



Society for American Baseball Research

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

# NEWSLETTER

## October 2022

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# 1

## TRIVIA QUIZ: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE HALL OF FAMERS?

*by Bob Parrott*

Two St. Louis Cardinals' greats may become the surprise answer to a baseball trivia question. On May 15, 2022, Albert Pujols pitched an inning for the Cardinals in a blowout game against the Giants and gave up four earned runs.

A week later on May 22 there was another blowout game. Yadier Molina, All-Star catcher for the Cardinals, also gave up four runs in one inning. Molina then pitched a scoreless inning on June 8, 2022, to cut his earned run average (ERA) in half.



**Albert Pujols Career Pitching Record**

Game	IP	H	R	HR	BB	SO
May 15, 2022	1.0	3	4	2	1	0

### Yadier Molina makes first career pitching appearance in Cardinals' blowout win over Pirates

Molina followed the footsteps of Albert Pujols, who took the mound a week earlier

*By Matt Snyder* May 22, 2022 at 4:00 pm ET • 1 min read



**Yadier Molina Career Pitching Record**

Games	IP	H	R	HR	BB	SO
May 22, 2022	1.0	4	4	2	0	0
June 8, 2022	1.0	2	0	0	0	1

Given these high ERAs for two potential Hall of Fame (HOF) players reminds me of a unique piece of baseball trivia. “Who was the last switch hitter to win the Most Valuable Player Award in the American League?” Answer, Vida Blue, the All-Star left-handed pitcher for the Oakland A’s. Blue, a switch hitter who batted .118, won both the Cy Young Award and MVP in 1971.

Will Pujols and Molina become another Vida Blue in baseball trivia?

## HOF Trivia Quiz: Question No.1

1. With ERAs of 18.00+, will Molina and Pujols, once elected, be the players with the highest ERAs in the HOF? (*Note: does not include Negro League statistics /players.*)

Answer: The table below provides the answer.

<b>PITCHING RECORDS OF NON-PITCHER HOF MEMBERS</b>								
<b>Ranked by ERA, High to Low</b>								
Name	G	W	L	ERA	IP	HoF Position/ Category	Playing Career	
							From	To
George Davis	3	0	1	15.75	4.0	ss	1890	1909
Tris Speaker	1	0	0	9.00	1.0	cf	1907	1928
Dan Brouthers	4	0	2	7.83	23.0	1b	1879	1904
Deacon White	2	0	0	7.20	10.0	3b	1871	1890
Jake Beckley	1	0	1	6.75	4.0	1b	1888	1907
Tom Lasorda	26	0	4	6.48	58.1	Mgr	1954	1956
Jesse Burkett	23	3	11	5.56	123.0	lf	1890	1905
Tommy McCarthy	13	0	8	4.99	70.1	rf	1884	1896
Cap Anson	3	0	1	4.50	4.0	1b	1871	1897
Ted Williams	1	0	0	4.50	2.0	lf	1939	1960
King Kelly	12	2	2	4.14	45.2	rf	1878	1893
Jim O'Rourke	6	0	1	4.12	19.2	lf	1872	1904
Roger Bresnahan	9	4	1	3.93	50.1	c	1897	1915
Bobby Wallace	57	24	22	3.87	402.0	ss	1894	1918
Wade Boggs	2	0	0	3.86	2.1	3b	1982	1999
Hank O'Day	201	73	110	3.74	1651.1	Ump	1884	1890
Ty Cobb	3	0	0	3.60	5.0	cf	1905	1928
Buck Ewing	9	2	3	3.45	47.0	c	1880	1897
Clark Griffith	453	237	146	3.31	3385.2	Exec	1891	1914
Sam Rice	9	1	1	2.52	39.1	rf	1915	1934
George Sisler	24	5	6	2.35	111.0	1b	1915	1930
Babe Ruth	163	94	46	2.28	1221.1	rf	1914	1935
Al Spalding	347	252	65	2.13	2886.1	Exec	1871	1878
John Ward	293	164	103	2.10	2469.2	ss	1878	1894
Jimmy Foxx	10	1	0	1.52	23.2	1b	1925	1945
Charles Comiskey	4	0	1	0.73	12.1	Exec	1882	1894
Harry Hooper	1	0	0	0.00	2.0	rf	1909	1925
George Kelly	1	1	0	0.00	5.0	1b	1915	1932
Stan Musial	1	0	0	0.00	0.0	lf	1941	1963
Honus Wagner	2	0	0	0.00	8.1	ss	1897	1917
<b>Future Hall of Famers</b>								
Yadier Molina	2	0	0	18.00	2.0	c	2004	202?
Albert Pujols	1	0	0	36.00	1.0	1b	2001	2022

Trivia Quiz continues on the next page

The HOF is a hotbed for baseball trivia, not only related to its members, but also players not in the Hall because of the steroid cloud hanging over them. Below are 14 more HOF trivia questions. Good Luck!

