



Society for American Baseball Research

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

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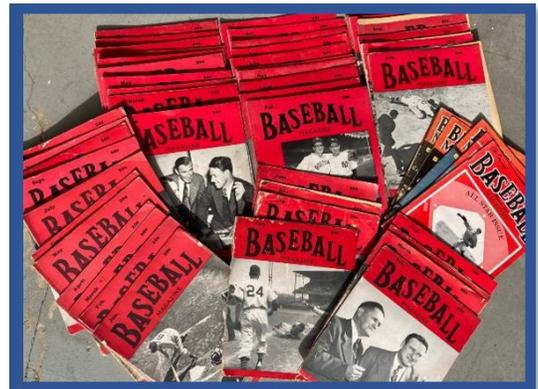


Donation to Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center

It was January 2014 when our Chapter and San Diego Public Library received over 600 boxes of baseball archival material from the Bill Weiss Estate. Several of the boxes contained copies of *Baseball Magazine*, over 500 of the 564 issues published. The first issue was May 1908 and the last one April 1965 (publication temporarily ceased from October 1957 to October 1964).

In December 2020, through the generosity of Jim Wohlenhaus, a SABR member from Flagler, Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter, we received another 53 magazines from 1942, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1952, 1964, and 1965. These filled gaps in our collection to the extent that we almost have a complete run.

Digitization of the issues is a goal of our Chapter and on our "To Do" list. An early action item is to digitize the table of contents of each copy that will, in itself, be a big assist for researchers.



FYI, a limited number of issues are available on the internet via the [LA84 Foundation web site](#). There are 43 select issues available that were published between 1908 and 1920.

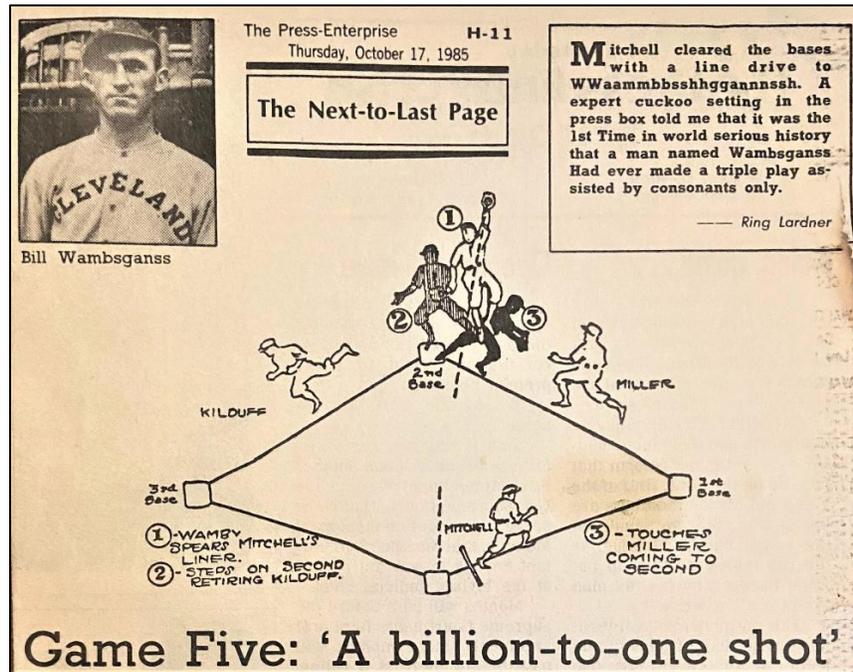


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CENTENNIAL OF AN UNBROKEN RECORD

The World Series of 1920 and the Unassisted Triple Play of Bill Wambsganss

by Tom Willman



A hundred years ago, in a moment that passed in a heartbeat, Bill Wambsganss became a timeless baseball hero. Playing second base for Cleveland in the fifth game of the 1920 World Series, he turned an unassisted triple play against Brooklyn. It's a fabulous and rare feat. How rare? Going back to 1909, there have been 15 such plays in the majors. However, in the World Series, across an entire century, Wambsganss's achievement has never been duplicated.¹

It is, of course, a pretty familiar footnote to serious baseball fans. But especially while the play's centennial can still be observed in hot stove leagues, give the moment its due.

The event was no mere novelty in 1920. It produced a dramatic turning point for a team that had been on an emotional roller-coaster since the fatal beaming of star shortstop Ray Chapman in mid-August. After that shock, Cleveland had stumbled in the standings but had regrouped and won the pennant in a tight race.² The World Series (then set for nine games) was tied at two games apiece when the Wambsganss play killed a Brooklyn rally in Game Five. The Robins would score just one token run that day. They would not win another game.³

The reminiscence that follows here was produced by Bill Wambsganss in September 1985, and it may stand as his final telling of the tale. It appeared in print on October 17 of that year, in the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, in synch with the '85 Series. Seven weeks later, on December 8, Bill Wambsganss passed away at age 91.⁴

¹ <https://www.baseball-almanac.com/feats/feats8.shtmlse>

² <https://www.baseball-reference.com/teams/CLE/1920-schedule-scores.shtml>

³ https://www.baseball-reference.com/postseason/1920_WS.shtml

⁴ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/w/wambsbi01.shtml>

The story behind that story: That summer I had fallen into private correspondence with “Wamby,” as he was routinely called in box scores. It started in June with a simple autograph request for my little boy. (Yes, every new dad’s conceit that he *knows* his kids will share his passions.)

But Bill’s response was prompt and obliging and even light-hearted: In his return address, his name became a monogram; his “Ohio” and zip code became an impish face. It seemed he still enjoyed this. I wrote again, this time with a research question, and the exchange of letters continued into fall. I was in a position at the Riverside paper to put together occasional special features, and I persuaded Bill to provide his recollections of his triple play. His piece came back shortly, signed in the typescript (manual typewriter). (You can read his letter at the end of this article.)



