



The Inside Game

"Let's get this lumpy, licorice-stained ball rolling!"

Vol. 2, No. 2

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

November '01

From the Chairman

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Dice!

BY TOM SIMON

My favorite things about baseball, in ascending order: (5) watching it on TV or listening to it on the radio; (4) watching it at the ballpark; (3) playing it; (2) reading and writing about its history; and (1) PLAYING IT IN ITS TABLETOP FORM. I've often thought that I could be content in prison, so long as I had a copy of *Total Baseball*, a calculator and dice.

Between the ages of 12 and 17 I was an adolescent J. Henry Waugh from the Robert Coover novel *The Universal Baseball Association, Inc., J. Henry Waugh, Prop.* One summer I re-played the entire 1980 National League season, trembling when the dice chose me as the medium for Mario Soto to throw a no-hitter, and benching Ellis Valentine when it appeared that Montreal might beat out my beloved Phillies.

My game of choice was Strat-O-Matic, so far superior to its competitors that I need not list the reasons here. But SOM had — and still has — one vital flaw: to this day it has not put out a single Deadball Era season.

Over the years, when I've encountered such obstacles, I've simply made my own cards. As mentioned in an earlier issue of *The Inside Game*, when I was 11 I used a protractor to fashion All-Star Baseball discs for the 1911 Philadelphia A's and Detroit Tigers. Time has not dissipated this urge.

Back in 1996, when I had an inexplicable desire to re-create New York-Penn League baseball using dice, I invented a game called Tim Dixon's NY-P Baseball (endorsed by a Vermont Expos pitcher who stayed with us during the '95 season) and got it licensed by Major League Baseball. I sold about a dozen copies, but it was the subject of a nice article in *Baseball America*.

Now I'm heavily into Deadball again, so naturally I've been making "Tim Dixon cards" for Deadball Era players. Now all I need is the time to play. Maybe a nice, long jail sentence . . . never mind.

Editor's note: Look for Tom Simon's article on Sherry Magee in the upcoming Baseball Research Journal.

It's Tourney Time!

Deadball Delerium

BY BILL LAMBERTY

Are you over college football? Feeling maligned by March Madness? Got the chills thinking about sticks and pucks?

Don't worry, the time is near when a new rage will be sweeping the sports landscape. Get ready for Deadball Delerium.

Using results of a poll of the Deadball Era Committee conducted by member Angelo Louisa, the top 16 teams of the era will be matched against each other in the Deadball Dream Team Playoffs. The Playoffs will be conducted by DEC member John Bennett, who is also working on a larger but similar project featuring 64 of the most famous and interesting major league teams of all-time. Bennett's book on his 64-team event will be available next summer.

The Deadball Dream Team Playoffs -- Deadball Delerium! -- will begin in January, with Bennett using SABR member Tom Tippet's Diamond Mind Baseball as the game engine (For details on the tournament, and essays on some of the participating teams, see page 4.)

Many of the first-round matchups conjure up definitive images of the Deadball Era... Fiery Fred Clarke and Honus Wagner leading the great '09

Pirates against Johnny Evers and the fabled Miracle Braves; Ty Cobb, sharp spikes and all, and Wahoo Sam Crawford facing the 1912 Athletics and their

\$100,000 Infield; and how about a spry, young Christy Mathewson with Iron Joe McGinnity against an aging, wily Mathewson and the dashing Rube Marquard, as the '04 and '12 Giants square off. On which bench will Charles Victory Faust hang out, anyway? How about Babe Ruth pitching to Frank Chance as the '16 Red Sox face the '06 Cubs?

Each round of the tournament will be determined by a 154-game series, which should give us some interesting statistical overviews of each matchup. Each of the 16

tourney teams will be featured in brief essays penned by a group of Chalmers-winning DEC members over the next few issues of *The Inside Game*. For instance, Gabriel Schechter, who gave us the sensational look at Victory Faust in his fine book, writes about the 1912 Giants. Summaries and statistics from each round of the tournament will also be detailed here, until one team stands atop the heap, slippery elm and all.

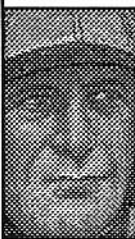
So get ready to enjoy Deadball Delerium! It will be quite a ride.



The dashing Rube Marquard

FIRST ROUND MATCHUPS
...SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

What's Inside...



Pages 4-5 Deadball Delerium

Find out who Fred Clarke has in his sights. Tournament pairings and capsules on the '09 Pirates and other tourney teams are inside

Page 6

The Black Wagner

John Henry Lloyd was the greatest black ballplayer of the Deadball Era -- and perhaps of all-time

Plus...

A pair of recent releases have popped up on bookshelves covering topics related to the Black Sox scandal. Here is a review, **Page 2**

Marc Okkonen takes a look at one of the most unusual doubleheaders in baseball history, **Page 3**

Steve Constantelos has the tabulations for spots 25-50 on the Deadball Honor Roll, **Page 8**

Before Their Sox Were Black

The Black Sox scandal is perhaps the best-known and most thoroughly researched aspect of the Deadball Era, and this summer two books relating to the 1919 Chicago White Sox were released. These books, and many that were previously released, give us an understanding of the people and events of that time. Here is a look at *Shoeless* by David L. Fleitz, and *The 1919 World Series* by William A. Cook.

BY BILL LAMBERTY

There are events from baseball's past that resonate even today: Christy Mathewson's unbelievable work in the 1905 World's Series, Babe Ruth's home run binge in the 1920s, The Shot Heard 'Round the World, Jackie Robinson's obliteration of the race barrier.

The Black Sox scandal, another such event, changed baseball forever. The sequence of events that led to, surrounded, and followed the 1919 World's Series shaped the context in which professional sports grew in 20th century America, leading directly to, among other things, a system of governance utilized by all major professional sports leagues.