### **HOF Trivia Quiz: Questions Nos. 2-15**

*(Note: does not include Negro League statistics /players.)*

Answers can be found on the **Last Page**

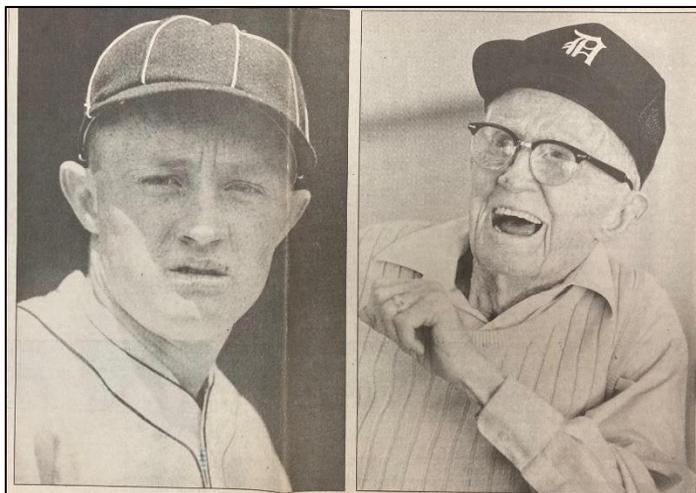
2. Who were the three players elected to the HOF before the five-year waiting period?
3. Which pitcher elected to the HOF has the highest career ERA?
4. Three of the top five career home run leaders are not in the HOF, name them.
5. Who are the two players born in Canada in the HOF?
6. Who are the two players with at least 3000 hits and 500 home runs not in the HOF?
7. Of the top 10 winning pitchers in the HOF, only one was left-handed. Who is the pitcher? How many wins did he have? As a batter, how many hits did he have?
8. Of all the pitchers in the HOF, who had the most home runs as a pitcher? Who is the pitcher with the most career home runs (he is not in the HOF)?
9. There are four multiple-year MVP Award winners (currently eligible) not in the HOF. Who are they?
10. There are four multiple year Cy Young Award winners (currently eligible) not in the HOF. Who are they?
11. Name the three positional players with a sub-.260 batting average in the HOF.
12. Who was the first relief pitcher elected to the HOF? Name the seven other relief pitchers in the HOF.
13. Name the five players in the HOF with a win / loss percentage below .500 (Minimum 70 decisions).
14. Of players in the HOF, Nolan Ryan by far gave up the most walks, with 2795. Only two other pitchers gave up more than 1800 walks, name them.
15. Fourteen players in the HOF had more than 3000 strikeouts (SO), but only one of these pitchers had a SO/walks ratio of over four. Name that pitcher.



2

## ALLEN "RED" CONKWRIGHT TY COBB AND TEXACO ... OLD GLOBE AND NEW REMEMBRANCES

by James D. Smith III



Source: July 2, 1990, *The Californian*, p.D1

Allen Conkwright as a Detroit Tiger in 1920 (left) and at home in La Mesa in 1990 (right)

Wikipedia suggests “cup of coffee” is an idiom for a short time spent by a minor league player in the majors. One example is Archibald “Moonlight” Graham, whose 1905 two inning career in the New York Giants outfield was popularized in “Field of Dreams” (1989). The following year, visiting hometown San Diego, I met another great example: Allen Howard “Red” Conkwright.

How did we meet? At the July 1988 SABR Convention in Minneapolis, “Unser” Joe Hauser encouraged me to respectfully reach out to old timers. Soon, I was compiling a list of those over 90 – and learned “Red” Conkwright was in California. Fortunately, during a June 1990 visit to teach at Bethel Seminary San Diego I checked white pages (remember them?) for that unique last name, found a listing, and was privileged to meet with him in person at granddaughter Julie’s home.

So, what was his “cup of coffee?” Conkwright, closing the 1920 season, pitched in five games for the Detroit Tigers – led by future Hall of Famer, Ty Cobb. He compiled a 2-1 record, with 6.98 ERA. He won the first two games pitched, September 16 and 17, against the Boston Red Sox. Then, it was downhill. The Tigers had brought him up because – after World War I service in 1918, with limited pitching in PCL Salt Lake City (working wholesale produce), then Peoria – he blossomed in 1920 for Bloomington (Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League) with a 24-7 record and 1.72 ERA. But Class B league skills – plus shoulder and rib problems – brought a 9-15 record with three minor league teams the following year. After erratic seasons (1922-24) at Evansville (III),

he closed his six-year minor league career at 62-55 lifetime, accepting a raise and year-round position at Texaco in Long Beach playing industrial ball, then spending 35 years as a foreman.



Source: Original photo from Conkwright Collection; reproduced: July 2, 1990, *The Californian*, p.D1

Members of the 1920 Detroit Tigers pose for a picture. Ty Cobb is at far left; Allen Conkwright stands next to him.

As his *San Diego Union-Tribune* obituary (August 2, 1991) states, Conkwright moved to San Diego in 1970 to be near his daughter Margaret and grandchildren. His deep devotion to family, and Catholic faith, were tested by the death of dear ones. His father, Dr. Sidney A. Conkwright, died in Missouri when “Red” was four. His mother Jessie (died in 1947) remarried, and they moved to Utah. There, in January 1918, he married Margaret Maroney (died 1969) - attending Utah State University prior to Navy duty. Their two children faced challenges: son Allen died of polio in 1956, daughter Margaret in 1987. Two siblings pre-deceased him. Given our Christian faith, “Red” (pointing to his hair and, smiling, said “white”) shared warm reflections – and baseball..

He cherished the MLB “coffee,” with a locker next to Ty Cobb’s - but also loved stories of minor league towns, train rides and baseball as fan. And there was a remarkable coincidence. At San Diego’s Old Globe Theatre, Lee Blessing’s production of “Cobb” had just opened. Given enthusiastic permission, I called the Globe, told them a Cobb teammate lived in town – and they soon feted Conkwright and family as special guests. A fine article in *The Californian* newspaper (July 13, 1990) ran this “Diamond Dreams” story, with interview and pictures. I have never written on this until now – but have remembered.

