

# The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



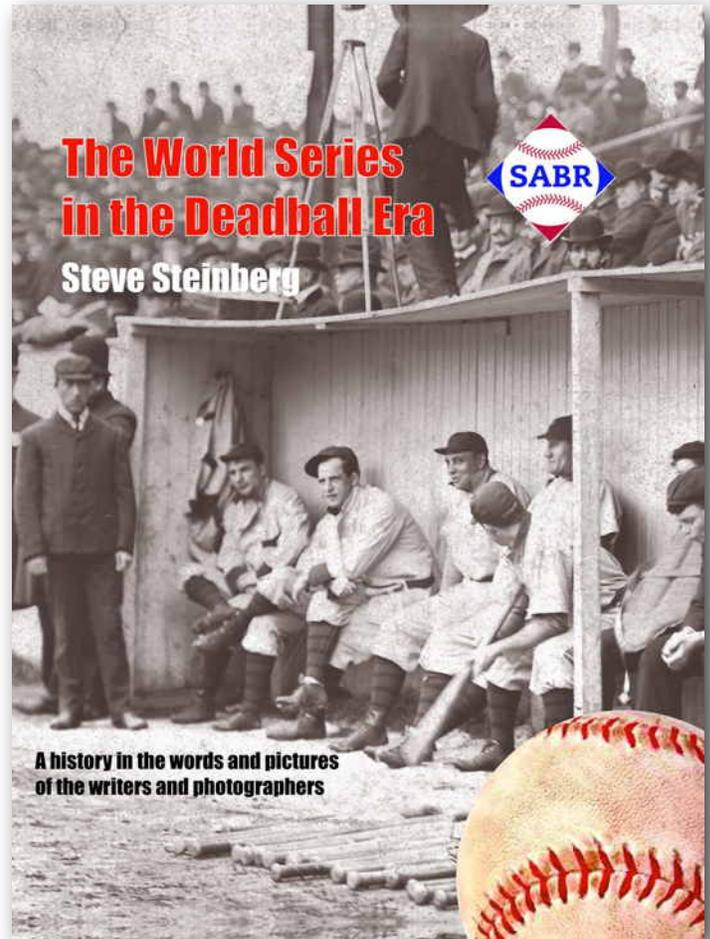
VOL. XVIII, NO. 3: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!"

JUNE 2018

## DEADBALL ERA WORLD SERIES BOOK PUBLISHED

Long awaited, SABR's *The World Series in the Deadball Era* has recently been released. And examination of its content reveals that the book was well worth the wait. Edited by accomplished DEC member Steve Steinberg, the work's subtitle succinctly states: "A history in the words and pictures of the writers and photographers" who chronicled the early Fall Classics. Yet that matter-of-fact description does inadequate justice to this imaginatively conceived, meticulously researched, and handsomely illustrated volume. The book, in a word, is superb.

The text begins with a Foreword by distinguished baseball historian and Larry Ritter Award winner Charles C. Alexander, followed by a brief Preface and Acknowledgement by editor Steinberg that recognizes the SABR members who contributed their talents and/or financial backing to the project. The work then proceeds to in-depth consideration of the World Series played from 1903 through 1919, with a chapter devoted to each championship match (as well as to 1904 when the NL pennant-winning New York Giants



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refused to meet the AL champion Boston Americans.). Unlike other World Series retrospectives, *The World Series in the Deadball Era* does not provide a modern take on bygone events. Rather, the author(s) assigned to individual Series transport the reader back in time, allowing him or her to experience the Series as it unfolded, game-by-game, to baseball fans back in the day. The chapters accomplish this by combining a broad spectrum of contemporaneous reportage, including Series-related observations by such now-legendary sportswriters as Tim Murnane, Hugh Fullerton, Grantland Rice, and Damon Runyon, with finely reproduced photographs of Series participants, game action, and ballpark scenes. Many of these images, including a number from the Steinberg collection, are rarely seen and imbue the work with a special you-are-there aura. And each photo is accompanied by informative commentary that enhances its viewing. The end result is unique and insightful, a thoroughly engaging read and see.

The 21 SABR members who crafted the individual World Series chapters are to be complimented for the breadth of the reportage



**Editor Steve Steinberg**

selected and the coherent presentation of Series events that flows from reading it. Also worthy of praise is publisher St. Johann Press of Haworth, New Jersey. The prose is clean and crisply presented, and the photo images are of the highest quality. But the utmost commendation must be reserved for editor Steve Steinberg whose deep knowledge of Deadball Era baseball and dedication to finished product excellence infuse the work. Also deserving of recognition is Steve's tireless perseverance, without which this most worthwhile project would likely have never come to fruition.

Newsletter book critiques often end with the recommendation that readers place the reviewed work on their bookshelf. But when it comes to *The World Series in the Deadball Era*, that recommendation approaches an imperative. No DEC member, indeed no one interested in the early history of the game, should be without this exceptionally well-done prose and photo recreation of the Fall Classic in its formative years.

Bill Lamb

**The**  
**INSIDE GAME**  
The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



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## DEADBALL AT SABR 48

SABR 48 will be held on June 20 to 24 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh. During the convention, 32 different presentations will be available to attendees, including a number that should be of particular interest to Deadball Era Committee members. Committee chairman John McMurray leads things off with “Why Didn’t Babe Ruth Ever Become a Major League Manager?” John’s presentation is slated for 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 21 in Grand Ballroom 1. Immediately thereafter (at 12:15 p.m./Grand Ballroom 1), newsletter book review section editor Dan Levitt presents “From Deadball to Techball: The Evolution of Baseball Innovation.” That evening at 6:15 p.m. in Grand Ballroom 1, Robert C. Trumbour sheds light on some local history with “Barney Dreyfuss and Engineering Forbes Field: Ahead of its Time in 1909.”

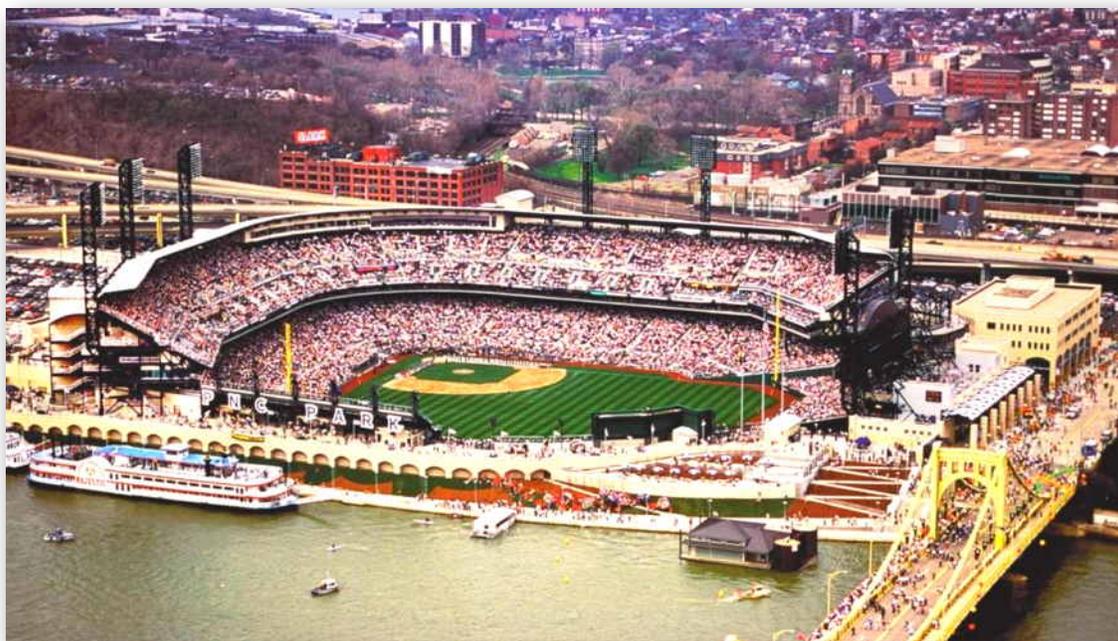
The feature event of the Friday session will be of interest to all conference-goers: a night game between the Pirates and Arizona Diamondbacks at beautiful PNC Park.

On Saturday, June 23, Deadball-related subjects return to the presentation agenda with Callie Batts Maddox’s “Ty Cobb Has Nothing on Her: Early Twentieth Century Women’s Collegiate Baseball in Ohio” (11:30 a.m./Grand Ballroom 1).



Later that day at 3:15 p.m. in Grand Ballroom 2, closer Steve Steinberg wraps up the convention’s Deadball presentations with “The Forgotten Team in the 1908 NL Pennant Race: The Pittsburgh Pirates”

The hour-long meeting of the Deadball Era Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Saturday in Grand Ballroom 1. The meeting will feature Chairman McMurray’s annual overview of committee-related matters, and formal presentation of the 2018 Larry Ritter Award to author Jim Leeke for *From the Dugout to the Trenches: Baseball During the Great War*. Remarks by Leeke will follow. If coming to Pittsburgh, we urge you to try and catch all of these interesting and informative events.



**PNC Park**

# ACCURATE RUNS-SCORED RECORDS FOR PLAYERS OF THE DEADBALL ERA: THE PLAYERS ON THE 1909 DETROIT TIGERS

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

The run is irrefutably the most important statistic in baseball — for the team and, therefore, for an individual player. Regrettably there are numerous runs-scored errors in the official records compiled by Major League Baseball — both for the teams and the individual players. This is particularly true in the early years of the diamond game, including the Deadball Era (1901-1919). Continuing with my effort to ascertain accurate runs-scored records for the players of the Deadball Era, I have now extended my research to the 1909 season for the players on the Detroit Tigers. In previous reports I have described the results of my research for the players on the 1906 and 1910-1919 Tigers teams.<sup>1-5</sup> My findings for the 1909 Tigers — which have major impact on the prestigious runs-scored crown — are presented in this report.

## RESEARCH PROCEDURE

For the 1909 season, I utilized the same rigorous *modus operandi* employed in my previous research efforts to ascertain accurate runs-scored and runs-batted-in numbers.<sup>6</sup> The Appendix to this article (available at SABR.org) provides the complete details of my research procedure.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the originally-generated official Day-By-Day (DBD) records, the 1909 Detroit Tigers played 158 games, winning 98 and losing 64, with six tie games. In accomplishing that record (which allowed them to claim the Junior Circuit pennant for the third consecutive year) Detroit scored a total of 667 runs. However, according to the game scores, the Tigers actually scored 666 runs. Upon scrutinizing the official DBD records I determined that the discrepancy was due to an addition error. For the games from April 14 through July 23, Detroit scored 341 runs

according to the game scores, which is also the sub-total shown at the bottom of the first page of the official DBD records for the Detroit team. For the games from July 24 through October 3, Detroit scored 325 runs according to the game scores. However, the sub-total shown at the bottom of the second (final) page of the official team DBD records is 326 runs — i.e., one more run credited *mathematically* than actually scored. So, it appears that a simple addition error is responsible for the 666-versus-667 runs-scored discrepancy.

Turning next to comparing the total runs scored by the team and the sum of the runs scored by the individual players shows that there is perfect agreement — 666 runs scored by Detroit and 666 runs scored by the 29 men who played in at least one game for the Tigers in 1909, according to the official DBD records. It is further pointed out that the official runs-scored numbers for each of the Tigers players have been used in various baseball encyclopedias (both hard-copy publications and Internet tabulations) — except for two players: (1) Bill Lelivelt (whose official DBD record shows that he scored one run, but whose record shown in baseball encyclopedias and on baseball websites is zero runs scored) and (2) George Mullin (whose official DBD record shows that he scored 12 runs, while the baseball encyclopedias and websites show that he scored 13 runs.<sup>7-11</sup> Thus, it would seem that there might have been a (not-uncommon) transcription error made in generating the official DBD records — i.e., that the run scored by Mullin was mistakenly entered in Lelivelt's stat line. The mistake was apparently discovered and corrected when the statistics used in the first (1969) edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (i.e., Big-Mac) were being generated. However, according to the official DBD records, Mullin and Lelivelt played in the same 1909 game only once (October 2); and neither player was credited with scoring any of the six runs Detroit tallied in that game. Therefore, it appears that there are at least two runs-scored issues somewhere in the official DBD records affecting the ledgers of Lelivelt and Mullin.

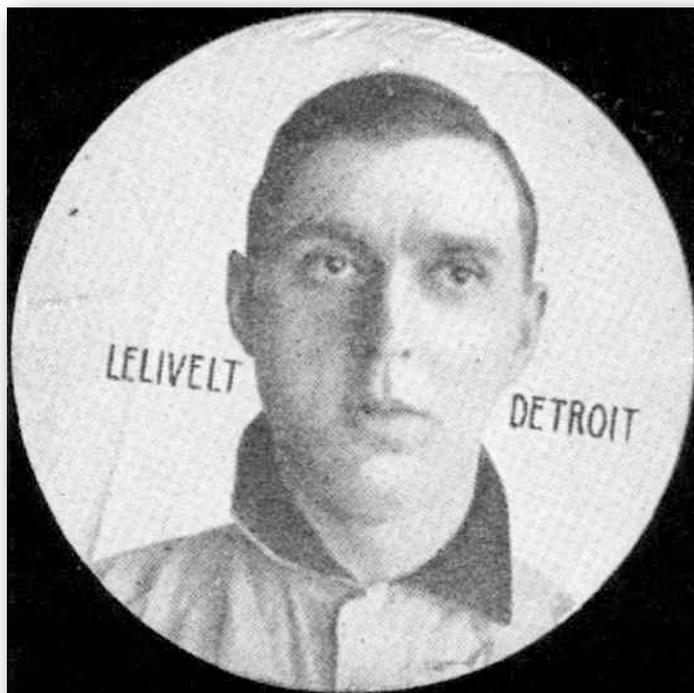
Based on the findings obtained from my research, I have resolved the runs-scored issues

which affect the statistical records of Mullin, Lelivelt, and Ty Cobb. In addition, I discovered — and corrected — additional runs-scored errors buried in the official DBD records affecting the ledgers of Donie Bush and Charley O’Leary. The runs-scored errors occurred in two games. Table 1 gives the full-season runs-scored numbers, according to my research, for each of the 29 players on the 1909 Tigers.

Examination of Table 1 reveals that there are differences between my runs-scored numbers and MLB’s originally-generated official runs-scored numbers for four players — Donie Bush, Ty Cobb, George Mullin, and Charley O’Leary. Inspection of the official DBD records for each of the players reveals that there is a mathematical runs-scored error for only one player — Ty Cobb. Table 2 shows how I discovered this mathematical error.

