

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



VOL. XVII, No. 2: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!"

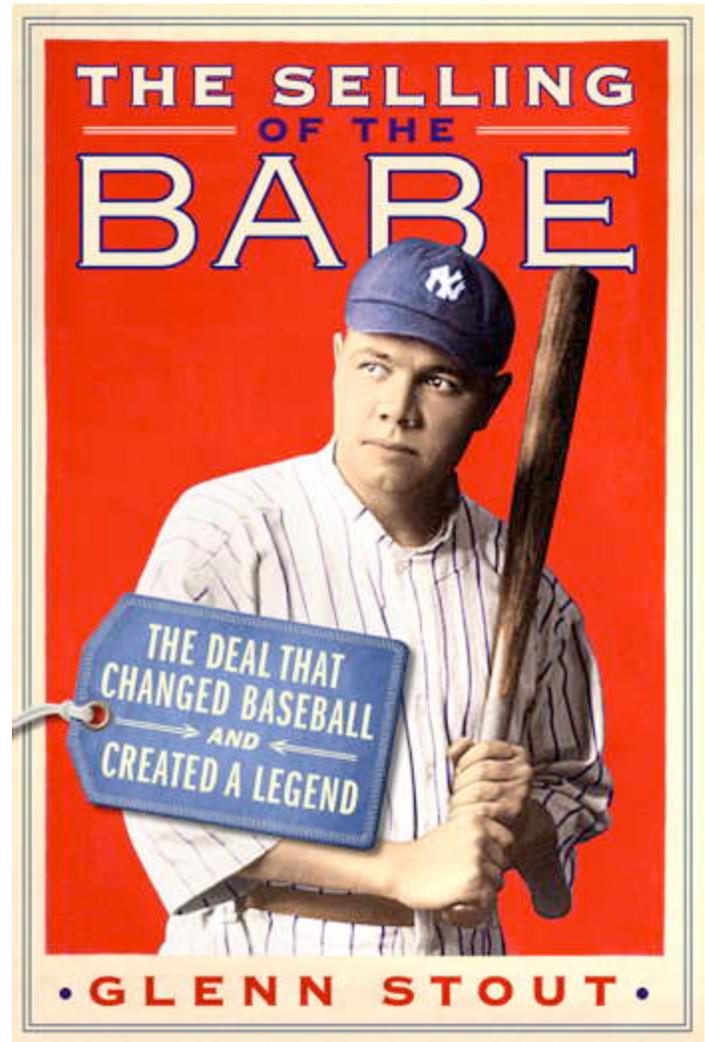
APRIL 2017

GLENN STOUT'S STORY OF RUTH SALE WINS 2017 RITTER AWARD

by Doug Skipper

A well-researched and myth-busting look at the most consequential player transaction in baseball history has earned the 2017 Larry Ritter Award. Veteran baseball historian Glenn Stout was named to receive the award for the second time for *The Selling of the Babe: The Deal that Changed Baseball and Created a Legend* (New York: Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2016).

The Ritter Award is granted annually by the Deadball Era Committee to the author of the best book about baseball between 1901 and 1919 published during the previous calendar year. The winner's work must demonstrate original research or analysis, a fresh perspective, a compelling thesis, impressive insight, accuracy, and clear, graceful prose. Stout previously won the award in 2012 for *Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year*. With *The Selling of the Babe*, he has been chosen to receive the honor for his examination of the deal



ON THE INSIDE:

DEC Member Spotlight page 4
Revisiting 1910 NL Strikeout Stats
 by Tom Ruane page 6
Out with a Whimper!?
 by Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau page 8
Baseball's Funnymen
 reviewed by Paul Langendorfer page 16
They Played for the Love of the Game
 reviewed by Todd Peterson page 17

The Low Self-Esteem Club
 reviewed by Andrew Milner page 19
Win Mercer
 reviewed by Paul Browne page 20
Old Comiskey Park
 reviewed by Don Zminda page 22
Accurate RBI Records
 – **The 1912 Detroit Tigers**
 by Herm Krabbenhoft page 24

that sent Babe Ruth from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees, changing the direction of both franchises, and the sport itself.

Stout debunks and puts to rest the fable that Red Sox owner Harry Frazee made the sale and invoked a generations-long curse on the Red Sox franchise because he was desperate for cash and in danger of losing his mortgage on Fenway Park as he struggled to keep afloat his floundering musical production *No, No Nanette*. Stout shows that the musical was financially successful; that Frazee's hold on the ballpark was secure; and that the Ruth sale was logical and necessary, based on a series of events that eventually led to the sale. Stout expertly chronicles those events in the context of the times, starting with Ruth's increasingly negative impact on the Red Sox as he transitioned from pitcher to hitter. A petulant Ruth played a disruptive role on the field and in the clubhouse, sometimes refusing to pitch. And, Stout argues, modern sabermetric analysis shows that the transition to everyday player that Ruth

insisted upon had a negative effect on the team in 1918 and 1919.

While Ruth was wearing out his welcome in Boston despite his blossoming hitting prowess, other events were converging to create opportunity for the sale. A power struggle had developed within American League ownership ranks. The implementation of Prohibition had its effects on the other business interests of Yankees owner and beer baron Jacob Ruppert. Opportunities, however, were presented to Ruppert by the repeal of laws against Sunday baseball in New York. There was also a shortage of top-quality wool caused by US participation in World War I. Perhaps most important, Ruppert understood that he needed Ruth, and the fans that the slugger would bring to the ballpark for the Yankees.

After expertly detailing the events that led to the sale and the circumstances of the transaction, Stout details how the deal changed the course of baseball history. For the Red Sox, arguably the most successful franchise of the Deadball Era, the sale of Ruth meant the end of a dynasty, and a generation of fans blamed Frazee for invoking a curse on the franchise. Meanwhile, as the



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Glenn Stout

grandest player in baseball's largest city, Ruth blossomed as baseball's greatest player and biggest box office attraction, and he allowed Ruppert to build the Yankees dynasty. More than that, the move to New York presented Ruth the stage to alter the game. His slugging effectively brought an end to the Deadball Era, revolutionized the way the game was played, and launched the lively ball era. "Ruth didn't transform the sport; it remade itself in his image," Stout writes. And while Ruth may not have saved baseball after the Black Sox scandal, his prodigious slugging certainly gave fans something else to think about.

"I was thrilled to win the Larry Ritter award the first time," Stout said when notified. "I'm doubly thrilled to receive it again. I know it was a very good field. And I'm honored because everyone knows the role that Larry Ritter played in promoting the Deadball Era. He was the first to bring attention to that period and I'm very humbled."

Stout has written and edited more than 90 books. In addition to his Larry Ritter Award efforts, he has also written the best-selling *Red Sox Century* and *Yankees Century*, as well as the critically-acclaimed *Nine Months at Ground*

Zero and Young Woman and the Sea: How Trudy Ederle Conquered the English Channel and Inspired the World, now in development for Paramount Pictures. Stout has served as series editor for *The Best American Sports Writing* since its inception. He plans to attend the presentation ceremony at this summer's SABR 47 convention in New York City.

Stout's examination of the Ruth transaction edged out Maury Klein's fine work *Stealing Games: How John McGraw Transformed Baseball with the 1911 New York Giants*. The other three finalists were *The Last Chicago Cubs Dynasty: Before the Curse*, by Hal Bock; *Fall from Grace: The Truth and Tragedy of "Shoeless Joe" Jackson*, by Tim Hornbaker, and *Game Worn: Baseball Treasures from the Game's Greatest Heroes and Moments*, by Steven Wong, Dave Grob, and Francesco Sapienza (photographer).

Conferred annually since 2002, this year's Ritter Award will be formally presented at the DEC meeting at SABR 47 in New York City. The award committee is chaired by Doug Skipper, with Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Craig Lammers, Mark Pattison, Ben Klein, and DEC Chairman John McMurray, members.

BALDY PLATTE INFLUENZA VICTIM

The family of Baldy Platte, the well known professional ball player, received word at Sandusky, Ohio, on October 10, that he died at Fort Benjamin Harrison. He was an influenza victim.

HARRY ACTON DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Harry Acton, a Springfield, Ohio, base ball pitcher, who had a tryout with the Detroit Tigers two years ago, died on October 18 at Camp Sherman of pneumonia following an attack of influenza. He also pitched one season in the Eastern League.

(Washington, D.C.) Evening Star, October 29, 1918

BASEBALL

Wichita vs. Topeka

Ladies Admitted Absolutely FREE Friday

Thursday 3:15 P. M.

The Savages are going good. Only four games at home this time. See them all.



The Topeka State Journal, May 12, 1915

DEC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**DAN LEVITT AND LYLE SPATZ
HONORED WITH CHADWICK AWARD**

**DON JENSEN
APPOINTED EDITOR OF *BASE BALL***

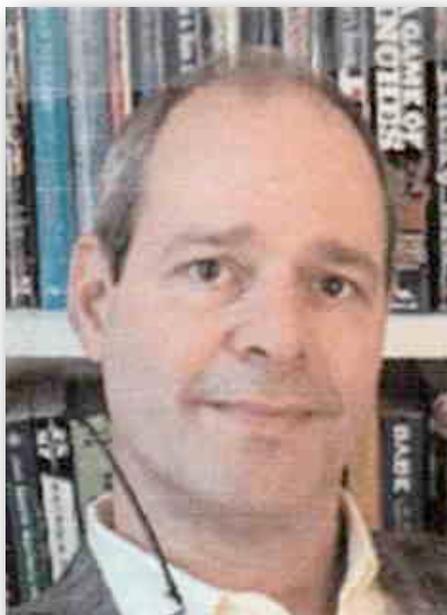
The off-season has been an eventful one for three distinguished Deadball Era Committee members. In February, historians Dan Levitt and Lyle Spatz were among those honored with the 2017 Henry Chadwick Award, while earlier this winter Don Jensen was appointed the new editor of *Base Ball, A Journal of the Early Game*.

Created by SABR in late-2009, the Henry Chadwick Award recognizes baseball researchers whose work has brought greater light and understanding to the history of the game. This year, the selection committee added DEC members Dan Levitt and Lyle Spatz, along with Latin baseball historian Peter Bjarkman and Protoball Project founder Larry McCray, to the roster of Chadwick honorees. Dan and Lyle, of course, are no strangers to newsletter readers. In addition to being book review section editor for *The Inside Game*, Dan has illuminated the executive side of baseball and the economics of the sport in award-winning works that include a biography of New York Yankees general manager Ed Barrow, a history of the Federal League (the

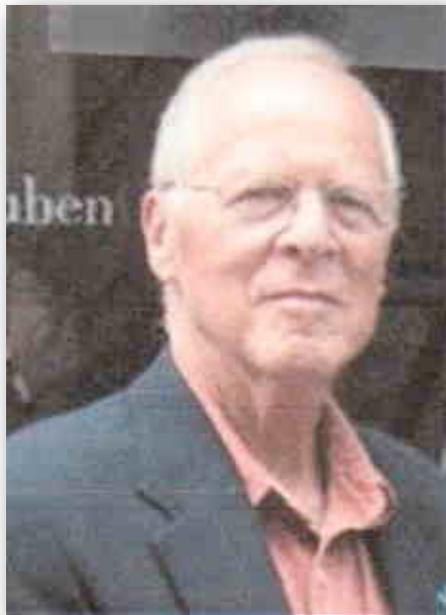
2013 Larry Ritter Award winner), and, most recently with co-author Mark Armour, an insightful examination of successful front office operations. Dan's extensive contributions to our organization and to baseball history and analysis also made him a most deserving recipient of the 2015 Bob Davids Award, SABR's highest honor.

A SABR member since 1973, Lyle Spatz has spent decades expanding our knowledge and appreciation of baseball via outstanding works of player biography, club history, and statistical analysis. Now chairman emeritus, he served for 25 years as chair of SABR's Baseball Records Committee and editor of the committee newsletter. Lyle was the recipient of the Bob Davids Award in 2000, but spent little time resting on his laurels. Since receiving that honor, he has authored engaging works about the teams and baseball personalities of greater New York, including Seymour Medal (2011) and SABR Research Award (2016) winning books co-written with Steve Steinberg. Lyle has also been a contributor to the *Baseball Research Journal*, the BioProject (which he also serves as assignment gatekeeper), and the Games Project. As with Dan, Lyle's recognition via the Chadwick Award is eminently well-deserved.

Don Jensen is equally at ease in the company of foreign dignitaries, students of diplomacy, or



Dan Levitt



Lyle Spatz



Don Jensen

fellow Giants loyalists. For years, he has successfully mixed service in our country's diplomatic corps, instruction in foreign relations (particularly with Russia) at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University, and entertaining baseball-loving audiences with tales of John Montgomery Ward, Harry Stevens, the Polo Grounds, and the popular culture of turn-of-the-century Manhattan. For his contributions to SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee, Don was recently the recipient of that committee's President's Award. Previously an articles author for *Base Ball, A Journal of the Early Game*, he now assumes the post of editor-in-chief, taking the reins from John Thorn, the official historian of major league baseball and the journal's founder. Given that *Base Ball's* jurisdiction extends through the 1920 season, newsletter contributors aspiring to upgrade their writing credentials are invited to submit story ideas to Don, and all DEC members are encouraged to patronize this engaging and informative scholarly annual. To subscribe to *Base Ball*, contact McFarland via www.info@mcfarlandpub.com.

SHOCKER BIO RELEASED

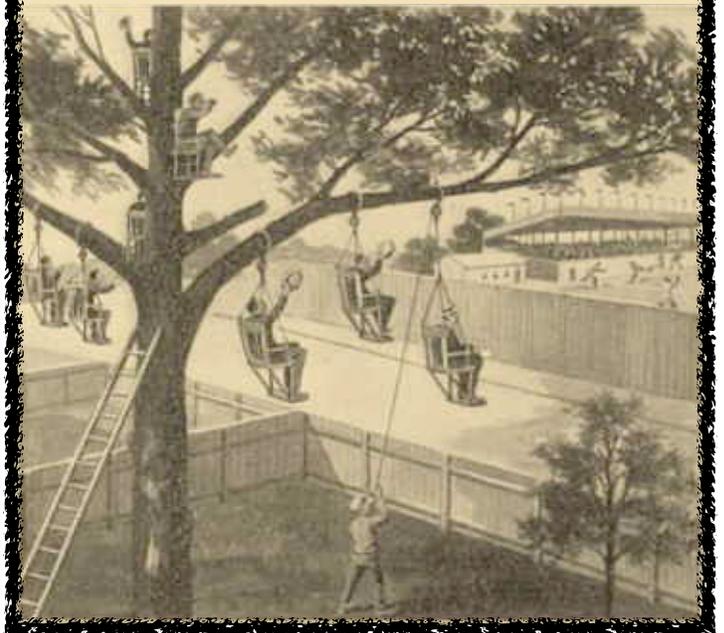
From his time with the late-Deadball Era St. Louis Browns through his tenure with the storied 1927 New York Yankees, Urban Shocker was one of the American League's finest pitchers. Undeservedly neglected today, the life of this stalwart hurler is vividly resurrected in a new biography by DEC member Steve Steinberg: *Urban Shocker, Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age*. Gracefully written, scrupulously annotated, and richly illustrated with rarely-seen photos (some from Steve's personal collection), the triumphs and tragedy of Shocker's abbreviated life are recounted in exemplary fashion. In short, Urban Shocker is a genuine treat. Released last month by the University of Nebraska Press, it can be ordered via pressmail@unl.edu or 800-848-6224.

A TAX ON SEATS IN TREES

The long arm of the law reaches everything—even apple trees. There was a man who owned a garden in which there was a tree that overlooked a ball field. Every time a game was played, the man who owned the tree brought out eight chairs and a ladder. He fastened the chain to the tree and then charged admission, five cents for some seats, ten cents for others, making fifty-five cents on each game.