So does his devoted granddaughter:

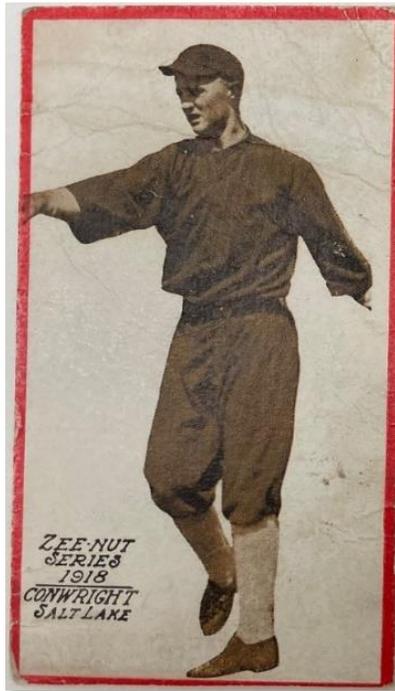
*“Grandpa was a character with character. His weeks with Cobb – who treated him well, while anxiously competitive – were great. Grandma called him ‘Conk,’ dating from Aggies football scholarship days. My care for him in later years reflected his loving, lifelong care for us all.”*



Source: July 2, 1990, *The Californian*, p.D1

Actors who portray Ty Cobb at various stages of his life in the play “Cobb” chat with Allen Conkwright about the baseball hero.

I have never written on this until now – but have remembered.



Conkwright's 1918 Zee-Nut card-Salt Lake (Author's Collection)



Conkwright's 1919 Zee-Nut Card-Salt Lake (Author's Collection)

**CONKWRIGHT, Allen Howard "Red"**

B: December 4, 1896, Sedalia, MO      B:R    T:R  
 D: July 30, 1991, La Mesa, CA      5:10   170

*A.H. Conkwright.*  
 (Registrant's signature)

Year	Age	Team	Lge	Level	W	L	W-L%	ERA	G	GS	GF	CG	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1918	21	Salt Lake City	PCL	AA	1	2	.333	5.84	17	2	0		57.0	71	52	37	39	14
1919	22	2 Teams	2 Lgs	B-AA	0	0		2.98	20	0			130	102	45	43	41	
1919	22	Salt Lake City	PCL	AA	0	0		4.50	1	0			4.0	1	2	2	5	0
1919	22	Peoria	IIIL	B				2.93	19				126	101	43	41	36	
1920	23	Bloomington	IIIL	B	24	7	.774	1.72	33				257	200	80	49	83	
1920	23	Detroit	AL	Major	2	1	.667	6.98	5	3	2	0	19.1	29	16	15	16	4
1921	24	3 Teams	3 Lgs	B-AA-A	9	15	.375		39				238	226	117	76	75	
1921	24	Rochester	IL	AA	3	6	.333	4.20	21				90	104	55	42	30	
1921	24	Omaha	WL	A	1	1	.500		4				23	30	20		8	
1921	24	Bloomington	IIIL	B	5	8	.385	2.45	14				125	92	42	34	37	
1922	25	Evansville	IIIL	B	18	9	.667	3.36	32				214	231	103	80	57	
1923	26	Evansville	IIIL	B	1	8	.111		30				181	194	84		56	
1924	27	Evansville	IIIL	B	10	16	.385	4.31	36				190	207	110	91	57	
<b>Majors (1 season)=</b>					2	1	.667	6.98	5	3	2	0	19.1	29	16	15	16	4
<b>Minors (7 seasons)=</b>					63	57	.525		207	2			1267	1231	591	376	408	14

Sources: Baseball-Reference.com; 1918, 1919 PCL-Carlos Bauer



**3****UPDATES FROM THE SULLIVAN FAMILY  
BASEBALL RESEARCH CENTER (BRC)***by Jeremy Davies and Tom Larwin*

The update below has two parts:

- First, in “By the Numbers” we provide a quantitative summary of the baseball-related materials that comprise the BRC’s collection.
- The second part offers a look at one of the BRC’s unique collections, the “Whitey Wietelmann Scrapbook Collection.”

**3.1 BRC: BY THE NUMBERS**

The Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center (BRC) at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library is the largest baseball research collection outside of the Baseball Hall of Fame. How large? And how often do materials get used? To get answers check out the numbers in the table below:

*And counting!*

Item Type	The Numbers
Total Items in the Collection	<b>9,359</b>
Reference Items	<b>5,907</b>
Spanish Language Items	<b>60</b>
Japanese Language Items	<b>85</b>
AV Materials	<b>28</b>
Periodicals and annuals (including magazines, newsletters, broadsides, and team/league, yearbooks, media guides, record books, and more!)	Approximately <b>202</b> titles, ranging from complete runs to select years/volumes
Microfilm (including minor-league contract cards, official league averages, <i>The Sporting News</i> , and more!)	<b>13</b> unique collections

In terms of circulation, BRC materials see variable circulation that follows a predictable pattern. After the Major League Baseball season concludes around September/October, baseball materials begin to circulate less and less frequently. But as the New Year rolls around, anticipation of the new baseball season grows, and so do check-outs of related materials.

There are some interesting circulation highlights from the past several months. This past May, interest in BRC materials plummeted to less than half of the number of circulations from the previous month. Could the turmoil of the MLB lockout and delayed season have damaged interest in baseball materials? Lastly, the most popular items so far this year, with over 15 check-outs, was *The Arm: Inside the Billion-Dollar Mystery of the Most Valuable Commodity in Sports*, by Jeff Passan. From the publisher:

*Yahoo's lead baseball columnist offers an in-depth look at the most valuable commodity in sports—the pitching arm—and how its vulnerability to injury is hurting players and the game, from Little League to the majors. Every year, Major League Baseball spends more than \$1.5 billion on pitchers—five times more than the salary of every NFL quarterback combined. Pitchers are the game's lifeblood. Their import is exceeded only by their fragility. One tiny band of tissue in the elbow, the ulnar collateral ligament, is snapping at unprecedented rates, leaving current big league players vulnerable and the coming generation of baseball-playing children dreading the three scariest words in the sport: Tommy John surgery.*

For more information about the BRC or to sign-up for your San Diego Public Library card (free for all California residents), please visit [sandiego.gov/library](http://sandiego.gov/library) or call 619-236-5800.



