

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



VOL. XX, NO. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" FEBRUARY 2020

The 1904 World Series (Almost) Presented by "Joe the Bookmaker"

by Kevin P. Braig

Can you imagine a World Series sponsored and presented by a bookmaking company? Major League Baseball's contract with the current presenting sponsor — YouTube TV — expired after the final out of the 2019 Series. With state-sponsored and regulated betting on sports growing beyond the borders of Nevada at a crisp pace, it is not hard to imagine FanDuel or another group of bookmakers may soon be presenting the Fall Classic.

But what you might find hard to imagine is that a bookmaker-sponsored World Series almost occurred 116 years ago in 1904 in response to the stubborn refusal of National League champion New York Giants owner John T. Brush and manager John McGraw to play a post-season championship series against the winner of the American League pennant.

On October 3, 1904, readers of the *Buffalo Commercial* opened their papers to the headline:

\$50,000 For Baseball Games
Bookmakers of Metropolis
Make a Tempting Offer to
the New York Giants¹



Left to Right: NY Giants manager John McGraw, club owner John T. Brush, wife Elsie Brush, Polo Grounds concessionaire Harry Stevens, and Blanche McGraw, c. 1908

According to the *Commercial* and the *New York Times*,² a "coterie of bookmakers" led by Joe Ullman and other members of the Metropolitan Turf Association (MTA)³ — known as "Mets" — expressed their willingness to rent Hilltop Park, the home of Frank Farrell's New York Highlanders and pay 12 players on the Highlanders and 12 players on the Giants "to play a world's championship series in the event of the [Highlanders] winning the [AL] pennant."

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The key figures in the sponsorship pitch were Farrell and Ullman. Farrell was known as the politically-connected “poolroom king”⁴ of New York City.⁵ In 1902, he exploited his connections with the New York police force to purchase the Empire City racetrack at a price that was significantly below the track’s market value. However, after the widow of the track’s founder contested the deal, a court set aside the sale.⁶ Farrell then set his sights on establishing a New York franchise in Ban Johnson’s new AL.⁷

Initially, Farrell reportedly conspired with McGraw to relocate the AL’s Baltimore franchise to New York. On June 24, 1902, McGraw was informed that a suitable parcel of property on the Upper East Side was available and Farrell agreed in principle to lease the property for use as a ballpark and to purchase the assets of the Baltimore franchise. However, upon investigating further, McGraw and Farrell discovered the property had been condemned by the city for a public park. Reportedly, McGraw’s subsequent decision to pivot and accept the job as the Giants’ manager “was naturally a surprise” to Farrell.⁸

While the magnates running the NL — the “Senior Circuit”—were no strangers to gambling, they were not prepared for the intense passion with which Farrell approached betting.⁹ As reported in the March 2, 1904, edition of the *New York Sun*, Farrell confronted Pittsburgh owner Barney Dreyfuss after hearing Dreyfuss had bet the Highlanders Willie Keeler a hat that the AL would not be in existence by 1905. The paper reported the following exchange between Farrell and Dreyfuss:

“They tell me you want to bet that the American League will be dead when the National League is alive!” said Farrell. Dreyfuss grinned as he said:

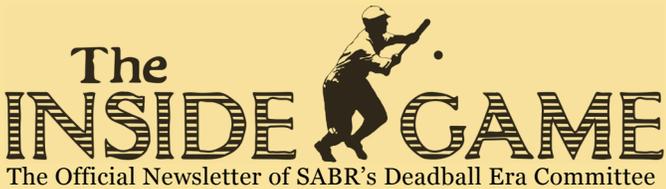
“Well, what of it?”

“Just this,” retorted Farrell. “I’ll bet you \$20,000 to \$10,000, post \$500 now to bind the wager and put up the rest of the money at 10 o’clock Monday morning, that the American League will be doing business when the National League is dead and buried. Where’s your sporting blood?”

Dreyfuss said: “I was only joking, Mr. Farrell, only joking.”¹⁰

Farrell’s desire to see his team meet the Giants in the post-season in 1904 was no joke. In March, he challenged the Giants to a charitable, three-game post-season series. Brush refused.¹¹ On March 14, 1904, Boston owner Henry Killilea tried to provoke Brush by stating the Yankees “can wipe up the up the diamond with the New York Nationals. That is why John T. Brush has steadfastly refused to play a series of games, even for charity.”¹²

This was just spring training smack talk. Both sides were merely getting their public relations arms into shape for the regular season. The real PR heat was still to be unleashed. On July 21, 1904, the issue of a post-season World Series exploded nationally. With his team in first place in the National League by eight games, John McGraw publicly announced that participation in the post-season was his call alone and that his decision to not play was “final and absolute.” In explaining his decision, McGraw blasted AL



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President Ban Johnson. Sounding much like an aggrieved bookmaker who had been victimized by a ringer, McGraw said:

“The reasons for my decision are that Ban Johnson has not been on the level with me personally, and the American League management, to my knowledge, has been crooked more than once. I introduced Ban Johnson to the East. I was his best friend. I played him square and did not know that he was the man to frame things up ...

Johnson succeeded in invading New York, but say, I went him one better, and took on the National League club in the same city. Now, after Johnson caused me to lose \$3,900 of my own hard-earned money I have the whip-hand. But my team will have nothing to do with the American League so long as I have a word to say and no influence to bear upon me by the National League people can make me change my mind.”¹³

As soon as Johnson saw McGraw’s statements he called McGraw’s claim that it was his decision — not John T. Brush’s decision — to sit out the World Series “ridiculous” and belittled McGraw as a mere employee of Brush who was “dictating to McGraw.” Johnson professed that he was “now sure” that Brush was “afraid to play an American League club.” Finally, Johnson began to manipulate the media anxious to cover a World Series by claiming both leagues resolved in the spring that their champions would meet in a World Series and that “if Mr. Brush welches he will have to get out of New York.”¹⁴

In early August, Johnson escalated his public relations campaign by painting Brush as the villain depriving the public of the World Series and capturing the sympathy of the nation’s newspapers.¹⁵ By mid-August several sources reported the high-flying Giants players, who led the NL by 9 1/2 games, were prepared to rebel, buck Brush and McGraw, and meet the American League champion in defiance of their management.¹⁶ The media loved it. On August 14, 1904, the *Washington Post* picked up a column in the *Pittsburg Dispatch* that, in part, stated:



NY Highlanders principal owner, Frank Farrell, c. 1903

Naturally the members of the New York team, who must be given credit for their clever and consistent work ever since the present race began, object to the course being pursued by their employers and manager. It is asserted that they have even gone so far as to openly declare that they will not abide by the decision of Messrs. Brush and McGraw, but that, in the event of their winning the championship, they will arrange a series of games

with the American winners, and, if necessary, play on grounds other than those in New York.

This is the proper spirit, and it is to be hoped that the players will make good their threat, for certainly they have the sympathy of every true sportsman in the country.¹⁷

For more than a month Brush kept a low profile as his team built a massive 17 1/2 game lead over the Chicago Cubs and clinched the NL pennant.¹⁸ Meanwhile, the Highlanders fought and clawed their way into a tie with Boston in the AL.

On September 25, 1904, Brush issued a statement that noted “[t]here is nothing in the constitution or playing rules of the National League which requires its victorious club to submit its championship honors to a contest with a victorious club of a *minor* league.” Brush claimed the NL pennant winner “is entitled to the honor of champions of the United States, without being called upon to contend with or recognize clubs from *minor* league towns. Neither the players nor the manager of the Giants nor myself desires any greater glory than to win the pennant in the National League. That is the greatest honor that can be obtained in baseball.”¹⁹

Surprisingly, no media report of any direct response from Johnson to Brush’s statement could be found even though Brush’s statement was issued just two days before a thoroughly covered National Commission meeting in Cincinnati. However, on September 27, 1904, the *Pittsburg Press* mentioned that at the Commission meeting “Ban Johnson used three type-written pages to say that he refused to talk about the Giants’ refusal to play a post-season series.”²⁰

Enter bookmaker Joe Ullman. By October of 1904, Ullman was one of the most famous bookmakers in the nation and had published a short memoir of his life in the business of betting entitled *What’s the Odds?*²¹ He was part of a gambling family — his brothers Alex and Cole also were in the business of betting — and he first gained notoriety in Chicago in 1891 when he set up an “indoor race track,” which law enforcement found to be “stall to sell pools” intended to

evade the law prohibiting betting in Illinois pool rooms, but permitting betting at a race track.²² In 1896, the *Buffalo Enquirer* reported that he lost \$100,000 in a season, “[b]ut that was only one-fifth of his fortune.”²³

Ullman hit it big in 1902 when he teamed with another notorious Chicago plunger, Barney “Kid” Weller, to start a bookmaking operation willing to handle bets of any size. The operation was known as “The Big Store” and rumors swirled that it was backed by the capital of legendary Chicago bookmaker “Big Jim” O’Leary as well as celebrity plungers John W. “Bet-A-Million” Gates,²⁴ John A. Drake,²⁵ and others.²⁶ Ullman’s “Big Store” bookmaking methods created much fear that a “trust” was seeking to monopolize the bookmaking market. On August 22, 1902, such fear sparked bookmaker Leo Mayer to attack Ullman outside the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. Mayer’s assault ignited a street fight that involved more than half a dozen bookmakers and sent women in ballroom dress “screaming into the muddy street.”²⁷

George Wheelock, President of the MTA, said the “affair was disgraceful,” but the MTA could not take action against Mayer or Ullman — both Mets — because the fracas occurred off-track.²⁸ The MTA was organized like the New York Stock Exchange and its license, in the form of a button, was marketable.²⁹ Highly-respected John Cavanaugh — officially, nothing more than the seller of racetrack stationary and pencils³⁰ — was the agent of the Jockey Club who settled all disputes between MTA bookmakers and bettors.³¹ Because the Jockey Club authorized only the MTA to handle bets at New York racetracks under Cavanaugh’s oversight, a bookmaker could not make book on-track in New York without a MTA button.³²

Although Ullman possessed an MTA button, the Eastern-dominated Jockey Club and the rank-and-file Eastern Mets resented the “pooled interests” of the Western operators they believed Ullman’s “Big Store” represented.³³ In September of 1902, at the peak of a record-breaking racing season³⁴ and as Eastern Mets led by Edward Burke contemplated pooling capital in or-

der to compete to handle big bets,³⁵ rumors swirled that the Jockey Club “ruled off” Ullman’s “Big Store” during the meet at the Sheepshead Bay track on Long Island.³⁶ In addition, the Mets “black-balled” Chicago’s “Big Jim” O’Leary by overwhelmingly voting to deny O’Leary an MTA button, which Weller had purchased at auction in O’Leary’s name.³⁷ It would not be the last time O’Leary would be a casualty of hostile and predatory Eastern gamblers.³⁸

But Eastern poolroom king Frank Farrell had no quarrel with Western bookmaker Joe Ullman. In addition to being a Met, Ullman — like Farrell — was a long-time poolroom operator.³⁹ In the 1902 Grand Union Hotel street fight, Farrell went to the aid of Ullman so intensely that Farrell’s wife had to rush into the thick of the fray to pull her husband from the fracas. In October 1904, it was Ullman’s turn to come to the aid of Frank Farrell ... and Ban Johnson.

Barely a week after Giants’ owner John T. Brush insultingly implied the American League was a *minor* league, Ullman made his public offer to the Giants’ players to buck Brush and John McGraw and play in a World Series *provided* the Highlanders bested Boston in the AL pennant race. Ullman reportedly speculated that he and his fellow bookmaker sponsors could possibly make a \$25,000 profit by presenting the World Series.

It is likely that Ullman was acting in concert with Farrell when he attempted to induce Giants players to buck their management. On October 4, 1904 — the day after reports of Ullman’s World Series sponsorship offer surfaced — the *Buffalo Enquirer* reported that a telephone company agent’s report showed that on August 24, 1904, Ullman purchased 16 new telephones and that Farrell’s name was one of the names on the receipt for the phones.⁴⁰ This agent’s report is clear evidence that Ullman was acting in concert with Farrell to illegally equip New York City poolrooms as summer turned to fall in 1904.

The condition that the Highlanders win the AL pennant that Ullman attached to the offer to sponsor and present the 1904 World Series also suggests that Ullman was working in concert



Joe Ullman, 1895

with Farrell. In theory, Ullman could have made the same offer if Boston won the pennant, as it did by besting New York on the last day of the season. But it is crystal clear that Ullman’s interest in the World Series extended no further than Farrell’s interest in the Series.

Ullman’s business *modus operandi* also suggests Ullman served as a beard for Farrell when Ullman offered to sponsor and present the 1904 World Series.⁴¹ Ullman’s 1902 business relationships with Kid Weller and Jim O’Leary demonstrate that Ullman was experienced and skilled in acting as a beard to facilitate avoidance of an authority’s prohibition. Just as O’Leary and Weller gained access to New York race track betting rings through Ullman despite the MTA’s refusal to license either as Mets, Farrell could gain access to the Giants players through Ullman despite Brush’s refusal to license the Giants’ participation in the 1904 World Series.

Not many people would have had the nerve to put themselves in the middle of disputes like those between the MTA and Weller/O’Leary and Brush and Farrell/Johnson. But Ullman had nerve in buckets. He tapped his buckets of nerve to make buckets of money as a bookmaker.⁴²

It is extremely unlikely that either Ullman or Farrell desired to present the World Series so that they could book bets on the Series or the individual games. The media reported that Ullman and his fellow bookmakers only wanted “to see the series played as a matter of sport.”⁴³ Moreover, notwithstanding that Ullman and Farrell undoubtedly intended to use the 16 new phones Ullman bought in August 1904 to book bets on horseracing and perhaps other events such as the 1904 presidential election,⁴⁴ no evidence was uncovered by the author that suggests either Ullman or Farrell ever booked bets on baseball games. To the best of the author’s knowledge, the first documented attempt by any professional bookmakers to book bets on baseball as a business occurred in Chicago in 1908 and ended so disastrously for the bookies that they shut down the business after only one month of action.⁴⁵

Of course, everyone knows that after Boston slipped by the Highlanders to claim the AL pennant,⁴⁶ John T. Brush proved a man of his word and refused to let the Giants meet the Americans in the post-season. As result, no World Series was played in 1904. So a question will linger for all eternity: Would the Giants’ players have bucked Brush and McGraw and met Farrell’s team at Hilltop Park to play the World Series if the Highlanders had turned the tables on Boston and won the AL pennant?

