

Shining Light

on the

Smiling Stan Hack Mirror

Herm Krabbenhoft

SABR-51 National Convention

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Chicago, IL

Acknowledgments

Larry Annis	Dave Newman
Jack Bales	Pete Palmer
Cliff Blau	John Racanelli
Bill Deane	Jeff Robbins
Jim Drnek	Tom Shieber
Stanford Hack	Caleb Simonds
Eric Hanauer	Richard Smiley
Ed Hartig	Cary Smith
Richard Hershberger	Richard Stephens
Bill Hickman	Don Stokes
Cassidy Lent	Gary Stone
Gary Livacari	Patrick Todgham
David McDonald	Mike Veeck
Alan Nathan	Al Yellon

The Stan Hack Mirror (back)



2016 Auction Description

- 2 1/4 inches in diameter
- Image printed on fabric with a very fine texture
- Manufacturer — Parisian Novelty Co. (Chicago)
- Winning bid = \$370.98



Veeck as in Wreck (1962)

The Name of the Game is Gamesmanship

- During my days with the Cubs, we had a great third baseman, Smiling Stan Hack.
- I well recall that in 1935, the sale of ‘Smile-with-Stan-Hack’ mirrors was exceptionally brisk to the bleacherites.
- Now that I think of it, it was rather strange how the makeup of female bleacherites seemed to need attention when the opposition was hitting.
- And if a beam of light occasionally shone in the batter’s eye on a particularly important pitch ... well, what better pitch to choose.
- Unladylike? Of course. Unsporting? Perhaps. Ineffective? Oh no. Awfully, awfully effective.
- And, until it happened too often, perfectly legal.

Veeck's Remembrance of Stan Hack

Chicago Tribune, Dec. 16, 1979

- Right now I see Stan's smile. It inspired one of my first zany ideas in baseball. I think it was the year after the 1932 World Series.
- I was determined to capitalize on Hack's popularity and smile.
- I thought up the slogan 'Smile With Stan Hack' and a concessionaire made me some mirrors with a grinning picture of Stan on the back.
- They were sold in the bleachers.
- We still [felt?] that fans should not only enjoy Stan's smile, but they should take advantage of the sunshine and reflect the mirrors in the faces of the opposing batsmen.
- I believe we were playing Pittsburgh. Anyhow, the other team was furious. ... The umpires ...
 - > Stopped the game.
 - > Confiscated the mirrors.
 - > Threatened a forfeit if any more mirrors turned up.

WHICH SEASON?

[1] “1935”

[2] 1933 — “the year after the 1932 World Series”

WHICH GAME?

- **1935 (77 HOME GAMES on 68 DATES)**
- **1933 (79 HOME GAMES on 64 DATES)**

Objective

Endeavor to:

- [1] Ascertain the date of “Stan Hack Mirror Game”**
- [2] Obtain the details of “Stan Hack Mirror Game”**
 - [a] Inning**
 - [b] Players, Managers, Umpires**
 - [c] Delay time**
 - [d] Game protested?**

Research Procedures

- [1] Examine stories of *each & every* Cubs home game (1934-1941):
 - newspapers.com
 - genealogybank.com
 - *The Sporting News*
- [2] Scrutinize Hack and Veeck files at HOF Library
- [3] Interview people with knowledge of the mirror

1933

Stan Hack —

Cubs (NL): 3 April games (PR)

Albany Senators (EL): 137 games

Cubs (NL): 17 September games

Bill Veeck Jr. —

Kenyon College: Student (Sep-Nov)-1933

Cubs: Office Boy, Dec-1933 or Jan-1934

→ Stan Hack mirror game impossible for 1933

1934

- **69 Home Dates (77 games)**
 - **164 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **204 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- NO Evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1935

- **68 Home Dates (77 games)**
 - **164 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **194 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1936

- **70 Home Dates (77 games)**
 - **171 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **212 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1937

- **68 Home Dates (78 games)**
 - **167 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **179 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1938

- **66 Home Dates (77 games)**
 - **168 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **181 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **EUREKA !!! ... SUCCESS !!! ... PAYDIRT !!!**

DAILY TIMES, CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1938

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Marvin McCarthy

Sports Editor

DEXTERITY with which Bill Lee, sleight-of-hand artist from down the Mississippi, befuddled the New York city slickers at Cub park yesterday probably looked like a trick done with mirrors. But, actually, mirrors figured only briefly—for about two innings. By that time spotters caught up with a couple of bleacher heliograph experts, who were flashing beams in Giant batters' eyes, and gave them the bounce. This no doubt forestalled a Giant protest that the Cubs were using a ringer—a guy named "Lindbergh Beacon" playing in centerfield.