Now, the Bureau of Internal Revenue heard about that fifty-five cents, and after due deliberation decided that it should be taxed because it came under the head of Admission to Places of Amusement.

Whereupon the price of the seat was raised to six and eleven cents, so that the tree might yield up its eight cents tax whenever a game was played.



Popular Science, July 1919

The big tarpaulin to protect the diamond at Exposition Park from the rain was put in position yesterday in exactly 3½ minutes. Secretary Knowles, of the New York club, says the Pittsburg device is the most practical he has ever seen.

The Pittsburg Press, May 15, 1908

REVISITING 1910 NATIONAL LEAGUE STRIKEOUT STATS

by Tom Ruane

With a couple of other Retrosheet volunteers, I've been working this off-season on getting 1910 National League box scores ready for release. Along the way, we have uncovered some interesting (at least to us) discrepancies in the pitching strikeout leader board. If you go to Baseball-Reference or Retrosheet and look at NL strikeout leaders for that year, the top three finishers are listed as Earl Moore (185), Christy Mathewson (184), and Sam Frock (171). Frock, of course, is by far the least-known of this trio. He came to Boston in a late-April 1910 trade and did not bring with him a reputation as a strikeout pitcher. Up until then, Frock had fanned only 24 batters in a brief career that spanned a little more than 70 major league innings. The 1910 season was the only one in which he would pitch regularly in the majors, as he was sent to the minor leagues for good in May 1911.

I hate to take away perhaps Sam Frock's greatest claim to fame, but it turns out that he did not come close to striking out 170 batters with Boston that year. If you add up the numbers in the strikeout column of the official dailies during his stay in Boston, it is pretty clear that he only fanned 79 batters in 1910. Or less than half the number credited to him. So what does that do to the strikeout leader board? Here is what we have once Frock is dropped way down the list: Moore (185), Mathewson (184), and Louis Drucke (151). Like Frock, 1910 would be the only season that Drucke pitched regularly in the majors. But wait: Sam Frock is not done messing with the leaders.

One of the errors that we see now and then when checking official statistics from the Deadball Era is the situation where both starting pitchers are given the same statistical line. For example, when Ernie Koob of the St. Louis Browns had his moment in the sun throwing a no-hitter on May 5, 1917, he was officially credited with opposing starter Eddie Cicotte's stat line, including the five base-hits that Cicotte had allowed. Why bring this up? Well, in the National League in 1910, this happened twice – and both times the opposing starter was Sam Frock.

On May 23, his opposite number was Cincinnati right-hander Harry Gaspar, and Gaspar does not figure in our story. But it happened again on September 7, and the pitcher stuck with Frock's pitching line instead of his own that occasion was Christy Mathewson. Mathewson had pitched extremely well that day, throwing a 2-0 shutout at Boston and tying his season-high with 11 strikeouts. Unfortunately for Matty, his stat line in the official dailies accorded him Frock's less impressive (but career-high) five strikeouts, rather than 11.

Fixing the Mathewson-Frock mistake has a dramatic effect on the 1910 National League strikeout leader board. When the error is corrected, the field finishes as follows: First,



Sam Frock



Christy Mathewson

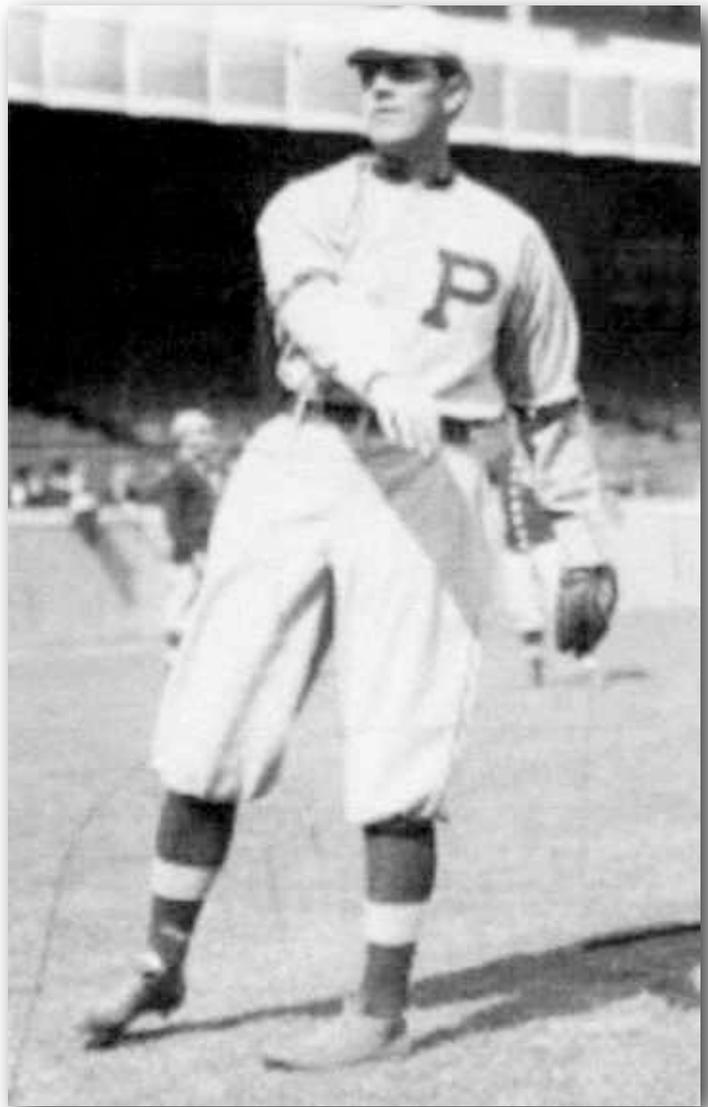
Mathewson (190); Second, Moore (185), and Third, Drucke, 151. This revision takes away Earl Moore's only NL strikeout crown, and gives Matty his sixth in a seven-season span. He would not, by the way, attain another.

A final note: once we have proofed play-by-play for the games of the 1910 season, there may be more changes in store. But for the time being, I thought that at least a few readers might find this reexamination of Deadball Era stats of interest. After all, if something is worth counting, it is worth counting accurately.

Recipient of the 2009 Bob Davids Award, Tom Ruane is a longtime leader and contributor to Retrosheet.

Umpire Bill Dinneen has been awarded a cash prize of \$200 by President Ban Johnson of the American League for conducting the shortest games during last season. Dinneen umpired 159 games, the average time of the contests being 1 hour and 55 minutes. Silk O'Laughlin was second, his average time being two minutes more than Dinneen's

The (Pittsburgh) Gazette Times, February 2, 1913



Earl Moore

GAMES/BIOPROJECT

Since our last newsletter was published, both the Games and BioProject have added to their collections of Deadball-related entries. Stephen V. Rice has supplied game accounts of a Three Finger Brown v. Christy Mathewson face-off from the 1907 season, and a wacky, high-scoring Cleveland Naps-NY Highlanders game from 1911. Meanwhile, the BioProject published profiles of Cotton Knaupp, Joe Lake, Del Mason, John Heydler, Joe Lotz, Charlie Babb, Henry Schmidt, Vedder Sitton, Ody Abbott, Spec Harkness, and Al Demaree. As always, we urge you to check out these stories if you have not yet done so.

OUT WITH A WHIMPER!? THE FINALE AT BOSTON'S HISTORIC SOUTH END GROUNDS

by **Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau**

On August 11, 1914, Cincinnati Reds right-hander Red Ames and Lefty Tyler of the Boston Braves matched goose eggs for 13 innings before the game ended in a deadlock. Unbeknownst to them and to virtually everyone else present, this epic game was to prove the last ever played at Boston's venerable South End Grounds. The crowds attracted by the Miracle Braves' surge in National League standings prompted club owner James Gaffney to transfer the season's remaining home games to the more spacious quarters of newly-erected Fenway Park. What follows is the story of the events that attended the finale of a grand old Boston ballpark.

SOUTH END GROUNDS

Though never identified by name on any map, Boston's Union Park was a place for general public recreation beginning in the 1860s. What northern city didn't have a Union Park after the Civil War? Considered then to be on the underdeveloped "outskirts of the city," the park was located 1½ miles west of the Common at Charles and Beacon Streets, where baseball was first enjoyed in the late 1850s. Businessman and baseball enthusiast Ivers Whitney Adams leased a portion of Union Park and built a comfortable grandstand for his Red Stockings shareholders and expected fans for the inaugural 1871 National Association season. The diamond sat between the immovable iron rails of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford tracks on its north side (Boston-Providence line) with Berlin Street as the southern border. To the east lay the Hammond Street extension and an open recreation area, with the shallow Muddy River winding through it, while the west end halted at Franklin and Milford Streets. Soon referred to as the South End Grounds, its Phase Two began in October 1887 when everything was torn down by National League Boston Beaneaters club owners Arthur

Soden, James Billings, and William Conant so that Philadelphia architect John Jerome Deery's spectacular twin witch-hat towers and double-decked grandstand could be erected for the 1888 season. On May 15, 1894, a wind-swept fire destroyed the ballpark and 117 neighborhood buildings. By July, Phase Three was completed as a plainer, cheaper replacement grandstand was built to house the Beaneaters-Doves-Braves. Though rustic and cramped, South End Grounds III hosted fans for another 20 seasons. By 1895, wider Columbus Avenue was now the southern border passageway but across it were the same intersecting short streets as in 1869: Benton, Burke, Coventry, and Cunard. Franklin was renamed Walpole Street by 1883. Paralleling the tracks in the early years was Grinnell Street, which disappeared into the ball field.

FINAL DAYS

It was a dark and stormy night. No really, it was, and because the related weather front caused the cessation of play of one game and postponement of another the next day, there is a story worth telling. Several factors combined to force an historic ballpark to fade away with what seems on the surface, just a whimper, instead of a more deserved "bang."

Though Boston's decade-long National League doormat was on a surprising South End Grounds winning streak, no one could have forecast what was going to happen as August faded into September. From late-July 1914, Boston's suddenly relevant Walpole Street gang won nine-straight home games (eight at SEG), the team's most consecutive wins of the 20th Century. In fact, not since 1897 when the eventual NL champion Beaneaters posted 16-in-a-row at the two-year old SEG III (post-May 1894 fire, re-inhabited in mid-July) had such a streak occurred. Ex-Giant star but by-then rookie manager-shortstop Charles "Buck" Herzog and his Cincinnati Reds were 47-52 when this series began, but they were edged in the first two games. Century-old hindsight allows us to see how this (then-unsuspected final SEG) home stand channeled the host Braves toward the "miracle" outcome awaiting them, while the poor

Reds would eventually sink into their own private abyss.

Manager George T. Stalling's Braves were a month into their startling ascent from last place (26-40 after a July 4 double-dip to Brooklyn). But starting with two wins over the same Robins on July 6, fantastic pitching, numerous good breaks, and a few clutch hits slowly put the Braves in a more respectable position. It was during the next home stint that they rose from 40-45 to 51-46, a place (above .500) the club had not been acquainted with for a decade. From 1904 to 1912, Boston had lost 900 games and looked worse accomplishing it. With a whiff of better times in 1913 (69-82) and with this current run, visions of even more grandeur danced in the heads of long-suffering Hub NL fanatics. But reality had to be dealt with first. Two more victories over the sinking Porkopolis boys would stoke those dreams, but Mother Nature and a crafty veteran pitcher would not cooperate.

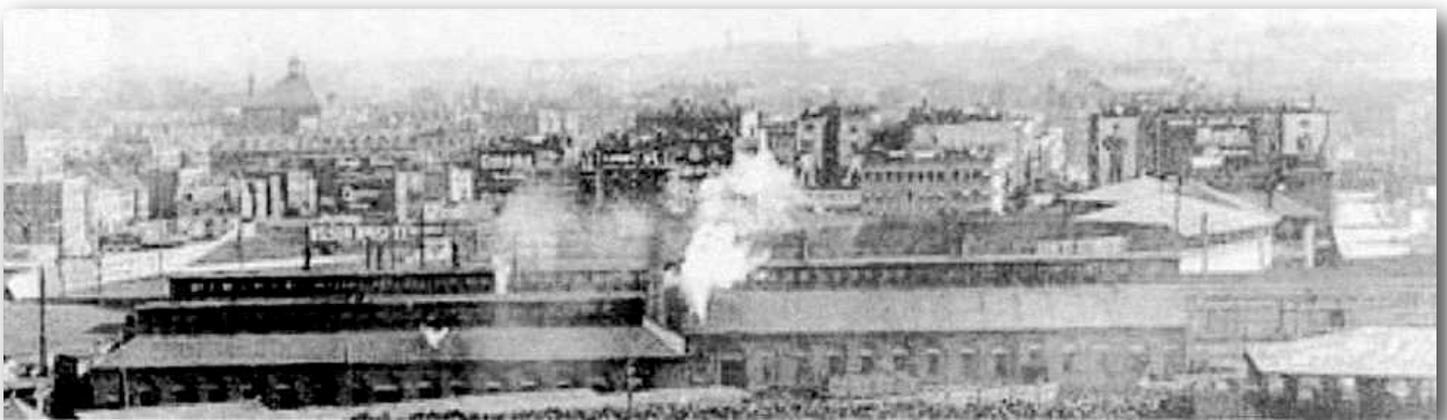
HISTORY'S MOUND DUELISTS

From July 14 to August 30, 1914, there was no better pitcher anywhere than George Albert "Lefty" Tyler. By career timeline coincidence, the Derry, New Hampshire product played for each of the triple name-changed Boston NL teams. Tyler, an over-the-top, and on occasion cross-firing curveballer, came up with the Doves in late-1910, but really started his career in 1911 with the Rustlers. Now a Brave, Tyler had been given an Opening Day start for the only time in his career in 1914, losing to Brooklyn, 8-2. Nine days later, rotation fate had put him on the South

End Grounds mound to start what would be the last "home opener" there. He took revenge on the Robins, winning 9-1 despite allowing seven hits and 11 walks.

Lefty lost one of those July 4th games before his odd delivery settled into a near-unhittable arm slot. In St. Louis on July 14, Tyler lost 3-2, but did not allow the winning runs to score until a ninth-inning pinch-hit double by seldom-used rookie Jack Roche (6-for-9, with three RBIs for the 1914 season). Tyler then went 7-1-1, plus two no-decisions, one of which Boston salvaged in 10 innings on Walter Maranville's walk-off, solo home run at Walpole Street on August 6. In that Braves turnaround span of 47 days, Lefty made 12 starts, allowing only 15 runs (in 99 innings while yielding 66 hits), but his run support totaled a mere 22. Tyler, who also employed an effective slow ball that he named "the floater," had streaks of 19 and 18 scoreless innings before his personal high of 27 eclipsed them. Separating the 19 and the 18 was only rookie Cardinals catcher Frank Snyder's solo blast at the SEG on July 30. It was Snyder's first career home run and the last home run by an opposing player at the Grounds. During those same weeks, Lefty's sophomore righty-throwing mates, Dick Rudolph (10-2) and Bill James (11-1), had notched better records than Tyler, but they gave up more runs and had almost double the run support.

The August 11 game was played in the midst of Tyler's dominant run. Since June 28th's world-changing assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, only one event



South End Grounds III, seen in background of 1903 World Series photo.

attracted more Boston readers than the Braves surge. War in Europe maintained banner-headlines on every front page, and each day the news was worse as various armies maneuvered for future conquests.

On the mound in opposition to Tyler was Leon Kessling "Red" Ames, formerly with John McGraw's New York Giants for a decade. The Warren, Ohio native won 106 games (in 207 starts) for the Giants through 1912, but was dealt to Cincinnati in early 1913. Ames had already pitched 1,360 innings by the time that the younger Tyler debuted. Bad luck at the worst moments dotted Red's career, so a newspaperman gave him the moniker "Kalamity." Arriving in Boston that August, Ames was 13-13, having just lost 2-0 to the Phillies' Grover Alexander. In about the exact-same span of weeks as Tyler's marvelous streak, Ames went 6-4-1, allowing 28 runs in 94 innings [on 85 hits). A workhorse in 1914, Ames hurled a career-high of 297 innings and tied for the league save lead with six.