The *New York Times* found such a notion unlikely, stating in its October 3, 1904 report on Ullman’s offer that “[a]fter the ultimatum of John T. Brush, President of the New York National League club, not to allow his team to meet the winners of the American League championship, it is hardly likely that those players will consider the offer of Ullman and his syndicate.”⁴⁷ On the other hand, multiple sources reported in August that the Giants’ players would defy their management and play. Also, it is important to re-

member that everyone — owners, players, managers, and league officials — was living and acting in the “*Lochner* Era,” an intensely libertarian period when the “freedom to contract” was held sacrosanct.⁴⁸

Throughout the *Lochner* Era it was common for players to buck authority to advance their economic interests. For example, in 1921 Babe Ruth led a post-season barnstorming tour in defiance of Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis’s order prohibiting the tour. To Ruth’s surprise, the Commissioner withheld Ruth’s share of the Yankees’ World Series players-pool revenue and suspended Ruth for the beginning of the 1922 season.⁴⁹

At the time Joe Ullman sought to present the World Series, the National Commission had no power to deprive the Giants players of any compensation they might have received from Ullman’s syndicate. Thus, the only deterrent to playing may have been the wrath of McGraw and, perhaps, McGraw may have softened his position if he had been backed into a corner.⁵⁰ After all, like Ullman and Farrell, McGraw was both sensitive to political forces⁵¹ and a gambling man. Indeed, at organized baseball’s 1904 winter meetings, the *New York Sun* reported that “McGraw denied with much emphasis the story that he intends to be a bookmaker.”⁵² At those same 1904 winter meetings, NL magnates “agreed to pass a resolution making it obligatory for the team winning its pennant to meet the American League champions in a series of seven games.”⁵³ With that resolution, MLB’s modern monopolistic power over post-season major league baseball was born.

Never again would the need arise for bookmakers like Joe Ullman to save, sponsor and present the World Series. But if YouTube TV does not renew its relationship with MLB as the presenting sponsor of the World Series, do not be surprised if FanDuel or some other enterprising bookmakers channel the spirit of Joe Ullman and agree to fill the void.

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ticed law in Columbus and was recognized for his expertise on gaming-related legal issues. He is also a member of the Hank Gowdy SABR chapter and an avid Cincinnati Reds fan.

ENDNOTES

1. "World of Sport: \$50,000 for Baseball Games – Bookmakers of Metropolis Make a Tempting Offer to the New York Giants," *Buffalo Commercial*, October 3, 1904: 4.
2. "\$50,000 To Play Baseball? – Syndicate of Sports Wants to Bring New York Teams Together," *New York Times*, October 2, 1904: 4.
3. Until May 20, 1905, MTA members enjoyed a virtual monopoly at New York racetracks. Mets sat on stools and listed the odds in chalk on slate tablets. Each Met paid \$57 per day to operate in the "big ring," \$37 per day to operate on the "back line," or \$17 per day to operate without a stool in the far-back "hurdlers" area. On May 20, 1905, the Jockey Club, the umbrella organization of track owners, ended the MTA monopoly by opening the betting to anyone willing to pay \$57 per day and submit to the oversight and arbitration of John Cavanaugh. See "Heavy Blow to Layers By Racing Managers – Metropolitan Turf Association To Be Ignored, Beginning To-day – Open Ring at \$57 Apiece – Members of Bookmakers' Syndicate Must Pay to Enter Grounds – Talk of Attempting Reprisals," *New York Times*, May 20, 1905: 1.
4. In 1887, New York lawmakers enacted the Ives Anti-Poolroom Act, which prohibited off-track betting but allowed wagering at tracks. In 1893, they passed the Saxton Act, which made keeping a poolroom a felony. However, the secretary of the MTA, Tammany Hall kingpin Timothy D. Sullivan (a/k/a "Big Tim"), organized the poolroom business. By the time Sullivan was elected to a Congressional seat in 1902, "Big Tim's" political power was so great he essentially acted as the *de facto* licensor of the poolrooms. See Steven A. Riess, *City Games: The Evolution of American Urban Society and the Rise of Sports* (Champaign, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1989), 183-185. Journalist Josiah Flynt called Sullivan "the most



New York City poolroom, c. 1910

scandalous individual in the pool-room Griff in the United States.” *Ibid.*

5. See, e.g., “The Fifteen Will Abandon All Raids – A Crisis Follows the Methods of Justice Jerome – Harmony and Support Fail – Mr. Crimins Says Efforts at Reform Have Been Made Farcical—Justice Jerome’s Reply—Committee Plans Retrenchment,” *New York Times*, June 11, 1901: 2. “If [New York Police] Captain Creamer is looking for poolrooms,’ continued Mr. Lindinger, ‘why don’t he ask his brother-in-law, Frank Farrell, the ‘poolroom king,’ where they are?’; “Farrell Says He Is Not Now King of Pool-Rooms,” *New York Evening World*, April 3, 1902: 3. Farrell was so close with “Big Tim” Sullivan — who also discovered and mentored Arnold Rothstein — that Farrell named one of his horses “Tim Sullivan.” See *New York Times*, June 7, 1907: 17. In 1899, the *Times* reported that policeman Matthew O’Connell warned Farrell to close one of his poolrooms. Farrell responded that he was operating for Sullivan and ignored O’Connell’s warning and then pulled some money out of his pocket to “fix it.” He also asked O’Connell if his superiors could be “fixed.” The next day McConnell saw Sullivan visiting with Police Commissioner Sexton at Police Headquarters. McConnell then visited Farrell’s poolroom again and Farrell said to him, “Haven’t you been told to stop?” McConnell responded, “No,” but shortly thereafter McConnell was transferred to another precinct at the request of Commissioner Sexton. See “Van Wyck Before Mazet Committee – Denies He Is Dominated by Richard Croker – Scores John McCullagh – Also Speaks Harshly of ex-Police Commissioner Hamilton – Mr. Sexton Enraged – Former Policeman McConnell Says He Came into Disfavor for Trying To Close a Poolroom – York and the ex-Chief Also Testify,” *New York Times*, May 17, 1899: 3.
6. See “Empire Sale Set Aside – Frank Farrell May Lose His Recently Purchased Racetrack Property in Westchester,” *New-York Tribune*, January 4, 1902: 5; “Sale of Empire City Track – Yonkers Course Bought by Syndicate for \$300,000—Trotting Men Said To Be Interested,” *Chicago Tribune*, February 26, 1902, 6; “Mrs. W.H. Clark Gets \$200,000 – Justice Keogh Orders This Amount To Be Paid from Sale of Empire City Track as Dower Right,” *New York Times*, June 22, 1902: 6.
7. *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 13, 1902: 18: “Frank Farrell, the poolroom king, is the New York man who wants to get an American League franchise in New York. It was stated during the past week that he has \$80,000 to venture in the enterprise.” On March 12, 1903, the arrival of a new AL franchise in New York was made official with Joseph Gordon serving as a “beard” for the real capitalist ownership of the franchise. See Bill Lamb, “Joseph Gordon,” www.sabr.org/bioproj/person/871702c7. Farrell was not at the press conference, perhaps because he was occupied in a legal dispute at one of his gambling houses. See “Farrell Was Not in Court,” *New-York Tribune*, March 13, 1903; Bill Lamb, “Frank Farrell,” www.sabr.org/bioproj/person9c6a7eb4. On July 20, 1903, reports circulated that Farrell already wanted to sell the franchise. See “Frank Farrell Anxious To Quit American League – Has Offered To Sell Stock in New York Club to a Well-Known Brewer,” *New York Evening World*, July 20, 1903: 6. However, by September 27, 1903, reports indicated Farrell would sell his racing stable. See “M’Chesney Met Defeat – Western Champion Last for Handicap Won by Charles Elwood – Favorites Were Beaten in Six Races at the Wind-Up of the Fall Meeting at Gravesend Track,” *New York Times*, September 27, 1903: 17. Farrell did neither. By December 17, 1903, Farrell was representing the New York franchise at AL league meetings. See “American League Holds Its Meeting in Chicago – Change in Foul-Strike Rule and Several Trades and Deals for Players Will Be Features of the Session,” *New York Evening World*, December 17, 1903: 12: “Frank Farrell is here to represent [New York], and is expected to take an important part in the deliberations.” In 1906, Farrell formed a high-profile, short-lived horse racing partnership with Sullivan and bookmaker Dave Johnson. See “Kenilworth Horse For Big Tim – The Sale of Dr. Gardner to Frank Farrell Is the Start of a New Racing Partnership Between The Politician and the Baseball Club Owner,” *Buffalo Enquirer*, October 9, 1906: 10; “Signs Jockey – Jack Martin Will Ride for Farrell Next Year,” *Buffalo Courier*, December 6, 1906: 12: “Jack Martin, who is one of the best jockeys in this country, has signed a contract to ride for the Farrell-Johnson-Sullivan combination next year.”
8. “McGraw’s Scheme Failed, Muggsy Tried To Locate American League Club in New York,” *Buffalo Morning Express and Illustrated*, July 10, 1902: 14.
9. For generations, professional sports leagues have ignored, buried, or downplayed the relationship that some of their founders enjoyed with the business of betting. “Sporting men” (a/k/a “Sports”) like Farrell and NFL pioneers Art Rooney (Pittsburgh Steelers) and Timothy Mara (New York Giants) were not just superficially interested in the business of betting. Rather, these founding fathers immersed themselves in the

- business of betting and *loved* the business of betting with all their hearts and souls. These men were true capitalists. Clean, honest, and efficient markets are one of the foundational cornerstones of capitalism. Thus, it should not come as any surprise that Farrell, Rooney, and Mara were both intensely passionate participants in the betting markets that are the heart of the business of betting and also never thought for a second about attempting to corrupt a game in which one of their teams (or horses) competed. All of these great “sporting men” intuitively understood that *bona fide*, contested “rivalry” is the “secret sauce” that makes both athletic competition and betting on athletic competition so appealing and potentially valuable. *See, e.g.* “Henry McLemore Says: Tim Mara, Calm as Bookmaker at Track, Maniac at Football Games,” (Elmira, New York) *Star-Gazette*, September 7, 1938: 13: “Tim is only a bookmaker on week days. On Sundays he is Tim Mara, owner of the New York Giants, a professional football team in the National Football League.” Players change; but rivalry is constant.
10. “New Baseball Deadlock – Split in the National League on Ridgewood Case,” *New York Sun*, March 2, 1904: 5
 11. “Giants Will Not Meet Invaders – Brush Refuses To Accept Farrell’s Challenge for Post-Season Series,” *New-York Tribune*, March 8, 1904: 5.
 12. “Sporting Gossip of To-Day – Killilea Discusses Americans’ Challenge to M’Graw – Says Brush Is Afraid To Accept...,” *New York Sun*, March 14, 1904: 6.
 13. “Muggsy M’Graw Deals Ban Johnson a Hand – The American Leaguer Then Counts Brush Out – Both Borrowing Trouble,” *Indianapolis News*, July 21, 1904: 10.
 14. “Giants Must Play, Says Ban Johnson – Public Opinion Demands They Meet Highlanders – M’Graw Brush’s Catspaw – Doughty Manager Put in Front To Stand the Brunt of Criticism,” *Washington Times*, July 21, 1904: 8.
 15. “Baseball – Ban Johnson Issues Statement on Interleague Games,” *New-York Tribune*, August 1, 1904: 9. Highlanders president Joseph Gordon also sought to apply pressure publicly, but Gordon’s self-absorbed rhetoric was ignored by the hard-boiled Brush. *See* Bill Lamb, “Joseph Gordon,” www.sabr.org/bioproj/person/871702c7.
 16. “Ban Johnson’s Answer – Clean-cut Statement, Which Unmasks McGraw’s Methods,” *Washington Post* (from *The Sporting News*), August 7, 1904: 1: “It is said that many members of McGraw’s team are displeased at the prospect of being deprived of the large revenue that a world’s series brings to players. Brush cannot afford to disappoint patrons and estrange players to vent spleen.” “McGraw Will Play for Championship with Americans,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 15, 1904: 10; “Giants Will Fall into Line—Post-Season Series with American Champions – The Players Demand It – To Maintain Peace among His Men, Manager McGraw Has Consented To Play,” *Washington Post*, August 15, 1904: 8.
 17. “World’s Baseball Series – National League Writers Criticize New York Giants for Declining To Play,” *Washington Post* (from the *Pittsburg Dispatch*), August 14, 1904: 2.
 18. *See* “M’Graw’s Team Taking It Easy – Pennant Is Clinched and the Players Are Inclined To Have a Rest – American League – Race Is Still Very Close with Three Weeks Left in the Race for the Flag,” *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, September 25, 1904: 35.
 19. “Not With Minor Leagues – But Brush in His Statement Says Nothing about American League,” *New York Sun*, September 26, 1904: 10; emphasis added. The *Sun* scoffed at Brush’s attempt to “spin” the American League into a minor league, stating: “The main point of issue concerning the New York Nationals playing a United States championship series has nothing to with minor leagues, but with a powerful major league, the American League. There is wholesome precedent for such a series, Pittsburgh vs. Boston last year, for instance, and the New York champions in 1888 and 1889 vs. the American Association winners. When the Boston Americans beat the Pittsburghs last year they won the highest honors in baseball [W]hile neither Brush nor McGraw nor his players desire any greater glory than to win the pennant in the National League, not so thousands of patrons of the game. They want to have it shown to them on the field which is the stronger team, the New York Nationals or the American League champions.”
 20. “Baseball Notes,” *Pittsburg Press*, September 27, 1904: 12.
 21. “Joe Ullman, Bookmaker, Has Made a Book, but This Time He Has Not Written It on a Slate,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 10, 1904: 23.
 22. “Police Report On The Track – Capt. Mahoney Says the ‘Eclipse’ Is Nothing but a Stall for Pool-Selling,” *Chicago Tribune*, October 14, 1891: 6.
 23. “Rich Bookies – Jack McDonald Is Worth a Cool Million – Talent His Mark – Joe Ullman and Other Bookmakers Also Have Big Fortunes,” *Buffalo Enquirer*, June 9, 1896: 9.
 24. In 1907, Hugh Fullerton wrote a fawning profile of John W. “Bet-A-Million” Gates in *Worker’s*

