

The INSIDE GAME



The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. XIV, No. 6: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" DECEMBER 2014

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Although we could not get Santa to put it under your tree, kindly consider this unscheduled bonus issue of *The Inside Game* our yuletide present to newsletter readers, both naughty and nice. To all, the newsletter staff extends its best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy new year. We look forward to providing you with more interesting Deadball Era reading in 2015.

THE INSIDE GAME: THE YEAR 2014 IN REVIEW

Broadly speaking, the mission of *The Inside Game* is threefold: (1) to publish original research articles about baseball during the Deadball Era contributed by DEC members; (2) to review books recently published about Deadball, and (3) to keep readers informed of news and events connected to the game as played from 1901 through 1919. It has now been 15 years since that mission was undertaken. With yet another year now on the horizon, we at *The Inside Game* thought that it might be informative to inventory the material provided to the committee membership and other readers in the newsletters published in 2014.

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ACCURATE RUNS-SCORED STATISTICS FOR THE PLAYERS ON THE 1912 CHICAGO CUBS

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

In a previous article I reported my discovery and correction of runs-scored errors in Major League Baseball's official records for three players on the 1906 Detroit Tigers team: Ty Cobb, Fred Payne, and Ed Siever.¹ Similarly, in two other articles describing my research on the runs scored and runs batted in by the players on the 1919 Boston Red Sox and the 1919 Detroit Tigers, I found that MLB's official records were compromised by runs-scored errors for one player on each team, Stuffey McInnis and Chick Shorten, respectively.^{2,3} I have now completed an in-depth and comprehensive research effort focused on the runs scored by the players on the 1912 Chicago Cubs.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

In my quest to achieve the definitive resolution of the discrepancy for the 1912 National League Triple Crown I obtained the complete details for each of the 750 runs scored by the Chicago Cubs that season.⁴ Obtaining "complete details" means that I identified the three critical elements for each run:

ON THE INSIDE:

***The Ballpark, the Statehouse,
and Capitol Hill***

by Bill Lamb page 8

Before Wrigley Became Wrigley

reviewed by Jack McCarthy page 15

Turning the Black Sox White

reviewed by Steve Klein page 16

Disappointment in Des Moines

by Bill Lamb page 19

- (1) The player who scored the run.
- (2) The run-scoring event – a 2-RBI double, a 1-RBI groundout, a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk, a 0-RBI wild pitch, a 0-RBI stolen base, etc.
- (3) The player who completed his plate appearance during the run-scoring event (i.e., the player who may have batted in the run).

In order to obtain the complete details for each run, I utilized the game accounts from multiple independent newspapers as well as many unpublished play-by-play accounts from Retrosheet.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents the runs-scored numbers from my research for each of the 40 men who played for the 1912 Chicago Cubs; for comparison, the runs-scored numbers shown in MLB's official records are also given.

In support of my runs-scored numbers, the Appendix provides – for each of the 750 runs scored by the 1912 Cubs – the text descriptions presented in the accounts given in the various

newspapers. The Appendix is available on the SABR.org website, at <http://sabr.org/research/deadball-era-research-committee-newsletters>.

Comparison of my runs-scored numbers with the runs-scored numbers presented in Major League Baseball's official Day-By-Day (DBD) records reveals that there are two Chicago Cubs players with erroneous runs-scored numbers in MLB's official DBD records – Jim Moroney and Tom Needham. Both of the runs-scored errors occurred in the same game – the Cubs versus the Brooklyn Dodgers on May 21, 1912, in Chicago, which the Cubs won by a 5-4 score. Here is the pertinent information for each of the five runs scored by the Cubs:

May 21, 1912

Chicago Cubs vs. Brooklyn Dodgers
Chicago scored 5 runs

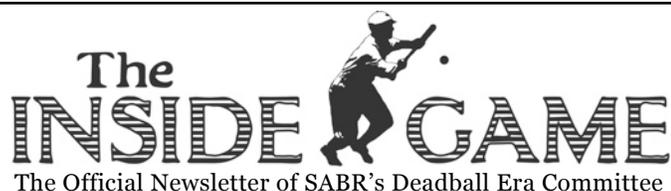
Second Inning – Chicago scored 1 run

Chicago Tribune – “The Cubs got away first by batting in a run in the second inning. Zimmerman was first up and he busted a double along the left foul line. Hofman smashed a hot one at the shortstop, and Zimmerman was nipped at third base. Hofman made up for this bit of ill luck by stealing second. Then, after Tinker had fanned, Evers got a single to left field and Hofman sprinted home. Evers was caught trying to steal.”

Chicago Daily News – “Zimmerman doubled. Hofman grounded to Tooley, whose throw to Smith got Zimmerman at third base. Hofman stole second. Tinker struck out. Evers singled, Hofman scoring when Wheat fumbled the ball. Evers was nipped stealing, Phelps to Hummel.”

Chicago InterOcean – “Zimmerman opened the Cub half with a terrific drive down the left foul line for a double. Hofman hit to Tooley and Zimmerman was tossed out at third. Tinker fanned and Hofman stole. Evers singled to left and Hofman came on home when Wheat fumbled.”

Brooklyn Eagle – “In the second the Cubs had a healthy double to left by Zimmerman



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wasted, but scored anyhow. Zimmerman doubled. Hofman drove to Tooley and Zimmerman was nipped going to third. Hofman stole second and Tinker fanned. Evers singled to left, scoring Hofman and was later thrown out, Phelps to Hummel on an effort to steal second.”

New York Press – “Chicago opened the scoring in the second. Zimmerman pried off the lid with a double, only to get caught trying to make third on Hofman’s grounder to Tooley. Hofman stole second, and after Tinker fanned, Evers came to scratch with a screaming single to centre, sending in Hofman. Evers died stealing.”

Fourth Inning – Chicago scored 2 runs

Chicago Tribune – “In the fourth two runs put the Cubs in front. Zimmerman began with a walk and Hofman lined one to the far corner of right field for two bases, Zimmerman legging it all the way home. Tinker poked a single over second and Hofman beat it for the plate. Evers forced Tinker at second. Evers stole second just as Needham fanned, but he died there when Moroney fouled out to Hummel.”

Chicago Daily News – “Zimmerman walked and scored when Hofman hit to deep right for two bases. Hofman scored from second when Tinker pushed a single to center. Evers forced Tinker at second, Hummel to Tooley. Evers stole second as Needham struck out. Moroney out, Hummel to Daubert.”

Chicago InterOcean – “Zimmerman walked and scored on Hofman’s double to the right field wall. Tinker singled to center, scoring Hofman. Evers hit toward Hummel on the ground. Tinker tried to keep from being hit by the ball and fell down with his chin on the ground. Before he could get into running order again, he was chucked out at second. Evers stole second without avail, as Moroney was easy at first.”

Brooklyn Eagle – “Zimmerman worked Rucker for a pass in the fourth inning and went all the way home on an orthodox double

to right by Hofman. Tinker whacked to center, scoring Hofman. Evers forced Tinker and stole second. Needham fanned and Moroney was exterminated on a grounder to Hummel.”

New York Press – “The Cubs came back with a pair of runs in the fourth. Zimmerman walked, and raced all the way around on Hofman’s double to right. Hofman counted on Tinker’s single to centre.”

Sixth Inning – Chicago scored 2 runs

Chicago Tribune – “Two more [runs] in the sixth clinched the victory for the Cubs. This time Hofman started with a walk and went to third on Tinker’s single to right. Evers hit to Daubert and was out, Hofman sticking at third while Tinker went to second. Rucker knocked down Needham’s smash and threw Hofman out at the plate, Tinker going to third. Needham then purposely took a big lead off first and drew a throw from Phelps, and Tinker scooted home, beating the return throw, while Needham got to second on the play. Moroney followed with a single to left and Needham got home. Moroney tried to take second on the play and made it, but slipped over the bag in his slide and was tagged.”

Chicago Daily News – “Hofman walked. Tinker singled and Hofman went to third. Evers out to Daubert, unassisted. Needham grounded to Rucker, and Hofman was out on the base line, Rucker to Phelps. Needham and Tinker pulled off a double steal, Tinker scoring. Moroney singled, Needham scoring. Moroney tried to reach second on Wheat’s throw to the plate, but was retired, Wheat to Phelps to Hummel.”

Chicago InterOcean – “Hofman walked and went to third on Tinker’s single to deep right. Evers grounded to Daubert. Needham rolled one to Rucker and Hofman was caught on the base line at third. Tinker scored on a delayed double steal with Needham. Moroney singled, scoring Needham, and was out trying to reach second on the play.”

Brooklyn Eagle – “The sixth inning told the tale. Hofman walked, took second on Tinker’s single to right and third when Evers grounded out to Daubert. Needham drove to Rucker, who threw out Hofman at the plate. Moroney singled to left, Needham scoring, but Moroney died at second trying to make his hit a double.” [NOTE: The account does not include a description of how the first run of the inning was scored (by Tinker).]

New York Press – “Two more runs were scored by Chicago in the sixth. With one gone, Tinker on third and Needham on first, the pair worked a double steal, Tinker scoring. Needham came home when Moroney singled to left. Moroney was out trying to make second.”

SUMMARY of the 5 runs scored by Chicago

1 (second inning) – Hofman scored on a 1-RBI single by Evers.

2 (fourth inning) – Zimmerman scored on a 1-RBI double by Hofman.

3 (fourth inning) – Hofman scored on a 1-RBI single by Tinker.

4 (sixth inning) – Tinker scored on his steal of home.

5 (sixth inning) – Needham scored on a 1-RBI single by Moroney.

Runs-Scored Statistics from MLB’s Official Records

Hofman 2, Moroney 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

Runs-Scored Statistics from Newspaper Accounts

(A) Text Descriptions (see above):

a. *Chicago Tribune* (CHT) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

b. *Chicago Daily News* (CHDN) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

c. *Chicago InterOcean* (CHIO) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

d. *Brooklyn Eagle* (BRKEGL) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

e. *New York Press* (NYPRS) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

(B) Box scores:

a. *Chicago Tribune* (CHT) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

b. *Chicago Daily News* (CHDN) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

c. *Chicago InterOcean* (CHIO) – Hofman 2, Needham 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

d. *Brooklyn Eagle* (BRKEGL) – Hofman 2, Moroney 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

e. *New York Press* (NYPRS) – Hofman 2, Moroney 1, Tinker 1, Zimmerman 1.

Note that all of the text descriptions agree with one another – particularly that Needham – NOT Moroney – scored the second Chicago run in the sixth inning (i.e., the fifth overall run scored by the Cubs); indeed, Moroney’s single batted in Needham. Also note that the runs-scored numbers in the boxscores in the three Chicago newspapers (CHT, CHDN, and CHIO) agree with the text descriptions. BUT, the runs-scored numbers in the box scores in the out-of-town newspapers (BRKEGL and NYPRS) show Moroney with one run scored and Needham with zero runs scored.

