

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



VOL. XXI, NO. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" FEBRUARY 2021

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by **John McMurray**

The cerebral approach to baseball which is emblematic of the Deadball Era extended to the umpires also. Not only were many complex and unprecedented plays decided on the spot, but umpires often made judgments of what the proper call should be by weighing the facts in a judicial fashion. The result was umpiring which required anticipation, wit, and guile. Umpiring, in many cases, was an exercise in oft-forgotten craftsmanship.

Several examples were outlined by Billy Evans in his 1920 book *How to Umpire*. Evans, the third umpire elected to the Hall of Fame, was umpiring behind home plate during Game 2 of the 1909 World Series, played at Forbes Field between the Detroit Tigers and Pittsburgh Pirates. Because of an overflow crowd, there were temporary stands erected behind first base which had their own ground rule: if a hit were to go into the stands from foul territory, it was to count as a double. The objective of the ground rule, Evans said, was to prevent a short fly ball from bouncing into the stands and going for a

flimsy home run, as would otherwise have been the case at the time.

In the first inning, Pittsburgh's Dots Miller hit a ball into that very location which may — or may not — have been a home run by the standards of the time. Evans noted that he could not see where the ball had gone from his own position behind home plate, and the crowd standing up had obscured Evans' view. Fellow umpire Bill Klem, Evans said, had no better sense of what happened from his own vantage point in the infield. "I wanted to do justice to both clubs," said Evans, "but it seemed the only thing I could do was to make a guess."

The result was a test case of the umpiring innovation often required in the Deadball Era. Evans, followed by the respective managers, ran out to right field and asked the fans if the ball was fair or foul. The fans, who were all Pittsburgh denizens, announced: "It was fair by a foot." Evans noted that the fans were not aware of the special ground rule. "Had the fans not set me right," Evans said, "I would have allowed a home run. It would probably have put the Tigers to rout, and it might have been unnecessary to play seven games to decide the winner of that Series."

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Odd as it may seem today, Evans believed his reliance on the fans' judgment was the best way to achieve a fair result.

Pittsburgh scored only twice that inning and did not score again, losing the game 7-2. As a result of that game, four umpires — rather than two — were used in subsequent games in the Series. No one alleges that it is ideal for an umpire to ask a crowd for a ruling yet it is not contradictory to say that umpires of the time often were doing the best they could with the resources they had.

Further reasoning was required when Evans umpired a game in Boston in 1916. Though he did not cite the opponent, Evans described in *How To Umpire* an instance where the visiting team's manager had swapped a catcher and an infielder in the batting order so that the hot-hitting catcher now batted sixth and slumping infielder batted eighth. The batters, however, were not informed of the switch and each presumed that he was batting in his normal position. With a runner on first and the infielder batting where the catcher should have been, the infielder fouled off several pitches while the runner attempted to steal. Only after the foul balls and while the infielder was batting did

the visiting manager realize the error and bring it to Evans' attention.

The rules of the time provided that the correct batter could be substituted. Still, Boston manager Bill Carrigan the next day raised the question with Evans of whether, if the runner had been able to steal second while the infielder was batting, should the runner have been permitted to stay there once the mistake was discovered? Considering, as Evans noted, that "no bases shall be run or runs scored because of an act of an improper batsman," there was a temptation for Evans to conclude that the runner should not have been allowed to take the base. Still, said Evans: "While I had never given the play any thought, I would al-



Billy Evans

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low the runner to remain at second. I would certainly have called him out if he had been thrown out, hence should call him safe if he beat the play. I could not figure where any act of the batter would have played any particular part in aiding the base-runner, hence I figured he was advancing at his peril.”

For Evans, who umpired in five World Series during the Deadball Era, no detail was too small, from how he crouched behind the catcher while umpiring to his approach to running down the line to see if a ball were fair or foul to the type of shoes that he wore in order to be best prepared to perform his job. Though Evans never claimed to be an infallible arbiter, there is a sense that he possessed a fidelity to fairness and to ensuring a proper outcome. Much like the best hitters of the time, who made adjustments on an individual basis in order to be successful, Evans too was conscious of how umpires could improve their approaches. Clearly, too, umpires closely watched their contemporaries. Evans, for one, commended fellow umpire Tommy Connolly for always being in fair territory when making his rulings, allowing Connolly to have the play in front of him (even if there were a risk of being hit by a batted ball).

In the Deadball Era, it is often the unusual happenings which fans recall. Evans recounted a 1907 game in St. Louis between the Browns and the Detroit Tigers. “Because of the overflow crowd a hit into the crowd had been agreed on as two bases,” said Evans. “There was a swinging gate about six feet long out in the left field fence, about ten feet above the ground, about which I knew nothing. It was used to facilitate the delivery of bottled goods into the park.” But, according to Evans, on this hot day, some fans discovered that they could create a light breeze by opening that gate. So, when St. Louis pitcher Harry Howell hit a ball into left field, Evans was stunned to see the gate open. “A few minutes before, I had observed nothing wrong,” said Evans. “I afterwards learned that the gate had been opened only a few seconds before Howell hit the ball. It was my bad luck to have the ball pass squarely through the opening.”

Evans allowed for a home run in that instance while Detroit argued that two bases were merited.

Detroit manager Hugh Jennings said, according to Evans: “A hit into the crowd is only good for two bases.” To which Evans replied: “Right you are, but this hit didn’t go into the crowd. It went over the crowd and out of the grounds.” Jennings then said the gate should have been closed, and Evans countered by emphasizing that when a ball goes out of the playing territory, it should be considered a home run.” Shortly thereafter, Evans was knocked unconscious, presumably by a pop bottle thrown by a member of the raucous crowd, and wound up in the hospital. Whether the call would have been upheld as such in the era of instant replay, this circumstance is, in and of itself, emblematic of the creativity so often seen in umpiring during the Deadball Era.

PLAYS THAT PUZZLE

BY BILLY EVANS

Doing the unexpected often stirs up an argument. In one play, both the base runner and catcher performed out of the ordinary. Three men are on the bases, two out, two strikes and three balls on the batter. The base runners are off with the start of the pitch. Umpire rules the pitch a ball, making the fourth ball on the batsman, entitling him to first, and all other runners to advance a base. In the meantime the runner on second in advancing to third on the base on balls, overruns the bag. The catcher noticing this, makes a snap throw to third, and the ball is put on the runner before he can get back to the bag. This makes the third out of the inning, retiring the side. In the meantime the runner on third who is entitled to score has not yet touched home plate, when the third out is made. Hearing the umpire declare the runner out at third, he stops when within about 10 feet from the plate and starts for his position in the field. While the two sides are changing fields, he comes back, from his position at first base, touches the plate and then goes back to the field. What about the run? Does it score? Can a run be scored after the side is retired?

(Answer on page 34)

Pittsburg Press, January 8, 1921

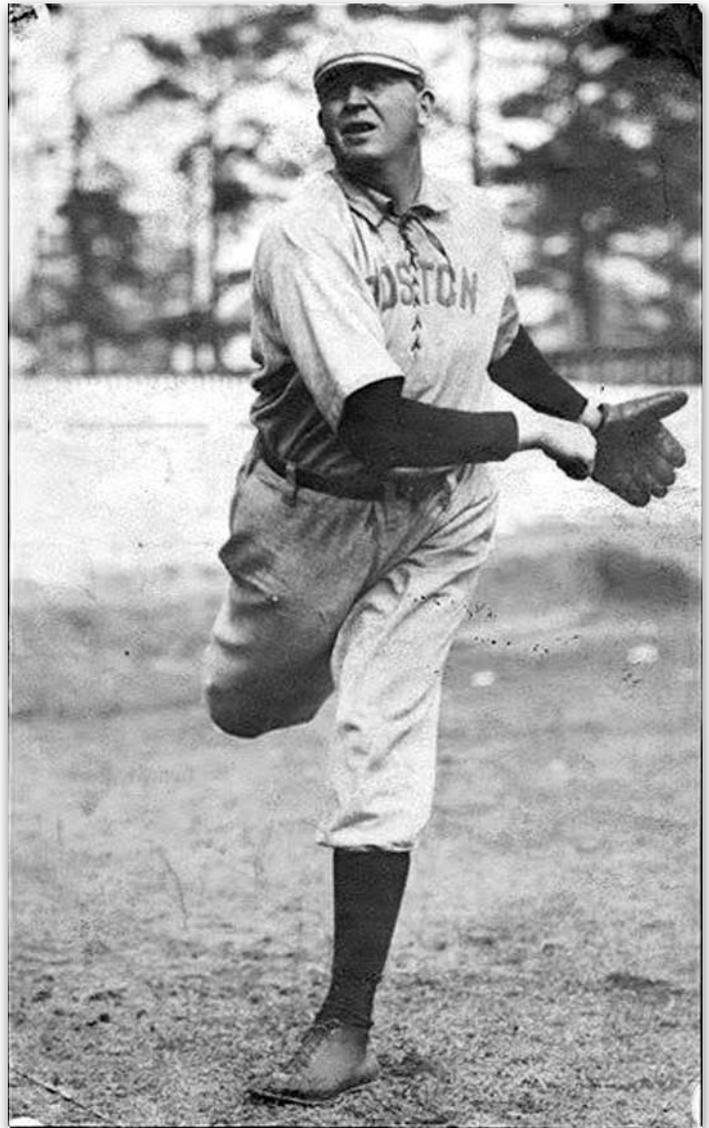
A BAKER'S DOZEN FUN QUIZ ON CY YOUNG

by **Dixie Tourangeau**

Editor Note: To bring in the new year, committee member Dixie Tourangeau circulated this fun, do-it-off-the-top-of-your-head quiz on Cy Young. With Dixie's kind permission, we produce the quiz here for readers to take a stab at. The newsletter editor demonstrated the extent of his expertise by answering all of two questions correctly. Surely most of you will do better. So, give the quiz a try. Bill Lamb

1. How long was Cy Young's major league pitching career?
2. How many MLB clubs did Cy Young pitch for?
3. When Cy retired there were ten pitchers from his era who were or would become 300-game winners. How many of them did he pitch against at least once?
4. The number 18 is significant to Cy's career stats accumulation for two reasons. What are they?
5. How many seasons did Cy win 20 or more games?
6. What was Cy's post-season record?
7. What was Cy's record in 1-0 games?
8. Name the only player to hit two home runs in the one game off Cy.
9. What was Cy's record in relief appearances?
10. What pitcher did Cy duel most often?
11. What oddity occurred during Cy's career 21 years to the day apart from each other?
12. John Ewing and Red Ehret each hold what distinction involving Cy Young?
13. How many book-length biographies have been written about Cy Young?

Answers on page 31. Kindly direct all arguments, quibbles, and do-over requests to Dixie.



Cy Young



*Rabid Rudolph by Arthur Baer,
Polk County (Oregon) Observer,
May 18, 1915*

JOHN T. POWERS: MINOR LEAGUE ORGANIZER AND FOUNDER OF THE FEDERAL LEAGUE

by **Bill Lamb**

Like a host of others, the name of John T. Powers was likely as familiar to baseball fans of a century ago as it is unknown to followers of the game today. Throughout the Deadball Era, Powers promoted baseball as a sportswriter, publicist, and organizer of amateur, semipro, and professional nines. His primary contribution to the game, however, proved ephemeral: the founding of the Federal League. Unhappily for Powers, his vision of a circuit growing gradually, cultivating its own playing talent, and avoiding conflict with Organized Baseball was rejected by the impatient businessmen and sports entrepreneurs whom he recruited for FL club ownership. Cast aside as league president in late 1913, Powers watched from the sidelines as the Feds proceeded to wage a costly and ultimately futile two-year battle for parity with the National and American Leagues. Thereafter, Powers returned to less ambitious ventures before fading from the limelight in the early 1920s. His story follows.

THE EARLY YEARS

John Thomas Powers was born on June 25, 1874 in Sheffield, Illinois, a railroad whistle stop located about 130 miles southwest of Chicago. He was the fifth of nine children born to coal miner Martin Powers (1839-1903), an Irish Catholic immigrant and Union Army veteran, and his Pennsylvania-native wife Mary Elizabeth (nee Dunlevy, 1846-1926), herself the daughter of Irish immigrants.¹ Our subject's early years are shrouded by the passage of time and adult embellishments. But the available historical record suggests that Johnny Powers was educated through high school in or about his birthplace. Less certain is his introduction to baseball. Like most youngsters, Powers presumably played local sandlot ball. His claims to a professional career, however, are suspect. The oft-repeated assertion that Powers played for pro teams in Fort Worth and Kansas City in the early 1890s,² for

example, is belied by his age and the fact that Powers was then still a high school student in Illinois. Another dubious report had him joining a Fort Worth club in 1894 and finishing out the season with Emporia in the unaffiliated Kansas League.³ Later, he supposedly played for Cripple Creek in the Colorado League.⁴ No evidence has been found to sustain these claims, or the report that Powers had signed with the Rochester Patriots of the Eastern League when the Spanish-American War was declared in 1898.⁵ Or that he was "a southpaw catcher playing with Army teams in Cuba."⁶

More credible are reports that Power served as a junior naval officer aboard the USS *Indiana* during the Spanish-American conflict.⁷ Upon his discharge, he settled in Chicago where he found work as a reporter covering the local sports scene for the *Chicago Times Herald* and other publications. Soon, Powers became immersed in his true vocation: the organization of baseball teams and leagues. In time, he became involved in the formation of up to 45 ball clubs in the church, industrial, fraternal, and trolley leagues of the Windy City.⁸ Having earned his spurs in the amateur ranks, Powers deemed himself ready to enter professional baseball. But before he embarked on that career path, Powers had a domestic matter to attend to: his December 1903 marriage to 22-year-old Chicagoan Mary Purtell. The couple's union endured the next 44 years but yielded no children.

MINOR LEAGUE ORGANIZER

Prior to the 1902 season, Powers expressed interest in obtaining a Western Association franchise for South Bend, Indiana, but was frustrated by the league's shuttering for the year.⁹ In January 1904, he became a candidate for president of the Central League, an eight-club Class B minor league circuit that included franchises in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia.¹⁰ But unwillingness to uproot himself from Chicago reportedly doomed Powers' chances for the post.¹¹ Then that fall, friends proposed Powers for leadership of another Midwestern Class B minor league circuit, the Three-I League.¹² But nothing ever came of it.