Tyler and Ames had matched up only twice before in three-plus seasons, Red winning both games, 6-4 in New York (September 1911) and 5-4 in 11 frames in Cincinnati (September 1913). Despite thunderstorms being forecast, a huge crowd between 7,000 and 10,000 fans (depending on your newspaper masthead) showed up on an 80-degree, Tuesday afternoon. Cincy had begun 1914 by whipping Boston in six of seven games, including a four-game May sweep at Redland Field; Tyler lost two of the six. But since then, the Braves had won five-straight. Flamboyant, Baltimore-born manager Herzog had only himself (.284, as of August 10), young second baseman Heinie Groh (.264), catcher Tommy Clarke (.263), and flychaser Bert Daniels (.256) as reliable stickmen that day. For the Braves, Joe Connolly (.292), irrepressible Rabbit Maranville (.247), rookie Charlie "Butch" Schmidt (.269), and newly-acquired James "Red" Smith (.245 with Brooklyn) were the main offensive weapons. Pepper-pot captain Johnny Evers (batting .298 as of August 10) was absent. The 12-year, ex-Cubs star who had been traded to Boston in February, was in Troy, New York with his family, sadly burying three-year-old daughter Helen, who had died of scarlet

fever. "Crab" Evers missed three wins and a loss that week.

PLAY BALL!!!

Umpire Bill Klem called for the first pitch just after 3 pm. Each hurler had a shaky first inning. Tyler (then with a 2.90 ERA) walked the first two Reds but escaped unscathed with ground ball force outs. With two gone, Ames (2.18 ERA) walked third batter Connolly, then hit Maranville, but got the third out safely. After that, Old Red, also a noted curveballer, was hardly bothered for the rest of the game. But Tyler often flirted with danger. In at least four innings, two men reached base against him. Newspaper accounts included just about every Brave being responsible for some crucial defensive play during the course of the game. Lefty gave up 10 hits and passed four batters, giving the Reds plenty of scoring opportunities. But Schmidt threw out Clarke trying to stretch a single in the second, and later snagged a very high throw to first. In his second day as a Brave, Smith took a hard, high bouncer and got a force play on speedy Groh in the sixth; the *Cincinnati Inquirer* called it the best play of the game. Leftfielder Connolly created his own near-disaster in the seventh after leadoff hitter Daniels singled. Herzog's following safety to Connolly allowed Bert to reach third, but as he was slowed by base coach Earl Yingling, they both spied Joe still fumbling with the ball. With a Yingling wave, Daniels sought the plate but Connolly's perfect short-hop throw home found catcher Hank Gowdy, who tagged the ex-Yankee out. In the eighth, Gowdy made third on his own hit, Tyler's sacrifice, and a Josh Devore groundout. Unphased, Ames got George "Possum" Whitted to pop to Groh ending the threat. In the ninth, fleet centerfielder Les Mann raced down Daniels' bid for a potential game-winning triple. After his terrific grab, Mann's heady throw doubled a dumbfounded Ames off first base. Into the tenth, the scoreboard showed all zeroes. Ames's second uneasy inning came then, when Tyler dribbled an infield hit and Devore (a July 4 pickup from the Phillies then batting .206) walked. But as in the opening frame, this would-be rally had followed two outs and the third came next. Whitted (.192), Evers' substitute

at second, grounded out to rookie third sacker Albert "Fritz" Von Kolnitz. Tyler had fanned Fritz four times, but Von Kolnitz had his moment of glory when he juggled, but held, a scorched line drive by Smith in the seventh that could have scored Rabbit from second base. It was only Von Kolnitz's second game playing the hot corner.

Neither pitcher weakened in extra innings. Tyler whiffed Herzog and Herbie Moran (who joined the Braves two weeks later) in the 13th before Von Kolnitz singled. Fritz was quickly forced at second by Groh. Ames, no stranger to long, tense days on the SEG mound, easily took care of the final 10 batters he faced, with the "Possum" making the final out. As the innings went by, the forecasted dark clouds cloaked Boston. And when raindrops began to splash on umpires Klem and Bob Emslie, Klem took it as a sign from the only power he thought above himself on a ballfield. The umpire-in-chief literally "could not see" continuing, and the splendid match was halted at 0-0 after 13 innings. After 175 minutes, players and onlookers agreed it was the fairest way to end the hard-fought contest.

Red had success at the SEG, 10-5-3 lifetime, losing three to Al Mattern in magnificent matchups. The August 11 game was Ames' fourth 1914 shutout, and 20th of his career 27. Red had experienced this kind of game before. On September 2, 1907, he and Brooklyn rookie George Bell matched 13 scoreless innings at the Polo Grounds. In the 1909 season opener versus Brooklyn again at the Polo Grounds, Ames and Irvin "Kaiser" Wilhelm toiled for 13 frames, with the Superbas winning, 3-0. Of special note was Kalamity's no-hitting them for the first nine innings. Tyler's 13 frames was his longest single-game stint for Boston, surpassed only by his 21 for the Chicago Cubs on July 17, 1918 at Weeghman Park, still the record at renamed Wrigley Field. The whitewash was Lefty's fourth in 1914, and the ninth of his career 30. Tyler was 92-92 when he departed the Braves, 24-26-3 at the Grounds.

THE END HAS COME

On Wednesday morning, a few newspapers optimistically said that day's scheduled game was to begin at 3 pm. But a steady drizzle prevented



Red Ames

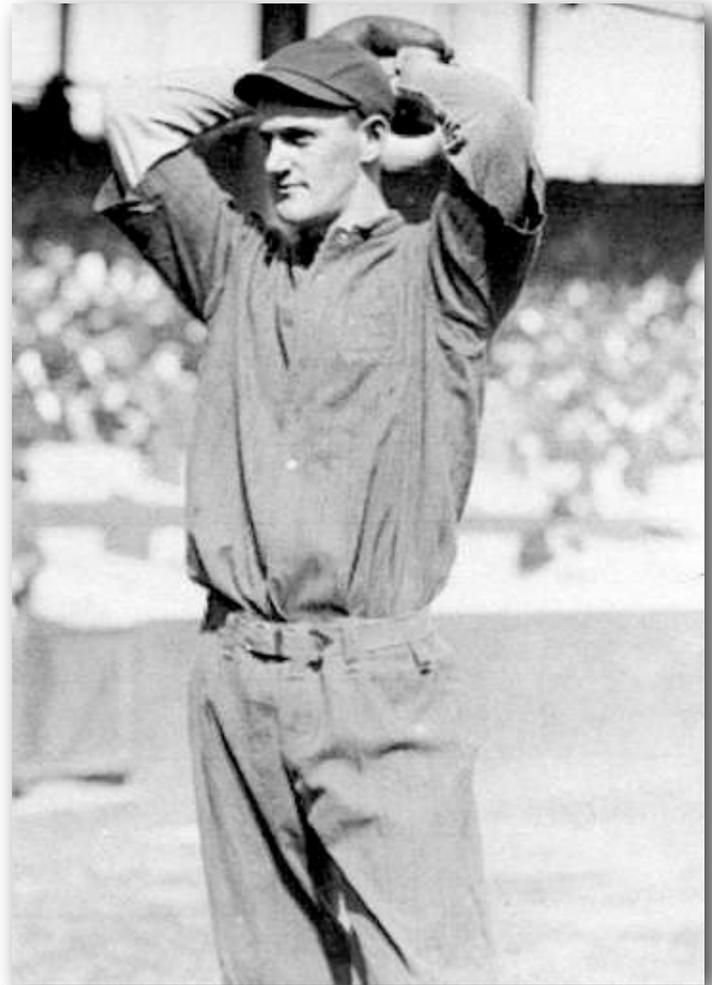
play, necessitating the game to be rescheduled for the Reds' September return. The weary Braves gratefully exited Boston by 1 pm, and rested on their train trip to New York to battle the first-place Giants in what was now proclaimed a monumental series. But as the Braves left town, few realized that South End Grounds would never see another major league ball game.

Back on July 25, the Boston home stand had begun with an amazing weekday throng of 16,000 fans cramming into the well-worn Columbus Avenue/Walpole Street ball yard. Seeing that kind of interest, the Red Sox owner, Quebec-born immigrant Joseph John Lannin, offered free use of his larger, three-year-old Fenway Park to Braves president Gaffney, a New Yorker and ex-Tammany Hall alderman. Gate receipts were

crucial to a ballclub's bottom line, so a very appreciative Gaffney accepted the selfless offer, originally just for "Saturday and holiday" games when attendance would be highest. Braves games on August 1 (20,000) and August 8 (14,000) were played at Fenway, and both were 4-3 victories in 10 innings. Lannin, who had owned a small piece of the Braves in 1912, bought into the Red Sox in 1913 and was sole owner by 1914, while Gaffney took over the Braves in August 1912. Both owners were fairly new to operating baseball clubs, but being savvy businessmen, they had correctly gauged the Braves popularity in regard to the use of Fenway instead of the SEG.

If the Braves winning pace had faltered, the SEG might have seen resumed play. But at the Polo Grounds, Rudolph, James, and Tyler swept their games, with Tyler beating Christy Mathewson, 2-0 in 10 innings on Gowdy's RBI-triple/run. The tireless trio replicated that feat in the Ohio River's Queen City with Lefty finally beating Red Ames, 3-2. Completing a 16-6 road trip, the Braves returned to a crazed Boston fan base for a Labor Day doubleheader with, as the baseball gods would have it, New York. The two clubs were now in a first-place dead-heat at 68-53. Separate admissions for morning and afternoon games drew an astounding 73,000 ticket buyers. With the brilliantly-calculated speculation of such fan support and spearheaded by the Braves continued road success, all 21 originally scheduled games of the 23-day September home stand had already been moved to Fenway Park. The Braves ended 21-4-2 there, as six games (doubleheaders) were added due to rainouts and ties. With heavily-patronized concessions added in, it was a perfect cash-flow storm for Gaffney and Lannin, and signaled the sad, yet financially practical, abandonment of the ancient South End Grounds forever.

Tyler (eventually 16-13) was charged with two of Boston's four home stand losses. But on September 26, he beat Chicago 6-2 for the Braves 85th win en route to a final 94-59 record. The Giants finished the season at 84-70. In wide contrast to Tyler, Red Ames lost his last eight starts to finish with a 15-23 log. Cincinnati dropped 19 straight, then eight of nine more to



Lefty Tyler

finish 60-94. In his 23 defeats, Cincinnati batters provided Ames with only 45 runs. Red topped baseball in losses, as Tyler had done in 1912 with 22. In the ensuing years, Lefty and Red faced off four more times. Lefty won them all in tight duels, 2-0, 4-3, 3-2, and 1-0 in 10 innings. Both hurlers ended their careers pitching in Philadelphia's Baker Bowl. In his final major league appearance, Phillies reliever Ames registered a final-inning save in a 10-9 game in September 1919. As a Cubs reliever in 1921, Tyler finished by giving up two home runs in an 8-0 loss. Ames [1882-1936] was born, lived, died, and was buried in Warren, Ohio. The New Hampshire-born Tyler [1889-1953] lived, died, and was buried in Lowell, Massachusetts.

LOOSE STITCHES

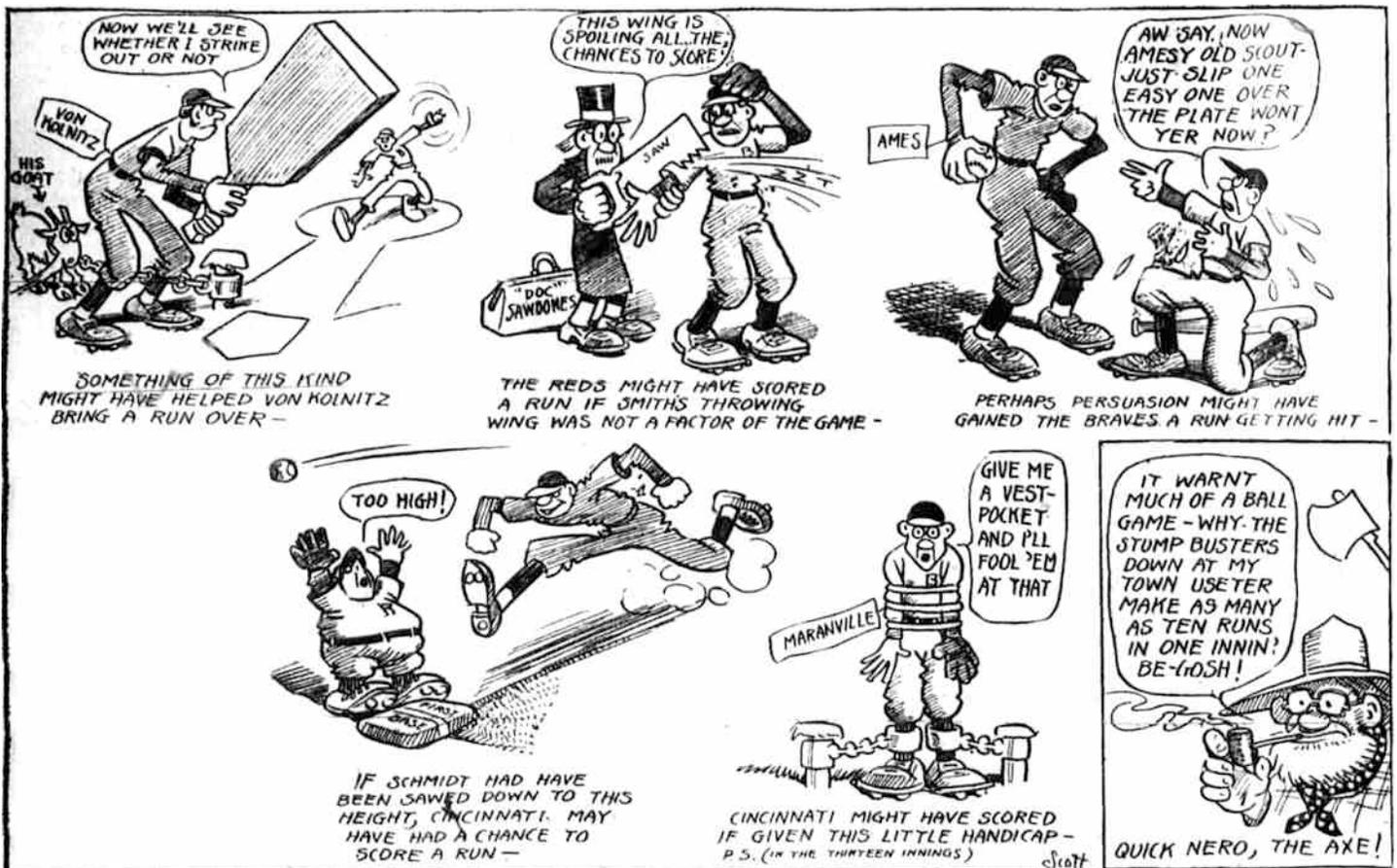
Owners Lannin and Gaffney were literally "on the money" about the Braves drawing power in

September 1914. The 11 games at SEG during their breakout August streak averaged about 8,000 cramped customers. September's joyous 27-game Fenway fest averaged 12,500, which included the record 73,000 gate on Labor Day and three huge Saturday game crowds. Only the final two games, played in raw temperatures a few days after the Braves' pennant-clinching, dropped crowds to under 3,000.