- Magazine*. See Hugh S. Fullerton, “John W. Gates Juggler with Millions,” *Chicago Tribune*, May 5, 1907. Gates first made his fortune marketing barbed wire and monopolizing the manufacture of barbed wire. Subsequently, he became a big player in the stock market and assisted J.P. Morgan in the “1907 Banker’s Panic” (a/k/a the “Knickerbocker Crisis”). The spirit of “Bet-A-Million” Gates returned to the World Series in 2019 in the person of Jim “Mattress Mac” McIngvale, who reportedly bet and lost \$13 million on the Houston Astros. See Jason Duane Hahn, “Man Who Lost Millions Betting That the Houston Astros Would Win World Series Speaks Out,” *People*, November 1, 2019.
25. “Drake Wins Largest Bet in History of American Turf – Winnings on Victory of Savable Amount to More Than \$100,000—Fortunes Change Hands on Result of the Contest,” *St. Louis Republic*, August 31, 1902: 51.
 26. “Featherstone Retires – Horses of the Popular Sportsman To Be Sold at Sheepshead Bay Meeting – Transactions in the Book of Joe Ullman Astonish Even the High Rollers at Saratoga—Grey Friar Is a Colt of Considerable Class,” *Brooklyn Times-Union*, August 21, 1902: 6; “Westerners Have Invaded Saratoga – Joe Ullman Comes On To Help Out ‘Kid’ Weller, Lively War Expected,” *Buffalo Review*, August 22, 1902: 8. Kid Weller needed “help” because at the turn of the century he skipped out of New York without paying approximately \$30,000 in gambling debts owed to several Mets. See “Say ‘Kid’ Weller Is Behind – Owes Many Members of the Metropolitan Turf Club – Friends Still Vouch for Him,” *Chicago Tribune*, July 27, 1899: 4. Weller eventually paid his debts, but the MTA still would not issue him a button so he teamed with Ullman and set prices on the races and Ullman posted the prices on his slate. See *Buffalo Review*, above: “Though he refunded his ‘welchings’ of two years previous, Weller was not allowed to book, the ‘Mets’ having anticipated his purpose [in coming to Saratoga]. Not to be balked, Weller engaged Ullman to cut into the Saratoga ring, Ullman being a member in good standing of the Metropolitan Turf Association. Every day Ullman holds the slate and Weller from the rear seat directs the slating of prices and the acceptance or refusal of wagers. Ullman’s enormous books represent six bookmakers, who, by this ‘trust’ arrangement are doing business for one bookmaker fee.”
 27. “The Bitter War at Saratoga – Joe Ullman’s Method Has Fired the Entire Bookmaker’s Fraternity,” *Buffalo Enquirer*, August 28, 1904: 4.
 28. *New York Evening World*, August 22, 1904: 1.
 29. See “I’ve Lost \$1,000,000, Says Johnson – In a Single Year the Daring Plunger Says He Has Frittered Away that Sum and Retires from the Turf – Sells His Seat at a Loss – Gives Up His Membership in the Metropolitan Turf Association for \$3,500 and Will No Longer ‘Make Book,’” *New York Evening World*, March 3, 1903: 1.
 30. See “Bookmakers Told of Race Methods – John C. Cavanaugh Called Men Layers of Odds in His Evidence – Want The Money Back – Horseshmith’s Union Claims Treasurer Lost \$1,685 in Betting on Races and Brings Suit for Its Recovery – Some of the Testimony,” *York (Pennsylvania) Daily*, May 10, 1906: 1.
 31. “Mut’s Letter – Independent of Rings, Social, Political or Religious – A Gambling Trust Which the Jockey Club Has Severely Rebuked, to the Great Delight of Most of the Sporting People Who Patronize the Bookmakers – A Gambling Monopoly Which, if Not Kept in Proper Subjection by Race Track Managers, May Serious Injure Racing Interests—Insolvent and Arrogant Gamblers,” *Brooklyn Citizen*, May 6, 1905: 4: “The bookmakers recently thought they were strong enough to force the Jockey Club to set aside one of its conspicuously honest agents, John Cavanaugh, one of whose duties is to see, that as far as possible, dishonest layers of odds shall not wrong bettors. It has frequently occurred on the race tracks that bookmakers have here and there refused, after the running of races, to acknowledge the claim of bettors to money won. Cavanaugh, so it is said by turf reporters, has almost invariably been able to straighten out these matters in dispute between bettors and bookmakers To the credit of the Jockey Club, and to the great satisfaction of large numbers of regular attendants at the tracks, the Club refused to acquiesce to the insolent demands of the Gambling Trust [*i.e.*, the MTA].”
 32. *Brooklyn Citizen*, endnote 31 above: “By reason of the fact that even opponents of gambling have tacitly agreed that betting on horse races shall be tolerated, so long as this form of gambling is restricted to race tracks, the Metropolitan Turf Association of bookmakers has been allowed to monopolize the betting business on the tracks of the Jockey Club.”
 33. “With the Athletes – Odds and Ends of Sport,” *Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Northwestern*, September 13, 1902: 9: “As a business venture, the new firm has had so great success that many believe the result will be a revolution in the betting rings of metropolitan tracks. In effect, Ullman and Weller have taken the place of ten ordinary books, cutting off the expenses of nine. They have created much bad feeling in the ring; the Metropolitan

Turf Association, created to govern betting, is rent in twain, one faction arrayed against the other. And the probability is that another year will see revolution in bookmaking methods.”

34. “Gossip of the Runners – State Tax This Year Breaks All Previous Records – Racing Associations Turn Over a Total of \$170,085.88 to the Agricultural Societies, With Sheepshead Bay at the Head of the List – Madden’s Stable,” *New York Sun*, December 23, 1902: 12.
35. “Gossip of the Runners – Rival to the ‘Big Store’ To Operate Next Year,” *New York Sun*, December 30, 1902: 5: “It is said that there will be a rival to the Ullman-Weller ‘Big Store’ book at local tracks next season. According to the statements of well-known layers who are wintering here Eddie Burke and Sidney Burns have entered into a partnership with combined bankrolls to run a syndicate book beginning with the Morris Park meeting.” In 1920, after purchasing the Oriental Park racetrack in Havana, Cuba, New York Giants owner Charles Stoneham and manager John McGraw hired Edward Burke to manage the action at the track. Joe Vila, “Burke Will Manage Havana Race Track – C.A. Stoneham and John J. McGraw Appointed Noted Racing Impresario to Succeed Curley Brown at Oriental Park,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 8, 1920: 18. Previously, Burke had managed the Havre de Grace racetrack in Maryland — which was built by August Belmont II and Arnold Rothstein — and partnered with Rothstein in a gambling house in the Long Beach community on Long Island. *Ibid.* See also, David Pietrusza, *Rothstein: The Life, Times, and Murder of the Criminal Genius Who Fixed the 1919 World Series* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2003). Some sources have suggested Rothstein also was a partner with Stoneham and McGraw in the Oriental Park racetrack in Havana and the “go-between” in Stoneham’s purchase of the Giants. See Riess, Endnote 4 above, 199. Stoneham’s and McGraw’s retention of Burke as manager in Havana is consistent with Rothstein holding some type of significant interest in the Cuban track.
36. “Horse Racing Endangered by Practically Ruling Off Big Books – August Belmont, Chairman of the New York Jockey Club, Takes Action Against the Ullman-Weller Book To Appease Popular Criticism – Immense Bets Made,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, September 9, 1902: 10. August Belmont and the Jockey Club opposed bookmakers handling big bets — a/k/a/ “plunging” — because they feared the public and anti-horse racing groups associated such bets with fixed races and the attention generated by plunging might lead lawmakers to pierce the Jockey Club’s vulnerable official position that “[r]acing ... was a sport for the lovers of the thoroughbred, and not a home for gamblers.” *Id.* Ullman and the Jockey Club denied the Jockey Club forced him to close his book at Sheepshead Bay and that he had any partners other than Weller. “Ullman Not Ruled Off – Big Store Book Laid Off for Few Days Because Business Was Bad – Will Be at Gravesend – Jockey Club Has Not Interfered, Nor Has August Belmont Ordered Ullman Out of the Ring,” *New York Evening World*, September 9, 1902: 6.
37. “O’Leary Received Blackballs – President of Western Turf Association Turned Down By Metropolitan Turf Association – Cheap Bit of Spite Work – Kid Weller Buys ‘Butch’ Thompson’s Button For Westerner, Who Is Subsequently Blackballed,” *Buffalo Courier*, September 6, 1902: 9.
38. “Red Money Appears,” *Chicago Tribune*, October 1, 1919: 16: “At the establishment of Jim O’Leary, near the stockyards, the best known clearing house for wagers in this city Cincinnati money was more in evidence than White Sox coin yesterday ... Much of the money which arrived to depress the odds given the Reds was from out of town. There was considerable wagering.”
39. See Note 22, above; “Morris Park Has Its Opening This Week – But Four Days More for Aqueduct, Then the Legitimate Eastern Season Begins. Lakeside Syndicate Book a Profitable Venture,” *Buffalo Review*, April 28, 1902: 10: “Joe Ullman who is running a sort of handbook poolroom at Chesapeake Bay ...”; Joe Ullman, *What’s The Odds?* (New York: The Metropolitan Printing Co., 1903), 31: “We were running a poolroom at Hot Springs, Arkansas ...”
40. “Poolrooms Are Numerous in New York – Western Union Again Furnishing Information, It Is Said, to Scores of Places in the Metropolis—Men Will Bet So Long as Horses Run and Law Will Never Stop Them,” *Buffalo Enquirer*, October 4, 1904: 8.
41. First New York Highlanders club president Joseph Gordon essentially was a beard for Farrell. See Bill Lamb, “Joseph Gordon,” www.sabr.org/bioproj/person/871702c7: “Gordon assured those gathered [as the franchise’s introductory press conference] that the group behind the new club was ‘a strong one financially, being backed by several worthy and prominent citizens’ whose names Gordon left unmentioned. Nor, for that matter, were Frank Farrell or Bill Devery listed as club backers in papers filed with the state in Albany two days later, the franchise being incorporated by others and capitalized at \$100,000.
42. Alas, Ullman’s wealth was fleeting. On April 28, 1907, the *New York Post* and *Washington Post*

- reported Joe Ullman had suffered a mental breakdown. See “Bookmaker Not Real Gambler – Leaves It to the Better to Take Chances and Insanity Seldom Overcomes Layer of Odds,” *Washington Post*, April 28, 1907: 53. Ullman died on January 23, 1908, two years after giving up bookmaking to finance an opera company in San Francisco. According to the *Evening World*, “He is said to have died a poor man.” See “Joe Ullman is Dead, Victim of Paralysis, at 51 – Plunger, Known the Country Over, Passes Away in Sanitarium at Amityville,” *New York Evening World*, January 23, 1908: 8.
43. See Endnote 1 above.
44. See “Betting Up Briskly – Roosevelt as High as 50 to 3 – Herrick a 2 to 1 Favorite – Some Heavy Bets Downtown, but ‘Mostly Piking’ at Night – Hugh Grant Can’t Place \$50,000 at 1 to 6 – Gruber Won’t Bet on Higgins – Tim Woodruff Gets Down \$10,000 to \$5,000 on Roosevelt,” *New York Sun*, November 8, 1904: 4.
45. “‘Bookies’ Quit Baseball Bets – Wise Fans Know Too Much about Game To Let Professional Gamblers Win – Heavy Loss by Backers – Tennes, Tuckerhorn, Zacharis and Waixel Reported to Have Dropped \$100,000,” *Chicago Tribune*, August 4, 1908: 10. The bookmakers took practically no bets on the outcome of a single game. Rather, the bookmakers marketed only two-team, three-team, and four-team parlay bets. Their timing could not have been worse. Their customers bet the favorites as Detroit and Cleveland battled to a virtual tie in the AL, each winning 90 games, and NL powerhouses Chicago, New York, and Pittsburgh all won at least 98 games. The Cubs captured the NL pennant by defeating the Giants in the final game of the season, which was a replay of an early game that ended in tie when New York’s Fred Merkle failed to advance from first base to second base on what would have been a game-winning hit and Chicago’s Johnny Evers came up with a ball and touched second base to force out Merkle and end the inning. The strange twist of fate is known as “Merkle’s Boner.”
46. The Yankees were led by pitcher Jack Chesbro, who won 41 games after manager Clark Griffith taught him a new pitch: the spitball. Starting on August 30, they won six straight games to pull ahead of Boston by half a game. When Ullman made his offer in early October to sponsor and present the World Series, the Yankees trailed by half a game. On the last day of the season, New York trailed by 1 1/2 games and needed to win both ends of a doubleheader to win the pennant. It was not to be. With the score tied 2-2 in the ninth inning of the first game, one of Chesbro’s spitters eluded catcher Red Kleinow and Boston’s Lou Criger scored to give the Americans a 3-2 win and the pennant. See Ted Leavengood, *Clark Griffith: The Old Fox of Washington Baseball* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2011).
47. See Endnote 2, above.
48. The *Lochner* Era got its name from the United States Supreme Court case of *Lochner v. New York*, 198 U.S. 45 (1905), a/k/a “The Baker’s Case,” in which the Court struck down a New York state statute imposing maximum working hour limits on bakery employees because the statute violated *Lochner’s* liberty by depriving him of his “freedom to contract” with his employees without the state’s interference. The *Lochner* Era lasted until the Court upheld federal New Deal legislation in *West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish*, 300 U.S. 379 (1937).
49. “Baseball History: Babe Ruth’s 1921 Suspension,” www.calltothepen.com.
50. McGraw himself once bucked authority when he found himself in a similar position as his Giants players found themselves in 1904. In 1894, William H. Temple offered to sponsor a post-season series between the first-place and second-place teams in the National League and specified a winning players’ share of 65% of net gate receipts and a loser players’ share of 35%. But McGraw thought it outrageous that his first-place Baltimore Orioles take the risk of receiving less money than the second-place New York Giants and adamantly demanded a 50/50 split. As the teams took the field for the first game, McGraw and his Orioles’ teammates simply went to their counterparts on the Giants and individually agreed to “chop” the compensation pot and thereby guaranteed themselves a 50/50 split. See Charles C. Alexander, *John McGraw* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988) 42-43.
51. See *New York Sun*, Endnote 8, above: “The little manager [John McGraw] has political aspirations by all accounts. It appears that he has been a member of the Seneca Club, in the Twenty-fifth Assembly district, and that he was recently elected a member of the Tammany Hall General Committee.”
52. “Will Play a World’s Series – National League Men To Vote in Favor of It To-Day – New York Club Forced to Come to Terms by Public Opinion—Old Circuit Reduction Debt of \$125,000 Paid Off—McGraw and Hanlon on the Rules,” *New York Sun*, December 14, 1904: 10.
53. *Ibid.*