His ambition to lead an established minor league thwarted, Powers decided to seize the initiative and form a minor league of his own. The venue chosen was northern Wisconsin.¹³ In mid-November, the six-member Class D Wisconsin State League was organized in Oshkosh, with driving force John T. Powers elected league president and secretary.¹⁴ Under his direction, the new circuit successfully completed an ambitious 120-game schedule with franchises intact, a matter which a self-satisfied President Powers subsequently attributed to himself and the “staying qualities [sharpened by] the several years experience I had in assisting to organize a score or more amateur leagues in Chicago.”¹⁵

Powers was re-elected league boss the following January, and the circuit enjoyed a second positive campaign. This time, the singing of Powers’ praises fell to sportswriter F.W. Leahy who declared “the success of the effort to maintain professional base ball in Wisconsin for the past two years, and the promising outlook for 1907, are due more to President Powers than any other man in the organization.”¹⁶ But others did not look as favorably upon Powers, resenting his dictatorial methods and often-disagreeable personal manner. With officials of the Freeport Pretzels taking the lead, Powers was ousted as WSL president at a league meeting held that winter.¹⁷

Our subject quickly regrouped and spent Spring 1907 trying to organize a state league in Colorado. At first, Powers’ efforts were welcomed by the locals and the contours of a circuit began to take shape.¹⁸ But he soon made enemies of powerful figures on the Colorado baseball scene: Denver ballpark owner John Crabb; potential circuit financier George Morrison Reid, who championed a weekend league over the five-game per week schedule proposed by Powers,¹⁹ and influential *Denver Post* sports editor Otto Floto, who was offended by Powers’ threatening and belligerent reaction to those who expressed views contrary to his own.²⁰ Almost as fast as the Powers balloon had risen in Colorado, it came crashing back to earth.

Undaunted, Powers then set his sights on adjoining Nevada and swiftly organized a four-club cir-



Evansville Press, January 26, 1912

cuit. Originally consisting of clubs in Reno, Carson City, Goldfield, and Tonopah, membership in the unrecognized Nevada League fluctuated with the fortunes of the local mining industry. On August 6, 1907, two clubs composed of ball playing miners met in Goldfield with \$5,000 and league bragging rights at stake. To ensure decorum, Powers appointed himself championship game umpire and took the field with large revolvers holstered on each hip. The miners were unimpressed. So was the Goldfield sheriff who promptly disarmed the gun-toting arbiter. The incident garnered derisive coverage on newspaper sports pages nationwide,²¹ but Powers remained unfazed. Within weeks, he blithely announced his plans for the Nevada League of 1908.²² Powers connection to the game in Nevada, however, had come to its end.

He resurfaced in late-September 1908, making an unsuccessful bid to wrest the presidency of the Wisconsin State League from his successor, Charles F. Moll.²³ For the next few years, Powers worked as a traveling representative for a Kansas coal dealership. He also published a St. Louis

trade newspaper, *The Coal Journal*. But baseball was never far from his mind. And this time, Powers was planning something far grander than a distant state or minor league. His next project was formation of a putative third major league.

THE STILLBORN COLUMBIAN LEAGUE OF 1912

As 1911 drew to a close, the game seemed ripe for expansion. Over 6.5 million fans had attended a major league game that season. More than 175,000 spectators then crammed their way into the ballpark to see the season-ending World Series, won by the Philadelphia Athletics over the New York Giants in six games. Meanwhile, some 316 teams in 47 Class A to Class D minor leagues had taken the field that year.²⁴

In late-December, reports emanating from the Midwest indicated that John T. Powers might be organizing an outlaw baseball league.²⁵ As it turned out, he was, indeed, engaged in such a project, scouring the region for potential franchise locations, suitable ballparks, and financial backers. On January 13, 1912, the new Powers circuit, dubbed the Columbian League and with himself invested as president, was unveiled in Chicago. League clubs were to be installed in Kansas City, Milwaukee, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, and Louisville, with Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and several other Midwestern venues proposed for completion of the eight-club circuit.²⁶ The Columbian League professed a wish to avoid war with Organized Baseball, but intended to sign major league players, albeit at a modest wage. Valid player contracts held by National and American League clubs would be respected by the Columbians, but reserve clause claims on players were deemed non-binding. “We are not fighting capital with capital, and do not seek a fight with any person or combination,” declared Powers. But the new league had “the statutory right to exist and compete with the baseball trust” and intended to invoke the federal Sherman Anti-Trust Law if attacked.²⁷

Reaction to the arrival of the Columbian League was restrained. Garry Herrmann, president of the Cincinnati Reds and chairman of the National Commission, Organized Baseball’s three-member governing body, affected nonchalance,

stating that establishment moguls had not given “two minutes thought” to new competitors. He then added, “these new baseball leagues are started every winter and then blow up as soon as the newspapers have anything else to write about.”²⁸ Other observers were similarly blasé, noting the daunting odds facing those seeking to craft a third major league from scratch.²⁹ Powers then sought to clarify his nascent organization’s aspirations. “The Columbian League is not a third major league, nor will it declare war upon organized baseball,” he said. “We will invade ‘protected’ territories, but we wouldn’t offer fabulous salaries to star players. We want cities represented by home players. There are enough good players in each city to form clubs capable of playing as good ball as the major leaguers.”³⁰

As weeks passed by, observers began to take notice that the Columbian League had not announced any ball player signings. Nor had club managers been retained. Development of the new circuit was also handicapped by the arrival on scene of another outlaw, the United States League. Organized by energetic Reading, Pennsylvania, businessman and minor league club owner William A. Witman, the USL was concentrated in New York and other Eastern cities. But it was also a potential Columbian League competitor for patronage and ballpark space in the Midwest.³¹ Uncertainty reigned as the Columbian League deferred to the USL in Cleveland and Cincinnati and vacillated between being a six-club and eight-club league.³²

With the United States League seizing the third league initiative, the prospects of the Columbian League faded. Investor William Niesen, a long-time acquaintance of Powers from the Chicago City League and the owner of a Northside ballpark, transferred allegiance from the Columbian League to the USL.³³ But the mortal blow was struck by Otto F. Stifel, the well-heeled brewer who sponsored the flagship Columbian League club in St. Louis and whose financial support was urgently needed to support shakier circuit operations. Stifel decided to withdraw when Opening Day approached without any communication regarding plans, progress, or a schedule received

from Powers. Stifel indicated willingness “to toss his hat into the ring for 1913, and will lend assistance and financial aid to a third league, providing some folks of high wisdom take up where John T. Powers left off.”³⁴ For the present, however, Stifel was no longer a backer, and with his departure the Columbian League collapsed. But Organized Baseball had not heard the last of John T. Powers.

THE FOUNDING OF THE FEDERAL LEAGUE IN 1913

Divested of its third league competitor, the United States League took the field for the 1912 season, but reality swiftly set in. With playing talent ranging somewhere between the semipro and Class D minor league level, the outlaw circuit drew poorly at the gate. USL clubs in New York and Washington failed in late-May, and a month later the United States League disbanded entirely. After that, the baseball scene reverted to the status quo ante. Still, neither the USL failure nor the stillbirth of the Columbian League discouraged Powers or dampened his enthusiasm for organizing baseball leagues. But his efforts toward that end remained discreet until February 1913 when word leaked out that Powers had lined up backing for a new league to be based in major Midwest cities.³⁵

On March 8, 1913, Powers announced the formation of a new six-club baseball circuit to be known as the Federal League.³⁶ The new organization was incorporated under the laws of Indiana,³⁷ and franchises were granted to backers in Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and Covington, Kentucky (directly adjacent to Cincinnati). A 120-game schedule was published, while Powers was elected league president.³⁸ In short order, big names like Cy Young, Bill Phillips, Sam Leever, and Deacon Phillippe were engaged to manage, but no player signings were announced. President Powers stated that the league was “withholding the names of the prominent baseball stars who will be in the fold” until the season opener.³⁹ As it turned out, the Federal League had no more luck than the United States League had had the season before when it came to signing players.⁴⁰ The on-field talent was no better than lower-tier minor league, at



Detroit Times, May 10, 1914

best. But with the exception of the Covington operation, transferred to Kansas City in late June, Federal League clubs completed their schedules. The league’s founder, however, did not survive its inaugural season.

As with the Columbian League, Powers did not claim major league status for the Federal League. Rather, his policy was to avoid conflict with Organized Baseball and build the new league from within over time. But playing as an unaffiliated minor league did not suit the ambitious club owners whom Powers had recruited for the Federal League. Confident, deep-pocketed, and impatient, they were spoiling for a fight with the established big leagues. Powers then took a perhaps fatal misstep: he rescheduled a Chicago home game against Pittsburgh to his hometown of Sheffield, Illinois. Chicago club owners responded by angrily rebuffing Powers, refusing to shift the game to such a small, inconvenient venue.⁴¹

On August 3, 1913, the Federal League board of directors deposed Powers as league president,

couching the move as the granting of an extended leave of absence to allow him to recover from “overwork” on the circuit’s behalf.⁴² The explanation was risible, as Power’s departure was anything but compassionate. As observed by *The Sporting News*, the league’s founder was ousted “because he is not considered big enough for the ambitious plans that Federal League magnates have laid out for next year.”⁴³ Those plans included declaration of major league status, movement eastward into large metropolitan sites like Brooklyn, Baltimore, and Buffalo, and unrestricted warfare with the National and American League if necessary to obtain marquee ballplayers. To achieve their vision to become a bona fide third major league (and not the top-tier minor league goal that Powers had in mind), the club bosses installed dynamic James A. Gilmore, a coal merchant/ventilating equipment manufacturer and co-owner of the Chicago franchise, as new Federal League president.⁴⁴

Over the next three years, the swashbuckling Gilmore became the public face of the Federal League in its battles with the game’s establishment. But to his credit, he did not lay false claim to being the circuit’s progenitor. “John T. Powers was the father of the Federal League. I was merely a shareholder of the Chicago club,” said Gilmore, explaining his route to league leadership. “Owing to Mr. Powers illness, I was elected president” at the FL board meeting of August 1913.⁴⁵ The deposed Powers, meanwhile, began formulating plans for a fourth major league, grounded in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Detroit, cities that had only one club in Organized Baseball.⁴⁶ “I believe that an eight-club circuit similar to the Federal League could be formed of good towns left out of that organization,” Powers observed. “There is a field for so-called ‘outlaw baseball’ in many places where there is only one national agreement club at present.”⁴⁷

In advertising his latest initiative, Powers had no shortage of explanations for his unseating as Federal League honcho. At first, he blamed his downfall on “that St. Louis bunch” who opposed Powers’ leadership and endeavored to thwart his

plan to eliminate weakling FL franchises, including the St. Louis Terriers.⁴⁸ Thereafter, he maintained that “it was because I opposed the admission of Baltimore to the league that I was fired as president. I have always argued for a compact circuit. ... But when I opposed Baltimore as a member, they kicked me out.”⁴⁹ Still later, Powers identified magnate opposition to his vision of growing the league slowly with homegrown playing talent and the avoiding conflict with Organized Baseball as the root cause for his termination as Federal League president.⁵⁰ Still, notwithstanding his differences with FL club bosses, the hopes of Powers’ fourth league were largely contingent upon his brainchild’s success. And once the Federal League began showing signs of serious fiscal distress, all prospect of Powers getting yet another wanna-be major league off the drawing board vanished. By season end, he had settled upon being secretary-treasurer of the Southside Businessmen’s League of Chicago, a recreational outlet which Powers promised would be “run on strictly up-to-date lines and expects to cut a big figure in the amateur game in Chicago.”⁵¹

THE LATER YEARS

Soon after the country entered World War I in April 1917, Spanish-American War veteran John T. Powers applied for officer training school, but was overage at 43. A year later, he got close to the action via a more familiar route: as recreational director for the YMCA, dispatched to France to create and supervise baseball leagues for off-duty American doughboys.⁵² Once the conflict was over, Powers expanded his charge to include organizing baseball leagues for discharged soldiers and other Americans studying at French universities.⁵³ He also started *La Petite Gironde*, a newspaper published in Bordeaux.⁵⁴ And on his return home in mid-1919, Powers brought a French university all-star baseball team with him and arranged a semipro exhibition game tour of Illinois for the nine.⁵⁵

Powers remained on the fringes of baseball during the early 1920s, becoming chief umpire for the Chicago Midwest League, a new local amateur circuit.⁵⁶ He was also appointed head

fundraiser for a memorial to be dedicated to recently deceased Chicago baseball icon Cap Anson.⁵⁷ In the ensuing two decades, Powers drifted away from the game, concentrating his energies on the publication of weekly newspapers for the Englewood and Garfield Park neighborhoods of Chicago and the operation a family-owned travel agency.⁵⁸ And he remained active in military veterans affairs until near the end of his life.⁵⁹

Powers returned to his Sheffield birthplace for his final years. His health failed steadily, but his death on December 27, 1947 (likely from a heart attack) was unexpected.⁶⁰ John Thomas Powers was 73. Following a Requiem Mass said at St. Patrick's Church, his remains were interred in the nearby parish cemetery. Survivors included his widow, three sisters, and a brother. Powers had no children, and his foremost baseball offspring, the Federal League, had predeceased him by some 32 years.

ENDNOTES

1. The other Powers children were Elizabeth (born 1867), James (1869), Michael (1871), Frank (1873), Alice (1875), Martin (1879), Agnes (1882), and Mamie (1885). Our subject was not related to such similarly surnamed contemporaries such as Madison Square Garden promotor/Eastern League president/Newark Peppers club president Patrick T. Powers; *Pittsburg Press* sports editor/Interstate League president Charles B. Powers, or Central League/Pacific Coast League club owner John F. Powers, Jr.
2. As claimed years later in "Powers Busy Preparing His Program," *Kalamazoo (Michigan) Gazette*, July 13, 1918: 6; "John T. Powers Goes to France," *San Jose Mercury News*, August 3, 1918: 3.
3. According to "For President of Central League," *Evansville (Indiana) Journal*, January 10, 1904: 6.
4. Per "Newspaperman Is After Central Job," *Evansville Courier*, January 9, 1904: 5.
5. As maintained in "France Will Witness 1919 Ball Series," *Washington Herald*, September 2, 1918: 9.
6. See "John T. Powers, Federal League Organizer, Dies," (Wilmington, Delaware) *Morning News*, December 30, 1947: 23.
7. See e.g., "Plans Sport Program," *San Antonio Light*, July 22, 1918: 8; "Contest for Trophy," *Topeka (Kansas) State Journal*, July 12, 1918: 4. In his later life, Powers organized reunions of fel-



Federal League President James A. Gilmore

- low Chicago-area Spanish-American War veterans.
8. As subsequently reported in "Ex-Chief of Feds Doing YMCA Work," *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 28, 1918: 14.
9. Per "Powers' League To Start," *St. Paul Globe*, March 8, 1902: 6. The "Powers" referred to in the article caption was Western Association President Charles B. Powers, not our subject.
10. As reported in "Newspaperman Is After Central Job," *Evansville Courier*, January 9, 1904: 5; "For President of Central League," *Evansville Journal*, January 10, 1904: 6.
11. Per "Four More Are After the Job," *Evansville Courier*, January 7, 1904: 5.
12. As reported in "Fanning Fancies," *Rockford (Illinois) Morning Star*, October 7, 1904: 2; "J.T. Powers for President of Three-I League," *Rock Island (Illinois) Argus*, October 4, 1904: 9; and elsewhere.
13. See "For a Baseball League," (Oshkosh, Wisconsin) *Northwestern*, November 1, 1904: 3; "To Put Green Bay on Baseball Map," *Green Bay (Wisconsin) Gazette*, November 3, 1904: 5; "Ball League for North Wisconsin," *Duluth (Minnesota) News-Tribune*, November 7, 1904: 3.