DISCUSSION

The unanimous concurrence of the detailed runs-scored descriptions given in multiple independent newspaper accounts provides rock-solid evidence which clearly shows that in the Cubs-Dodgers game on May 21, 1912, (a) Needham actually scored one run and (b) Moroney actually scored zero runs. Thus, MLB’s official records for the runs scored by Needham (0) and Moroney (1) in this game are wrong. Moreover, as presented in the Appendix and summarized in Table 1, MLB’s official records for the other 749 runs scored by the 1912 Cubs are correct. Therefore, for the entire 1912 season, Needham actually scored 13 runs and Moroney actually scored no runs. Thus, the full-season

runs-scored numbers in MLB's official records for Needham (12) and Moroney (1) are not accurate. With regard to the career runs-scored numbers for Needham and Moroney, provided that there are no other runs-scored errors in MLB's official records for their other seasons, the correct career runs-scored numbers are 114 (not 113) and 3 (not 4), respectively.

As it has developed, MLB's official runs-scored numbers for the players on the 1912 Chicago Cubs were adopted by David S. Neft for Macmillan's *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (first published in 1969).⁵ Likewise, Pete Palmer adopted MLB's official runs-scored numbers for the players on the 1912 Cubs for his database of baseball statistics, as shown in the baseball encyclopedias he has co-edited – *Total Baseball* (first published in 1989) and *The ESPN Baseball*

Encyclopedia (most-recently published in 2008).^{6,7} Significantly, Palmer's database of baseball statistics is also presently utilized by numerous baseball websites, such as Baseball-Reference.com and MLB.com (the official website of Major League Baseball).

Finally, to facilitate the implementation of the corrections of the runs-scored errors discovered for Needham and Moroney in the various current sources of baseball statistics, the penultimate draft of this manuscript was provided for review to Pete Palmer as well as to Steve Hirdt of the Elias Sports Bureau, the official statistician for Major League Baseball.^{8,9} After reviewing the evidence, Palmer informed me that he concurs 100% with my corrections of the runs-scored errors for Tom Needham and Jim Moroney and has incorporated the changes in his data base of



Tom Needham



Jimmy Moroney

baseball statistics, which will be provided to Retrosheet, Baseball-Reference, and SABR for presentation on their websites.¹⁰ Likewise, after reviewing the information Hirdt informed me that, “We agree: In that game in 1912, Needham scored the run, not Moroney. So for the 1912 season: Needham, 13; Moroney, 0.”¹¹ For other examples of Elias-sanctioned corrections of runs-scored errors I discovered in the official records, see references 12-14.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With tremendous gratitude I gratefully thank the following people for the fantastic help and cooperation they provided to me: Steve Boren, Keith Carlson, Dave Newman, Gary Stone, Dixie Tourangeau, and Dave Smith and the Retrosheet volunteers – Enablers of Baseball Research.

NOTES

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3. 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, Number 4 (September 2014) 11.

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11. Email from Steve Hirdt, November 26, 2014.
12. Herm Krabbenhoft, “The Authorized Correction of Errors in Runs Scored in the Official Records (1945-2007) for Detroit Tigers Players,” *The Baseball Research Journal*, Vol. 37 (2008) 115.
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14. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Additional Corrections of Errors in Runs Scored in the Official Records (1920-1944) for Detroit Tigers Players,” *The Baseball Research Journal*, Vol. 42, Fall 2013, 94.

DEADBALL BIOS

Since the last newsletter was released, the BioProject has published profiles of Deadball Era players Harry Harper, Rebel Oakes, and Joe Harris, player-umpire Barry McCormick, and umpires Jim Johnstone and Bill Brennan. As always, we urge you to give these bios a look if you have not already done so. Meanwhile, the SABR Games Project has posted Mike Lackey's account of the 15-inning scoreless tie played on September 11, 1906 by Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

**MCGINNITY INVENTS
A DRYING MACHINE**

“Iron Man” McGinnity, president of the Tacoma club of the Northwestern League, formerly a big league twirler of renown, is enthusiastic over a ground drying machine he has invented. The machine is similar to a huge blow torch, and mounted on three wheels. Four distillate burners furnish the heat. After a hard night’s rain McGinnity claims the machine will dry out the diamond in two hours.

The Pittsburg Press, July 15, 1914

**TABLE 1. RUNS-SCORED NUMBERS FOR THE PLAYERS
ON THE 1912 CHICAGO CUBS.**

Player	Runs Scored (Krabbenhoft)	Runs Scored (Official Records)	Player	Runs Scored (Krabbenhoft)	Runs Scored (Official Records)
J. Archer	35	35	H. McIntire	1	1
M. Brown	3	3	W. Miller	45	45
F. Chance	0	2	C. Moore	2	2
H. Chapman	1	1	J. Moroney	0	1
L. Cheney	13	13	T. Needham	13	12
K. Cole	0	0	G. Pierce	1	1
D. Cotter	6	6	B. Powell	0	0
E. Cottrell	0	0	E. Reulbach	3	3
T. Downey	4	4	L. Richie	7	7
R. Downs	9	9	V. Saier	74	74
J. Evers	73	73	F. Schulte	90	90
W. Good	7	7	J. Sheckard	85	85
M. Hechinger	0	0	C. Smith	4	4
S. Hofman	28	28	R. Sommers	0	0
J. Lavender	6	6	J. Tinker	80	80
T. Leach	50	50	F. Toney	0	0
L. Leifield	3	3	J. Vernon	0	0
E. Lennox	13	13	C. Williams	3	3
G. Lowdermilk	0	0	G. Yantz	0	0
Madden	0	0	H Zimmerman	95	95

What the Majority of Fans Want From Santa Claus



Arthur "Bugs" Baer, *The Washington (D. C.) Times*, December 25, 1913

**THE BALLPARK,
THE STATEHOUSE,
AND CAPITOL HILL:
WAYSTATIONS IN
THE LIFE JOURNEY
OF BOSTON BEANEATER
FRED BROWN.**

by **Bill Lamb**

Generations ago, it would have been difficult to determine which was the more unlikely – a fringe major league ballplayer ascending to the governorship of his home state and later becoming one of its United States senators, or a Democrat being elected to such lofty posts in then rock-solid Republican New Hampshire. Whichever the case, Fred Brown managed these feats. A nine-game outfielder for the 1901-1902 Boston Beaneaters, Brown thereafter embarked on a long and successful career in law and politics. In 1922, he was elected New Hampshire Governor. A decade later, he was swept into the United States Senate by a nation-wide Democratic electoral landslide. Defeated in his bid for a second Senate term, Brown was appointed to the post of Comptroller General of the United States by a political ally and personal friend, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Sadly, a debilitating stroke brought his time in public office to an abrupt end, and Brown spent the last 15 years of his life as an invalid.

Fred Herbert Brown was an only child, born on April 12, 1879 in Ossipee, a small town at the foot of the White Mountains in central New Hampshire. At the time of Fred's birth, his father Dana J. Brown (1859-1941) ran a country store. He later became a banker and local government official, and then late in his life, a probate attorney. Meanwhile, Fred's mother, the former Nellie Allen (1859-1951), kept house. Brown was educated in the Ossipee grammar school and then Dow Academy, a boarding school located 70-miles distant in Franconia.¹ By that time, the husky youngster – he would eventually put 190 pounds on a 5-foot-10½ frame – had become a standout baseball player, primarily a pitcher.

Decades later, Brown related that he “was baseball crazy from the time he was a kid” in Ossipee.² Following graduation from Dow, Fred spent the summer playing ball for a semi-pro club in Somersworth, a small city in southeastern New Hampshire.³ In Fall 1899, he matriculated cross-state to Dartmouth College in Hanover. In addition to doing his course work, Fred became a member of the *Delta Kappa Epsilon* fraternity.⁴ But where he really made his campus mark was on the baseball diamond. Years after the fact it was reported that Brown, a righty batter and thrower, “started in to pitch for Dartmouth but no catcher could hold his delivery, so Brown had to go behind the bat himself.”⁵ No statistical evidence of his Dartmouth performance survives, but catcher Brown was later described as “the sensation of the college world.”⁶

Brown left Dartmouth at the end of his freshman year,⁷ but it is unclear where he began playing professionally. Baseball-Reference places him with the Jersey City club of the short-lived Atlantic League in 1900.⁸ But contemporary sources maintain that Brown spent parts of the 1900 season with the Springfield Ponies of the Eastern League, playing under the alias Stearns.⁹ In any event, Brown spent the ensuing winter in Boston, continuing his education at the local branch of Bryant and Stratton College.¹⁰ In January 1901, he was signed to a National League contract by Boston manager Frank Selee.¹¹ As the season approached, *Sporting Life* correspondent Jacob C. Morse voiced his approval of the Beaneaters' catching situation, declaring that “behind the bat there is a fast brace in [Pat] Moran and Brown. Boston has not been better fortified in batteries for years than this year.”¹² But once the campaign began, veteran Malachi Kittridge did most of the catching, with Moran as his back-up. Brown saw no action at all behind the plate. Rather, he made his major league debut on May 4, 1901 as a ninth-inning right field replacement in a 5-3 victory over New York. Three days later, Brown delivered a base-hit in his first major league at-bat, stroking a ninth-inning pinch-hit single off

Brooklyn right-hander Bill Donovan in a 4-2 loss.

Thereafter, Brown saw action in five more Beaneaters games, once in a pinch-hitting role and four times as an outfielder. The most memorable of these appearances occurred on May 14, when he went in as a pinch runner after teammate Fred Crolius's finger was split by a pitch from St. Louis Cardinals hurler Jack Harper.¹³ Although he registered an official 0-for-2 at the plate, Brown proceeded to play "a beautiful game."¹⁴ First, he put Cardinals star shortstop Bobby Wallace out of action with a jarring collision at second base. Later, Brown knocked in a run with a sacrifice fly. Finally, his successful sacrifice bunt helped the Beaneaters build the eighth-inning run that proved decisive in their 4-3 win. Brown also handled his three chances in right field flawlessly. Subsequent appearances did not go as well. Given back-to-back starting assignments on May 24-25, Brown went a combined 0-for-8 at the plate, although he played errorless ball in the outfield. Ironically, this batting tailspin coincided with a singular honor accorded the novice major leaguer – publication of a front-page *Sporting Life* photograph of "Catcher Fred Brown, of Boston."¹⁵ With his batting average reduced to .143 (2-for-14), with two RBIs, Brown was released shortly thereafter. He finished the 1901 season with the Providence Grays of the Class A Eastern League, batting .286 in 20 games.¹⁶

In March 1902, Brown was back at Dartmouth, but not as a student. "Fred Brown of the Boston National League, formerly Dartmouth '03, is coaching candidates for the baseball team and will remain in Hanover till March 19," reported the *Worcester Daily Spy*.¹⁷ Thereafter, Brown joined the Beaneaters spring camp where his athleticism and versatility were put on display. Just prior to the season's start, *Sporting Life* correspondent Morse informed readers that "the Boston club's all-around player, Fred Brown, has been showing up so well as a pitcher that Manager [A] Buckenberger has about decided to make him a permanent member of the pitching staff."¹⁸ But by the second game of the regular



**1901 Boston Beaneaters Catching Corps:
Fred Brown (left), Malachi Kittridge, and
Pat Moran**

season, circumstances would dictate Brown's return to the outfield. On April 18, Beaneaters right fielder Pat Carney injured a hand making a catch against the grandstand fence and had to be removed from the game. Replacement Fred Brown went 0-for-2 at the plate against Brooklyn left-hander Doc Newton, but scored a run as Boston fell, 10-4. The following day, Carney was back in the Beaneaters lineup for the morning game of a twin-bill against the Superbas, but replaced by Brown in the afternoon contest. That game would prove the high-point of Brown's brief major league tenure. Facing lefty John McMakin, Fred doubled his career hit total, going 2-for-4 (including a double) at bat, and registering an assist from right field in a 5-4 Boston victory.

