

SABR Pictorial History Committee Player Image Index Update

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By John McMurray, Project Coordinator,
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Many thanks to everyone who sent me copies of photos to add to the Player Image Index! In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of these committee members:

Tony Szabelski sent along a copy of a photo of Moonlight Graham that he obtained from Chisholm, Minnesota, and he also contributed a photo of Joe Evers from a 1913 issue of *The Sporting News*. Several committee members, including **Steve Gietschier** and **Bill Weiss**, also pointed out that three photos of Graham appear on page 26 of the September 20, 1996 issue of *Sports Collectors Digest*.

Stefan Csik sent a copy of a baseball card that he had from the 1970s which shows George Halas batting in a Yankee uniform. Several PHC Committee members also pointed out that Halas has a photo from his year with New York in *The Ultimate Baseball Book*, on p. 100 in most editions.

Tom Shieber, the chair of the PHC Committee, has contributed high-quality reproductions of several early-century players, including one of Bill Tozer from the May 2, 1908 issue of *The Sporting Life* and another of Henry Mathewson from the April 28, 1906 issue of the magazine.

Fred Schuld contributed many photos of players from the early part of the century, including one of Cap Anson from the June 8, 1905 issue of the Cleveland Press. According to the caption, Anson was in Cleveland and had gone out to Luna Park for a game where the Press photographer had coaxed him into putting on a Cleveland uniform. Anson would not, however, agree to put on a baseball cap even "for old time's sake," and he is shown in uniform holding a bat and wearing a top hat.

Ray Billbrough contributed a photo of George Halas fielding and tells me that it is an enlargement of a photograph on a postcard that he has had for many years.

Bill Weiss contributed several photos, including one of Halas from the waist up wearing his Yankee uniform from his autobiography *Halas By Halas*. The football Hall of Famer is also shown in the team photo of the 1920 Staley football team on the adjacent page, which Bill also included.

Marc Okkonen has contributed dozens of photos to the project. Some of his noteworthy contributions have been photos of John Dobbs, Arthur Rebel, and Ted Petosky. Marc has also contributed photos showing Jack Blott both as a University of Michigan player and coach.

The Committee is still actively seeking photos of all players who have ever played in the major leagues, particularly photos of players who played before 1950 and appeared in ten games or fewer. To reiterate, If you have any photos which could aid the Committee:

—Please make a copy of the photo(s), make a citation of when and where each photo appears, and send it to me at the address below. *I cannot stress enough the need for a complete citation:* in order that researchers may be able to locate the photo that you submit in the future, please include the name of the publication in which the photo appears, the title of any accompanying article, the date of the photo, the name of the photographer (if available), and any other relevant information. If you submit a copy of a baseball card (as many Committee members have done), please include the year and the name of the card manufacturer. I will then enter the photo into our PHC Player Image Index database and keep the copy of the photo on file.

—Please send multiple poses of the same player. In a perfect world, I'd like to receive a portrait of the player as well as photos of the player batting and fielding. It would also be appropriate to send photos of the same player wearing different major league uniforms.

—No player is too obscure or too famous for this project! Since the project is just beginning, many prominent players do not yet have photos in the Player Image Index. Take Eddie Collins, Christy Mathewson, Walter Johnson or Roger Bresnahan, for instance—though photos of these players won't be hard to find, the Committee could very much use them simply because no one has contributed them yet.

Also, even if player photos are sent in by more than one person, multiple photos help us to confirm that the player pictured is indeed the player in question.

—In sending a photo, please pay attention to authenticity! It is not unheard of for a player to be misidentified in a photo caption, and by using a good eye and common sense, we can keep these photos out of our collection.

—There is also room in the project for group photos, team photos, and unusual photos (say, those of comedian Max Patkin or of the Indians mascot with players, etc.) Photos of game scenes (like Babe Ruth being thrown out to end the '26 Series) would also be welcome.

—You can reach me by e-mail at mcmurrayj@aol.com, and questions and comments are always welcome.

To follow is a list of twenty players who played in 10 games or less before 1950. I'm hopeful that PHC members will be able to locate photos of any of the below for the project:

Tal Abernathy—This isn't Ted Abernathy, who pitched for various teams in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Tal pitched in seven games with the Philadelphia A's from '42 to '44 winning none and losing three.

George Abrams—Born in 1899, Abrams pitched in three games for Pat Moran's 1923 Cincinnati Reds, a team that finished in second place behind John McGraw's Giants.

Joe Abreau—Nicknamed 'The Magician,' this infielder played in 9 games with the 1942 Cincinnati Reds.

Red Adams—Born Charles Dwight Adams in 1921, he was 0-1 for the 1946 Cubs.

Joe Adams—He pitched in only one game in his career, that with St. Louis in 1902, but he lasted long enough to receive the nickname "Wagon Tongue."

Doc Adkins—Nee Merle Theron Adkins, he was born August 5, 1872 and pitched for both Boston and New York in the American League in 1902 and 1903 respectively.

Dick Adkins—He played in three games at shortstop for the 1942 Philadelphia A's.

George Aiton—His nickname was Bill, and he played for the St. Louis Browns briefly in 1912. An outfielder, George batted .235 in eight major league games.

Jerry Akers—A right handed pitcher with the Senators in 1912, Albert Earl Akers was 1-1 in his career.

Cy Alberts—Frederick Joseph Alberts pitched in only four games in his career and had three decisions: the right hander went 1-2 with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1910.

Hugh Alexander—He was an outfielder on a 1937 Cleveland team that had Earl Averill and Bob

Feller. In his career, he went 1 for 11 and played in three games in the outfield.

Horace Allen—An outfielder with Brooklyn in 1919, he was a switch-hitter.

John Allen—Not to be confused with Johnny Allen, who pitched for several teams in the '30's and '40's, this John Allen pitched only two innings of one game in the Federal League for Baltimore in 1914.

Bob Allen (Robert Earl Allen)—He pitched in three games for the 1937 Philadelphia A's.

Bob Allen (Robert Allen)—Another Bob Allen (a.k.a. Alvali Elliott) who played for the Philadelphia A's, this one was an outfielder who played in 9 games for the team in 1919.

Walter Alston—Yes, this is the same Walter Alston who managed the Dodgers and made it to the Hall of Fame! In his playing career, however, he played in only one major league game, that at first base with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1936. For this project, I'd be primarily interested in photos of him as a major league player, though photos of him as a manager would certainly be welcome.

Walter Ancker—Yet another former Philadelphia Athletic pitcher who had only a cup of coffee in the majors, this righty had no decisions in four games for the team in 1915.

Hal Anderson—An outfielder with the '32 Chicago White Sox, Anderson batted .250 in nine games.

Bill Anderson—William Edward "Lefty" Anderson was born on November 28, 1895 and pitched in only 2.2 innings over 2 games for the Boston National Leaguers in 1925.

Wingo Anderson—He was a left-handed throwing, right-handed batting pitcher with Cincinnati for 7 games in 1910.

The address to submit copies of photos with citations is:

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Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to the project, and I hope that I will hear from many more Committee members in the coming weeks.