On October 12 and 13, 1914, the Braves completed their "Miracle" World Series sweep over Connie Mack's Philadelphia A's at Fenway Park. Tyler pitched Game Three against Leslie "Bullet Joe" Bush. Tied after 10 frames, reliever James got the win in the 12th, 5-4 before 35,000. The next day, Rudolph took the Series finale, 3-1, as 34,300 attendees went wild. Gaffney's Braves continued to use Fenway in 1915 until the enormous Braves Field in Allston was completed by his construction company.

Though there was tumultuous celebrating on October 13, left in decaying solitude less than a

mile away was the South End Grounds. The glorious first Opening Day there was May 16, 1871, when the National Association Red Stockings were shockingly clobbered 29-14 by the Troy Haymakers in front of 3,000 fans. Only a 32-13 October 1873 slugfest saw more runs scored there in a game. Over 44 years within its three varied confines, the iconic yard had seen a dozen great championship teams play. The NA Red Stockings, American Association Red Caps, and NL Boston Beaneaters, Doves, Rustlers, and Braves had won 1,500 games, and nearly every 19th century player of worth had performed there. Though there were seven scoreless ties over four decades, only one had reached extra innings (10 in 1913) before the Tyler-Ames battle. It made the SEG record book upon the site's then-unforeseen era-ending final out. Of the 42 tie games of any score, two lasted 17 innings, one reached 14 (1882), and two were stopped after 13. Amazingly, visitor Red Ames pitched in three of these extra-inning contests, going 17 in a 3-3 draw versus Al Mattern, the



Boston Post, August 12, 1914

longest NL game in 1909, and 13 frames against mound foes Cecil Ferguson (1.1 innings) and Lew Richie (11.2), both 4-4 ties in 1909, plus the classic versus Lefty. A scoreless, extra-inning draw to bring the curtain down now seems poetic justice for the beloved South End Grounds. It had now seen and hosted it all.

The final irony was that Ivers Adams, the club owner-businessman who had created the Boston Red Stockings in January 1871, died on October 10, 1914, the date of World Series Game Two in Philly. Adams was buried in his hometown of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, on the day the Series ended at Fenway Park instead of at his historic Grounds. SEG was a walkable three-quarters of a mile east of his "Highlands" home in 1871. With no baseball responsibilities left, the SEG grandstand was torn down and the land sold in December 1914.

Game box score: The August 11, 1914 Retrosheet box score and the Hall of Fame Library Day-by-Day player files credit Josh Devore with a base-hit, giving Boston six for the game. The five newspapers in Boston and Cincinnati printing box scores all recorded five singles. Combined, they have text descriptions of all the hits, and Josh's is not mentioned. Devore's phantom hit also disturbs Boston's eight Left on Base number, noted in all the papers. In recreating a scorecard for Cincinnati, Groh's walk (listed in newspaper box summaries) does not fit anywhere -- unless he was thrown out stealing or picked off in the sixth, plays unnoted anywhere.

The future of the historic South End Grounds was already in question by January 1914 when *Sporting Life*, quoting Boston papers, indicated that, despite improvements in the ball yard, Gaffney was looking for a space that could hold a larger seating capacity because "his rent was getting too serious." Yet in mid-April, a new 22-foot-by-64-foot scoreboard was completed at SEG, despite more rumors of the Braves going elsewhere.

In early December 1914, *Sporting Life* reported that Gaffney had purchased the property where Braves Field would be built, a site on the former

Allston Golf Club acreage which was accessible by the new Boylston Street trolley line. *Sporting Life* columnist AHC Mitchell gave the final obituary of the SEG on December 26, 1914, spelling out Gaffney's plans to start construction in March 1915 and to use Fenway Park until Braves Field was ready. Gaffney denied a sale of the SEG had been made, but said he was willing to let the land go for a reasonable price if the city would profit by having a commercial property take over the Walpole Street/Columbus Avenue site. Unbiased accolades and brickbats were handed out in the same *Sporting Life* paragraph: "... Doubtless some kind of factory will soon mark the spot where some of the greatest battles in the history of base ball have been fought. More championships have been won on those old grounds than on any other in the world. But none is sorry to see them go. Small in every way, they were right up against the railroad tracks (New York, New Haven and Hartford) and when the wind was right, clouds of black smoke from the locomotives interfered with the play and with the comfort of the spectators."

Longtime SABR member Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau is an authority on early Boston baseball.

SOURCES

Boston American, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Boston Post, Boston Record, Brooklyn Eagle, Cincinnati Enquirer, Lowell Sun, and Sporting Life.

Hall of Fame Library Player Files

Retrosheet.org

Maps of Old Boston (varied online sources)

Longtime land owner Northeastern University officially opened its 21st century-designed Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex building on April 3, 2017. It sits squarely on what was the South End Grounds infield-outfield, facing what was the grandstand area. Discussions and info meetings have been started as to how NU can acknowledge and honor the first tenants in some fashion.

CARDINALS ARE FORGIVEN: IN STEALING SECOND PLACE THEY MERELY PULLED GIANTS BACK CLOSER

By WALLACE GOLDSMITH.

WASNT IT INCONSIDERATE OF HIM TO PULL THE STANDING RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER OUR BRAVE INJUN



DOUBLED!

AFTER DER WORLDT'S SERIOUS ILL HAV FRANKFORTS, BREAKFAST DINNER UND SUPPER

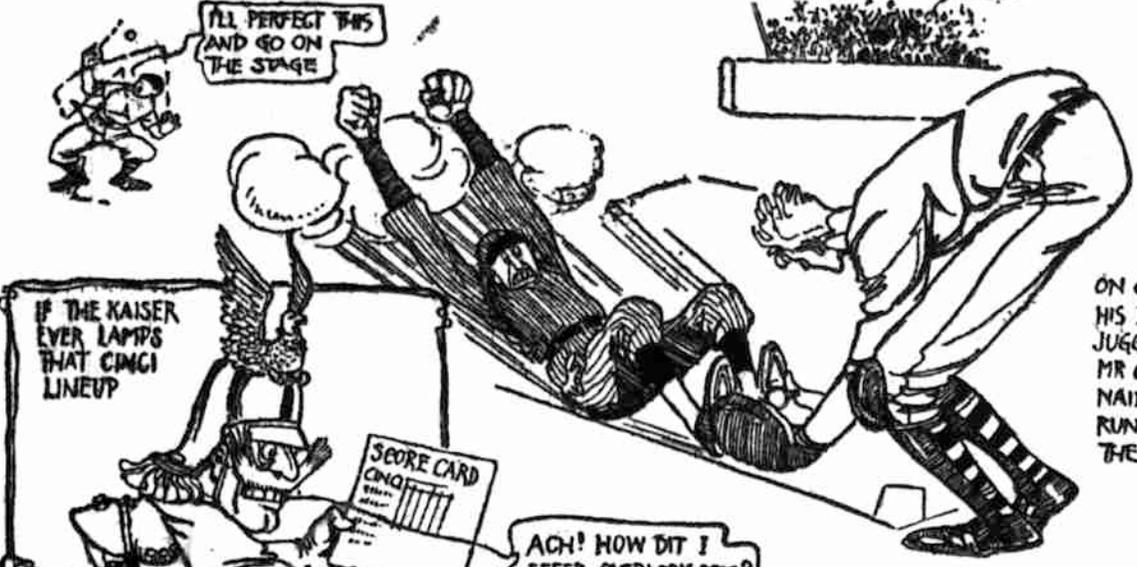
GWIN! I NEED THIS

THEY PULL STARTING PLAYS WITH PERFECT SANG FROID

LASTIOUS

WHOPP

ALL PERFECT THIS AND GO ON THE STAGE



ON COMPLETING HIS LITTLE JUGGLING ACT MR CONNOLLY NAILED THE RUNNER AT THE PLATE



SCORE CARD CINGI

ACH! HOW DIT I EFFER OVERLOOK DEM? COME OVER IN DER ARMY YET?

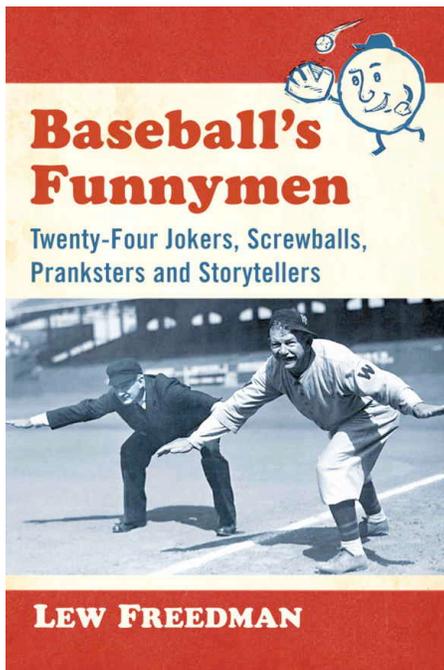
- MOLLWITZ
- NIEHOFF
- HERZOG
- DERGHAMMER
- VON KOHNITZ
- SCHNEIDER
- GRON

ALSO TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SOUTH END PARK THEY SHOULD ISSUE BEER CHECKS INSTEAD OF RAIN CHECKS



Wallace Goldsmith

Boston Globe, August 12, 1914



**BASEBALL'S
FUNNYMEN: TWENTY-
FOUR JOKERS,
SCREWBALLS,
PRANKSTERS AND
STORYTELLERS**

BY LEW FREEDMAN

2016, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1476663586. 224
pp. \$29.95 USD. Paperback]

Reviewed by
Paul Langendorfer
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Baseball spans a 162-game schedule. From the renewed hope of each March to the dog days of August and the chilly nights of October, it seems baseball is the one constant, the one professional sport that stays with us the longest each year. In this marathon grind, it is no wonder that special characters arise and become icons and legends for both their on-field and off-field prowess and antics. In Lew

Freedman's new book, *Baseball's Funnymen: Twenty-Four Jokers, Screwballs, Pranksters and Storytellers*, the reader is given a tour of various clubhouses, hotels, and ballparks to witness what makes these men something special. The joy of this book is in these shared inside stories and exploits that may be familiar to some or a brand new piece of baseball lore to others. The author observes early on that "Humor is a Subjective art, and what is funny to one person is obnoxious to another. One person may laugh hysterically over certain behavior, and another might want to see the perpetrator arrested for the same act."

Twenty-four humorists, satirists, and just plain laugh-out-loud funny baseball characters are profiled in this book, along with an epilogue highlighting those who did not quite make the final cut. The work is like a fine wine, it can

be enjoyed in small doses of your favorites, (e.g., "If you come to a fork in the road, take it.") or you can get drunk on laughter all at once. What makes this a great read is that the author provides the context behind the stories. In the Yogi Berra chapter, each famous "Yogiism" is explained with the origin of the saying. For instance, who knew that by taking the circular road in front of Yogi's home you would end up at your destination either way? In quoting the "Old Perfessor," a look into the humor of Stengelese is given. When removing a pitcher from the game who stated "I'm not tired," Stengel replied with, "Well, I'm tired of you!"

Chapter-to-chapter, page-to-page, the book is a litany of the famous: Yogi Berra, Dizzy Dean, Bill Veeck, Harry Caray, Bill Lee, Satchel Paige, Max Patkin, and Bob Uecker; and the not so famous: Bo Belinsky, Jay Johnstone, Steve Lyons (forever immortalized for one

PUBLISHERS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Copies of the five books reviewed in this issue were generously supplied to the newsletter by their publishers. *Baseball's Funnymen* and *Old Comiskey Park* are published by our friends at McFarland and can be ordered via email (info@mcfarlandpub.com) or telephone (800-253-2187). *They Played for the Love of the Game* comes from the Minnesota Historical Society Press and can be ordered by email (ips@ingramcontent.com) or telephone (844-841-0257). *The Low Self-Esteem Club* was published by Terremoto Grande Publishing and can be ordered by calling 717-732-6382. The biography of Win Mercer was published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform and can be ordered via amazon.com. Your patronage of these publishers is appreciated.

of the greatest brain cramps on television by dropping his pants to remove the dirt in them before a live audience), and Nick Altrock (whose image graces the book's cover). It is the introductions to the not-so-famous characters like Altrock, who was born before the turn-of-the-last-century, played in Organized Baseball for five decades, and took "only his clowning and his golf seriously," that makes this book stand out from its peers. As one of the pioneers of modern-day base coaches in the majors, Altrock had ample time and opportunity to perform for the masses such feats as wrestling with himself and wiggling his ears.

The book numbers just over 200 pages; however, the body of research that Freedman reviewed to compile the stories of these baseball clowns is much greater. Citing an impressive litany of over 70 periodicals and newspapers, the book abounds in first-hand quotes from the profiled players. When reading each mini-biography, it feels as if each player is telling the narrative of his life and sharing laugh-out-loud moments,

Bob Harmon, the St. Louis Cardinal pitcher, is in vaudeville doing his ragtime violin specialty. His alibi is that vaudeville patrons stand for Rube Marquard.

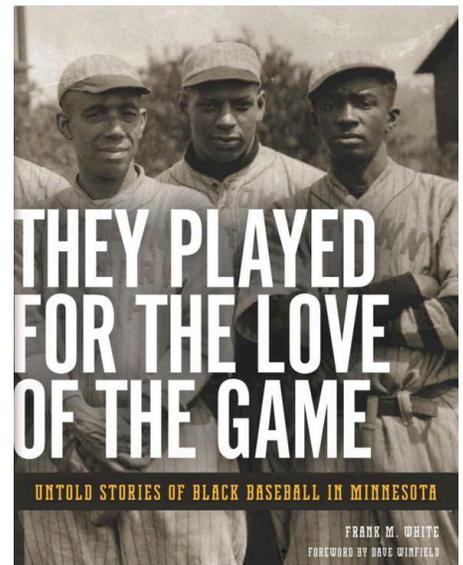
Ellensburg (Washington) Daily Record, January 25, 1913

including zany tales such as the player who liked to take naps on the bathroom floor before pitching in relief after a snack of spare-ribs (hint: his son is a famous country western star).

One final debate that this work may help settle is who was the true "Clown Prince of Baseball"? The name has been claimed by many but two men stand out in this book: Al Schact, who once joked that the only thing he won during his stint in World War I was the "Battle of Influenza," and Max Patkin whose double-jointed antics gave him the ability to mimic a bird in flight and who was later immortalized in the baseball movie *Bull Durham*.

Countless great stories are told in the book, too many to mention. And as we wait for the long summer days ahead and the cry of "Play Ball," when reading this book it is inevitable we think back to the late Harry Caray and smile thinking of his great baritone warbling, "All right. Lemme hear ya! Ah-one, ah-two, ah-three. Take me out to the Ballgame!"

Paul Langendorfer is an avid sports fan with a deep passion for the New York Yankees. Born and raised in Buffalo, he holds a B.A. in English from Canisius College and a M.A. in History from the University of Colorado at Denver, and is the author of the recently released book Baseball in Buffalo. Paul currently resides in Aurora, Colorado with his awesome wife and wonderful children.



THEY PLAYED FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME: UNTOLD STORIES OF BLACK BASEBALL IN MINNESOTA

BY FRANK M. WHITE

2016, Minnesota Historical Society Press
[ISBN: 978-1681340043. 192 pp. \$19.95 USD. Paperback]

Reviewed by
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While not a major Negro Leagues hotbed, the state of Minnesota was home to several significant black baseball teams and athletes from the late-nineteenth century until the early 1970s. Frank White's new book, *They Played for the Love of the Game*, tells the story of legendary African American squads such as the St. Paul Gophers and Minneapolis Keystones, and homegrown players such as Walter Ball, College Football Hall-of-Fame inductee Bobby

Marshall, female pioneer Toni Stone, and National Baseball Hall-of-Famer Dave Winfield. In addition, White recounts the part the region played in the integration of Organized Baseball, providing a launching pad for the careers of future Hall-of-Famers Roy Campanella, Willie Mays, Orlando Cepeda, and Lou Brock.