2020 LARRY RITTER AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

by **Doug Skipper**

Eight books have been nominated for the 2020 Larry Ritter Award. The award is conferred annually by the Deadball Era Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research to the author of the best book about baseball between 1901 and 1919 published the previous calendar year. The winning work must demonstrate original research or analysis, a fresh perspective, compelling thesis, impressive insight, accuracy, and clear, graceful prose. The eight books nominated for this year's award are:

Jeremy Beer, *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Forgotten Player* (University of Nebraska Press);

Granville Wyche Burgess, *The Last At-Bat of Shoeless Joe: A Novel* (Chickadee Prince Books, LLC);

Charles DeMotte, *James T. Farrell and Baseball: Dreams and Realism on Chicago's South Side* (University of Nebraska Press);

Dan Helpingstine, *The 1919 Black Sox Scandal* (Arcadia Publishing);

Ian Kantrowitz, *Baseball Gods in Scandal: Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, and the Dutch Leonard Affair* (Summer Game Books);

Gary L. Livicari, *Reflections on the 1919 Black Sox: Time To Take Another Look* (independently published);

Jason Novak, *Baseball Epic: Famous and Forgotten Lives of the Dead Ball Era* (Coffee House Press), and,

Robert Sterling, *Shoeless Joe and the Baseball Scandal of 1919* (independently published).

Finalists for the Larry Ritter Award will be named in March, and the winner will be announced in April. The award winner will be selected by the Larry Ritter Award committee (Doug Skipper, chairman, Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Ben Klein, Craig Lammers, John McMurray, and Mark Pattison, members) and will be presented during the Deadball Era Committee meeting at the SABR convention in Baltimore this July. The award has been presented every year since 20002 and is named in honor of the distinguished author of *The Glory of Their Times: The Story of Early Baseball and the Men Who Played It*, published in 1966 and widely considered one of the finest baseball books ever written. For more information, please visit: <https://sabr.org/about/larry-ritter-award>. Last year's award recipient was Skip Desjardin for his gripping account of an epic month of tragedy and triumph, *September 1918: War, Plague, and the World Series* (Regnery History).

NO SIGNAL-TIPPING IN AMERICAN LEAGUE

President Johnson takes little stock in the story sprung by the Chicago players that the Highlanders are winning only because they are maintaining a signal-tipping bureau. "I had my secretary, Robert McRoy, look up the Highlanders scores," said Mr. Johnson yesterday, "and he finds that the New York players have hit better on the road than at home. There is no signal-tipping in the American League. Any one would be foolish to try such a move after the drastic legislation we adopted against it at our last meeting."

Bridgeport (Connecticut) Evening Farmer, July 19, 1910

Once more that play when a runner starts home from third and the catcher steps in front of the batter, taking the ball and tagging the runner, has come up in the [American Association]. At Kansas City, umpire Bierhalter called the runner safe, holding that the catcher interfered with the batter. In Columbus, June 13, umpire Kerin called Raidy safe on catcher Myers's interference. At Toledo on [June 15] umpire Hayes called the runner out on a similar play. In the American League umpire O'Loughlin called the runner out on that kind of play, but was reversed by Ban Johnson.

The (Clarksburg, WV) Daily Telegram, June 20, 1908

Accurate RBI Records for Players of the Deadball Era:

Part 18 — The Players on the 1905 Detroit Tigers

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

During the 1905 diamond campaign, Tyrus Raymond Cobb made his major league debut — on August 30, at Bennett Park in Detroit, in the game between the Tigers and the visiting New York Highlanders. The future “Genius in Spikes” came through in fine fashion — in his first plate appearance, in the bottom of the first frame, with the Jungaleers leading, 1-0. With Chris Lindsay on third base, with two outs, Cobb stepped into the batter’s box to face Jack Chesbro, a future Hall of Famer. Here’s what was reported in the game account given in the *Detroit Journal*: *“It’s a safe bet that Mr. Cobb had never seen the like of the first two spit balls which Chesbro threw him. At any rate, he lunged wildly and missed. Up came another. Just as if he had a hundred chances more, Cobb whacked that. He landed [the bat on the ball], and the ball tore its way over the head of little [Ed] Hahn in center and Cobb sailed around to second like an express train.”*

Lindsay, of course, scored on Cobb’s double. So, the future “Georgia Peach” collected his first run batted in. Ultimately, according to the information presented in the first edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (published by Macmillan in 1969 and also frequently called “Big-Mac”), Cobb would go on to collect a regular-season career total of 1,937 RBIs. During the 1925 season, according to Big-Mac, Cobb collected career RBI 1,733, which afforded him the major league record for most runs batted in, lifetime, surpassing Honus Wagner’s career total of 1,732 RBIs. Previously, also according to Big-Mac, during the 1920 campaign, Cobb had picked up the 1,265th run batted in for his career, thereby giving him the American League career RBI record, eclipsing the 1,264 runs batted in that Sam Crawford had amassed. Cobb would hold those distin-

guished marks until the 1932 season, during which Babe Ruth overtook Cobb.

As described in previous articles in this series, the RBI numbers claimed in Big-Mac are not accurate for most of the players on the Detroit Tigers teams during the 1906-1919 period.¹⁻¹⁴ In the present article, the results of my research on the RBIs achieved by the players on the 1905 Detroit Tigers are provided. And, with the 1905 season completing my retrospective determination of the accurate RBI statistics for the Deadball Era portion of Ty Cobb’s major league career, a summary is also provided, comparing Cobb’s season-by-season RBI numbers given in Big-Mac with those given in my reports.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

For the present investigation, I utilized the same rigorous modus operandi employed in my previous research efforts.¹⁻¹⁴ Thus, for each of the 512 runs scored by the Tigers in 1905, 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). I followed the appropriate official scoring rules to credit or to not credit a player with an RBI — i.e., the official scoring rules used in 1931.¹⁵ 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) in its Fall-2019 release of updated information.¹⁶ Appendix A-1 (available on SABR.org) provides a tabulation of the critical “(a)-(b)-(c)” information for each of the 512 runs scored by the 1905 Tigers.¹⁷

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the RBI numbers, according to my research, for each of the 30 players who participated in at least one game for the Detroit Tigers in the 1905 campaign. Also shown for comparison are the RBI numbers claimed by Neft in Big-Mac.¹⁸

Inspection of Table 1 shows that, instead of specific RBI numbers, ranges of RBI numbers are shown for five players — Duff Cooley (29 or 30 or 31); Bill Coughlin (48 or 49 or 50); Sam Crawford (78 or 79); Bill Donovan (8 or 9); and Charlie O’Leary (33 or 34 or 35 or 36). The reason for showing ranges instead of specific numbers is that there are four games for which I have not yet been able to ascertain who batted in whom for some of the runs because of insufficient detailed information in the various newspaper game accounts — April 29 (three of the five runs Detroit tallied against the White Sox in Chicago); the first game of the June 29 doubleheader (two of the three runs the Tigers scored against the Indians in Cleveland); September 21 (one of the five markers the Jungaleers made against the Senators in Washington); the first game of the September 30 doubleheader (each of the three runs the Bengals scored against the Red Sox in Boston). Here is a summary for each of these four games; “complete” information is provided in Appendix A-2.

April 29, 1905 — Detroit at Chicago — Detroit scored 5 runs

Eighth Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs: “A single by McIntyre, a triple by Crawford, and a single by Hickman brought in two runs in the eighth inning.” *Chicago Inter Ocean*

Ninth Inning — Detroit scored 3 runs: “In the ninth, Tannehill’s error on Wood, Donovan’s single, Cooley’s double, and Lowe’s out netted three runs.” *Chicago Inter Ocean*

Thus, for the ninth inning, according to the official DBD records, it is known that Wood, Donovan, and Cooley scored the three runs. It’s clear that the third run (scored by Cooley) was knocked in by Lowe on his out (a groundout according to the text description given in the game



1905 Detroit Tigers

account in the *Detroit Free Press*). And it seems clear that Donovan scored the second run on Cooley’s double. However, what is not known is — did Wood score the first run on Donovan’s single or on Cooley’s double? None of the newspapers examined (*Detroit Free Press, Journal, News, Times, and Tribune* and *Chicago Inter Ocean and Tribune*) provided this critical information. Therefore, for the entire game, Crawford, Hickman, and Lowe had one RBI each and Donovan had either zero or one RBI and Cooley had either one or two RBIs (with the maximum number of RBIs being five).

June 29, 1905 (first game) — Detroit at Cleveland — Detroit scored 3 runs

Third Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs: “In the third, Detroit tied the score [2-2] on hits by Killian, O’Leary, Cooley, and Crawford.” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Ninth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run: “... until the ninth when Killian led off with a two-base smash and scored on Cooley’s single.” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Thus, for the third inning, according to the official DBD records, it is known that Killian and

O'Leary scored the two runs. It is clear that O'Leary scored the second run on Crawford's hit (a single). However, what is not known is — did Killian score the first run on Cooley's single or on Crawford's single? None of the newspapers examined (*Detroit Free Press*, *Journal*, *News*, *Times*, and *Tribune* and *Cleveland Plain Dealer*) provided this critical information. Therefore, for the entire game, Cooley had one or two RBIs and Crawford had one or two RBIs (with the maximum number of RBIs being three).

September 21, 1905 — Detroit at Washington — Detroit scored 5 runs

Third Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs: "Rothgeb dropped McIntyre's fly, and Lindsay whipped a short one into right that Rothgeb failed to get up to, and it went for a double, McIntyre scoring. Eubank then fanned, but Crawford doubled to left center and Lindsay rushed home," *Washington Evening Star*. "Rothgeb ran in hard after McIntyre's fly, and it fell out of his hands. Lindsay dropped another one in short right for two bases, which Rothgeb tried very hard to catch, but fell short a few inches. It scored McIntyre. Eubank batted for Schaefer and struck out. Then Crawford hit for two bases [scoring Lindsay]," *Washington Post*.

Sixth Inning — Detroit scored 2 runs: "Coughlin struck out, but O'Leary put a beauty into left for two bases. Warner's best was a pop to Cassidy, but Mullin beat out a slow roller toward left. Mullin then tried for a bluff steal of second and on Heydon's bad throw to Cassidy O'Leary easily scored. McIntyre followed with a safe hit into left and Mullin scored," *Washington Evening Star*. "One down in the sixth, O'Leary crashed for two sacks. Warner skied and Mullin beat a mean hit to Nill, which put O'Leary on third. Mullin stole, and Heydon threw over Cassidy's head, scoring O'Leary. Mullin made the rest of the circuit on McIntyre's single to center," *Washington Post*.

Seventh Inning — Detroit scored 1 run: "Crawford opened with a fly to Cassidy, but Cobb hit a bouncer to right that went over Hickman's head and was good for two bases. Coughlin followed with a single to left, sending Cobb to

third, and he scored on O'Leary's fly to Jones in center," *Washington Evening Star*. "Cobb's two bagger and a single by Coughlin earned Detroit's last run in the seventh," *Washington Post*.

Thus, there is complete agreement between the text descriptions given in the *Washington Evening Star* and the *Washington Post* (as well as the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Detroit Journal*) for the two runs scored in the third inning and the two runs scored in the sixth inning — In the third, McIntyre scored on Lindsay's double and Lindsay scored on Crawford's double. In the sixth, O'Leary scored on a fielding error (wild throw to second by the catcher, Heydon) and Mullin scored on single by McIntyre. However, there are two distinctly different scenarios for the run that Cobb scored in the seventh inning — according to the text description given in the *Washington Evening Star* game account (as well as game account in the *Detroit Free Press*), Cobb scored on a fly-out by O'Leary. According to the text description given in the *Washington Post* (as well as the *Detroit Journal*), Cobb scored on a single by Coughlin. Therefore, for the entire game, Lindsay, Crawford, and McIntyre had one RBI each and Coughlin had either zero or one RBI and O'Leary had either zero or one RBI (with the maximum number of RBIs being four).