Two new books have added to an enormous and impressive body of research done on the subject of the 1919 major league baseball season, its subsequent championship series, and the characters that played lead roles in those events. *Shoeless: The Life and Times of Joe Jackson* is a top-shelf biography of a player whose place in history is accepted, if not fully understood, while *The 1919 World Series, What Really Happened* takes an off-center approach to examining this complicated subject.

Fleitz's look at Joe Jackson's life not only sheds light on an important baseball figure, but gives us an illustration of many facets of America's past. Fleitz explores many dimensions of Jackson's existence as fully as possible, ably putting his life and personality in the context of time and place. The post-Civil War south shaped many outstanding ballplayers of the Deadball Era. Like so many of them, Jackson and his family were subjected to severe poverty and dependence on the exploitative-labor structure of the textile industry in the time shortly after blacks gained their emancipation and before the workers' rights movement had taken hold.

Like so many others, Jackson and those who came to depend on him used his skill on the ball field to overcome those oppressive conditions. The importance of baseball in that era and that place, and the game's role in society, are key elements to understanding Joe Jackson, and Fleitz skillfully leads us through this complex melange.

The meat of this biography, however, lies in Fleitz's ability to flesh out both Joe Jackson of Greenville, S.C., and the legend of Shoeless Joe. The book tells us of Jackson's difficult circumstances in the early days of his major league career in Philadelphia, a young southern man thrust into the cauldron of an industrialized northern city for the first time. It also delves into his relationship with his beloved wife Katie, his place in the tumultuous environment of the White Sox clubhouse, and his genteel post-playing life. Much of Fleitz's research brings Jackson's existence into a new light.

William Cook's work on the 1919 series stands in direct contrast to the Jackson biography, both in tone and approach. The book's stated goals are to examine what happened on the field in the 1919 Series, and to determine the place in history of the competing teams. Box scores and game accounts bring the competitive aspect of that series into focus.

Yet, those goals often cede to a larger premise: that the Reds were the better team that year. Toward that end, he contends throughout the book and in many ways, without offering concrete supporting evidence, that the Series was probably not, in fact, fixed. He ignores mountains of evidence, while isolating pieces of information that support his claim without providing context. Even his research methods seem somewhat slanted, as he cites Philadelphia and Cincinnati newspapers more than 40 times each, without once citing a Chicago paper.

The notion that the Cincinnati Reds were a very good ballclub is easy to believe, but would have been helped by more extensive statistical analysis and a more meaningful look at the team's key figures. Rants degrading those who choose to believe evidence that the Series was fixed create unnecessary negative vibes. Still, Cook's writing is crisp, and the book is worthwhile reading as a glancing look at a team that will always hold a dubious place in history.

In an ironic twist, many of the questions raised in *The 1919 World Series* are answered in *Shoeless*. The book on Joe Jackson is well-written and well-researched, a blueprint for a successful, worthwhile baseball research project.

The Inside Game

The Official Newsletter of
SABR's Deadball Era Committee

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Deadball Dope

REPRIEVE OF THE GRINNING, EVIL CLOWN

With a fiery fate at hand, Dick Egan, the DEC's famed anti-Dode, was granted an 11th-hour stay. Jan Finkel, who we can only assume was overwhelmed by sentimentality or pyrophobia, won the bid for the T-211 card of Egan during the Committee's annual meeting at the SABR Convention in Milwaukee. In other news, the Committee considered formats for the upcoming publication of NL biographies, and proposed naming an annual award honoring the best Deadball Era book or research project for member Lawrence Ritter.

SIGNATURES WANTED

The DEC needs help finding the following players' autographs for publication in the upcoming NL biographies collection: Johnny Bates; Bill Bergen; Dave Brain; umpire Bill Byron; Joe Connolly; Mickey Doolan; Charles Ebbets; Steve Evans; Frank "Noodles" Hahn; Claude Hendrix; Artie "Solly" Hofman; Ed Konetchy; Harry Lumley; Erskine Mayer; Dan McGann; John "Dots" Miller; Arthur "Bugs" Raymond; Tom Seaton; Frank Selee; Homer Smoot; Tully Sparks; Harry Steinfeldt; Jack Taylor; John Titus; Jake Weimer; and Owen "Chief" Wilson. If you have or know where we can find any of these signatures, please contact or send photocopies to Tom Simon, 118 Spruce St., Burlington, VT 05401. Your contribution will be acknowledged.

One Base at a Time

BY MARC OKKONEN

On Thursday, August 17, 1916, the Detroit Tigers and Washington Senators squared off for a scheduled doubleheader. The games' only importance at the time lied in Detroit's hopes of catching league-leading Boston, whom the Tigers trailed by five-and-a-half games.

The Jenningsmen took both ends of the bargain bill, scoring five runs in the 10th to take the opener and coasting to an 8-4 victory in the nightcap. A cursory glance of the box scores of both games reveals nothing out of the ordinary, except maybe the minor oddity that Hooks Dauss started

both games and finished neither, lasting less than three innings in gaining a no-decision in the opener, and logging almost seven to win game two.

But a closer look at the hit totals of 52 by both clubs in the doubleheader and the usual listing of extra-base hits in the bottom paragraphs reveal only one such hit: "Two-base hit -- Milan," which came in game one. In other words, out of a fairly high total of 52 hits spread out over two games in one afternoon of major league baseball, 51 were singles. And the further irony of this occurrence was that Clyde



Deerfoot Milan

Milan's double in the third inning probably should have been a single.