14. Per "Wisconsin League Organized," *South Bend (Indiana) Tribune*, November 16, 1904: 3; *Rockford Morning Star*, November 17, 1904: 6. The new league consisted of clubs based in LaCrosse, Oshkosh, Beloit, Wausau, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Freeport, Illinois.
15. J.T. Powers, "Wisconsin State League," 1906 *Spalding Official Base Ball Guide*, 279.
16. F.W. Leahy, "Wisconsin State League," 1907 *Spalding Official Base Ball Guide*, 275.
17. As subsequently reported in "John T. Powers Was a Walking Arsenal," *Freeport (Illinois) Journal*, August 12, 1907: 1.
18. See e.g., "Good News for Fans," *Colorado Springs (Colorado) Gazette*, March 9, 1909: 2.
19. See "Reid Withdraws; Powers' League Is Tottering," *Denver Post*, April 10, 1907: 11.
20. See Otto Floto's Daily Sports Comment," *Denver Post*, April 11, 1907: 7, and April 12, 1907: 11.
21. See e.g., "Umpire Carries Two Guns," *Chicago Tribune*, August 7, 1907: 6; "Armed Himself to Umpire Game," *Duluth News-Tribune*, August 8, 1907: 4; "Umpired Ball Game with Revolvers on Side," *York (Pennsylvania) Gazette*, August 14, 1907: 6.
22. See John T. Powers, "Prospects for National Game," *Reno Evening Journal*, August 26, 1907: 12.
23. Per "Moll Likely To Be League Leader," *Rockford Morning Star*, October 2, 1908: 2; "To Seek Moll's Place," *Rockford Register-Gazette*, September 30, 1908: 5.
24. As calculated from *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*, Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds. (Durham, North Carolina: Baseball America, Inc., 2d ed. 1997).
25. See e.g., "Outlaw Ball Maybe," (Oshkosh) *Northwestern*, December 30, 1911: 3; "Gary May Have Team in League," (Hammond, Indiana) *Lake County Times*, December 29, 1911: 9.
26. As reported in "Another Outlaw Circuit Formed," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, January 14, 1912: 14; "Outlaw Baseball Movement Grows; John T. Powers Elected President," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, January 14, 1912: 15; "Outlaw Baseball League Gets a Name," *New York Times*, January 14, 1912: C3; and elsewhere.
27. See "Big Leagues Face War," *Chicago Daily News*, January 19, 1912: 1; "Outlaw League Will Use Sherman Law, Says John T. Powers," *Duluth News-Tribune*, January 20, 1912: 11. See also, "New League Will Defy Baseball Law, Says President," (Covington) *Kentucky Post*, January 26, 1912: 6.
28. "Herrmann Sarcastic about New Leagues," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, January 20, 1912: 12; "Major Leagues Calm," *Sporting Life*, February 3, 1912: 1.
29. As typified in the dismissive remarks of Chicago Cubs boss Charles Murphy in "More Backing for Columbian League," *Grand Forks (North Dakota) Herald*, January 27, 1912: 2. An exception was National League President Thomas J. Lynch whose opposition to any league outside of Organized Baseball was loud and implacable. See "Be Not Too Sanguine!" *Sporting Life*, March 2, 1912: 5.
30. John T. Powers, "Columbian League Will Invade 'Protected' Territories," *Chicago Day Book*, January 25, 1912: 24-25. See also, "Inside Dope on Columbian League," *Evansville Press*, January 26, 1912: 4.
31. For more on the United States League, see Bill Lamb, "Gotham's Unknown Nine: The New York Knickerbockers of the United States League," *The Inside Game*, Vol. XVIII, No. 5, November 2018, 21-28.
32. Compare "Columbian League Cuts Its Circuit to Six Clubs," *Boston Journal*, February 19, 1912: 9, and "New League Shrinks," *Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Patriot*, February 19, 1912: 1, with "Want an Eight-Club League," *New York Times*, February 20, 1912: 9, and "Powers Here; Wants an 8-Club League," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 25, 1912: 25.
33. As reported in "Wray's Column," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 25, 1912: 12. See also, Clarence E. Lloyd, "Local 'Outlaws' About Ready To Throw In Sponge," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 21, 1912: 16.
34. Per Sid Keener, "Died of Inaction," *Sporting Life*, April 6, 1912: 12, and "Brewer Otto Stifel," *Sporting Life*, July 13, 1912: 8.
35. First reported in Michigan newspapers. See "Invasion by Outlaw League Likely To Materialize in 1913," *Calumet News*, February 7, 1913: 8; "Columbian League President in Town," *Grand Rapids Press*, February 12, 1913: 12; "Columbian League Head in G. Raps," *Kalamazoo Gazette*, February 14, 1913: 7.
36. See e.g., "Will Revive League," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, March 4, 1913: 21; "Federal Baseball League Will Organize with Big Cities on Its Roster," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 9, 1913: 15; "Charter Third League," *Rockford Morning Star*, March 9, 1913: 11.
37. Per "Federal League Is Formed in the West," *Baltimore Sun*, March 9, 1913: 1: "New Big League

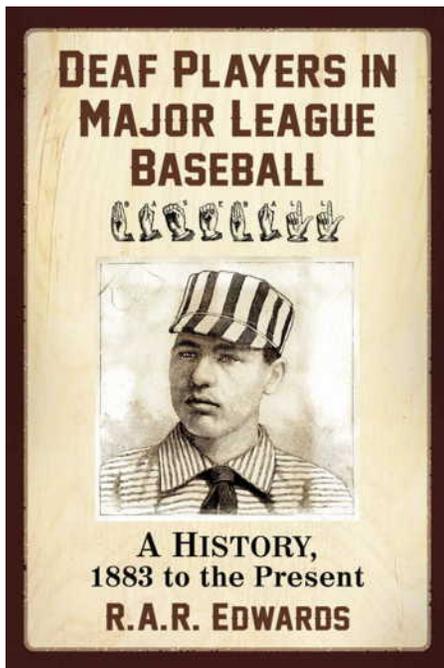
- Was Organized,” *Grand Forks Herald*, March 11, 1913: 2.
38. Per Marc Okkonen, *The Federal League of 1914-1915: Baseball’s Third Major League* (Garrett Park, Maryland: SABR, 1989), 4. The other league officers were M.F. Bramley, Cleveland (vice-president); James A. Ross, Indianapolis (secretary), and John A. George, Indianapolis (treasurer).
 39. As reported in “Bill Phillips Will Manage Indianapolis,” *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, April 7, 1913: 12; “Federal League Announces Circuit and Playing Days,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 7, 1913: 10; and elsewhere.
 40. The United States League also reorganized for the 1913 season, but abandoned play for good after a disastrous opening weekend.
 41. As noted by Daniel R. Levitt in *The Battle That Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy* (Lanham, Maryland: Ivan R. Dee, 2012), 42.
 42. As reported in “Fed Directors Give Powers a Long Vacation,” *Cleveland Leader*, August 4, 1913: 8; “Two Month Rest to Federal Head,” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, August 4, 1913: 7; “Federal League Grants Powers Long Vacation,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 4, 1913: 13; and elsewhere.
 43. “This Federal Child Renounces Father,” *The Sporting News*, August 7, 1913: 1.
 44. As reported in “Acting President of Federal League,” *Chicago Tribune*, August 4, 1913: 8; “Federal League Has New Leader,” *Rock Island Argus*, August 4, 1913: 4; and elsewhere.
 45. See “Men Who Conduct the Federal League,” *Springfield (Massachusetts) News*, February 2, 1914: 8.
 46. Per “John T. Powers Bound To Oppose,” *Detroit Times*, October 31, 1913: 12.
 47. “Powers May Start Outlaw League,” *Harrisburg Patriot*, January 9, 1914: 12.
 48. See John W. Wray, “Deposed Head of Outlaws May Attempt To Retaliate,” *El Paso Herald*, December 12, 1913: 10.
 49. Per “Would Start Fourth League,” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, January 9, 1914: 9, and “Powers Would Lead a Fourth League,” *Salt Lake Telegram*, January 18, 1914: 37. Powers also complained that he was owed unpaid salary and that the FL had not refunded his \$3,000 investment in the league.
 50. See “John T. Powers and His Baseball League Are Again on the Job,” *Detroit Times*, May 20, 1914: 10.
 51. Per “Base Ball Briefs,” *Washington Evening Star*, November 16, 1914: 13. President of the amateur circuit was former major league player and manager Jake Stahl.
 52. See “Powers Busy Preparing His Program,” *Kalamazoo Gazette*, July 13, 1918: 6; “Says Army Sports Are a Big Thing,” *Jackson (Michigan) Patriot*, July 14, 1918: 19; “John T. Powers Goes to France,” *San Jose Mercury News*, August 3, 1918: 3.
 53. Per “European Baseball Season Inaugurated,” *Baltimore Sun*, May 6, 1919: 6; “Powers Heads A New Ball League,” *El Paso Herald*, May 29, 1919: 13.
 54. See “Facts for Fans,” *Evansville Journal*, January 5, 1919: 17.
 55. Per “Powers To Bring Ball Team,” *Chicago Daily News*, May 28, 1919: 2. During its tour, Powers also managed the French team.
 56. See “Name Powers Chief Umpire,” *Chicago Daily News*, June 22, 1921: 17; “Close Decisions,” *Rockford Morning Star*, June 23, 1921: 7.
 57. See “Pop Anson Memorial Slated in Chicago,” *Baltimore Sun*, May 5, 1922: 10; *Woodbury (New Jersey) Times*, June 19, 1922: 4.
 58. As noted in the Powers obituary published in the *Moline (Illinois) Times*, December 29, 1947: 17.
 59. See e.g., “Officers’ Camp 18th Company To Hold Meeting,” *Chicago Daily News*, February 24, 1939: 25.
 60. See “John Powers, Baseball Promoter, Journalist, Dies at 73 in Sheffield,” *Moline Times*, December 29, 1947: 17. See also, “John T. Powers, Federal League Organizer, Dies,” (Wilmington) *Morning News*, December 30, 1947: 23.

SCORE BOARDS ON STREETS MUST GO

DETROIT—Police Commissioner Croul has undertaken to suppress baseball score boards in Detroit, except where they are placed inside buildings. Those on the streets or in places where they can be seen from the streets draw such large crowds that they block traffic.

Patrolmen often are unable to clear a passage without using rough methods. The corporation counsel’s office has notified the police department that it has power to suppress score boards on the ground that they are a nuisance.

Toledo News-Bee, April 20, 1911



**DEAF PLAYERS IN
MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL: A HISTORY,
1883 TO THE PRESENT**

By R.A.R. Edwards

2020, McFarland

[ISBN: 978-1476670171. 214
pp. \$39.95 USD. Softcover]

Reviewed by

Ben Klein

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Deafness is often perceived and characterized as a “disability” that must be overcome by an individual in order to lead a complete and normal life. In *Deaf Players in Major League Baseball: A History, 1883 to Present*, author R.A.R. Edwards confronts the obstacles and challenges faced by deaf ballplayers striving for the major leagues, but also reveals how the deafness of those who broke through enhanced their abilities on the diamond, ele-

vated their teammates, and enriched the game.

William Ellsworth Hoy, known in his time by the problematic nickname “Dummy,” was the first prominent deaf player to break into the major leagues. Hoy was the beneficiary of a strong baseball tradition that emerged at the Ohio School for the Deaf in the nineteenth century. Not only did the Ohio School field teams that were competitive with professional squads manned by hearing players, but the Ohio School also waged a battle in defense of sign language against proponents of the “oral” system, which emphasized lipreading and speech at the expense of sign language. Against the backdrop of severe societal hostility toward deaf-mutes, epitomized by the eugenics movement and immigration restrictions, Hoy proudly arrived in the major leagues as a signing member of the deaf community and asserted himself as one of the finest centerfielders and leadoff hitters of the 1890s.

Edwards demonstrates that Hoy’s on-field achievements and staying power in the top 100 on several career records lists, including stolen bases, runs scored, triples, and out-field assists, make him worthy of Hall of Fame consideration. The book illustrates that Hoy’s deafness was no impediment to his excellence on the field and goes further to portray Hoy’s abilities as exemplifying the concept of “deaf gain,” which draws attention to the benefits

of deafness. Hoy was regarded as an exceptionally alert and brainy player, which Hoy himself attributed to the intense focus engendered by his exclusive reliance on sight. This was especially manifest in his defensive prowess, as Hoy did not rely on the crack of the bat to get a beat on a fly ball, and gained a split-second edge by being constantly visually engaged with the batter.

In addition to illustrating how Hoy’s deafness served his capabilities on the field, the book gives an even more thorough treatment to Hoy’s lasting contributions to the game in connection with the development of hand signals. Edwards convincingly challenges the prevailing narrative that hand signals were developed by Hall of Fame umpire Bill Klem to compensate for an injured throat by demonstrating that they were initially employed by umpire Francis “Silk” O’Loughlin in the 1906 season and prominently showcased in the 1906 World Series. Relying on contemporary press reports, Edwards demonstrates that it was widely acknowledged that O’Loughlin specifically adopted Hoy’s “mute signal code,” which was used by Hoy’s third base coaches to convey strike and ball calls to Hoy when he was at the plate.

In addition to developing this signal code, Hoy promoted signing by leading his teammates to learn fingerspelling as a means of communication. This forged camaraderie on the clubs he played for and also led

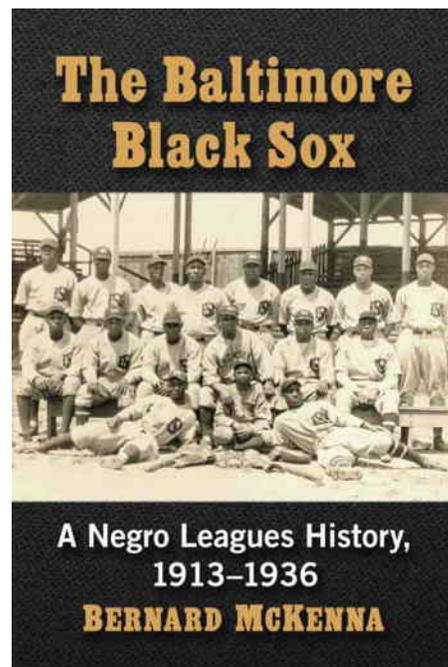
to an innovative use of hand signals at the major league level, which was embraced by luminaries such as Charles Comiskey and Clark Griffith.