The bleacherites who had armed themselves with mirrors in the hope they could blind the Giants displayed undoubted home team rabidity, but no foresight. They should have known flashes from their mirrors could be seen by everybody. Now, if they had employed the infra-red ray, they might have had some luck, because the infra-red ray is apparent only to those in its path.

Anyway, use of mirrors and flashlights to blind the quarry is old fashioned. Nobody employs them any more except when hunting alligators and bullfrogs. Bill Terry, of course, is said to have a hide like an alligator and he did bellow like a bullfrog while making his usual effort to chase the photographers. Not that anybody blames Terry. Photographers take pictures, which are incriminating evidence—and those Giants look pretty bad sometimes when they bump into pitchers like Mississippi Bill Lee.

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June 8, 1938 — Marvin McCarthy, *Daily Times* (Chicago), page 41

- The dexterity with which the Cubs Bill Lee befuddled the Giants yesterday probably looked like a trick done with **mirrors**.
- But, actually, **mirrors** figured only briefly — for about two innings.
- By that time spotters caught up with a couple of bleacher **heliograph experts** who were flashing beams in Giants batters' eyes, and gave them the bounce.

June 07, 1938

Cubs [28-16 (.636)] vs. Giants [26-15 (.634)]

June 07, 1938

Giants	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-1	2-7-0
Cubs	0-0-0	0-1-0	3-0-X	4-11-0

- Chicago Newspapers (*American, Daily News, Daily Times, Herald-Examiner, Tribune, Daily Illinois State Journal, Daily Pantograph [AP]*)
NOTHING about mirrors etc. in the game stories
- New York Newspapers (*Daily Mirror, Daily News, Herald-Tribune, Journal-American, Post, Sun, Times, World-Telegraph, Brooklyn Daily Eagle*)
NOTHING about mirrors etc. in the game stories

1939

- **69 Home Dates (80 games)**
 - **172 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **205 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1940

- **66 Home Dates (77 games)**
 - **164 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **191 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- **NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

1941

thru games of June 22

- **26 Home Dates (29 games, thru June 22)**
 - **64 Game Stories — Chicago newspapers**
 - **75 Game Stories — Opponents papers**
- NO evidence for Stan Hack mirror game**

Summary — Newspaper Game Accounts

Season	Home Dates (Games)	Chicago Newspapers	Opposing Team's City Newspapers
1934	69 (77)	164	204
1935	68 (77)	164	194
1936	70 (77)	171	212
1937	68 (78)	167	179
1938	66 (77)	168	181
1939	69 (80)	172	205
1940	66 (77)	164	191
1941 (thru 6-22)	26 (29)	64	75
1934-1941	502 (572)	1,234	1,441

“Stan Hack Mirror Game” — **June 7, 1938 ... Possible ... NO mention of:**

Umpires ...

- Stopping the game**
- Confiscating mirrors**
- Threatening to forfeit the game**

Hall of Fame Library

“Stan Hack Mirror Game”

Stan Hack files — No evidence found

Bill Veeck files — No evidence found

HOF does *not* have Stan Hack Mirror

Additional Searches

(1941-2023)

Dec 18, 1979 — Maury White, *Des Moines Register*, page 15

● **Apr 01, 2001 — Nancy Watkins, *Chicago Tribune*, page 178**

● **May 20, 2001 — Rudy Drnek, *Chicago Tribune*, page 164**

Feb 07, 2007 — Al Yellon, bleedcubbieblue.com

Mar 30, 2008 — Paul Sullivan, *Chicago Tribune*, section 3, page 4

2014 — Eric Hanauer, SABR bio of Stan Hack [Van Lingle Mungo book]

Oct 20, 2018 — Ashley MacLennan, bleedcubbieblue.com

April 01, 2001 — Nancy Watkins, *Chicago Tribune*, page 178

Flashback — 1939

“Smiling Stan” Hack was one of the most popular players of his day. Once, **BILL VEECK JR.** walked the Wrigley Field bleachers selling mirrors featuring a grinning picture of the third baseman on the back with the slogan, “Smile With Stan Hack.” The fans began shining the mirrors into opposing batters’ eyes, and the items were promptly confiscated.