As can be seen, through Detroit’s first 70 games of the season (i.e., through the game of July 5), Cobb amassed a total of 42 runs scored — according to both the official DBD records and my research. However, the official DBD sheets included a 70-game summary line in which Cobb’ runs-scored total was incorrectly shown as 43, not the correct total of 42. This addition error was carried through rest of the season, resulting in the incorrect full-season total of 116 runs scored. Tyrus Raymond actually scored a total of 115 runs (not 116 runs) in 1909. This mathematical runs-scored error has persisted in all of baseball’s record books and encyclopedias for more than a hundred years — except for *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*, which, since the 2003 edition, has correctly shown Cobb as the 1909 American League leader in runs scored with 115.<sup>12</sup>

Moving on now to the other runs-scored errors I uncovered, Table 3 collects the pertinent information for the runs-scored errors in the official DBD records for the two games on August 21 and August 27. Also shown is the relevant information for Lelivelt in the game on October 3. The Appendix provides the text descriptions from numerous newspapers for each of the runs scored in each of these three



**Bill Lelivelt**

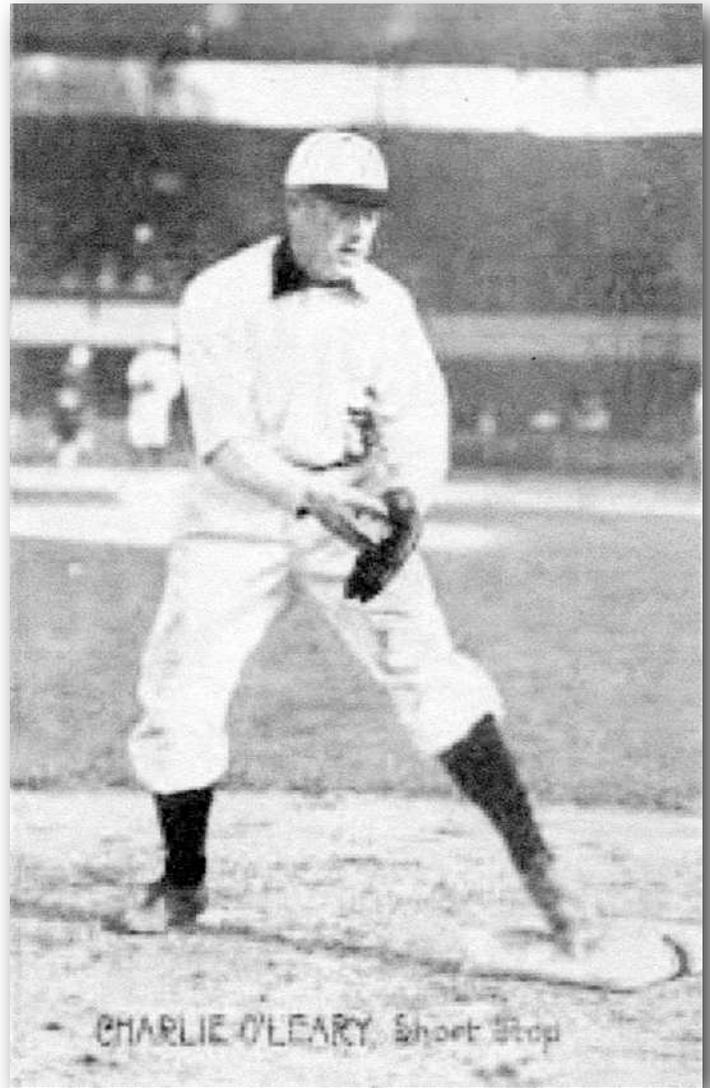
games; also given are the runs-scored numbers according to the newspaper box scores.

The official DBD run-scored error impacting George Mullin appears to be a simple transcription omission for the game on August 21. The Tigers scored 9 runs in this game — Davy Jones (0), Donie Bush (2), Ty Cobb (1), Sam Crawford (1), Jim Delahanty (3), George Moriarty (0), George Mullin (1), Boss Schmidt (0), Ed Killian (0), and Ed Summers (0). The official DBD records for each of these players shows the number of runs scored — EXCEPT for Mullin, who has no statistics line for the August 21 game, suggesting that he did not play in the game. But he did play in the game — he was Detroit’s right fielder for the entire game. His AB-R-H line was 3-1-2 with one walk. As provided in the Appendix, the newspaper game accounts show that he scored (along with Jim Delahanty) on a 2-RBI single by Davy Jones in the third inning.

The official DBD runs-scored errors affecting Donie Bush and Charley O’Leary are due to a transcription mix-up for the game on August 27. Bush, who played shortstop and batted second in Detroit’s batting order, was replaced by O’Leary at the number-six field position in the top of the

eighth inning. Mistakenly, “3” was entered into Bush’s runs-scored cell and “1” was entered into O’Leary’s runs-cored cell. As stated in the text descriptions given in the game accounts presented in numerous newspapers, Bush actually scored “4” runs and O’Leary actually scored “0” runs; see the Appendix for these text descriptions. Here’s a complete summary of the 17 runs Detroit scored:

- 1 (first inning) — D. Jones scored on a 1-RBI single by Cobb.
- 2 (first inning) — Bush scored on a 2-RBI fielder’s choice by Delahanty.
- 3 (first inning) — Cobb scored on a 2-RBI fielder’s choice by Delahanty.
- 4 (third inning) — Bush scored on a 1-RBI single by Crawford.
- 5 (third inning) — Crawford scored on a 1-RBI single by Delahanty.
- 6 (fourth inning) — Willett scored on a 3-RBI homer by Cobb.
- 7 (fourth inning) — Bush scored on a 3-RBI homer by Cobb.
- 8 (fourth inning) — Cobb scored on a 3-RBI homer by Cobb.
- 9 (fourth inning) — Crawford scored on a 1-RBI homer by Crawford.
- 10 (fourth inning) — Delahanty scored (from third base) on a 1-RBI grounder by Stanage, who was safe on a fielding error (fumbled grounder) by the second baseman LaPorte.
- 11 (fourth inning) — Moriarty scored on a 2-RBI single by D. Jones.
- 12 (fourth inning) — T. Jones scored on a 2-RBI single by D. Jones.
- 13 (fourth inning) — Stanage scored on a 2-RBI single by Cobb.
- 14 (fourth inning) — D. Jones scored on a 2-RBI single by Cobb.
- 15 (fourth inning) — Bush scored on a 1-RBI single by Crawford.
- 16 (seventh inning) — Cobb scored on a 1-RBI single by Delahanty.
- 17 (seventh inning) — Delahanty scored on a 1-RBI single by Moriarty.



**Charlie O’Leary**

Additional evidence in support of O’Leary not entering the game until *after* the Tigers had scored all of their runs comes from this statement in the *Detroit Free Press* game account (“Told About The Tigers” sidebar) — “O’Leary went to short field in the eighth inning, replacing Bush. He was given a great hand when he came to bat. He is doing most of his work right now on the coaching lines, where his good head and thorough knowledge of the game makes him a valuable man. He is deservedly popular with the fans.” Since Detroit scored each of its 17 runs in the first seven innings and O’Leary did not enter the game until the top of the eighth inning, it was impossible for O’Leary to have scored a run.

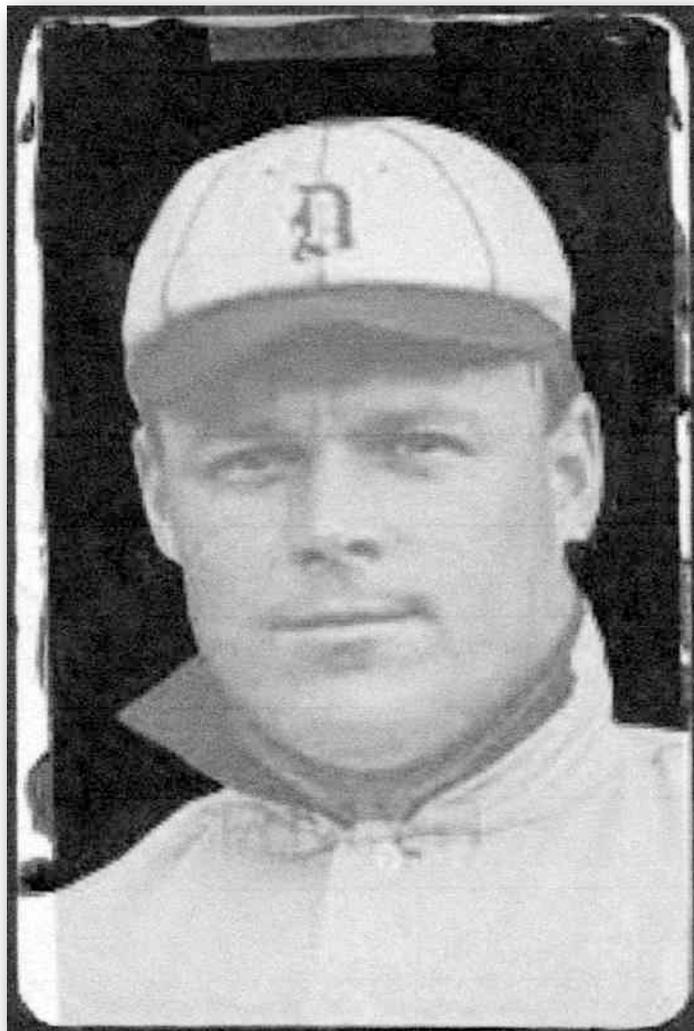
Similarly, the *Detroit Times* game account includes a number of miscellaneous items, two of which are germane to the Bush-O'Leary runs-scored issue: "Charley O'Leary got a chance to keep his hand in by shortstopping in the last two innings." That is, O'Leary played shortstop in the eighth and ninth innings. "Bush's record was remarkable yesterday. Passed three times, he scored four runs and got a hit." Thus, it is clearly stated that Bush scored four runs (even though the DT box score shows him with three runs and O'Leary with one run).

There is no run-scored error in the official DBD record of Bill Lelivelt. The various baseball encyclopedias and websites are erroneous in showing that he scored zero runs.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

While correcting any errors in the official DBD records and in baseball's various record books, encyclopedias, media guides, and internet sites is important, correcting some errors are more important than others. Certainly, the most significant runs-scored errors in the official DBD records for the players on the 1909 Detroit Tigers are those involving Ty Cobb and *Donie Bush*. As mentioned above, Cobb, who in 1909 led the American League in runs scored, actually scored 115 runs (not 116 runs). And, as described above, I discovered that Bush also actually scored 115 runs (not 114 runs). Thus, Cobb and Bush should now be recognized as co-occupants of the American League's 1909 runs-scored throne. Therefore, it can be expected that the appropriate corrections will be made on the various baseball websites and in future editions of baseball's encyclopedias and record books.

In my previous research efforts, I discovered and corrected runs-scored errors in the official DBD records for Bush (1912, 1914, and 1915 seasons) and Cobb (1906, 1911, 1918, 1920, and 1924 seasons). Thus, for Bush, including the 114->115 runs-scored correction for 1909 results in his (partial) Detroit Tigers career (1909-1921) runs scored actually being 1227 (instead of 1229, according to the originally-generated official DBD records for him). Similarly for Cobb, including the 116->115 runs-scored correction



**George Mullin**

for 1909 results in his (partial) Detroit Tigers career (1906 and 1909-1926) runs scored actually being 1881 (instead of 1882, according to the originally-generated official DBD records for him).<sup>13</sup>

The runs-scored errors and corrections reported here for Mullin and O'Leary brings the to-date-total number of Tigers players from the 1906 and 1909-1919 Deadball Era seasons with runs-scored errors in the official DBD records to 25 (44 player-seasons): Del Baker (1915, 1916); Donie Bush (1909, 1912, 1914, 1915); Ty Cobb (1906, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1918); Harry Coveleski (1915); Jim Delahanty (1911); Jean Dubuc (1912, 1913); Del Gainer 1911, 1913); Davy Jones (1912); Marty Kavanagh (1918); Baldy Louden (1912, 1913); George Moriarty (1911, 1912); George Mullin (1909); Jack Ness (1911); Charley O'Leary

(1909); Fred Payne (1906); Pepper Peploski (1913); Biff Schaller (1911); Chick Shorten (1919); Ed Siever (1906); Oscar Stanage (1911, 1916); Bobby Veach (1913, 1916, 1918); Ossie Vitt (1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1918); Frank Walker (1918); Archie Yelle (1918); and Ralph Young (1918).

From the perspective of “seasons with runs-scored errors in the official DBD records,” of the dozen Deadball Era seasons I’ve investigated for Detroit thus far, only two have been found to be free of runs-scored errors — 1910 and 1917. Finally, the next Tigers season on my “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era” schedule is 1908 — during which Detroit topped the Junior Circuit in runs scored with 647 and Matty McIntyre, Sam Crawford, and Germany Schaefer finished one-two-three in runs scored among AL players with totals of 105, 102, and 96, respectively, according to the official DBD records.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to thank Steve Elsberry for providing the runs-scored numbers shown in the first (1969) edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* and each of the eight editions of *Total Baseball* for George Mullin and Bill Lelivelt. Likewise, I thank Dixie Tourangeau for providing the runs-scored numbers for Mullin shown in the 1910 editions of both the *Reach Baseball Guide* and *Spalding Baseball Guide*. Finally, I gratefully thank Retrosheet’s Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for reviewing the documentation I assembled in support of the conclusions I reached.

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**TABLE 1: RUNS-SCORED NUMBERS FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1909 DETROIT TIGERS**

Player	Runs (This Work)	Runs (Official)	Player	Runs (This Work)	Runs (Official)
Heinie Beckendorf	1	1	Bill Lelivelt	1	1
<b>Donie Bush</b>	<b>*115*</b>	114	Matty McIntyre	65	65
Joe Casey	1	1	George Moriarty	43	43
<b>Ty Cobb</b>	<b>*115*</b>	116	<b>George Mullin</b>	<b>*13*</b>	12
Sam Crawford	83	83	<b>Charley O’Leary</b>	<b>*28*</b>	29
Jim Delahanty	29	29	Claude Rossman	16	16
Bill Donovan	6	6	Germany Schaefer	26	26
Del Gainer	0	0	Boss Schmidt	21	21
Hughie Jennings	1	1	Kid Speer	1	1
Davy Jones	44	44	Oscar Stanage	17	17
Elijah Jones	1	1	George Suggs	0	0
Tom Jones	13	13	Ed Summers	4	4
Red Killefer	6	6	Ed Willett	10	10
Ed Killian	4	4	Ralph Works	2	2
Ed Lafitte	0	0	—	—	—

NOTES: A player whose name is shown in boldface indicates that the player’s actual runs-scored number [shown in the “Runs (This Work)” column] is different from the runs-scored number shown for him in the “Runs (Official)” column; the actual runs-scored number is also emboldened and bracketed with asterisks.

**TABLE 2: THE MATHEMATICAL RUNS-SCORED ERROR  
IN TY COBB'S 1909 OFFICIAL DBD RECORD**

G	Date	R (off)	YTD R (off)	R (act)	YTD R (act)	G	Date	R (off)	YTD R (off)	R (act)	YTD R (act)
3	April 16	3	3	3	3	34	May 28	1	24	1	24
4	April 17	1	4	1	4	36	May 30	1	25	1	25
5	April 18	1	5	1	5	38	May 31 (2)	3	28	3	28
8	April 23	1	6	1	6	39	June 2	2	30	2	30
12	April 28	1	7	1	7	41	June 4	1	31	1	31
15	May 2	3	10	3	10	46	June 12	1	32	1	32
18	May 5	1	11	1	11	49	June 16	1	33	1	33
20	May 11	1	12	1	12	53	June 20 (1)	3	36	3	36
21	May 12	3	15	3	15	54	June 20 (2)	1	37	1	37
22	May 13	1	16	1	16	55	June 21	1	38	1	38
23	May 16	1	17	1	17	57	June 23	1	39	1	39
25	May 18	1	18	1	18	60	June 26	1	40	1	40
27	May 20	1	19	1	19	67	July 2	1	41	1	41
30	May 23	1	20	1	20	69	July 4	1	42	1	42
31	May 24	2	22	2	22	70	July 5	0	42	0	42
32	May 25	1	23	1	23	—	<b>summary</b>	—	<b>43</b>	—	42

NOTES: (a) The “G” columns give the game number for the Detroit Tigers. (b) The “Date” column gives the date of the game. (c) The “R (off)” column gives the runs scored by Cobb as shown on the official DBD records. (d) The “YTD R (off)” column gives the year-to-date runs scored by Cobb; the YTD R numbers are not shown on the official DBD records. (e) The “R (act)” column gives the actual runs scored according to my research. (f) The “YTD R (act)” column gives the year-to-date runs scored by Cobb. (f) After the 70<sup>th</sup> game, the official DBD record included a YTD summary of Cobb’s batting statistics; his official YTD runs-scored number is shown in boldface.