Fred Brown's best big leagues game was also his last one. Days thereafter, he was again released by Boston, bringing his days in the majors to a close. In nine 1901-1902 games, Brown had batted a cumulative .200 (4-for-20), with two

RBI's and two runs scored. He struck out twice, but did not walk or reach base as a hit-batsman. Nor did he have a stolen base. Despite being a catcher by trade, all his defensive work was done in the outfield (three games in left, four in right) where Brown handled eight chances without an error, while posting two assists, giving him a lifetime 1.000 fielding average. Still only 23-years-old, Brown wanted to continue playing. Once again, he signed with Providence, where the spring training experiment with pitching was resumed. Brown also did some "good work behind the bat" for Providence.¹⁹ Unfortunately, a mid-season thumb injury shelved Brown for a month, retarding his progress in the box. For the season, he went 4-7 in 11 games pitched for the fifth-place (67-67) Grays. Playing around the diamond in 39 games total, the versatile Brown batted .248, with two homeruns, the only round-trippers of his pro career.²⁰

Reserved by Providence for the 1903 season, Brown took the first tentative steps toward a post-baseball existence. He took up residence in Boston and joined fraternal orders, including the Masons. But for the short term, his life remained on a familiar course. As the previous year, he returned to Dartmouth in March to supervise the selection of the college baseball team.²¹ Thereafter, he reported to Providence where he was slated to share the catching job with Alex Farmer.²² But Brown saw only sparing action that season, mostly as an infield fill-in, his playing time reduced by ankle injuries.²³ Interestingly, only a day after he had reinjured himself playing, Brown was pressed into service as an emergency umpire when the league-assigned arbiter failed to appear for a game in Worcester. With Brown officiating, Worcester posted a 1-0 victory.²⁴ Whether a coincidence or not, Providence gave Brown his walking papers shortly thereafter. He finished the season with an Eastern League rival, the pennant-bound (92-33) Jersey City Skeeters. Seeing action in only 18 games combined, Brown batted a powerless .277, and his baseball career was now plainly in decline. But this was of small moment, for Brown had already re-directed his aspirations.

That September, he entered Boston University Law School.

During summer law school recess, Brown continued playing ball. Stepping down a competitive notch, he joined the Haverhill Hustlers of the Class B New England League, where his player-manager would be future Hall of Famer Billy Hamilton. Brown proved a useful addition to the club, playing the occasional game in right field and at first, second, and third base, in addition to catching, his primary position. He even took the mound during a late-August game against Nashua, holding the opposition scoreless and striking out four in relief of ejected starter Nick Page.²⁵ Overall, Fred batted .273 in 53 games for the league champion (82-41) Hustlers.²⁶ The following spring, Brown resumed pre-season collegiate coaching, this time for Boston University. Under the handsome formal photo of Brown that accompanied announcement of his appointment, the *Boston Herald* declared that the BU "boys were certainly most fortunate to secure the services as coach of Fred Brown, who played with Haverhill last season, and is without doubt the best utility player the New England League has seen for many a day."²⁷

Brown returned to Haverhill for the 1905 campaign, his last in Organized Baseball. The acquisition of new talent again relegated Brown to part-time duty, but as a utility player he had no peer. According to incoming Haverhill manager Connie Murphy, "There is no need saying further [about versatility] when that man is under consideration."²⁸ Splitting play between first (69 games) and second base (13 games), Brown fielded both positions capably, while batting .235 for the second-division (53-51) Hustlers. Once the season ended, however, Fred Brown's baseball playing days were behind him.

Although he had retired from playing as a still-young 27-year-old, Brown would retain his interest in the game for the remainder of his life.²⁹ His immediate focus, however, was on completing his legal education and entering the practice of law. Following his law school graduation in June 1906, Brown relocated to

Somersworth, where he spent a year reading law in the office of local attorney James A. Edgerly.³⁰ Admitted to the New Hampshire bar in 1907, he shared a legal practice with Edgerly until his mentor's untimely death the following year. Brown thereupon became a solo practitioner.³¹ His legal practice prospered and soon made Brown an affluent man. But he remained modest and unpretentious. Unmarried, Fred lived in a rented room and ate most of his meals at a local diner.³²

A Democrat in a thoroughly Republican state, Brown then embarked on a career in public service and politics, achieving success in both. In rapid succession, he assumed the posts of Somersworth city solicitor (1910-1914), delegate to the New Hampshire constitutional convention (1912), and Democratic Party presidential elector (1912). In early 1914, Brown was elected to the first of nine consecutive one-year terms as mayor of Somersworth. A local political reporter later described Mayor Brown as "an old New England Yankee type, endowed with an abundance of sound judgment and common sense."³³ That July, Brown was appointed United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire by President Woodrow Wilson, a position that he would hold for the next eight years.³⁴

In 1922, "Brown was prevailed upon to enter the Democratic primary election" and won the party's gubernatorial nomination by a comfortable plurality of the votes cast.³⁵ That November, he captured the office, collecting 70,160 votes to the 61,526 polled by Republican candidate Windsor H. Goodnow. Brown was the first Democrat elected Governor of New Hampshire in 48 years, with his vote-winning margin being the largest compiled by a Democratic Party gubernatorial hopeful since 1837.³⁶ Unhappily for the new governor, the electorate did furnish him a sympathetic legislature. Brown championed large-scale tax reform, abolition of the woman's poll tax, and a 48-hour work week, but failed to get such proposals through the heavily Republican state senate. He did, however, get improvements to the state mental hospital approved and



Senator Fred Brown (D-New Hampshire)

succeeded, through frugal fiscal policy, in entirely eliminating the \$900,000 debt accumulated by the state during the World War I era.³⁷ During his time in office, Brown also served as an ex-officio Dartmouth College trustee. He was awarded an honorary A.M. degree by the school in 1923,³⁸ and his career was thereafter followed closely by Dartmouth's alumni publications. While governor, Brown also altered his marital status. Long a bachelor, he married statehouse secretary Edna McHarg (1880-1958) in May 1925. Already middle-aged, the couple would have no children.

Breaking New Hampshire's one-term limit tradition, Brown stood for re-election as governor in 1924, but was defeated handily by Republican John G. Winant. Newly installed Governor Winant then appointed his predecessor to the New Hampshire Public Service Commission.³⁹ Brown served on the

commission for the next eight years. Otherwise, the ex-governor returned to his law practice, specializing in handling probate work and public utilities cases for small-fry plaintiffs. In utilities cases, Brown regularly appeared in opposition to corporation interests, and was soon recognized for his expertise in public power issues.

In November 1932, Brown was among the Democrats ushered into the United States Senate by the FDR landslide. This made him the first Democratic Senator elected from New Hampshire in 20 years (and one of only two in the near-century spanned by the period from 1865 to 1962). On Capitol Hill, Senator Brown “took particular interest in questions of public power and served as a member of the joint congressional committee that investigated the Tennessee Valley Authority.”⁴⁰ Parochial concern for the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, navy yard also prompted him to wangle appointment to the Senate’s Naval Committee. When the chamber was in summer recess, Brown returned home where he relaxed by fishing for trout and taking in ball games.⁴¹

A “big, bulky man [who] dressed casually, chewed tobacco, and rarely uttered an unnecessary word,”⁴² Senator Brown cultivated friends on both sides of the political aisle, and was respected and well-liked by his Capitol Hill colleagues. He became particularly close to two future Vice-Presidents, John Nance Garner (D-Texas) and Alben W. Barkley (D-Kentucky) who, like Brown, were “enthusiastic baseball fans.”⁴³ He also became friendly with President Roosevelt, joining FDR in the presidential box for the opener of the 1933 Senators-Giants World Series.⁴⁴

Standing for re-election in Fall 1938, he lost to Republican Charles W. Tobey. Once his Senate term was completed, Brown intended to return to Somersworth to resume practicing law. But President Roosevelt would not hear of it. First, FDR offered Brown a federal judgeship, then a number of governmental posts, all of which Brown declined. Finally, and only after consultation with his elderly father, Brown agreed to accept the post of Comptroller General

of the United States.⁴⁵ Given his dedication to fiscal restraint, the post of government “spending watchdog” was a perfect fit for Brown. But Comptroller General Brown had been on the job only 14 months when he was stricken by a debilitating stroke. Unable to continue work, he resigned in June 1940. Thereafter, Roosevelt, hopeful that Brown would be able to regain his health, appointed him to the US Tariff Commission. But recovery was not in the offing, and Brown resigned from the Commission in 1941.

Lucid but mostly house-bound, Brown spent the remainder of his life at home in New Hampshire. As a party elder, Brown was regularly consulted by aspiring local Democratic Party candidates. Among those dropping by the Brown residence to visit in 1952 was a Senate pal from Missouri, President Harry S. Truman, then campaigning for a return to the White House. In his final years, Brown derived pleasure from listening to baseball on the radio. On February 3, 1955, former New Hampshire Governor and Senator Fred H. Brown suffered a heart attack and died at his home. He was 75. Following funeral services at the First Parish Church (Congregational) in Somersworth, his remains were interred in the Brown family plot at Ossipee Cemetery. The lone immediate survivor was wife Edna. By-now retired from office himself, President Truman lamented the passing of his old Senate colleague. Fred Brown was “an able and conscientious worker and a fine gentleman. I was proud to know him,” said Truman.⁴⁶ Meanwhile, tributes to Brown were placed in the Congressional record by Senators Norris Cotton (R-New Hampshire), Richard Russell (D-Georgia), and Estes Kefauver (D-Tennessee).⁴⁷ Today, a formal portrait of Governor Brown hangs in the Statehouse in Concord, and a nearby government building bears his name.⁴⁸ Only a nine-game major leaguer, Fred Brown had gone far and done much after he left the ballpark behind, stamping a lasting mark on the political history of his native state.⁴⁹

Bill Lamb, the editor of The Inside Game, lives in Meredith, New Hampshire. He is indebted to

Peter Carini of the Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College; Debora Longo of the Somersworth, New Hampshire, Public Library, and Frank Kennedy of the Somersworth Historical Society for their assistance with this article.