Milan's hit was a low line drive to center fielder Ty Cobb that the Peach tried to nab off of his shoestrings. When he missed it, the ball got away from him long enough for "Deerfoot" to reach second safely. Had Cobb merely granted Milan a hit and taken it routinely on the first hop, every safe hit by both clubs in both games would have been for exactly one base. That surely would have been some kind of record, but unfortunately the type of record that statisticians and official scorers paid little or no attention to during a game, or even in their post-season summaries.

Not having religiously scoured the record books for such nondescript items, there may well be published somewhere the highest number of singles only in one afternoon of major league play, but it doesn't seem possible that two teams ever collected any more than 52 singles only in one day's work. Even the 51 singles by themselves on this day, forgetting about the "gift" double that spoiled the string, has to be some kind of a record. After all, how many doubleheaders in major league history have produced that many total hits of any variety?

The first game of this day's twin bill, which included the double, totalled 30 hits, 20 by Detroit and 10 by Washington. The nightcap total, all singles, was 22 safeties, 12 by Detroit and 10 by Washington. Maybe even the single game number of 22 singles only is a record by itself. Has anyone out there among SABR's statistical gurus ever encountered any such records of singles only in one day's meeting of two major league clubs?

The DEC will meet in Hot Springs March 14-17

A Majestic Time

Back in the Deadball Era, baseball players from all over the country made their way each March to Hot Springs, Ark., to "take the waters" and get in shape for the coming season. Now you can experience what they did by joining SABR's Deadball Era Committee in the "Valley of the Vapors" on March 14-17, 2002.

We'll be staying at the historic Majestic Hotel (www.themajestichotel.com) — the same hotel where the ballplayers stayed — which has recently undergone a million-dollar renovation to restore its turn-of-the-century elegance. It's located in the heart of the downtown Historic District, a few steps away from shops, museums, and the world famous Bathhouse Row. A bargain at the special rate of \$85 for singles and \$95 for doubles, the Majestic offers a complimentary breakfast buffet, full golf and tennis privileges at Hot Springs Country Club, and a \$45 package that includes thermal baths, whirlpool, and Swedish massage.

Each morning we'll start the day — the same way Dode Paskert and his buddies did — with a brisk hike on the trails of the Hot Springs National Park. Then we'll return to the hotel to "boil out" and prepare for the afternoon's events, which will include research presentations by DEC members and a private tour of baseball-related historic sites led by Don Duren, author of a manuscript on the history of baseball in Hot Springs. On Saturday evening we'll enjoy a special banquet in the Grady Manning dining room. Be sure to bring any Deadball Era baseball equipment you may own, as we hope to take batting practice on historic Fogel Field (built in 1910 by Phillies owner Horace Fogel).

A small yet-to-be-determined fee will be charged to cover expenses. If you are interested in attending, please return

the form below by December 15, 2001, to reserve your spot and ensure that we qualify for the group rate.



Red Sox players on a hike near Hot Springs

Registration Form

Count me in! I plan on joining other DEC members in Hot Springs, March 14-17

Can't make it this year, but keep me in mind for future events.

How many people will be attending? _____

Which days? _____

Please return to: Tom Simon, 118 Spruce St. Burlington, VT 05401

Deadball Dream Team Playoff Profiles

No. 13 1919 CINCINNATI REDS vs. 1912 RED SOX

BY JIM SANDOVAL

The 1919 Reds, winners of the "tainted" Series against the infamous Black Sox, are an under rated team. With a record of 96 wins and 44 losses, the Reds won 68.6 percent of their games, still the team's all-time record. The club was led by manager Pat Moran, who had been signed when his predecessor Christy Mathewson was not able to contact the club during his military service in France. In an odd turn of events Mathewson later replaced Moran as a coach with John McGraw's Giants. Moran molded a championship team with many players who had been cast off by other teams. Moran's reputation for developing pitchers held true as he molded the most successful staff in the majors in 1919 from a group of aging veterans and unproven youngsters.

Veteran Harry "Slim" Sallee, revered ancestor of the DEC's Eric and Paul Sallee, led the Reds staff. He had been written off as over the hill, threatened retirement, and convinced the Giants to sell his contract to the Reds so he could play close to his home in Higginsport, Ohio. In spring training that season Slim seriously strained his back. After missing the first 10 games, Sallee paced the Reds with 21 victories. Known for pinpoint control, Slim had more wins than walks (20) in '19.

Horace "Hod" Eller also flourished on the hill that season. He had been released to the minors by the White Sox, and drafted by the Reds. Eller won 20 games (some sources say 19) in 1919, and threw the season's only no-hitter. He was a hard thrower who threw the "shine ball," and was second in the league in strikeouts. Lefty Walter "Dutch" Ruether had been obtained on waivers from the Cubs. Mathewson recognized his potential, but it took army service in 1918 for Ruether to become serious about his pitching. He won 19 games for the Reds that season.

Other stalwarts on the hill included Cuban Dolf Luque, spitballer Ray Fisher and Jimmy Ring. Fisher went on to be the baseball coach at the University of Michigan, winning a National Championship in 1953. Ring was the Reds hard-luck pitcher of 1919. He finished the season 10-9, and was considered by some to have the best stuff on the staff. He was the choice of many to pitch the first game in the series. Aiding the team's solid pitching staff, Cincinnati was the best defensive team in the league, and among the leaders offensively.

The team leader was future Hall of Famer Edd Roush, whose

granddaughter recently joined the DEC, refused to sign during the spring, joining up just four days before the season and still played in the first game. He went on to lead the league in average and was second in runs batted in.