Along the way, he provided copies of scrapbook clippings about the event as well. A couple of items were particularly illuminating. One was an article by Ring Lardner who was covering the Series, writing in his breezy “You Know Me, Al” patter so popular in the ‘20s (a portion of which is shown at the top of the prior page).

More interesting still, especially after our 2020 season of TV games with cardboard cutout fans in the stands and piped-in crowd noise, is the triple play eyewitness testimony of Henry P. Edwards, longtime baseball writer for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*: In the top of the fifth, Brooklyn was down 7-0 but rallying. Back-to-back singles put runners at first and second with no outs when Clarence Mitchell slashed a liner toward right-center. The runners were off, and Wamby turned it into three outs “in much less time than it takes to tell it ...”



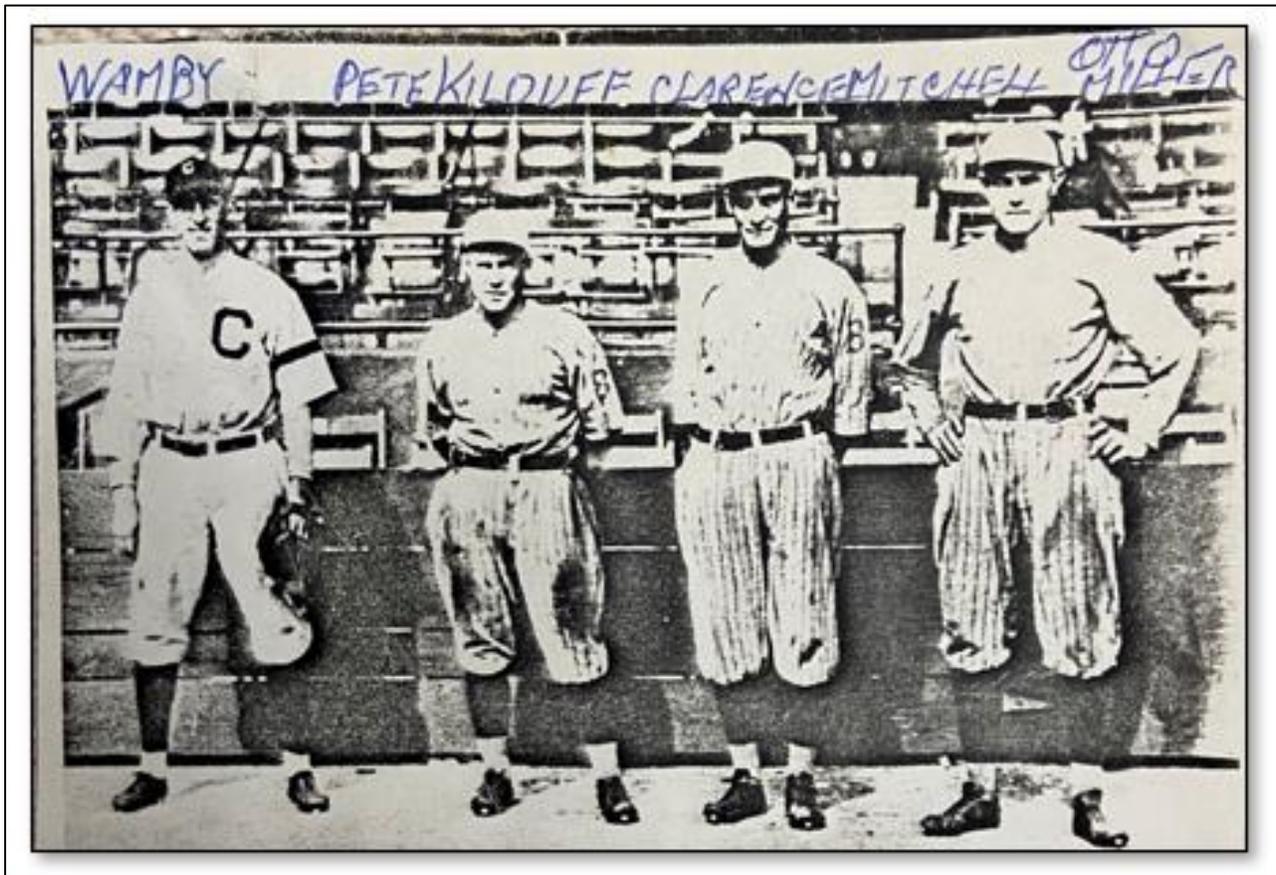
There were 26,784 people in Cleveland’s League Park. The reaction, without announcers or radio or electronic scoreboards or instant replay, was: *SILENCE!*

“Brooklyn was dazed,” Edwards wrote. “So were the spectators. They knew something unusual had happened but it was fully 60 seconds before they actually appreciated what had taken place and gave vent to their feelings by bursting into applause, applause that was prolonged and deafening in volume.”⁵

⁵ Henry P. Edwards, “Triple Play and Home Runs Set Marks That May Not Be Equaled,” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, October 10, 1920.

Bill Wambsganss was a collegian and seminarian who nonetheless found his calling in baseball.⁶ He had a fine 13-year career in the American League. He twice led AL second-basemen in double plays turned. His career batting average was .259. He rarely hit homers, but he was raised in the Dead Ball school: He twice led the league in sacrifice hits and still ranks seventh on the career list for sacrifices with 323 (ironically, still a tandem with his ill-fated keystone partner Ray Chapman, who ranks sixth).⁷ After his playing days, Bill Wambsganss managed two All-American Girls Professional Baseball League teams (as in *A League of Their Own*).⁸

He was remembered as a fine man. Marking the centennial of his own record-setting day with an appealing humility, his reminiscence follows on the next page.