## 3.2 WHITEY WIETLEMAN SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION

It was almost 20 years ago, in January 2003, when the BRC received its first significant baseball research donation. It was a collection of 34 scrapbooks that held box scores from each game played by the San Diego Padres over its first 34 years as a team in the National League, 1969-2002.

### The Whitey Wietelmann Connection

The story behind the scrapbook collection begins by first introducing the fellow who started the scrapbooks by the name of “Whitey” Wietelmann. His name probably is not too familiar to you if you were born after 1985 or moved to San Diego after that time, but Whitey was known to fans of the early National League Padres as “Mr. San Diego Baseball.” In the clubhouse he was referred to as “Mr. Indispensable.”

## Wietelmann Indispensable Man to Padres

By JACK MURPHY

the pitching machine when it  
gets indispensible on a cone arm. He

sleeps where he works.

"Why should I go to a hotel

play he made at shortstop.

"I got him out there and I

baseball that year. Egan, made  
the suggestion in his newspaper

February 25, 1978, *The Sporting News*, p.50

These were terms of endearment and not reflective of Wietelmann's baseball playing achievements, although he did play for the minor-league PCL Padres. He joined the Padres in 1949

as an infielder. However, before that he played in 580 major-league games, mainly with the Boston Braves, over nine seasons, 1939-1947.

Wietelmann played for our PCL Padres over a four-season period, 1949-1952. After San Diego he played several more years and retired as a player following his 1956 season. The last two years with Yuma he was both player and team manager. His professional career totaled 19 years, from age 18 to 37, and is included at the end of this article.

After his playing career ended Wietelmann mainly functioned as a coach and later, a scout. His association with the San Diego Padres—both the PCL and National League versions—turned into a passion beginning in 1960, when he joined the staff of George Metkovich, who managed that year's PCL Padres. Then, in 1969, Wietelmann was selected by manager Preston Gomez to be part of the National League Padres' first team, as a coach. He wound up staying with the team for 26 seasons, as coach for 11 of those years, and then in a number of positions that included scouting and clubhouse operations.



Except for a brief stint with Cincinnati as a coach, Wietelmann was prominent part of the Padres—PCL and NL—for 35 years, from 1960 through 1994. In 1984 he was honored by the club when he threw the ceremonial first pitch for Game 4 of the National League Championship Series.

### **The Start of the Scrapbooks: April 8, 1969, San Diego vs. Houston**

Starting with Game 1 of the Padres' inaugural season Wietelmann would clip out the box score of each game and preserve it on a page that would eventually become part of a 1969 scrapbook that included all 162 games played.

Whitey would continue this routine for every game played by the Padres over the ensuing 24 seasons, i.e., through 1993.

### **The Second Phase of the Scrapbooks: Thanks to Swank and SABR**

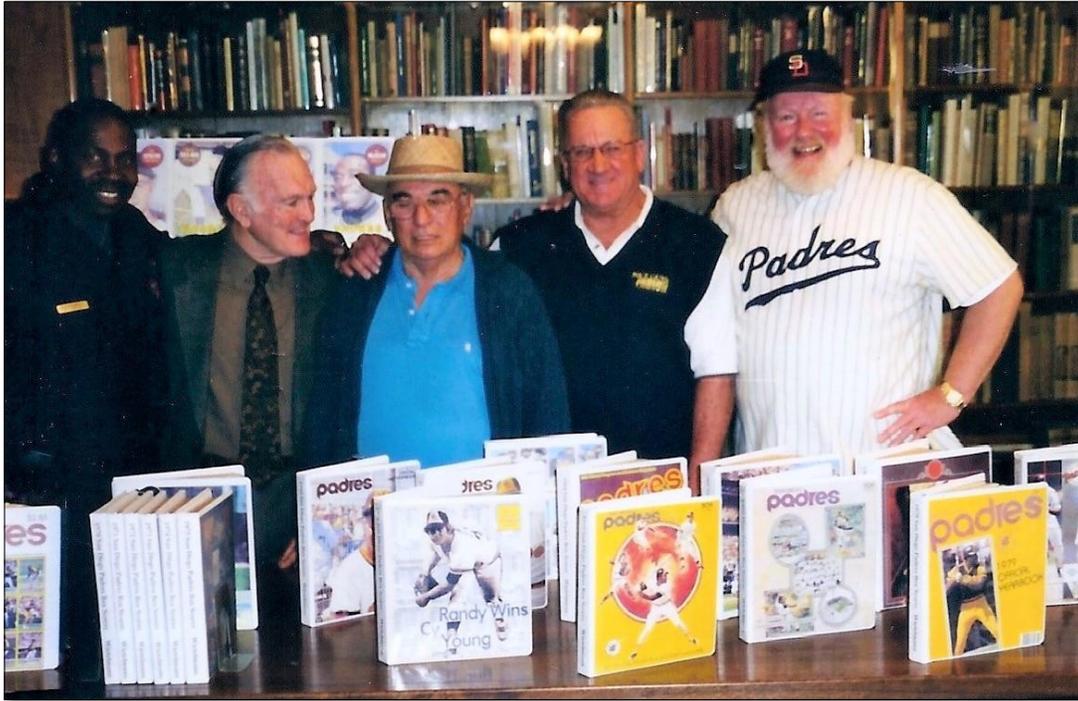
After 1993 the scrapbooks languished in Whitey's garage until his passing in 2002. Fortunately, the books found their way to our resident baseball historian, Bill Swank.

None of the binders matched...plus, they were pungent with mildew. Wearing a surgical mask, Swank removed all of the box scores from the original, dog-eared pages. They were then each glued on a new page and laminated.