SOURCES

Sources for the biographical information contained herein include the Fred Brown files at the Giamatti Research Center, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York; the Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, and the Somersworth (New Hampshire) Historical Society Museum; various profiles of Brown in political reference works; US Census and family tree info accessed via Ancestry.com; and certain of the newspaper articles cited below, particularly his February 1955 obituaries and a remembrance of Brown published in the *New Hampshire Sunday News*, July 7, 1956. Special note should be taken of the chapter devoted to Brown in Martin J. Flanagan, *The Passing Parade, The Story of Somersworth, New Hampshire: A Personal View, 1910-1981* (Somersworth, New Hampshire: Somersworth Historical Society, 1983). Unless otherwise noted, baseball stats have been taken from Baseball-Reference and Retrosheet.

NOTES

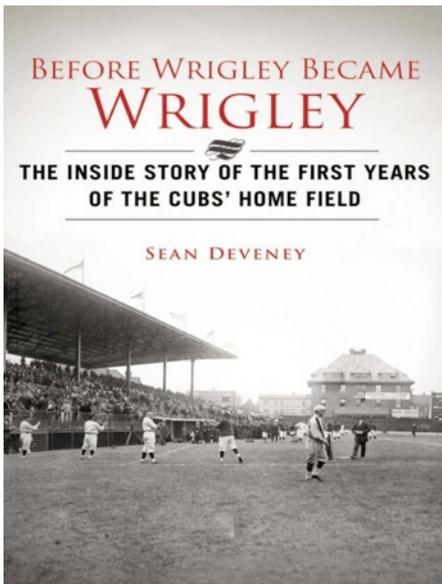
1. See *Governors of the State of New Hampshire: Biographical Sketches* [hereafter *Governors*] (Concord, New Hampshire: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1977), 1.
2. *Yankee (Magazine)*, April 1936, 43.
3. According to the *Boston Journal*, January 27, 1901.
4. *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, May 1955, 85.
5. *Boston Herald*, June 27, 1904.
6. *Sporting Life*, July 9, 1904. Years later, Brown, who “got as much kick from college baseball as he did from the big time,” fondly recalled a spirited home-and-home series against Williams College (which the teams split). See “Dartmouth in the New Deal: An Interview with Fred Brown, ’03,” *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, March 1934, 39.
7. According to one biographical profile of Brown, “a lack of funds forced him to leave Dartmouth after one year, and to play professional baseball.” See Kim Pappas, *Somersworth’s Most Famous Citizen*, an undated manuscript in the Fred Brown file at the Somersworth Historical Society Museum.
8. The Jersey City club disbanded on June 2, 1900. The Atlantic League itself folded ten days later.
9. See *Sporting Life*, January 26, 1901, citing an unidentified earlier item published in the *Hartford Post*. See also, the *Boston Journal*, January 27, 1901, *Sporting Life*, February 2, 1901, and the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, March 1934, 39.
10. As per *Sporting Life*, February 9, 1901. Bryant and Stratton operated a chain of business colleges, most of which were located in the Northeast. See also, the *Boston Journal*, January 27, 1901, which placed the Brown winter residence in adjoining Cambridge, Massachusetts.
11. As reported in *Sporting Life*, January 26, 1901. Selee signed Brown on the recommendation of Beaneaters first baseman Fred Tenney who had coached the Dartmouth baseball team during the 1900 pre-season, according to the *Boston Journal*, January 27, 1901.
12. *Sporting Life*, April 27, 1901.
13. Like Brown, Crolius was a rookie and a former Dartmouth baseball star.
14. In the estimation of *Sporting Life*, May 25, 1901.
15. See *Sporting Life*, May 25, 1901.
16. Baseball-Reference lists Brown as a member of the 1901 Providence Grays, but provides no statistics for him. The above stats were taken from the 1902 *Reach Guide*, p. 168.
17. *Worcester Daily Spy*, March 10, 1902.
18. *Sporting Life*, April 19, 1902.
19. As reported in the *Boston Herald*, June 22, 1902.
20. During the season, an unidentified sportswriter observed that “Brown catches, pitches and moves about the baseball field with such total disregard of the eternal fitness of things that it is impossible to characterize him in a baseball sense as anything other than a jack of all trades.” *Worcester Daily Spy*, June 1, 1902.
21. As reported in the *Pawtucket (Rhode Island) Times*, March 28, 1903.
22. As per *Sporting Life*, February 21, 1903.
23. Brown initially injured his ankle sliding into second base during a June 20 game against Toronto. He reinjured it during a July 4 game in Worcester. See *Sporting Life*, July 4 and 18, 1903.
24. As reported in the *Worcester Daily Spy*, July 6, 1903.
25. As per *Sporting Life*, September 3, 1904.

26. His entry in Baseball-Reference indicates that Brown was also a member of the New Bedford Whalers of the New England League during the 1904 season, but the writer was unable to find a Brown-New Bedford connection.
27. *Boston Herald*, March 2, 1905.
28. As quoted in *Sporting Life*, April 8, 1905.
29. Brown's departure from the game was hastened by an arm injury. During his later years in Washington, Brown's primary relaxations were fishing and watching baseball. He took in Senators games when he could. *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, March 1934, 40. Senator Brown also enjoyed playing poker and reading Western novels, as per Martin J. Flanagan, *The Passing Parade, The Story of Somersworth, New Hampshire: A Personal View, 1910-1981* (Somersworth, New Hampshire: Somersworth Historical Society, 1983), 44.
30. Flanagan 36. Brown's manager on the Somersworth ball club had been John E. Sullivan, later a close friend and political advisor.
31. *Governors*, 1.
32. See Flanagan, 43. Brown's likeable, unaffected manner was invariably noted in commentaries on his political career. See e.g., "The Men Who Made New Hampshire: Fred Brown, Winner of a Big 1922 Upset," by Dr. William Mandrey, *New Hampshire Sunday News*, July 7, 1956.
33. Flanagan, 36.
34. *Ibid.* See also, *One Thousand New Hampshire Notables* (Concord, New Hampshire: Rumford Press, 1919), 509. Today, the simultaneous holding of a political office like mayor by a state's chief federal prosecutor would never be permitted.
35. *Governors*, 1-2. The primary vote totals were: Fred H. Brown, 7,954; John C. Hutchins, 6,215, and Albert W. Noone, 2,066. Brown had entered the primary race on the final candidacy filing date, and then only after succumbing to vigorous persuasion by his friend John E. Sullivan, now the Somersworth postmaster. See Flanagan, 36.
36. *Governors*, 2. After the Brown election, it would take New Hampshire voters 40 more years to elect another Democrat as their governor.
37. See *Governors*, 2, and Flanagan, 40.
38. As noted in *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, May 1955, 85.
39. *Governors*, 2, and *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, March 1934, 39.
40. As noted in the Brown obituary published in the *Washington (D. C.) Evening Star*, February 4, 1955.
41. In 1934, Brown told an inquiring journalist that "I used to be a professional ballplayer. I still follow the sport in the papers. My sole relaxation this summer has been to go to Boston and see the Braves and Red Sox play." See "Senators on Vacation," by M.E. Hennessy, *Boston Globe*, August 25, 1934. Two years later, *Yankee (Magazine)* reported that Brown "delights in trout fishing and professional baseball."
42. *Boston Herald*, February 4, 1955.
43. Flanagan, 41.
44. Flanagan, 47. A photo of FDR throwing out the ceremonial first pitch would become a treasured memento of Brown's time in Washington, DC.
45. Until Dana Brown's death in 1941, Fred retained a close relationship with his father "whose sound judgment, common sense, and sage advice he had great respect for," as per Flanagan, 44. At the ceremony swearing Brown into the Comptroller General post, former Senate colleagues presented him with a new silver spittoon and a fresh chaw of tobacco, as per the *New York Herald-Tribune*, April 12, 1939.
46. As reported in the *New York Times* and *Washington Evening Star*, February 4, 1955, and *Foster's (Dover, New Hampshire) Daily Democrat*, February 5, 1955.
47. See *Congressional Record*, remarks of Senators Cotton, Russell, and Kefauver, February 8, 1955.
48. The Fred H. Brown Building at 129 Pleasant Street in Concord presently houses the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.
49. With apologies to Jim Bunning and Vinegar Bend Mizell, perhaps the only ballplayer-politician who really rivals Brown's elective attainments is John K. Tener. An outfielder-turned-pitcher for American Association (1885), National League (1888-1889), and Players League (1890) clubs, Republican Tener was elected to Congress from a Pennsylvania district in November 1908. Two years thereafter, he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. Tener also served as President of the National League (1915-1918), and as a director of the Philadelphia Phillies in the 1930s.

The player of the future, I believe, will show the same business ability that a successful merchant, broker or banker must show to keep up with the procession.

— Cy Young

The (Chicago) Day Book, August 10, 1912



**BEFORE WRIGLEY
BECAME WRIGLEY:
THE INSIDE STORY
OF THE FIRST YEARS
OF THE
CUBS HOME FIELD
BY SEAN DEVENEY**

2014. New York: Sports
Publishing.

[ISBN: 978-1-61321-648-4
268 pp. \$24.95 USD,
Hardcover].

Reviewed by

Jack McCarthy

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They say the faint of heart should neither see how political deals nor sausage are made. But, if you hanker for Wrigley Field Smokies, you might want to make an exception with this story of the political hardball behind the birth one of America's most beloved ballparks.

Wrigley has hosted only a single "World Championship" since it was built in 1914, and that was dubious, given that it

was declared on behalf of the Chicago Whales by Federal League President James Gilmore in 1915. In *Before Wrigley Became Wrigley: The Inside Story of the First Years of the Cubs Home Field*, Sean Deveney, a long-time writer for *The Sporting News*, hits the bull's-eye in his second book, by revealing a fascinating, intricately-documented tale of the baseball heroes and villains, as well as the history and intrigue behind the development of the North Side ballpark where Chicago's Cubs have played baseball since 1916.

Deveney, who grew up in Lynn, Massachusetts a Red Sox fan, now lives in the shadows of Wrigley Field. His first book, *The Original Curse: Did the Cubs Throw the 1918 World Series to Babe Ruth's Red Sox and Incite the Black Sox Scandal*, was published in 2009. Obviously, Deveney is looking for Calvinist explanations for the harsh judgment of the baseball gods. Reviewing Deveney's first tome, Fox Sports' Ken Rosenthal wrote, "The job of a great writer is to provoke thought, and here, Deveney has created a veritable riot for the imagination" (dust jacket). This book is more of the same. And that's a good thing for avid baseball readers.