The players involved in the 1920 Unassisted Triple Play: Bill Wambsganss, Pete Kilduff, Clarence Mitchell, Otto Miller (left to right)

⁶ <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/bill-wambsganss/>; Ritter, Lawrence. *The Glory of Their Times*, pp 215-224. The Macmillan Co., NY.

⁷ <https://www.baseball-almanac.com/hitting/hisachit1.shtml>

⁸ Correspondence, Bill Wambsganss, September 26, 1985.

Personal letter
from
Bill Wambsganss
sent to
Tom Willman in
September 1985

THE GAME
by Bill Wamby (Wambsganss)

On October 10, 1920, the Cleveland Indians, managed by Tris Speaker, faced the Brooklyn Dodgers, managed by Wilbert Robinson, in the fifth game of the World Series.

Sportswriter Hugh Fullerton described the game as "A Billion to One Shot: Baseball's Most Unusual Game" and the game was indeed unusual in that three firsts and one only took place that afternoon.

In the first inning, Elmer Smith, our right fielder, hit a bases loaded home run for the first ever World Series Grand Slam. In the fourth inning, with two runners aboard, Jim Bagby, our pitcher, hit a home run. This was the first home run by a pitcher in World Series play. At this point, Brooklyn's Burleigh Grimes was removed from the game and replaced by a left handed spitball pitcher by the name of Clarence Mitchell. Mitchell retired the side without further scoring.

Beginning the fifth inning, Pete Kilduff, Brooklyn's second baseman, singled to left. The next batter was catcher Otto Miller who also singled to left. So the stage set for the next batter, pitcher Clarence Mitchell, was men at first and second with nobody out.

We knew well of Mitchell's ability to hit, for he was often used as a pinch-hitter by the Dodgers and in fact got a hit in the first game of the series as a pinch-hitter. From pre-game discussion we also knew him to be a dead right field hitter, so the shift was to right field when he came to bat. Leading 7-0, I was playing second base and did not expect any sort of strategic play by the Dodgers, so I played Mitchell deep. Mitchell hit a line drive to my right and over my head. I took a few quick steps to my right and leaped into the air to spear the ball in my gloved hand for the first out. Seeing Kilduff headed to third, I hustled to step on second, retiring him for the second out. As I approached second, I noticed Otto Miller standing at arm's length from me and looking quite surprised to see that I had the ball; I tagged him for the third out. Miller later told me that he thought Speaker had been playing shallow center and had relayed the ball to me for a force out. As it went, however, the play was the first and thus far the only unassisted triple play in World Series history.

An additional note on this unusual game is that Clarence Mitchell in his next turn at bat hit into a double play. In two times at bat he had retired five players, which is also a record.

Cleveland went on to win the game 8-1 and won the series five games to two. I am proud to have been a part of that year in baseball and especially proud to have had a part in baseball's most unusual game.

Bill Wambsganss



3**JOSEPH P. MURPHY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION***by Bob Surratt*

In November 2020 our San Diego Public Library (SDPL) received its latest acquisition to the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center (BRC): the Joseph P. Murphy Jr. Baseball Autograph Collection. This wonderful family gem was graciously donated to SDPL by the Marian Murphy Family Trust that is administered by Joe's son, Steve Murphy.

The Collection consists of 10 volumes accumulated by lifelong fan and long-time SABR member Joe Murphy. There are 1,300+ items in the Collection, which includes authentic autographs, stat sheets, and biographical clippings. There are autographs of Baseball Hall of Fame members such as Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, and Honus Wagner.

Joe started his Collection in 1931. After that year's World Series between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Philadelphia Athletics, nine-year-old Joe and his seven-year-old brother, John, sent a congratulatory letter to Pepper Martin on his World Series record of five stolen bases and 12 hits. Much to their amazement, they received a rubber-stamped letter and autograph in return! This letter led to an autograph collecting campaign that lasted through the 1930s. Joe and his brother would simply send 3 x 5 cards and photographs to players along with self-addressed stamped envelopes requesting autographs. Their technique worked great and the result was an expansive, multi-volume collection of player autographs, stat sheets, and signed photographs.

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1922, Joseph Murphy had a storied career. A graduate of College of the Holy Cross of Worcester, Massachusetts, and World War II veteran of Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, Mr. Murphy went on to earn his law degree from the University of Michigan and, with his wife Marian, raised their eight children in Santa Rosa, California. Mr. Murphy served as a superior court Judge for 20 years and eventually became a long-term library commissioner for Sonoma County. However, he never lost his love for the game of baseball. In his early years, he rooted for the Chicago Cubs but, upon relocation to the Bay Area, became a huge Giants fan and especially fond of Willie Mays. He was an active member of SABR since the 1980s and regularly attended national conventions.

Mr. Murphy's wish was that his autograph collection be available to the public. His son, Steve, sought to make this a reality, and with the blessing of his family he began a quest to find a permanent home for the autograph collection. After some unfruitful inquiries, Lefty O'Doul Chapter president Marlene Vogelsang suggested getting in contact with the San Diego Public Library.

At the January 2019 Ted Williams SABR Chapter Meeting, Steve was on the program and showed chapter members examples of the Collection.

After nearly two years of working with an independent appraiser, SDPL, and the San Diego City Attorney's Office, with an eventual sign off by then-Mayor Kevin Faulconer, the Collection was officially handed over to the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center on Friday, November 20, 2020.

SDPL is currently in the process of making the Collection accessible and searchable via the digital archive. Users will be able to view high-resolution scans of each of the Collection's 10 volumes, page by page, and to search



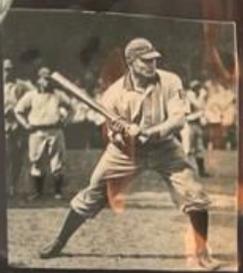
*SDPL Welcomes the Murphy Autograph Collection
Left to right: Bob Surratt, Peter Miesner, and Steve Murphy*

the collection for their favorite players. Additionally, patrons can schedule chaperoned, in-person viewings of the Collection upon our library's full reopening.