May 20, 2001 — Rudy Drnek, *Chicago Tribune*, page 164

Reflections on baseball

I was happy to see the article about Stan Hack [Flashback, April 1]. I have one of those mirrors. As Nancy Watkins' article stated, Bill Veeck Jr. sold them, or passed them out, to the bleacher fans, and they would flash them into the eyes of the opposing batters. The umpires halted the game and served notice that the mirrors go, or the Cubs forfeit!

As I remember, only a limited number of the mirrors were made by "Parisian Novelty Co. Chicago" (the company name is on the rim of the mirror).

RUDY DRNEK / Brookfield

Interviews of People With Knowledge Of the Stan Hack Mirror

Recollections of Rudy Drnek's son, Jim —

- **Recalls his dad telling the Stan Hack mirror story.**
- **Does not recall his dad saying *how* or *when* he obtained the Stan Hack mirror.**
- **His dad would have been 18 on June 7, 1938.**
- **His dad was not a collector of baseball stuff.**
- **Does not know how his dad knew about Veeck's claims about Stan Hack mirror —**
 - **Was he at the game?**
 - **Did he read about it (Chicago Tribune)?**

Recollections of Stan Hack's son, Stanford —

- **His dad did not have a Stan Hack mirror.**
- **His dad never mentioned the Stan Hack mirror or the Bill Veeck claims about it.**
- **He first learned about the Stan Hack mirror and the Bill Veeck claims about it in an article he read — after his dad had passed away.**
- **He has some bats and gloves from his dad, but not the Stan Hack mirror.**

Recollections of Stan Hack's grandson, Richard Stephens —

- **Had never heard about the Stan Hack mirror or Bill Veeck's claims about the mirror until I mentioned them to him.**
- **His mother would have told him about the Stan Hack mirror and the Bill Veeck claims about it.**
- **He has newspaper stories from Stan Hack's career and never saw anything about the Stan Hack mirror or the Bill Veeck story about it.**
- **He has the Spalding baseball bat engraved
“Presented By A.J. Cermak, Mayor of Chicago” ...
“Hack” ... “National League Champions 1932”**

Take-Aways from speaking with Mike Veeck —

- **Doesn't recall the Stan Hack mirror topic ever coming up.**
- **He never saw the Stan Hack mirror.**
- **Stan Hack was Bill Veeck's favorite Cubs player.**

SUMMARY

- **Stan Hack Mirror is REAL**
- **Stan Hack Mirror Game ...**

Perhaps

Cubs vs. Giants — June 7, 1938

- **No evidence ...**
 - (a) Umpires stopped the game.
 - (b) Umpires confiscated the mirrors.
 - (c) Umpires threatened to forfeit the game.

Proving a Negative

Thomas DeMichele

Fact/Myth.com

(July 26, 2017; March 01, 2021)

► “You Can’t Prove a Negative — MYTH”

Proving a negative can be accomplished by providing *evidence of absence*, scientific evidence gathered from scientific research that shows absence. **At that point the burden of proof shifts to those who claim the positive.**

Another Consideration

Smiling Stan Hack Mirror Game ...

- (a) Umpires stopped the game.
- (b) Umpires confiscated the mirrors.
- (c) Umpires threatened to forfeit the game.

... **Bill Veeck Winking?**



CONCLUSION

Smiling Stan Hack Mirror Game ...

- (a) Umpires stopped the game.
- (b) Umpires confiscated the mirrors.
- (c) Umpires threatened to forfeit the game.

- **It DID happen ...**

but, I was unable to ascertain the specific game.

- **It did NOT happen ...**

but, it's a winked tall story.