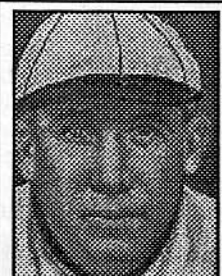
Roush was frequently compared to Tris Speaker for his defensive prowess in centerfield. Corner infielders Heinie Groh and Jake Daubert were offensive standouts, as well. Groh led the league in on base percentage-plus-slugging, and fielded his position well. He has the author's vote for that season's MVP award. First Baseman Daubert led the league in sacrifice hits, an important tool in Deadball Era strategy. Thought to be washed up with bad legs, Daubert proved his critics wrong by playing every inning that season. A key to the Reds' championship was moving Daubert to the second spot in the lineup on June 5th. After that, the Reds went 76-29 for a .723 winning percentage.

Leadoff hitter Morrie Rath, son of a buffalo hunter, ignited the Reds offense with his patience at the plate. He and shortstop Larry Kopf provided a strong double-play combination.

Earle "Greasy" Neale, who went on to a Hall of Fame career as a football coach, used his speed to hold down a corner outfield spot. Because of his

great defense, he was switched from right to left field to always play the sun field. Sherry Magee began the season in left but contracted pneumonia and was replaced by

Manuel Cueto, who then injured a shoulder. Pitcher Raymond "Rube" Bressler volunteered to take over in left and did so until the Reds obtained Pat Duncan from Birmingham.



Pat Moran led the Reds to the 1919 World's Championship

Bressler later made his greatest catch off the field, marrying Kopf's younger sister. Catching duties were handled by a platoon of lefty-swinging Ivey Wingo and righty "Bedford" Bill Rariden.

The credit for the Reds championship must go to Pat Moran. He built a dominant pitching staff out of "has-beens" and "never-weres," managing much of the season without a regular left fielder. He instilled an attitude that had players around the league marveling at the Reds' unwillingness to give up. While not a dynasty, the 1919 Reds truly were a team of destiny.

No. 4 1912 BOSTON RED SOX vs. 1919 REDS

BY MIKE FOSTER

When asked by reporter for a prediction about the team's prospects for 1912, Red Sox manager Garland "Jake" Stahl was quick with his response. "I believe we are a lot stronger than we were in 1911," he quipped. "We fear no club and are out to make a record." Under the new ownership of Jimmy McAleer and Robert McRoy, the entire starting lineup from the previous year had returned to Boston, and the team was strengthened by the addition of Stahl, who accepted financial incentives to leave his executive position with his family's Chicago bank to manage the Red Sox. Still, few gave the Boston Americans much of a chance.

If ever a team was a study in opposites, it was the '12 Red Sox, from the raucous Tris Speaker to the pugnacious Bucky O'Brien to the reticent Hugh Bedient. Vermonters Larry Gardner and Ray Collins were regularly identified together in the press, but the affable Gardner was almost the complete psychological opposite of his reserved and serious former UVM teammate. Similarly, there were few points of comparison between backup catchers Pinch Tho-

mas, an energetic 5' 9" fireplug, and 6'2" Hick Cady, who one reporter said "made the sphinx look like a maiden lady at a basket picnic."

Long before the gates of the new Fenway Park were opened in April, it was no secret that some rather stark divisions existed inside the Red Sox clubhouse. He later dismissed his differences with Tris Speaker as "nothing serious," but left-fielder Duffy Lewis' feuds with the standout center fielder were common knowledge. Religion, economic status and educational achievement provided clubhouse tension.

Spending day after day cooped up together in railroad cars and hotels, players naturally gravitated into small groups to pass time. "Cliques of this kind were common on most clubs in those days," Lewis recalled years later. Tris Speaker and Joe Wood were inseparable, as were Bill Carrigan, Heinie Wagner and Lewis. Despite their differing faiths, Gardner and Harry Hooper had long been good friends, and that summer Hugh Bedient was a regular guest at the Brookline home of Lillian and Ray Collins.

With his amiable manner and wry wit, team captain Heinie Wagner helped diffuse most of the disputes, but when things got out of hand, it was Bill Carrigan (rather than Manager Stahl)

'12 BoSox...cont. on page 5

More Dream Team Playoff Profiles

NO. 14 1914 BOSTON BRAVES vs. 1909 PIRATES

BY JOHN BENNETT

The 1914 "Miracle" Boston Braves became one of the great stories of the Deadball Era. As one of the first Cinderella stories in American sports, they remain intriguing, especially in the parallels that can be drawn to the similarly-destined 1969 Mets.

NO. 3 1909 PITTSBURGH PIRATES vs. MIRACLE BRAVES

BY BILL LAMBERTY

In retrospect, there's something very poignant about the 1909 Pirates. That season was the last shining moment for the Pirates team that was a dominant structure on the landscape of baseball in the first decade of the 20th century. It was also the last truly Wagnerian season for the great Honus. And, in providing the Flying Dutchman his successful grab of a World's Championship, the Pirates of '09 also denied another great Deadball Era team, Ty Cobb's Tigers, their last real chance at that crowning achievement.

Typical of major league baseball in the decade it ushered out, the Pittsburgh team of 1909 was brash and fleet, heavy on guile. The team excelled at getting men on base, and used its many weapons to drive them across the plate.

The Pirates of Wagner's era, of course, were much more than Wagner. Fred Clarke's '09 pitching staff was deep and versatile, and the three men who combined to pitch just over half (773 of 1,401) of the team's innings were amazingly similar and consistent. Vic Willis, Howie Camnitz and Lefty Leifeld each posted an ERA between 1.62 and 2.37 (league average 2.47), each posted an opponents on-base average between .267 and .289 (league average .303), and each had hits-to-innings-pitched ratios of right around 0.8 (league average 0.89). All three were typical Deadball Era

Each team relied on a patchwork collection of retreads and castoffs topped off by just a few stars. Prior to their miracle seasons, the teams were known only for their comical losing habits and were considered back-page news in towns with higher profile ball clubs. A change to a stern no-nonsense manager also played a key role. During the seasons, each team overcame a large pennant-race deficit to a veteran team

managed by a Hall of Famer, and then upset a highly favored team with a Hall of Fame manager in the World Series. The parallels can be extended to players. The Braves trio of Bill James, Dick Rudolph, and Lefty Tyler matches up well to the Mets group of Tom Seaver, Jerry Koosman and Gary Gentry. Each team acquired a veteran -- Tom Agee and Johnny Evers, and both from Chicago, no less -- who played a critical role in the team's turnaround. Each team acquired a power hitter in mid-season that made a huge difference (Donn Clendenon and Red Smith). Hank Gowdy's unexpected post season power explosion finds its mirror image in Al Weis, and there is something of Rabbit Maranville in Buddy Harrelson.