September 30, 1905 (first game) — Detroit at Boston — Detroit scored 3 runs

Second Inning — Detroit scored 1 run: "Cobb opened the second with a single and was sacrificed to second, O'Leary scoring him with a single," *Boston Globe*. "Cobb opened with a single and taking second on Coughlin's sacrifice. O'Leary's single put him on third. Drill forced O'Leary and drew a throw. Cobb reached the rubber, Ferris's throw being a trifle wide," *Boston Herald*. "Cobb reached first on Parent's error, and was advanced by Coughlin's out. O'Leary hit to left field, sending Cobb to third. Drill hit to Tannehill, and O'Leary was forced at second. Drill then stole second. Ferris muffed the throw and Cobb scored on the play," *Boston Post*

Sixth Inning — Detroit scored 1 run: “With one down, Crawford and Cobb singled and scored as Coughlin’s single got by Burkett,” *Boston Globe*. “With one out Crawford landed a safe one to centre and Cobb dropped a pop fly in short centre just out of Ferris’s reach. Then Coughlin landed on the ball for fair, driving sharply to left and it caromed off Burkett’s knee, Crawford and Cobb scoring and Coughlin reaching second,” *Boston Herald*. “In the sixth, with one out, Crawford hit through second, where nobody was. Cobb hit safely to centre, and Coughlin hit to Burkett, who allowed the ball to get by him, giving Coughlin second and scoring Crawford. O’Leary’s out, Parent to Freeman, then brought Cobb across the rubber,” *Boston Post*.

Thus, there are a few different scenarios presented in the game accounts provided in the various newspapers for the three runs scored by Detroit. [A] For the one second-inning run, there are two vastly different scenarios — (1): the *Boston Globe* text description states that Cobb scored from second base on a single by O’Leary; and (2): the *Boston Herald* and *Boston Post* text descriptions state that Cobb advanced to third on O’Leary’s singled and then, after having held third while Drill forced O’Leary, scored when Drill drew a throw stealing second base. [B] For the two sixth-inning runs, there are three distinctly different scenarios — (1): the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* text descriptions state that Crawford and Cobb scored (presumably from second and first, respectively) on Coughlin’s single coupled with a fielding error (fumbled pickup) by the left fielder Burkett; (2): the *Boston Post* text description states that Crawford scored (presumably from second base) on a single by Coughlin coupled with a fielding error (fumbled pickup) by the left fielder Burkett; Cobb advanced from first to third on the play and then scored on a groundout by O’Leary, and (3): the *Detroit Free Press* text description (see Appendix A-2) states that Crawford and Cobb scored (presumably from second and first base, respectively) on a double by Coughlin. Therefore, combining all of these possible scenarios, for the entire game O’Leary had zero or one or two RBIs and Cough-



Ty Cobb with manager Bill Armour prior to his first major league game

lin had one or two RBIs (with the total RBIs being two or three).

In summary, based on my research, there are two games (the April 29 game and the first game of the July 29 doubleheader) for which complete RBI details were not presented in the various newspaper game accounts. And there are two games (the September 21 game and the first game of the September 30 doubleheader) for which there are conflicting descriptions with regard to who batted in whom. The unknowns and uncertainties for these four games result in there being full-season RBI ranges for Cooley (29-31), Coughlin, (48-50), Crawford (78 or 79), Donovan (8 or 9), and O’Leary (33-36). Considering only the minimum RBI number, it is seen that it is greater than the Big-Mac RBI number for three of the players — Coughlin (48 vs. 45), Crawford (78 vs. 75), and Donovan (8 vs. 5).

Comparison of the RBI numbers obtained in my research with the RBI numbers claimed in Big-Mac reveals that, in addition to the five players just discussed, there are disagreements for fourteen other players. The largest difference is the nine RBIs disconnect for McIntyre, who collected 39 RBIs according to my research, but is shown with only 30 RBIs in Big-Mac, as well as in *Total Baseball* and the *ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, and on the Baseball-Reference.com and MLB-

com websites.¹⁸⁻²¹ Other players with significant RBI disconnects include Ed Killian (14 vs. 19), Frank Kitson (9 vs. 4), Chris Lindsay (28 vs. 31), Ty Cobb (12 vs. 15), and George Mullin (15 vs. 12). Regrettably, the game-by-game RBI records generated by David S. Neft and his research team to produce Big-Mac are no longer extant. Thus, one is not able to pinpoint the games which lead to the full-season RBI disconnects. However, focusing on the eight games in which Bob Wood played, one can scrutinize those games and identify exactly where the difference occurs:

Bob Wood played in games on April 15, 24, 25, 27, and 29 and May 1, 5, and 6. As shown in Appendix A-3 (which provides the pertinent runscored details for each of these games), Wood did, in fact, collect one RBI (not zero RBIs as claimed in Big-Mac) — in the May 6 game in St. Louis between the Tigers and the Browns, as stated in the text description given in the *St. Louis Republican*: “For Detroit, Hickman walked in the second inning. When Wood doubled he tallied.”

So, considering all thirty of the 1905 Tigers players, it is seen that there is only 37% agreement between my RBI numbers and Big-Mac’s RBI numbers. It is emphasized that, upon review of the evidence I assembled in support of my RBI numbers, Retrosheet’s Tom Ruane and I achieved 100% agreement with the RBI numbers and Retrosheet incorporated them on the Retrosheet website — EXCEPT for the RBI unknowns and uncertainties for the four games discussed above. For the particular players involved in these games, blanks are shown in the RBI cells in the box scores (and derived Player Daily files).

Having now ascertained accurate RBI numbers for the each of the players on the 1905 Tigers (except those players for whom I could only come up with ranges of RBIs), it is appropriate to provide a complete summary of the RBIs that Tyrus Raymond amassed during the Deadball Era. According to Big-Mac, the top-ten in RBIs for the Deadball Era are shown in Table 2.

As can be seen, Cobb’s Big-Mac 1,211 RBIs ranked third in the major leagues and second in the American League. The AL RBI leader was

Cobb’s longtime teammate, Sam Crawford, who collected 1,264 RBIs. An important question that emerges is: “How do Big-Mac’s RBI numbers Cobb and Crawford compare with the RBI numbers from my research?” Table 3 presents the year-by-year comparison. Also shown, are the RBI numbers claimed by Ernie Lanigan (who contemporaneously compiled unofficial RBI stats for the 1907-1919 period).²²

As can be seen in Table 3, there is only one season for which there is agreement between my RBI number and Big-Mac’s RBI number — for 1916 we both show Cobb with 68 RBIs. For three seasons, my research resulted in ranges for Cobb’s RBIs — for 1914, I show Cobb with 54-58 RBIs while Big-Mac shows Cobb with 57 RBIs; for 1915, I show Cobb with 101-106 RBIs while Big-Mac shows Cobb with 99 RBIs; and for 1917, my research shows Cobb with 106-108 RBIs while Big-Mac shows Cobb with 102 RBIs. With respect to the magnitudes of the differences, the range is plus-8 (for 1911: 135 vs. 127) to minus-3 (for 1905: 12 vs. 15 and for 1919: 67 vs. 70). With regard to the total number of RBIs accumulated by Tyrus Raymond, according to my research, Cobb collected between 1,218 and 1,229 RBIs, while according to Big-Mac, Cobb had 1,211 RBIs. It is important to point out that for each Deadball Era season (except 1914, 1915, and 1917) Retrosheet’s Player Daily file for Cobb affords exactly the same number of RBIs as shown in the “RBIs (My Work)” column.²³

With regard to Lanigan’s RBI numbers for Cobb, again there is but one season for which there is agreement between my RBI number and Lanigan’s RBI number — for 1910 we both have Cobb with 88 RBIs. With respect to Crawford’s RBI numbers during the 1905-1919 period, there are no seasons for which my RBI numbers and Big-Mac’s RBI numbers are in agreement. For the entire 1905-1919 period, my research shows that Crawford had between 1,110 and 1,120 RBIs while Big-Mac shows Crawford with 1,102 RBIs.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The key research results reported in this article show (A) that Ty Cobb actually collected 12 RBIs (not 15 RBIs as shown in Big-Mac) in his first Big

League season and (B) that during the Deadball Era he collected a total of at least 1,218 RBIs (not 1,211 RBIs as shown in Big-Mac). With regard to my determination that Cobb collected 12 RBIs in 1905, it is noted that back in 1964 — i.e., five years before the publication of Big-Mac! — SABR-founding member Bob McConnell had reached the same 12-RBIs conclusion based on his research. So, as it turns out, my determination (in 2019) of Cobb’s accurate RBI record for 1905 serves as an independent corroboration of McConnell’s ground-breaking research carried out 55 years earlier. Apparently, McConnell’s 12 RBIs for Cobb’s 1905 season first appeared in the 1968 edition of *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball*.^{22(a)} See Appendix A-5 for additional information on McConnell’s research on Cobb’s RBIs for 1905 (and 1906).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to gratefully thank Dave Newman for providing scans of several game accounts from various newspapers and Dixie Tourangeau for information from the *Boston Advertiser*, *Morning Journal*, and *Record* on the first game of the September 30 doubleheader. And I thank Retrosheet’s Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for reviewing the evidence I assembled in support of the runs-batted-in numbers ascertained in my research and reported in this article.

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15. It was not until 1931 that the run batted in was officially defined — *Runs Batted In are runs scored on safe hits (including home runs), sacrifice hits, outfield put-outs, infield put-outs, and when the run is forced over by reason of the batsman becoming a base-runner. With less than two outs, if an error is made on a play on which a runner from third would ordinarily score, credit the batsman with a Run Batted In.* [Rule 70, Section 13] From 1920 through 1930, the official scoring rules for Runs Batted In consisted of the following — *The summary shall contain: The number of runs batted in by each batsman.* [Rule 86, Section B] That was the entire official scoring rule for runs batted in — just those thirteen words! — from 1920 through 1930.

16. Email correspondence between Herm Krabbenhoft and Tom Ruane and Dave Smith, September 25, 30, October 2, 3, November 4, 12, 13 (2019).
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22. Ernie Lanigan contemporaneously compiled Runs Batted In statistics *unofficially* from 1907 through 1919, his findings having been reported in various publications, such as *The Sporting News*, *Baseball Magazine*, *Sporting Life*, *The (New York) Press*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and others. Lanigan's RBI numbers were also used in several books, such as (a) *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball* by J.G. Taylor Spink (St. Louis: The Sporting News, 1951, and subsequent editions published in 1958, 1961, 1968, 1971, 1981, and 1990), and (b) *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball* by Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson (New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1951, and subsequent editions published in 1956, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, and 1979). See also Appendix A-4.
23. The Retrosheet Player Daily files present the Game-By-Game (GBG) RBI statistics derived from the Retrosheet Box Score files. However, the Retrosheet Player Daily file does not provide a full-season RBI total. Thus, one has to add up the GBG RBI numbers to obtain the full-season RBI number. For those seasons in which there is a game in which there is uncertainty in the total number of RBIs a player had, the RBI cell for that game is left blank in both the Retrosheet Box Score file and the Retrosheet Player Daily file. Thus, for example, for Cobb's 1917 season, there

are two games with blank RBI cells for Cobb — July 17 (the first game of a doubleheader in Detroit between the Tigers and the Athletics) and July 30 (the game in Washington between the Tigers and the Senators). According to my research for the former game, Cobb definitely batted in Bush with a double in the eighth inning. Vitt may also have been batted in by Cobb's double or by a single by Veach. Similarly, according to my research for the latter game, Cobb definitely batted in Bush in the seventh inning with a double. Stanage may also have been batted in by Cobb's double or by a single by Vitt. Thus, for each game, Cobb had either 1 RBI or 2 RBIs. And for the season Cobb had either 106 RBIs (if he had only one RBI in each of the two games), or 107 RBIs (if he had one RBI in one of the games and two RBIs in the other game), or 108 RBIs (if he had two RBIs in each of the two games). It is pointed out that adding up the GBG RBIs shown in Retrosheet's Player Daily file for Cobb's 1917 season affords a sum of 104 RBIs since the two blank RBI cells are effectively zeroes [even though Cobb definitely had (at least) one RBI in each of the two games]. See Reference 12 for complete information about those two games and the 1917 season.

SHAW SPRINGS NEW ONE; CALLS IT "WRINKLE BALL"

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.—Jim Shaw has a brand-new ball which is calculated to stand the America League batters on their heads this summer. Shaw calls it "the wrinkle ball."

Shaw's one fault last season was a tendency to issue free passes by handing up too many balls head high, and in order to break him of this fault Jack Ryan today gave him a few pointers on how to break the habit. Jim was forced to change his style a trifle, shooting the pill from a half-crouching position, but he made fine progress, and when the ball reached the batter it gave a weird shoot.

"That a new wrinkle on me," said Ryan, after handling Shaw's latest improved delivery [yesterday] afternoon.

"Let's call it the wrinkle ball," said the big pitcher.

The Washington Herald, March 4, 1915

**TABLE 1. RUNS-BATTED-IN NUMBERS
FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1905 DETROIT TIGERS**

Player (Games)	RBIs (This Work)	RBIs (Big-Mac)	Player (Games)	RBIs (This Work)	RBIs (Big-Mac)
Jimmy Barrett	2	3	Herby Jackson	0	0
Andy Bruckmiller	0	0	Walt Justis	0	0
Eddie Cicotte	0	0	Ed Killian	14	19
Nig Clarke	1	1	Frank Kitson	9	4
Ty Cobb	12	15	Chris Lindsay	28	31
Duff Cooley	29 or 30 or 31	32	Bobby Lowe	11	9
Bill Coughlin	48 or 49 or 50	44	Matty McIntyre	39	30
Sam Crawford	78 or 79	75	George Mullin	15	12
George Disch	0	0	Charlie O'Leary	33 — 36	33
Bill Donovan	8 or 9	5	Germany Schaefer	48	47
Tom Doran	6	4	John Sullivan	2	4
Lew Drill	20	24	Frosty Thomas	0	0
John Eubank	1	1	Jack Warner	7	7
Gene Ford	0	0	Jimmy Wiggs	1	1
Charlie Hickman	21	20	Bob Wood	1	0

NOTE: A player whose name is shown in boldface indicates that the player's actual runs-batted-in number [shown in the "RBIs (This Work)" column] is different from the runs-batted-in number shown for him in the "RBIs (Big-Mac)" column; the actual runs-batted-in number is also emboldened.