Top-12 Career Leadoff Batters — OBA (1901-2022)

#	Player	ML Years	LOG	OBA Titles	OBA
1	Max Bishop	1924-1935	1220	5	.424
2	Roy Thomas	1901-1910	1120	6	.409
3	Rickey Henderson	1979-2003	2886	10	.401
4	Earle Combs	1924-1935	1072	2	.400
5	Richie Ashburn	1948-1962	1418	6	.399
6	Stan Hack	1932-1947	1368	6	.398
7	Eddie Yost	1944-1962	1741	7	.396
8	Miller Huggins	1904-1916	1325	3	.3878
9	Topsy Hartsel	1901-1911	1195	3	.3876
10	Tony Phillips	1982-1999	1390	1	.386
11	Tim Raines	1979-2002	1415	4	.385
12	Dom DiMaggio	1940-1953	1038	1	.384

Proving a Negative

- ▶ **Hitchens's Razor —**

What may be asserted without evidence, may be dismissed without evidence.

- ▶ **The Sagan Standard —**

Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

- ▶ **Sherlock Holmes's Philosophy —**

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

- ▶ **“You Can't Prove a Negative — MYTH” (T. DeMichele)**

Proving a negative can be accomplished by providing *evidence of absence*, scientific evidence gathered from scientific research that shows absence. **At that point the burden of proof shifts to those who claim the positive.**

Newspapers Utilized

Chicago — *Tribune; Daily News, Daily Times*

Boston — *Globe; Herald*

Brooklyn — *Daily Eagle, Times Union, Citizen*

Cincinnati — *Enquirer, Post*

New York — *Daily News; Times*

Philadelphia — *Inquirer*

Pittsburgh — *Post-Gazette, Press, Sun-Tele.*

**St. Louis — *Globe-Democrat, Post-Dispatch,
Star & Times***

The Sporting News

Gamesmanship

- **The Name of the Game**
- **The art of winning without really cheating**

Email from Herm Krabbenhoft to Paul Dickson (January 08, 2023):

- **Neither “Stan Hack” nor the “Smiling Stan Hack mirror” are mentioned in your book, “Bill Veeck ... Baseball’s Greatest Maverick.”**
- **I’m curious why they were not included in your book.**

Email from Paul Dickson to Herm Krabbenhoft (January 11, 2023):

- **Sir, Story of Stan Hack was one of many of his zany promotions which did not make the book. Wish I had more. Good luck with your project. Best, Paul.**

APPENDIX A — Searches of *The Sporting News*

A-1. Hits for Articles with Search Terms “Mirror” and “Mirrors”

Year	“Mirror”	“Mirrors”
1934	11	3
1935	19	0
1936	39	1
1937	38	3
1938	37	2
1939	51	11
1940	47	3
1941	55	2
Total	297	25

NONE of the “Mirror” or “Mirrors” articles had any mention of Veeck’s claims.

A-2. Hits for Articles with Search Terms “Forfeit” and “Forfeited”

Year	“Forfeit”	“Forfeited”
1934	7	8
1935	12	15
1936	24	16
1937	29	19
1938	14	12
1939	24	12
1940	17	20
1941	25	17
Total	162	119

NONE of the “Forfeit” or “Forfeited” articles had any mention of Veeck’s claims.

A-3. Hits for Articles with Search Terms “Confiscate” and “Confiscated”

Year	“Confiscate”	“Confiscated”
1934	0	0
1935	0	1
1936	0	1
1937	0	0
1938	0	0
1939	0	0
1940	0	1
1941	0	0
Total	0	3

NONE of the “Confiscate” or “Confiscated” articles had any mention of Veeck’s claims

A-4. Search for “Smile with Stan” (1934-2003) —

There was only one “hit” —

December 23, 1985 (page 39): More Money Is Making Minors’ Johnson **Smile** By **Stan** Isle Senior Editor.

APPENDIX B — Newspapers-dot-com (1934-1941)

B-1. Hits for Searches for “Mirror” and “Mirrors”

Year (Dates)	Chicago Newspapers	Opposing Team Newspapers
1934 (69)	277	662
1935 (68)	229	626
1936 (70)	219	641
1937 (68)	206	721
1938 (66)	201	685
1939 (69)	233	646
1940 (66)	364	644
1941 (26)	170	180
Total (502)	1,899	4805

NONE of the “Mirror” or “Mirrors” articles had any mention of Veeck’s claims.

B-2. Hits for Searches for “Forfeit” and “Forfeited”

Year (Dates)	“Forfeit”		“Forfeited”	
	Chicago Newspapers	Opp Team Newspapers	Chicago Newspapers	Opp Team Newspapers
1934 (69)	12	47	34	36
1935 (68)	6	47	30	26
1936 (70)	21	52	20	47
1937 (68)	15	26	13	51
1938 (66)	14	30	18	48
1939 (69)	25	43	31	51
1940 (66)	44	37	32	36
1941 (26)	9	19	13	16
Total (502)	146	301	191	311

NONE of the “Forfeit” or “Forfeited” articles had any mention of Veeck’s claims.