Swank decided to update the scrapbooks to the (then) current season, i.e., from 1994 through 2002. With the help of several Ted Williams SABR chapter volunteers Swank completed the project. Copies of the box scores were made from the library's newspaper microfilm collection, and then Swank trimmed and glued nearly 1,500 additional box scores onto clean pages, which were then laminated. In all, it took six months to complete the rehabilitation project.

On January 14, 2003, a few of Whitey's friends were at the Central Library when the Scrapbooks were officially donated. Along with Swank, they included long-time Padres trainer

Bill Swank Collection



(Left to right) Broderick Perkins, Jerry Gross, Doc Mattei, Randy Jones, and Bill Swank, at the Scrapbook donation ceremony in the City of San Diego Central Library, January 14, 2003.

and traveling secretary, Doc Mattei; former Padres players Randy Jones and Broderick Perkins; and 1969-1971 Padres broadcaster Jerry Gross. Swank recorded some of the banter:

*“Randy credited Whitey with being one of the first to chart pitches and the location balls went after they were hit. He also mentioned that Wednesdays were always Whitey’s Chili Day. The other teams would try to sneak into the Padres clubhouse for a serving of the famous chili. Incidentally, Whitey never gave Randy the recipe for his BBQ concession at the ballpark.*

*“Both Jones and Perkins recalled seeing Whitey cutting and taping the box scores into his scrapbooks.”*

The collection that resides in the BRC extends from 1969 through 2005 (includes three more seasons added by Swank). The arrival of the internet and sites such as Baseball-Reference.com have made the continuation of the scrapbooks unnecessary since box scores are readily available for all major-league games.

Still, for anyone interested in Padres history the scrapbooks offer an easy and visual way to look up box scores, and compare seasons...and experience a sense of San Diego’s baseball history.

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**WIETELMANN, William Frederick "Whitey"**

B: March 15, 1919, Zanesville, OH  
 D: March 26, 2002, San Diego, CA

B:S T:R  
 6:00 170



Year	Age	Team	Lge	Level	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP
1937	18	Beaver Falls	PASA	D	88	292		68	11	4	5						.233	
1938	19	Evansville	IIIL	B	117	389	61	94	14	3	6	59	3		43	43	.242	.319
1939	20	Hartford	EL	A	141	498		117	13	6	3						.235	
1939	20	BOSTON	NL	Major	23	69	2	14	1	0	0	5	1	0	2	9	.203	.225
1940	21	BOSTON	NL	Major	35	41	3	8	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	.195	.283
1941	22	Hartford	EL	A	65	211		45	7	4	0						.213	
1941	22	BOSTON	NL	Major	16	33	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	.091	.118
1942	23	Louisville	AA	AA	133	527	69	137	21	3	0	35	7		55	42	.260	.332
1942	23	BOSTON	NL	Major	13	34	4	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	.206	.290
1943	24	BOSTON	NL	Major	153	534	33	115	14	1	0	39	9	6	46	40	.215	.281
1944	25	BOSTON	NL	Major	125	417	46	100	18	1	2	32	0	7	33	25	.240	.300
1945	26	BOSTON	NL	Major	123	428	53	116	15	3	4	33	4	5	39	27	.271	.335
1946	27	BOSTON	NL	Major	44	78	7	16	0	0	0	5	0	0	14	8	.205	.326
1947	28	PITTSBURGH	NL	Major	48	128	21	30	4	1	1	7	0	1	12	10	.234	.300
1948	29	Sacramento	PCL	AAA	143	481	64	112	22	1	8	43	2		64	47	.233	.325
1949	30	SD/Sacto	PCL	AAA	149	496	67	119	24	2	4	37	4		70	40	.240	.334
1950	31	San Diego	PCL	AAA	138	418	65	109	18	0	2	35	1		73	43	.261	.371
1951	32	San Diego	PCL	AAA	125	390	53	102	12	5	8	44	3		72	38	.262	.377
1952	33	San Diego	PCL	AAA	23	24	3	5	0	0	0	0	1		4	8	.208	.367
1953	34	Wichita Falls	BSTL	B	98	323	60	90	24	0	8	46	4		56	29	.279	.390
1954	35	Lincoln	WL	A	65	147	14	30	5	0	2	12	0		29	23	.204	.333
1955	36	Yuma	AZMX	C	94	243	47	64	9	2	7	50	2		48	26	.263	.388
1956	37	Yuma	AZMX	C	31	57	6	15	4	0	1	13	0		10	9	.263	.368
<b>Majors (9 seasons)=</b>					580	1762	170	409	55	6	7	122	14	19	156	131	.232	.298
<b>Minors (14 seasons)=</b>					1410	4000	442	988	160	28	50	337	23		454	308	.247	

Source: Baseball-Reference.com

**Managerial Record**

Year	Team	Lge	Record	Place
1953	Wichita Falls	Big State	85-58	1st
1954	Lincoln	Western	51-61	n/a
1955	Yuma	Ariz-Mex	83-57	2nd
1956	Yuma	Ariz-Mex	45-36	5th
1961	San Diego	PCL	1-5	n/a