**TABLE 2. TOP-TEN LEADERS IN RUNS BATTED IN
DURING THE DEADBALL ERA (ACCORDING TO BIG-MAC)**

#	ML (years)	NL (years)	AL (years)
1	Sam Crawford (1901-17) 1,446	Honus Wagner (1901-17) 1,375	Sam Crawford (1903-17) 1,264
2	Honus Wagner (1901-17) 1,375	Sherry Magee (1904-19) 1,176	Ty Cobb (1905-19) 1,211
3	Ty Cobb (1905-19) 1,211	Heinie Zimmerman (1907-19) 796	Nap Lajoie (1901-16) 1,141
4	Sherry Magee (1904-19) 1,176	Ed Konetchy (1907-19) 754	Frank Baker (1908-19) 880
5	Nap Lajoie (1901-16) 1,141	Frank Schulte (1904-17) 748	Tris Speaker (1907-19) 805
6	Frank Baker (1908-19) 880	Larry Doyle (1907-19) 743	Eddie Collins (1906-19) 780
7	Tris Speaker (1907-19) 805	Tommy Leach (1901-18) 737	Harry Davis (1901-17) 761
8	Hal Chase (1905-19) 804	Joe Tinker (1902-16) 727	Duffy Lewis (1910-19) 718
9	Heinie Zimmerman (1907-19) 796	Fred Merkle (1907-19) 694	Danny Murphy (1902-13) 664
10	Frank Schulte (1904-18) 792	Gavvy Cravath (1912-19) 665	Joe Jackson (1908-19) 664

THE CALL OF THE BALL.



Drawn by Robert Ripley

(Washington, D.C.) Evening Star, April 9, 1916

**TABLE 3. YEAR-BY-YEAR RBI NUMBERS
FOR TY COBB AND SAM CRAWFORD (1905-1919)**

Ty Cobb				Sam Crawford		
RBIs (My Work)	RBIs (Big-Mac)	RBIs (Lanigan)	Year	RBIs (My Work)	RBIs (Big-Mac)	RBIs (Lanigan)
12	15	—	1905	78-79	75	—
41	34	—	1906	66	72	—
118	119	116	1907	79	81	81
107	108	101	1908	85	80	85
105	107	115	1909	104	97	???
88	91	88	1910	119-121	120	115
135	127	144	1911	122	115	137
88	83	90	1912	116	109	108
66	67	65	1913	73	83	90
54-58	57	57	1914	101-104	104	112
101-106	99	95	1915	114-118	112	116
68	68	67	1916	47	42	???
106-108	102	108	1917	11	12	???
62	64	64	1918	DNP	DNP	DNP
67	70	69	1919	DNP	DNP	DNP
1,218-1,229	1,211	1,179	TOTAL	1,110-1,120	1,102	???

NOTES: (1) The dashed-line entries for Cobb and Crawford in the “RBIs (Lanigan)” columns for 1905 and 1906 indicate that Lanigan did not compile RBIs during those two seasons. (2) The question-marks entries for Crawford in the “RBIs (Lanigan)” column indicate that I have not been able to ascertain the Lanigan RBI numbers for Crawford for the 1909, 1916, and 1917 seasons. (3) The “DNP” entries in the columns for Crawford for 1918 and 1919 indicate that Crawford “Did Not Play” in those seasons.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION INSISTS THAT A
PLAYER PAY HIS DEBTS**

A complaint by Pitcher Robert Ewing and four other members of the Philadelphia National League team that player Cheek, formerly with the Philadelphia team, but now with the Albany, N. Y. team, owed them \$66.50, which he had borrowed at various times in small sums, was decided by the National Baseball Commission in favor of Ewing and his teammates today. Cheek admitted the indebtedness, but said that certain members of the Philadelphia team owed him. He said he had instructed them to turn the money over to his creditors and that he intended to pay the balance. The commission ordered him to pay the \$66.50.

The (Pittsburgh) Gazette Times, August 1, 1911

**BOSTON MAYOR WANTS
SNODGRASS PUNISHED**

BOSTON—Mayor Curley today addressed a letter to John K. Tener, president of the National League, demanding that Snodgrass, outfielder of the New York Giants, be punished for an alleged “flagrant and unwarranted insult to the public” at yesterday afternoon’s game here. The mayor also asked that the umpires, Klem and Emslie, be censored for refusal to comply with his demand, made during the game, that Snodgrass be removed.

Derisive gestures by Snodgrass during a controversy with Pitcher Tyler of the Boston team are said to have constituted the “insult” alleged by the mayor.

The (Pittsburgh) Gazette Times, September 9, 1914



EMPIRE of INFIELDS

BASEBALL IN TAIWAN AND CULTURAL
IDENTITY, 1895-1968 | JOHN J. HARNEY

EMPIRE OF INFIELDS: BASEBALL IN TAIWAN AND CULTURAL IDENTITY 1895-1968

By John J. Harney

University of Nebraska Press,
2019

[ISBN: 978-0803286825. 240
pp. \$50.00 USD. Hardcover]

Reviewed by

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The cultural historian Jacques Barzun famously observed, “Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.” In *Empire of Infields: Baseball in Taiwan and Cultural Identity, 1895-1968*, Professor John J. Harney uses baseball as a lens to shed light on the island’s struggles with China, Japan, and independence.

Harney writes well, but words of caution seem appropriate at

the outset: *Empire* will likely appeal more to Asia hands in the academy than to baseball fans in the bleachers. If sentences like the thesis of Harney’s first chapter (“Baseball served as an important ingredient in the ongoing expansion of a cultural project devised to fulfill the relatively recent Japanese dreams of a pan-Asian empire to rival those of nineteenth-century Europe”) appeal to you, then go get this book. If not, then you should expend your leisure time elsewhere.

With a seeming lack of enthusiasm for the game itself, as evidenced by a passage about a newspaper’s “readers [being] treated to the game’s events inning by inning, fully outlining in dry detail a convincing win for the local side,” Harney dwells on few baseball tidbits but still sometimes repeats them. Taiwanese baseball novices like this reviewer learn that the first organized baseball game on the island occurred in 1906 and ended in a 5-5 tie, a fact that felt novel on page nine but superfluous when repeated just twelve pages later. Harney also occasionally fails to contextualize his interesting baseball anec-

dotes. He refers without elaboration to a player named Hebert Harrison Hunter whom this Deadball Era Committee member had never heard of, which seems unsurprising given that Hunter played in only 39 games over four seasons from 1916-1921. Harney credits pitcher Cha Wuma with “setting a record in Taiwanese baseball [by throwing] 212 pitches in 16 innings.” This reader, at least, wanted to know who had held the record previously and if the record had to do with pitch count, innings pitched, or something else altogether.

Years before Arch Ward introduced the notion of an all-star baseball game in the United States, such contests took place in Taiwan. Harney confuses the reader by first writing that these games would “commemorate the beginning of a new season” but later asserting that they were “usually held at the end of the season” (in any event, apparently, the games did not serve as mid-summer classics). Harney’s descriptions of Taiwanese baseball suggest parallels on and off the field with the game in other nations. The concentration of capital in cities with financial headquar-

PUBLISHERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As it has so often in the past, the University of Nebraska Press generously supplied us with a review copy of *Empire of Infields*. The book can be ordered by email (presswebmail@unl.edu) or telephone (800-824-6224) directly from the University of Nebraska Press, or through Amazon and other book retailers. We urge your patronage of this exceptional publisher and constant friend of the newsletter.

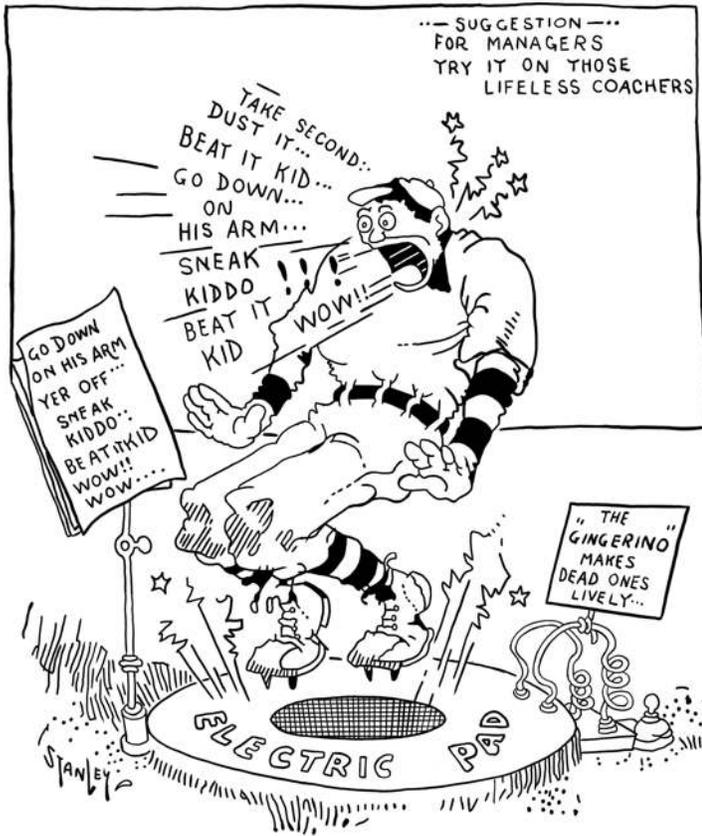
ters can and does lead to dominance by teams that play in a country's largest urban centers, which presumably have the most resources to acquire and retain the best talents. As teams in Havana, New York, and Tokyo have thrived in leagues in Cuba, the United States, and Japan, Harney observes that early Taiwanese baseball "remained dominated by teams based in and around Taipei." Harney describes one team that had "players perform running drills ... with luggage in hand for added weight," a practice somewhat similar to Ty Cobb's off-season regimen in which he ran with weighted shoes.

As Barzun wrote, baseball may explain larger elements of a

certain society, but the question remains about whether a sport played by children and younger adults can have a greater meaning. As North American baseball played at the highest level in 2020 suffers through the fallout from scandals related to cheating, Harney heightens an unfamiliar tale with a welcome reminder that baseball has had and can have a higher purpose. He writes, "Baseball acted as a uniting force and an entry point for aboriginal Taiwanese into the public realm." In this country the re-breaking of the baseball color line by Jackie Robinson and the ordeal he faced in doing so proved a seminal event in the history of civil rights in the twentieth century.

Today, baseball in both countries has lost ground to other sports (Harney uses "Baseball's Long Goodbye" as the title for his conclusion) and consequently occupies a less prominent place in public consciousness; as such, for the foreseeable future baseball seems less likely to ease serious societal tensions in either the United States or Taiwan.

A loyal fan of the New York Yankees even though he has resided in Massachusetts for a quarter of a century, Mark Sternman rooted for the Taiwanese hurler Chien-Ming Wang from the Fenway bleachers whenever he came to Boston to pitch against the Red Sox.



Drawn by Lee Stanley

The Duluth Daily Star, July 30, 1907

Juul: The Deadball Era Brothers (Not the E-Cigarette)

by **Bill Lamb**

In recent months, the medical community has expressed concern about the health effects of Juul, the electronic cigarette (or vape) that has become the nation's most-popular alternative to the smoking of traditional tobacco cigarettes. Apparently, the name of the e-cigarette has no meaning, being merely a short, catchy moniker devised for the marketing of a new product launched in 2017. But more than a century earlier, the name Juul had made appearances in another forum – as perhaps Deadball Era baseball's most obscure brothers act. Left-handed pitcher Herb Juul was a two-game member of the 1911 Cincinnati Reds. His younger brother, righty Harry Juul, pitched nine games for the 1914 Brooklyn Tip-Tops. Neither brother made much of an impression, and quickly faded from the baseball scene. But like other marginal playing talents, the Juuls led interesting and eventful lives outside the game. Their story follows.

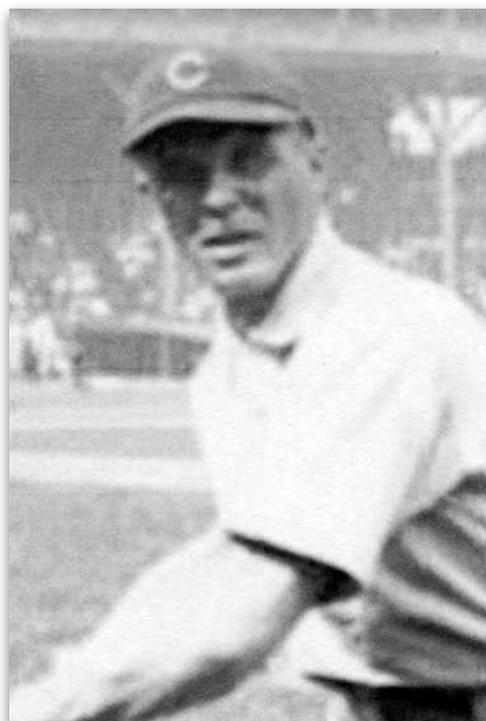
Herbert Victor Juul and Earl Harold Juul were born in Chicago, seven years apart. They were

the eldest and youngest of three sons born to Danish immigrant Niels Juul (1859-1929), and his first wife Hulda (nee Risberg, 1858-1897), a native of Sweden. Upon his arrival in Chicago in 1880, the shrewd and ambitious Niels quickly became a success in business, establishing a thriving publishing enterprise. Later, he became a lawyer and a major force in local Republican Party politics. By the time that his ball playing sons started to attract notice, Niels was already an Illinois state senator. He would go on to serve two terms in the US Congress. As a result, press reports about the pitching exploits and off-field endeavors of Herb and Harry frequently identified them as “a son of Niels Juul.”