B-3. Hits for Searches for “Confiscate” and “Confiscated”

Year (Dates)	“Confiscate”		“Confiscated”	
	Chicago Newspapers	Opp Team Newspapers	Chicago Newspapers	Opp Team Newspapers
1934 (69)	17	12	68	49
1935 (68)	10	6	29	71
1936 (70)	1	8	31	94
1937 (68)	4	8	24	45
1938 (66)	3	7	27	49
1939 (69)	8	16	25	68
1940 (66)	5	8	26	31
1941 (26)	1	1	5	21
Total (502)	49	66	235	428

NONE of the “Confiscate” or “Confiscated” articles mention Veeck’s claims.

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The bleacherites who had armed themselves with mirrors in the hope they could blind the Giants displayed undoubted home team rabidity, but no foresight. They should have known flashes from their mirrors could be seen by everybody. Now, if they had employed the infra-red ray, they might have had some luck, because the infra-red ray is apparent only to those in its path.

Anyway, use of mirrors and flashlights to blind the quarry is old fashioned. Nobody employs them any more except when hunting alligators and bullfrogs. Bill Terry, of course, is said to have a hide like an alligator and he did bellow like a bullfrog while making his usual effort to chase the photographers. Not that anybody blames Terry. Photographers take pictures, which are incriminating evidence—and those Giants look pretty bad sometimes when they bump into pitchers like Mississippi Bill Lee.

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June 8, 1938 — Marvin McCarthy, *Daily Times* (Chicago), page 41

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- **Now, if they had employed the infra-red ray, they might have had more luck, because the infra-red ray is apparent only to those in its path.**

August 23, 1938 — Edward Barry *Chicago Tribune* (page 11)

Hundreds of persons exiled to the extreme end of the field were forced to depend for their view of the proceedings on pocket mirrors held high above their heads.

It was a sound instinct which prompted the use of such a device for Miss Swarthout is definitely worth seeing as well as hearing.

Park Jammed by Followers of Swarthout

BY EDWARD BARRY.

If mellow and crumbling old Bush conservatory had weathered the depression and were still the near-north side landmark that it was for many years its entire faculty and student body would have been down in Grant park last night to see one of the school's most distinguished alumnae receive what was probably the biggest ovation of her career.

For Gladys Swarthout, the little girl from Deepwater, Mo., whose road has already led to the stages of the Metropolitan and Chicago operas and into the studios of the haughtiest movie and radio magnates, sang before an audience whose enthusiasm matched its size. And this is saying something, for the great area south of the band shell offered nothing but standing room and very little of that. Hundreds of persons exiled to the extreme end of the field were forced to depend for their view of the proceedings on pocket mirrors held high above their heads.

It was a sound instinct which prompted the use of such a device, for Miss Swarthout is definitely worth seeing as well as hearing. Slim and comely and girlish—it is incredible that she was doing major rôles here fourteen seasons ago!—she smiled her dazzling smile and bowed her gracious bow again and again through the evening. A flowing scarlet gown which revealed a pair of summer brown arms did nothing to detract from the beauty of the picture. Neither did the knot of flowers which topped a dark, bell-shaped head of hair.

September 22, 1940 — *Chicago Tribune* (page 29)



(ASSOCIATED PRESS WIREPHOTO)

“Baby Clothes for Cry Babies”

The Cleveland “bawl” team was handed a stinging insult before yesterday’s game by derisive Tiger fan. He managed to hang up a line of baby clothes in front of Indian dugout and brandish a baby bottle (arrow) before policemen confiscated line, clothes and bottle. Fans in background seem to enjoy it. No smiles from that dugout, however!