Were the 1914 Braves a fluke of baseball history? Possibly. Were they fortunate? Probably. Were they a mediocre team hiding in destiny's clothing? Not really. The 1914 Braves did not lead the league in any significant categories- but neither did they lack in any facet of the game. The Braves were respectable in just about every category, and led the league in three critical ones: range factor, walks drawn, and complete games. The dramatic improvement in team defense from 1913 perhaps made the most difference. Individual performances also made an impact. The retroactive NL All Star team created by STATS lists five Braves: Evers, Maranville, James, Rudolph, and Joe Connally. The rest of the lineup was put together by Stallings by using hunches and platoons. For that year, at least, everything worked.

Like the Mets, the Braves put their pennant run together with a magnificent second half. In last place on July 14, the Braves were a torrid 61-16 the rest of the way, winning the pennant in a walk after the Giants folded under the pressure. Still, they were big underdogs in the World's Series to the veteran A's, who undoubtedly took them lightly. Complacency may have made both the Giants and A's ripe for the taking. Coupled with Red Sox successes in 1915-16, the achievements of the Boston teams made the city the center of the baseball world (but oh, things would change...) in this era.

The Braves used the momentum of their 1914 season to remain a strong contender for the next two years. With only one regular over 30, it looked like the beginning of a promising era, but disaster struck when James hurt his arm. As with the Mets, the miracle faded into a wave of second-division mediocrity. Still, the Braves' miracle season gives any fan of a moribund franchise a reason to dream.

'12 BoSox...cont. from page 4

who stepped in to settle matters in his own, less than gentle fashion. More than anything else, though, success on the field kept the team together. Early in the season, it became apparent even to their most persistent critics that Boston was a ball club to be reckoned with. By the middle of May, it was nipping at the heels of the Chicago White Sox, and after taking four of six at Fenway against the Athletics over July 4th weekend, the Red Sox never looked back.

The near self-destruction and improbable World Series victory of the Red Sox over John McGraw's New York Giants is well-known to most deadballers. But even that thrilling vic-

tory was not enough to wipe away the divisions between these extraordinarily talented athletes. The team came to blows more than once before the series was over, and when victories were replaced by defeats the following summer any remaining pretense of civility vanished. Jake Stahl was gone by mid-season in 1913, and by year's end Jimmy McAleer and Robert McRoy were gone.

But thanks to a phenomenal bare-handed catch, an infamous muff and a dropped pop-up in foul territory, promises of "making a record" were kept, and the 1912 Red Sox were crowned world champions. For at least one day in the well-chronicled century of Boston baseball, Lady Luck was on their side.

managed by a Hall of Famer, and then upset a highly favored team with a Hall of Fame manager in the World Series. The parallels can be extended to players. The Braves trio of Bill James, Dick Rudolph, and Lefty Tyler matches up well to the Mets group of Tom Seaver, Jerry Koosman and Gary Gentry. Each team acquired a veteran -- Tom Agee and Johnny Evers, and both from Chicago, no less -- who played a critical role in the team's turnaround. Each team acquired a power hitter in mid-season that made a huge difference (Donn Clendenon and Red Smith). Hank Gowdy's unexpected post season power explosion finds its mirror image in Al Weis, and there is something of Rabbit Maranville in Buddy Harrelson.

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The Black Wagner: John Henry Lloyd

BY RAY ANSELMO

I am honored to have John Lloyd called the Black Wagner. It is a privilege to have been compared with him.

-- Honus Wagner

The color of his skin may have kept him out of the recognized major leagues, but nothing kept John Henry Lloyd from winning, or from achieving greatness on the diamond and off. There is little argument today that he was the top black ballplayer of the Deadball Era, and some say the best player of any color.

Lloyd was called "the Black Wagner," and there were many similarities between the two. They were both primarily shortstops who were excellent fielders with huge hands and great arms. Both were all-around athletes who could play other positions, and were usually the best hitters on their teams (though Honus hit right-handed and Lloyd batted lefty). Both were larger than average for their position (Lloyd was 5'11" and 180 pounds) and somewhat bow-legged, but also were quite agile in the field and on the basepaths. And both were team leaders and gentlemen who rarely swore and often took time to train younger players.

John Henry Lloyd was born on April 25, 1884 in Palatka, Florida, and was raised primarily by a grandmother (his father died when he was a baby). Like most blacks — and many whites — in the rural South of that era, he was forced to work at an early age, and was unable to complete grade school. His first exposure to baseball was playing in amateur games after his work as a delivery boy was finished. In his teens he moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he worked as a railroad porter while playing for a semipro nine called the Old Receivers.

His reputation as a ballplayer spread, and by 1905 he was catcher for the all-black Macon (Ga.) Acmes in addition to his porter's work. The Acmes couldn't afford luxuries like a catcher's mask or chest protector; one day, after sustaining two black eyes from foul tips, Lloyd rigged up a wire office wastebasket to protect his face. Before the year ended, he had moved to second base, and within a year was starting at that position for Philadelphia's Cuban X Giants, one of the nation's top black teams. There is some dispute about how he came to the Giants' notice — some credit Giants players Rube Foster and Sol White with "discovering" him, other sources say it was team owner E.B.