White, a longtime Gopher state coach, umpire, and sports administrator, grew up watching his father, Louis “Pud” White play baseball and fast-pitch softball on Twin Cities diamonds during the 1950s. He first channeled his familial relationship with blackball into a 2009 exhibit with the Ramsey County Historical Society, which ultimately provided the genesis for this book. What sets *They Played for the Love of the Game* apart from earlier volumes on the subject such as Steven Hoffbeck’s insightful *Swinging for the Fences* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2005) or my own *Early Black Baseball in Minnesota* (McFarland, 2010) is the personal connection the author brings to the plate. By tagging along with his dad, White met or heard first-hand the stories of almost every significant blackball player or coach in Minnesota history.

Readers are thus made privy to the inside story of Jackie Robinson’s infamous first game in Philadelphia as related by White’s high school coach Howie Schultz, who played

first base for the Phillies that day. The author also reveals how Twin Cities blackball manager George White (no relation) ran a gambling den out of his basement to finance his squads, and how his father’s teams dealt with racism while barnstorming in nearby Wisconsin. White is not just a raconteur of hot stove yarns, however. He devotes several pages to his childhood growing up in St. Paul’s Rondo area, and his elegiac narrative of the destruction of the African American neighborhood in order to make room for a freeway is especially moving.

The former ballplayer flashes some serious research chops as well, coming up with a few significant finds, including reproducing the 1903 letter that Baltimore owner Ned Hanlon of the then-minor league Orioles wrote to Billy Williams offering the black first baseman a spot on his squad. Hanlon, though, required that White pass as Native-American, while asking

him to name “his lowest terms.” White describes how the St. Paul slugger wrestled with his choice between trying to make it in Organized Baseball and accepting an important post as an aide to Minnesota’s governor. The author also documents the recreational shift from hardball to fast-pitch softball and the dominance of the latter sport by Twin Cities African American clubs, while providing real insight into the decline of baseball in the black community during the 1960s. White demonstrates through many first-person accounts how institutional racism derailed the baseball careers of many aspiring black athletes of that time, including Dave Winfield’s older brother Steve.

In the course of his research, White conducted over fifty interviews with former players and coaches that, along with his own reminisces, lends an air of authenticity to the project. He also reproduces the scoresheets of seven games that local blackball squads

**PASTOR SAYS BASEBALL
HAS PLACE IN HEAVEN**

MATTAPOISETT, MASS.—“Baseball in Heaven” was the subject of a sermon preached [yesterday] by the Rev. C. Julian Tutthill, pastor of the Congregational church. He said in part:

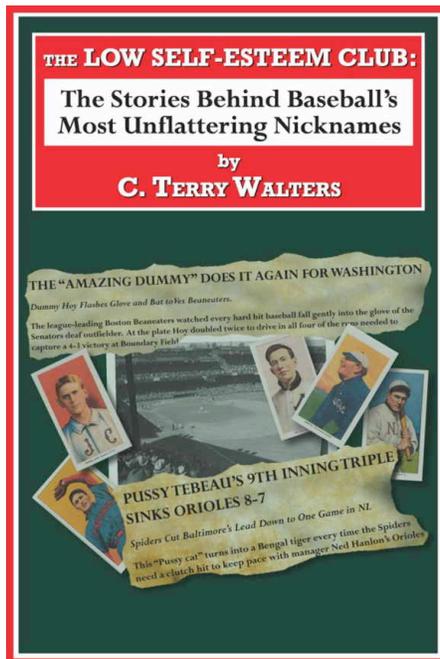
“Heaven is but an evolution of this world. A Christian may love a ball game, and, loving it, remain a Christian. Why, then, is it not safe to prophesy that even the game of baseball will have its place in some spiritual form in heaven?”

The Salt Lake Herald-Republican, August 8, 1910

played in the 1920s against a club from Oxboro Heath, later home of Metropolitan Stadium and the Mall of America. In addition, the author has included team rosters for the region's significant black teams from 1920 up to the time of integration, as well of a list of African American and Latino players who graced the lineups of Minnesota's minor league clubs.

White's prose is precise and economical and his narrative unfolds in an easy-to-follow, chronological fashion. He includes as well several sidebars that provide additional information about players and squads not covered in the main text. The book is beautifully designed and illustrated with over seventy-five images, including several never before seen photographs from the author's personal collection. Clocking in at a modest 194 pages, Frank White's *They Played for the Love of the Game* is a loving, informative look at a significant, if obscure, slice of baseball history and would be a welcome addition to any sports fan's library.

Todd Peterson is a Kansas City-based baseball historian, visual artist, and educator. He is a past recipient of a Yosef-SABR Baseball Research Grant, and has twice won the Normal "Tweed" Webb Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding research.



THE LOW SELF-ESTEEM CLUB: THE STORIES BEHIND BASEBALL'S MOST UNFLATTERING NICKNAMES

BY C. TERRY WALTERS

2016, *Terremoto Grande Publishing*
 [ISBN: 978-0983328537. 260 pp. \$14.95 USD. Paperback]

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"The main thrust of this book," author C. Terry Walters writes in the introduction to his new book, "is to explore the uncomplimentary, and sometimes insulting, nicknames that players embraced or tolerated." He's published a book with a somewhat awkward title, but it is nonetheless a well-written and exceptionally well-researched volume about an

under-examined subject in baseball history.

The book covers the entire history of major league baseball, and as such, only a fraction of the ballplayers Walters discusses are from the Deadball Era. Rube Waddell is described at length as the first of baseball's Rubes ("In 1946, the Old Timers' Committee elected him to the Hall of Fame," Walters writes. "Were he alive, he might have run off to a fishing hole the day of the induction"). Other Deadball-Era "Rubes," Hall of Famers Marquard and Foster receive less attention. Walters also spotlights free-spirited pitcher Bugs Raymond of the Giants, and the book has entries on near-contemporaries Baldy Louden, Crazy Schmit and Noodles Hahn.

Players with ethnically offensive or politically incorrect nicknames receive their own chapter. For example, we are introduced to three players nicknamed "Nig," including Deadball-Era catcher Nig Clarke. Walters also details the disputed account of Clarke's eight-homer minor league game in 1902. Another chapter focuses on players whose nicknames were simply "Word Play," including Yo-Yo Davalillo, Hippity Hopp and Bob "Ach" Duliba. In another chapter (titled "We Don't Need No Stinking Nicknames"), Walters highlights players with offbeat first names and surnames such as Orval Overall, Angel Bravo, Lu Blue, and Urban Shocker ("the

pitcher with a name that sounds like a movie tagline”).

Walters does a thorough job explaining the derivation of each player’s nickname. For example, we are told Lewis Pessano Dickerson – debuting in 1878, he was MLB’s first Italian-American – received the nickname “Buttercup” because he liked flowers, while 19th century contemporary Elton Chamberlain got christened “Ice Box” for the coolness of his clutch pitching. Walters also devotes one chapter to players whose nicknames can’t be sufficiently explained. Earle Neale (later a Pro Football Hall of Famer) became “Greasy” either because he worked as a grease boy in his youth or due to his running down the football field as if he was “greased.” You make the call, reader.

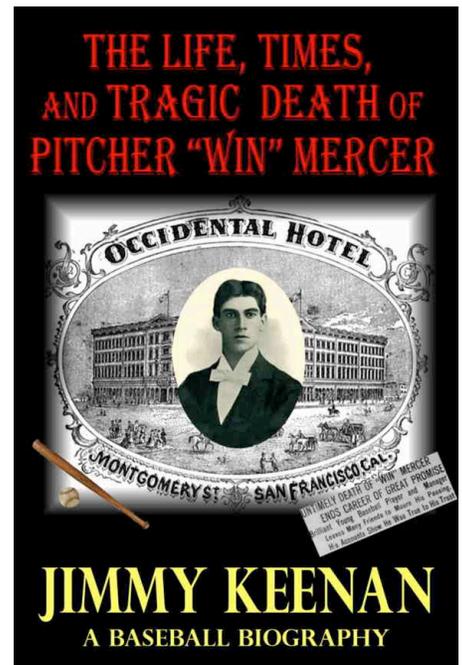
The author approaches the subject matter with precisely the right touch. Walters observes that most players nicknamed “Skeeter” played in the early 20th century, then notes that William Henry “Skeeter” Barnes entered the bigs in 1983: “The truth is, Barnes never had the chance to pick his own name; his Mom declared him to be a Skeeter shortly after birth. When your mother lies in a hospital bed after surviving the pains of labor and childbirth, you are going to be a Skeeter if that is what she decides you will be.”

As *The Low Self-Esteem Club* is self-published, there are a few typos and misspellings

scattered throughout the text. If the book has a major thematic drawback, it might be that Walters doesn’t analyze *why* derogatory nicknames gradually fell out of favor in the national pastime (Bill James, in his *Historical Abstract*, wrote that the nastier baseball nicknames in the World War II era were reserved for the 4-F players, not the ballplayers who saw military action). Is it because unpleasant nicknames have declined throughout society in general, or do today’s athletes -- armed with seven- and eight-figure annual salaries, agents, and Twitter/Instagram accounts -- simply control their public images in a way that major leaguers 75 to 100 years ago could not?

Those caveats aside, *The Low Self-Esteem Club* is a quick, enjoyable read. While little of the book specifically deals with Deadball-Era baseball, fans of the period will appreciate Walters’ thorough research and enthusiasm for the topic, and the book would make an excellent addition to general libraries.

Andrew Milner joined SABR in 1984 and has written for The SABR Review of Books and the 2013 convention issue of The National Pastime. He is also editing a chapter of the Deadball Era Committee’s forthcoming World Series book. Andrew was a regular contributor to the Philadelphia City Paper when it closed two years ago, and he lives and works in the Philadelphia region.



**THE LIFE, TIMES, AND
TRAGIC DEATH OF
PITCHER “WIN”
MERCER:
A BASEBALL
BIOGRAPHY**

BY JIMMY KEENAN

2016, CreateSpace
Independent Publishing
Platform

[ISBN: 9781539949053.
182pp. \$12.95 USD.
Paperback]

Reviewed by
Paul Browne
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George Barclay “Win” Mercer was one of a series of early ball players who died under mysterious circumstances. The story of “Win” Mercer may not be the best known of these but its status as a still unsolved “cold case” makes it very interesting. Author Jimmy Keenan well knows Mercer’s story and tells it in a very

entertaining and informative manner.

A quick review of the book jacket blurbs and endorsements or reading William Akin's SABR BioProject piece on Mercer makes you anxious to get to the mystery that is key to this story: Did Mercer commit suicide, as the official record shows, or was he murdered? Keenan challenges himself to tell the whole story of this player's life and does not begin to tell the story of the mystery until late in the tenth chapter of this twelve chapter book. The author meets his own challenge very well and the reader is not long into the book before it becomes easy to resist the temptation to jump to the end of the book to get to the mystery.

One of the difficulties in writing books about baseball in its early days is handling the day-to-day game accounts without getting bogged down in them. Baseball historians, who have knowledge of many of the players involved in these games and may find these accounts important to their research, have a much higher tolerance for these details than the average reader. If you don't get the balance right, your book will not be well-received by the general public. Overall, Keenan handles this issue in a



*The Topeka State Journal,
July 1, 1909*

way that will satisfy the historian without losing the attention of the rest of his audience.

But the mystery surrounding his death is the core of Mercer's story. As was his custom from his early career, Mercer was involved in a barnstorming tour after the end of the 1902 season. In the later part of his career Mercer became a principal in these tours, managing the business end of things on the road. While an able and trustworthy manager, Mercer was also a compulsive gambler. This character flaw, along with his popularity with female fans, contributed to the speculation around his death.

The details of his demise start with an attempted theft of the tour proceeds by unknown parties, at least somewhat accidentally stopped by Jack Chesbro. A few days later, Mercer suddenly moved from the hotel in San Francisco that he shared with his players to one nearby, registering under an assumed name. In the very early morning hours of the next day, he was found dead on his bed, asphyxiated by gas. The San Francisco police chief, two years later dismissed for being unable to control gambling in the city, quickly ruled the death a suicide. Mercer's friends and family protested this ruling, leading to a coroner's jury being impaneled. After a shoddy effort, this jury reaffirmed the chief's decision. Three letters to friends and family and a

brief suicide note that were found in Mercer's hotel room raised more questions than they answered. Possibly forgeries, these documents contribute to the enduring mystery surrounding this player's death.

Keenan ably chronicles the details of the mystery and whets the readers' appetite for more. He brings to life the essence of this "cold case" and, unable to resolve it, leaves us with the same nagging doubt which must have troubled fans, friends, and family in 1903.

The author concludes his book with an Epilogue concerning a rumored family fortune, which never materialized, stemming from an ancestor's land holdings in New York leased to the government in the earliest days of the Republic. While interesting in its own right, and undoubtedly important to the Mercer family history, it adds nothing to Win's story.

In the department of picking nits, the author leaves a conflict with previous sources unresolved. Addie Joss is reported in some sources as having accompanied Mercer's body home to East Liverpool, Ohio. Keenan has 1902 Detroit teammate, Dick Harley performing this task. Did Harley make the trip to East Liverpool or was it Joss? Or did both accompany Mercer home? If this is the case, did other members of the two teams making up Mercer's post-season barnstorming group make the trip as well?

The book does not provide an answer.

Keenan's book is in almost every detail an enjoyable read and a great discussion of a still unresolved mystery. It almost makes you want to hop on a plane and go to San Francisco to dig through the musty records of the local police and courts to solve the mystery of "Win" Mercer's death.

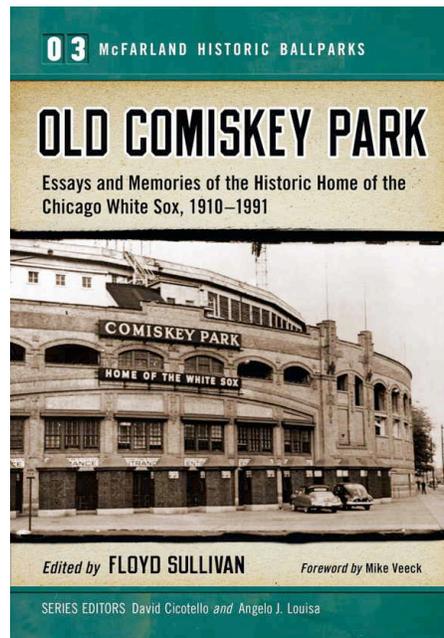
Paul Browne is the author of The Coal Barons Played Cuban Giants: A History of Early Professional Baseball in Pennsylvania, 1886-1896. His article on the Cuban Giants first victory over a major league team appears in Inventing Baseball: The 100 Greatest Games of the Nineteenth Century. Paul's "Mundell Solar Tips" appeared in the 2013 issue of The National Pastime.

NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Benjamin Baschinsky
Jason Cannon
Scott Hengst
Ray Nickson
Jason Nielsen

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



OLD COMISKEY PARK: ESSAYS AND MEMORIES OF THE HISTORIC HOME OF THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX, 1910-1991

EDITED BY FLOYD
SULLIVAN

2014, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-0786475926. 308
pp. \$39.95 USD. Paperback]

Reviewed by
Don Zminda
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Old Comiskey Park: Essays and Memories of the Historic Home of the Chicago White Sox, 1910-1991, edited by Floyd Sullivan, is the third book in McFarland & Company's Historic Ballparks series, following books on Forbes Field (2007) and Ebbets Field (2012). I have not seen the other books in this series, but according to the descriptions on the publisher's website, each book is divided into two

parts, with essays about the evolution and history of the park in section one and memories of the park from former players, team personnel, and fans in section two. As for the overall tone of these books, the website notes that "McFarland is known for covering topics of popular appeal in a serious and scholarly fashion." And leave it to this publisher of academic works to boast that, "Among many librarians especially, McFarland is viewed as distinguished yet daring."