**Coaching Record**

1959	Sacramento	PCL
1960-1966	San Diego	PCL
1967	Cincinnati	NL
1968	San Diego	PCL
1969-1980	San Diego	NL

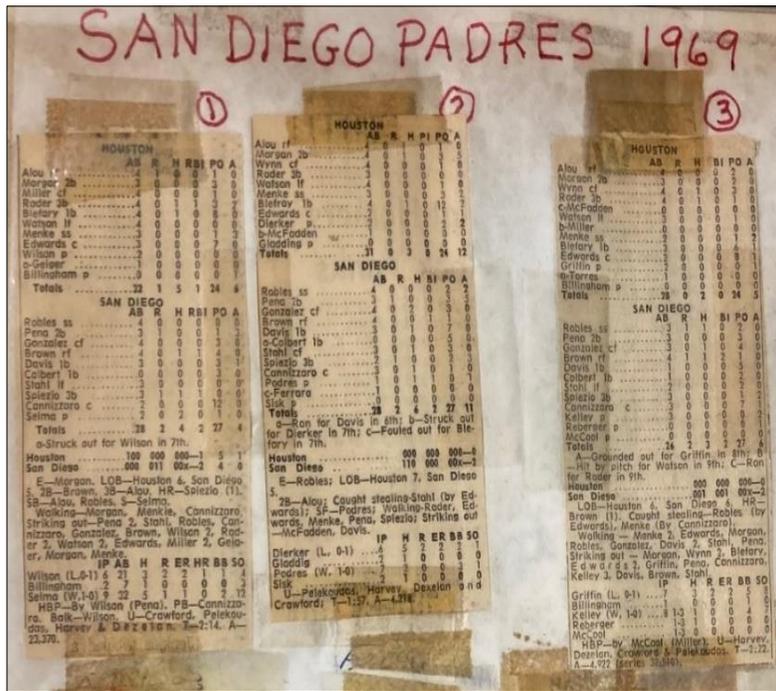
**Scouting, Management Staff**

1981-1994	San Diego	NL
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# A WIETELMANN SCRAPBOOK SAMPLING

## What a Start! Three Wins In-A-Row by Our 1969 Padres

Wietelmann 1969 Scrapbook



Box scores of the first three San Diego Padres games played on April 8, 9, and 10, 1969, in San Diego Stadium.

The above photo is a part of page 1 of the 1969 Scrapbook; it is of the first three games in our NL Padres' history. It was quite a start!

Out of the gate, in their inaugural major-league season, our San Diego Padres won the first three games played, all at San Diego Stadium, April 8-10, 1969. Padres pitchers allowed the Houston Astros a total of one run and 10 hits in those three games.

Dick Selma picked up the win in game one, 2-1, and Johnny Podres got the game two win, 2-0. In the third game of the series, starter Dick Kelley had a no-hitter for 6 1/3 innings. The Astros did get another hit but that was it, as the Padres won, 2-0.

For the three games the lengths were 2:14, 1:57, and 2:22, respectively. Attendance figures were 23,370, 4,218, and 4,922.

Unfortunately, that week in April 1969 was the last time the franchise experienced a won-loss record that exceeded .500. The 3-0 record was quickly erased by a six-game losing streak. The last time the Padres franchise had a cumulative won-loss record over .500 was on April 12, 1969.

There were two future Hall of Famers on the field for those three games. Only one was a player: Joe Morgan, who played second base for the Astros that year. This was to be his season number seven of an eventual 22-year major-league career.

The other Hall of Famer was one with San Diego roots...umpire Doug Harvey.



## 4

## 1947: THAT OLD "ST. LOUIS PROBLEM"

by Dan Boyle

1947 was a huge year in Major League Baseball. Jackie Robinson's debut integrated the major leagues. His debut was overshadowed at the beginning of the season by Happy Chandler's year-long suspension of Brooklyn manager Leo Durocher. The World Series was a hard-fought seven-game battle, including an almost no-hitter in Game 4. Fans returned to ballparks in record numbers, as shown in Table 1. Thirteen of the 16 major-league teams set all-time attendance records in either 1946 or 1947. The Cubs and Reds set their records in pennant-winning years, but the Browns' record went back 25 years to the days of George Sisler, Ken Williams, and a near-pennant.

TABLE 1 HIGHEST ATTENDANCE RECORDS BY TEAM			
Team	1947 Season Total	Season When Highest	
		Attendance Recorded	Attendance Record
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Boston	1,427,315	1947	-
Chicago	890,807	1946	983,403
Cleveland	1,521,978	1947	-
Detroit	1,397,093	1946	1,722,590
New York	2,200,369	1946	2,265,512
Philadelphia	911,566	1947	-
St. Louis	336,598	<b>1922</b>	<b>712,978</b>
Washington	865,619	1946	1,027,216
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Boston	1,287,435	1947	-
Brooklyn	1,807,596	1947	-
Chicago	1,364,039	<b>1929</b>	<b>1,485,166</b>
Cincinnati	900,024	<b>1939</b>	<b>981,443</b>
New York	1,599,784	1947	-
Philadelphia	906,868	1946	1,045,247
Pittsburgh	1,283,611	1947	-
St. Louis	1,249,931	1947	-

Note: **Bold** indicates the three clubs that did not set attendance records in either 1946 or 1947.

Sources: *The Sporting News*, September 3, 1947, p. 4 and October 8, 1947, p. 12. Totals are unadjusted; final attendance figures may be slightly different.

Four teams had never reached one million in attendance in a single season. Cincinnati was the smallest market in the major leagues, and the other three teams (White Sox, Athletics, and Browns) played in two-team cities.



The St. Louis Browns were a particular concern, with total attendance over half a million less than the next lowest team. In the early months of the 1947 season, *The Sporting News* (TSN) had at least one story every month about an impending move by either the Browns or the Cardinals. After Sam Breadon declared definitively that the Cardinals were not for sale, attention shifted to the Browns. Several potential bidders were reported to be bidding on the team, with the intention of moving the Browns to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles and the Pacific Coast League in 1947 could be the subject of a whole other story. The PCL first petitioned Commissioner Happy Chandler for immediate major-league status, then amended its petition for major-league status within five years (during which time PCL teams would modify and expand their ballparks), a higher classification than other minor leagues, and an exemption from the major-league draft, allowing the teams to retain all their own players.<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles had other ideas:<sup>2</sup>

*Here in Los Angeles, the press has been extremely cold to the third major league proposal. Instead, sports editors and columnists have openly urged support of an organized effort to sell the majors on moving a franchise to the nation's fourth largest city.*

At a meeting on September 1, PCL club owners reaffirmed a pledge not to dispose of a franchise without the consent of all others in the league and made it clear that no such consent would be given to allow Los Angeles to enter the major leagues alone. The owners did consider a possible compromise to place Los Angeles, Oakland, Hollywood, and San Francisco in the major leagues, expanding each league to 10 teams, with compensation for the remaining PCL clubs,<sup>3</sup> but this was never a realistic proposal.