Lemarc Jr., and Lloyd's widow Nan claimed he went to Philly on his own at the urging of some fellow porters, with no guarantee of a job.

However he got there, Lloyd did well enough that in 1907 he was stolen by the Cuban Xs' top rival, the Philadelphia Giants, who had hired Sol White as manager. White put him at shortstop, and his hitting and fielding helped the Philadelphians capture the unofficial black championship of the East Coast. He played for them through 1909, but a dispute between White and owner H. Walter Schlichter led Lloyd to accept an offer from Foster to join his Chicago-based Leland Giants for 1910.

By that time Lloyd was enjoying stardom in two countries, playing for the Havana Reds in the Cuban winter league along with fellow black American stars Pete Hill, Grant "Home Run" Johnson and Bruce Petway. In late 1909, Havana won two out of three games versus an all-star team led by Addie Joss, Three Finger Brown, Fred Merkle, Sherry Magee and Jimmy Archer, and four out of six against the defending American League champion Detroit Tigers (although top Tigers Ty Cobb and Sam Crawford did not take part); in those nine games, Lloyd batted .546. The Cuban fans nicknamed him "El Cuchara", meaning both "The Shovel" (for his habit of scooping up dirt with the ball as he fielded — another resemblance to Honus) and "The Tablespoon" (for his ability at getting on base, i.e. "setting the table"). He would play in the Cuban leagues on and off until 1930.

The 1910 Leland Giants were one of the great teams in blackball history. Led by Lloyd and Foster, they went 123-6 against competition that included many Cubs and White Sox players (who appeared under other names in the Chicago summer league to earn extra money) and establishing themselves as the top black team in the Midwest. That winter, Lloyd and Havana again took on the Tigers, this time with Cobb and Wahoo Sam. Havana was 4-7 in those games, but Lloyd outhit the Georgia Peach .500 to .364 and kept him from stealing a single base. Lloyd, knowing Cobb's proclivity for sliding in with spikes high, wore cast-iron shin guards under his socks; on Cobb's first attempt, Lloyd hooded one shin around Cobb's outstretched leg and used the "stilt" to fling Ty into center field.

The world champion Philadelphia Athletics visited Cuba next, and were swept by Havana in a three-game series. Connie Mack would later say, "You

could put Wagner and Lloyd in a bag together, and whichever one you pulled out, you couldn't go wrong." During the regular Cuban league schedule that year, Lloyd hit an even .400.

While Lloyd was in Cuba that winter, brothers Jess and Rod McMahon founded the Lincoln Giants in New York and hired Sol White as manager. White, in turn, lured Lloyd away from Chicago. In 1911 Lloyd hit cleanup for the Lincolns, batted a published .475 as the team finished 105-17 (mostly against white semipro teams) and even filled in as manager for part of the season. The next year he hit .376 with Lincoln, including identical 6-0 wins over the New York Giants and Yankees, and .388 in Cuba. In 1913 his .363 average paced the Lincolns to a 101-6 record, including two of three from a team of major league stars led by Chief Bender and Earle Mack, a 9-2 shellacking of the Philadelphia Phillies (including 14 hits off Pete Alexander), and series victories over Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants, the top team in the midwest, both home and on the road. It was around that time that Lloyd faced Wagner himself in a couple of exhibitions between Lincoln and a Wagner-led group of major leaguers, but results of those games have not been found.

Foster did not take losing lightly, and John Henry Lloyd did not share Wagner's legendary indifference to riches ("Wherever the money was, that's where I was," he often said). So the 1914 American Giants sported not only Lloyd — earning \$250 a month, one of the top salaries in black baseball at the time — but half of the 1913 Lincolns' starting lineup, and claimed the national Negro championship after sweeping a challenge series against the top team of the East that year, the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Lloyd went back to New York for 1915 to join the Lincoln Stars (a Lincoln Giants spinoff) and led them to the black championship as well — against Foster's American Giants! Lloyd batted .393 as the two teams split a ten-game series, but after finding out that Jess McMahon had drank up Lincoln's share of the gate receipts, he angrily jumped back to the American Giants and helped them win the 1916 and 1917 black championships, the latter against McMahon's Lincoln Stars. He also hit .393 to win the Cuban League crown.

The American Giants went down
Black Wagner...cont. on page 7



Deadball Names, News and Notes

MERKLE PULLS ANOTHER 'BONEHEAD' PLAY

Zanesville, Ohio, June 15, 1913: In a close and exciting exhibition game here this afternoon between the New York Giants and the local Inter-State League team, the Giants won by a score of 5-4, although umpire Frank Newhouse of the Inter-State League declared the game a forfeit to Zanesville 9-0 following his fight with Merkle of the Giants. Merkle, in the eighth, objected to Newhouse's decision on a close play at first and finally made a pass at the umpire. Newhouse hit the New York first baseman over the head with his mask and brought blood from the gash. Newhouse ordered Merkle from the game, but he refused to go. The umpire then forfeited the game to Zanesville. Manager Marty Hogan of the locals ordered the game continued and he himself acted as umpire. (Submitted by Gene DeLisio, from the Cincinnati Post)

Tourney Specifics

ABOUT THE GAME

John Bennett's work on *Baseball's Ultimate Dream Team Playoff*, a book scheduled for publication next summer, gave rise to the Deadball Dream Team Playoff. Bennett's project pits 64 of baseball's greatest and most interesting teams against each other. Like the main project, the Deadball playoff project uses **Diamond Mind Baseball** as its game engine. DMB is the most sophisticated baseball simulation on the market today. Designed by SABR member Tom Tippet, Diamond Mind is used by ESPN to forecast upcoming seasons, and can adjust player performance for every era and ballpark in baseball history.