Deveney carefully blends extensive reporting from period newspapers with his own exquisite story-telling skills to draw the reader into a variety of plots and schemes

that highlight both the meritorious and sometimes grubby characteristics of the rich characters responsible for developing baseball into the national pastime in the years leading up to World War I. The intrigue began in the early years of the 20th century with owners of the American Association's Milwaukee Brewers and Minneapolis Millers concocting a "big idea" of repeating American League President Ban Johnson's strategy of transforming their minor league into a major league. With Chicago being a key baseball city, they quietly purchased a Lutheran Seminary on Chicago's North Side in 1909, planned to move a franchise in, but muddled the effort for half a decade.

Meanwhile Major League owners, who were enjoying the benefits of their monopoly at a time when jurists like Kennesaw Mountain Landis were breaking up trusts and combinations of railroads and oil companies, were loathe to share the benefits with upstarts despite the obvious hypocrisy. Enter Lucky Charlie Weeghman, a 37-year-old Chicago businessman known as the "lunchroom king" for his successful string of luncheonettes that were harbingers of today's fast-food restaurants. Weeghman, well connected in the Windy City, desperately wanted to own the Cubs.

These were the Cubbies of Tinker to Evers to Chance, the first 20th Century dynasty

(circa 1906-10) that won the National League pennant four times, and the World Series in 1907 and 1908. Charles Webb Murphy, a portly former reporter who co-owned the team with deep-pocketed Charles Taft of Cincinnati (brother of the President), was chiseling the Cubs from greatness to mediocrity — more interested in earned income than earned run averages.

The “spark” that ignited the plot’s combustion came from Joe Tinker’s unrequited desire to improve his contract with the owners of the Cincinnati and Brooklyn ball clubs. Their collusion to low-ball him ultimately delivered him into the arms of a new Chicago Federal League franchise, owned by none other than Charlie Weeghman, who leased the land of the former Lutheran Seminary to build a ballpark for his new Chicago Whales ball team, where he expected to compete against Comiskey’s White Sox and Taft and Murphy’s Cubs.

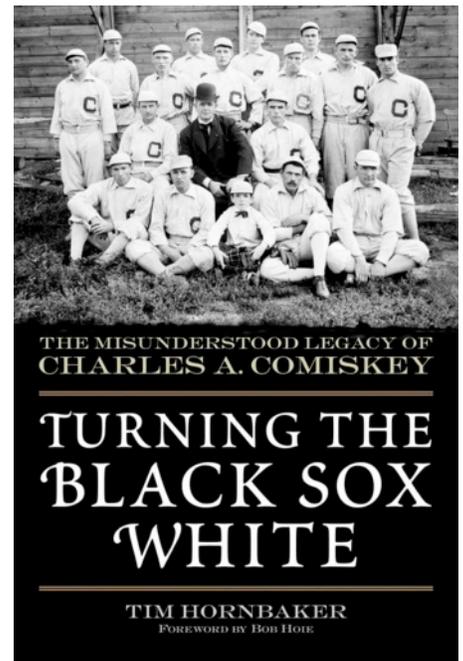
Deveney deftly reveals, explores and explains the subplots and developments of

the birth of the Federal League, the building of the ballpark on the North side, the competition for players, and the efforts of the Major Leagues to crush the upstarts, all against the backdrop of the Progressive Era when labor unions were making significant progress in other sectors and “trust busting” was breaking apart the big combinations and monopolies. Charlie Weeghman’s relentless pursuit of the Cubs is a classic example of the “be careful what you ask for” adage. Sean Deveney’s research, reporting, analysis, and crisp writing style brings this period to life in an engaging, fun-to-read manner that makes for a very satisfying read.

Jack McCarthy is a non-profit leader from Cape Cod, Massachusetts where, on summer afternoons he is often seen standing on the first base side of Lowell Park, home of the Cotuit Kettleers of the Cape Cod Baseball League. He cares too much about the Boston Red Sox and enjoys the Washington Nationals with his wife, Elaine, and sons Liam and Christian.

PUBLISHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

No issue of *The Inside Game* would be complete without a book review section. Our ability to provide you with assessment of the latest in Deadball Era literature is facilitated by the review copies generously supplied to us by their publishers. Both *Before Wrigley Became Wrigley* and *Turning the Black Sox White* were published by Sports Publishing/Skyhorse. Copies of the books can be ordered via 212-643-6816 (telephone) or sportspubbooks@skyhorsepublishing.com (email). The newsletter is indebted to Sports Publishing/Skyhorse and urges your patronage



TURNING THE BLACK SOX WHITE: THE MISUNDERSTOOD LEGACY OF CHARLES A. COMISKEY

BY TIM HORNBAKER

2014. New York: Sports
Publishing/Skyhorse.
[ISBN: 978-1-61321-638-5.
368 pages. \$24.95 USD,
Hardcover].

Reviewed by
Steve Klein

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There is a lot to like about Tim Hornbaker's generally well-reviewed book *Turning the Black Sox White: The Misunderstood Legacy of Charles A. Comiskey*. But the book is a laudatory biography and should have been titled simply, *The Misunderstood Legacy of Charles A. Comiskey*. Hornbaker fails to make a convincing case for Comiskey. To paraphrase Mark

Antony, "I come to bury the Old Roman [Commy's less-preferred nickname], not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones. So let it be with the Old Roman." Ken "Hawk" Harrelson, the long-time Chicago White Sox broadcaster, will enjoy this book — if he reads it. After all, it's an opportunity for Harrelson to shout one of his favorite "Hawkisms," expressions of his home-team bias: "He Gone!"

Among the reviewers of Hornbaker's highly readable book, Richard Crepeau wrote, "In nearly every case of controversy or circumstance that might reflect poorly on Comiskey, Hornbaker chooses to read events to Comiskey's advantage. Despite this tendency Hornbaker convinced me that Comiskey's negative reputation is not deserved. He was no worse than many involved in this sordid affair, and better than some. As to his treatment of his players, Hornbaker offers sufficient evidence to rehabilitate Comiskey on that count." *Aethon: The J. of Sports Literature*, May 3, 2014.

The reviews are available online, so there's no need to summarize or dispute Hornbaker's lavish praise of Comiskey beyond conceding that he paid and treated his players better than Eliot Asinof, in the popular *Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series* (1963),

led most Comiskey and Black Sox chroniclers to believe. Also, Comiskey was a self-made man: an innovative, outstanding first baseman; a pioneer during the early years of the American League; the respected original owner of the Chicago White Sox; a good citizen; and a deserving Hall of Fame inductee in 1939. Hornbaker himself, however, succinctly identifies the problem with his book, writing, "In studying contemporary views of Comiskey as an owner, it is evident that a high percentage of negative opinions are based on inaccurate or inadequate source material. As with any biography, there is a particular importance to analyze all sides of the individual's life, and it is purely negligence to cast any human being into a narrow representation generated from abridged research" (p. 343).

Fair enough. Let's talk about "inadequate source material" and "abridged research." There is no problem with the quantity of original source material Hornbaker probed, nor are there inaccuracies. However, among Hornbaker's sources is the late Gene Carney's superbly researched book, *Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball's Cover-Up of the 1919 World Series Fix Almost Succeeded* (2006). Hornbaker either has ignored or not read the sections "The Larger Cover-Up" and "A Never-Ending Story" (pp. 150-162). These pages are not kind to Comiskey and his role in the cover-up

that Organized Baseball and the fix's backers and attorneys constructed to protect their mutual interests. Comiskey had three priorities, Carney convincingly insists: not losing his franchise, protecting his investment, and possibly retaining the crooked players.

Comiskey's involvement was part of the larger cover-up. My own "Hugh S. Fullerton, the Black Sox Scandal, and the Ethical Impulse in Sports Writing" (<http://mars.gmu.edu/handle/1920/8641/>) cites several primary sources that Hornbaker ignores or downplays that include references to Comiskey and his role in that cover-up, including: the correspondence of Hugh S. Fullerton from the Joseph Medill Patterson papers (Lake Forest [Illinois] College), the Fullerton correspondence from the McGuffey Museum archives (part of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University, Ohio), and *Bleeding Between the Lines* (1979), Eliot Asinof's first-person sequel about his attempt to have *Eight Men Out* dramatized. That book serves as documentation that Asinof's earlier book lacked. These materials throw into question Hornbaker's portrayal of Comiskey.

My purpose in writing about Fullerton was to reveal his full role and motivation — his ethical impulse — in exposing the Black Sox fix and the ensuing cover-up. Despite his enduring friendship with

Comiskey, Fullerton felt compelled to tell the full story. Baseball writers, including Fullerton, were willing collaborators with owners in promoting baseball. "Baseball provided Fullerton with an ideal tableau for playing out the literature of success, and businessmen/owners like Charles Comiskey could not have asked for or invented a better accomplice," writes Richard Weiss in *The American Myth of Success: From Horatio Alger to Norman Vincent Peale* (1988, pp. 7-8). Fullerton and Comiskey were so friendly that the sportswriter dedicated the third volume of his fictional, Horatio Alger-like baseball trilogy, *Jimmy Kirkland and the Plot for a Pennant*, to the Old Roman: "The man to whom, more than all others, the honesty and high standards of professional baseball is due, this little volume is dedicated with the sincere regard of a student to his preceptor" (p. 3).

In *Eight Men Out*, Asinof wrote about the attempted cover-up carried on by Organized Baseball, assisted by the gamblers themselves. But even more telling, in *Bleeding Between the Lines* Asinof quotes Abe Attell, the gambler who manipulated the fix, as saying, "Baseball owners were in denial — profitable denial — that the game had a gambling problem" (p. 105). About Comiskey more specifically, Asinof, in *Bleeding Between the Lines*, quotes Judge Hugo Friend, who oversaw the trial

of the eight Black Sox players as observing, "I'll never forget it. It was my first major trial. By George, I was no older than the ballplayers! They were making a farce out of the law. Those stolen confessions, for example. . . that was arranged by Arnold Rothstein's lawyer, William Fallon, but the man who gained the most from it was Comiskey himself." When Asinof asked the Judge if he thought Comiskey was in on it, Friend replied, "Of course! I'd heard that Rothstein and Fallon met with Alfred Austrian, Comiskey's attorney, big Chicago law firm, you know." (p. 111).

There also is the matter of the 64 missing freelance articles Fullerton wrote following the 1922 baseball season for his former newspaper, the *Chicago Tribune*. The articles were to be published before the 1923 season, but they needed to be cleared with Comiskey — at the insistence of the newspaper itself! In correspondence with the owner and publisher of the *Tribune*, Joseph Medill Patterson, Fullerton wrote of his frustration over the editing of four articles in particular that dealt with "the crooked world series" by Comiskey's subordinate and White Sox club secretary Harry Grabiner, observing, "We took the four articles I had written and literally revised them to pieces — and they still were not satisfactory." Also, in a note from *Tribune* sports editor Frank Smith to Arthur Crawford, the newspaper's

attorney, Smith wrote: "Mr. Comiskey informed me today that he would not under any circumstances permit the series of articles written by Mr. Fullerton to go out, even with the corrections he has tried to make in them so that they would be truthful and readable." Patterson himself killed the full series of articles. Smith said (in a note from the Patterson papers) that he kept "a typewritten copy of Comiskey's dictated account of his connection with the Series . . . I won't let them out of my hands." The articles have never surfaced. Still, these materials and this behavior undermines Hornbaker's assessment of Comiskey.