While I would not describe Sullivan's book as "daring," it is certainly serious and scholarly. Each essay is extensively footnoted, each photograph properly credited and captioned. But *Old Comiskey Park* is also an entertaining and well-written book, with a variety of essays that do a fine job of capturing the history of the park over its eight decades. Among the stronger essays in Section I are "Inside the Park: Dimensions and Configurations of Comiskey Park I," by Ronald M. Selter (with helpful park diagrams); "Special Years at Comiskey Park: All-Star Games, the American League Championship Series and the World Series," by Stephen D. Boren; "Negro League Baseball at Comiskey Park," by Christopher Kamka; and "From Wrestling to Football to Rock 'n' Roll: Comiskey Park as a Multiuse Venue," by editor Sullivan. As with any compendium that features contributions from numerous

authors, the quality of the writing varies, but overall this is a very readable work. Many of the authors are SABR members. The attention to detail and accuracy is impressive, and I am aware of only one factual error in the book: a statement that longtime Comiskey Park organist Nancy Faust “was the first woman to perform as an organist at a major league baseball park.” Ebbets Field organist Gladys Goodding preceded Faust by several decades, and there may have been others.

Section II of the book, “Memories of Old Comiskey Park,” is a little more uneven. A pair of articles from personnel of the NFL Chicago Cardinals, who played their home games at Comiskey for a number of years, are excellent; the two essays covering the demolition of the park in 1991 nicely capture the pain of watching the destruction of the beloved stadium; and the “Players and Personnel Remember” article offers memories from a variety of perspectives. However, the “Fans Remember” article, which takes up 50 pages of this 294-page book, is a bit repetitive and could have easily been shortened.

A real strength of the book is its extensive use of photographs to tell the story of the park’s history. Most of these pictures were new to me, a lifelong White Sox fan. To cite a few examples, there are rare photos of the park under

construction in 1910; a shot of owner Charles Comiskey and associates sitting on the running board of a car outside the park in celebration of the 1919 American League pennant; a wonderful shot of the Negro League players who performed in the 1939 East-West All-Star game; and a photo of the Beatles performing at Comiskey Park in 1965. The photos alone make this book a valuable work.

Although the book does a fine job overall in covering the park’s history, a few areas of importance are missing. I would have liked to see an essay on the “Go-Go Sox” period from 1951-67, when the White Sox were consistent winners and the dominant baseball team in Chicago, both on the field and at the ticket stand (the 1959 pennant-winning team is adequately covered, however). While All-Star games, post-season games, and Negro League

games at Comiskey are covered in fine detail, there is nothing about the Cubs-White Sox post-season city series, an important annual event in Chicago for over three decades. And while Harry Caray is given his due, there is little about other legendary White Sox broadcasters such as Hal Totten, Bob Elson, Jack Brickhouse, and Hawk Harrelson, all of whom brought the experience of baseball at Comiskey Park to life. These are minor quibbles, however. Sullivan and his writers have put together a comprehensive and very interesting book, one that should be of interest to serious baseball fans – not just ballpark or White Sox fans.

A SABR member since 1979, Don Zminda has written or edited numerous baseball books, including the SABR BioProject publication Go-Go to Glory: The 1959 Chicago White Sox. Don is retired and lives in Los Angeles.

M'SWIGAN SUIT AGAINST LOCAL FED CLUB TRIED

The trial in the suit entered by Charles McSwigan against the Exposition Park Amusement Co., which operates the local Federal league club, in which he seeks to recover \$3,000 he claims is due him as commission on the sale of stock of the company, was taken up this morning in Common Pleas court before Judge Thomas D. Carnahan. The plaintiff alleges that he was to receive 5 per cent on the sale of the stock to persons upon whom he called, and he claims that \$60,000 worth of stock was sold. The defendant company contends that McSwigan is not entitled to the money he asks for, as he was paid a salary to solicit stock subscriptions and was paid all the money he was entitled to.

The Pittsburgh Press, November 1, 1915

ACCURATE RBI RECORDS FOR PLAYERS OF THE DEADBALL ERA: PART 12 — THE PLAYERS ON THE 1912 DETROIT TIGERS

by Herm Krabbenhoft

Consistency — an especially valuable attribute to be considered in the evaluation of overall performance of any enterprise or person, including athletes. For a baseball player, the primary offensive objective is contributing to his/her team's scoring of runs — the diamond game's crucial statistic — “Ya can't win if ya don't score!” Historically, two principal metrics for the scoring of runs have been used — (1) the number of runs scored, and (2) the number of runs batted in. A metric which combines runs scored and runs batted in is Runs Produced (RP), defined as runs scored plus runs batted in minus home runs.¹ Furthermore, an essential component of scoring runs is getting on base — “Ya can't score if ya don't get on!” A statistic which measures this component is On Base Safely, defined as hits plus walks plus times hit by a pitched ball.² Examining a player's consistency with these metrics can be achieved by analyzing them from the perspective of consecutive games streaks. Accordingly, the all-time major league records for the longest Consecutive Game Streaks (CGS) for some noteworthy single-season batting statistics are listed in Table 1. For comparison, significant corresponding accomplishments from the Deadball Era (1901-1919) are also provided. It is pointed out, however, that the “significant Deadball Era accomplishments” shown are not necessarily the longest consecutive games streaks for the Deadball Era. That's because they were obtained from the box score information (and derived “Player Daily” files) presently available from the Retrosheet website — which currently has information for only the latter half of the Deadball Era (i.e., the 1911-1919 seasons). Furthermore, the RBI information available for the 1911-1919 seasons is incomplete. See below for further discussion.

As can be seen, none of the all-time MLB records given in Table 1 are held by players from the Deadball Era. However, it is pointed out that “Runs-Batted-In” was not an *officially* recorded statistic during the Deadball Era — RBIs did not become an official stat until 1920. Similarly, “Walks” was not an officially recorded stat in the National League until 1910 and in the American League until 1913. Likewise, times hit by pitched balls was not included in the official records until 1920 (although they were often included in newspaper box scores). Thus, the all-time MLB records for consecutive games streaks for runs produced and on base safely cannot be ascertained *officially*. However, during the 1907-1919 period, baseball writer Ernie Lanigan contemporaneously kept track — *unofficially* — of the players who knocked in runs. And then, after the season ended, Lanigan reported some of his full-season RBI numbers in various tabloids, such as *The Sporting News*, *Sporting Life*, *Baseball Magazine*, *New York Press*, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*, etc. Some of Lanigan's full-season RBI numbers were also subsequently included in J.G. Taylor Spink's *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball*, and in Turkin and Thompson's *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*.^{3,4} And while Lanigan certainly must have compiled Game-By-Game (GBG) RBI statistics to have arrived at his full-season RBI numbers, apparently none of his GBG RBI compilations have survived. Thus, Lanigan's GBG RBI documentation is not available for putting together Table 1.

Fortunately, during the mid-1960s, another research effort was conducted to retroactively ascertain the RBI records for the players of the 1901-1919 Deadball Era (as well as for the men who played during the latter years of the nineteenth century, i.e., during the 1891-1900 period). This effort was directed by David S. Neft and culminated with the 1969 publication of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* by Macmillan.⁵ Neft's team also documented GBG numbers for walks (and hit-by-pitch). Neft's full-season RBI and walk numbers have since been independently incorporated in the databases of baseball statistics by Pete Palmer and by STATS, which in

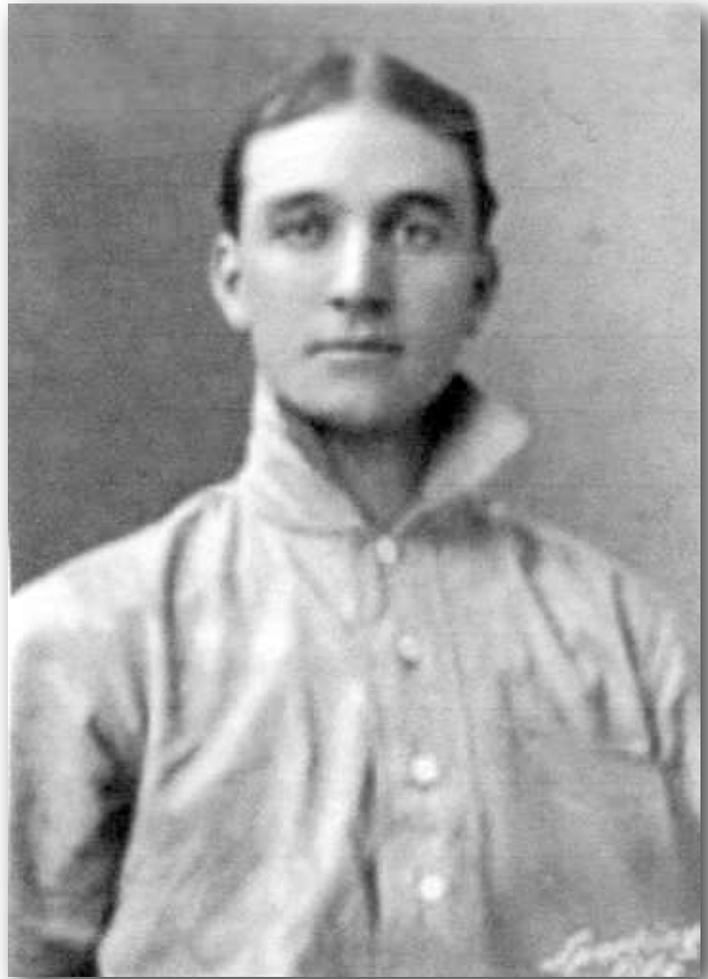
turn have been disseminated in other baseball encyclopedias (such as *Total Baseball*, *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, *STATS All-Time Major League Handbook*, etc.) and baseball websites (such as MLB.com, Baseball-Reference.com, retrosheet.org, etc.).⁶⁻⁸ Neft graciously chose to donate his GBG records to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Regrettably, many of Neft's GBG records — i.e., those covering the 1905-1919 seasons — were destroyed in a warehouse fire before they could be delivered to the Hall of Fame. So, we were again left without GBG RBI records for most of the seasons from the Deadball Era.

Because of my longstanding interest in Consecutive Games RUN Batted In (CGRUNBI) streaks,⁹⁻¹⁰ in 2013 I initiated my own research effort to compile GBG RBI records for the players of the Deadball Era. Thus far, my principal focus has been on the players on the Detroit Tigers, although I have also included a few other team-seasons in my research domain.¹¹⁻²¹ Concurrently, Tom Ruane of Retrosheet has been managing a project to produce box scores (and derived "Player Daily" files) with complete stats — including RBIs, BBs, and HBPs — for all of the games played during the Deadball Era. Our independent efforts benefit immensely from the fantastic cooperation we embrace in helping each of us to achieve our goals.

One of the important benefits of compiling accurate GBG RBI records is the simultaneous generation of accurate full-season RBI records. In previous articles in the title series I have reported the full-season runs-batted-in records for the players on the Detroit Tigers from the 1906 and 1913-1919 seasons.¹¹⁻¹⁸ In this article I present my findings for the RBIs achieved by the players on the 1912 Tigers. Like in my previous reports, my RBI numbers are different from Neft's RBI numbers for a significant number of the players.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

For the present investigation, I utilized the same rigorous modus operandi employed in my



Davy Jones

previous research efforts.¹¹⁻²¹ Thus, for each of the 721 runs scored by the Tigers in 1912, I sought to obtain three critical components: (a) the identity of the player who scored the run; (b) the details of the run-scoring event [e.g., a 2-RBI double, a balk, a 1-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error), a 0-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error), a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk, etc.]; and (c) the identity of the player who completed his plate appearance during the run-scoring event (i.e., the player who could be credited with batting in the run). And because runs batted in were not recorded officially until 1920, and were not even defined officially until 1931, I followed the 1931 official scoring rules [Rule 70, Section 13] to credit or to not credit a player with an RBI — *“Runs Batted In are runs scored on safe hits (including home runs), sacrifice hits, outfield put-outs, infield put-outs, and when the run is forced over by reason of the*

batsman becoming a base-runner. With less than two outs, if an error is made on a play on which a runner from third would ordinarily score, credit the batsman with a Run Batted In.”

I then provided the complete documentation that I assembled to Retrosheet’s Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for their independent review, upon which we achieved 100% agreement and Retrosheet incorporated all of the runs-scored and runs-batted-in numbers in its Box Score file (and derived Player Daily files).²² The Appendix to this article (available on SABR.org) provides a tabulation of the critical “(a)-(b)-(c)” information for each of the 721 runs scored by the 1912 Tigers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the RBI numbers, according to my research, for each of the 53 players who participated in at least one game for the Detroit Tigers in the 1912 campaign. Also shown for comparison are the RBI numbers reported by Neft.⁵

Probably the most-striking aspect of Table 2 is that “X-or-Y” RBI numbers are given in the “RBIs (This Work)” column for three players — Davy Jones is shown with “22 or 23” RBIs, Brad Kocher is shown with “8 or 9” RBIs, and Joe Lake is shown with “3 or 4” RBIs, according to my research — while Neft has single-specific RBI numbers (24, 9, and 4, respectively) for them. What’s the reason for my “either-or” RBI numbers for Jones, Kocher, and Lake? The explanation is simply that for one game — the final game of the 1912 season, on Sunday, October 6 — the accounts presented in the various newspapers did not provide adequate information for me (as well as Retrosheet) to confidently assign RBI credit. In this game the Tigers scored four runs. The newspaper accounts provided sufficient information to assign RBI credit for the first two runs — the one run scored in the fifth inning and the one run scored in the sixth stanza — but not for the two runs scored in the seventh inning. Here are the descriptions of Detroit’s runs as presented in the various newspaper accounts:

October 6, 1914 — Detroit vs. Chicago — Detroit scored 4 runs

Fifth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run

Detroit Free Press (DFP) — “Detroit didn’t score until the fifth, when Moriarty singled, was advanced to third on a single by Deal, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Lake.”

Detroit Journal (DJ), *Detroit News (DN)*, *Detroit Times (DT)*, *Chicago Tribune (CHT)*, and *Chicago Examiner (CHEX)* — Nothing at all.

Thus, we know for certain that George Moriarty scored the fifth-inning run on a 1-RBI sacrifice fly by Lake.

Sixth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run

DFP — “The Tigers’ second run came in the sixth. With one out, Corriden drew a pass, took second on an infield out, and scored on Louden’s base blow to left.”

DJ, *DN*, *DT*, *CHT*, and *CHEX* — Nothing at all.

Thus, we know for certain that Red Corriden scored the sixth-inning run on a 1-RBI single by Louden.

Seventh Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs

DFP — “Deal’s double, Kocher’s single, and a sacrifice fly that [right fielder] Collins returned poorly enabled the Detroit crew to lug across a pair of runs in the seventh.”

DJ, *DN*, *DT*, *CHT*, and *CHEX* — Nothing at all.