SELECTING THE FIELD

Deadball Era Committee members voted on the top teams from the era, ranking them in order from first to 10th. Angelo Louisa compiled the votes and provided the top 16 teams.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The top 16 teams from the Deadball Era, as voted on by DEC members, are seeded first through 16th in order of votes received. Ties were broken, for seeding purposes, by total votes received. Teams will play 154-game series throughout the tournament.

TOURNAMENT BRACKET

Here is a look at how our tournament will be seeded:

#1-'06 Cubs vs. #16-'16 Red Sox	#3-1909 Pirates vs. #14-1914 Braves
#8-'05 Giants vs. #9-'07 Cubs	#6-1911 Athletics vs. #10-'17 White Sox
#5-1910 Athletics vs. #12-1909 Tigers	#7-1904 Giants vs. #11 1912 Giants
#4-1912 Red Sox vs. #13-1919 Reds	#2-1902 Pirates vs. #15-1913 Athletics

Black Wagner...cont. from page 6

to Florida in January 1918 to play winter ball, but Lloyd did not join them, taking an offseason post with the U.S. Army Quartermaster depot in Chicago instead. Parting amicably with Foster (who was looking to replace him with a younger player anyway), he hired on as player-manager of the Brooklyn Royal Giants and stayed with them until 1920, playing short and first base. When his Negro National League's Columbus Buckeyes were in trouble, Foster brought Lloyd on board in 1921 to manage the franchise as a last-ditch effort to save it. The Buckeyes folded in midseason anyway, even though Lloyd hit .337 for them, but the Bacharach Giants of Atlantic City jumped at the chance to sign the 37-year-old infielder and kept him through 1922, when he batted .386.

The next year, Ed Bolden, owner of the all-black Hilldale club of Darby, Pennsylvania, started the Eastern Colored League as a rival to Foster's NNL, and hired Lloyd to play for and manage his own club. Not only did Hilldale win the league's first pennant, but Lloyd hit .333 against ECL competition and .418 overall. He was also establishing himself as a "pat on the back" manager and a mentor for younger players, acquiring a second nickname: "Pop". Future Hall of Famer Judy Johnson, who played third base for Hilldale that year, said, "He was a great man and a great teacher. He put the confidence in you ... I think that was

one of the best years I ever had in baseball." And Bill Yancey, who played fourteen years in the Negro Leagues and was a rookie for Hilldale in 1923, stated, "He was like a father to me. I was just a kid, and he was the great Lloyd I'd heard so much about, and he's the one who taught me to play shortstop."

Despite Lloyd's success, he was let go after the season in a cost-cutting move — black leagues often lacked ideal financial support — but the Bacharach Giants were eager to bring him back to play and manage. (Lloyd probably made his permanent home in Atlantic City about that time.) In 1924 he moved to second base to make room for the Bacharach's great shortstop, Dick "King Richard" Lundy, and while they didn't win the pennant, Lloyd won the batting title, hitting .433 at age 40, while Lundy hit .360 and led the league with 14 homers. Lloyd hit .328 in 1925, then moved to the Lincoln Giants and batted .349 and .375 the next two years. In 1928, at age 44, he hit a Negro League record .564 (winning the batting title by 154 points over Lundy), led the ECL in steals and was second in homers, hitting 11 in 37 league games. Lincoln third baseman George Scales said, "When I first met Lloyd, he was an old man. (But) the older he got, the better he knew how to play. You'd think he was still a young man." Unfortunately, the ECL wasn't in as good shape as "Pop" was, and folded

in midseason.

The Lincolns survived as an independent team, and Lloyd kept hitting: .383 in 1929 and .295 in 1930. The latter year, he helped labor leader A. Philip Randolph organize the first all-black game at Yankee Stadium, a benefit for Randolph's Union of Pullman Car Porters. (Lincoln beat the Baltimore Black Sox, 13-4.) But then the Lincolns fell victim to the Great Depression and Lloyd, now 47, hit only .185 in 1931 for entertainer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson's New York Black Yankees. He went back to the Bacharach briefly in 1932, but then retired from pro ball, turning down two managing jobs to take a janitorial position with the Atlantic City post office, and later with the local school district.

But Lloyd's baseball career didn't end there. Joking that he would keep playing "until a left-hander strikes me out," he played first base and managed the Atlantic City Johnson Stars (later Farley Stars) semipro club until 1942, when he was 58. He also became a father figure to the kids of Atlantic City while working in the schools, and later as city Little League commissioner. In 1949, Atlantic City named their newly built, \$150,000 ballpark and community recreation field in his honor. At that time, a reporter asked him if he regretted that his playing days had been before the "color line" in baseball was broken.

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The Senior Circuit's Revenge

BY STEVE CONSTANTELOS

Well, the results are in. The first round (see Vol. 1, #3) gave the top 24 which we selected by ranking our top players from the era. The second round featured a ballot that managed to include most of the good candidates—those who received two or more votes in the first round and a few others.

Write-ins were allowed and encouraged, and the average ballot had .75 write-ins. In the second round, 46 ballots were received and no one was unanimously chosen. Even the biggest vote-getters were absent from almost a quarter of the ballots. On the list below, the numbers in parentheses are the number of votes and, where applicable, tiebreaking "ranking points." The first number is votes, with ranking points (points assigned for tie-breaking purposes by voters ranking their top five) after the slash.