Why does this all matter? The fix? The cover-up? The scandal? The Old Roman's legacy? The truth always matters. Hornbaker has been praised for rehabilitating the positive parts of the Old Roman's legacy. My guess, however, is that Mark Antony would have been amused. And, as the Hawk so perceptively, if annoyingly, says, "He Gone!"

Steve Klein is Professor Emeritus/Journalism at George Mason University and Visiting Instructor of Journalism at the University of Mary Washington. He was a working journalist for 35 years at a number of newspapers, including USA Today, Lansing State Journal, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and Akron Beacon Journal.

**DISAPPOINTMENT
IN DES MOINES:
GEORGE DAVIS'S LUCKLESS
YEAR AS A MANAGER IN
THE WESTERN LEAGUE.**

by **Bill Lamb**

"It looks like we have the pennant cinched." So declared the *Des Moines Daily News* on the morning of March 7, 1910 in announcing that just retired Chicago White Sox star George Davis had been engaged to manage the Des Moines Boosters, defending champions of the Class A Western League. Other Des Moines papers were equally enthused with the *Des Moines Register and Leader* congratulating team owner John F. Higgins for securing the services of "one of the shrewdest field generals in the business,"¹ while the *Des Moines Daily Capital* predicted that Davis's hiring would be "received with rejoicing by the Des Moines fans."²

Unhappily for Davis and the Des Moines faithful, the celebrations proved premature. Seven months of uninspired baseball later, the Boosters staggered home in seventh place, 36 games behind pennant-winning Sioux City. Notwithstanding that, the Des Moines press largely absolved Davis of blame for this debacle and Higgins offered his manager a post-season vote of confidence. But Davis would not get a second chance in Des Moines. Or anywhere else. His failure in 1910 would prove a death blow to Davis's long held but unfulfilled aspirations for success as a manager on the professional level.

DAVIS BEFORE DES MOINES

Davis and Des Moines had had a reasonable basis for the expectation of success that pervaded the spring of 1910. Only weeks before his hiring, Davis had sought and obtained his release from the White Sox, thus bringing to a close a brilliant 20-year major league playing career. Davis was at his peak as a New York Giant, averaging .332 at the plate over a nine season span [1893-1901]. Davis also hit for power, leading the National League in RBIs in 1897, and he stole as many as 65 bases in a season. Davis was an equally



Des Moines Evening Tribune, March 9, 1910

superb player in the field, particularly after a mid-career shift to shortstop put his great range and strong throwing arm to optimum advantage. On top of all this, Davis was both articulate and smart.

Despite these attributes, Davis was viewed coolly in New York. This was most likely due to Davis's readiness to do the bidding of Giants owner Andrew Freedman, an abrasive Tammany Hall politico and probably the most despised man in turn-of-the-century baseball. Twice during his Giants tenure Davis had agreed to accept the manager's job following the severance of a Giants icon from Freedman's employ.³ Davis's second installation at the helm had been a particularly nasty affair, with ousted Giants manager Buck

Ewing publicly accusing Davis of engineering his removal. Davis's standing with New Yorkers was further eroded in December 1900 when Dirty Jack Doyle, a former Davis friend and still a current Giants teammate, loudly castigated Davis as a managerial incompetent who lacked the respect of his players.⁴

Davis escaped to the Chicago White Sox in 1902, but spent all but four games of the following season on the sidelines, evading court orders secured by Sox owner Charles Comiskey to enjoin Davis from jumping back to the Giants. Although initially reluctant to stay with the Sox, Davis played well in Chicago. He also made friends among the low key and savvy veterans who dominated the Pale Hose roster. Davis's standing with the Chicago fans rose as well, especially after his clutch play helped the "Hitless Wonders" upset the rival Chicago Cubs in the 1906 World Series.⁵ By early 1910, Davis's troubles in New York were ancient history and the announcement of his retirement was greeted with expressions of regret and generous testimonials to his outstanding career. Nor was Davis's departure from the major leagues scene considered permanent, with many commentators predicting his rapid return to the bigs as a manager.

TURMOIL IN DES MOINES

The Des Moines Boosters were a charter member of the Western League and had won WL pennants in 1905 and 1906, the latter coming, ironically, under the tutelage of Davis's old nemesis Dirty Jack Doyle. In 1907, the franchise was purchased by John F. Higgins, a Chicago printing magnate and reputedly the wealthiest man in the WL. Exuberant and opinionated, the 300-pound Higgins reveled in his ownership of the team and spent freely to keep the Boosters competitive. This meant running the club at a financial loss, as attendance at Des Moines' East Side Park was a consistent and puzzling disappointment.⁶

In 1909, Des Moines captured the WL crown on the season's final day, edging out Sioux City by .002 in the standings. Despite a thrilling



Des Moines Register and Leader, April 17, 1910

Club Owner John F. Higgins

pennant race, the Des Moines team lost money again that season. Still, Higgins refused to unload the franchise, turning down several handsome offers during the winter, including one from local hero Frank Gotch, the world's heavyweight wrestling champion.⁷ Another thing turned down by Higgins was the pay raise demanded by Bill Dwyer, the 23-year-old first baseman whom Higgins had thrust into the manager's chair in 1909. In response, Dwyer threatened to sit out the 1910 season. Then, Dwyer provoked Higgins by accusing the Des Moines owner of colluding with his old friend Comiskey to prevent Dwyer's ascension to the majors. The National Commission's rejection of the charge did little to mollify the angered Higgins, and the Boosters need for a new manager was manifest as opening day for spring training in 1910 approached.

DAVIS TAKES THE HELM

The timing of the Higgins/Dwyer falling out could not have been better for George Davis. Given their respective connections to Comiskey, it did not take long for Higgins and Davis to find one another. In short order, Davis was on board

as the new Des Moines manager – and at a salary well in excess of what Higgins had refused to pay Dwyer. Higgins even went so far as to insure Davis for \$25,000 against any off-the-field mishaps.⁸

When he returned to Des Moines, the voluble Higgins seemed unable to suppress his delight with his new field leader, praising Davis as “a fine fellow. Never drank a drop in his life, gets along with the fellows and knows his baseball.”⁹ The local papers agreed, running effusive commentary about Davis. Applause for the Davis hiring, however, was not confined to Des Moines. Newspapers throughout WL territory and the baseball world at large chorused the approval of the new manager, invariably citing Davis’s quick-wittedness and baseball acumen. The only cautionary note was that sounded by the *New York Evening Telegram* which noted Davis’s previous failures as a manager. Critical of his laid back and non-confrontational personality, the *Telegram* admonished Davis to toughen up and to be more demanding of his new charges.¹⁰

AN UNCERTAIN SPRING

Winding up personal affairs in New York City delayed Davis’s departure for Des Moines until late March. In his absence, the players went through desultory intra-squad workouts and loafed about town. Nevertheless, Higgins pronounced the present team a “good fifty per cent better” than last year’s pennant winners and confidently forecasted a championship repeat for Des Moines.¹¹ Davis was far more circumspect. When he and his wife Jane¹² finally arrived in Des Moines on March 30, Davis allowed as how he was glad to be there but declined to make “any predictions at the present time.”¹³ Davis then set about getting his new team in shape.

Belying his easygoing reputation, Davis worked the Boosters squad hard when he could, but frequent bad weather hampered team conditioning and practice. And problems seemed to abound. The infield, for example, was unsettled with star third baseman Bert Niehoff reporting late and shortstop Clyde Williams tied up with his duties in the athletic department at

Iowa State College. Williams would not be able to join the team until early June. The same applied to outfielder Art Bader who had received Higgins’s permission to remain in St. Louis until he completed the spring semester course work on his law degree. The catching corps, a weak spot on the 1909 team, remained a question mark and before pre-season ended, Davis would have no fewer than nine backstop candidates in camp. Des Moines players and fans were also shaken by news that the popular Dwyer, still reserved to the Boosters, lay gravely ill in a New York City hospital following major surgery.¹⁴

Davis’s biggest headache, however, was a depleted pitching staff. Arms were needed to cover the 600-plus innings supplied in 1909 by Frank Lange [29-12 and in camp with the White Sox] and Frank Miller [24-16 and graduated to the Class AA Pacific League], with staff returnees like soft-tossing lefthander Clarence Biersdorfer [16-11] and spitballer Art McGregor [7-5] unlikely to fill the void. Efforts to expand the Des Moines rotation, moreover, were undermined by an almost weird local confidence that the Higgins/Comiskey relationship would produce the return of workhorse Lange to the Boosters at any moment. Expectation of Lange’s return would persist through spring training into the early campaign [but it would never happen, as Lange would remain with Chicago into the 1913 season].¹⁵ In the meantime, Davis settled upon Andy Owens, a hard-throwing White Sox prospect from Massachusetts, and Fred “Bugs” Herche, a well-fed right-hander whose girth rarely eluded press mention, to complete his pitching staff.

Over time, Davis’s pre-season concern about his team was sensed by local sportswriters. A brutal Des Moines schedule, which commenced with a 16-game road trip, was also factored into predictions. Hence, as Opening Day neared, press enthusiasm for the Boosters’ prospects was tempered with an advisory that the team might get off to a slow start. Nevertheless, earlier forecasts for a successful pennant defense remained unshaken in the Des Moines papers as

Davis and his team boarded the train for the opener in St. Joseph.

A BAD START

Des Moines began the 1910 season in a fashion far worse than even the most dire prognostication in the press. But Opening Day provided an auspicious start, with the Boosters trouncing St. Joseph 24-12 behind strong stick work by Bill Raftis, subbing at short for the unavailable Williams, and stout relief pitching by Owens. After the game, manager Davis was reported to be “well pleased with the way in which his team welcomed him to the Western League,” while owner Higgins gushed that he would “rather have won this game of ball than have been presented with \$1,000.”¹⁶

The joy was short-lived. Des Moines promptly lost seven of the next eight games and fell to the WL cellar. The *Daily Capital* cited poor pitching and a team slump at the plate as cause for the team’s standing but extolled the “spirit of fellowship” among the Des Moines players.¹⁷ Team spirits were soon raised higher by word that Bill Dwyer was recovering and would, with all forgiven by Higgins, be rejoining the Boosters in mid-May.