For more information on the Collection contact SDPL's SABR Chapter liaison, Bob Surratt, at 619.238.6632 or rsurratt@sandiego.gov.

Player examples from some of the Murphy Collection pages are shown below:

Thanks for your Postcard.
J. Honus Wagner
of Pirates



Honus Wagner
"Asked in 1923 when he considered the greatest player of time all, Moraw said, "That's the easiest question I could ever be asked to answer. There is no doubt about Hans Wagner topping them all. He was a naturally good man Wagner as a player that it is almost impossible to determine whether his highest point of opportunity was in his fielding, in his batting, or in his highest point of opportunity was in his reputation in all."

Honus Wagner





Jack Russell




Lou Gehrig




Dixie Walker

Dib Williams



Dib Williams

WILLIAMS, DIB WILLIAMS
 1911-1931
 5' 10" 160 lbs
 B. 10/14/1911
 D. 1931
 P. R
 Bats R Throws R

DIB WILLIAMS

- *** At age 20, he played all 7 games at short for the A's in the 1931 World Series, batting .320
- *** He hit a pinch-hit grand slam that summer, on July 13th
- *** He played every infield position, plus one game in the outfield



4

A COMPARISON OF MLB'S 60-GAME SEASONS

They Occur About Every 142 Years!

by Tom Larwin

In our Chapter's Padres 2020 Opening Day report Andy Strasberg pointed out that 2020 was not the first time MLB had a 60-game season.⁹ The first one was in 1877 and the second was in 1878. Then, 142 years later there was a third 60-game season... in 2020!

The chart at right shows the history of how MLB has changed over its 145-year history. The number of teams in MLB has gradually increased to the present number, 30. On the other hand, the number of regularly scheduled games in a season has been more consistent and, aside from the strike-shortened seasons (i.e., 1972, 1981, 1994, and 1995), has remained relatively stable at 154-162 for the past 116 seasons...until 2020.

Has our National Pastime changed much since 1878? Definitely yes! However, the "basics" of the game are generally the same:

- A standard game between two teams goes nine innings.
- Each team gets three outs in its at bats each inning.
- There are nine players on defense with one being the pitcher.
- The four bases are 90 feet apart, with one being called "home."
- A ball is thrown by a pitcher to a player on the other team standing at home who uses a wooden bat to strike at the ball.

So, what's changed? Lots! Well, for a starter, in 1877-78 MLB was a single league, the National, and consisted of only six teams. The final standings of the 1877 and 1878 seasons are shown below. The pennant winner each year was the Boston Red Stockings, managed by future Baseball Hall of Famer, Harry Wright.

NUMBER OF MLB TEAMS AND SCHEDULE LENGTHS -- 1876-2020			
No. Teams in MLB	No. of Teams/Season	Regular Schedule of Games/Season	Actual Games Played/Season (Range)
2020	30	60	60
1998-2019	30	162	162-163
1993-97	28	162	117-162
1977-92	26	162	111-163
1969-76	24	162	156-162
1962-68	20	162	162-165
1961	18	162	162
1904-60	16	154	129-154
1901-03	16	140	140
1900	8	140	140
1892-99	12	Varied	98-154
1879-91	8	Varied	84-139
1877-78	6	60	60
1876	8	70	70

1877 NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston Red Stockings	42	18	.700	--
Louisville Grays	35	25	.583	7
Hartfords of Brooklyn	31	27	.534	10
St. Louis Brown Stockings	28	32	.467	14
Chicago White Stockings	26	33	.441	15.5
Cincinnati Reds	15	42	.263	25.5

1878 NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston Red Stockings	41	19	.683	--
Cincinnati Reds	37	23	.617	4
Providence Grays	33	27	.550	8
Chicago White Stockings	30	30	.500	11
Indianapolis Blues	24	36	.400	17
Milwaukee Grays	15	45	.250	26

⁹ Andy Strasberg, "Catch Baseball Fever," *Padres 2020 Opening Day: 9 Viewpoints*, SABR San Diego Ted Williams Chapter, August 2020.

1877-1878 Hall of Famers		
	Career⁽¹⁾	Team Played for in 1877, 1878
Inducted as Players		
Cap Anson	1871-1897	Chicago (77, 78)
Deacon White	1871-1890	Boston (77), Cincinnati (78)
Jim O'Rourke	1872-1893 ⁽²⁾	Boston (77, 78)
King Kelly	1878-1893	Cincinnati (78)
John Montgomery Ward	1878-1894	Providence (78)
Inducted as Pioneers/Executives		
George Wright	1871-1882	Boston (77, 78)
Al Spalding	1871-1877	Chicago (77)
Harry Wright	1871-1877	Boston (77)
Candy Cummings	1872-1877	Cincinnati (77)

Notes:

(1) Seasons in which they were a player

(2) O'Rourke played in one game in 1904 for the New York Giants

As a further introduction to the 1877 and 1878 seasons, the table at left lists the nine players from those years who are in baseball's Hall of Fame. One is Harry Wright's brother, George, who was also on the Boston team. Both Wrights were elected as "pioneers/executives."

There was no MVP award in those years but, as offensive leaders, Anson, O'Rourke, and White would have been top contenders for the prize, with White having the league's highest batting average .387. In 1878 18-year-old pitcher John Montgomery Ward had his rookie year and finished with a 22-13 record and an ERA of 1.51. King Kelly, at age 20, also got his start in 1878 and had a decent season batting .283 as a regular.