**TABLE 3: RUNS-SCORED ERRORS IN OFFICIAL DBD RECORDS FOR  
PLAYERS ON THE 1909 DETROIT TIGERS — CONSEQUENCES  
(INDIVIDUAL GAME AND FULL SEASON) OF CORRECTING THE ERRORS**

Player	Game	OPP	Runs Game (This Work)	Runs Game (Official)	Runs Season (This Work)	Runs Season (Official)	Runs Season (Encyclopedias)
Bush	August 27	NY	4	3	115	114	114
Cobb	—	—	—	—	115	116	116
Lelivelt	October 3	CHI*	1	1	1	1	0
Mullin	August 21	WAS	1	—	13	12	13
O’Leary	August 27	NY	0	1	28	29	29

NOTES: The entries in the “Runs Season (Encyclopedias)” column are from the baseball encyclopedias given in references 2-4 as well as from the MLB.com and Baseball-Reference.com (accessed on April 17, 2018). An asterisk in the “OPP” column indicates that the game was played in the opposing team’s city. The dash (—) entry shown for Mullin indicates that the official DBD records did not include him, i.e., suggesting that he did not play in the indicated game. The dash (—) entries shown for Cobb indicates that the runs-scored error is not in a specific game; see text for the discussion of Cobb’s runs-scored error.

## MEGAPHONES IN THE DEADBALL ERA

by **Phil Williams**

In 1878 Thomas Edison labored in his Menlo Park laboratory for a means to better transmit sound vibrations to the deaf. Adapting a concept dating back to the ancient Greeks, he invented the megaphone. Edison's invention soon entered American life and helped to define its national pastime.

The megaphone's major-league debut may have occurred in the stands of Brooklyn's Eastern Park in 1897. "Several cranks in the right-field bleachers amused the crowd with cutting remarks through huge megaphones," observed a correspondent after the Giants defeated the Bridegrooms that July 6.<sup>1</sup> The next March, a "great lover of the national game" wrote, "I witnessed many games at Eastern Park last season, the pleasure of which was wholly destroyed by those megaphone fiends."<sup>2</sup>

The stands only grew louder. In Pittsburgh, as the Pirates hosted the Giants in August 1904: "Horns, whistles and megaphones rent the air in each game."<sup>3</sup> At Chicago, at Game One of the 1906 World Series, "(t)in horns, gigantic megaphones, cow bells, tickers and all other noise-making devices were very much in evidence."<sup>4</sup> In Philadelphia, as the Athletics faced the White Sox in a key late-September 1907 series, "the din of megaphones, huge whistles, cowbells, and almost every conceivable object with which to make a racket" overwhelmed.<sup>5</sup>

Marketing tie-ins placed more megaphones in the stands. "A large number of paper megaphones were distributed among the fans as an advertisement" by a Cincinnati business prior to a July 1908 match. But Reds "manager [John] Ganzel will see that it doesn't happen again, as advice to the players was all too audible through the medium of the little horns."<sup>6</sup> Detroit's *Free Press* presented 800 Tigers fans journeying to Pittsburgh for the 1909 World Series opener with a complimentary megaphone.<sup>7</sup> As the 1912 season dawned, a Washington shoe store chain advertised that "We will give a large

MEGAPHONE, so that you can make plenty of noise for the "NATIONALS" at Thursday's Opening Game — to every MAN who asks for one at our stores tomorrow."<sup>8</sup>

Umpires traditionally announced batteries before, and any lineup changes during, a game. Yet some were more vocal than others, and all were potentially drowned out by a boisterous crowd. By 1895, Harry Stevens, the enterprising Polo Grounds scorecard concessioner, had become known to Giants fans as "the nervous, agile human megaphone who strides around and calls out the batteries for the day and any changes in the team made subsequently to the printing of the score cards."<sup>9</sup> A mechanical means could improve upon human form. In 1898 a Pittsburgh sportswriter lobbied for "(t)he use of the megaphone in announcing changes in the batting order, the batteries for the game, substitution of players and ground rules."<sup>10</sup>

This vision was realized with the American League. "A new feature in baseball was the megaphone man, who announced the change in players and other interesting facts that the crowd was anxious to learn," a scribe reported of the Boston Americans debut at the Huntington Avenue Grounds on May 8, 1901.<sup>11</sup> From Detroit's Bennett Field, less than a week later: "The first announcer of the batteries spat the words out in chunks and had to be relieved from the megaphone job. His successor was a great improvement."<sup>12</sup> That September 6, when news that President McKinley had been shot reached Detroit, the Tigers and Athletics agreed to halt their match after six innings, and "the megaphone announced that the game was concluded and the crowd, hushed and reverent, left the grounds."<sup>13</sup>

The next step in the megaphone's evolution came with the 1905 World Series between the Athletics and the Giants. "Most of the dozen newspapers in each city erected huge scoreboards on the upper stories of downtown buildings," Norman Macht writes. "For the first game on October 9, thousands stood in the streets and blocked traffic, listening intently as the Megaphone Man bawled out: 'Bresnahan at the bat ... ball

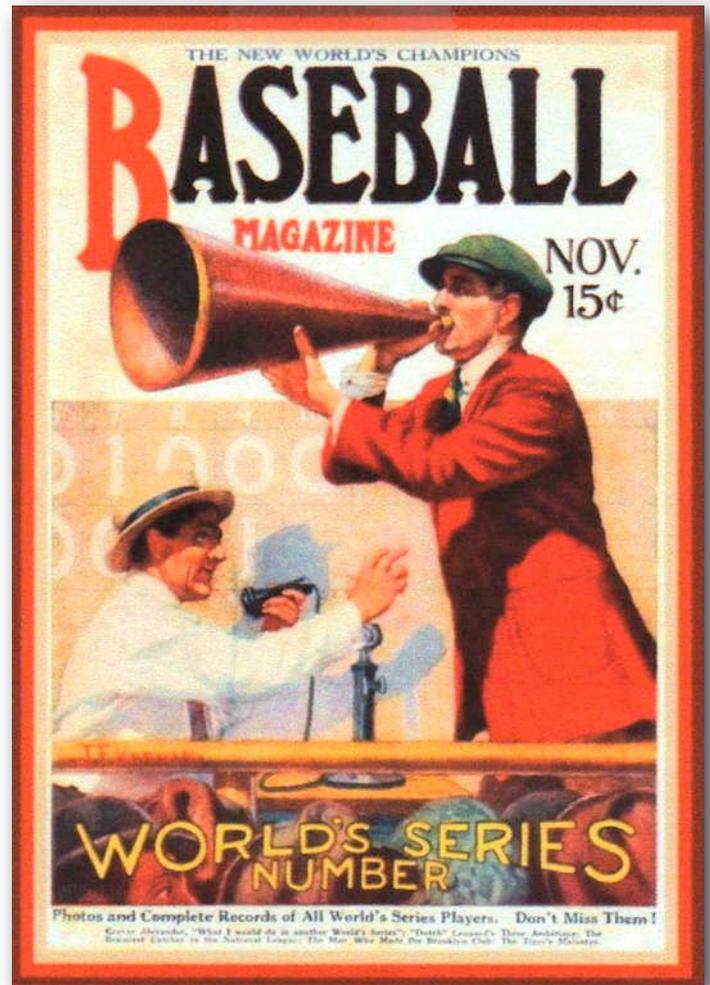
one ... strike one ... Bresnahan singles to center field ...”<sup>14</sup>

In 1906, this phenomenon entered the regular season in Cleveland. As the Naps embarked on a 13-game road trip in mid-May, the *Plain Dealer* placed (and ballyhooed) “the most complete scoreboard ever constructed and a splendid megaphone artist” in front of their downtown office.<sup>15</sup> The newspaper estimated, “without exaggeration,” that crowds of 15,000 to 20,000 soon packed the surrounding area.<sup>16</sup> Cleveland’s progressive mayor, Tom Johnson, soon advocated for “a public scoreboard, operated by the city, in the heart of the [city’s] busy section. He would have every play announced by megaphone.”<sup>17</sup>

Yet the *Plain Dealer*’s scoreboard, and Johnson’s ambitions, seem not to have survived that campaign. Outdoor scoreboards, accompanied with megaphone men, made only isolated in-season appearances in coming years. But they became an October norm. By the time the Red Sox and the Giants met in the 1912 World Series, megaphone men — from Hartford to San Francisco, and from Houston to Missoula — kept fans enthralled with game accounts.<sup>18</sup>

By this time, megaphones were more common on major-league diamonds. Towards the end of the 1908 season, it was reported that the American League would “adopt a rule ordering the megaphone announcer not only to tell who is playing such and such a position, in case of a change from the printed [score]cards, but also where he will bat.”<sup>19</sup> This directive may not have been immediately implemented, but by 1911, with mentions of the Athletics, White Sox, and Yankees using megaphone men, it seems probable that their presence was league-wide.<sup>20</sup> Not until June 1914 did NL chieftain John Tener advise all his circuit’s clubs to employ a megaphonist.<sup>21</sup> Most NL teams had already done so. But, as late as 1916, the Pirates lacked one.<sup>22</sup>

“Most of the announcers are exceedingly fresh youths,” grouched a Brooklyn sportswriter in 1916 of the megaphone men.<sup>23</sup> Most served anonymously. Occasionally, a ne’er-do-well, like



*Baseball Magazine, 1922*

Walter “Red” McAuliffe, took over the duties with colorful results. A former Browns batboy, McAuliffe became the megaphonist role for both St. Louis teams in 1914. He incurred Connie Mack’s ire for loitering in front of the Athletics’ dugout, became engaged with a “hot argument” with umpire Bill Klem, verbally slammed wise-cracking fans, and butchered player names.<sup>24</sup> McAuliffe’s megaphone days concluded in 1915.

Two megaphone men gained recognition for being a cut above the norm. Harry Safir kept the Polo Grounds faithful informed during Yankees and Giants games. Safir, a New York sportswriter observed in 1911, “is almost as popular as the players that he announces” and “has a remarkable voice, and the names can be heard distinctly to the farthest corners of the bleachers.”<sup>25</sup> In Washington, one-armed E. Lawrence Phillips began megaphoning for the

Nationals late in the 1901 season. In 1915, a Detroit sportswriter complimented his clear voice, observing that Phillips spoke in “English instead of Chinese which is the court language of megaphone boys.”<sup>26</sup> Robert Hardy, in his study of Phillips, adds, “He became noted among Washington fans for his dramatic rendering of the word ‘batteries,’ which he extravagantly prolonged into ‘bat-ter-eeze,’ and for the syllable he added to the end of the players’ names (*John-son-ahh and Strr-eet-ahh*).”<sup>27</sup>

An acoustic megaphone doesn’t increase one’s vocal powers. Instead it reduces the differences in impedance between one’s voice and the open air, and one’s speech is less diffused while being better directed.<sup>28</sup> Megaphones brought more of Safir’s and Phillips’ capable voices, in a clearer manner, to the fans.

Little evidence exists of exactly what kind of megaphones were used in the stands, the fields, or in city streets. Inventors marketed powerful five-inch megaphones, and newspapers advertised ones as large as 40 inches. The 1915 Sears catalog sold a 12-inch fiber megaphone with nickel plated trimmings and a handle to be “used by schools, clubs, at athletic events,” and a cheaper, smaller, and handle-less cardboard model “for rooters.”<sup>29</sup>

A good megaphone man conveyed starting lineups, and subsequent changes “slowly and distinctly to every stand.”<sup>30</sup> Longtime Brooklyn public address man Tex Rickard recalled his early days with a megaphone thusly: “We had to do it three times on everything. Once toward the seats behind home plate, once down the first-base line and once down the third-base line. On a rough day your throat could get good and sore.”<sup>31</sup>

On occasion during the second half of the Deadball Era, one of the game’s showboats (Mike Donlin) or clowns (Germany Shaefer, Nick Altrock) grabbed a megaphone for impromptu fun.<sup>32</sup> Or umpire Bill Klem snatched the device away from a soft-voiced megaphonist to do the job himself.<sup>33</sup> Or, when skipper Buck Herzog equipped the players on his Reds bench with

megaphones to better “ride” the opposition, NL president John Tener nixed the scheme.<sup>34</sup>

In a more general sense, the megaphone increasingly supplemented the action on the field. At Fenway Park’s formal dedication on May 18, 1912, a “never weary” band was “augmented by a megaphone quartet which sang ‘bear’ songs and refused to allow even the entre-innings to be dull.”<sup>35</sup> The Browns’ home opener at Sportsman’s Park in 1915 featured a megaphone “twenty feet in length” with a mouthpiece “so constructed as to permit a whole quartet to sing into it.”<sup>36</sup> Megaphone men promoted ticket sales, and pitching matchups, for upcoming games.<sup>37</sup> These trends undoubtedly pleased many fans, enhancing their game experience. Others objected, seeing a corrupting effect upon the game’s purity. “Enthusiasm may be classed as artificial when the use of a megaphone is necessary to inspire it,” commented a St. Louis sportswriter in 1915.<sup>38</sup>

Megaphones soon broadcasted World War I’s patriotic fervor. In June 1917, as the Phillies hosted the Giants on a Saturday afternoon, the Red Cross attended in force. “After a short appeal made to the grandstand crowd through the big megaphone, the nurses scattered through the stands and reaped a big harvest.”<sup>39</sup> In April 1918, with the Cubs visiting the Cardinals, a megaphonist called the action (“That’s the first liberty loan.”) in a pre-game pitcher-batter “skit involving Uncle Sam, in his star spangled garments, and Kaiser Bill, with his helmet, gaudy uniform, iron crosses and all.”<sup>40</sup> Several months later, Feds and local police conducted a city-wide dragnet in Chicago to nab “slackers and aliens.” Between games at a Cubs doubleheader, “(m)egaphone announcements were made that none would be permitted to leave the park save those who could give satisfactory accounts of themselves. The announcement caused no comment and the crowd passed the ordeal in a matter of fact way.”<sup>41</sup>

A coda to the megaphone’s role in the Deadball Era came on July 4, 1919. Under a summer sun that afternoon, Jess Willard defended his

heavyweight boxing crown against Jack Dempsey in Toledo. The fight coincided with holiday doubleheaders. Reds business manager Frank Bancroft announced plans to “employ four or five megaphone spielers to announce the event by rounds in front of the grandstand and bleachers” as Cincinnati hosted St. Louis.<sup>42</sup> The *Pittsburgh Post* told its readers that, “by special arrangement with the Pittsburgh Baseball Club” fans could attend that afternoon’s matches versus the Cubs and hear the paper’s megaphone men provide live fight updates.<sup>43</sup>

In New York, the Yankees faced the Nationals. The fight’s denouement coincided with the bottom of the ninth of the afternoon game. With two out, men at first and second, and Washington leading 5-4, Duffy Lewis came to the plate. The drama was “halted by an excited man waving a megaphone. He wanted to announce a bulletin from Toledo. ‘Jack Dempsey knocks out Jess Willard in the third round!’” The crowd went wild. “The umpire waved away the man with the megaphone and Duffy Lewis looked Pitcher [Harry] Harper in the eye.” He then smashed a curve against the left field wall, scoring both runners and winning the game. “The crowd in a crossfire of joy over the fight news and the sudden end of the ball game, swarmed all over the field trying to take the megaphone man and Duffy Lewis on their shoulders. Luckily both escaped, but crowd continued to surge over the field yelling and applauding everything they saw.”<sup>44</sup>

As early as 1912, Charles Ebbets experimented with a nascent public-address system at Brooklyn’s Washington Park.<sup>45</sup> Judging from subsequent references to Brooklyn megaphonists, it was not successful. Possibly more permanent was the “electrical announcing device” installed within Comiskey Park in 1913.<sup>46</sup> Yet not until the late 1920s would technical advances allow public address systems to take a wide hold in major league parks, and relegate the megaphone man to a place among the sport’s historical curiosities. During the 1934 World Series between the Tigers and the Cardinals, a Detroit paper, commenting upon a “boy with [a]

green megaphone [making] announcements,” dismissed St. Louis’s Sportsman’s Park as a “shabby old affair.”<sup>47</sup> The next spring, Sportsman’s Park management announced that public address would replace the “primitive megaphone system.”<sup>48</sup>

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks Norman Macht for providing a copy of his “Gather ‘Round the Megaphone Man” article for review.