The next deaf major leaguer to break through after Hoy was Luther Taylor, who anchored the pitching staff of John McGraw's dynastic New York Giants along with Hall of Famers Christy Matthewson and Joe McGinnity. As with Hoy's teams, hand signals and finger-spelling became a prominent feature of McGraw's powerhouse teams and helped shape the aggressive playing style for which the Giants were renowned. Just as Hoy served as a bridge to Taylor, Taylor served as an even more direct bridge to the next deaf major leaguer, Dick Sipek, who appeared in 82 games for the Reds in 1945. As a coach and teacher at the Illinois School for the Deaf, Taylor discovered and groomed the talented Sipek for a career in professional baseball. In establishing the connection between Taylor and Sipek at the Illinois School, Edwards not only provides a backstory for Sipek's route to the majors, but provides a lens for readers to better understand the role that schools for the deaf played in establishing a distinct culture and community for the deaf.

The book goes on to examine the political, social, and legal developments over the course of the twentieth century that diluted this distinct culture and shaped the era of the next deaf major leaguer, Curtis Pride. Unlike Hoy, Taylor, and Sipek,

Pride was not educated in a deaf school and did not use sign language, but instead was the product of "mainstreaming," whereby deaf children were educated alongside their hearing peers. Debuting for the Expos as an outfielder in 1993, Pride communicated with his teammates using speech rather than sign language and was regarded as an "oral deaf exemplar." The book demonstrates that Pride's reliance on speech rather than on sign language was a function of the era rather than a deliberate rejection of sign language or of deaf culture more broadly. To the contrary, Pride's story following his major league career brings the book's narrative full circle, as Pride now serves as the head baseball coach of Gallaudet University, the nation's most prominent deaf institution and has asserted himself as a vocal advocate for the enshrinement of William Hoy in Cooperstown.

Ben Klein is a SABR member who has contributed to works on the 1970 Orioles and 1965 Twins. Ben has served on the Larry Ritter Award and Ron Gabriel Award subcommittees. He lives in Rockville, Maryland.



**THE BALTIMORE
BLACK SOX: A NEGRO
LEAGUES HISTORY,
1913-1936**

By Bernard McKenna

*2020, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1476677712. 212
pp. \$35.00USD. Softcover]*

Reviewed by
Todd Peterson
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When discussing the great franchises of the Negro Leagues, the Baltimore Black Sox are usually not in the conversation. However, while many African American squads preceded them in the Charm City, and the Elite Giants would follow in their footsteps, the Black Sox firmly established Baltimore on the Blackball map when they captured the 1929 American Negro League crown – the city's first major league championship of

the 20th Century. Many of the most talented players in NLB history spent a significant portion of their careers with the Black Sox including Hall of Famers Jud Wilson, Ben Taylor, Dick Lundy, and should-be Hall of Famers John Beckwith and Herbert "Rap" Dixon. The 1929 Sox were one of Blackball's truly all-time outstanding teams, led by their "million dollar infield" of Wilson, Frank Warfield, Lundy, and Oliver "Ghost" Marcell.

Bernard McKenna's *Baltimore Black Sox* is a detailed and sympathetic account of this always entertaining, though often frustrating franchise. The Black Sox' on-the-field success was a tremendous source of pride and psychological boost to the African Americans of Baltimore at a time when they needed it the most. As the author skillfully recounts, the city was ground zero for segregation in the United States, basically inventing the concept of redlining in 1910 with a series of laws that prevented Black families from buying or renting property in white neighborhoods. The Black Sox, however, demonstrated time and again the will and prowess of the African American community with a series of post-season victories against the International League's Orioles and white major leaguers. McKenna, an English professor at the University of Delaware, notes how the team's very name was a signifier of equality and excellence to the city's black *and* white citizens.

The author's strong personal connection to Baltimore and Black baseball is one of the major strengths of the book – a lifelong Orioles fan, one of McKenna's great-great uncles was a city councilman who wrote the ordinance legalizing Sunday baseball in Baltimore, and one of his great uncles saw both the Black Sox and Elite Giants play, handing down first-hand accounts to a young baseball obsessive. McKenna was also responsible for the recent rediscoveries of the long-forgotten locations of Maryland Baseball Park and Westport Park where the Black Sox played.

Although the club's saga has been briefly touched on before (in book chapters by James Bready, Daniel Nathan, and Elite Giants chronicler Bob Luke), McKenna is the first to tell the club's entire story from their beginning as an amateur outfit called the Weldons in 1905; segueing into their evolution into the professional Black Sox in 1913; and concluding with the club's demise as the semipro Chester (Pennsylvania) Baltimore Black Sox in 1936. Along the way, McKenna covers all points of the Sox's frenetic history, both high and low: the untimely, tragic death of third baseman Henry Blackmon; Rap Dixon's record breaking 14-consecutive hit streak; the terrible post-season brawl between Marcell and Warfield, which led to disfigurement of the Ghost's nose (Warfield bit part of it off); and the post-season pitching hero-

ics of ace Laymon Yokely who won three games in 1929 against a major league all-star squad featuring world champion Philadelphia Athletic pitchers Eddie Rommel and Howard Ehmke. The following off-season the Black Sox demolished an all-star club consisting of several Athletics by winning eight games out of nine. McKenna also unravels the complicated ownership structure of the Sox. Originally founded by African Americans, the team was eventually run by a series of white businessmen, some like Charles Spedden and Joe Cambria, who displayed both ample baseball and business skills, and others like the oft-reviled George Rossiter who did not.

Perhaps the only major complaint that can be made about McKenna's opus is that there should be more of it. At 204 pages, the book is a rather slender volume and feels a bit sparse in spots (and the chapter notes and index take up more than thirty of these pages). Granted, baseball tomes that recount every game a team plays during a season or seasons can prove tedious, but the author only devotes six pages to the Sox's glorious championship year, and almost half of that to the off-the-field construction of the squad. Baltimore was also a hotbed for Black baseball in the 19th century, but that vibrant scene garners no mention here. In addition, McKenna claims that the Black Sox were champions of the South several times be-

tween 1913 and 1921 but provides little detail how they accomplished this. As far as errors of commission go, the author writes that a 1928 late-season series between the Black Sox and Homestead Grays and the 1932 tournament with the Black Sox, Washington Pilots, and New York Black Yankees were championship contests, when a quick review of the leading Black weeklies clearly reveals they were not.

These minor and admittedly pedantic quibbles aside, McKenna proves himself to be a top-flight researcher, and to his credit he does not ignore as many Blackball historians do, the mainstream press represented here by the *Baltimore Sun*. The book includes over fifty images, which add flavor and needed depth, including ballpark location maps, vintage photographs, newspaper images, and six player portraits beautifully rendered by illus-

trator Gary Cieradkowski. McKenna also included an appendix listing year-by-year records for the club.

Bernard McKenna has successfully brought the Black Sox into the light for future generations to see. The *Baltimore Black Sox* is a well-crafted tribute to a brilliant if meteoric outfit whose victories ultimately stretched far beyond the playing field. McKenna's magnum opus is yet another jewel in a long line of McFarland's outstanding Negro League team chronicles, and as of December 2020, the very first complete history of Baltimore's third twentieth-century major league franchise.

Visual artist and educator, Todd Peterson lives in Overland Park, Kansas. He is the author of Early Black Baseball in Minnesota and the editor of The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues.

PUBLISHERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In this issue, review copies of *Deaf Players*, *The Baltimore Black Sox*, *The Umpire Was Blind!*, *Eddie Cicotte*, *The Man Who Made Babe Ruth*, and *Boom and Bust in St. Louis* were all generously provided to us by their publisher, McFarland and Company. These books can be ordered by emailing McFarland at info@mcfarlandpub.com or calling 1-800-253-2187. Your support of this steadfast friend of the newsletter is appreciated.



*Bisbee (Arizona) Daily Review,
November 25, 1920*

The Umpire Was Blind!



Controversial Calls by
MLB's Men in Blue

JONATHAN WEEKS

THE UMPIRE WAS BLIND! CONTROVERSIAL CALLS BY MLB'S MEN IN BLUE

By Jonathan Weeks

2020, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1-4766-8032-3,
208 pages. \$29.95 USD,
paperback]

Reviewed by

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For the record, my vision is 20/30. I don't need to wear glasses or carry a driver's license endorsement — despite having read at least one book a week on average for the last 20 years. So take THAT, Rogers Hornsby!

I don't say this as an optometrist or optician, but as a fan who has read Jonathan Weeks' newest book, *The Umpire Was Blind! Controversial Calls by MLB's Men in Blue*. In

a tightly, sprightly-written 208 pages (including index), Weeks chronicles 56 umpiring mishaps. Well, mishaps to some, correct calls to others. “Blew it” is in the eye of the beholder.

Of the 56 episodes listed, only seven are from the Deadball Era, which leads me to suspect that criticism of the umps’ ocular acuity has spanned the course of our national pastime. Naturally, there’s the Fred Merkle incident of 1908, but Weeks also includes two soggy games in Pittsburgh three months apart in 1902, a gift homer for the Philadelphia A’s Stuffy McInnis in 1911, ump Bill Brennan’s declaration of a forfeit to the New York Giants in 1913 when the hometown Phillies fans ignored his orders to move, Bill Klem’s no-call call in the 1911 A’s-Giants World Series – and, of course, Germany Schaefer stealing first base.

Weeks deserves credit for not being an apologist for the arbiters. He also shows admirable restraint in leaving a lot of snark out of *The Umpire Was Blind!* Including dollops of derision might have made the book more fun to read – we’re not above schadenfreude – but whatever short-term gain in the prose would have left us a bit poorer for the experience.

One active umpire, Jerry Meals, gets written up regularly by Weeks. As a rookie ump, Meals gives Kerry Wood a generous strike zone in Wood’s 20-strikeout game over the

Houston Astros – after being smacked in the face mask by Wood’s first pitch. Second, he missed the tag in a 2011 19-inning Pittsburgh Pirates loss to the Atlanta Braves that sends the Bucs in a 3-15 tailspin, ending their postseason hopes. Meals worked the 2020 World Series, including home plate in the conclusive Game 6, but did nothing to merit a mention for any second edition of *The Umpire Was Blind!*

The most egregious mistake I found was Weeks’ insertion of an apostrophe in the original name of the Cleveland Indians’ current ballpark. It’s Jacobs Field, not Jacob’s Field – as if it were a ladder.

I was present at one of Weeks’ cited games: Game 2 of the 2006 World Series between the Detroit Tigers and the St. Louis Cardinals in Detroit, which Weeks dubs “The Smudgate Affair,” in which plate umpire Alfonso Marquez made Tigers starter Kenny Rogers clean his hands before taking the mound in the second inning due to a dark substance found on the heel of his pitching hand. Seeing the umpires confer with the managers with no explanation provided to the assembled throng, I thought there had been some kind of terrorist threat that was delaying play; I didn’t know the story until after the game. Marquez could have ejected Rogers but chose not to. Right or wrong? You make the call.

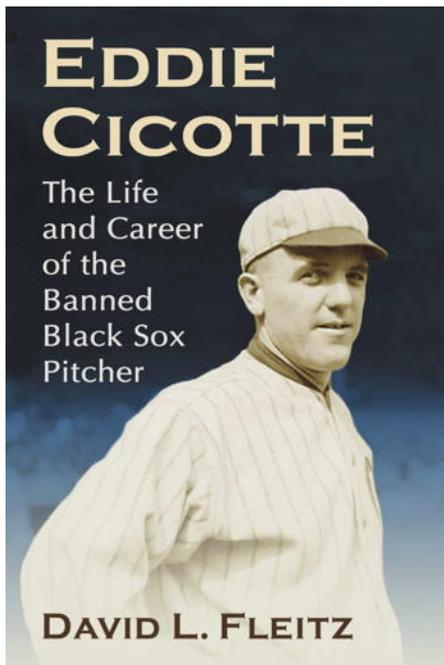
Ejections are covered in a few instances in *The Umpire Was*

Blind! (He may have been blind, but he certainly wasn’t deaf.) Bad language can get someone thumbed, but so can protesting too loudly even when the arbiter is wrong. But the robot umpires are coming, as Weeks’ introduction references Yale University Toby Moskowitz’s research in an HBO “Real Sports” installment from 2016 that, over a million or so pitches thrown over three-and-a-half years, home-plate umps get ball-and-strike calls right only 88 percent of the time.

Weeks has stumbled onto umpiring as an aspect of baseball that hasn’t been subject to over-exposure. In most cases, there are 17 people in uniform on a field at any one time: nine on defense, the batter, the on-deck hitter, two coaches – and four (sometimes six) umpires. Their calls dictate strategy just as much as in-game effectiveness and players’ reputations.

A “Bad Calls of the Year” annual? A journal critiquing the umps, the umpiring, their evaluation by MLB, the application of rules, and the use of replay? Weeks’ book, entertaining as it is, makes the reader think that more could – or should – be in store.

Mark Pattison, a SABR member since 2000, is media editor of Catholic News Service. He is also co-author or co-editor of three books on the Detroit Tigers, serves as secretary-treasurer of the Mayo Smith Society, the national organization of Tigers fans, and edits its monthly newsletter Tiger Stripes.



EDDIE CICOTTE: THE LIFE AND CAREER OF THE BANNED BLACK SOX PITCHER

By David L. Fleitz

2020, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-14766801-9-4.
212pp. \$ 35.00. USD.
Softcover]

Reviewed by
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Research and publication about the 1919 World Series fix has been growing since the 1963 debut of Eliot Asinof's *Eight Men Out*. Several movies on the subject have made us all aware of the event and the participants—the actual truth notwithstanding.

The name Eddie Cicotte is almost as well-known as Joe Jackson and Buck Weaver (both of whom have benefitted

from biographies), as being at the center of the conspiracy. Other than name recognition, the average reader may not know much more about the life of Eddie Cicotte.

Author David Fleitz has taken great pains to correct that situation in his latest contribution to baseball literature, a cradle-to-grave biography of one of the Deadball Era's most effective pitchers.

Cicotte was born in Southwest Detroit, a descendant of French-Canadians who could trace their bloodlines back to the founding of the city in 1701. The clan was one of the most prominent of early Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan, counting among their number a militia captain, elected city officials, and county sheriffs.