May 18, 1941 — *Daily News* (New York), page 80

Melton Blanks Cubs, 9 to 0

By Joe Trimble

Chicago, Ill., May 17.—The Giants won a ball game, 9-0, here in Mr. Wrigley's ice-box park this afternoon. No, it wasn't a forfeit, though it probably looked like one to the

GIANTS*												CUBS											
	*b.	av.	ab.	r.	h.	tb.	bb.	rbi.	po.	a.	e.		*b.	av.	ab.	r.	h.	tb.	bb.	rbi.	po.	a.	e.
Rucker, cf	.260	4	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0		Hack 3b	.330	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0		
Wehead, 2b	.275	4	2	2	4	0	0	3	2	1		String'r, 2b	.211	4	0	1	1	0	0	3	7	0	
Jurges, ss	.365	4	2	1	1	1	2	3	5	0		Cvetta, 1b	.333	4	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	
Young, 1b	.308	5	2	3	3	0	1	9	0	0		Nichol'n, rf	.240	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Danning, c	.280	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0		Novikoff, lf	.234	4	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	
Ott, f	.292	5	2	2	4	0	3	2	0	0		Dess'ro, cf	.267	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	
Arnovich, lf	.233	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0		McC'lough, c	.253	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	
Orenzo, 3b	.258	4	0	3	3	1	2	0	2	0		Erickson, p	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Melton, p	.214	5	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0		Hudson	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Team	.273											Sturgeon, ss	.333	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	
Totals		38	9	13	17	6	9	27	10	1		Olsen, p	.143	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	
*Including yesterday's game.												Mooty, p	.333	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
†Struck out for Erickson in 9th.												Pressnell, p	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
GIANTS			100	044	000	—9						George, c	.200	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Cubs			000	000	000	—0						Team	.239										
												Totals		32	0	5	6	2	0	27	21	2	

Earned runs—Giants 8, Cubs 0. Two-base hits—Ott 2, Dallessandro. Three-base hit—Whitehead. Stolen base—Whitehead. Sacrifices—Whitehead, Young, Double plays—Sturgeon-Stringer-Cavarretta; Melton-Young. Left on bases—Giants 10, Cubs 7. Bases on balls—Off Melton 2, Olsen 4, Mooty 1, Pressnell 1. Struck out—By Melton (McCullough 2, Nicholson 2, Hudson); Olsen (Ott); Erickson (Orenzo, Rucker). Hits—Off Olsen, 7 and 5 runs in 4½; Mooty, 3 and 4 in 1; Pressnell, 3 and 0 in 1½. Wild pitch—Olsen. Winning pitcher—Melton (3-2). Losing pitcher—Olsen (1-2). Umpires—Magerkurth, Stewart, Dunn. Attendance—6,308 paid, 2,500 boys.

6,308 frost-bitten folk who watched their favorites flail futilely at the stuff tossed up by lefty Slim Melton. Slim, who must have penguin blood, relished the cold as he sank the local boys with five hits.

Bill Veeck & Stan Hack Overlap

Bill Veeck	Year	Stan Hack (G)
Jan. — liaison	1934	111
	1935	124
Oct. — statistician	1936	149
Sep. — office staff	1937	154
Oct. — Cubs staff	1938	152
	1939	156
Nov. — treasurer	1940	149
Jun. — resigned	1941	61 —> 151

Stan Hack mirror — possible timeframe ... 1934-1941 seasons

Physics of Reflecting Sunlight With a 2 1/4" Pocket Mirror

Alan Nathan — “Without having done any serious analysis, I am skeptical that something that small could reflect enough sunlight at that distance [~ 350 feet] to be an annoyance to the batter.”

Dec 18, 1979 — Maury White, *Des Moines Register*, page 15

Way back, when Bill Veeck's daddy
n the Cubs for Mr. Wrigley, Bill Jr.
atured Hack in a promotion.
irrors with a picture of Our Hero,
s grin and the message "Smile With
an Hack" were sold at a game. One
ame. The visitors complained
ightly about having sun reflected
to their eyes while working.

Feb 07, 2007 — Al Yellon, bleedcubbieblue.com

- **In a classic example of his future ingenuity, in 1935 a 21-year-old Bill Veeck came up with a ‘Smile With Stan’ promotion where fans were given mirrors that had Hack’s picture on the reverse.**
- **However, in proof that the Wrigley faithful were using giveaways in forms not necessarily intended even in the ‘30s, fans instead used the mirrors to reflect sunlight into the opposing batters’ eyes,**
- **and the umpires threatened to force the Cubs to forfeit the game if the fans didn’t stop.**
- **The league office, already on to Veeck, banned any similar promotions in the future.**

Mar 30, 2008 — Paul Sullivan, *Chicago Tribune*, sect. 3, page 4

Paul Sullivan asks/answers 100 questions about a century of futility

19 Who is “Stan” from one of Bill Veeck’s first promotions, “Smile with Stan”?

Stan Hack. Veeck, then 21, decided one day in 1935 to hand out mirrors to fans with Hack’s picture on the back. Naturally, fans used them to reflect sunlight into opposing batters’ eyes, and the umpires threatened to have the Cubs forfeit the game. Mirrors later were banned.