Another change from the 1877-78 era to 2020 is the length of the season. Schedule characteristics of the three seasons are noted in the table below. The 2020 season was roughly 90 days shorter than the 1877-78 seasons.

1877 and 1878 COMPARED TO 2020 SCHEDULE ASPECTS			
	1877	1878	2020
Date of Season's First Game	April 30	May 1	July 23
Date of Season's Last Game	October 6	September 30	September 27
No. of Calendar Days (Season)	160	153	67
Games Played by Teams (Season)	58-61	60-63	58-60
No. of Off Days for a Team (Season)	99-102	90-93	7-9

In those two early seasons the teams would typically average three games a week, with none played on Sundays. In 2020 the teams played an average of six games each week. Of course, inter-city travel was significantly different between the two eras. For example, in 1878 a single road trip for Boston would involve travel to Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati, and it would cover four weeks. Travel would be by train, with the longest leg being from Boston to Chicago that would take over 24 hours and likely involve at least two transfers.

What about the game of baseball as performed at the highest professional level, how had that changed in the 142 years? Well, again, what has not changed are the basics, e.g., batters trying to hit the ball and fielders trying to make three putouts in each half inning.

However, a comparison of 1877-78 with 2020 finds significant differences with regard to the official rules that existed in those earlier years and how they affected the field of play and pitching. Examples of these key differences are summarized as follows:

Field of Play

The 1877-78 ballparks widely varied in outfield characteristics. The distance from home plate to the left field fence in Chicago's Lake Front Park was 180 feet. In Boston's South Field Grounds center field fence was 500 feet distant. Cincinnati's Avenue Grounds' outfield was hard clay. Milwaukee's Base Ball Grounds had a ground rule that a ball hit over the fence in right field was a double, not a home run, a rule common for fields with short foul lines. Each ballpark was unique.

Pitchers

There was no mound in 1877-78, just a defined box that the pitcher had to pitch from. The front of the box was 45 feet from the center of home plate. Thus, the distance between where the pitch leaves the pitcher's hand and arrives to the batter is somewhere around 10 feet shorter than the 60-foot-six inches today (considering where the pitcher's front foot lands).

Somewhat offsetting the shorter distance between the front of the pitchers' box and home was the rule that pitches had to be delivered underhanded. Yes, no overhand pitching.

Balls and Strikes

In 1877-78 the batter could call for where he wanted the pitch, high or low. The first pitched ball to the batter was not counted, i.e., not a ball or strike.

Base on Balls. The number of balls needed for a base on balls was nine. In 1880 the number went to eight and was gradually reduced over the next several years. It wasn't until 1889 that the number was set at the present day, four.

Strike Zone. No zone was officially defined. Low was loosely defined to be no lower than one-foot above ground. The high limit was generally described as the shoulders.

Equipment

Bats. Bats in 1877-78 had to be wooden, round, tapered, and no longer than 42 inches.

Baseballs. A Spalding ball was used in 1877-78 with a size and weight equivalent to today's baseballs. The rules required it to have two pieces of leather, stitched together, with a rubber core and woolen yarn. It stands to reason that quality control is far better today than back then. Also, the game ball then was just that, a ball used for the entire game. The ball would get more and more softened up as the game progressed. Perhaps a bit wet, too, if it rained and play continued.

Gloves. As Strasberg noted in his earlier essay, reports of gloves being used by fielders began in 1875. By 1877 most catchers and first basemen were wearing gloves.

Catcher's Mask. The first mask appeared on the scene in a college game in 1876. By 1878 masks were being sold by the Spalding Co. in its catalog and were being regularly used by pro teams.

So, how did player performances vary from that early era to the most modern? Comparable batting and pitching statistics of the league leaders for each of the three seasons are examined below. More than anything these comparisons satisfy our curiosities and mainly show the differences in how the game is played today as compared to 1877-78.

The comparisons are shown in the tables below with some general conclusions:

- The 1877-78 teams averaged about 10% more runs and 5% more plate appearances, both of which are reflected in the player performances.



- With more balls being put into play in the earlier years, it was not unexpected that the hit totals were higher for the batting leaders then as compared to in 2020. However, the home run totals of the leaders, being significantly lower in the earlier years, reflect the condition of the ball being deader in combination with a different style of play 1877-78.
- Every team basically leaned on one primary pitcher. That one pitcher would pitch in most, if not all, of the team’s games. They would typically pitch a complete game, no matter the score. No one was counting pitches back then either. Typically, the team would carry 2-3 utility players to fill in at the field positions and pitch on occasion.
- Comparison of base on balls and strikeouts in 1877-78 with 2020 is simply not a rational exercise given the significant differences in rules affecting pitching. The fact that the 1877-78 pitchers would pitch 500 innings or more might make comparisons interesting, but it underscores the differences produced by 142 years.

1877 and 1878 COMPARED TO 2020 MLB BATTING LEADER STATISTICS*			
	1877	1878	2020, and Player
Plate Appearances	299	290	267 Ozuna, Atlanta
At Bats	290	285	248 Merrifield, Kansas City
Runs	68	60	51 Freeman, Atlanta
Hits	103	100	78 Turner, Washington
2B	19	22	23 Freeman, Atlanta
3B	11	10	6 Tucker, Houston
HR	4	4	22 Voit, Yankees
RBI	49	50	60 Abreu, White Sox
Bat. Ave.	.387	.358	.364 LeMahieu, Yankees
Base on Balls	20	17	49 Harper, Philadelphia
Strikeouts	33	41	90 Sano, Minnesota

* All categories shown are ranked by highest.