Near the close of the road trip, Des Moines lost a 4-3 heartbreaker to Denver when Jack Dalton was called out in the eighth inning for failure to touch second on an apparent game-tying homer. When Raftis was ejected for arguing the call, a reluctant Davis took the field at the shortstop position. But Davis was back in the dugout the following day for another loss to Denver. The team’s ragged play was evidently having its effect on the normally placid Davis who, according to the *Daily News*, was “given the imperial hook for telling [umpire] Clarke that he was a better pink tea artist than judge of balls and strikes.”¹⁸ Days later, the Boosters limped home, their 4-12 record good for last place.

Undaunted, Des Moines welcomed the team home with a large downtown parade. The date of the home opener was declared a half-holiday by Des Moines Mayor James R. Hanna and more than 7,000 fans crowded into East Side Park to

see the Boosters pummel St. Joseph 11-4. Thereafter, home attendance fell off sharply but the team’s play showed improvement, winning nine of 13 games during the home stand. Unfortunately, the Boosters’ pitching staff remained unsettled and owner Higgins’ latest acquisitions, former Washington Senator Eli Cates and ex-American Association standout Leo Sage, would both prove to be a bust on the mound for Des Moines.¹⁹ Still, Des Moines, now with a 13-16 record, had crept to within four games of first place in the tightly bunched WL race.

With Dwyer about ready to return to the field, Des Moines began its next road trip by selling utilityman/first baseman Phil Koerner to WL rival Wichita – a move that would later be faulted when Koerner went on to outhit Dwyer and every other batsman in the Boosters lineup. Shortly thereafter, Raftis and his .302 average had to leave for Massachusetts to attend the shortstop’s dying mother. In his absence [and Raftis would remain East and eventually be sold to Binghamton in the New York State League] and until Williams reported, Davis switched Niehoff to short and put rotund but athletic hurler Herche at third. Despite the makeshift lineup, Des Moines continued to play decently and kept in touch with the leaders in the WL standings. Booster fans were alarmed, however, when the *Des Moines Evening Tribune* reported that Brooklyn scout Larry Sutton had come to town to look over the team’s talent.²⁰

On June 2, 1910, the 1909 championship banner was raised at East Side Park. But only 900 fans were on hand to witness the event and to see Biersdorfer driven from the mound early in an 11-2 loss to Omaha. The following day, five errors and a bruised thumb ended the Herche experiment at third base. By now, thankfully, both Williams and Bader were back in uniform and although the Des Moines record stood only 20-23, the *Register and Leader* remained optimistic, telling its readers that “Manager Davis has a great team about him and Des Moines is sure to climb high. There is not a weak spot on the team and the outfield is the best in

the league. The team is better than last year in every respect.”²¹ Within a week, this rosy assessment would be shaken to its core.

MORE DANGER SIGNS

On June 7, Brooklyn scout Sutton was spotted in the Des Moines grandstand sitting next to owner Higgins. Days later, Higgins heatedly denied a *Daily News* report that star outfielder Dalton had just been sold to the Superbas. “I want to strengthen my team, not weaken it,” protested Higgins.²² The next morning, Des Moines papers announced the sale of Dalton to Brooklyn for \$3,000 and the rights to pitcher Frank Schneiberg. Amidst the tangle of his explanation of events, Higgins promised that no other Boosters would be parted with that season and that he would “spend every cent I received for Dalton for new players if we need them.”²³

That need would not be long in coming. Three days after the departure of Dalton, his replacement in the lineup’s leadoff spot, shortstop Clyde Williams, had his arm broken by a fastball from Jim Freeman of Sioux City. On June 18, outfielder Pete Curtis left the team to attend his brother’s funeral in Philadelphia while the newly acquired Schneiberg, disgruntled by his return to the minors at age 28, announced that he was going home to Milwaukee. This latter development was a real blow to Davis who was down to two reliable pitchers, Owens and Herche. Soon Davis and Higgins were in Chicago seeking help from Comiskey. But aid was not forthcoming as Comiskey delivered the bitter news – whether truthful or not – that he had been unable to obtain waivers on Lange or any other Chisox hurler. Salt was then rubbed in the Des Moines wound when recent major leagues box scores revealed that Jack Dalton had just gone 5-for-5 off none other than Christy Mathewson.

Still, the June news was not all bad. True to his word, Higgins had set about gathering new talent for Des Moines. The pitching staff was bolstered by the acquisition of ex-Cincinnati Reds righthander Del Mason and promising Mississippi collegian Bob Mitchell. And an increase in salary

had induced the truculent Schneiberg to report to Des Moines. With a 32-35 record at month’s end, the Boosters were still within hailing distance of first place Sioux City [37-24].

THE SEASON COLLAPSES

July would prove to be a cruel month for Des Moines. Mason and Schneiberg were shelled in their initial mound appearances and an eight-game losing skein quickly put the Boosters 19 games back in the loss column to Sioux City. Yet the Des Moines faithful, while clearly worried, continued to believe that their Boosters “have it on every other team in the circuit and find it hard to understand why the worm does not turn.”²⁴ A lack of pepper, however, was noted in a 9-1 loss to Lincoln, and on July 15 Davis succumbed to mounting fan pressure and placed himself in the lineup.

As he stepped into the batter’s box the first time to face Sioux City ace Marty O’Toole, Davis was presented a large floral bouquet, compliments of Mr. and Mrs. D.F. Adams of Chicago, recent house guests of the Davises. Davis then promptly struck out. So did nine others in a Boosters lineup that managed only one hit in a 1-0 loss. Press accounts of the team’s play, however, were positive and the salutary effect of Davis’ presence in the field was duly noted. Several days later, the Boosters, behind five-hit pitching by Schneiberg and crisp all-around play, bested O’Toole in a rematch, 6-3. Such performances greatly heartened the local press. As Des Moines prepared to depart on a four week long road trip, the *Daily News* reported that “the team left today looking more like a championship aggregation than they have at any time this season.”²⁵

Des Moines would return from that trip a thoroughly beaten bunch. Things started badly when Davis was injured sliding home in a 9-4 loss to Lincoln. The following day, the hobbled manager was run from the game by the umpire. This precipitated a rare show of spleen from Davis who publicly expressed his dissatisfaction with the work of certain WL arbiters. Davis was not alone in his disdain, as WL umpiring was a

sore spot throughout the circuit. Even the *Lincoln Star* seem embarrassed by the incompetence that had benefited the home side and expressed the hope that “the work of the ump’s in the succeeding games will be fair beyond a shadow of a doubt, for Davis is a good sport and will take a beating with good will if he thinks that it is deserved.”²⁶

Davis would have to take more such beatings as the team continued its grueling road trip. Particularly hard was a 6-4 loss to Omaha where a ninth inning Boosters rally was stifled when pinch-hitter Davis made the last out with the bases loaded. Des Moines ended the road trip in seventh place at 46-65. By this time, the WL race was strictly a two-team affair between Sioux City and Denver, with Des Moines reduced to fighting to escape the second division.

PLAYING OUT THE STRING

Owner Higgins was not incapable of comprehending mid-August Western League standings, but he refused to give up on his team. Thus, the stream of hopefuls signed to improve the Boosters continued their auditions. By season’s end, at least 49 players had donned a Des Moines uniform. One of these, Red Kelly, a collegiate star at Notre Dame but a washout in a brief trial with the White Sox, made enough of an impression to permit the release of fading fan favorite Art Bader.²⁷ Days later, Kelly made a sterling eighth inning catch in right field to preserve a 3-0 Bob Mitchell no-hitter against Topeka. The only blemishes in the line score were two errors charged to manager Davis, filling in at second base for hospitalized regular Eddie Colligan. Davis redeemed himself the following afternoon by handling 12 chances without an error while getting three hits in twin-bill wins over Topeka.

Davis remained in the lineup for a 2-1 Des Moines triumph over St. Joseph on August 23, going 2-for-4 at the plate and handling six chances flawlessly at second base. Press accounts of the game highlighted Kelly’s clutch two-run single in the ninth for the Boosters. Unmentioned was the fact that Davis had

celebrated his 40th birthday with a win. Eight days later, it was Davis himself who supplied the late-game hit that gave Andy Owens a 1-0 victory over St. Joseph. But age and injuries were taking their toll on Davis and shortly thereafter he put Kelly at second and retired to the dugout.

The games of September were essentially meaningless to Des Moines. But they were not without incident, particularly a September 18 contest in Omaha where manager Davis and pitcher Owens were ejected for protesting a “shady” safe at home call by a local barber named Wood pressed into service as umpire.²⁸ After the game, Wood added insult to the injury by imposing \$10 fines on Davis and Owens. The fines went uncollected before the start of the next day’s game in Lincoln and subsequent demands for payment made upon Davis and Owens were refused.

At the start of a doubleheader against Omaha on September 28, WL umpiring chief Jack Haskell renewed demand for payment of the fines but again Davis refused. Haskell thereupon forfeited the first game to Omaha. At this point, things threatened to turn ugly until Davis consented to leave the grounds and let Dwyer manage the second game. Boosters fans then got most of their money’s worth watching Herche pitch Des Moines to a 13-inning 2-1 victory. Against Lincoln the following day, Davis, exhibiting the obstinate streak that had almost scuttled the NL/AL peace agreement of 1903, still refused to pay and watched Mitchell shut out the Antelopes 6-0 from a box seat behind the Boosters bench. Thereafter, Davis returned to the dugout but whether he or the Western League finally gave in on the \$10 fine is unknown. In any case, the schedule played out uneventfully with Herche pitching Des Moines to a 4-1 win over new WL champs Sioux City in the season finale.

POST MORTEM AND EPILOGUE

Under Davis’ leadership, Des Moines had gone 72-96 over an expanded 168 game schedule with an everyday lineup built around the cast that had been a WL best 93-59 in 1909. Player performance in 1910, however, was down almost across the board. The mid-season sale of Dalton

had cost the Boosters their lone .300 hitting regular and only Niehoff [.293], Curtis [.291], and Colligan [.273] had posted improved batting marks.²⁹ The pitching had also declined. Herche [19-18 in a WL-leading 50 appearances] and Owens [18-16] had been stalwart, but Biersdorfer [13-17] and Mitchell [8-12] had been erratic while the mid-season imports had proved largely useless. Surprisingly, the fall in the Boosters fortunes was not blamed on Davis. To the contrary, his reviews in the Des Moines press positively glowed as reflected in a post-season *Register and Leader* piece that called Davis “one of the grandest sportsmen in the game and the fans of Des Moines will be glad to see him at the helm another year.”³⁰ Owner Higgins apparently felt the same way and publicly promised to do his utmost to ensure Davis’ return as Boosters manager in 1911.

The glow evidently faded over the fall and by late-December the *Register and Leader* was informing Boosters fans that it was “hardly likely” that Davis would return as manager.³¹ Still, the name George Davis appeared on the reserved list submitted by Higgins for the 1911 season and the *Evening Tribune* reported negotiations between Davis and the owner in March. The growing suspicion that the manager’s job would revert to Dwyer, however, was ultimately confirmed by an official announcement issued by Higgins on April 7, 1911. The season began shortly thereafter and turned into a nightmare for Dwyer. The Boosters posted a 49-113 record and finished dead last, some 60½ games behind league champion Denver.