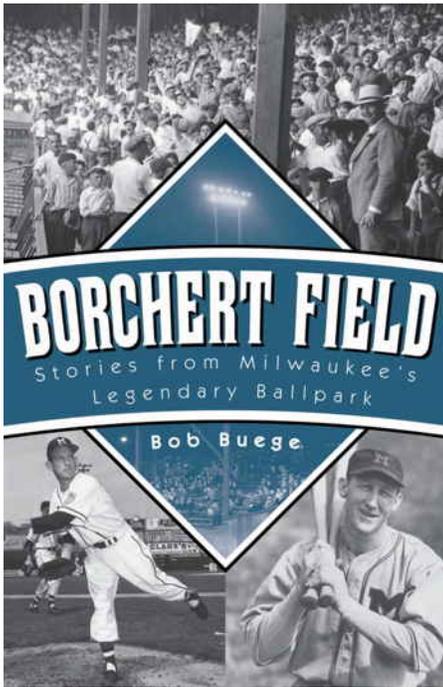
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The Brooklyn club started off with a new ticket system which it put into effect late last year. Every purchaser of a ticket will receive a postponed game check.

*The Minneapolis Journal, April 21, 1906*



**BORCHERT FIELD:  
STORIES FROM  
MILWAUKEE'S LEGENDARY  
BALLPARK**

**By Bob Buege**

*2017, Wisconsin Historical  
Society Press*

*[ISBN 978-0870207884, 379  
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Borchert Field was a ballpark in existence in Milwaukee from 1888 to 1952. Bob Buege has written a fascinating account of the history of that ballpark and the events that took place there. The minor league American Association Milwaukee Brewers played there from 1902 to 1952, so most of the book is related to the Brewers in some way.

Borchert Field was initially named Athletic Park from 1888 to 1928. The initial cost was \$40,000. In 1919 Otto Borchert was a major investor in buying Athletic Park. His widow, Idabel, inherited the ballpark after Otto died. After she sold Athletic Park, it was named Borchert Field.

Buege seems to assume the average reader of this book does not know a lot of the well-known players that played at Borchert Field. For example, a chapter is included that mentions how Ty Cobb played at Athletic Field in 1912. Details about Cobb's mother shooting his father and Ty leading Detroit to three-straight AL pennants are included in the chapter. Most, if not virtually all, Deadball Era Committee members will know this. Another example is the 1919 Black Sox. Mentioning the details of the scandal and a few pages on their lawyers really has nothing to do with Athletic Park/Borchert Field. But the audience that Bob Buege seems to assume is somewhat interested in Borchert Field learns a bit of knowledge about ballplayers of that era.

Borchert Field is not just about baseball. There are a number of interesting chapters about non-baseball events that happened there. The Green Bay Packers played at Borchert Field 10 times. Harry Truman gave a speech there in 1948 as he was running for president. Rodeos and professional wrestling also came to Borchert Field. One aspect of the book I

found confusing. Buege mentions how the Milwaukee Brewers joined the American Association in 1891. Later on he mentions how the Milwaukee Brewers were a charter member of the American Association in 1902. The fact that there were two different American Associations is not made clear.

A couple of interesting facts from the book: A section of the roof blew off during a storm in 1944. By city ordinance the amount spent on repairs could not exceed one-half the original cost of construction. Since building the ballpark was much cheaper (minimal cost) when originally built, the last eight years of its existence didn't have this section of the roof. Another interesting fact was that Tedd Gullic hit a home run out of the ballpark. What makes this interesting is that the ball shattered a window and landed in the living room of a house across the street. Gullic was renting that house at that time! Today a freeway runs through where Borchert Field used to be.

Buege writes this book in a very easy, understandable way for the reader. Each chapter flows. Buege has a way of bringing to life the events that happened at Borchert Field. Though he adds unnecessary details at times to the well-known players that played there, the book is still a fascinating read.

I do believe that the author could have added to the book

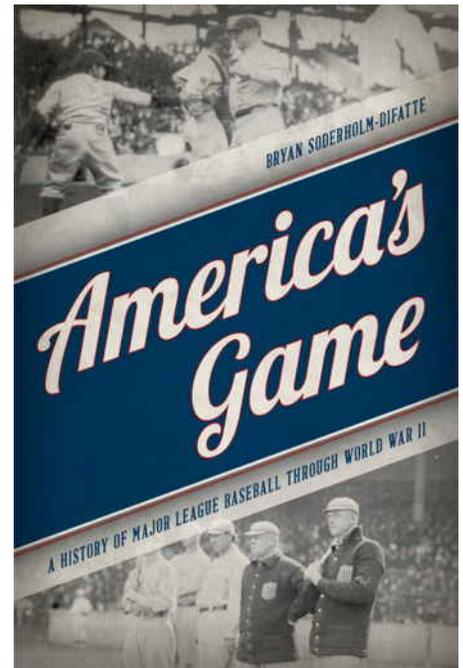
by employing modern statistical findings. Even though this book is about a field and not specifically about the players, reference to OPS, for example, would have given a better grasp of the players mentioned. Buege also digresses at times. For example, he has four pages of facts about George Halas before getting to the fact that his pro football Chicago Bears played the Milwaukee Badgers at Athletic Field in 1926.

The most interesting chapter may be the last chapter. The Milwaukee Brewers best two years (in Bob Buege's opinion) were the last two years of Borchert Field. Buege gives an excellent account of each season, giving many highlights and relevant details about important games. One gets the feel of being there as Buege describes the action.

Bob Buege writes this book to give a history of Borchert Field.

Overall, with his individual chapters on different well-known ballplayers, non-baseball events, and the success and failure of the Milwaukee Brewers playing there, I believe he accomplishes his goal. Having lived in the Milwaukee area since the 1980s, I had heard about Borchert Field but I didn't know much about it. Now I feel (because of this book) much more knowledgeable about the history of Borchert Field. Despite the many good baseball books out there from the Deadball Era, *Borchert Field* is interesting if you are looking for in a book about a little known stadium.

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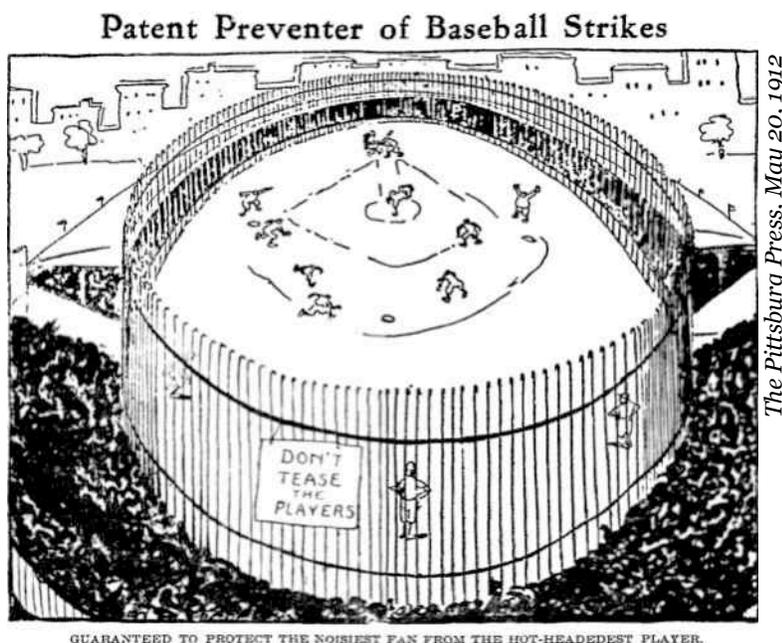
**AMERICA'S GAME:  
A HISTORY OF MAJOR  
LEAGUE BASEBALL  
THROUGH WORLD WAR II**

**By Bryan Soderholm-Difatte**

2018, Rowman and Littlefield  
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*America's Game* is, in a sense, a prequel to the author's 2015 book *The Golden Era of Major League Baseball*, also published by Rowman and Littlefield, which focuses on the 1950s. Since there is no intimation, however, that this constitutes the next volume of what is anticipated to be a comprehensive history of the game, it is best to consider it as a free-standing work. In that sense, experienced baseball researchers are likely to



GUARANTEED TO PROTECT THE NOISIEST FAN FROM THE HOT-HEADEDDEST PLAYER.

compare the work to the Seymours' *Baseball: The Golden Age*, given that their chronological scopes largely overlap, the Seymours' extending from 1901 to 1927, and *America's Game* from 1901 to 1945. There are, however, several significant differences in approach. The Seymours devote substantial attention to off-field, front office, and organizational developments, areas that Soderholm-Difatte largely ignores. Where the Seymours adopted a standard chronological approach, Soderholm-Difatte's 33 chapters eschew that principle in favor of a topical organization. There are pluses and minuses to both.

One of the problems with the topical approach – this pops up regularly throughout the book – is the tendency to repeat details. Just to cite one example, aspects of the New York Giants' dominance during the twentieth century's first decade are discussed in chapters devoted to the early development of relief pitching; to John McGraw's "rock star" managerial status; to the famous 1908 pennant race; to the Cubs' first-decade dominance, and as background to the 1920s Giants. That's a lot of walking back over plowed ground, and veteran readers are likely to find some of it redundant to the point of annoyance.

One strength of *America's Game* is its general commitment to the use of sabermetric principles to

contextualize events. The 1906 "Hitless Wonder" White Sox have long been marveled at for the World Series championship they won despite an awful offense. In standard comprehensive histories, analysis of that achievement has tended to stop at "they won despite batting just .230, which was last in the league." Soderholm-Difatte applies modern statistics to contextualize this weakness in a way that historians of previous generations could not have done, making Chicago's ability to overcome its batting shortcoming even more noteworthy.

To the extent there are recurring themes, one of them is development – or lack of development – of a bullpen. The author's thesis appears to be that teams of the 1900-1945 era would have been better off if they had adopted something akin to twenty-first century bullpen strategies. In a discussion about the Gashouse Gang Cardinals of the 1930s, Soderholm-Difatte notes that in addition to being the ace starters, Dizzy and Paul Dean were also the relief aces, a usage pattern he suspects led to Paul developing the sore arm that rendered him virtually useless after 1936. This might be true, although eight decades after the fact it is certainly speculation. He blames the team's failure to win more than one pennant or World Series – and as a Cubs fan I would debate whether that's a failure – to manager Frank Frisch's lack of

confidence in his relief corps. "In 1937 the Cardinals' staff recorded only four saves all year, indicative of Frisch not trusting his bullpen with the game on the line – especially with the injured, overworked Dizzy not available to be his relief ace as well as his top starting pitcher," the author states.

Another of the book's strengths is its recognition of the interpersonal dynamics – not always positive – that drove teams from time to time. Recalling the 1912 World Series champion Boston Red Sox, the author notes that the team succeeded despite a significant religion-based clubhouse cleavage. The Protestant-Catholic split – with Tris Speaker and Joe Wood on the Protestant side, Bill Carrigan and Duffy Lewis on the Catholic side – very much mirrored a broader and quite profound societal split historians often pass over lightly. That interpersonal dynamic surfaces again with the 1919-1920 White Sox, cloven both by culture and by the (valid) suspicions that certain members of the team had conspired with gamblers to fix the 1919 World Series. Although Soderholm-Difatte's treatment of that scandal is necessarily limited by the constraint of dealing with it in a single chapter, he does a good job of recognizing those ongoing pressures, especially with respect to 1920, when the divided Sox nearly repeated as league champions.

Although the previously published nature of most of the material generally protects against factual errors creeping into the text, there were one or two. In his discussion of the Phillies recurrent failure to mount contending teams during the 1920s and 1930s, Soderholm-Difatte observes that cash-strapped owner Gerry Nugent ultimately sold the club to “an heir to the DuPont fortune.” Curiously, he never identifies this heir-rescuer, but presumably he is referring to Robert Carpenter, who did buy the Phillies and who did have a connection to the DuPonts. The problem is that Nugent did not sell the team to Carpenter or anybody else with DuPont connections. Nugent supposedly wanted to sell it to Bill Veeck, but under circumstances that remain murky Judge Landis intervened to force the team’s sale instead to William Cox, a lumber company executive. Cox only lasted one season before running afoul of Landis over gambling allegations, at which point Cox sold the team to Carpenter.

Several of the book’s more interesting insights are contained in the chapters discussing the managerial tenure of Bill McKechnie, who managed four National League teams to four pennants and one World Series championship between 1922 and 1946. Soderholm-Difatte’s thesis is that McKechnie is an under-appreciated manager, and he makes a strong case for that premise. He is particularly

laudatory of McKechnie’s use of his pitching staff during Cincinnati’s successful run to the 1940 World Series title. McKechnie, the author wrote, “was much more Joe McCarthy than John McGraw ... (adopting) a minimalist and conservative approach ... letting each game find its natural course.” At a related point, pondering the abilities of Chicago White Sox manager Jimmy Dykes, the author poses a provocative question that he acknowledges the impossibility of answering: Would the late 1930s Yankees have been as good with Dykes, McKechnie, or another manager – rather than McCarthy – at the helm?