1877 and 1878 COMPARED TO 2020 MLB PITCHING LEADER STATISTICS*			
	1877	1878	2020, and Player
Games	61**	59	32 Barlow, Kansas City
Games Started	61**	59	13 4 players tied
Complete Games	61**	57	2 4 players tied
Innings Pitched	559	532	84 Lynn, Texas
Wins	40	40	8 2 players tied
Hits Allowed	617	571	85 Corbin, Washington
Base on Balls	53	40	45 Ray, Ariz/Toronto
Strikeouts	170	182	122 Bieber, Cleveland
Earned Run Ave. (ERA)	2.11	1.51	1.63 Bieber, Cleveland
BB+H/IP	1.09	1.02	0.75 Maeda, Minnesota
SO /9	3.7	3.3	14.2 Bieber, Cleveland
BB /9	0.6	0.5	0.9 Hendricks, Cubs

* Categories are ranked by highest with the exception of: ERA, BB+H/IP, and BB/9.

** There was one game that ended in a tie.

In conclusion, despite the commonality of 60-game schedules and acknowledgement that the basics of the game are generally the same, it is clear that the playing of the game is radically different today as compared to 1877-78. As for the comparison of the two eras? It’s like comparing apples with oranges!



5

Q: WHERE CAN YOU FIND 65,000+ BASEBALL RESEARCH RESOURCES?

A: SABR.ORG

Take a few minutes (OK, it’s really about 70) and watch a SABR segment on **YouTube**. This segment is one that features Jacob Pomrenke.

In early January 2021 Jacob was featured in a Zoom meeting held jointly by the Baker-Sacramento and O’Doul-SF Bay SABR Chapters. The subject was a “Tour of SABR’s Website” with particular emphasis on SABR’s vast research resources.

So...do yourself a favor, it’s free, and you can watch it at your convenience. Just [Click here!](#)



6

Secondary Lead, Season 1: THE RISE AND FALL OF KEN CAMINITI

by Joe Vasile

On the diamond there was seemingly nothing that Ken Caminiti couldn't do. For 15 years in the majors he amazed teammates and fans with his aggressive defense, powerful bat, and intimidating game face. He played through injuries and was an emotional leader by example. He was called "John Wayne in a baseball uniform."

Ken was a three-time All-Star, three-time Gold Glove Award winner, and the unanimous National League MVP in 1996. That year he became the first San Diego Padre to hit 40 home runs in a season, and set single-season franchise records for RBI (130), Slugging Percentage (.621), OPS (1.028), and OPS+ (174), all of which still stand.

But he was far more complex than that. He was a family man who like to joke around and work on cars and motorcycles. "Cammy" struggled with addiction, depression, and self-hate. Try as he might, he couldn't beat these demons like he could a torn rotator cuff or a bout of food poisoning.

Secondary Lead, a new baseball history documentary podcast, chronicles the life, career, and legacy of Ken Caminiti. Spanning 10 episodes containing around 6.5 hours of content, it is the first completed biographical work on Caminiti since his death in 2004.

Caminiti's story so closely parallels that of Major League Baseball from the mid-'80s through the early 2000s. In my mind he is one of the most important players not only of his era, but of the last 50 years.

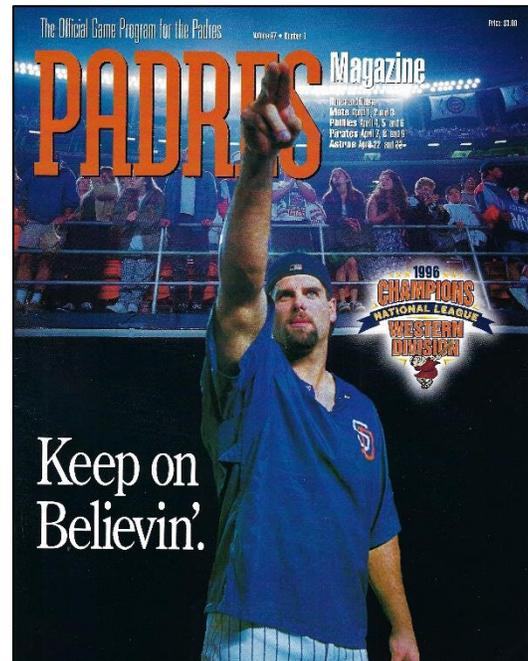
Part of that importance comes from his 2002 admission of steroid use to *Sports Illustrated*. He became the first baseball player to admit to using performance enhancing drugs and inadvertently blew the lid off of the steroid problem. Within weeks after the admission MLB and the MLBPA agreed to the first drug screening program in the sport's history.

After the admission, things began to spiral downward in Caminiti's personal life. He passed away from a drug overdose under mysterious circumstances in 2004, at age 41.

Former Caminiti teammates Brad Ausmus, Scott Livingstone, and Phil Plantier and ex-Padres hitting coach Merv Rettenmund were among those interviewed for *Secondary Lead*. The series draws on a dozen interviews with those who knew Ken on the field and off, including some who haven't spoken publicly since his passing.

Secondary Lead Season One: The Rise and Fall of Ken Caminiti is available for download on all major podcasting platforms including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, and Stitcher, and full episodes can also be found on YouTube.

Joe Vasile is a minor league baseball broadcaster for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders (Yankees AAA). and creator of Secondary Lead.