In the meantime, Davis returned to New York City where he managed a bowling alley for several years. He also lingered on the fringes of Organized Baseball, doing some scouting for the Browns and Yankees and coaching the Amherst College team. By 1919, George Davis had drifted from the public scene into obscurity. He died quietly in a Philadelphia mental asylum in October 1940, his mind gone and his disappointment in Des Moines not even a distant memory.

Bill Lamb is the editor of The Inside Game. A non-annotated version of this article was published in the August 24, 2009 edition of the short-lived weekly SABRgraphs.

ENDNOTES

1. *Des Moines Register and Leader*, March 10, 1910.
2. *Des Moines Daily Capital*, March 10, 1910. Prior to the announcement of Davis’s hiring, the *Daily Capital* had been pushing Willie Keeler for the manager’s post.
3. According to an April 24, 1910 item in the *Register and Leader*, Davis’s association with the reviled Andrew Freedman had earned him the nickname *Andy* among other ballplayers. In 1895, Davis succeeded his friend and mentor John Montgomery Ward as Giants pilot, posting a 16-17 record prior to his removal by the mercurial Freedman. Davis returned to the Giants helm mid-way in the 1900 season and lasted through the 1901 campaign, compiling a 91-122 log in his second stint as Giants manager.
4. A fuller account of Doyle’s public roasting of Davis is found in Bill James, *The Politics of Glory: How Baseball’s Hall of Fame Really Works* (New York: Macmillan, 1994), 201. Sadly, Davis and Doyle had once been close, even co-hosting a banquet to celebrate their elevation to second degree Knights of Pythias in November 1894. And the two had been allied in the putsch that ousted Ewing as Giants manager in 1900.
5. A thorough and vivid account of this historic intra-city Series is provided in Bernard A. Weisberg, *When Chicago Ruled Baseball: The Cubs-White Sox World Series of 1906* (New York: William Morrow, 2006).
6. Poor attendance at Boosters games was a sore point with the Des Moines press and Western League officials alike, and frequently the subject of critical public comment. League President Norris L. O’Neill in particular did little to conceal his disdain of Des Moines as a WL site and went public with his relocation advice to Higgins early in the 1910 season, hinting at league action if the franchise was not moved. O’Neill, however, was quickly faced down by Higgins who pointedly reminded the president that the power to relocate a WL club rested exclusively with the club’s owner. And Higgins was not moving the Des Moines franchise anywhere. Des Moines would remain a Western League mainstay for years, capturing league pennants in 1925, 1926, and 1931.
7. In July 1910, Gotch purchased a semi-pro team in Lake City, Iowa and removed it to his hometown

of Humboldt. Other unsuccessful suitors for the Des Moines franchise included a consortium of businessmen from Pueblo, Colorado and the Cantillon brothers, Higgins's predecessors in ownership of the Boosters.

8. As reported in the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, March 8, 1910, and elsewhere.
9. As quoted in the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, March 8, 1910.
10. *New York Evening Telegram*, March 10, 1910.
11. *Des Moines Evening Tribune*, March 10, 1910.
12. In *The Politics of Glory*, Bill James states that Davis was a bachelor during his playing days, not marrying until sometime after he landed in St. Louis in 1918. This is incorrect. George Davis and Jane Holden began holding themselves out as married to family, acquaintances, and census takers in 1898. But for reasons unknown, the couple did not legally tie the knot until a December 1904 ceremony in Delaware. For more, see the BioProject joint profile of George Davis and Jane Holden.
13. *Des Moines Register and Leader*, March 31, 1910.
14. Originally reported as an appendectomy, Dwyer's surgery actually involved the removal of a large but benign tumor from his chest. Dwyer would be hospitalized for five weeks.
15. Lange posted a 28-25 record in four seasons with the White Sox, his only major league team.
16. As quoted in the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, April 23, 1910.
17. *Des Moines Daily Capital*, May 2, 1910.
18. *Des Moines Daily News*, May 7, 1910.
19. The sore-armed Cates would post a 1-8 record on the mound and end up as a reserve outfielder for the Boosters. Sage also had arm problems and would appear in only 14 games, going 5-6 before being released.
20. *Des Moines Evening Tribune*, May 31, 1910.
21. *Des Moines Register and Leader*, June 9, 1910.
22. *Des Moines Daily News*, June 14, 1910.
23. *Des Moines Daily News*, June 18, 1910. Almost simultaneously, Higgins had to contend with fan alarm arising from a *Register and Leader* report that pitching ace Andy Owens and centerfielder Walter "Chink" Mattick were about to be sold to the White Sox. Ultimately, the report proved unfounded.
24. *Des Moines Daily Capital*, July 6, 1910.
25. *Des Moines Daily News*, July 18, 1910.
26. As re-printed in the *Des Moines Daily Capital*, July 24, 1910.

27. As a 17-year-old, Bader had been the youngest player in the majors when he made two appearances for the St. Louis Browns in August 1904. Although he never returned to the bigs, Bader played solidly in Des Moines, batting .320 in 1908. Following his release by the Boosters in August 1910, Bader went home to St. Louis and began the practice of law. He later became a judge.
28. *Des Moines Daily News*, September 19, 1910. The *Register and Leader* described umpire Wood's work for the entire game as "grotesque" and the cause of constant wrangling by both clubs.
29. As a team, the Boosters batted a Western League-low .245, with Bill Dwyer (.273), Chink Mattick (.255), mid-season acquisition Danny Claire (.245), and Clyde Williams (.227) all underperforming. The catching corps of Clem Clemmons, Lou Bachant, Tom Hawkins, and Frank McManus was particularly feeble at the plate, posting a collective .181 batting average. A faded George Davis was little better, hitting only .192 in 99 at-bats. The league, however, did not lack able batsmen. For the 1910 season, 17 WL regulars reached the .300 mark, paced by Sioux City's Art Fenlon at .365. Ty's brother Paul Cobb hit .310 for Lincoln.
30. *Des Moines Register and Leader*, October 1, 1910.
31. *Des Moines Register and Leader*, December 24, 1910.

PLAY BALL!

ALL YOU ROOTERS AND FANS GET

The Milwaukee Sentinel Pocket Scorer

Showing HITS, RUNS, ERRORS and OUTS of Visiting and Home Clubs

The Tablet is of an expensive high-grade celluloid; but not expensive to readers of The Milwaukee Sentinel.

(Actual Size)

Pocket Scorers ready for delivery Monday, April 13th. Get busy now. See article above on HOW TO GET IT.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, April 5, 1914

YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 1

Stretched across the four standard (February/June/September/November) newsletter issues and the two supplemental (April/December) ones put out this past year were more than 150 pages of news, commentary, research, and book reviews pertaining to Deadball-related subjects, often accompanied by what we hope were helpful and interesting photos, illustrations, charts, and other visual aids. Regarding content, our standard issues featured columns of Deadball reflection and commentary by committee chairman John McMurray. Among other things, John assayed the Ritter Award process and Deadball Era biography writing; interviewed renowned baseball analyst Rob Neyer, and probed the views of leading baseball historians on the prospect of additional Deadball players gaining entry to the Hall of Fame. The newsletter also published nine general information-type articles, with subject-matter ranging from the conferral of this year's Ritter Award on Long Bob Ewing biographer Mike Lackey to Deadball Era doings at SABR 44 to the playing of a simulated game between Deadball and 19th Century all-star teams, (which, by the way, the Deadballers won, 7-4).

As always, however, pride of place must be accorded to the 17 pieces of original Deadball-related research published by the newsletter this year. Personalities and events explored covered both the prominent (like George Davis, Andrew Freedman, and Charles Stoneham) and the lesser-known (such as Bob Wood, John Bender, the Southern Association squabble of 1902, and the murder trial of Danny Shay). In addition, no fewer than five of Herm Krabbenhoft's groundbreaking analyses/revisions of Deadball Era statistics graced the newsletter pages, and we look forward to disseminating more of Herm's important work in 2015. The newsletter was also pleased to provide readers with three of Dennis Pajot's engaging stories about Deadball in and about his hometown of Milwaukee, and to publish yet another installment of Ron Selter's definitive studies of Deadball Era ballparks. In

the coming year, we hope to give you more from Dennis, Ron, contributors from years past, and some new voices, as well.

Perhaps the newsletter feature most enjoyed by readers is the book review section. This past year, our volunteer reviewers offered their assessments of 17 newly published works of Deadball biography, ballpark history, baseball outsiders, era anecdotes, and more. With the surge in publication of Deadball-related books showing no signs of slackening anytime soon, *The Inside Game* will have no shortage of new volumes to review in 2015. The newsletter staff hopes that you will continue to follow along with us as the examination of baseball in the Deadball Era continues.

REFORM IN BASEBALL

URGED BY JOHNSON

AMERICAN LEAGUE PRESIDENT
SEES DISASTER AHEAD FOR BOTH
CLUBS AND PLAYERS

CHICAGO—Baseball is in for an overhauling such as it has never before experienced if the suggestions of B. B. Johnson, president of the American League, are carried out. According to the head of the junior circuit, there is a need of reform along both artistic and financial lines. Included in the scheme for a "new deal" are the closing of gates for the coming season of some 50 ball parks and the abolition of spring training trips. The padlocks would be distributed among five or six minor leagues, while the American and National Leagues would be principally affected by the new system of training.

The apparent lack of interest in baseball in smaller towns is the reason for the first suggestions, and needless expense, coupled with chilly reception, both at the gate and by the weatherman at the Southern training camps, is responsible for the second.

(Philadelphia) Evening Public Ledger, March 23, 1915



The catcher uses calculus in signaling an “out.”

The batter uses figures algebraic.

For the former vulgar method was susceptible to doubt

And is now considered more or less archaic.

The coacher helps the runner with a volley of Chinese

And the fielders utter Spanish in defiance,

But they use the same old language when they call the ump a “cheese”

As they did before the game became a science!

They have catalogued the players, they have diagrammed the plays,

Till they haven't left a chance for any guesser,

And the players' mental standard they will raise and raise and raise,

Till each member of the team is called “Professor.”

On their planes and curves and segments and their geometric dope,

And their mathematic plans they place reliance,

But their yells are just as raucous when they dub the ump a “mope”

As they were before the game became a science!

To tell it plain and truthful—it's the same old game of ball,

And the players aren't a lot of bulging highbrows;

They're a bunch of clever youngsters who can play a bit, that's all,

And whose eyes are keen and bright beneath their eyebrows.

There is still the old excitement and the rooting and the fun,

Whether watching arrant “bushers” or the Giants,

And we love to sit and holler on the bleachers in the sun

As we did before the game became a science!

The (Chicago) Day Book, July 20, 1912; The Pittsburg Press, July 23, 1912; The Tacoma Times, July 27, 1912