2014 — Eric Hanauer, SABR bio of Stan Hack

- **By this time, Hack had acquired the nickname Smiling Stan because of his good nature and handsome looks.**
- **In one of the few promotions of the day, the Cubs handed out mirrors to the fans with his picture on the back.**
- **The promotion backfired when fans tried to shine them in the faces of opposing players, and umpires threatened to forfeit the game.**
- **That giveaway was the idea of Bill Veeck, Jr., then 21 years old and recently hired into the Cubs' front office.**

Oct 20, 2018 — Ashley MacLannen, bleedcubbieblue.com

- **At one point during Hack's career, the Cubs wanted to take advantage of his popularity, part of which hinged on his handsome appearance,**
- **and they decided to make a promotional giveaway with mirrors that had Hack's face on the back.**
- **This proved to be an absolute disaster, as brazen fans started using the mirrors to shine reflections on opposing players.**
- **The game was almost forfeited as a result, but the fans behaved themselves for the remainder.**

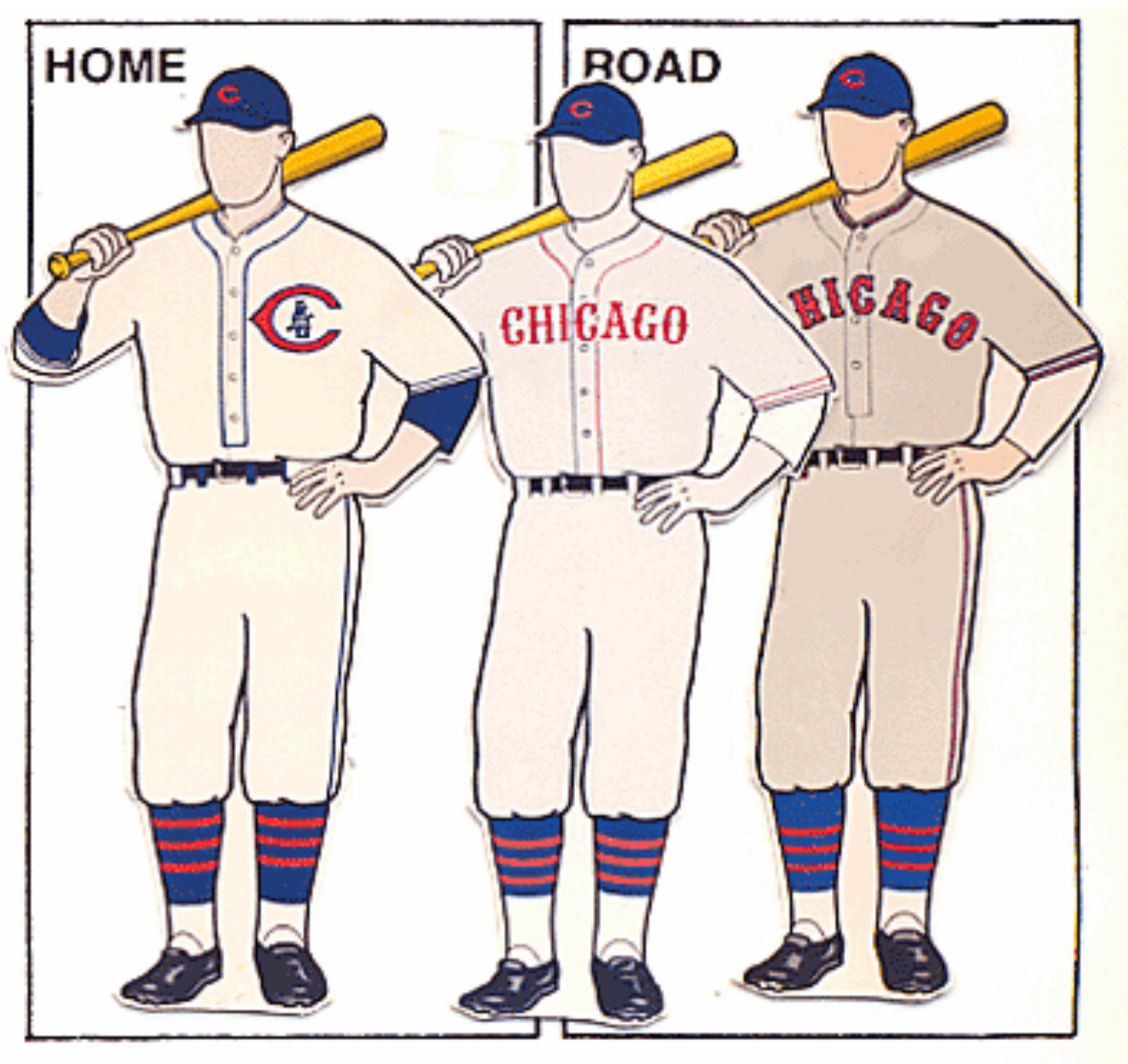
Additional Searches

(1934-1941)

“Smile With Stan” — 0 articles found

"Smile With Me" — 0 articles found

Cubs Uniforms — 1935-1936



Jun 28, 1887 — The (New York) Sun

AND 30 minutes.

METROPOLITAN, 3; BALTIMORE, 6.

The way in which the Indians began tomahawking Kilroy's curves in the early part of the game with the Baltimore Club at Staten Island yesterday, and the sharpness of their field work in disposing of their foes in two of the first four innings when it seemed that they would surely score, led the 2,000 spectators to believe that the Metropolitans would have an easy victory. There is little doubt but that they would had the team continued their fine work, but they did not. In the fifth inning they went to pieces entirely, and although they made a slight rally after this there were many