As a kid growing up, he loved to watch and play baseball. Small for an athlete at 5'9" tall and 135 pounds soaking wet, Eddie became a right-handed pitcher without a blazing fastball. He developed an arsenal of pitches, learning off-speeds, how to move the ball around the strike zone, and how to "doctor" the ball while pitching semipro ball in the Upper Peninsula and pro ball in Sault Ste. Marie in 1904. He was offered a tryout by the Detroit Tigers and the following year was at spring training camp in Augusta, Georgia. The rookie appeared in three games that year before being sent down to the minors for more experience. It was there where Cicotte learned to throw a knuckleball, which proved to be

his ticket back to the major leagues.

After five seasons with the Boston Red Sox, Eddie was sold to the Chicago White Sox in 1912, where he teamed with catcher Ray Schalk, who caught most of Cicotte's 156 victories with the White Sox. During these final eight years of his career, Eddie Cicotte established himself as one of the premier pitchers in the American League. In 1917, his won-lost record stood at 28-12, as the Sox won the pennant and following World Series. In 1919, he went 29-7 with an ERA of 1.82. Towards the start of the Series against Cincinnati, Eddie made the worst decision of his life.

Eddie made his off-season home in Michigan and had bought a farm in a community just east of Detroit. Supporting a number of family members besides his own and making the farm profitable was difficult, and he was heavily in debt. As author Fleitz suggests, this could be a viable motive for taking the bribe; although White Sox owner Charles Comiskey was tight with a player's dollar, there were no salary disputes at this time.

Fleitz's discussion of the fix remains objective and in the context of Cicotte's life. He states that Comiskey knew about the plot and covered it up – states that there never would have been a scandal if no one would have talked to the state's attorney. He goes on to relate Cicotte's life after the 1920 season, talking about playing out-

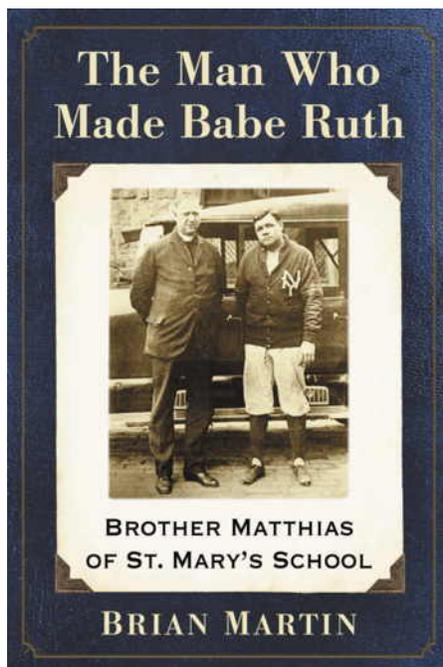
law ball for a fistful of dollars until, nearing forty years of age, he returned to Michigan to build a new life in Detroit. In 1924, he took a position with the Ford Service Department run by Harry Bennett, Henry Ford's "brass knuckles." Finally, after 20 years at Ford, Cicotte retired, literally to the farm, at age 60.

Using contemporary and modern sources, David Fleitz has penned an informative and objective biography of a pitcher who came close to dominating the American League with a repertoire of pitches, especially the knuckleball. Any doubters should remember that Babe Ruth hit zero home runs off Cicotte.

The controversy surrounding the Black Sox fix of 1919 will continue to be discussed as long as there are baseball fans to discuss it. Most of what folks "know" about the event are tainted by the Asinof book and movie of the same name. The facts of this event will have to be relearned, and Fleitz has taken a giant step in that direction. This is not necessarily a sympathetic biography but one that leaves the reader with the impression that Cicotte wasn't a bad guy; just one who made a big mistake.

This is a book that belongs on every fans' bookshelf.

David Poremba is a longtime SABR member with an interest in the Deadball Era and a former curator of the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection in Detroit.



THE MAN WHO MADE BABE RUTH: BROTHER MATTHIAS OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

By Brian Martin

*2020, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1476673363. 226
pp. \$35.00 USD. Softcover]*

Reviewed by
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Another book about Babe Ruth? Why? That thought crossed my mind when I was asked to review Brian Martin's *The Man Who Made Babe Ruth*. I have been reading books about Babe Ruth since the mid-1960s, granted books written for young sports fans in those days, but more serious and detailed books and articles over the years. Even though I am not an expert on Babe Ruth, what new could this author offer?

Mr. Martin answered this question very quickly. I knew that Ruth had been raised in a Catholic school, essentially an orphanage, and that a priest had been his surrogate parent and first coach. Turns out the priest was a religious brother and the one most written about, Brother Gilbert, was not the brother who actually played those roles in Ruth's life. I, most likely, read about, and was therefore thinking about, the wrong one when I started this review.

The author says this book is not a comprehensive account of Ruth's career. It is at least a good refresher and would probably also serve as a useful introductory book. You could even enjoy this book if you didn't care about Ruth or baseball. Some of the most enjoyable parts of the book for me were the historical summaries the author gives of individuals, events, and trends that impacted the lives of the ballplayer and those around him.

The main difference between this book and other Ruth biographies is its focus on Ruth's relationship with his father figure, Brother Matthias, as well as on his youth and his family life, such as it was. The book starts with a flashback-type chapter that summarizes Babe Ruth's life. This is followed by a discussion of Brother Matthias' early life, his lineage and connection to Nova Scotia. This is our first introduction to the author's attention to detail and ability to smoothly weave rich detail into his story. This is replicated in the next chapter's introduction to St. Mary's School complete with a brief history of

the development of Baltimore and its place in baseball history.

We are first introduced to the child who would become "The Babe" about the time he was committed to St. Mary's Industrial Training as an incorrigible child. How incorrigible a child of about seven could possibly be raises some questions, but we are soon introduced to the nightmares that were his parents. That Babe Ruth turned out to be the open, generous, and accomplished baseball player he became is a tribute to his resilience and Brother Matthias' dedication. That he was also troubled and immature as an adult also speaks to the impact of his early childhood and the unsettling interactions with his parents, particularly his father.

St. Mary's became Ruth's true home and family. There he was educated, received training in a surprising field, and was introduced to the game that would become his livelihood and life. The skill of the Xaverian Brothers as ballplayers and coaches and their

connection to important figures in the baseball world were more important in the development of Babe as a player than one would think. Ruth stayed emotionally connected to the school throughout his life and became one of its great benefactors.

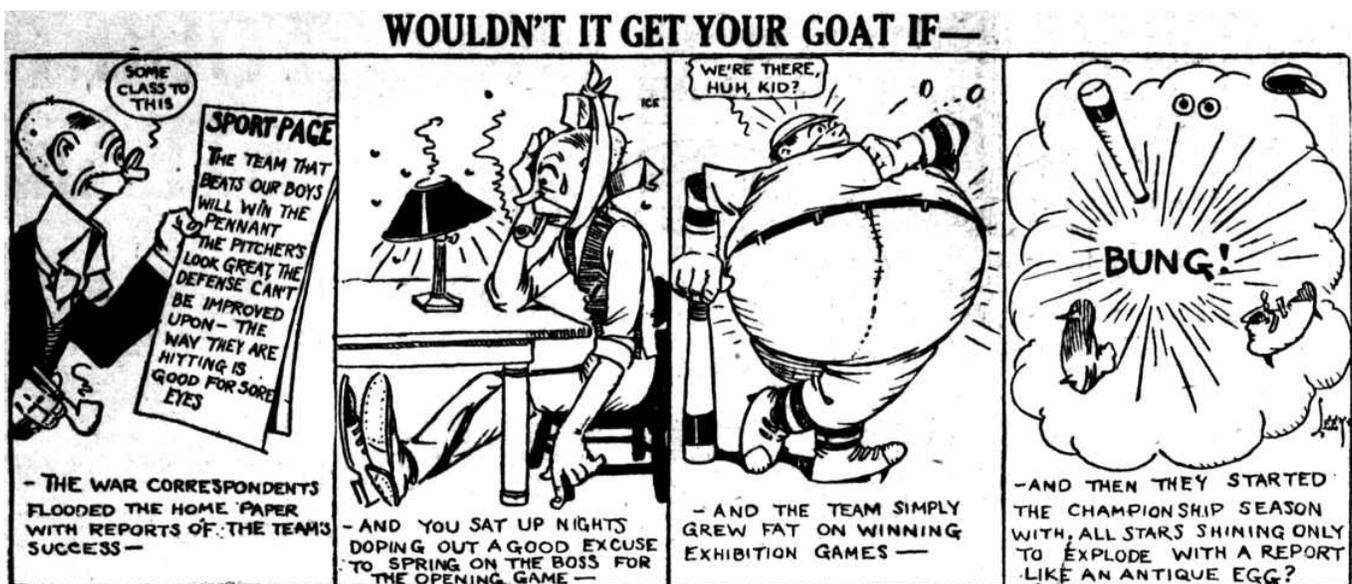
The author also provides several chapters on the Babe's introduction to professional baseball and rapid graduation to the majors. He captures the excitement of Ruth's freedom outside of St. Mary's discipline and the impact of having money in his pocket for the first time. He shows the Babe as a big reckless kid but likeable and decent, a person whose immaturity and childlikeness would stay with him throughout his life. Speculation on how Ruth acquired his nickname is covered as well.

Mr. Martin wisely summarizes the better known portions of Ruth's career and life rather quickly. In these later chapters he also provides more detail on Brother Matthias' life. While he brings out the quiet and self-

facing Matthias in contrast to the more outgoing and self-promoting Brother Gilbert, the author does not shy away from an embarrassing development in Matthias' later life.

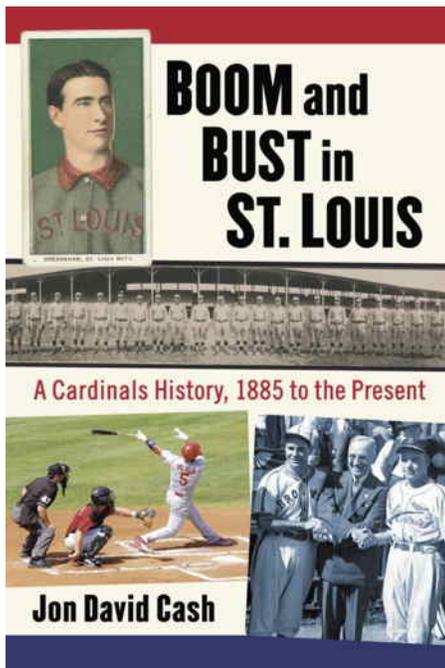
The book ends where it began, the period leading up to the end of George Herman "Babe" Ruth's life. Appendix I provides an interesting item, the one brief interview with Brother Matthias ever published. *The Man Who Made Babe Ruth* is an enjoyable and easily read book which adds surprising new detail to a story we thought we already knew well.

Paul Browne is the author of The Coal Barons Played Cuban Giants: A History of Early Professional Baseball in Pennsylvania, 1886-1896. His article on the Cuban Giants first victory over a major league team appears in Inventing Baseball: The 100 Greatest Games of the Nineteenth Century. His The Starring Tours of 1875 appears in the 2017 National Pastime and Mundell's Solar Tours in the 2013 edition.



Drawn by Frank Leet

Tacoma Times, May 27, 1909



**BOOM AND BUST IN
ST. LOUIS:
A CARDINALS HISTORY,
1885 TO THE PRESENT**

By Jon David Cash

2020, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1476680835. 208
pp. \$29.95 USD. Softcover]

Reviewed by
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Jon David Cash's newest book, *Boom and Bust in St. Louis: A Cardinals History, 1885 to the Present*, is a breezy review of the history of the St. Louis Cardinals. It isn't easy to squeeze 137 years of history into 198 pages (42 of which are appendices, chapter references, a bibliography, and an index). Cash achieves this by focusing on the team like a person would look at the stock market. He splits up Cardinal history into high and low periods and

discusses the conditions that set the team along their path towards their winning and losing periods.

Just as in his excellent *Before They Were Cardinals: Major League Baseball in Nineteenth-Century St. Louis*, Cash does a tremendous job detailing his sources and using them appropriately. His chapter notes are extensive, and his bibliography stretches over thirteen pages. He references newspapers, books, SABR Bio-Project histories, a handful of interviews, and other sources to back up everything written in the book.

Due to space limitations, this is not a detailed rundown of specific games or an exhaustive look at the players. Cash does describe personnel moves (both front office and player personnel changes) that lead to both good and bad times for the team's performance. A typical example is, "[Sam] Breadon sold Walker Cooper, the starting catcher on three consecutive pennant-winners from 1942-1944, to the New York Giants for \$175,000. Breadon suspected that Walker Cooper might hold a grudge against him over the bitter contract negotiations that had concluded with Breadon trading Mort Cooper, Walker's older brother, in May 1945." Cash also covers key moments in winning seasons. For example, he allocates five pages to the 1926 season (the Cardinals first modern World Series winner) detailing key games during the

pennant race and discussing the World Series.

The Deadball Era is the longest bust period of St. Louis Cardinals baseball. From 1892 to 1925, the team never finished higher than third or closer than seven games behind the pennant-winner, while finishing last in the league seven times. Accordingly, much of Cash's Deadball Era discussion is on the franchise's business rivalry with the St. Louis Browns and the tenure of Helene Robison Britton, the first female owner of a major league baseball team. She sold the team after the 1916 season, leading to the hiring of Branch Rickey by the new ownership. His establishment of the farm system created the foundation to fuel the Cardinals' second boom, the period from 1926-1946.

The book's forward "Roots of Early St. Louis Ball Playing," written by Jeffrey Kittel, is a research gem not normally seen in a forward. Kittel outlines some early histories of ball being played in St. Louis in the 1790s, well before any modern baseball had reached this outpost. His primary source is a disposition of Henry Gratiot in a land dispute lawsuit where Gratiot said he had, "a perfect knowledge of the situation of Motard's windmill, for when a Boy he has frequently played Ball against this same mill." Kittel then reveals that Motard's windmill was most likely on the site of today's Busch Stadium and speculates on what ball games may

have been played here by the French settlers.

The book had a couple of items I thought were a little odd. For one, the subtitle, "A Cardinals History, 1885 to the Present" seems a little misleading. The St. Louis Cardinals as a franchise was founded in 1882, an event covered by Cash in this book and in his excellent *Before They Were Cardinals*. It's puzzling that 1885 was used in the subtitle — almost as if it was a misprint. My other criticism is minor, but I thought the chapter structure was a little strange. The 1882-1903 period was mostly covered in the "Introduction" chapter of the book while the 2012-2019 period was covered in an "Epilogue" chapter. These two are not substantially different from Chapters 1-11 which cover the Cardinals history between these dates. The year breakpoint between the "Introduction" and Chapter 1 (titled "The

Cardinals Family Robison") was also oddly chosen. The Robison brothers bought the Cardinals before the 1899 season so I'm not sure why 1903 was chosen as the year to start off Chapter 1 when their family is the focus.