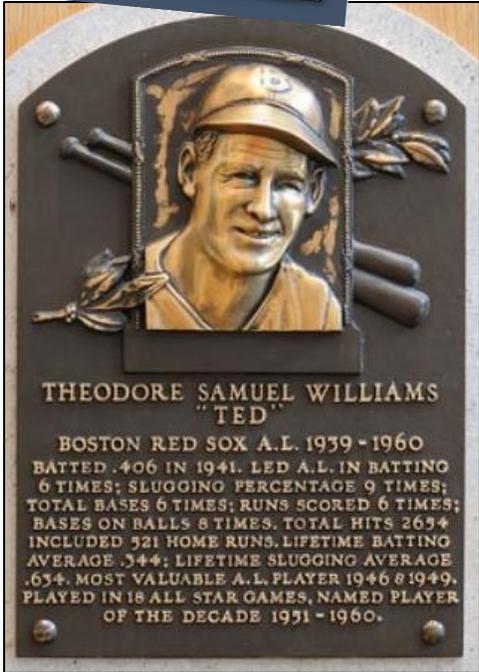
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A LOOK BACK: "THE KID" IS ELECTED TO THE HALL OF FAME, January 20, 1966

- In his first year on the ballot, 1966, Williams received **282 votes out of the 302 ballots, = 93.4%**. It's hard to comprehend why 20 did not vote for him. (*Yet, it took three years for Joe DiMaggio to get elected. His first year on the ballot, 1953, he received 44.3% of the votes.*)
- Williams' MLB career statistics are contained in the table below. Get this: he was **on-base 48.2% of his 7,706 at bats!!**
- Due to being in the military service Williams did **not play in what are typically a player's peak years, ages 24-27**. He also missed a significant part of two other seasons, 1952-53, when he was again active in military service.
- Three articles from the January 21, 1966, *San Diego Union* are provided on the following two pages.



Year	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG	OBP	OPS
1939	149	565	131	185	31	145	.327	.436	1.045
1940	144	561	134	193	23	113	.344	.442	1.036
1941	143	456	135	185	37	120	.406	.553	1.287
1942	150	522	141	186	36	137	.356	.499	1.147
1943-45	In Military Service								
1946	150	514	142	176	38	123	.342	.497	1.164
1947	156	528	125	181	32	114	.343	.499	1.133
1948	137	509	124	188	25	127	.369	.497	1.112
1949	155	566	150	194	43	159	.343	.490	1.141
1950	89	334	82	106	28	97	.317	.452	1.099
1951	148	531	109	169	30	126	.318	.464	1.019
1952	6	10	2	4	1	3	.400	.500	1.400
1953	37	91	17	37	13	34	.407	.509	1.410
1954	117	386	93	133	29	89	.345	.513	1.148
1955	98	320	77	114	28	83	.356	.496	1.200
1956	136	400	71	138	24	82	.345	.479	1.084
1957	132	420	96	163	38	87	.388	.526	1.257
1958	129	411	81	135	26	85	.328	.458	1.042
1959	103	272	32	69	10	43	.254	.372	.791
1960	113	310	56	98	29	72	.316	.451	1.096
	2,292	7,706	1,798	2,654	521	1,839	.344	.482	1.116



Source: Baseball-Reference.com.
Bold represent league best and **bold italic** are MLB bests.

ELECTED TO BASEBALL'S HALL OF FAME**Williams Joins Immortals**

BOSTON (UPI) — San Diego's Ted Williams was ushered into the immortality of baseball's Hall of Fame yesterday by the nation's baseball writers whom he often called "gutless." Tall Ted said he was grateful for his landslide election to the ranks of Ruth, Gehrig and Cobb.

The 47-year-old retired Boston Red Sox slugging outfielder was named on 282 of a record 302 ballots filed by veteran members of the Baseball Writers' Association of

America.

Computerized voting results announced by BWAA secretary Hy Hurwitz gave Williams 93.3 per cent of the ballots, one of the highest percentages in the 20-year history of elections to the Cooperstown, N.Y., baseball shrine. Only a handful of former diamond stars already enshrined, including Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner and Bob Feller, gained 90 per cent or more of the vote during elections that

have been conducted biennially in recent years.

Former American League pitcher Charles (Red) Ruffing led a list of 48 also rans. Ruffing polled 208 of 302 votes cast for 68.8 per cent and 14 votes short of election. It was the third time that Ruffing has ranked high among the candidates and the second time he has topped the list of those missing selection.

Veteran members of the BWAA gave Williams 56 more votes than he needed in his

first year of eligibility for election. Under the Hall of Fame rules, candidates must be retired from active playing roles for at least five years and be named on at least 75 per cent of the ballots.

Twenty veteran members of the BWAA left Williams off their ballots which had space for ten names. This indicated that the feud between the six-time American League batting champion and some of the scribes still was smouldering.

Williams was one of the first to make reference to the disputes when he remarked during a Fenway Park news conference that "it was blown far out of proportion. I'm not very smart but smart enough to know that the great, great majority (of writers) were always with me. A small minority sometimes gave me the treatment including my friend on the left." Williams said nudging BWAA secretary Hurwitz.

"But the majority has al-

ways been with me." Williams insisted. "I'm pleased and honored to be elected to the Hall of Fame."

The former outfielder, who will keep his sporting goods advisory role with a national chain store (Sears, Roebuck & Co.) chatted about others on the list who missed Hall of Fame selection.

"I think I'm in pretty good with the press now but I'm really kind of surprised some of those others weren't elect-

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ed. I'm sure they will be. I wish some of these writers had to hit against Ruffing." Williams said after recalling that Ruffing had struck him out the first two times he had faced him in Yankee Stadium.

He admitted he probably wouldn't change many things if he had his playing career to do over though he said, "if I read some of the same stuff that was written about me,

I'd probably have acted the same."

When the news conference broke up, Williams emphasized his new relations with the writers by asking club executives repeatedly, "What do you think? I handled those guys, didn't I?"

Coinciding with the announcement of Williams' Hall of Fame election was the disclosure by the Red Sox that Williams, who has been listed

as an "executive assistant" for the past several years, will have the title of vice president together with additional duties.

Williams, the last of major league baseball's 400 hitters when he batted .406 in 1941, will be officially inducted into the Cooperstown, N.Y. shrine next July 25. Hall of Fame officials said the exhibition game to be played there on that date between the Min-

nesota Twins of the American League and the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League was already a near sell-out.