From the official Day-By-Day (DBD) records (and the newspaper box scores) we know that Detroit’s four runs in the game were scored by Moriarty, Corriden, Charlie Deal, and Kocher. And, since we know that Moriarty scored the fifth-inning run and that Corriden scored the sixth-inning run, we can deduce with 100% confidence that the two seventh-inning runs were scored by Deal and Kocher. Now, while the *DFP* description for the two seventh-inning runs states that a “sacrifice fly” was involved, the official DBD records show only one sacrifice fly

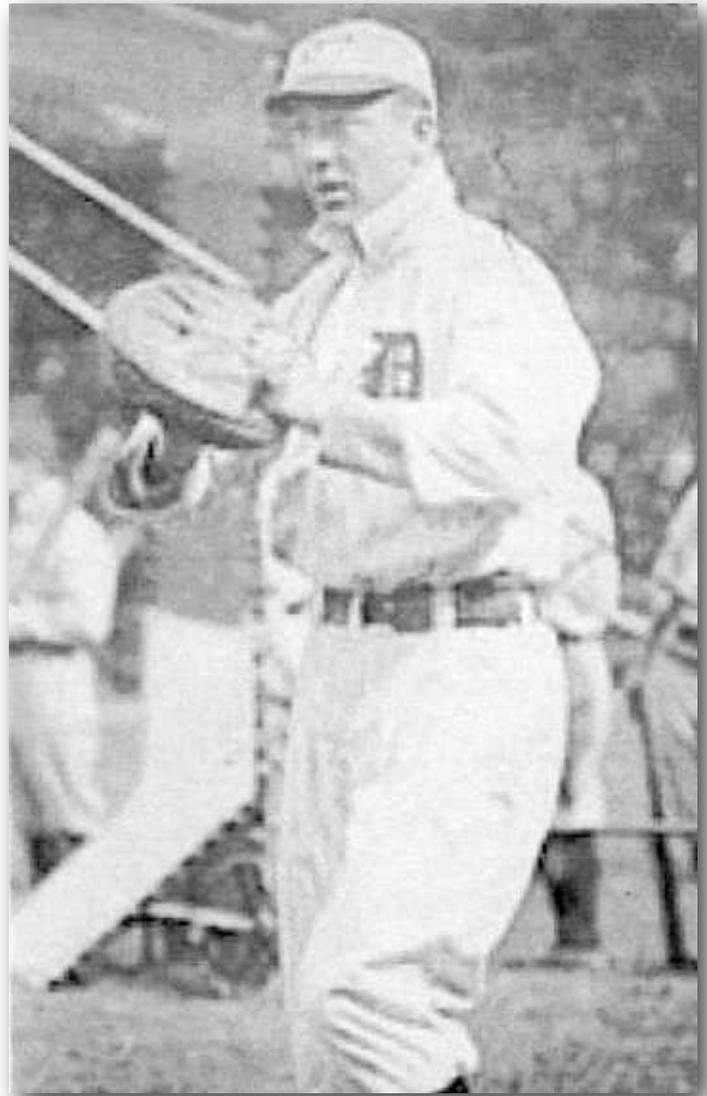
by the Tigers — credited to Lake. And, since the *DFP* account states specifically that Lake hit his sacrifice fly in the fifth inning, *officially* there was *no sacrifice fly in the seventh inning*. Significantly, the official plate appearances for each of the Tigers players are entirely consistent with there being only one sacrifice fly by the Tigers — the one hit by Lake. Here is the box score and the pertinent information:

Pos	Player	AB	R	H	W	PA
1	Jones	5	0	2	0	5
2	Vitt	5	0	1	0	5
3	Corriden	3	1	2	1	4
4	Veach	4	0	1	0	4
5	Louden	4	1	1	0	4
6	Moriarty	4	1	1	0	4
7	Deal	4	1	2	0	4
8	Kocher	4	1	1	0	4
9	Wheatley	1	0	0	0	1
9	Lake	2	0	0	0	3

As can be seen, the first two slots in the batting order (occupied by Davy Jones and Ossie Vitt) each had five plate appearances. The players in the remaining seven slots each had four plate appearances. The ninth slot was occupied by two players — Charlie Wheatley (1 at bat) and Lake (2 at bats and 1 sacrifice fly). The bottom portion of the box score states that Jones, Corriden, and Deal had doubles and that Lake had a sacrifice fly. Also, Chicago pulled one double play — Collins (rf) to Schalk (c) to Zeider (3b) to Rath (2b) — and had three fielding errors — Borton (1b), Schalk (c), Kuhn (c).

It can also be advanced that the official DBD records (and the unofficial newspaper box scores) are erroneous — that the seventh-inning sacrifice fly, perhaps by Lake or Jones, was mistakenly omitted. However, such a position also requires that there be an accompanying change in the number of at-bats had by Lake (1 instead of 2) or Jones (4 instead of 5). My position is to leave the official records as they are unless there is compelling evidence in support of changing them.

Without going into the details of the numerous possible scenarios (described in the Appendix) for who batted in whom in the seventh inning, the bottom-line take-away from that exercise is



Brad Kocher

that it is not possible with the information available to confidently assign any RBI credit for the seventh-inning runs. What can be stated is that perhaps Kocher or Lake batted in Deal and perhaps Lake or Jones batted in Kocher; or perhaps, because of the “fly that Collins returned poorly” Deal and/or Kocher were not batted in, but scored on an error (charged to the catcher). Thus, I conclude that Kocher, Lake, and Jones each had 0-or-1 RBI, with the total RBIs for the seventh inning being 0-or-1-or-2. The Appendix presents a discussion of some of the various scenarios that can be conjectured for the two seventh-inning runs.

Inclusion of these single-game “X-or-Y” RBI numbers with the absolute RBI numbers earned in all of the other games in which the players

participated yields the full-season RBI numbers shown in Table 2. Of course, in actuality, the players did not have “either-or” RBI numbers — they achieved single-specific full-season RBI numbers. As discussed in previous articles, Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette have decided to utilize the minimum full-season RBI numbers in Palmer’s database of baseball statistics, because — “Based on the best currently-available evidence, the player certainly had at least the minimum number of runs batted in. The minimum number of RBIs is not an approximation or a guess of the actual RBIs achieved by the player.”¹⁶ With regard to the uncertainty of the individual game “either-or” RBI situation, Retrosheet has chosen to leave the relevant RBI cells blank in its box score file (and derived player daily files).²²

As shown in Table 2, comparison of my RBI numbers and Neft’s RBI numbers reveals that there is agreement for at least 34 of the 53 players (64%) who participated in at least one game for the Tigers in 1912. However, most (29) of those 34 players played in only a few games and had sixteen or fewer at bats; each of those 29 players had zero RBIs. Many (12) of the 29 players were “one-game” major leaguers — serving as “replacement players” for Detroit’s entire roster of players, each of whom chose to not play in the May 18 contest against Philadelphia to protest the AL’s suspension of Ty Cobb. Focusing on the players who were “regulars” [i.e., those with 250 or more at bats — Donie Bush (511), Ty Cobb (553), Sam Crawford (581), Jim Delahanty (266), Davy Jones (316), Baldy Louden (403), George Moriarty (375), Oscar Stanage (394), and Ossie Vitt (273)] — my RBI numbers disagree with Neft’s RBI numbers for each of these nine players. Similarly, my RBI numbers for three of the six principal secondary performers [i.e., those with 100-249 at bats — Red Corriden (138), Charlie Deal (142), Jean Dubuc (108), Del Gainer (179), Eddie Onslow (120), and Ed Willett (115)] — are different from Neft’s RBI numbers. These differences for the 1912 Tigers are in line with the differences found for the 1906 and 1913-1919 Tigers, as shown in Table 3.



Ty Cobb

It is appropriate to re-emphasize that I have assembled compelling evidence in support of my RBI numbers — which I provided to Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for their independent review — and that we achieved 100% agreement — the RBI numbers being incorporated in the Retrosheet box score file for its website..

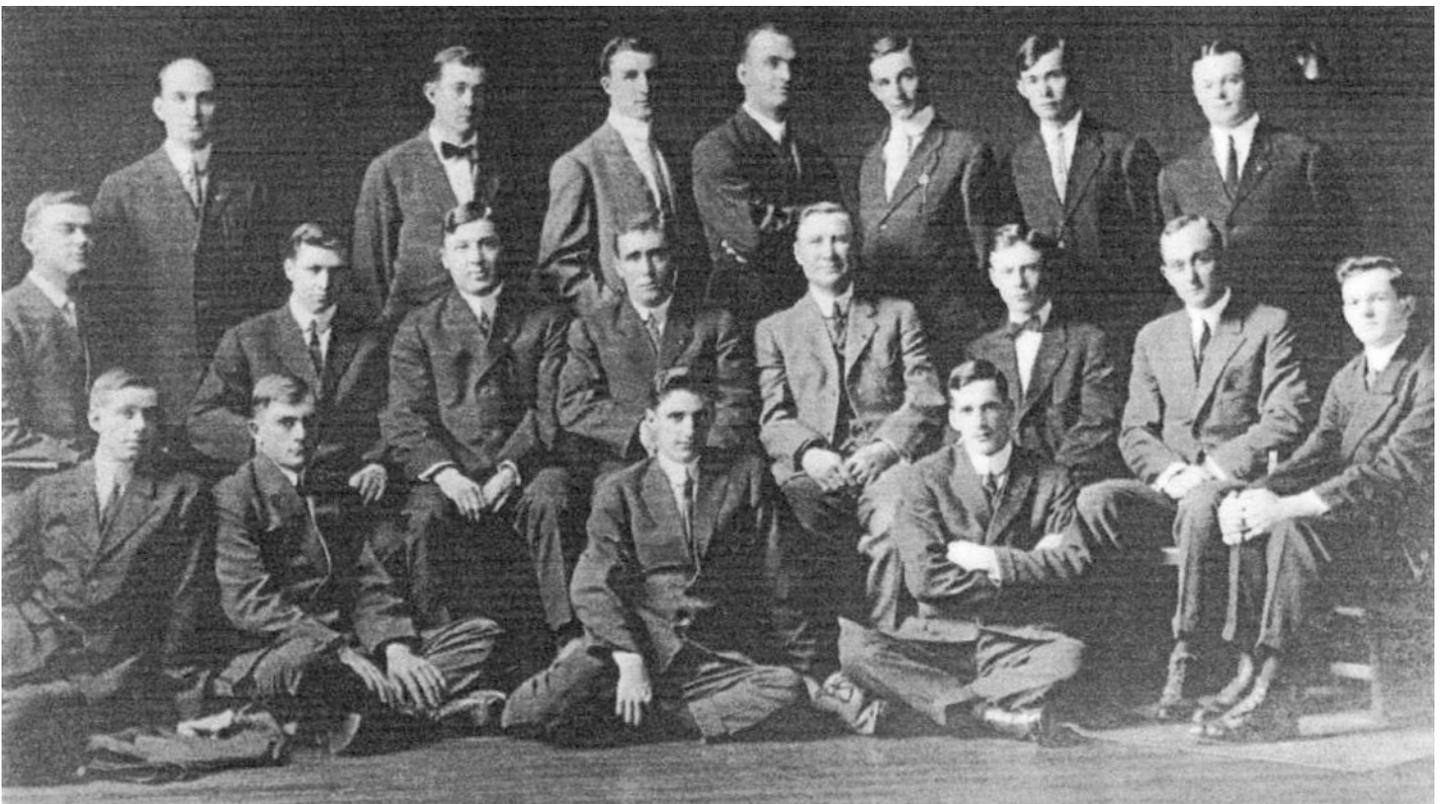
Finally, with accurate GBG RBI data in hand, the player on the 1912 Tigers team who was the most consistent in terms of batting in at least one run in the most consecutive games was Sam Crawford with a 6-gamer. Ty Cobb achieved the next-longest CGRUNBI streak for Detroit, a 5-gamer. For comparison, according to the 1912 Retrosheet box score file (and derived player daily files), the longest CGRUNBI streak in 1912 in the American League was a 10-gamer by Stuffie McInnis of the Philadelphia Athletics. Next in

line with 8-gamers were Duffy Lewis (Red Sox) and Frank Baker (Athletics). Over in the senior circuit, Chief Wilson of the Pirates and Bert Tooley of the Dodgers fashioned the longest CGRUNBI streaks — 8-gamers. Overall for the 1912-1919 period, the longest CGRUNBI streaks belong to McInnis (10 games) and the 9-gamers assembled by Vic Saier of the 1913 Cubs and Bob Fisher of the 1913 Superbas. Thus far, the longest CGRUNBI streak by a Tigers player from 1906 and 1912-1919 is seven games, achieved by Eddie Onslow in 1913 and by Bobby Veach in 1919.

The next scheduled installment in the title series treats the players on the 1911 Detroit Tigers — How many RBIs did Ty Cobb actually have in that season? Lanigan claimed the Georgia Peach drove in a MLB-leading 144 runs, while Neft's research team came up with 127 ribbies for Tyrus Raymond — a difference of 17 runs batted in! And, what was the longest CGRUNBI streak fashioned by the Genius in Spikes? Since Retrosheet recently released the box scores for the 1911 season, answering those questions should be straightforward. However, as it is presently, there are 69 Tigers games for which no

RBI information is provided — i.e., the RBI cells are blank for each of the players who participated in those games. For Ty Cobb, his Retrosheet Player Daily file has 66 games with missing RBI numbers. Thus, the longest CGRUNBI streak currently shown for Cobb is only three games. If, however, Cobb batted in at least one run in some of the missing-RBIs games, he could have achieved a 15-gamer — a mark which exceeds the currently-reported American League record of 14 games by Tris Speaker of the 1928 Philadelphia Athletics. So, it is very important to fill in the RBI blanks in the Retrosheet box scores — not just for the Detroit Tigers, but, as shown in Table 4, for each of the 16 ML teams.

There are numerous important RBI issues from the Deadball Era that need to be resolved, such as ascertaining the true 1907 NL RBI champion — Pittsburgh's Honus Wagner [91 RBIs (Lanigan) vs. 82 RBIs (Neft)] or Philadelphia's Sherry Magee [85 RBIs (Neft) vs. 87 RBIs (Lanigan)]. Accordingly, fellow Deadball Era Research Committee members are heartily encouraged to join the effort to fill in



1912 Detroit Tigers

Retrosheet's RBI blanks for their favorite teams so as to have accurate RBI numbers for their favorite players.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I gratefully thank the following people for their tremendous help and cooperation in providing me with scans and photocopies of game accounts from newspapers to which they had access: Dave Newman, Gary Stone, and Dixie Tourangeau. I also greatly appreciate Tom Ruane's fantastic cooperation in reviewing the documentation I assembled and for writing the computer program to extract some of the CGS information provided in Table 1 [Reference (d)]. Finally, I should also like to thank Gary Gillette, Pete Palmer, Tom Ruane, and Dave Smith for their guidance and inputs.