If a move to Los Angeles was not in the Browns' or Cardinals' future, then what? A paid attendance of 478 at a weekday afternoon Browns game<sup>4</sup> raised fresh concerns regarding the continued viability of two teams in St. Louis.



The headline on the August 6 edition of TSN introduced a whole new idea, suggested by National League President Ford Frick: moving the Cardinals to the west side of Chicago:<sup>5</sup>

*“There is no doubt that we are confronted with quite a problem in St. Louis, and I believe a solution is available,” said Frick.*

*“I think it would prove highly profitable if the Cardinals were moved to the West Side of Chicago, where the Cubs used to hold forth before they took over the Federal League park on the north side.*

<sup>1</sup> J.G. Taylor Spink, “Coasters Lash Critics as Big League Stooges.” *The Sporting News*, August 13, 1947, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> John B. Old, “Coast to Offer New Major Bid on July 7.” *The Sporting News*, July 2, 1947, p. 25

<sup>3</sup> Virgil Cory, “Coast Bolts Door Against Major Invasion.” *The Sporting News*, September 10, 1947, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/boxes/SLA/SLA194707140.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> Dan Daniel, “Frick Suggests Third Major Club in Chicago.” *The Sporting News*, August 6, 1947, p. 1

*“A second National League team in Chicago would engender a rivalry similar to that which exists between the Giants and Dodgers in New York. There is certainly no question of New York’s ability to support these two clubs, which again will show tremendous gates well over the million mark. ...*

*“The great West Side would welcome a team of strength and position in a new park. I can see 22 games between the Cubs and the West Siders becoming fully as productive as the 22 between the Giants and the Dodgers.”*

In an editorial the following week, TSN (based in St. Louis) noted that Frick was speaking as a private citizen, not as N.L. President.<sup>6</sup> The editorial suggested that the solution to the St. Louis problem was to make drastic changes in the personnel and the spirit of the Browns. The concluding sentence said that the idea of a team on the West Side of Chicago should be filed away for serious reference in the future.

Not surprisingly, the proposal did not receive support from either Chicago club.<sup>7</sup> The White Sox were more adamant, stating that the move would require the approval of both clubs and the team would never agree to it. The Cubs took a “more genial” approach (as a National League team responding to a proposal by its President), suggesting that the borough of Queens in New York City would be an excellent place to move a team. The Cubs noted that the St. Louis problem was really the Browns’ problem, and moving the Cardinals was not a sensible solution.



August 13, 1947, *The Sporting News*, p.12

There were repeated mentions in TSN throughout the second half of the 1947 season of the need to shake up the Browns. Management obliged. In the 1947-48 off-season, the Browns traded or sold three-fifths of their rotation, one reliever, the catcher, the first baseman, both players who shared second base, the shortstop, and the left fielder.<sup>8</sup>

Table 2 shows the players involved in each trade, the sum of their Wins Above Replacement (WAR) values<sup>9</sup> from 1948 to the end of their careers, and the net WAR value of each trade (with positive values benefiting the Brown and negative values hurting the Browns). The table indicates that the old “St. Louis problem” was not a St. Louis problem or even a Browns problem but a management problem, specifically the ability to judge talent. The sum of WAR values for players traded was 54.1. The sum for those acquired was 17.1.

This may be too harsh a judgment. As Frederic G. Lieb notes in his history of the franchise, owner Richard Muckerman was a very disillusioned club owner after the 1947 season.<sup>10</sup> Creditors were knocking on the door and the team needed money. The first two trades listed in Table 2 were

<sup>6</sup> That Old “St. Louis Problem.” *The Sporting News*, August 13, 1947, p. 12

<sup>7</sup> Milt Woodard, “Cubs, Sox Cold to Third Club Idea.” *The Sporting News*, August 13, 1947, p. 7

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/1947/YM\\_1947.htm](https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/1947/YM_1947.htm) and [https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/1948/YM\\_1948.htm](https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/1948/YM_1948.htm)

<sup>9</sup> WAR source is <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/>

<sup>10</sup> Frederick G. Lieb, *The Baltimore Orioles; The History of a Colorful Team in Baltimore and St. Louis*. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, first published 1955, pp. 210-211

the most one-sided deals in terms of WAR but netted the team \$375,000 from Tom Yawkey and the Red Sox. The list of player sales that netted an additional \$885,000 in subsequent years takes up almost half a page in Lieb's book.