Here are numbers 25-50 on the Deadball Honor Roll:

- 25. Johnny Evers, 2B (35/32)
- 26. Johnny Kling, C (35/28)
- 27. Gavy Cravath, RF (35/27)
- 28. Joe Wood, P (34)
- 29. Jimmy Collins, 3B (31/27)
- 30. Eddie Cicotte, P (31/14)
- 31. Larry Doyle, 2B (30/11)
- 31. Ed Reulbach, P (30/11)
- 33. Joe Tinker, SS (30/9)
- 34. Zack Wheat, LF (29)
- 35. Jack Chesbro, P (28)
- 36. Harry Hooper, RF (27)

- 37. Babe Ruth, P (26)
- 38. Jake Daubert, 1B (25/7)
- 39. Hippo Vaughn, P (25/4)
- 40. Heinie Groh, 3B (24)
- 41. Stuffy McInnis, 1B (23/10)
- 42. Max Carey, CF (23/5)
- 43. Chief Meyers, C (23/3)
- 44. Elmer Flick, RF (22)
- 45. Tommy Leach, OF/3B (21/19)
- 46. Cy Seymour, OF (21/4)
- 47. George Davis, SS (20)
- 48. Hal Chase, 1B (19/13)
- 49. Sam Leever, P (19/3)
- 49. Doc White, P (19/3)

For a refresher, here's the top 24 from the first round: 1. H. Wagner (Honus not Heinie); 2. T. Cobb; 3. W. Johnson; 4. C. Mathewson; 5. N. Lajoie; 6. T. Speaker; 7. G. Alexander; 8. E. Collins; 9. S. Crawford; 10. M. Brown; 11. J. Jackson; 12. C. Young; 13. E. Walsh; 14. F. Baker; 15. E. Plank; 16. R. Waddell; 17. A. Joss; 18. S. Magee; 19. R. Bresnahan; 20. C. Bender; 21. J. McGinnity; 22. F. Chance; 23. F. Clarke; 24. B. Wallace.

Here's a breakdown by position for our complete Honor Roll:

Position	1st Rd	2nd Rd	Total
1B	1	3	4
2B	2	2	4
3B	1	2.5*	3.5*
SS	2	2	4
C	1	2	3
OF	6	6.5*	12.5*
P	11	8	19

* The .5 here is due to Tommy Leach, who I counted as half-3B, half-OF.

A pretty well-balanced group. The first-round results gave us 15 American Leaguers and 9 Nationals. The NL gained a measure of revenge in the second round. This recent round gave us 11 AL'ers and 15 NL'ers, making a more balanced total of 26 American Leaguers and 24 National Leaguers in the Top 50. Of our Top 50, there are 32 Hall of Famers. I'm inclined to think that the selection committees did a pretty good job with our era, but just for fun, here's my "All Non-Hall of Fame Team": 1B-Daubert, 2B-Doyle, 3B-Groh, SS-Chapman/Dahlen (tie), C-Kling, LF-Jackson, CF-Seymour, RF-Cravath, RHP-Wood, LHP-Vaughn, Utility-Leach.

Sherry Magee, who received a higher ranking than Seymour or Cravath, should also be here, and Jackson was a HOF shoo-in were it not for certain alleged improprieties. Clyde Milan is the highest vote-getting full-time non-Hall center fielder. Anyone else notice a preponderance of NL players on this team?

Thanks again to all who voted. It was a pleasure hearing from so many, and getting glimpses into the thought processes used to make selections. One final note: Tinker (33rd), Evers (25), and Chance (22) all easily made the list. Not too shabby, but are we, too, victims of the famed poem's charms?

Black Wagner...cont. from page 7

Lloyd's response: "I do not consider that I was born at the wrong time. I felt it was the right time, for I had a chance to prove the ability of our race in this sport, and because many of us did our very best to uphold the traditions of the game and of the world of sport, we have given the Negro a greater opportunity now to be accepted into the major leagues with other Americans."

John Henry Lloyd died on March 19, 1965, of arteriosclerosis after a two-year illness. He was survived by his wife Nan; they had no children. In 1977, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as a selection of the Special Committee on the Negro Leagues. Starting in 1993, Atlantic City has hosted an annual "Pop" Lloyd Weekend Celebration, featuring lectures, awards dinners, services at the Methodist church that Lloyd attended and, of course, a ball game at John Henry Lloyd Stadium.



It is often difficult to evaluate black players from the pre-Jackie Robinson era, due to lack of statistics from their playing days. But existing records of Lloyd's career support Robert W. Peterson's assertion in his landmark book *Only the Ball Was White* that "he was a fairly consistent .400-plus hitter against good pitching." In 1,769 documented at bats in the Negro Leagues, against the top competition in black base-

ball, he hit .368, the best average of all time — despite not entering the Negro Leagues until he was 37. In twelve seasons in Cuba, he hit .321, including a composite .361 average in 1912 and 1913. Testimony of researchers also marks him as one of the great players of his time, if not all time. Former SABR president James Riley, in his *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Leagues*, states, "his knowledge and application of inside baseball as defined in the era allowed him to generate runs with a variety of skills."

Most of all, however, it is the words of his peers that mark him as one of baseball's immortals. Besides Honus Wagner and Connie Mack, John McGraw was also an admirer, saying, "if we could bleach this Lloyd boy, we would show the National League a new phenomenon." Walter McCredie, manager of the Pacific Coast League's Portland Beavers, stated openly in 1915 that "I would love to have such players as Lloyd and Petway." And St. Louis sportswriter Ted Harlow, when asked in 1938 who the best-ever player in baseball was, replied, "If you mean in organized baseball, my answer would be Babe Ruth; but if you mean in all baseball, organized or unorganized, the answer would have to be a colored man named John Henry Lloyd."

Finally, there is a story, unconfirmed but probably true, that Ruth himself was asked on radio by pioneering sportscaster Graham McNamee who he regarded as the greatest player ever: Ruth: "You mean major leaguers?" McNamee: "No, the greatest player anywhere." Ruth: "In that case, I'd pick John Henry Lloyd."