Older brother Herb was the first to see his name in newsprint, being a three-sport standout at Chicago's West Division High School. But the frequently-hostile press that attended his career in the pro ranks made its debut early. While still a high schooler, star halfback Herb Juul was criticized for “showing the quitter spirit” during a 6-0 loss to arch-rival Hyde Park in November 1903. The following September, he matriculated to the University of Illinois in downstate Urbana. Herb was a four-year letterman and captain of



*Herb Juul with Montgomery,
1910*



Herb Juul with Cincinnati, 1911



Harry Juul

the Fighting Illini basketball team, and thereafter served two years (1909-1911) as the university basketball coach. More important, his time at Urbana brought him into contact with Fighting Illini athletic director/baseball coach George Huff. Huff also served as a part-time scout for the Chicago Cubs and had already sent former Illini charges Carl Lundgren, Jake Stahl, Cy Falkenberg, Fred Beebe, and Jim Cook on to the major leagues. Unfortunately for Herb, the discovery that he spent summers pitching in the semipro Chicago City League rendered him ineligible for college baseball play after only one season on the Illinois varsity pitching for Coach Huff.

Banished from the university nine (but still an undergraduate law student in good standing), Herb formally entered the professional ranks in June 1906, signing with the Pueblo (Colorado) Indians of the Class A Western League. The first of his many run-ins with officialdom promptly ensued when, for reasons unknown, he did not report. Pueblo's suspension of Juul placed him on Organized Baseball's ineligible list, setting a precedent that would recur in future. In fact, Herb Juul spent more of his six-season tenure as a professional under suspension than he did eligible for play. The intervention of Coach Huff got Juul a tryout with Chicago the following summer, but as long as he remained on the ineligible list, neither the Cubs nor any other club in Organized Baseball would sign him. That remained the situation until Spring 1908 when Pueblo sold the rights to Juul to the Montgomery (Alabama) Climbers of the Class A Southern League. Once Herb agreed to report to Montgomery, he was restored to the game's good graces – at least for the time being.

Decent-sized but light-framed (5'11"/150 lb.), Juul was not possessed of overpowering speed. But he did have a first-rate curveball and pitching smarts, concentrating on throwing to the weaknesses of opposing batsmen. The formula got him off to a good start in Montgomery. Despite missing considerable time his first two seasons because of continuing university studies in Urbana, Herb posted a combined 22-16 mark that was a notch above the club norm. But both Juul and Mont-

gomery had lousy seasons in 1910. Herb posted a dismal 11-23 record, while the 59-80 Climbers sank to the Southern League cellar. After the season, Juul filed for free agency, asserting that Montgomery had reneged on an off-contract \$25/month bonus agreement, an under-the-table stipend that contravened Southern League-mandated salary guidelines. When pressed, club officials reluctantly acknowledged the bonus agreement to league president William B. Kavanaugh, explaining that they had stopped payment because Juul "had failed to deliver the goods." Besides, Montgomery insisted, the bonus agreement with Juul was a private matter, not a league concern. Kavanaugh did not agree. He found Montgomery in willful violation of SL salary policy and fined the club \$1,250. An appeal to the league board of directors followed. When the dust settled, the Montgomery fine was reduced to \$500. And Herb Juul was declared a free agent.

Resentful club officials and the Southern League sporting press heaped abuse on the now-25-year-old hurler, branding him a traitor, a tattletale, and the like. But Juul cared little. By this time, he had earned his university degree. And in March 1911, Herb passed the Illinois bar examination and was admitted to the practice of law. Yet he still wanted to pitch. Again through the good offices of college mentor Huff, Juul received another tryout with the Cubs. This time, the now-free agent made an impression sufficient for manager Frank Chance to sign him to a contract. But Juul balked at being farmed out to gain some seasoning, refusing to report to the Louisville club of the American Association. An irritated Chance thereupon sold Juul to the pitching-starved Cincinnati Reds.

Herb Juul made his major league pitching debut on July 11, 1911, relieving battered starter Frank Smith with the Reds trailing the Philadelphia Phillies 10-1 after four innings. Juul pitched well until tiring in the late going, yielding four runs (only two earned) in four innings pitched during the eventual 12-6 Reds loss. Ensuing performance reviews were good, one game dispatch punning that Juul "may prove a jewel." More important, Reds manager Clark Griffith, himself a onetime pitching master, was happy with Juul's work. "While one can never tell by a few innings work,

this youngster appears to have the makings of a mighty fine pitcher,” said Griffith.

Despite that testimonial, Griffith never saw fit to hand the ball to Juul again. His second and final major leagues appearance came as a pinch-runner for slow-footed catcher Larry McLean in a 4-3 loss to the NY Giants on July 15. Ten days later, Juul was shipped to the Columbus Senators of the American Association as part of a two-for-one pitcher deal. Predictably, Herb refused to report. Meanwhile, news of Juul’s demotion was reported gleefully on the sports pages of newspapers servicing Southern League territory. Chiming in on behalf of the jilted Western League, a Nebraska daily was pleased to inform readers that “the same Herbert Juul who refused to report to the Pueblo club a few years ago, alleging that it was beneath his dignity to play in the minors, has just been canned by Cincinnati.” At-the-time unbeknownst to Juul and his detractors, the trade to Columbus did more than just pause the hurler’s status as a major leaguer. It effectively brought an end to Juul’s career. Suspended for not reporting to his new assignment, he spent the next three seasons on baseball’s ineligible list, and never appeared in another professional game.

While the contentious and contrary Herb Juul was doing battle with Organized Baseball, younger brother Harry Juul was bent on having a career of his own in the game. Slightly smaller (5’ 9”, 150 lb.) and not the all-around athlete that Herb was, Harry focused on being a pitcher. Following in his brother’s footsteps, he entered the University of Illinois in Fall 1911. Suspecting, likely with good cause, that Harry had pitched summer semipro ball, Coach Huff used him sparingly, confining the younger Juul to preseason exhibition game outings against major league clubs and non-collegiate opposition during the ensuing regular season. One dose of that was enough for Harry. In April 1913, he abandoned the university and signed a contact with the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association.

It only took two weeks for Harry Juul to demonstrate that he was not yet up to handling Class A minor league hitters. Released by Milwaukee, he subsequently landed a berth in Class C ball with

the Wausau (Wisconsin) Lumberjacks of the Wisconsin-Illinois League. With his record standing an uninspiring 4-8, Juul jumped Wausau at mid-season to join the Cleveland Green Sox of the Federal League, an outlaw minor league circuit in its first year of operation. There, he suddenly blossomed under the tutelage of manager Cy Young, the recently-retired hurling great. Although he posted only a 7-7 log for Cleveland, the local press sang Juul’s praises, calling him the club’s “best pitching bet.” An even-bigger fan was manager Young who reportedly called Harry Juul “the best young pitcher he ever saw.”

Afterwards, Harry spurned an eye-catching \$500/month offer from Cleveland for the 1914 season and went home to Chicago to do some post-season work for the Gunthers of the Chicago City League. A bad fall at the family residence that broke his pitching arm had recently shelved Gunthers weekend ace Herb Juul, and Harry agreed to pitch a few games in his brother’s place while mulling offers from the Chicago White Sox and other big league clubs. In January 1914, manager Bill Phillips of the champion Indianapolis Hoosiers of the Federal League, now a self-proclaimed major league, announced the signing of Harry Juul. “Juul will be a decided help to our pitching staff,” declared Phillips. “I considered him one of the best young pitchers in the Federal League last year, and I feel sure that he can hold his own this coming season.”

Phillips evidently changed his mind quickly about Juul, releasing him during spring camp in early March. A week later, Harry signed two new contracts on the same day: (1) a playing contract with the Federal League Brooklyn Tip-Tops, and (2) a marriage contract with 19-year-old Hilda Marie Johnson, a former high school classmate. That evening, Harry told his doubtful father, “Yes Pop. It’s true. Hilda and I are married. You see, I’ve got a contract now and I can take care of her. I’ve got to make good.” The prominent society page spread accorded the betrothal was an augur of things to come – and not happy one for the political, image-conscious Juul family. Over the next 15 years, Harry’s multiple misadventures in matrimony embarrassed the Juuls, and provided far more fodder for newspaper gossip columns than

his major league pitching efforts ever did material for the sports section.

By the time Harry Juul donned major league livery, the professional playing career of older brother Herb was on life-supports. The previous year, a last-gasp grievance filed against the Columbus club with the National Commission had been unavailing, Juul doing his cause little good with the odd complaint that he "did not consider himself justified in playing for a minor league club for the same small compensation (\$275/month) that he had received from" the Cincinnati Reds. Also cutting against him was the fact that Columbus had offered Juul contracts for the 1912 and 1913 seasons, albeit at the lesser salary of \$200/month. Rather than negotiate, Juul ignored the offers, while admitting to the commission that "he was not satisfied he could make good in the American Association." To no great surprise, baseball's governing tribunal backhanded the Juul grievance, finding that Columbus had "fully complied with the laws of the game in dealing with the player." Herb's long-running suspension from Organized Baseball therefore remained intact.

As before, critics pounced, with *Sporting Life* decrying Juul's "contumacy" in his dealings with Columbus "which no club treats players more fairly." Thus, the idled left-hander had no one to blame but himself for his long stay on the sidelines. Later, *Seattle Times* sportswriter E.R. Hughes weighed in, declaring "Herb Juul ... will go down in baseball history as a player who thought he should have more money for pitching in a minor league than a major because the work is harder. It seems to a man up a tree, however, that the hardest job Juul ever lucked into was pitching in a major league — and getting away with it." That September, the house fall that shattered his left arm rendered further pitching by Herb a moot point. Notwithstanding that, he remained on baseball's ineligible list for the 1914 season, courtesy of Columbus.

The year that ended one Juul's playing days provided the career pinnacle of another. On April 24, 1914, Harry Juul joined his brother in major leagues membership, hurling six-plus innings of passable relief in Brooklyn's 10-2 loss to the Pitts-

Earl Juul Signs Two Contracts Pitcher Weds and Joins Feds



HILDA JOHNSON, HIS BRIDE, FORMER SCHOOLMATE, CHOSE HIM BECAUSE HE DIDN'T FLIRT.

Earl Harold Juul, son of State Senator Nicis Juul and brother of Herbert Juul, former pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, Monday signed a contract to pitch for the Brooklyn Federal League team. On the same day, but much less publicly, he was married to Miss Hilda Johnson, nineteen years old, of 2788 West Potomac Avenue, with whom he used to go to school.

"I didn't really get acquainted with him in high school," said Mrs. Juul yesterday. "He was one of the very few boys who didn't try to flirt with me and that made a hit. So one day we met in a dentist's office and got acquainted and—so we're married."

Senator Juul heard yesterday that his younger son had signed a life contract and asked to know the particulars.

"Yes, Pop, it's true," said Earl. "Hilda and I are married. You see, I've got a contract now and I can take care of her. I've got to make good."

"All right," said Pop. "Let's get her and have a dinner."

He took the couple to the Illinois Athletic Club for a wedding dinner. Last night the bridegroom left for South Carolina for the training trip. Mrs. Juul may join him there later.

Harry Juul with first wife Hilda, March 1914

burgh Stogies. After several more mop-up Juul appearances, Tip-Tops manager Bill Bradley gave Harry a start against his erstwhile employer, the Indianapolis Hoosiers. It did not go well for the curveballing right-hander. He surrendered six base-hits and five walks before being yanked in the fourth inning with Brooklyn behind 6-1. In the aftermath of the eventual 15-2 drubbing, the *New York Sun* was sharply critical, observing that “Juul lasted less than four innings and the wonder was that Bradley tempted fate that far. The only way this fellow could keep the Westerners from slamming the ball all over the field was to pitch it beyond their reach.”

Two subsequent Juul starts yielded two more Brooklyn losses, and after a woeful one-inning relief effort – three runs-allowed on two base-hits, a walk, a hit-batsman, and a wild pitch – during a 9-2 loss to the St. Louis Terriers on July 30, the curtain was rung down on Harry’s major league career. In nine games, he posted a 0-3 record, with a bloated 6.21 ERA. He recorded 16 strikeouts, but surrendered 26 base-hits and 31 walks in only 29 innings-pitched. It is unclear how much longer Harry remained on the Brooklyn roster, but he never appeared in another Tip-Tops contest. Early the next spring, new Brooklyn manager Lee Magee made it official, publicly giving Harry his walking papers. From there, he bounced from an aborted tryout with the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Class AA International League to the semipro Chicago City League in 1915, before finishing his time in Organized Baseball with three minor league clubs the following season. Last stop: the Newnan (Georgia) Cowetas of the 1916 Class D Georgia-Alabama League.

Herb and Harry Juul donned a different kind of uniform in 1917. Both were early enlistees in the US Army after America entered the Great War that April. Commissioned after completing officer training school, the Juul brothers were assigned the duty typically allotted to ex-major leaguers. 1Lt Herbert V. Juul coached the soldier athletic teams at Camp Grant in Illinois before receiving a late-war overseas transfer to France. 2Lt Earl H. Juul, meanwhile, kept things safe for the football/basketball/baseball teams at Kelly Army Air Field in San Antonio.



Herbert V. Juul, Esq.

Upon their return to civilian life, the brothers pursued different courses. Herb joined his father Niels and cousin Roy Juul, another Republican Party insider, to form a powerhouse law firm, and began taking an active role in local GOP affairs. He also got married and started a family. Meanwhile Harry, now usually called by his first name Earl, became a stocks and bonds broker. While his older brother’s name was appearing in news reports about Chicago politics, Earl’s was more likely to be found on the society page. In March 1921, he got things rolling by filing for divorce from wife Hilda, charging her with desertion. In December 1924, Earl tied the knot again, taking Jessie Davis, a film starlet who acted under the name Gloria Summers, as his second wife. Three years later, he sued for divorce again, his petition alleging that Jessie had “remained away from home last night” – she was reportedly on a Hollywood set shooting

a movie with Latin lover Ricardo Moreno – and “refused to be congenial.” At trial, Juul testified that his wife “threw things at him on returning from parties where drinks were served.” No sooner had the ink dried on Divorce No. 2 when Juul entered Marriage No. 3, taking 23-year-old divorcee Athalind Kellison, the daughter of a wealthy Detroit businessman, as his third bride. But that marriage did not last either, the third Mrs. Earl H. Juul being a longtime resident of Los Angeles at the time of her estranged husband’s passing in Chicago.