Overall, this is a well written and easy-to-read book and is likely to appeal to a fan interested in a broad look at the St. Louis Cardinals' history. Cash thoroughly researched his writing, and the photos, while not numerous, are interesting and serve to highlight the text. It is a history text and a good one.

Brian Flaspohler is a retired manufacturing engineer residing west of St. Louis. His passions are Cardinals baseball, Missouri-born baseball figures, and running for exercise. His ultimate goal is to author a book but in the meantime, write player bios and game stories for SABR.

DECISION BY BYRON

Here's a decision by Umpire Bill Byron in a Pittsburgh-Philadelphia game as reported by a correspondent: Meusel was on third and Cravath on first and one out; Baird tapped to Cutchaw, who ran up the line, tagged Cravath between second and first, making the second out, and then stepped on first before Baird could reach the bag. In the meantime Meusel had crossed the plate. Now comes Byron to announce to the press box that Meusel's run counted. At least, so says the detail of the game, which is taken for what it is worth pending an explanation from the singing umpire.

Chicago Eagle, June 14, 1919



Old Style Lager
Makes the Biggest Hit of the year

The Base-Ball Fan, the Club man and the Home man all know

Old Style Lager

makes a "hit" with their friends and always keep a case on hand for any emergency that may arise.

Just as good as ever; cannot be brewed better, because it is the superiority both in process and ingredients that makes

Old Style Lager
the peoples' choice.

Send for a case today
G. HEILEMAN BREWING COMPANY
Old Style Lager Distributing Company, E. A. Albrecht, General Manager, 520 No. 2d West St. Ind. 1907.

Salt Lake Herald-Republican, June 22, 1910

BASE BALL
TRI-STATE LEAGUE—TRENTON CLUB
CADWALADER PARK FIELD
TODAY AT 3:30
JOHNSTOWN
LOOK FOR THE FLAG
at Bonham's Cigar Store and street car signs when games are played.
General admission 25¢; grand stand 25¢ extra. Saturdays; 3; other days 3:30 p. m.

(Trenton) Daily True American, June 18, 1908

EDDIE GLENN: LIFE, TRYING TIMES, AND AN UNTIMELY DEATH IN EARLY DEADBALL ERA BASEBALL

by **Bill Lamb**

Looking back, early Deadball Era shortstop Eddie Glenn appears to be an enigma. A career minor leaguer, the statistics compiled during his 16 seasons of professional ball are not particularly impressive, suggesting that he was an erratic fielder and a substandard batsman, even while playing in lower-level minor leagues. In addition, he developed a serious drinking problem as his career wore on, and was often a disciplinary headache for club brass. Yet at various times, Glenn was also praised as the very best player in the circuits that he performed in. And his mediocre numbers notwithstanding, no fewer than three major league clubs saw fit to engage Glenn's services, albeit briefly.

Almost ten years after his final big leagues tour of duty with the 1902 Chicago Cubs, Glenn still lingered on the fringes of Organized Baseball – until his lifeless body was found at the bottom of a concrete pit at his place of offseason employ. Relatives maintained that Eddie had been the victim of unseen foul play, but the coroner determined the cause of death to be accidental and the incident was soon forgotten. The ensuing paragraphs recall the eventful life that preceded the untimely demise of this interesting, if often difficult, old-time ballplayer.

Much biographical data on our subject have been lost to time. His birthday, middle name, height, weight, and education are among the matters no longer known, while both the year and place of his birth are in dispute. But according to modern baseball reference authority, Edward D. Glenn was born in Cincinnati sometime in October 1875.¹ He was one of at least seven children born to day laborer Nicholas Glenn (1837-1915) and his wife Bridget (nee Mahon, 1839-1917), both Irish Catholic immigrants. During Eddie's youth, the family resided in Ludlow, Kentucky, a working-class community located directly across the

Ohio River from Cincinnati, and the baseball press often referred to Glenn as a "Ludlow boy."²

The initial newsprint mentions of Glenn had nothing to do with baseball, however. They arose from his arrest as an injunction-defying teenage striker on the grounds of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad in July 1894.³ He was quickly released on bond, and eventually avoided punishment when the charges against him and other strikers were dismissed as part of the settlement of the labor dispute.⁴ By this time, Eddie⁵ had developed something of a reputation on Cincinnati-area sandlots, primarily as a right-handed pitcher. In May 1895, it was reported that he and Ed Gallagher "left yesterday for Omaha where they will be the battery for the Omaha Baseball Club" of the Western Association.⁶ Soon thereafter, Glenn was back home and spent the summer playing for semipro nines in the Cincinnati-Covington, Kentucky area.

The following spring, Glenn reentered the professional ranks, signing with Portsmouth Browns of the Virginia League. "Edward Glenn is a twirler of whom great things are expected," the *Norfolk Virginian* related. "He is a well-built young man, of good manners and pleasant address."⁷ In spite of his purported pitching prowess, Glenn spent most of his stay in Norfolk as an outfielder. Given his first hurling assignment in late April, he staggered to a 12-inning, 10-8 victory over the Roanoke Magicians and future Hall of Famer Jack Chesbro.⁸ Glenn was wild and ineffective in a subsequent outing and was released shortly thereafter.⁹ He promptly found employment with a league rival, the Lynchburg Climbers, where he again saw action primarily as an outfielder. This time, a weak bat – a career-long shortcoming – manifested itself and precipitated his release by Lynchburg after 13 games. Overall, the right-handed hitting Glenn posted a .198 (19-for-98) batting average during his 26-game stay in the Virginia League. He finished the season with an independent professional club based in Paris, Kentucky, where he assumed the position that he would man for most of his remaining playing days: shortstop.

While with Paris, Glenn drew the first of the newsprint raves that punctuated his career. "Glenn plays the best game at short of any kid who has been on the local diamond," observed the *Knoxville Journal*. "He is in the habit of 'pulling down' and 'scooping up' hits that few men would even touch."¹⁰ By season end, the *Journal* declared that: "In Eddie Glenn, the Paris team has one of the fastest infielders ever seen" locally.¹¹

Glenn began the 1897 season in the independent, four-member Ohio-West Virginia League, signing with the Parkersburg, West Virginia, Killers.¹² By July, however, he had moved up to the New Bedford (Massachusetts) Whalers of the faster New England League. In 39 games there, Glenn hit a respectable but powerless (only two extra-base hits) .262, and was reserved by New Bedford for the 1898 season.¹³

Glenn returned to New Bedford but played only four games before jumping to an independent pro club in Grafton, Massachusetts. He later returned home to play for a Cincinnati semipro club called the Manhattans.¹⁴ Meanwhile, the Washington Senators were headed for a next-to-last-place (51-101, .336) finish in the bloated 12-club National League, and devoted the final month of the 1898 campaign to the audition of new talent.¹⁵ Via circumstances unknown, this included the tryout of prospect Eddie Glenn. On September 7, our subject made his major league debut, playing shortstop the entire way in a game in Boston. He proved no match at the plate against Beaneaters right-hander Ted Lewis, going 0-for-4, and saw little action in the field, but handled his three chances competently in the Senators 3-0 defeat.

Despite his innocuous, at best, stat line, reviews of the newcomer's performance were mostly positive. The *Washington Times* stated that Glenn "did very well,"¹⁶ while the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that "Glenn, formerly of the New Bedfords, played at short for the visitors very acceptably." Other newspapers, however, tempered their approval of Glenn's work with misgivings about his batting ability. "The young man is quick, covers ground, and throws strongly and



Eddie Glenn

accurately, but appears rather weak in hitting," commented the *Washington Post*.¹⁷ The *Washington Evening Star* was more direct, stating that while new recruit Glenn "fielded well, [he] was woefully weak at the bat."¹⁸

The press box consensus was that Glenn had shown enough to accompany the Senators back to Washington for a homestand against Philadelphia. But that did not happen. Rather, Glenn remained in Boston, and two days later he returned to the field for the visiting New York Giants when a first-inning basepaths collision put fill-in shortstop Jack Doyle out of action.¹⁹ And once again, Eddie turned in a competent performance. "Glenn ... came in handy as a utility man for New York yesterday and materially strengthened the infield," the *Boston Advertiser* reported. "He infused life into the team and made a pretty catch in left field."²⁰ Glenn even managed a single off Boston ace Kid Nichols, one of only six safeties surrendered by the future Hall of Fame inductee in a 3-0 whitewash of the Giants. That single would prove the only base-hit of Eddie Glenn's major league career.

The bubble burst the following day. Given a start in place of the still-hobbled Doyle, Eddie looked out of his depth. He went hitless against left-hander Fred Klobedanz, and booted at least one chance in the field during an 8-6 New York loss.²¹ With the Giants rallying in the ninth, manager Bill Joyce lifted Glenn for a pinch-hitter, bringing his tenure with the club to a close.²² It would be almost four years before Eddie Glenn appeared in another major league game.

As the 1899 season approached, conflicting news reports surfaced regarding with whom Glenn had signed. *Sporting Life* stated that he had joined the newly-formed Worcester Farmers of the Eastern League.²³ Thereafter, Glenn was reportedly headed for the Scranton Miners of the Atlantic League.²⁴ But in the end, he joined the Cambridge (Massachusetts) Orphans of the New England League.²⁵

Within weeks, Glenn's play drew cheers from the Northeast baseball press. An unidentified sportswriter in Portland, Maine, for example, informed readers that "Glenn of Cambridge is a fine infielder. Besides that, he is an aggressive player who wants everything that belongs to him."²⁶ *Sporting Life's* New England League correspondent was also an admirer, declaring "there are few better minor league shortstops than Eddie Glenn of the new Cambridge team."²⁷ Despite the fine play of its shortstop, the Cambridge club was a bust, posting a 4-16 record before being disbanded when the NEL consolidated to six clubs in early June.²⁸ In the dispersal of Cambridge players, Glenn was assigned to the Taunton (Massachusetts) Herrings²⁹ and played there through mid-June. But salary issues – the New England League enforced a monthly player payroll cap – soon precipitated Glenn's release.³⁰

From various suitors, Glenn chose to sign with the New Haven Blues of the Connecticut State League. With future Boston Americans stalwart Freddy Parent entrenched at short, the versatile Glenn switched to third, where his defensive play soon generated a chorus of press approval. Shortly after his arrival, the *New Haven Register* asserted that "Glenn is a great improvement at third and a strength of the team."³¹ And as the

Blues cruised to the CSL championship, the *New Haven Palladium* pronounced: "There is not in the league today ... a third baseman the like of Glenn."³² In retrospect, the testimonials do not appear overstated. Glenn played capably at third; filled in as needed at shortstop and second base; and was uncharacteristically productive with the bat. Eddie's (67-for-234) .284 batting average, with 15 extra-base hits, was easily the best sustained offensive performance of his professional career.

New Haven expected him back for the 1900 season, but the restless Glenn rarely stayed with any one club long. Rather than return to New England, he signed with a club closer to home, the Youngstown (Ohio) Little Giants of the Interstate League.³³ And it was here that the fractious, often unstable, behavior that plagued the remainder of the now 24-year-old Glenn's career was first publicly reported. By mid-June, substandard play in the field and clashes with Youngstown manager Mike Finn precipitated his release.³⁴ Eddie thereafter repudiated a contract signed with league rival Columbus, drawing a suspension by Interstate League brass that made him ineligible to play in Organized Baseball.³⁵ Undaunted, he proceeded to Georgia where he hooked on with a touring nine called Cincinnati's All-Professionals.³⁶ Glenn finished the summer playing for a semipro club in Maysville, Kentucky.³⁷

His eligibility reinstated, Glenn began the 1901 season with the Selma (Alabama) Christians of the Southern Association where both his performance and his conduct continued to spiral downward. After 18 games, he was batting an anemic .182 and fielding erratically. Glenn then "went on a bender at Memphis and jumped the team."³⁸ He was promptly engaged by an independent pro club in Jackson, Tennessee, where antic behavior nearly cost him his life. After a mid-June evening of carousing, Glenn plunged out of an upper story window of the Southern Hotel in Jackson. Before he hit the pavement, however, Eddie's fall was broken by a string of telegraph wires.³⁹ He survived, barely,⁴⁰ but prospects for a full recovery were initially

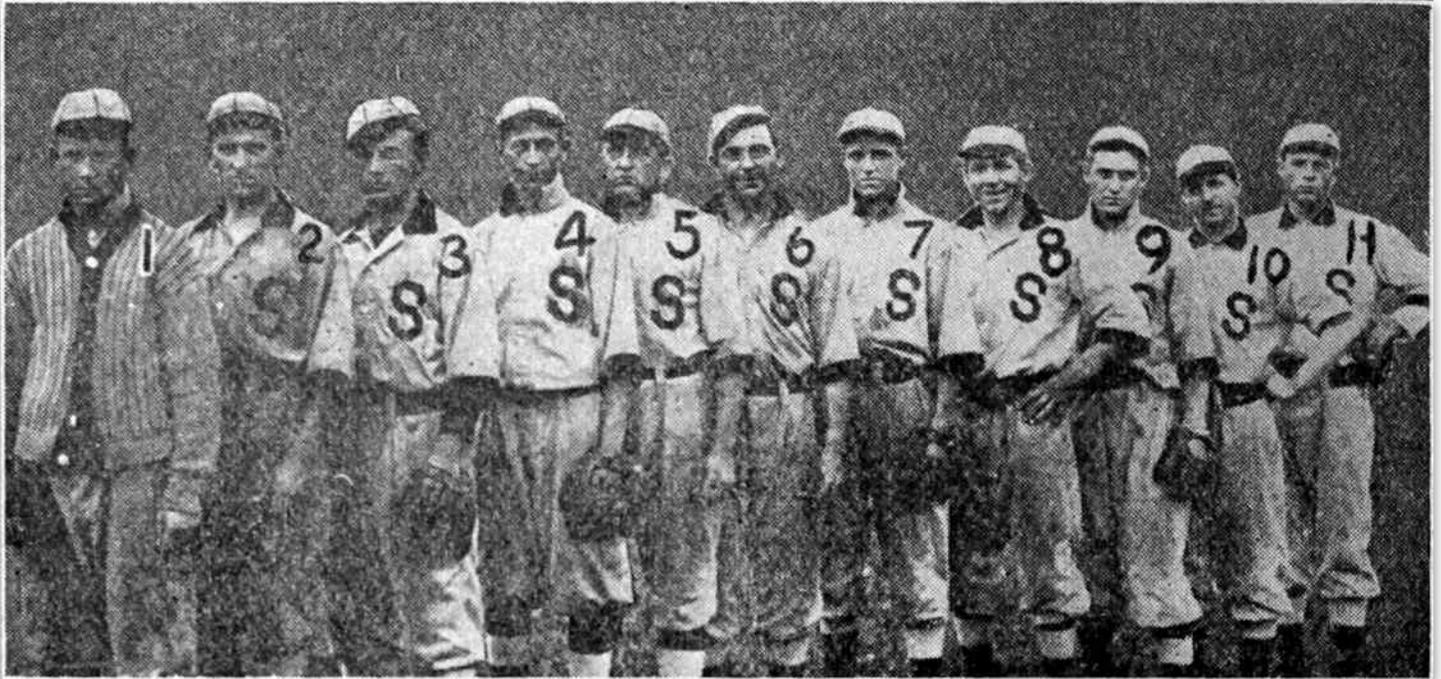
deemed iffy. As it turned out, Glenn escaped with only a broken collarbone, and by mid-September he was “back in the game, playing with semi-professional teams back at his Porkopolitan home.”⁴¹

Somehow, Glenn wheedled his way back into Organized Baseball in 1902, signing with the Utica Pent-Ups of the Class B New York State League.⁴² His play – a batting average below .200 and a fielding number south of .900 at shortstop – was hardly eye-catching. Yet for reasons unknown and facially inexplicable, the Chicago Cubs (or Orphans) turned to Glenn when shortstop Joe Tinker was indefinitely suspended by the National League for his involvement in an on-field brawl in mid-June.⁴³ Glenn was presently back in Cincinnati, supposedly recuperating from an undisclosed illness (but suspected of malingering and intent upon jumping to an outlaw club in Shreveport, Louisiana).⁴⁴ Notwithstanding the fact that Glenn was under contract with Utica, Cubs manager Frank Selee placed Eddie in the Chicago lineup for a June 26 game against Pittsburgh.