During his active career, all of it spent with the Red Sox, Williams led the league in home runs four times, was named most valuable player in 1946 and 1949, and twice captured the triple batting crown, in 1942 and 1947.

His career twice was interrupted by combat service as a fighter plane pilot and several times by injuries. He compiled a .344 career batting average and was listed high on the all-time list in such key slugging categories as runs with 1,798; doubles with 525, hits with 2,654, home runs with 521, runs batted in with 1,839, grand slams with 17, extra base hits with 1,117, extra bases and second only to Ruth in drawing bases on balls with 2,018.

Williams Honored For Sheer Ability

By JOE REICHLER
Associated Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Ted Williams won the big one. The stormy slugger, now a baseball immortal, will never win any popularity contest among newspapermen. Ten times as many writers hated him as liked him when he was hammering home runs for the Boston Red Sox.

But when the chips were down, when the time came to rate him on ability alone, the writers sent the big guy into the Hall of Fame in a landslide vote, the first time his name was on the ballot.

Admittedly, it was not judgment alone that determined my affirmative vote. Sentiment and friendship played a part. I took him as I found him and I found him to be friendly, warm and wonderfully cooperative.

Faults? He had them by the bushel. But his virtues were many and great. He was one of the most generous of sports personalities. During the many years of our association, he w:

a loyal friend, a thoroughly honest man. Phoniness was foreign to him.

It's impossible to feel neutral about this controversial, outspoken man of many moods. From the very beginning, he was brash, cocky, aloof, antagonistic, seemingly concerned only with his own welfare. He was an individualist. He had an inch-short temper.

"My personal life is nobody's business but my own," he kept repeating. His passion for privacy was one of the things that made him unpopular with some sports writers. It helped conceal his generosity.

He was known to waiters and bellhops as a big tipper. He divided \$1,000 a year among the clubhouse helpers. He sent books and magazines to hospitals, gifts and money to widows of policemen and firemen. He visited shut-in children. But he did it in private.

In Boston, where he could

have been the biggest idol since John L. Sullivan, the rap against him was that he was a fresh kid—surly, profane, an individual rather than a team player. Writers criticized him constantly, and the fans, especially those seated in left field at Fenway Park, assaulted him with insults. He counterattacked in kind.

And he walloped baseballs. He was one of the greatest hitters ever, not even his sternest critics dare to challenge that.

The Kid, as Williams was called, was a warrior, bigger in many respects than those who yapped at him.

But people have a tendency to remember the worst.

They remember Williams for his profane gestures, his insults, his spitting episodes, his utter indifference to their attempts to forgive and forget.

Ted lived on a splendid, isolated island. The strange things about the case of Williams against the people is that he could have won them over so easily. A tip of his cap, a smile, and he could have been one of the most popular athletes who ever lived.

"I made up my mind in my second year, in 1940, never to tip my hat to the fans," Williams once said. "I'll never forget that game. I struck out and followed with an error in the field. Then I heard it. They really gave it to me good. When I came into the dugout, I swore I'd never again tip my hat no matter how much I was cheered."

Williams changed after his return from Korea although he refused to admit it. His antagonistic attitude gave way to a live-and-let-live attitude. He accepted people for what they were, not what he would have liked them to be. But basically, he was still the shy, sensitive and, at times, complex person, who was ever trying to cover up a kind inner nature with a tough exterior.

WELL DESERVED HONOR

Hometowners Hail Ted's Election To Baseball Shrine

News of Ted Williams' election to baseball's Hall of Fame was received enthusiastically here yesterday by San Diegans who knew him along the way.

All hailed the recognition for a player who began his career as a skinny 19-year-old at University Heights playground, started at Hoover High and later as a 17-year-old with the San Diego

Padres, and went on to a standout 19-year-career with the Boston Red Sox.

"It's great, just great," judged Ray Boone, another Hoover product who played with and against Williams in a 12-year American League career spanning Cleveland, Detroit, Boston and Chicago.

"I don't see how there could be any doubt in anybody's mind that he belongs in the

Hall of Fame," Boone said, "and I'm glad to see him make it on his first chance."

"He was the best hitter I've ever seen. He's the only one I know who would cause other players to come out early just to watch him take batting practice."

"Williams was a master at hitting. He ate and slept hitting—worked at it constantly. He had an answer to any question about hitting you could think of."

"Besides that, Ted had some extra-special quality. I don't think any other player could have missed nearly two seasons the way he did (during the Korean War) and come back strong when he was 34."

"It couldn't happen to a better guy," was the reaction of San Diegan Ed Runge, an American League umpire for 12 years. "If anybody deserved the Hall of Fame he did—there's no doubt about it."

"He was a great ballplayer and, besides that, he was the umpire's best friend. He was the best judge of balls and strikes I've ever seen, but if you missed one on him, he never said a word."

"He never used anything or anybody as an alibi, and he never got on the umpire to keep himself from looking bad."

Former Padre Cedric Durst, Williams' first roommate in professional baseball, said "Williams was one of the greatest hitters I ever saw. If there ever was a player who

deserved the Hall of Fame, it was Ted."

Durst recalled that Williams differed from any rookie he ever saw.

"Most young players had trouble hitting after they went around the league once or twice, but Ted just got better. At 17, he already knew more about hitting than the veterans on the club."

"I think he's the greatest lefthanded hitter who ever lived," said Hoover vice principal Les Cassie, who played high school ball with Williams.

"If he didn't get in the Hall of Fame, nobody should be there."

"It's a tribute to him that he made it at the first crack of the bat," said Hoover football coach Roy Engle, another Williams' teammate and an early idol of Ted.

"I can't imagine anybody more qualified," judged Bill Starr, who played on the Padres with Williams and later owned the local Pacific Coast League club.

"It's a deserving honor for a deserving person—a credit to San Diego."