A debilitating stroke suffered by Niels Juul in 1922 coincided with his son Herb’s advancement in Chicago Republican Party ranks. Herb’s rise was also aided by cousin Roy, now an Illinois state senator. In Spring 1928, Juul lost a primary election bid for the party nomination for the post of clerk of the Superior Court. But in the same balloting, he scored a “spectacular” upset win over a long-entrenched incumbent to become committeeman for the 35th ward. Thereafter, he became Republican Party campaign director for the Chicago November elections.

On election night, an optimistic Herb Juul was attending to campaign duties at party headquarters in the Morrison Hotel when suddenly overcome by abdominal pains. He was rushed to a nearby hospital for the surgery needed to remove suspected gallstones. There, his physicians discovered that their patient was actually suffering from previously undetected pancreatic cancer, an untreatable condition that had reached end-stage. Herbert Victor Juul died on November 14, 1928. He was only 42, and the father of two young children. After funeral services conducted by a Presbyterian minister, he was laid to rest in Mt. Olive Cemetery, Chicago.

Stepping into the breach politically was Earl Juul. Following his brother’s death, he assumed the coveted post of 35th ward committeeman. But he lacked the family gift for politics, and was defeated when he sought election in his own right in February 1930. The following year, Earl was a little-mentioned also-ran in the annual party committeeman contest. From there, he rapidly descended into obscurity, his name absent from

SCREEN STAR AND PITCHER WED—Jessie Davis, who starred in the “movies” as Gloria Summers, and Earl Juul, formerly star pitcher of the defunct Brooklyn Federal league team and son of starred in the “movies” as Gloria Summers, and Earl Juul, formerly from Chicago. Their romance had a dual inception—once at the Chicago’s ball park, where Miss Davis saw Juul pitch, and a second time in a Chicago cinema theater, where Juul fell in love with the image of Gloria Summers.



Harry Juul with second wife Jessie, December 1924

the news, sports, and social pages for the ensuing decade. He lived alone in a Chicago hotel and continued working as a stock broker.

Afflicted by hypertension and hardening arteries, Juul suffered a late-night heart attack and died at a hospital in the Chicago suburb of Proviso Township on January 4, 1942. Earl Harold “Harry” Juul was 48. Following local funeral services, he joined brother Herb, as well as his parents, in the Juul family plot in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Thus closed the life stories of a now long-forgotten Deadball Era brothers act.

Fuller accounts of the baseball careers and lives of Herb and Harry Juul, complete with citation of sources and endnote annotations, have been submitted to the BioProject and should be posted shortly.

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:

Tim Chalberg
Frank W. Collins
Leslie Heaphy
Robert William Komoroski
Steve Oppenheimer
John T. Pregler
Thomas Valenti
Mark R. Williamson
Mark C. Zeigler

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.

STRIKE BUG IS WINGING WAY INTO RANKS OF DIAMOND MEN

The strike epidemic which is sweeping the country may reach the ranks of organized baseball, according to a report from the Pacific Coast League. According to a story from San Francisco, the players on the Sacramento club are framing demands for better hotel accommodations and standard Pullman sleepers to be presented to Manager Rogers and the club leaders.

Frisco players have been asked to join the movement and other league clubs will possibly receive invitations soon. The letter of the Sacramento players' demands states that the Senators will refuse to travel in tourist sleepers hereafter and will refuse to stand for more than two men in a hotel room. The players want \$2.50 daily expenses while at home and \$3.50 per day while on the road.

Manager Rogers and his players have failed to pull together this season and the Sacramento board of directors expect to have the club manager on the carpet when the Senators return home from their road trip.

Spokane Daily Chronicle, June 14, 1919

GAMES AND BIOPROJECT

Since our last newsletter was published, both the Games Project and BioProject have been busy. Posted by the former were Deadball Era game accounts written by Mike Lynch, Mark Sternman, Bob LeMoine, and Gregory Wolf that were originally published in the SABR book about Wrigley Field. The BioProject, meanwhile, posted profiles of Paul Cobb, Red Donahue, Ed McNichol, Bunny Fabrique, Jay Kirke, Jerry Upp, Bill Upham, Alfred Austrian, Eddie Quick, George Yantz, Rube DeGroff, George Kahler, and Harry Sinclair. If you have not yet given these a look, please do so.

WIRE TAPPERS NOW GET BUSY ON BASEBALL RETURNS

Honest sport has long had to combat wire tapping, and "first past the post" information on horse racing, and now the baseball field is threatened by the same dishonest manipulators.

In New Orleans they have gambling clubs where stud is the chief occupation, but lately the members have taken to betting on ball games, laying their wagers not only on the final result, but on the score by innings and even on the balls and strikes.

Police and telegraph employees found that one manager of a club detailing the New York games, cut in a private wire leading into his private office. He was thus enabled to hold back the returns from one to two minutes, just enough time to enable house men to go through the crowd of fans registering bets. As they had the right information, these house men always won, except when they occasionally lost purposely so as to avoid suspicion.

The club manager got wind of the investigation and skipped town, carrying with him his ill-gotten gains.

The (Missoula, MT) Daily Missoulian, July 5, 1914

DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE: MEMBER INTERESTS

Dennis Auger, contact dennisauger@charter.net. Interests – Chick Stahl; Joey Francis Connolly; religion in Deadball Era.

Mark Dugo, contact claydad96@aol.com. Interests – Deadball Era autographs; Christy Mathewson; Walter Johnson; Ty Cobb; Honus Wagner; Black Sox.

Jan Finkel, contact jfinkel@mindspring.com. Interests – Honus Wagner; pitchers in general; Pittsburgh Pirates; World Series.

Steve Ginader, contact steveginader@gmail.com. Interests – Philadelphia A's, Connie Mack, John McGraw, Christy Mathewson, Hank Gowdy.

Bob Harris, contact bob@bumblebeagle.org. Interests – labor relations; third leagues; non-OB leagues; unadopted rule changes; patents; ads; cartoons; songs; table games; Joe Harris.

Rick Huhn, contact rhuhn@earthlink.com. Interests – Black Sox; Eddie Cicotte; Nap Lajoie; George Sisler; umpire Billy Evans; 1910 batting race; Chalmers Award; Cleveland Naps/Indians; Ban Johnson-Charles Comiskey feud.

John Husman, contact jhusman@buckeyeexpress.com. Interests – Roger Bresnahan.

Don Jensen, contact donald.jensen@gmail.com. Interests – New York Giants history; San Francisco Seals/Pacific Coast League; Sporting Life, concessions, Harry Stevens.

Bill Lamb, contact wflamb12@yahoo.com. Interests – George Davis; New York Giants club ownership; Black Sox.

Dan Levitt, contact danrl@attglobal.net. Interests – Federal League; John McGraw; ownership and business issues; Dave Fultz and labor relations.

Peter Lutz, contact plutz@rochester.rr.com. Interests – Cy Young, ballparks, early history of the American League (1900-1903).

David Matchett, contact davidgoexpos@rogers.com. Interests – Canadian-born players, baseball in Canada.

Chuck McGill, contact cmcgill.vt@gmail.com. Interests – most anything minor leagues-related, especially no-hitters, triple plays, and cycles.

Andrew Milner, contact ajmilner@comcast.net. Interests – newspaper coverage.

Rod Nelson, contact rodericnelson@gmail.com. Interests – Deadball Era scouts/signings.

Dennis Pajot, contact denpajot@sbcglobal.net. Interests – Milwaukee Brewers of American Associa-

tion; Western League, 1902-1913; Western League players and club owners.

Ron Selter, contact rselter@att.net. Interests – major league ballparks and homers.

David Shiner, contact cunegonde@prodigy.net. Interests – Johnny Evers; Deadball Era Chicago Cubs; Black Sox.

Tom Simon, contact tps@mc-fitz.com. Interests – college baseball; Vermont's Northern League; Larry Gardner; Ray Collins; Ray Fisher; Dode Paskert; Dick Egan; tobacco cards; Ring Lardner, O'Connell-Dolan scandal.

Doug Skipper, contact theskipper1@hotmail.com. Interests – Connie Mack; John McGraw; Bill Donovan; Philadelphia Athletics; Boston Red Sox; Deadball Era ballparks.

Richard Smiley, contact richard_a_smiley@hotmail.com. Interests – Chicago White Sox; ballparks; James Hart; semipro baseball.

David Stalker, contact attheballyard@yahoo.com. Interests – Chicago Cubs; World Series, particularly 1908; Illinois and Wisconsin players from the Deadball Era.

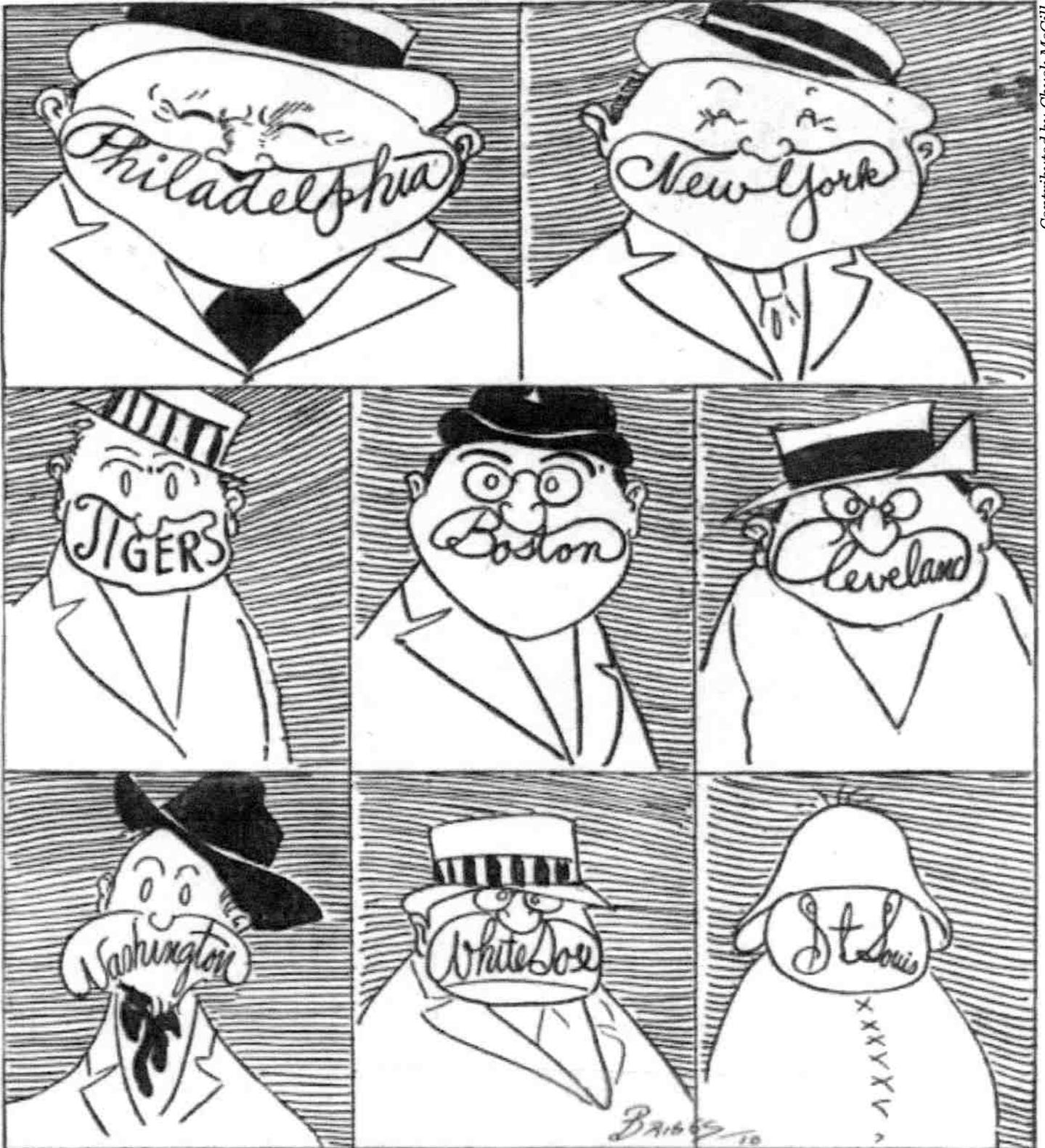
Mark Sternman, contact marksternman@yahoo.com. Interests – Federal League; Miracle Boston Braves; Johnny Evers.

Joe Williams, contact overlookedlegends@gmail.com. Interests – National Baseball Hall of Fame, Overlooked Legends.

Please note that the above only contains names that are listed as Deadball Era Committee members as of January 15, 2020. If anything in the above listings omits or misidentifies a member interest, mistypes an email address, or is otherwise in need of correction, change, etc., kindly let me know via wflamb12@yahoo.com so that the necessary revision can be included in the April newsletter. Members who neglected to submit a member interest listing for this issue are also invited to do so for the next newsletter. Thereafter, we will run a member interest page with listings for new committee members and updated information on interests, email addresses, and the like in the first newsletter issue of each calendar year. Thanks to those who submitted an entry and best wishes for 2020 to all.

Bill Lamb, Editor

YOU CAN TELL WHERE THEY'RE FROM BY THE EXPRESSION.



Contributed by Chuck McGill

Drawn by Clare Briggs

Chicago Tribune, June 6, 1910