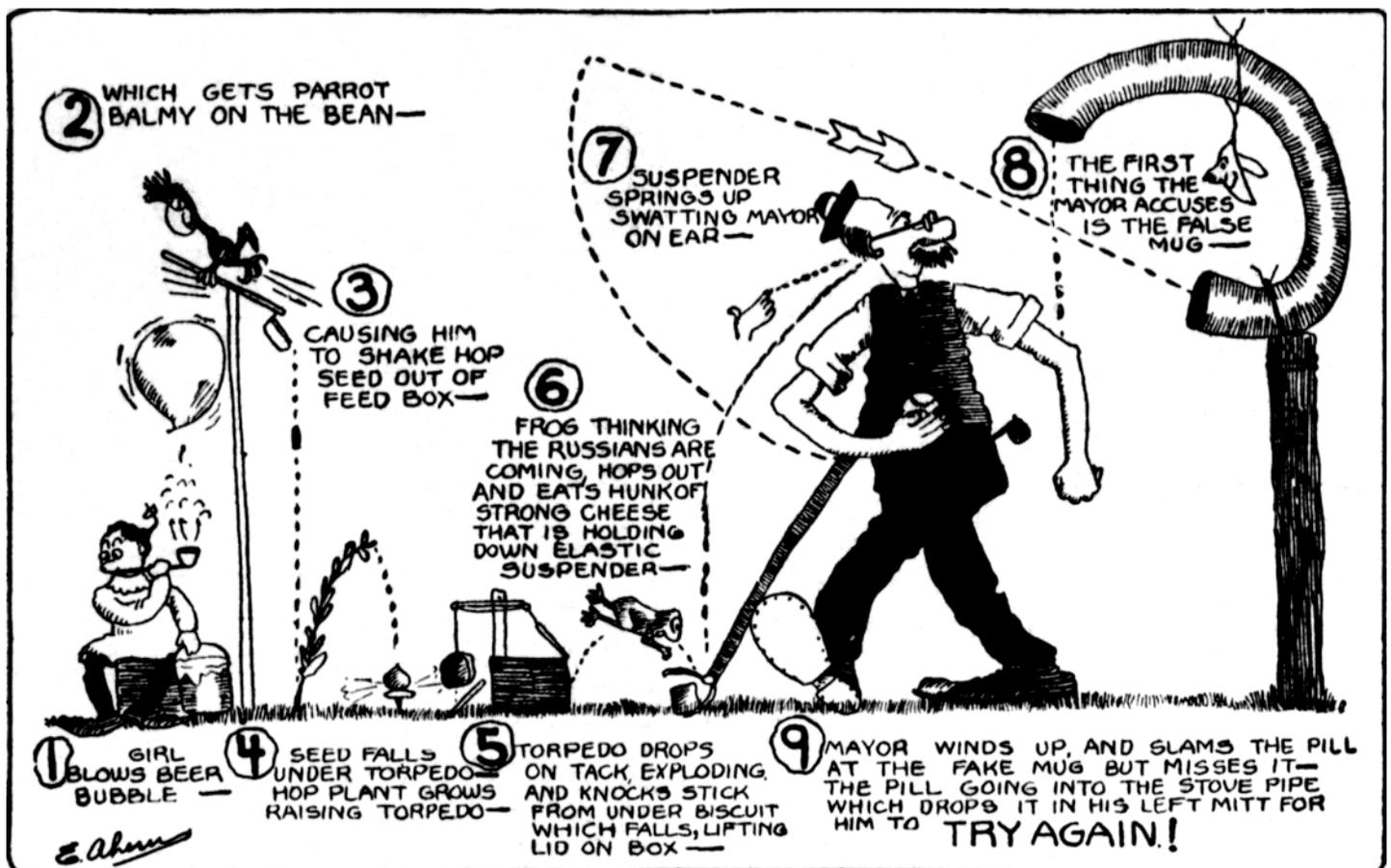
This is the twelfth installment in Herm Krabbenhoft's record-revising inquiry into Deadball Era stats. The next will appear in the pre-SABR 47 issue of the newsletter.

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14. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 10 — The Players on the 1915 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XVI, No. 5 (November 2016), 17.
15. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 8 — The Players on the 1916 Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XVI, No. 1 (February 2016), 17.
16. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 6 — The Players on the 1917 Tigers and White Sox," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XV, No. 5 (November 2015), 1.
17. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 5 — The Players on the 1918 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, No. 2 (April 2015) 12.
18. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 3 — The Players on the 1919 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XIV, No. 4 (September 2014), 11.
19. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 1 — The Players on the 1919 Boston Red Sox," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XIV, No. 1 (February 2014), 1.
20. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 4 — The Players on the 1912 Braves, Cubs, Giants, and Pirates," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XV, No. 1 (February 2015), 5.
21. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 7 — The Players on the 1917 New York Giants," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XV, No. 3 (June 2015), 22.
22. Email correspondence between Herm Krabbenhoft and Tom Ruane and Dave Smith, September-October, 2016.

Hints To Mayors Who Want To Pitch The First Ball



(Gene Ahern)

The Tacoma Times, April 8, 1915
and *The Seattle Star*, April 17, 1915

**TABLE 1. CONSECUTIVE GAMES STREAKS
FOR SELECTED STATISTICAL CATEGORIES**

Statistic	All-Time Major League Record			Significant Deadball Era Accomplishment		
	CGS	Player (Team)	Year	CGS	Player (Team)	Year
Runs Produced	33 ^a	Joe Cronin (Senators)	1933	20 ^d	Benny Kauff (Giants)	1918
Runs Scored	24 ^b	Billy Hamilton (Phillies)	1894	14 ^d	Miller Huggins (Cardinals) Frank Baker (Athletics)	1911 1913
Runs Batted In	17 ^b	Ray Grimes (Cubs)	1922	10 ^d	Stuffy McInnis (Athletics)	1912
Homers	8 ^b	Dale Long (Pirates) Don Mattingly (Yankees) Ken Griffey, Jr. (Mariners)	1956 1987 1993	4 ^d	Ed Lennox (Rebels) Steve Evans (Tip-Tops) Babe Ruth (Red Sox)	1914 1914 1918
On Base Safely	84 ^c	Ted Williams (Red Sox)	1949	55 ^{d,e}	Ty Cobb (Tigers)	1915
Hits	56 ^b	Joe DiMaggio (Yankees)	1941	40 ^{d,f}	Ty Cobb (Tigers)	1911
Walks	22 ^b	Roy Cullenbine (Tigers)	1947	16 ^d	Morrie Rath (White Sox)	1912
Hit By Pitch	6 ^d	Carlos Quentin (White Sox)	2008	4 ^d	Ed Fitzpatrick (Braves)	1915

- (a) Herm Krabbenhoft, "Who Has the Major League Record for the Longest Consecutive Games Runs Produced (CGRP) Streak?" *The Baseball Research Journal* (Cleveland: The Society for American Baseball Research, Inc., 2009), Vol. 38, No. 1, 125. NOTE: According to the Play-By-Play information available at retrosheet.org, no player has equaled or surpassed the 33 CGS mark shown here during the 2009-2016 seasons.
- (b) Seymour Siwoff, *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*, (New York: Elias Sports Bureau, Inc., 2016), 12- 26. NOTE: The modern (since 1900) record for Consecutive Games Runs Scored is 18, by Red Rolfe (1939 Yankees) and Kenny Lofton (2000 Indians).
- (c) Steve Gietschier, *The 2008 Baseball Record Book*, (Chesterfield, Missouri: *The Sporting News*, 2008) 20. NOTE: According to the Play-By-Play information available at retrosheet.org, no player has equaled or surpassed the 84 CGS mark shown here during the 2008-2016 seasons.
- (d) Tom Ruane, emails to Herm Krabbenhoft (January 10-14, 2017): the CGS information shown here was derived from Retrosheet "Player Daily" files for the 1911-1919 period. NOTE: It is pointed out that the information presently available in the Retrosheet database is not yet complete for some statistics, particularly RBIs. Thus, the CGS information given here for runs batted in and runs produced should not be considered to be final; see subsequent discussion for additional information.
- (e) Herm Krabbenhoft, "Ted Williams' On-Base Performance in Consecutive Games," *The Baseball Research Journal* (Cleveland: The Society for American Baseball Research, Inc., 2004), Vol. 32, 41.
- (f) MLB.com, accessed on January 13, 2017.

**TABLE 2. RUNS-BATTED-IN NUMBERS
FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1912 DETROIT TIGERS**

Player	RBI (This Work)	RBI (Neft)	Δ [§]	Player	RBI (This Work)	RBI (Neft)	Δ
(Al Bashang)	0	0	—	(Jim McGarr)	0	0	—
Paddy Baumann	6	7	(1)	(Dan McGarvey)	0	0	—
(George Boehler)	0	0	—	(Pat McGehee)	0	0	—
(Bill Burns)	0	0	—	(Deacon McGuire)	0	0	—
Donie Bush	35	38	(3)	(Harry Moran)	0	0	—
Ty Cobb	88	83	5	George Moriarty	58	54	4
Red Corriden	5	5	—	George Mullin	12	12	—
(Tex Covington)	0	0	—	Charley O'Leary	0	1	(1)
Sam Crawford	116	109	7	(Ollie O'Mara)	0	0	—
(Hooks Dauss)	0	0	—	Eddie Onslow	12	13	(1)
Charlie Deal	14	11	3	Jack Onslow	6	4	2
Jim Delahanty	45	41	4	(Hub Pernoll)	0	0	—
(Bill Donovan)	0	0	—	(Hank Perry)	0	0	—
Jean Dubuc	9	9	—	(Alex Remneas)	0	0	—
Del Gainer	21	20	1	(Jack Smith)	0	0	—
(Ed Irwin)	0	0	—	Oscar Stange	46	41	5
(Hughie Jennings)	0	0	—	(Joe Sugden)	0	0	—
Willie Jensen	1	0	1	(Ed Summers)	0	0	—
Davy Jones	22 or 23	24	(1 or 2)	(Alan Travers)	0	0	—
Brad Kocher	8 or 9	9	(1) or 0	(Bun Troy)	0	0	—
Ed Lafitte	0	0	—	Bobby Veach	15	15	—
Joe Lake	3 or 4	4	(1) or 0	Ossie Vitt	21	19	2
(Bill Leinhauser)	0	0	—	(Hap Ward)	0	0	—
Baldy Louden	38	36	2	(Charlie Wheatley)	0	0	—
(Billy Maharg)	0	0	—	Ed Willett	10	10	—
(Vincent Maney)	0	0	—	Ralph Works	3	4	(1)
(Red McDermott)	0	0	—	—	—	—	—

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

§ The |Δ| column gives the absolute-value difference between my RBI number and Neft's RBI number; an entry enclosed in parentheses indicates that my RBI number is less than Neft's RBI number.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES IN KRABbenhOFT'S AND NEFT'S RBI NUMBERS FOR 1906 AND 1912-1919 TIGERS

Year	# Players all	# Players with Δ RBI (%)	# Players (>100 AB)	# Players with Δ RBI (%)	# Players (>100 AB)	# Players with Δ RBI (%)
1906	24	16 or 17 (67 or 71)	13	9 or 10 (69 or 77)	8	6 or 7 (75 or 88)
1912	53	17-19 (32-36)	15	12 (80)	9	9 (100)
1913	43	23 (53)	13	12 or 13 (92 or 100)	7	7 (100)
1914	30	14 (47)	12	7-10 (58-83)	8	4-7 (50-88)
1915	27	19 (70)	14	13 (93)	9	9 (100)
1916	34	16 (47)	10	5 (50)	9	5 (56)
1917	28	12 (43)	11	6 or 7 (55 or 64)	8	5 or 6 (63 or 75)
1918	36	22 (61)	13	8 or 9 (62 or 69)	7	4 or 5 (57 or 71)
1919	25	15 (60)	11	11 (100)	9	9 (100)
Total	300	154-157 (51-52)	112	83-90 (74-80)	74	58-64 (78-86)

TABLE 4. "MISSING-RBIs" GAMES IN RETROSHEET'S BOX SCORES FOR THE 1919-1911 SEASONS

Team	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	Total
BOB	12	12	14	6	4	9	7	*1*	16	81
BRK	7	21	20	6	10	13	0	2	11	90
CHC	7	15	20	13	5	2	3	*0*	9	74
CIN	13	27	55	9	12	2	10	6	20	154
NYG	2	1	*0*	5	6	7	2	*0*	9	32
PHP	34	26	55	33	30	34	19	4	29	264
PIT	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	*0*	5	9
SLC	31	43	52	31	40	34	22	7	42	302
BRS	*0*	2	4	5	10	8	10	0	7	46
CWS	15	8	*3*	24	11	4	1	1	5	67
CLE	47	21	18	57	53	51	0	6	66	319
DET	*1*	*1*	*5*	*1*	*5*	*2*	*3*	*1*	69	88
NYN	7	4	6	8	11	17	4	1	10	68
PHA	45	18	28	54	54	57	22	1	39	318
SLB	46	26	36	58	45	52	24	7	62	356
WAS	9	1	4	13	18	10	7	1	18	81
TOTAL	276	228	321	323	314	302	135	38	417	2,354

NOTES: (1) The entries are from the Retrosheet GBG Batting/Fielding Logs for each team; (2) The team codes are — BOB (Boston Braves), BRK (Brooklyn Dodgers), CHC (Chicago Cubs), CIN (Cincinnati Reds), NYG (New York Giants), PHP (Philadelphia Phillies), PIT (Pittsburgh Pirates), SLC (St. Louis Cardinals), BRS (Boston Red Sox), CWS (Chicago White Sox), CLE (Cleveland Indians), DET (Detroit Tigers), NYN (New York Yankees), PHA (Philadelphia Athletics), SLB (St. Louis Browns), WAS (Washington Senators); (3) The entries bracketed with asterisks and shown in boldface indicate that that team-season was covered in one of the articles in the title series (References 12-21).

SHAKESPEARE THE ORIGINAL FAN; PLAYS FULL OF BASEBALL LINGO

BY STUART MACLEAN

The base is right. (Taming of the Shrew)

What an arm he has! (Coriolanus)

Now you strike like the blind man. (Much Ado About Nothing)

Out, I say! (Macbeth)

I will be short. (Hamlet)

He knows the game. (King Henry VI)

Oh, hateful error! (Julius Caesar)

Thou canst not hit it, hit it, hit it. (Love's Labor Lost)

I will go root. (Richard II)

He will steal, sir. (All's Well That Ends Well)

Let the world slide. (Taming of the Shrew)

I have killed a fly. (Titus Andronicus)

Pardon me, if I speak like a captain. (Timon of Athens)

I would give a thousand pounds if I could run as fast as thou canst. (King Henry IV)

The play, I remember, pleased not the million. (Hamlet)

They cannot sit at ease on the old bench. (Romeo and Juliet)

Upon such sacrifices the gods themselves throw incense. (King Lear)

Our forefathers had no other books but the score and the tally. (King Henry VI)

Whom right and wrong have chosen as umpire. (Love's Labor Lost)

Pitchers have ears. (Taming of the Shrew)

A hit! A very palpable hit! (Hamlet)

That one error fills him with faults. (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

They will steal anything! (King Henry V)

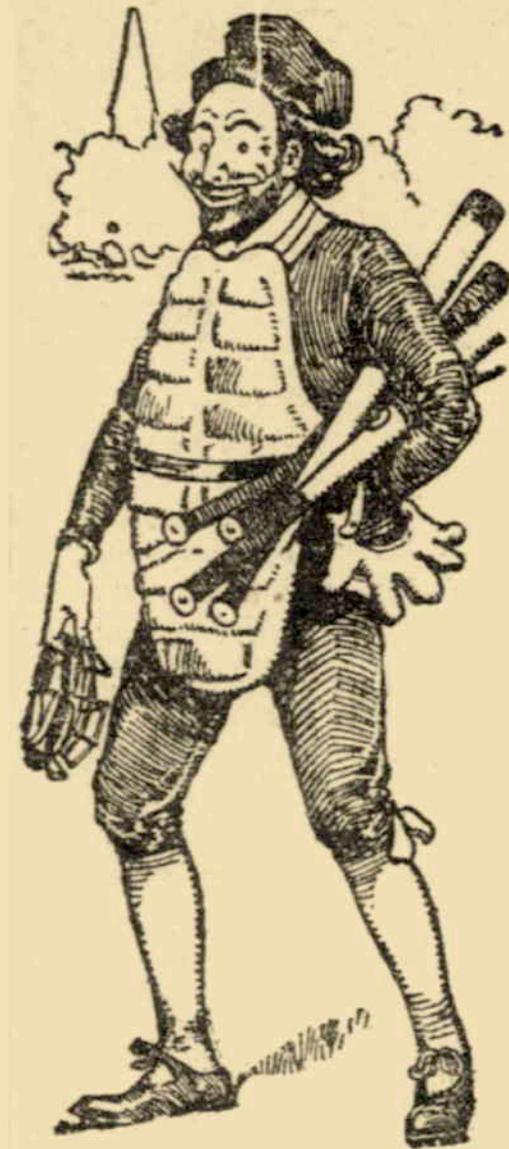
What sign is it? (Love's Labor Lost)

The word is "Pitch." (King Henry V)

Highly beloved second. (Comedy of Errors)

'Tis a plate of rare device. (Cymbeline)

I would not give my part in this sport for a pension of thousands. (Twelfth Night)



The Bard of Avon Ready For Fray on Diamond

(Thanks to contributor Mike Lackey)

The Spokane Press, April 22, 1907, and The Washington (D.C.) Times, May 21, 1907