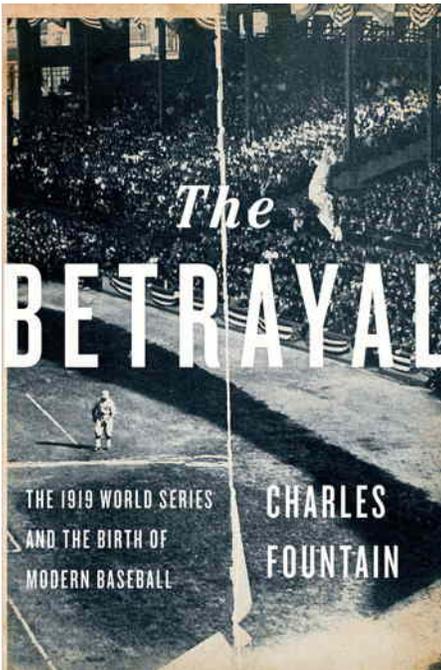
With baseball, as with many aspects of life, there is a “passing parade” element. Given the steady influx of new fans or young readers, this may make it desirable to walk back

through long-documented events. This is the strength and appeal of *America’s Game*, a trait that probably makes it more suitable as a gift purchase for the grandchild of a SABR member than for the SABR member himself or herself. Many with a deep background in baseball history may not find much new material, but overall, the book presents a nice one-volume survey of five decades of baseball on the field.

*Bill Felber is a retired newspaper editor, a SABR member since 1982, and chair of the SABR Baseball Research Award Committee. He is author of seven books, five on baseball. His latest book, The Hole Truth, A SABRmetric Approach to Determining the Greatest Players, will be published in the Fall of 2018 by Bison Press.*

#### **PUBLISHERS ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The seven works reviewed in this issue were generously supplied to us by their publishers. *Borchert Field* was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press and can be ordered by calling 888-999-1669 or emailing [www.shop.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.shop.wisconsinhistory.org). *America’s Game* and *National Pastime* were both published by Rowman & Littlefield and can be ordered by email ([www.orders@rowman.com](mailto:www.orders@rowman.com)) or telephone (800-462-6420, ext. 3024). *The Betrayal* comes from the Oxford University Press and can be obtained by calling 800-445-9714 or emailing [www.custserv.us@oup.com](mailto:www.custserv.us@oup.com). *Black Baseball in New York City* is published by McFarland and can be ordered by telephone (800-253-2187) or email ([info@mcfarlandpub.com](mailto:info@mcfarlandpub.com)). *St. Louis Browns* was put out by Reedy Press, LLC, and can be obtained by telephone (314-644-3400) or via [www.reedypress.com](http://www.reedypress.com). Finally, *Tinker to Evers to Chance* was published by the University of Chicago Press and can be ordered by telephoning 773-702-7700 or emailing [www.press.uchicago.edu](http://www.press.uchicago.edu). As always, your patronage of these publishers is respectfully urged.



**THE BETRAYAL:  
THE 1919 WORLD SERIES  
AND THE BIRTH OF  
MODERN BASEBALL**

**By Charles Fountain**

*2015, Oxford University Press  
[ISBN: 978-0199795130, 296  
pp. \$27.95 USD. Hardcover]*

Reviewed by

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The so-called “Black Sox Scandal,” in which gamblers conspired with members of the heavily-favored Chicago White Sox to throw the 1919 World Series, has long passed into the stuff of legend, romanticized in print and at the movies. As a result, fact and myth can sometimes blur. So it’s helpful that in *The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball*, Charles Fountain gives us a scholarly, thoughtful, and highly readable

(if not definitive) account of the scandal and its legacy.

Fountain traces the scandal’s “headwaters” to 1903, when some exhibition games between (ironically) the White Sox and Cubs were rumored to have been thrown by Cubs pitcher Jack Taylor. As Pirates secretary W.H. Locke warned National Commission Chair Gerry Herrmann, the lesson players and gamblers drew was that, unlike in past years, the league was no longer going to really crack down on game-fixing. The same year the National League accepted the American League as a co-equal, and the two leagues agreed to honor each other’s contracts thereby depressing player salaries. Taken together, the period between 1903 and 1919 would become in Fountain’s words “the second golden age of game fixing” (an earlier one had occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century before the practice was viewed as having been stamped out).

Having set the stage for us to understand why players would be so enticed by the gamblers’ temptations, Fountain paints vivid portraits of the Black Sox (including an entire, perceptive chapter on Shoeless Joe Jackson, who, in fact, had plenty of shoes), team owners, and league officials. He also gives us a mini-biography of Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, whose decades-long rule of the game would result from the owners’ attempts to salvage their business and help shape baseball’s modern

governance structure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A journalism professor, Fountain does not overlook the role the baseball press played in unearthing details about the scandal.

As a result of Fountain’s deep background, however, the players do not take the field for the Series until well into the book. And then the action on the diamond quickly gives way to the aftershocks in the board rooms, courtrooms, and beyond. In fact, about half of *The Betrayal* takes place in the aftermath of the Series, beginning with Sox manager Kid Gleason first learning of the fix from gamblers and going to team owner Charles Comiskey. Comiskey’s antics to cover up the fix while posing as a victim in a desperate search of the truth with the help of Sox corporation attorney Alfred S. Austrian are covered in great detail.

I appreciate how carefully Fountain delineates the known from the unknown, and how he comes straight to the point regarding the latter. Precisely *how* the events came to pass isn’t known he writes. In fact, Fountain won’t even concede that we know whether or not the 1919 Series was actually thrown. We know that gamblers paid some of the White Sox players in exchange for their commitment to throw the Series. And that some of those players performed uncharacteristically poorly (while others who were paid, in fact, did not). But, Fountain insists, it has never been

demonstrated than any particular play was deliberately botched. One thing that the implicated players did all agree on in their testimony was that each had done his best despite accepting the cash.

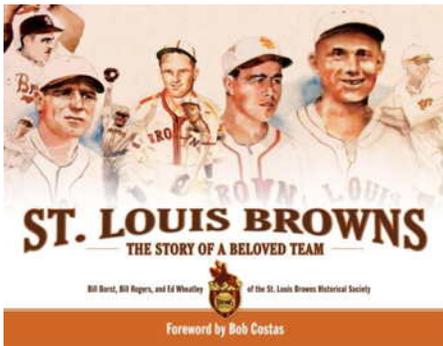
Baseball fans wanting a detailed account of the 1919 season and Series may be frustrated by the level of detail Fountain gives to the post-Series maneuvering to unearth the scandal, keep it quiet, and then finally bring it to light. Aficionados of the scandal, on the other hand, may feel that *The Betrayal* fails to break new

ground, and further may be frustrated that Fountain does not avail himself of all the recent research. Finally, the book never truly delivers on its subtitle regarding the birth of modern baseball.

But while Fountain may have missed the opportunity to have written a truly definitive account of baseball's biggest scandal, those looking for an accessible introduction to the story will be well-served by reading *The Betrayal* before delving into more specialized research. What it perhaps lacks in the narrative drama of a

book such as *Eight Men Out* is made up for by its scholarship and accuracy. Similarly, fans of the Deadball Era generally will also find much of interest in Fountain's portrayal of the game and its stars prior to 1919 as well.

*Alec Rogers has retained his lifelong affinity for his hometown Detroit Tigers while acquiring another for his current home team, the Washington Nationals. A longtime consumer of SABR's work, he is a new member of both it and the Deadball Era Committee.*



## ST. LOUIS BROWNS: THE STORY OF A BELOVED TEAM

Edited by Bill Borst, Bill  
Rogers, and Ed Wheatley

2017, Reedy Press  
[ISBN: 978-1681061177, 176  
pp. \$36.00 USD. Hardcover]

Reviewed by  
**Joseph Wancho**  
jw2462@twc.com

In 1904, sportswriter Charles Dryden wrote "Washington: First in War, First in Peace, and last in the American League." But the Washington

Senators did not own the market on witty sayings that described their futility on the baseball diamond. The St. Louis Browns had a similar ditty to describe their losing ways: "First in shoes, First in Booze, and last in the American League." Folks outside of the Gateway City may wonder about the significance of this declaration. The Brown Shoe Company of St. Louis is one of the biggest manufacturers of shoes in the country. And of course, the booze refers to Anheuser-Busch and its trademark Budweiser beer.

Many baseball fans may believe that the St. Louis Brown Stockings of the American Association were the forerunners of the American League's St. Louis Browns. This is not the case as the Brown Stockings, who began play in 1882, were actually the relatives of the St. Louis entry

into the National League, the Cardinals. It may come as a surprise to some that Ernie Nevers, better known as a pro football Hall of Fame fullback, was also a pitcher for the Browns from 1926 to 1928. He was lured to professional football by the old Duluth Eskimos. Nevers was part of the original Canton Hall of Fame induction class in 1963, and still holds the NFL record for most points scored in a game. He accounted for 40 points in a game on November 28, 1929.

These tidbits are just a very small sample of what one discovers in *St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team*. Bill Burst, Bill Rogers, and Ed Wheatley, members of the St. Louis Browns Historical Society, serve as editors of this magical tour through the history of one of baseball's iconic teams. Many will remember the St. Louis

Browns as an inept organization, one that except for a handful of seasons was unable to provide its fan base with competitive baseball. After years of losing and poor attendance (they drew a total of 80,922 fans in 1935), the Browns relocated to Baltimore after the 1953 season. This volume does not shy away from these facts, and instead, embraces them wholeheartedly.

Through short, comprehensive narratives, aided by images and pictures, the 52-year story of the Browns unfolds. Noteworthy factoids, dubbed "Brownie Bits," are also employed to enhance the narratives. The pictures include the players, managers, and coaches who donned the Browns uniforms over the years, as well as the club owners. The images range from team pennants, news releases, canceled checks, and baseball equipment to cartoons, drawings, paintings, autographed baseballs, and assorted trinkets.

Overall, fifteen chapters tell the tale of the franchise from the initial owner Chris Von der Ahe to Bill Veeck, and all others that fell in-between.

Many of the greats to wear the Browns threads are given their due, including George Sisler, Ken Williams, Urban Shocker, Vern Stephens, and Roy Sievers. Memorable seasons, namely 1922 and 1944 are also among the many topics that are chronicled. Completing the volume are various lists cataloging spring training sites, a complete roster of Browns players, yearly records and season attendance figures, players who were members of both the Browns and Cardinals, and the top ten statistical leaders between the Browns and Orioles (1901-2016).

*St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team*, is a coffee-table style book. The pictures and images combined with the accompanying verbiage are handsomely presented to ignite a reader's interest in this long-gone, but not-forgotten ballclub. I found myself taking notes of various facts that were mentioned throughout the volume to delve into as possible research projects at a later date.

Everyone loves a winner. It's easy to follow a winner and hop on the bandwagon to cheer their winning ways. But still,

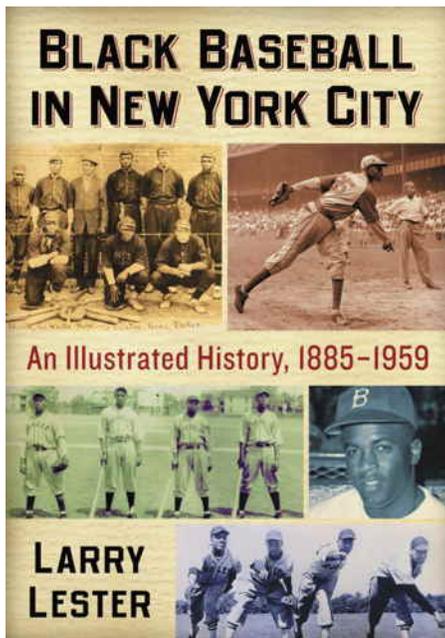
there is a place in the heart for those teams who suffer through losing season after losing season. We can identify with them and the frustrations of their fans. We want them to succeed, if only to change the landscape from time to time of perennial winning franchises. St. Louis is generally classified as a great "baseball city," mostly due to the success of the Cardinals. But any fan who thirsts to learn more of the great game of baseball should enjoy this trip back to the history of professional baseball in St. Louis and the Browns. And not just those folks in the Mound City.

*Joseph Wancho resides in Westlake, Ohio, and is a lifelong Cleveland Indians fan. He has been a SABR member since 2005 and currently serves as Vice-Chair of The Baseball Index. Wancho is a regular contributor to several SABR research committees, and is the author of So You Think You Are a Cleveland Indians Fan? (Skyhorse Publishing, 2018). He is also the editor of the upcoming SABR BioProject book The Sleeping Giant Awakes focusing on the 1995 Cleveland Indians.*

**THE RACE IS ON WITH A SIX MONTH GRIND.**



(Trenton) Daily True American, Jun 25, 1907



**BLACK BASEBALL  
IN NEW YORK CITY:  
AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY,  
1885-1959**

**By Larry Lester**

*2017, McFarland*

*[ISBN: 978-1476670461, 244  
pp. \$39.95 USD. Hardcover]*

Reviewed by

**Terrie Aamodt**

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It's hard to tell the story of any Negro League city and its teams. Fast-changing ownership, mergers, moves, and contract-jumping defy coherence. Nowhere is the scene more chaotic than in greater New York City. That is why it has taken until now to assemble the disparate facts and images of New York Negro League baseball between two covers and why it has taken the lifetime of Negro League study, experience, and contacts of author Larry Lester to achieve

this feat. He carries the story from the opening of baseball's Jim Crow era in the mid-1880s until its close — 1959, when the last major league team was integrated. Lester wisely chose the venue of an illustrated history to frame these disparate parts. A generously-sized book format enables him to include extensive captions as well as text introductions to each chronological section.

Early on, the Cuban Giants were displaced by the Cuban X-Giants, then supplanted by the short-lived Lincoln Stars. New York was such an important baseball and cultural destination, particularly during the Harlem Renaissance, that many top Negro League stars, including Oscar Charleston and Satchel Paige, played there at least briefly.

Reflecting its polyglot population, New York drew baseball players from many parts of Latin America as well as the U.S. The Eastern Colored League era of the 1910s and 1920s brought many top players to New York. The Cuban Stars added Cuban Armando Marsans into their ranks after his career in the major leagues ended. Black journalists hoped his presence would pave the way for players “a few shades darker” to enter the major leagues. Lester noted, however, that “the [Cincinnati] Reds quickly countered that Marsans and Almeida [a fellow player] were ‘genuine Caucasians,’ and the artificial, but very authentic,

color barrier was firmly entrenched” [46].

Lester ably recounts the transition from the Eastern Colored League to the powerhouse Negro National League teams of the 1930s and 1940s. Many top Negro League teams from elsewhere were drawn to New York for four-team round-robin tournaments in Yankee Stadium. Josh Gibson blasted the venue's longest home run ever, 580 feet. Chicago may have owned the East-West All-Star game, but New York pitted the Negro National and American Leagues in Colored All-Star contests. Fans of black baseball in New York likely did not realize how lucky they were. The unfolding saga would finally pit neighborhoods against each other. Brooklyn, whose Eagles would soon fly to Newark, also housed the Brown Dodgers, Branch Rickey's contribution to a purported but short-lived black minor league.