In his third foray in a major league uniform, Glenn was a non-factor. He went 0-for-4 while facing erstwhile Virginia League opponent Jack

Chesbro, but was no more unproductive than the rest of the Cubs in an 8-1 defeat. After the contest, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that Glenn “did not have enough work to show what his capabilities are, but his general work left the impression that he is several shades from major league class.”⁴⁵ Manager Selee, however, came to Eddie’s defense, asserting that “the new man did as well as expected under adverse circumstances and against a strong team,” and opined that having Glenn at shortstop “will prove much better than a substitute catcher or pitcher misusing the position.”⁴⁶

The following day, Eddie played his fifth and final game in a major league uniform. Back at shortstop against the St. Louis Cardinals, he went hitless again, but handled six fielding chances flawlessly in support of shutout pitching by Bob Rhoads. By this time, Utica management had wired Selee protesting his use of Glenn without their consent and informing him that Glenn had been placed on suspension (and was therefore ineligible for further play).⁴⁷ Selee wired back, asking for Utica’s terms for the release of Glenn, but the unexpected lifting of the Tinker suspension promptly rendered the matter moot.⁴⁸



Eddie Glenn (5), Shelbyville team photo, 1909

Although he would continue playing for another seven seasons, Eddie Glenn's major league time was now behind him. In five games, he had batted a dismal .067 (1-for-15), but adding in four walks and four sacrifice bunts, he had actually done something productive in almost forty per cent of his 23 plate appearances. He had also performed adequately in the field, his one error in 13 chances yielding a .923 fielding average, decent by early Deadball Era standards for a shortstop.

In time, Glenn returned to Utica and finished the 1902 season with the Pent-Ups. But in 70 games played, both his .209 batting average and .887 fielding percentage provided ample grounds for his release.⁴⁹ Glenn spent most of the following season back in the Class B Southern Association with the Memphis Egyptians, where he resumed his bad behavior. Glenn was pulled from an early July game by manager Charlie Frank after "the errant Edward evidently laid down for some reason best known to himself."⁵⁰ A month later, Frank suspended him indefinitely for "insubordination."⁵¹ But the underlying cause was likely Eddie's drinking, a New Orleans newspaper revealing that "the erratic shortstop has consumed enough pousse cafes, anisettes, old-fashioned toddies, mugs full of amber fluid, Manhattans, martinis, absinthes, vermouth and chartreuse to float a battleship."⁵² A seemingly contrite Glenn promised to reform. "The water wagon route for me in the future. There's nothing like clear, sparkling aqua," declared Eddie.⁵³ Shortly thereafter, manager Frank reinstated Glenn, if only to deal him and his .236 batting average to the Natchez (Mississippi) Indians of the Class D Cotton States League. Glenn was no better there, hitting a soft. 226 over the final month of the 1903 campaign.

History repeated itself in 1904. Given another chance in a Class B circuit by the Bloomington (Illinois) Bloomers of the Three-I League, Glenn lasted less than a month before he was again suspended for insubordination.⁵⁴ Following his mid-June release, he latched on briefly with a league rival, the Dubuque (Iowa) Shamrocks, before finishing the summer playing for an unaffili-

ated club in Freeport, Illinois. The following season, Eddie was back in the lowly Cotton States League, playing for the Hattiesburg (Mississippi) Tar Heels until the franchise went under in mid-July. He then joined another CSL club, the Vicksburg (Mississippi) Hillbillies.⁵⁵ But ten days thereafter, the Cotton States League suspended operations for the season, a casualty of the yellow fever epidemic that struck the area that summer.

Glenn returned to the South in 1906, signed by the Augusta (Georgia) Tourists of the Class C South Atlantic League. Shortly thereafter, the hometown newspaper announced that "Eddie Glenn is captain of the club. Glenn will look after all the grievances the men may have while in the game," and then added, fatuously, that "he is a steady man and will make a good captain."⁵⁶ Glenn lasted about six weeks, hitting less than .160 and drawing his release in late-May. Days later, he joined the SALLY League's Charleston (South Carolina) Sea Gulls⁵⁷ where his performance was about on a par with that rendered in Augusta. For the season, Glenn posted a feeble .154 batting average in 325 at-bats and fielded a substandard .898 in 98 league contests.⁵⁸

By this point, the name Glenn had become something of a pejorative, the *Charleston Evening Post* observing that a Sea Gull player named Chandler "could be as boneheaded as Eddie Glenn after a night at a resort."⁵⁹ Meanwhile, Glenn had to content himself with playing ball in the greater Cincinnati area for the next two summers. Even there, his penchant for stirring up trouble did not abate. His jumping to the Hamilton Krebs of the fast but unrecognized Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio League while under contract to a circuit-rival Middletown club resulted in a game forfeiture and a \$50 fine being imposed on the Krebs.⁶⁰ Nor, regrettably, was the Glenn family spared from disruptive outbursts. That January, the Ludlow police were obliged to respond to the Glenn residence – bachelor Eddie and three other unmarried Glenn brothers lived under the same roof as their aging parents – and place Eddie under arrest for "raising a disturbance at his home."⁶¹

Against the odds, now 33-year-old Eddie Glenn got yet another shot in Organized Baseball, signing for the 1909 season with the Richmond Pioneers of the Class C Virginia League. A return to old haunts, however, produced familiar results; he was unable to play after “mingling with old acquaintances” the night before an exhibition game against the Paris club. Later, Glenn took “a leave of absence without the knowledge of the [Richmond] management” just before the start of a Virginia League contest.⁶² More important, he displayed little of his former talent when he was able to take the field. Before the season was out, Glenn bounced from Richmond to the Frankfurt (Kentucky) Statemen of the Class D Blue Grass League to the tail-end Shelbyville (Tennessee) Grays of the Blue Grass League. By season end, his numbers rested at .228 BA/.902 FA in 70 BGL games, overall.⁶³

The curtain finally came down in 1910. Glenn began the season again playing short for Shelbyville, but was released mid-season. He then caught on with another Blue Grass League club, the Lexington (Kentucky) Colts who tried him at third base. In 77 games combined, he finished with a .189 BA/.892 FA stat line.⁶⁴ That concluded the 14-season career of Eddie Glenn in Organized Baseball.

Glenn returned home and played the next summer for semipro teams in and around Ludlow. But his livelihood now came from his employ as a mechanic in the locomotive repair shop of the Crescent & Ohio Railroad. When Eddie did not return home on the evening of December 5, 1911, his parents became concerned. Early the following morning, shop coworkers discovered his lifeless body at the bottom of a 16-foot-deep concrete pit. Death was due a fractured skull, presumably the result of a head-first fall into the abyss.⁶⁵

The incident had not been witnessed but it bore all the hallmarks of an accident in the opinion of Kenton County Coroner James Wise.⁶⁶ But the grief-stricken Glenn family was in disbelief, convinced that Eddie must have fell victim to foul play. Coroner Wise acceded to the family request to conduct a formal inquiry,⁶⁷ but the determina-

tion of accidental death remained unchanged.⁶⁸ In the meantime, a Solemn Requiem Mass had been said for the deceased at St. James Church, Ludlow. Interment at St. Joseph New Cemetery, Cincinnati, followed. Never married and without issue, the late Edward D. “Eddie” Glenn was survived by parents Nicholas and Bridget Glenn, and their remaining children, one of whom, son Patrick, sadly, would die from tuberculosis only 12 days after his brother’s passing.

ENDNOTES

1. Other sources (including his *Sporting News* baseball player contract card) posit Glenn’s place of birth as Ludlow, Kentucky, while his death certificate and cemetery headstone give his year of birth as 1874.
2. See e.g., *Sporting Life*, February 4, 1899: 6; *Cincinnati Post*, August 5, 1909: 7.
3. See “Strike Incidents,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 13, 1894: 5.
4. Per “Dismissed,” *Cincinnati Post*, October 1, 1894: 7.
5. Modern baseball reference works like Baseball-Reference and Retrosheet identify our subject as *Ed* Glenn, a name that rarely appeared in newsprint during Glenn’s lifetime. He was almost invariably referred to as *Eddie* (occasionally spelled *Eddy*), even in his obituaries. See e.g., “‘Eddie’ Glenn, Ex-Colt, Found Dead,” *Lexington (Kentucky) Leader*, December 8, 1911: 1; “Eddie Glenn, Ball Player, Dead,” (Paris, Kentucky) *Bourbon News*, December 12, 1911: 2. Glenn will therefore be referred to as *Eddie* herein. This will also serve to distinguish him from Ed (Edward C.) Glenn, a mid-1880s outfielder for several major league ball clubs.
6. Per “Ludlow,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, May 7, 1895: 6.
7. *Norfolk (Virginian) Virginian*, March 13, 1896: 5. Glenn’s exact size is not provided in baseball reference works, but a 1909 Shelbyville team photo indicates that Glenn was a man of unremarkable proportions, probably around 5’9”/170 pounds.
8. As reported in “Glenn Won His Game,” *Norfolk Virginian*, May 1, 1896: 6.
9. As noted in “Around the Bases,” *Norfolk Virginian*, May 13, 1896, and “Condensed Dispatches,” *Sporting Life*, May 16, 1896: 1.
10. “Paris Shut Out,” *Knoxville (Tennessee) Journal*, July 18, 1896: 6. Days later, the *Journal* stated that Glenn and keystone partner McShane were

“two of the swiftest and surest infielders in the south and both have good wings.”

11. *Knoxville Journal*, September 2, 1896: 7.
12. As reported in the *Marietta* (Ohio) *Leader*, January 27, 1897: 4; *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, February 20, 1897: 4; *Norfolk Virginian*, February 20, 1897: 5; and elsewhere. Glenn’s contract with Parkersburg was memorialized in “The Official News,” *Sporting Life*, February 20, 1897: 4.
13. Per “The Official List,” *Sporting Life*, October 2, 1897: 4.
14. As reported in “Amateur Ball Games,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 26, 1898: 22.
15. In Cincinnati, it was observed that “the Senators have probably tried more players this year than any other league team.” See “Line Drives,” *Cincinnati Post*, September 10, 1898: 6.
16. “McGuire Tries Out Glenn,” *Washington Times*, September 8, 1898. The *Trenton Evening Times*, September 8, 1898, concurred.
17. “Weak with the Stick” *Washington Post*, September 8, 1898: 8. The headline refers to the Senators team as a whole which managed only five hits off Lewis.
18. *Washington Evening Star*, September 8, 1898: 10.
19. Doyle was knocked out of the game by a bone-crunching slide into second by the Beaneaters Charlie Hickman. With George Davis, the Giants regular shortstop, also injured and unavailable, the on-hand and unattached Glenn was sent into action by New York.
20. “New York Shut Out,” *Boston Advertiser*, September 10, 1898: 2.
21. Modern baseball reference works charge Glenn with only one error in the September 10 game, but box scores published the next day charged him with two, and gave him neither a put-out nor an assist in the field.
22. In his eight plate appearances as a Giants, Glenn laid down successful sacrifice bunts four times. Otherwise, he went 1-for-4 (.250) in two games for New York.
23. See “Cincinnati Chips,” *Sporting Life*, February 4, 1899: 6.
24. Per the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 29, 1899: 4.
25. As reported in “Base Hits,” *Boston Herald*, April 6, 1899: 4; “Base Ball Brieflets,” *Pawtucket* (Rhode Island) *Times*, April 7, 1899: 2; and elsewhere.
26. “A Ten Inning Game,” *Portland* (Maine) *Press*, May 12, 1899: 2.
27. “New England League,” *Sporting Life*, May 13, 1899: 7.
28. See “Now a Six-Club League,” *Boston Herald*, June 2, 1899: 9. The failing Lawrence, Massachusetts, club was also dropped by the NEL.
29. Same as above. See also, “News Notes,” *Sporting Life*, June 10, 1899: 9.
30. The cause of Glenn’s otherwise inexplicable release by Taunton was subsequently revealed in “Newport News,” *Sporting Life*, January 1, 1900: 2.
31. As re-printed in the *Waterbury* (Connecticut) *Evening Democrat*, June 29, 1899: 8.
32. As re-printed in the *Waterbury Evening Democrat*, August 22, 1899: 8.
33. As reported in “The Youngstown Team,” *Cleveland Leader*, April 4, 1900: 6.
34. “Youngstown Briefs,” *Sporting Life*, June 23, 1900: 10.
35. As reported by Ren Mulford, Jr. in “Cincinnati Chips,” *Sporting Life*, July 21, 1900: 3. See also, “Eddie Glenn Suspended,” *Topeka* (Kansas) *State Journal*, July 20, 1900: 4.
36. Mulford, Jr., above.
37. Per the *Maysville* (Kentucky) *Evening Bulletin*, August 23, 1900: 4.
38. Per “Notes of the Game,” *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, May 31, 1901: 8. Selma manager Bob Pender expressed no concern at the abrupt departure, stating that he had intended to release Glenn upon the club’s return home anyway.
39. As reported in “Fell Three Stories,” *Selma* (Alabama) *Times*, June 18, 1901: 3. See also, “Short-stop Glenn Hurt,” *Birmingham* (Alabama) *Age-Herald*, June 17, 1901: 7.
40. A widely-published wire service dispatch stated that the Glenn fall had been fatal. See e.g., *Duluth* (Minnesota) *New-Tribune*, June 30, 1901: 6, and *Seattle Times*, July 6, 1901: 12.
41. *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, September 21, 1901: 8.
42. Per “Official Bulletin,” *Sporting Life*, March 29, 1902: 11. The stratification of minor leagues via designation as Class A, Class B, etc., dates from 1902. See *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*, Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds. (Durham, North Carolina: Baseball America, Inc., 2d ed. 1997), 134.
43. There is some suggestion in the record that Glenn was recommended to Selee by Cubs back-up catcher Mike Kahoe, and Kahoe was the one dispatched to Cincinnati to retrieve Glenn. See “What Babb Receives,” *Indianapolis Journal*, June 26, 1902: 7.
44. See Ren Mulford, Jr. “A Game of Tag,” *Sporting Life*, May 31, 1902: 7.

