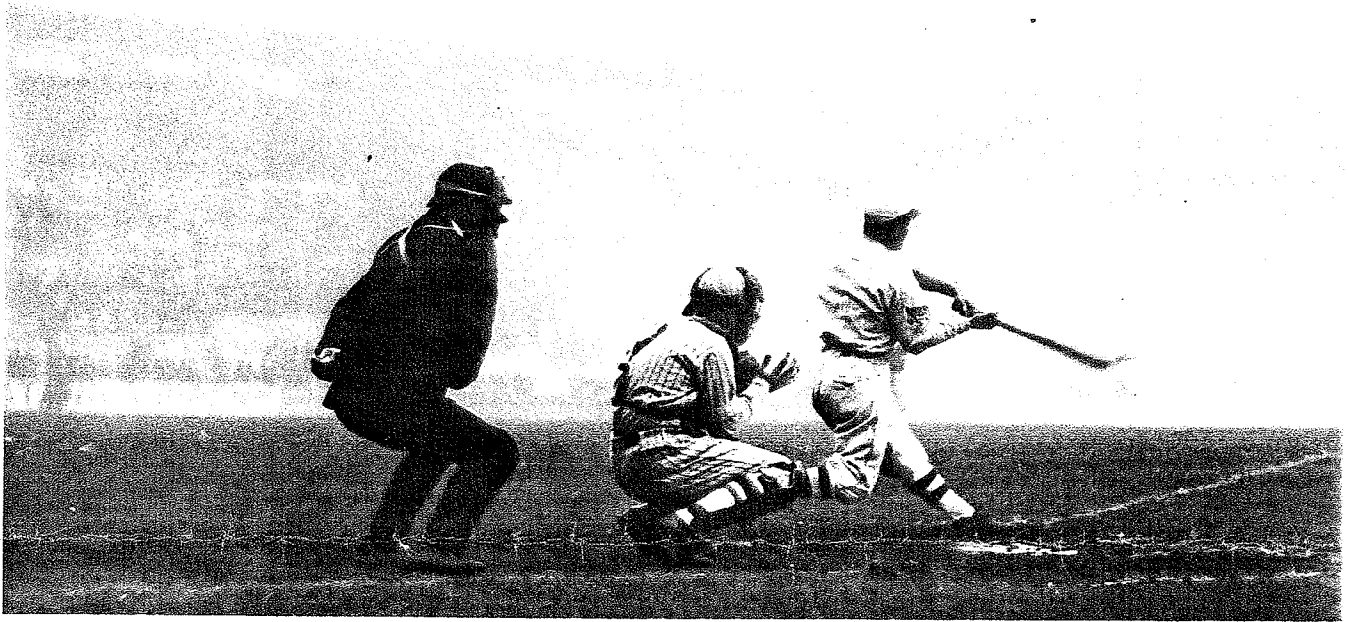


1924 WHITE SOX & GIANTS TOUR OF ENGLAND

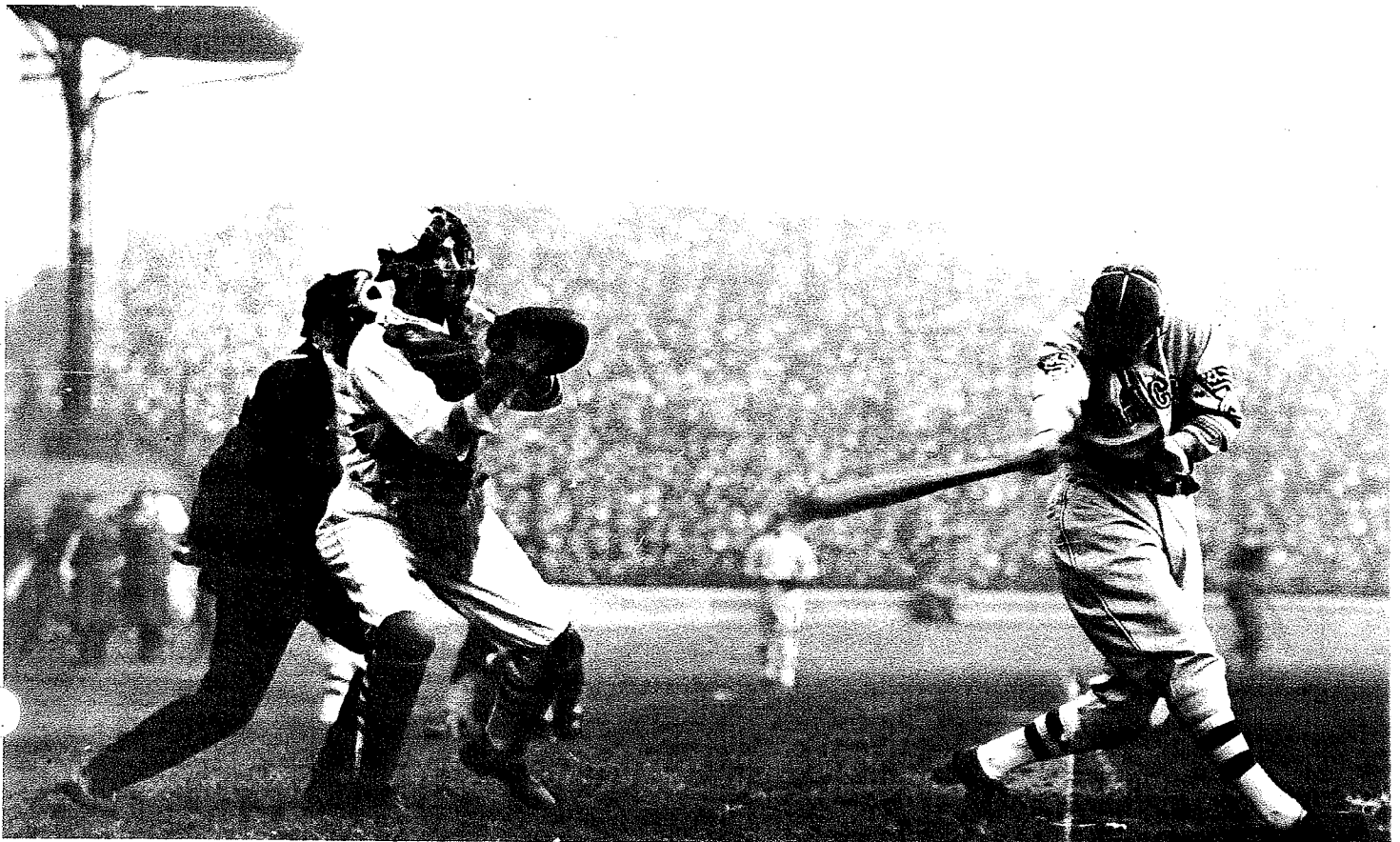


The White Sox and Giants traveled to England to play a series of misty games after the season of 1924. They found a curious Royal Family, a relatively indifferent English public, and an active news corps that followed them throughout the country. Within this corps was a group of photographers whose work gives us a different perspective on the game. This series of shots from the tour features lots of fog, close up action shots, and soccer goal posts standing ubiquitously in the background. The picture of the King and Queen above was taken by the LNA, London News Agency, as was the one below, where Muddy Ruel coaches first base while Bib Falk beats the throw back to Stuffy McInnis at first.





The English photographers were able to present a completely different view of a game to newspaper reading sports fans. Playing in a soccer stadium in Birmingham (above) this exhibition game was witnessed at quite a distance from action. The photographers also provided a different sensitivity and visual interest from their American counterparts. They seem to have looked for choreographed situations or critical moments, and by positioning themselves so close to the action were helped to deliver those kinds of images. Above, the picture was taken by F.R. Logan of Birmingham, with Johnny Mostil hitting and Hank Gowdy catching. The shot below, of Red Faber taking a pitcher's out as Harry Danning receives the pitch, was credited to the Sport and General Press Agency of London.



17

THIS CARD DOES NOT COUNT

with no one on Base

STOLEN BASE
EACH RUNNER STEALS ONE BASE

STOLEN BASE
EACH RUNNER STEALS ONE BASE

THIS CARD DOES NOT COUNT

17

4

BATTER STRUCK OUT

STRUCK OUT
BATTER

4

10

Advancing Batter to 1st and

Runners (If any) 2 Bases each

ONE BASE HIT

ONE BASE HIT

Advancing Batter to 1st and Runners (If any) 2 Bases each

10

11

Advancing Batter to 1st and

Runners (If any) 1 Base each

ONE BASE HIT

ONE BASE HIT

Advancing Batter to 1st and Runners (If any) 1 Base each

11

15

HOME RUN

HOME RUN

15

4

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STRUCK OUT
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