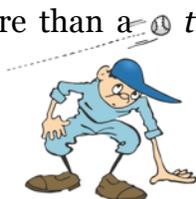
Once the Negro League context is established, Lester makes an interesting rhetorical move. Integration of the major leagues has often been discussed from a white standpoint, depicting white owners plucking a few black stars from the Negro Leagues, but Lester describes Rickey's Brooklyn Dodgers morphing into an extension of the Negro Leagues. He emphasizes how quickly they selected multiple players until, by July 17, 1954, they fielded a starting nine with more black players than

white, while absorbing most of the area's Negro League fans. Lester echoes this approach when he moves across town to Sugar Hill, the upscale black neighborhood that had stoked the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and that encompassed both the Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium, which had nourished black culture in the early twentieth century. Now these white bastions changed their makeup, with the Giants fielding an all-Negro outfield against the Yankees in the 1951 World Series, and the Yankees saying goodbye to all-white Series triumphs after 1953. Lester discusses these changes as if they grew organically out of the presence of black baseball in the city.

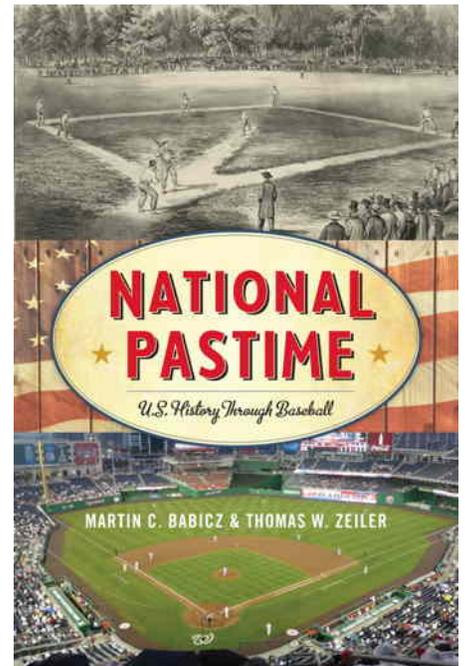
Lester's prose runs from frequently poignant (the New York Black Yankees Willie "The Devil" Wells played in Mexico for two seasons, "where he said that he experienced democracy, acceptance and freedom for the first time in his life" [81]) to occasionally purple (Dave "Impo" Barnhill had "a procrastinating curve, sympathy card slider and a funny bone fastball; batters found him harder to solve than a Walter Mosley mystery" [105]). In general, however, he lets the 300 photographs, supplied by an All-Star array of Negro Leagues researchers, shape the book. Its whole constitutes more than a

jangle of disjointed parts; it creates a flow, a movement, from Jim Crow to integration. Although our story-making inclinations tend to seek a linear narrative, here it would distort the complex truth. A map pinpointing the ballparks and visualizing the various baseball neighborhoods and outlying locations would have been helpful. Careful editing would have smoothed out infelicities and erratic style variations, but this is a powerful story, powerfully told. Perhaps the most haunting image appears near the end, on page 193: 19-year-old Willie Mays, just days away from his debut with the Giants, sits next to Ray Dandridge's cubicle in the Minneapolis Millers locker room. Mays got his chance; future Hall of Famer Dandridge, then 37, was deemed too old to occupy a major league slot for even a few games, although he had been his league's MVP the year before. Only a few of the superbly talented players we meet on these pages got their chance to compete in the big leagues. Their loss is ours.

*Terrie Aamodt has been a SABR member since 2003 and is a professor of History and English at Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington. She is interested in interracial barnstorming in the 1920s and 1930s, as well as the Red Sox and Mariners.*



George McManus 1902



**NATIONAL PASTIME:  
U.S. HISTORY THROUGH  
BASEBALL**

**By Martin C. Babicz and  
Thomas W. Zeiler**

*2017, Rowman & Littlefield  
[ISBN: 978-1442235847, 292  
pp. \$36.00 USD. Hardcover]*

Reviewed by  
**Steve Savage**  
steve.savage@eku.edu

Martin C. Babicz and Thomas W. Zeiler, two history professors, have written *National Pastime: U.S. History Through Baseball*, a story of how economic and social trends and technological change have affected baseball as a business and on the field, all without footnotes or references. The authors have designed this book as a short text or supplementary text and express the hope that their fifteen individual chapters will

both stand alone and function as a whole [xii]. Their bibliographic essay occasionally presents sources for counterarguments to statements in the chapters. They both teach a course, “America through Baseball” at the University of Colorado. This book is a good, readable introductory text, in some ways a greatly condensed version of the Seymours’ three volume history of baseball, which leads off the bibliographic essay. Ironically, the authors note: “Despite its pioneering effort, however, the Seymour trilogy lacks citations.” [200].

Each chapter starts with a short introduction to U.S. economic and social events of the time plus legal developments and then proceeds to describe what was happening in that era’s baseball, not all of which may be related to the topics covered in the introduction. The chapters are relatively short, about a dozen pages each, and generally sacrifice detail for the big picture, how what happens in baseball reflects what is happening in the United States as a whole. Some of these chapters, especially those that coincide with the authors’ non-baseball research interests, are stronger than others. For Babicz, that appears to be the politics and sports of the 1920s — see Babe Ruth and the Roaring Twenties (1920 to 1929) — and for Zeiler: Spalding’s World Baseball Tour, World War II, and Globalization — see Baseball

Goes to War (1941-1945), Baseball in the Postindustrial America (since 1975), and A Global Game (since 1865). The history of segregation and later integration of professional baseball is well covered in Color and Global Barriers (1865 to 1918), Segregation and the Negro Leagues (1896 to 1949), Baseball Goes to War (1941-1945), and Jackie Robinson and Civil Rights (1946-1989). The history of the reserve clause and players unions are another topic that finds a place in several chapters: The American Labor Movement and the Players’ League (1884 to 1891), Change and Revolution (1960-1975), and Baseball in the Postindustrial America (since 1975).

Certain comments in this book beg for explanation. For instance, the authors describe Alexander Cartwright as the major contributor to baseball’s early development, while their bibliographic essay mentions that John Thorn’s *Baseball in the Garden of Eden* de-emphasizes Cartwright’s contributions. Why did they decide not to use Thorn’s compelling analysis? Since this bibliography only mentions books, Richard Hershberger’s “The Creation of the Alexander Cartwright Myth,” from the Spring 2014 *Baseball Research Journal*, is not found there. There were other surprises. The *Industrialization of Leisure* (1871 to 1893) mentions the Panics of 1873 and 1893, but does not directly

link these depressions with corresponding events in baseball history. This chapter’s description of Cap Anson’s innovations and racial attitudes disregards the findings of Peter Morris in *A Game of Inches*, which is not in their bibliographic essay, and the characterization by Jules Tygiel and others, including Bill James, of Anson as a reinforcer of baseball segregation, rather than the architect of it [but I don’t think there’s any question that Anson helped eliminate what little opportunity might still have existed at the margins]. The authors outline the Black Sox Scandal as depicted in Eliot Asinof’s *Eight Men Out*. Their annotated bibliography does include a number of books critical of Asinof’s work with that critique noted. The authors first mention women’s professional baseball in their chapter on the 1920s. Debra Shattuck’s *Bloomer Girls: Women Baseball Pioneers*, a history of 19<sup>th</sup> Century women’s professional baseball, is not in their bibliography. Their statement that Hack Wilson hit 54 home runs in 1930, instead of his pre-PED National League record of 56, is the sort of typographical error that those of us who followed Ralph Kiner’s or Willie Mays’ attempts at breaking that record would have noticed.

The authors accomplish their goal to write a suitable, introductory text showing how the business of baseball and

how it is played on the field reflects what is going on in the country as a whole. Reading each chapter plus its associated part of the bibliographic essay provides a more accurate picture of modern interpretations of that history than just reading a chapter by itself and should stimulate additional reading.

*Steve Savage is a longtime SABR member with an interest in the Nineteenth Century and Deadball Era. He is a retired university prof, who is starting his 26<sup>th</sup> year as a high school soccer coach. Steve spends most of his time in Kentucky and Colorado.*

**SUB RUN TWICE IN  
SAME INNING?**

Can one substitute run for two men in one inning?

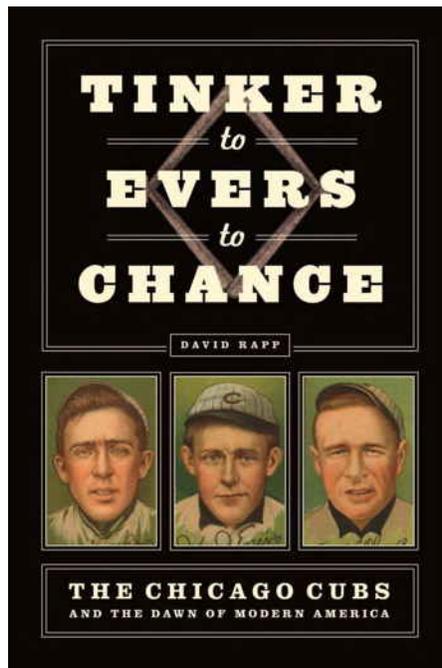
Muggsy McGraw says yes, So does Umpire Klem. Frank Chance says "nit."

The point will be argued at the next meeting of the baseball rules committee. McGraw wanted to use O'Hara twice in the same inning in Chicago, and Klem told him he might.

But Chance said he'd protest the game, and McGraw didn't take a chance, although he insists he had a perfect right to do so under present rules.

What do you think?

*The Tacoma Times, August 19, 1909*



**TINKER TO EVERS TO CHANCE:  
THE CHICAGO CUBS  
AND THE DAWN OF  
MODERN AMERICA**

**By David Rapp**

*2018, Chicago IL: The University of Chicago Press  
[ISBN: 978-0-226-41504-8,  
325 pp. \$27.50 USD,  
Hardcover]*

Reviewed by  
**David Shiner**

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A certain style of non-fiction is currently in vogue. This style gives primary focus to a particular subject, but also includes informative and interesting diversions into related topics. So, for example, a book about some aspect of baseball history will introduce its readers to non-baseball matters that are relevant, if only indirectly, to the topic at hand. Veteran journalist David

Rapp's first baseball book is an excellent example of this style. If you're looking for a baseball-heavy account of the Cubs glory days in the Deadball Era or a biography of Joe Tinker, Johnny Evers, and/or Frank Chance, you might want to look elsewhere. But if you want to know more about those matters while also learning about how that team and those players exemplified a significant shift in the country at what Rapp calls "the dawn of modern America," this is the book for you.

Let's face it: a lot of ink has been spilled on T-E-C and the team for which they starred. It might be less than obvious why someone would want to write or read more about them. But in utilizing the trio to shed light on what the author terms "the broader convulsions of a confident new industrial society"[xiii], this volume should appeal to baseball fans and history buffs alike. And the fact that Rapp writes very well adds to that appeal.

The book begins with a chapter on the state of major league baseball at the end of the nineteenth century, when shameful shenanigans by owners and players alike threatened the future of the national pastime. Rapp's account of that period prepares the reader for an extended and absorbing foray into the ways in which the Cubs emphasis on scientific baseball helped usher in renewed respectability for the game, while simultaneously symbolizing the country's

transformation at the dawn of the new century.

In order to fulfill this double goal, Rapp intersperses the story of that phase of baseball history with relevant non-diamond matters. For example, he spends a couple of pages explaining the game of hurling [33-35] because it helps account for the passion and talent for baseball among the Irish, including the young Johnny Evers. The Society of Christian Endeavors, an approximate cousin of the early YMCA, is discussed at some length because of its influence on the adolescent Joe Tinker. "As an only child, Joe needed playmates; as a poor boy, he craved acceptance in respectable society," Rapp writes. "Baseball offered both, and the Endeavors added a sense of higher calling" [55]. Later on, popular ditties were written for and about Tinker, Evers, Chance, and others in their heyday, so Rapp writes briefly but informatively about the music of the period. Such seeming tangents combine to paint a picture of the era, as well as providing prose portraits of those three men and others who spearheaded the Cubs domination during those years.

Every book has its flaws, and this one is no exception. Rapp commits a few minor but avoidable errors, such as calling Vic Willis "Fred" and referring to Ty Cobb as a "rookie sensation" in 1907, two years after the Georgia Peach joined the Tigers. There are

also some puzzling choices, such as the relative lack of space devoted to the Cubs pivotal 1905 campaign other than discussion of the fact that Chance replaced the ailing Frank Selee as the team's manager during that season. The extent of ethical renewal during the Deadball Era is overstated at times; as Mark Halfon recently pointed out in these pages, violations of diamond ethics were still pervasive during that period, both on and off the field. And on rare occasions, Rapp makes misleading statements in order to strengthen his case. For instance, in order to emphasize Selee's rejuvenation of Chicago's NL franchise, he writes, "Since the late 1880s, the Colts had been reduced to a perennial bottom dweller in the standings" [23]. He reiterates that point later on, although in a less extreme manner [99 and 132], but it is simply not true. From 1886 to 1899 inclusive, the club posted losing records in only four seasons; they finished at least 14 games over .500 in eight of those 14 years. Selee did indeed improve the club significantly, but its second-division finishes just prior to his appointment as manager in late 1901 were an

anomaly rather than an indicator of a long-term trend.

Still, these minor quibbles are far more than counterbalanced by the book's many virtues. I was particularly impressed by the care that Rapp took to explain the so-called "Merkle boner" during the Cubs pennant drive in the fateful September of 1908. Before reading this tome, I would have figured I knew just about everything that can be known at this late date about that play and the events surrounding it. Rapp proved me wrong.

In sum, *Tinker to Evers to Chance: The Chicago Cubs and the Dawn of Modern America* is a very fine read. Unless you can't bear the thought of anything other than pure baseball gracing the shelves of your baseball library, I suggest adding this volume to it.

*David Shiner has written numerous articles, interviews, book reviews, and stories about baseball for various sports magazines, research journals, and literary publications. He is also the author of Baseball's Greatest Players: The Saga Continues (Superior Books, 2001), a sequel to Tom Meany's classic Baseball's Greatest Players.*

#### COURT ADJOURNED TO SEE BALL GAME

ALTOONA, PA.—Blair County has the most ardent baseball fan in the state in Judge Martin Bell. Court was adjourned at noon today and arguments in a poll tax case postponed in order to permit the judge and counsel interested to attend the game between Altoona and New York this afternoon.

*The Philadelphia Record, June 5, 1907*

# RUPERT MILLS: THE ONE-MAN FEDERAL LEAGUE OF 1916 — AND A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER OBSCURE DEADBALL ERA BALLPLAYER

by **Bill Lamb**

Days after his graduation from college in June 1915, Rupert Mills was signed by the Newark Peppers of the Federal League. A Newark native and a locally renowned schoolboy athlete, Mills was deemed the potential fan magnet desperately sought by Peppers management. Unhappily, the new recruit proved unequal to the task, batting an anemic .201 and playing shaky first base defense during a 41-game audition. The ensuing winter, the collapse of the Federal League and the dispersal of its players brought the major league career of Rupert Mills to its end.

If Mills is remembered at all by baseball enthusiasts today, it is for the comedy he staged with Peppers club president Pat Powers during the 1916 season. Unlike his teammates, Mills declined the \$500 contract buyout offer tendered him by Powers. Mills had signed a guaranteed two-season contract with Peppers management and he expected to get paid the full \$3,000 outstanding on that pact – whether the Federal League continued play or not. Wary of a courtroom battle with the astute, legally-educated Mills, Powers countered with a demand for specific performance of contract terms. To collect, Mills would be obliged to report to deserted Harrison Park each morning, get into uniform, and put in an eight-hour baseball workout. Which, to Powers' astonishment, is exactly what Mills began doing. Soon, word of the solitaire baseball being played by the Federal League's lone remaining ballplayer reached the local press.