45. "Four Singles; One Run, *Chicago Tribune*, June 27, 1902: 13.
46. Same as above.
47. Per "Cubs-Cardinals Game Off," *Chicago Daily News*, June 28, 1902: 1.
48. W.A. Phelon, Jr., "Chicago Gleanings," *Sporting Life*, July 5, 1902: 5.
49. Per the *1903 Reach Official Base Ball Guide*, 224. Baseball-Reference provides only Glenn's batting stats at Utica.
50. *New Orleans Item*, July 10, 1903: 5, re-printing commentary in the *Memphis News*.
51. Per "Eddie Glenn Suspended," *Montgomery (Alabama) Advertiser*, August 4, 1903: 10.
52. *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, August 13, 1903: 10.
53. Same as above.
54. As reported in "Gossip of the Game and Players," (Springfield) *Illinois State Journal*, May 27, 1904: 2.
55. As reported in "Keenan Manages Vicksburg," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, July 21, 1905: 11.
56. Per "Carson Signed," *Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle*, April 15, 1906: 5.
57. As reported in "Glenn Is Coming to the Sea Gulls," *Charleston (South Carolina) Evening Post*, August 9, 1906: 3.
58. Per the *1907 Reach Official Base Ball Guide*, 283. Baseball-Reference provides no stats for Glenn in 1906.
59. *Charleston Evening Post*, July 23, 1907: 3. It is uncertain, however, whether our subject is the Eddie Glenn from Ludlow who escaped from a Kentucky jail the previous January, as reported in the (Covington) *Kentucky Post*, January 17, 1907: 4.
60. See "Heavy Fine for Krebs," *Cincinnati Post*, July 18, 1908: 3.
61. As reported in "Ludlow, Ky.," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, January 19, 1908: 11.
62. See "Lost to Lexington," *Richmond Climax*, June 9, 1909: 3.
63. Per the *1910 Reach Official Base Ball Guide*, 426. Baseball-Reference provides no stats for Glenn in 1909.
64. See the *1911 Reach Official Base Ball Guide*, 256-258. Again, Baseball-Reference has no Glenn stats for 1910.
65. As reported in "Glenn, Ballplayer, Is Killed in Fall," *Cincinnati Post*, December 7, 1911: 7; "Eddie Glenn, Ex-Colt, Found Dead," *Lexington Leader*, December 8, 1911: 1; "Dead in a Pit," *Big Stone Gap (Virginia) Post*, December 13, 1911: 3.
66. Concussion of the brain/accident was the official cause of death listed on the Glenn death certificate. At the time, toxicological tests were not performed as part of the autopsy process, so the level of alcohol, if any, in Glenn's blood at the time of his death is unknowable.
67. See "Suspect Murder and Ask Coroner To Hold Inquest," *Kentucky Post*, December 9, 1911: 1.
68. Per *Tagliches Cincinnati Volksblatt*, December 15, 1911: 2.

**CLAIM PLAYER BROWN
KILLED IN SELF DEFENSE**

**JOHN O. MCSTEA SAYS
ALBANY FIRST BASEMAN
THREATENED TO ASSAULT HIM**

ALBANY—Self defense will be the plea of John O. McStea, the Augusta, Ga., theatrical man who shot and killed First Baseman Arthur Brown, of the Albany State League baseball team, whom he found, last night, in company with his wife in Brown's room. McStea was arraigned before Police Judge Brady today, and his case will be considered by the Grand Jury now in session.

Mrs. McStea, known on the stage as Mildred Barry, is detained in the House of Shelter as a witness. McStea arrived here yesterday afternoon, and went to a boarding house in South Pearl street, where he was told a "Mr. and Mrs. Brown" were living. He rushed up to the third floor and entered the room just in time to see his wife get up from Brown's lap, he declares. McStea says that Brown jumped out, saying: "You ——, I'll get you now," and rushed toward him, striking a blow in the face. Realizing that Brown was too much for him, McStea says he then drew his revolver and shot him. McStea says he came to Albany on receipt of a telegram from his wife's relative who asked him to take his wife away.

Brown was one of the best players in the State league. He had played with Detroit, Montreal, and Trenton teams.

Bridgeport Evening Farmer, June 16, 1911

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Inside Game welcomes feedback from DEC members and other newsletter readers. Letters need not be complimentary or confined to subjects covered in a recent newsletter issue. All that is required is that the subject be Deadball-related. Letters can be sent to the editor by emailing wflamb12@yahoo.com. John McMurray's interview with original newsletter editor David Crawford Jones in the October newsletter prompted a letter from DEC founder Tom Simon who wrote:

What a delight to read the October 2020 issue of *The Inside Game*! It's hard to believe that the Deadball Era Committee has been around for even longer than the Deadball Era itself, yet the October issue contained submissions from several who were there from the very beginning.

On the front page was a photo of David Crawford Jones, whose hair is now about a foot shorter than I remember it from his graduate school days. I can't believe it took me two decades to realize that if he changed "David" to "Cobb," his name would encompass all three of Detroit's 1910-12 starting outfielders. Actually now would be a good time for him to change his name, as his new haircut disqualifies him from House of David membership.

How ironic that R.J. Lesch, in his typically humble way, wrote about determining the ori-

gin of "It's great to be young and a Giant" on the page after his own immortal quote: "Let's get this lumpy licorice-stained ball rolling" was misattributed to me. Maybe a century from now some researcher will discover that R.J. got that phrase from Jimmie Hopper, who overheard Larry Doyle saying it.

Yet another member of the original Hot Springs [Boiling Out] crew, Mike Lackey, reviewed the George Gibson biography. As the author of an exceptional biography of Bob Ewing, Mike is the perfect person to appreciate a biography of a respected Deadballer who falls below the level of superstar.

I also enjoyed Bill Lamb's piece about Guy Zinn's purported Jewishness. I learned that Zinn wasn't Jewish only months after learning he was Jewish. Oy vey! I even appreciated Mark Sternman's letter taking John McMurray to task for ranking Jake Daubert ahead of Frank Chance and Fred Tenney. Yet another example of how divided our country has become, but it's great that a forum exists for people to debate such meaty issues in a respectful manner. I'm sure that David, R.J., and Mike would agree: The DEC is everything we hoped it would be.

Tom Simon
Burlington, Vermont

CY YOUNG QUIZ ANSWERS

- 22 seasons, from 1890 to 1911.
- Five, NL Cleveland, NL St. Louis, AL Boston, AL Cleveland, and NL Boston.
- All ten, but Cy faced a number of them only once including Christy Mathewson and Grover Alexander in 1911.
- 18 is the number of pitching saves retroactively credited to Cy and the number of major league home runs that Cy hit.
- 16 times. He also had a 19-win and an 18-win season.
- 5-4-1 in post-season play in 1892, 1895, 1896, and 1903.
- 13-7. He did not lose a 1-0 game until 1903.
- NY Giants Fred "Bonehead" Merkle on September 12, 1911.
- 29-19 record in relief.
- Kid Nichols, 20 times. Cy posted an 8-10 log, with two no-decisions in his matchups with Nichols.
- On September 12, 1890, three home runs were hit off rookie Cy Young. On September 12, 1911 and pitching in his final season, Cy again gave up three homers in one game.
- Ewing in 1891 and Ehret in 1894 are the only opposing pitchers to defeat Cy Young four times in a single season.
- Four, by Ralph Romig (1964, young readers); Reed Browning (2000); Lew Freedman (2020); and Scott Longert (2020, young readers).

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.

Jeff Fields, contact: jmfields@gmail.com. Interests — Roger Bresnahan; Washington Base Ball Club (Senators, Nationals); Deadball Era catcher's equipment.

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@buckeye-express.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; the Black Sox; baseball-related corruption, criminality, and mayhem.

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

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 Association;

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; the 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: theskippers1@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, 2021. 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 or declined to submit a member interest listing for this issue are also invited to do so for the next newsletter. As previously, we will continue to 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 2021 to all.

Bill Lamb, Editor

IN MEMORIAM: CHRIS RAINEY, 1951-2020

SABR and the DEC lost a stalwart member with the recent passing of Chris Rainey at age 69. According to a remembrance published in the *Oxford (Ohio) Observer*, Chris suffered a fatal heart attack on December 12, 2020. Prior to his retirement, he had devoted more than 35 years to teaching math to middle and high school students and coaching youth sports in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Chris was a SABR member for more than 40 years and a prolific contributor to the BioProject, with many of his 169 profiles treating Deadball Era figures. More recently, he had served as fact checker-in-chief for the BioProject. An award-winning teacher, a tireless SABR member, and a good man, Chris Rainey will be missed. RIP.

BASE BALL 12: NEW RESEARCH ON THE EARLY GAME

Just about off the press as the newsletter is being disseminated is the *Base Ball 12*, the scholarly annual published by McFarland. Founded by DEC member John Thorn and edited by fellow committee member Don Jensen, *Base Ball* presents original research and insight into the game through the 1920 season from experts in the field, including Deadball Era Committee members. The new issue features articles on pitcher Harry Coveleski; Canadian baseball during World War I; Polo Grounds landlords James and Harriet Coogan; Deadball Era sportswriters; and a comparison of the Brooklyn and Pittsburgh clubs of 1900-1909, plus reviews of several books on Deadball Era subjects. Copies of *Base Ball 12* can be obtained by emailing info@mcfarlandpub.com or telephoning 800-253-2187

GAMES/BIOPROJECT

Since our last newsletter issue was released back in October, both the Games Project and BioProject have been busy. More than two dozen new Deadball Era game accounts have been published, ranging from the very first game played in major American League history in May 1901 to the 1919 pennant-clincher for the Chicago White Sox. To keep pace, the BioProject has posted new profiles of 30+ Deadball-Era figures, with surnames spanning Johnny Bates to Guy Zinn. If you have not been keeping up, now is the time to check out these new entries.

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:

Todd Andrlik	Christopher Marullo
Dana J. Berry	Marc Robinson
Joseph S. Costa	Denny Schanz
Bob Kenney	Alfred Southerland
Jack Liebl	Jed Thorn
David Malamut	Chanel Zapata
Glen Martel	

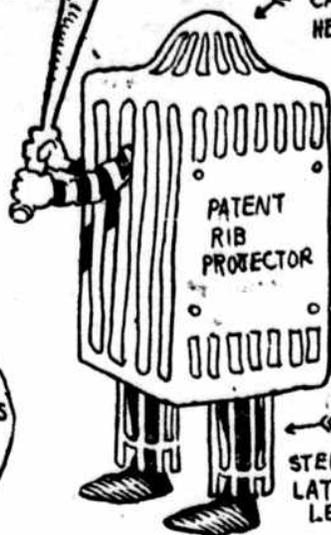
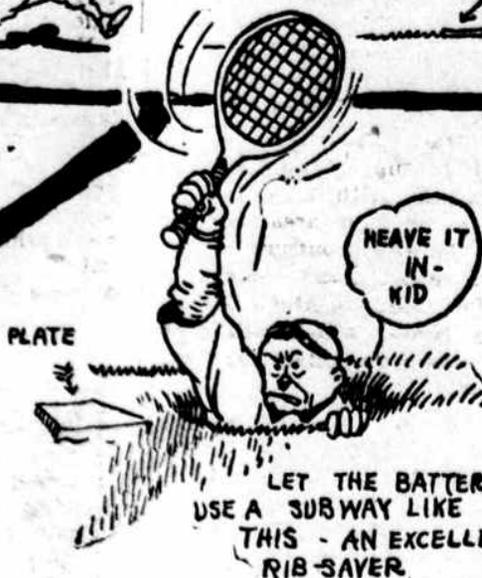
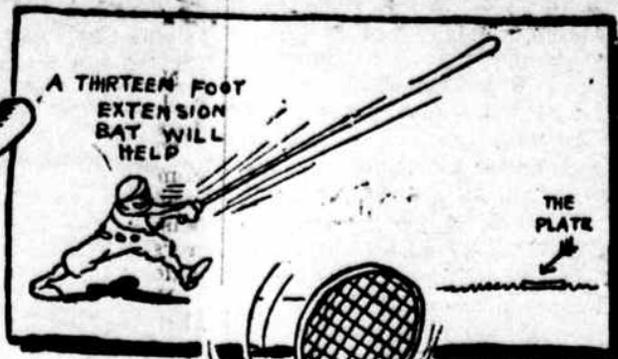
We look forward to their active participation in committee endeavors. These new committee members, as well as our newsletter contributors, can be contacted via the SABR directory.



McGonigle,
Washington Times,
June 22, 1911

PROTECTION FOR THE BATTERS!

THE QUILTED SUIT WILL BECOME A FAVORITE WITH COBB-CRAWFORD AND ROSSMAN



TY COBB ENCASED IN THIS IRON CRIB WOULD BE SAFE FROM ALL DANGER

OOF!! SUCH A STUFFINESS FEELINGS VOT I HAF EH?



SUIT LIKE THE COP WEARS IN THE CIRCUS

DUTCH SCHAEFER WILL FURNISH THE FOOLISH VODEVILLE AT THE PLATE

Hughey Jennings, manager of the champion Detroit Tigers, says there is a wicked plot among the other teams to have their pitchers cripple his batters by hitting them with the ball. Here are some suggestions to Hughey as to how he may safeguard his star swatters.

ANSWER TO "PLAYS THAT PUZZLE"

The run counted.

For a more detailed explanation, see the next installment of Evans' column, in the *Pittsburg Press*, January 9, 1921, sporting section page 3.

Drawn by Lee Stanley

Spokane Press, September 2, 1908