errors made. The sharp base stealing and the neat way in which Capt. Burns came in from the field to kick with the umpire were the only features of the game. During the early part of the game two bold knights, in full armor and huge tin shields, kept guard on the Tower of Babel, and when the Baltimore men came to the bat the bright rays from the shields were thrown into their eyes and they struck out. A policeman drove the bold knights away. The score:

METROPOLITAN.										BALTIMORE.									
R. I. B. F. O. A. E.										R. I. B. F. O. A. E.									
Mays, r. f.....	0	0	0	1	1	Greenwood, 2b.1	2	5	8	0									
O'Brien, l. f....	0	1	1	0	0	Purcell, r. f....	1	1	1	0									
Orr, 1st b.....	0	1	5	2	1	Burns, s. s.....	0	3	1	3	1								
Hank'son, 3d b.1	2	3	0	0	0	Tucker, 1st b...0	1	11	1	0									
Radford, s. s....	0	1	0	2	0	Fulmer, c.....1	1	1	0	0									
Roseman, c. f....	1	1	2	0	2	Griffin, o. f....	0	1	2	0	0								
Nelster, 2d b...0	1	4	5	3	0	Sommer, l. f...0	1	4	1	0									
Donohue, c.....	0	1	9	5	4	Davis, 3d b.....	2	3	2	1	0								
Cushman, p....1	1	0	4	1	0	Kilroy, p.....1	0	0	5	1	0								
Totals.....	3	9	24	19	12	Totals.....	6	13	27	18	2								
Metropolitan.....	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—3									
Baltimore.....	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	—6									

Earned runs—Metropolitan, 1; Baltimore, 2. First base by errors—Metropolitan, 1; Baltimore, 3. Struck out—Metropolitan, 2; Baltimore, 2. Left on bases—Metropolitan, 6; Baltimore, 7. First base on balls—Donohue, 1; Greenwood, 1; Fulmer, 1; Griffin, 1; Davis, 2. Three-base hits—Davis, 1. Two-base hits—Hankinson, 1. Double plays—Purcell, Greenwood, and Tucker. Stolen bases—Metropolitan, 3; Baltimore, 12. Hit by pitcher—O'Brien, 1. Wild pitches—Cushman, 2; Kilroy, 2. Passed balls—Donohue, 3. Umpire—Mr. Curry. Time of game—One hour and 50 minutes.

NEWARK 8; ATHLETIC 5.