Tongue planted firmly in cheek, Mills regaled inquiring reporters with tales of how he pitched to himself (mostly curveballs); how he fielded the batted balls that he hit; how he hustled to call

close plays on the base paths (he was always safe); and how, as his own official scorer, he invariably ruled questionable plays a base-hit. When the press first attended such a Mills performance, its featured actor declared that he had already played 12 games against himself, and won all of them. News reports of Mills' antics were found highly entertaining by local readers, and soon he was receiving newsprint attention nationwide, much to Pat Powers' chagrin. In mid-June, the club boss threw in the towel and settled the contract dispute on Mills' terms.

While his tenure as a major leagues ballplayer may have been brief and farcical, Rupert Mills was otherwise a man of considerable accomplishment. Prior to joining the Peppers, he had been a varsity letterman in four different sports at the University of Notre Dame. At the end of the 1917 season, he left professional baseball to serve as an artillery officer in France during World War I. Thereafter, he remained active as a captain in the New Jersey National Guard. Although a lawyer admitted to practice in the Garden State, he mostly earned his living as head of a Newark insurance agency. Mills was also the leader and namesake of an 800-member civic organization devoted to local children's charities.

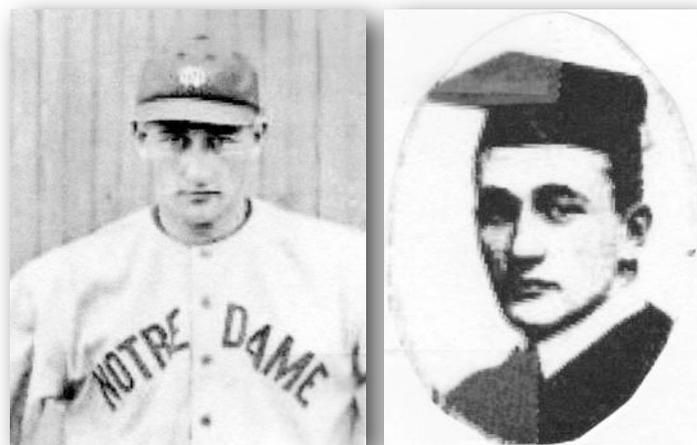
With a sterling resume and admirable personal qualities, to boot – Mills was affable, becomingly modest, and scrupulously honest – it was not long before Newark's political establishment sought him out. A Republican, Mills was twice-elected to the New Jersey State Assembly, and thereafter appointed undersheriff of Essex County. In 1929, Mills was unopposed in the Republican primary for the powerful post of Essex County Sheriff, and considered a shoo-in in the November general election. And a run for governor of New Jersey was widely reckoned to be in Mills' future. But all such plans were undone one July afternoon. A boating accident on the waters of Lake Hopatcong in North Jersey brought the life of Rupert Mills to an abrupt end. The rising young star of the NJ Republican Party was dead at age 36.

## BIRTH THROUGH COLLEGE GRADUATION

According to modern baseball reference works, Rupert Frank Mills was born in Newark on October 12, 1892.<sup>1</sup> He was the only child born to driver-deliveryman Frank Kemp Mills and his wife, the former Mary Walters. The backgrounds of the infant's parents were quite different. Father Frank was descended from local stock that dated to pre-Revolutionary War days, and Presbyterian. Mother Mary was the daughter of German and Irish immigrants and Catholic. The couple decided to baptize their son in his mother's faith, and baby Rupert would remain devoutly Catholic his entire life.

Large for his age and athletically gifted, young Rupe Mills began attracting attention while still in grammar school. By the time that he graduated from Newark's Barringer High School, Mills was a locally famous four-sport star and the New Jersey high jump champion. While adept at his other games, baseball was clearly Mills' best sport, and upon graduation, he received "attractive" contract offers from the New York Giants, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Cleveland Naps.<sup>2</sup> But Mills deferred entering the professional ranks, opting instead for a year of post-graduate study and sport, most likely at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark.<sup>3</sup> Then, reportedly acting on the advice of major league standout (and Notre Dame alumnus) Cy Williams, Mills embarked upon college life in South Bend.

Arriving in September 1912, Mills quickly became a big-man-on-campus at Notre Dame. The by-now 6-feet-2/185 pound newcomer was immediately installed at right end on the ND football squad. The following October, he was on the field when touchdown passes from quarterback Gus Dorais to left end Knute Rockne powered unheralded Notre Dame to a stunning 35-13 victory over mighty Army, revolutionizing college football and placing ND in America's sporting consciousness in the process. In Mills' three years as a two-way regular, Notre Dame posted a combined 20-2 (.909) record on the gridiron. Rupe enjoyed comparable success on the hardwood. In his three years as the basketball team's starting center, the Notre



**Rupert F. Mills, LL.B**  
**Notre Dame Class of 1915**

Dame five went 38-10 (.792). He even managed to letter one spring for the track team, running sprints and throwing the javelin. Mills, however, was more than just a jock. He was diligent in the classroom and took active part in undergraduate social life, frequently appearing in campus theatricals<sup>4</sup> and participating in other extracurricular activities. In addition, the well-liked Mills was elected president of the law student section by his classmates.<sup>5</sup>

While he was a stalwart on the Notre Dame football and basketball squads and often engaged in other aspects of campus life, where Rupe Mills really shined was the baseball diamond. His stint as a Notre Dame player, however, was almost derailed before it started. University officials were disturbed by reports that prospective first baseman Mills, as well as pitchers Bill Lathrop and Herb Kelly, had signed major league contracts to take effect at the end of the 1913 college baseball season. Only affidavits signed by the trio denying such reports got them into a ND uniform.<sup>6</sup> Once in harness, the righty throwing and batting Mills joined multi-sport star and future Cleveland Indians outfielder Alfred "Dutch" Bergman<sup>7</sup> at the core of top-notch ND teams, batting a team-leading .394 during his junior season. In all, Notre Dame went 45-14 (.763) during Mills' time as the university's first baseman.

Notwithstanding the demands placed upon his schedule by the earning of some nine varsity sports letters,<sup>8</sup> Mills completed his under-

graduate course work in a timely manner.<sup>9</sup> In June 1915, the University of Notre Dame therefore conferred a bachelor of laws degree upon him.<sup>10</sup> But use of that degree would have to wait. Mills was now ready to answer the call of major league baseball.

### **RUPERT MILLS' PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CAREER**

During the years that Rupert Mills attended Notre Dame, a new professional baseball circuit burst upon the scene: the Federal League. After an inaugural season played as an independent minor league, the Feds declared themselves a major for the 1914 campaign. Unencumbered by the restraints on ballplayer acquisition placed on National and American League clubs by the National Agreement, the Feds disregarded reserve clause holds on playing talent and immediately began raiding major league rosters. Federal League willingness to pay handsome

wages quickly drove player salaries higher, but with a few exceptions (like established stars Joe Tinker, Hal Chase, and a fading Three Finger Brown), the new league's signees were mostly untested youngsters, journeymen, and past-their-prime veterans. The FL managed to complete the 1914 season intact, but several of its clubs, including the pennant-winning Indianapolis Hoosiers, were in serious financial difficulty by season's end.<sup>11</sup>

Enter Harry Sinclair, a young oil tycoon looking to dabble in baseball club ownership. Under the tutelage of veteran baseball executive Patrick T. Powers, Sinclair made a bid for the Federal League's Kansas City Packers franchise, only to be stymied by an injunction secured by the club's incumbent owners. Sinclair had more luck acquiring the Indianapolis Hoosiers, but his efforts to relocate the franchise to New York for the 1915 season were thwarted by an inability



*Mills also earned a varsity letter in track while at Notre Dame*

to capture suitable ballpark grounds in Manhattan.<sup>12</sup> The next-best thing was nearby Newark, long the host city of top-tier minor league clubs. Wiedenmayer's Park, Newark's established baseball stadium, was unavailable to Sinclair, tied up by the Newark Indians of the Class AA International League. But just across the Passaic River lay suitable ballpark grounds in the bustling little community of Harrison. And by Opening Day, a newly-constructed 21,000-seat edifice called Harrison (or Peppers) Park was ready for Federal League play.<sup>13</sup>

Diminished by the departure of 1914 FL batting champ Benny Kauff and the relative ineffectiveness of returning 25-game winner Cy Falkenberg,<sup>14</sup> the defending league champions struggled out of the gate. By mid-June, the Peppers were playing only .500 ball and stuck mid-pack in the FL pennant chase. Home game attendance, handicapped by the absence of a New Jerseyan on the playing roster and by the lack of convenient transport to the Harrison Park, was also a disappointment. For Peppers club president Pat Powers, the now-available Rupert Mills, a genuine prospect and a Newark native, might supply the antidote to such problems. Accordingly, Powers tendered a guaranteed two-year/\$3,000 per season contact to him. Although other major league clubs, particularly the New York Giants, had retained interest in signing Mills, he was a homebody (who resided his entire adult life under his parents' roof) and wanted to play locally. So, on June 22, 1915, Mills signed with Newark. He then immediately reported to Peppers manager Bill Phillips.<sup>15</sup>

Looking to add punch to the lineup, Phillips promptly inserted his large new first baseman into the action. Rupert Mills made his Federal League debut before home fans on June 23, 1915, going 1-for-4 (a double) off Pittsburgh lefthander Frank Allen during an 11-1 drubbing administered by the Stogies. Palpably nervous, Mills also struck out twice and made three miscues at first base. That performance earned him a benching, but Rupe was back in the lineup the day after, compiling probably the best box



**Harry Sinclair (left), and Pat Powers**

score of his brief major league career. His 2-for-3 (with two walks) off Kansas City hurlers included a second-inning bases-loaded triple, the key blow in a 6-1 Newark victory over the Packers. Regrettably, Mills could not keep it up. After 14 games, his batting average had sunk to a meager .173 (8-for-44), with only six RBIs.

On July 6, new Peppers manager Bill McKechnie<sup>16</sup> sent Mills to the bench, replacing him at first with converted catcher Ernie Huhn. According to *Sporting Life* correspondent Edward B. Gearhart, Rupe had lost his confidence but would be "sent back into the game just as soon as he steadies down."<sup>17</sup> For the next seven weeks, however, Mills barely stirred, his game appearances limited to a single unsuccessful pinch-hitting effort. But that September, McKechnie accorded Mills another shot, giving him 75 at-bats. The results, while an improvement, were something less than stellar: 17 base-hits and 6 RBIs. But a 1-for-2 (with two walks) performance in Mills' last game on October 3 finally nudged his season BA north of the .200 mark, if only barely. In 41 games total, Mills batted .201 (27-for-135), with little power (only six extra-base hits and 16 RBIs).<sup>18</sup> Nor had his defensive play at first (a mediocre .976 FA with 10 errors) reminded anyone of Hal Chase. Still, *Sporting Life's* Gearhart waxed optimistic at season's end, informing readers that: "Rupert Mills, now that he has recovered from his stage

fright, has gladdened his many Newark friends by showing an improvement that is likely to make him a fixture at first base.” But larger forces were now in motion, and Mills would never play another major league game.

As the financially distressed Federal League ambled toward dissolution, Mills spent the off-season learning the insurance business from Newark broker Joseph M. Byrne, the father of a former Mills teammate at Barringer High. He also read law at the offices of local attorneys with an eye toward taking the New Jersey bar examination at some future date. For the short term, however, Mills expected to make his living by playing baseball. But the Newark Peppers, like the other clubs of the FL, were a goner, with club owner Harry Sinclair peddling Newark player contracts to other major and minor league teams, usually at a handsome profit. Except in the case of Rupert Mills. Mills was not sought by other clubs, and he refused the \$500 contract buyout offer tendered by club president Pat Powers. Mills had an ironclad contract that guaranteed him \$3,000 for the 1916 season – whether the Federal League remained in existence or not – and he was not disposed to accept a penny less.<sup>19</sup>

Powers privately complained that Mills was being unreasonable, but he was not spoiling for a courtroom fight with the young lawyer-to-be. Rather, Powers would be beat Mills at his own legalistic game, demanding specific performance of contract terms accepted by Mills. To that end, Rupe would be obligated to report to deserted Harrison Park every morning, get into uniform, and put in an eight-hour baseball workout. But much to Powers’ surprise, Mills was agreeable. In fact, Mills would make a lark of his daily excursions to the ballpark, amusing himself by playing all kinds of imaginary one-man ball games. In no time, word of the situation reached Newark sportswriters, who soon hastened to Harrison Park to take in the Mills show. Rupe was happy to oblige the scribes, supplying them with whimsical quotes that then found their way into newsprint. “I do mostly pitching in the morning to get me wise to my curves for the

afternoon,” said Mills. “And when the umpire – that’s me, too – calls ‘Play,’ I just go out and bang the ball all over the lot.”<sup>20</sup> He also advised that “Everything is a hit because Rupe Mills is official scorer [and] if I don’t lead the league in everything but errors it will be my own fault.” Still, as the game’s solitary player, it was “kinda hard to slam ‘em out, beat the ball down to first base, and then have to call myself out (which he never did). The next thing I know I will be chasing myself to the clubhouse and Pat Powers is liable to fine me \$10.” Running the bases also presented problems. “The other day I wrenched my ankle while sliding and had to put myself in to run for me,” Mills related. He then confided that “I have a devil of a time trying to pull a double steal.”<sup>21</sup>

When local news articles about Mills’ comic one-man ball games began being re-published nationwide, a frustrated and now somewhat embarrassed Pat Powers had had enough. Sometime in mid-June, he quietly called Mills into his office and settled their differences.<sup>22</sup> The actual contract settlement terms were never publicly disclosed, but few observers doubted that the wily, strong-willed ballplayer had not gotten his way. Although subsequent events are murky, it appears that Mills then signed a contract with the Detroit Tigers who immediately optioned him to the Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Islanders of the Class B New York State League. Now facing pitchers other than himself, Mills batted a so-so .256 in 70 games for Harrisburg.<sup>23</sup> That off-season, Detroit excised its option to recall Mills, only to farm him out once again, this time to the Denver Bears of the Class A Western League.<sup>24</sup>

Mills interrupted spring training with the Denver club for a trip home in March. Having passed the New Jersey bar exam some weeks earlier, Mills was admitted to the practice of law in the Garden State on March 19, 1917, the lawyer’s oath to uphold the Constitution being administered to him by NJ Chief Justice William Stryker Gummere, himself an old-time baseball player.<sup>25</sup> Once back in Denver, Mills reestablished himself as a major league prospect, batting a solid .285,

and leading the Western League in games played (149), doubles (37), first baseman assists (75), and fielding average (.987). But the possibility of a late-season call-up by Detroit was rendered moot by Rupe's World War I-driven September enlistment in the United States Army. As it turned out, heeding the call to military service brought the brief time of Rupert Mills in Organized Baseball to its end.

### **MILITARY SERVICE, NEW JERSEY POLITICS, AND AN UNTIMELY DEATH**

Once he completed his basic military training, Mills was commissioned a first lieutenant and dispatched to an artillery division stationed in battle-ravaged France. In time, he saw action in and around Alsace and Verdun, and remained overseas with his unit well after the Great War's end in November 1918. Lt. Mills was honorably discharged upon arrival home in Newark the following June, but then promptly enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard. Given the task of reorganizing the Guard's 102<sup>nd</sup> Calvary, he quickly whipped the troop into shape. Promoted to captain, Mills would remain unit commander until his death a decade later. To earn a living, attorney Mills represented the occasional client, but his principal endeavor was the insurance business. Putting into practice the skills learned from Joseph Byrne, Rupe opened his own his own agency, Rupert F. Mills & Company, with offices near his Newark home. Always community-minded, Mills also lent his name and assumed the leadership of the Rupert F. Mills Civic Association, a supporter of local children's charities that soon grew to 800 members. And he remained a faithful congregant at St. Augustine Church, never missing Sunday Mass.<sup>26</sup> For recreation, Mills played first base for the Meadowlarks, a fast Newark semipro nine.<sup>27</sup> He also remained close to his alma mater, scouting East Coast high school talent for his friend and former teammate Knute Rockne, now the Notre Dame athletic director as well as football coach. Rupe also hosted receptions for ND teams visiting the greater New York metropolitan area.

Military service, athletic renown, civic involvement, and a sterling personal character



*Newark Evening News, July 22, 1929*

made Rupert Mills an attractive recruit for Newark's political bosses, with the Republican Party, then the more progressive of New Jersey's two major political parties, eventually securing Mills' favor. In 1924, Republican Mills captured a Newark seat in the New Jersey State Assembly. He was reelected to a one-year term the following year. But thereafter, he was defeated in a bid for election to the Newark City Commission.<sup>28</sup> The setback, however, was merely a temporary one. In contemplation of running him for higher office, party leaders installed Mills as Undersheriff of Essex County, where he distinguished himself with competent and politically impartial discharge of his duties. In July 1929, Mills stood unopposed in the Republican primary for the post of Essex County Sheriff, and was likely to face only token Democrat opposition in the November general election. Mills was therefore considered a sure-shot for the locally powerful sheriff's job, an excellent springboard for a future run for Governor of New Jersey.

On Saturday, July 20, 1929, Mills drove to Lake Hopatcong, a rural retreat in North Jersey, for a private conclave of Republican Party officials.

After strategizing about the coming elections, attendees repaired to the lake for some afternoon relaxation on the water. With some coaxing and provision of a life vest, Rupe persuaded his friend and former Assembly colleague Louis Freeman to get into a canoe with him. The two men had paddled a few hundred yards away from shore when calamity struck. Their canoe was upended by the wash of a passing speedboat and both men were pitched into the water. The situation presented no great peril to Mills, a strong swimmer. But non-swimmer Freeman was panic-stricken and cried out to his companion for help. Grabbing a paddle from the swamped canoe, Rupe thrust it towards the floundering Freeman. "Here, Louis. Grab the end of this and I'll tow you in," Mills instructed.

As the two slowly but steadily made their way to shore, a motor launch raced to their rescue. But as the boat neared, Mills suddenly released the paddle and turned around toward Freeman, his face contorted in a painful grimace. He then slipped below the surface. Rescuers soon hauled Freeman safely aboard the launch, but Mills was

nowhere to be seen. Thirty agonizing minutes passed before his lifeless body was discovered underwater a short distance from shore. Officially declared a drowning victim, the circumstances, plus the absence of water in his lungs, led most to conclude that Rupe had suffered a massive heart attack. The rising young star of the NJ Republican Party was dead at 36.<sup>29</sup>

Word of Mills' death spread rapidly, stunning family, friends, and fellow Newarkers.<sup>30</sup> Soon, tributes to his memory poured in, with leaders on both sides of the political aisle expressing their admiration of Rupert Mills and profound regret at his untimely passing. Frequent note was taken of the fact that Mills had lost his life heroically, trying to save that of a friend – a circumstance deemed emblematic of the courage and selflessness that had infused his character. An editorial in one local newspaper summed up his life thusly: "It is doubtful if the death of any other resident of Essex County would have brought to as many individuals a sense of personal bereavement as has that of Rupert F. Mills. His prowess as an athlete made him the

### NEWARK PAYS FINAL TRIBUTE TO A FAVORITE SON



*Newark Sunday Call, July 28, 1929*

idol of youth. His manly character endeared him to those of mature years. He was square, honest and clean. He helped many. He injured none. He leaves an untarnished memory.”<sup>31</sup>

Mills was buried in his National Guard uniform and with full military honors. Upwards of 20,000 lined the few short blocks between the Mills residence and St. Augustine Church, their heads bowed in silence as the honor-guarded caisson bearing his casket passed by. Mills’ horse Friendship, saddled but rider-less, trailed behind. The 1,000 mourners crammed into the church for the Solemn Requiem Mass included Governor Morgan Larson, members of the NJ Congressional delegation, Col. H. Norman Schwartzkopf, Sr., commandant of the NJ State Police, and dignitaries from both political parties.<sup>32</sup> Interment at St. Mary Cemetery in nearby East Orange followed. Never married and without children, Rupert F. Mills was survived by his parents and more distant family members.

#### A FINAL WORD

Although his major league career was brief and undistinguished, a small sort of immortality is conferred on Rupert Mills by the fact that his name will forever be inscribed in baseball reference works. Sadly forgotten is the much larger life that he lived beyond the diamond. An able and devoted servant of his community, church, and country, Mills was an admirable man who accomplished considerable good during his shortened lifetime. And he would likely have done a great deal more had fate been kinder to him.

#### SOURCES

Sources for the biographical information recited herein include Mills family posts accessible via Ancestry, particularly a five-page Rupert Mills biography penned by descendent Robert Mills; certain of the Mills profiles identified in the endnotes, and the extensive reportage of Mills’ death and funeral published in the Newark daily newspapers of July 1929. Unless otherwise noted, stats have been taken from Baseball-Reference and Retrosheet.

#### NOTES

- 1 See e.g., Baseball-Reference, Retrosheet, and the Baseball Almanac. These works have adopted the Mills date of birth originally published in the 1951 first edition of *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*, by Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson. Characteristically, no source for their Mills biographical data is provided by T&T, and no contemporaneously-published date of birth for Mills was discovered by the writer. US and New Jersey census listings are incompatible, having Mills born anywhere between January 1892 and “about 1895.” NJ birth and christening records viewable on-line, however, are quite specific. Same state that Mills was born on February 15, 1892 and baptized at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Newark on April 18, 1892. These dates, in turn, are contradicted by Mills himself, who provided a January 15, 1893 birth date to WWI draft authorities. Adding to the confusion are Mills’ July 1929 newspaper obituaries, which list him as 35 at the time of his death, an age that does not yield a February 1892 through January 1893 birth date.
- 2 As reported in *Sporting Life*, July 3, 1915.
- 3 As may be inferred from reportage in the *Newark Jewish Chronicle*, July 26, 1929, and from the fact that Mills completed a four-year course of academic study at Notre Dame while spending less than three years on campus.
- 4 In addition to Mills, the cast of an April 1914 production of the play *What’s Next?* included his dorm roommate Ray Eichenlaub, an All-American at fullback. For a photo of Mills and Eichenlaub in rather outlandish costume, see “Rupert Mills,” *Notre Dame Archives: News & Notes*, posted on-line July 20, 2013.
- 5 As noted in the 1915 Notre Dame yearbook, *The Dome*, 66.
- 6 As reported in the *Canton (Ohio) Repository*, May 8, 1913, and *Bridgeport (Connecticut) Evening Farmer* and *Evansville (Indiana) Courier*, May 9, 1913.
- 7 A year ahead of teammate Mills at Notre Dame, Bergman became the first of the four four-sport letterman in university history. Mills was the next. The other two were Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lujack and future NFL quarterback George Ratterman (whose fourth sport was tennis rather than track). Both Lujack and Ratterman attended Notre Dame in the mid-1940s.
- 8 According to a Mills descendent, Rupe earned three varsity monograms in baseball, three in basketball, two (not three) in football, and one in

- track. See Robert Mills, "Rupert Mills," posted on Ancestry, July 2, 2011.
- 9 Mills was only on campus in South Bend from September 1912 to June 1915, but still managed to complete his degree requirements during that abbreviated span.
  - 10 The undergraduate bachelor of laws degree earned by Mills is not to be confused with the post-college Juris Doctor degree conferred on law school graduates.
  - 11 For complete histories of the Federal League, see Daniel R. Levitt, *The Battle That Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy* (Lanham, Maryland: Ivan R. Dee, 2012), and Robert Peyton Wiggins, *The Federal League of Base Ball Clubs: The History of an Outlaw Major League* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Publishing Co., Inc., 2010), both winners of the Larry Ritter Award. See also, Marc Okkonen, *The Federal League of 1914-1915: Baseball's Third Major League* (Garrett Park, Maryland: SABR, 1989).
  - 12 Like others before him, Sinclair had underestimated the power and resolve of New York Giants club president Harry Hempstead whose surrogates quietly encumbered Manhattan real property eyed by Sinclair for a ballpark.
  - 13 For an excellent overview of the club's history, see Irwin Chusid, "The Short, Happy Life of the Newark Peppers," *Baseball Research Journal*, Vol. 20 (1991), 44-45.
  - 14 Falkenberg fell off to 9-11 before being sent to the FL Brooklyn Tip-Tops.
  - 15 As reported in the *Jersey* (Jersey City) *Journal*, June 22, 1915, *Springfield* (Massachusetts) *Union*, June 23, 1915, and *Sporting Life*, July 3, 1915.
  - 16 With the Peppers log standing at 26-27 on June 18, Phillips had been fired. Replacement McKechnie was the club's regular third baseman.
  - 17 Edward B. Gearhart, "Federal League Facts," *Sporting Life*, July 17, 1915.
  - 18 The Mills slash line was a dismal .201/.241/.254.
  - 19 As explained in the *Indiana* (Pennsylvania) *Evening Gazette*, April 22, 1916, and *Sporting Life*, May 27, 1916. See also, Al Kermisch, "Researcher's Notebook Unravels More Mysteries: Mills Kept Federal Loop Alive in '16," *Baseball Research Journal*, Vol. 15 (1986).
  - 20 As per Cappy Gagnon, *Notre Dame Baseball Greats: From Anson to Yaz* (Charleston, South Carolina: Acadia Publishing, 2009), 73.
  - 21 As per quotes originally published in the *Newark Evening News* and synopsis in "Rupert Mills: The One-Man Team of the 1916 Federalist League," posted on-line at [afftold.com](http://afftold.com), August 19, 2015.
  - 22 It has been estimated that Mills made some 65 solo appearances at Harrison Park before his differences with Pat Powers were settled. See Kermisch, 3-4.
  - 23 Per Cappy Gagnon, "Rupert Frank Mills," SABR Biographical Research Committee Report, December 1999. Baseball-Reference provides no info for Rupert Mills in 1916.
  - 24 According to bulletins by minor leagues overseer John H. Farrell published in *Sporting Life*, September 16 and November 14, 1916. See also, Frank L. Weber, "Doings in Denver," *Sporting Life*, March 17, 1917.
  - 25 As reported in *Sporting Life*, March 24, 1917. Back in 1869, Gummere had also been the captain of the Princeton University team that faced Rutgers in the first recognized intercollegiate football game.
  - 26 Following his death, detailed biographies of Mills were published in the Newark newspapers. Much of the above comes from the *Newark Sunday Call*, July 21, 1929.
  - 27 Throughout his WWI service and beyond, Mills remained on the Detroit Tigers reserve list, but suspended. In early 1920, Tigers boss Frank Navin, finally convinced that Mills had no intention of returning to Organized Baseball, granted him his unconditional release, as reported in the *New York Times*, March 20, 1920. Mills played with the Meadowlarks through the 1923 season.
  - 28 According to his obituaries, Mills' relative youth and circumstances that peculiarly favored Newark Democrats that election year had worked against him.
  - 29 Details of the Lake Hopatcong incident have been culled from reportage of the *Newark Evening News*, *Newark Star-Eagle*, and *Newark Sunday Call*, July 21 to 28, 1929. The writer is indebted to librarian Beth Zak-Cohen of the Newark Public Library for locating and providing copies of microfilmed newsprint.
  - 30 News of Rupe's death was privately conveyed to his devastated parents by Father George Buttner, the rector of St. Augustine Church.
  - 31 "Rupert F. Mills," *Newark Sunday Call*, July 28, 1929.
  - 32 Knute Rockne was unable to attend the funeral, but cabled his condolences, telling Frank and Mary Mills that their son "was one of the finest men God ever made." *Newark Evening News*, July 24, 1929.

## GAMES/BIOPROJECT

Recently, the Games Project published accounts of the June 1917 no-hitter thrown by the Browns Ernie Koob (Gregory H. Wolf) and a 15-inning tie game between the Yankees and Senators (Stephen V. Rice). Meanwhile, new BioProject entries of interest to Deadballers include profiles of Red Munson, Jack Zalusky, Ernie Koob, Ed Irwin, Bunny Brief, Scoops Carey, Spike Shannon, Finners Quinlan, and Ollie Welf, and a piece on Braves Field in Boston. As per usual, we urge you to check these out if you have not already done so.

## NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*The Inside Game* is pleased to welcome to the committee the following SABR members who have expressed interest in the Deadball Era:

**Keith Barnes**  
**Raymond Birch**  
**Terry Bohn**  
**Michael Bojanowski**  
**John Cunningham**  
**Michael Dreimiller**  
**Mike Eisenbath**  
**Alan Florjancic**  
**James Forr**  
**Donald Gering**  
**Hillel Goelman**  
**Karen Holleran**  
**Jackie Howell**  
**David Kathman**  
**Daniel Lindner**  
**Michael McAvoy**  
**Dennis Mertz**  
**Kirby Miller**  
**Joe Mock**  
**Andrew North**  
**Louis Schiff**  
**Bob Selsor**  
**Brian Sheehy**

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

## TY COBB MUSEUM 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Ty Cobb Museum of Royston, Georgia will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its opening by hosting a three-day celebration on July 26-28. Events include a chartered bus trip to SunTrust Park to see the Atlanta Braves host the Los Angeles Dodgers on Thursday night; a golf tournament followed by the unveiling of a memorabilia exhibit at Cobb Memorial Hospital on Friday; and a day full of celebratory events on Saturday at nearby Emmanuel College that include DEC member Norm Coleman performing his one-man play *Ty Cobb: The Greatest Player Who Ever Played Baseball* at a morning awards breakfast, followed by a Ty Cobb symposium featuring Charles Leehrsen, the Ritter Award-winning author of *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty*, and an afternoon baseball clinic for youngsters aged 6 to 16 conducted by members of the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association. For tickets or more information, log on at [www.tycobbmuseum.org](http://www.tycobbmuseum.org), email the organizers at [infotycobbmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:infotycobbmuseum@gmail.com) or telephone the Museum at 706-245-1825.

## LONGEST THROW BEATEN AT LAST

NEW ORLEANS—After standing for a quarter of a century—ever since 1884—the long distance throw made by Ed Crane, the old New York pitcher, who heaved a baseball 407 feet, has been broken.

And the witness a 21-year old amateur, who hurls a league ball 417 feet—10 feet farther than any other man has ever succeeded in throwing.

Joe Martine, the strong-armed youth who broke Crane's record, set up the new figure at a field meet under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Union here.

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