TABLE 2 BROWNS TRADES IN THE 1947-48 OFFSEASON				
Traded	WAR post-1947	Acquired	WAR post-1947	Net WAR post-1947
Vern Stephens	22.5	Roy Partee	-2.1	
Jack Kramer	0.4	Jim Wilson	10.1	
		Al Widmar	3.7	
		Eddie Pellagrini	-1.8	
		Pete Layden	-0.7	
		Joe Ostrowski	1.9	
		+ \$310,000		
Totals=	22.9		11.1	-11.8
Ellis Kinder	28.3	Sam Dente	-8.7	
Billy Hitchcock	-2.0	Clem Dreisewerd	-0.1	
		Bill Sommers	-0.2	
		+ \$65,000		
Totals=	26.3		-9.0	-35.3
Bob Muncrief	0.0	Dick Kokos	3.8	
Wally Judnich	1.0	Bryan Stephens	-1.6	
		Joe Frazier	0.5	
		+ \$25,000		
Totals=	1.0		2.7	1.7
cash		Don Richmond	-0.3	-0.3
Jeff Heath	6.1	cash		-6.1
\$25,000		Jerry Priddy	12.6	12.6
Johnny Berardino	-1.8	\$65,000		1.8
Jake Early	0.6	cash		-0.6
Glen Moulder	-1.0	cash		1.0
<b>WAR TOTALS=</b>	<b>54.1</b>		<b>17.1</b>	<b>-37.0</b>

The immediate result was a jump in the standings from 8th to 6th place in 1948. The team's record was almost identical (59-95 in 1947, 59-94 in 1948), but the White Sox and Senators both struggled in 1948. Only once in their remaining years in St. Louis would the Browns win more than 59 games (64-90 in 1952).<sup>11</sup>

In 1951, Bill Veeck bought the team from the DeWitt brothers, who had purchased it from Muckerman.<sup>12</sup> Veeck managed to increase attendance to over 500,000 by 1952, but the purchase of the Cardinals by Anheuser-Busch convinced him that he could not compete for fans' attention and loyalty. The Browns moved to Baltimore and became the Orioles in 1954. Only New York and Chicago remain as two-team cities among the original five, with the Braves leaving Boston after 1952 and the Athletics leaving Philadelphia after 1954. Chicago never did become a three-team city.



<sup>11</sup> [https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/B/FR\\_BAL.htm](https://www.retrosheet.org/boxesetc/B/FR_BAL.htm)

<sup>12</sup> Bill Veeck with Ed Linn, *Veeck as in Wreck*. Fireside/Simon & Schuster, first published 1962, pp. 213, 228-229

## 5

**"BASEBALL RAMBLINGS" FROM DOUG HARVEY*****Baseball Hall of Fame Umpire*****Part 3**

*Doug Harvey was a National League Umpire for 31 years, 1962-1992, and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010.*

*He is one of 10 umpires recognized by the HoF.*

*Doug was a guest at our Chapter's regional meeting on January 29, 2000. His remarks were recorded.*

*Parts 1 and 2 of his transcript were printed in our February 2022 and June 2022 Newsletters, respectively.*

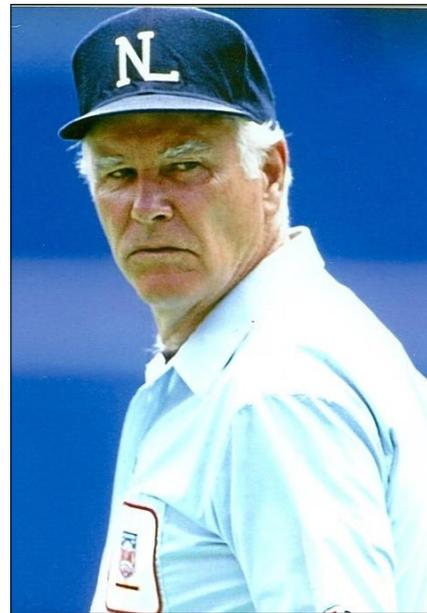
*After Harvey's 2000 presentation was concluded he stayed around for a lengthy, informative, and frank Q & A session. Verbatim of this session is published here as the final part of the three-part series that Harvey himself suggested be titled "Baseball Ramblings."*

*Enjoy "listening"!*

**Q:** *I know my work ethic. I have off days. I have days when my mind is on something else. As an umpire how do you concentrate day-in, day-out?*

**Harvey.** Very forcefully! I mean, you just force yourself to concentrate. You have to understand something, too. You have to understand that the difference between a ball and a strike is the width of a pencil line. That's the difference in the mind's eye of an umpire. You show a pitch on TV and it looked like the exact same pitch as the one before but is called differently. The difference between the two pitches is in the mind's eye of an umpire. The width of a line, that's it.

To call the play at first base is a magnificent endeavor because you have to watch the ball come across the field... a good two-thirds of the way and, in the meantime, while you are watching it you're adjusting your position. You take a right angle from where that ball is thrown. You want that right angle. If it's thrown from shortstop, you bounce up so that you are at a right angle to that ball when it passes you. You take your eye off the ball, your computer up here (Harvey points to his head) says the ball is coming, the ball is coming, the ball is coming—it should get here now, and you had that all in your mind, and it's



Andy Strasberg Collection

happening. You go to the base and you watch the foot. If the foot hits the base before you hear the pop of the glove, then the man is safe.

Doug Harvey had 27 years of basketball...I took it right onto the baseball field. Because in basketball it was always down on one knee with (he imitates a referee's whistle) "41, you've got him by the arm, son...you can't do that." And that's the way I'd referee basketball. Baseball was the same thing. (He whistles) "No, he's safe." Same time, I would tell them. They knew what that meant; the foot hit the same time as the glove was hit. So, you're asking yourself, "But how do you do it?" Because, I'm trained to do it! You have to understand that. I'm not just a guy on the lines that has walked out and done it.

So, I say to you, you want a thrill, volunteer to be an umpire. I'd like you to go just work the bases some day. Just go do that. You're going to love it. Try the slow-pitch stuff. You'll love it. Ask my son, he tried it! He said, "I've never seen so many idiots in all my life."

The reason I got started at age 16 is because we had that run-and-gun outfit that went to the semifinals of the California State Championships...I played center at 6-foot 2. But, we would get the ball, throw it out to the side court to Babe Henry. I would head down the other side of the court. Babe Henry would hit Red coming across the middle and I'd be there to either take a pass and give it back to Babe or lay it up. We would beat them to the other end because of the fact that we were playing in 75-foot gymnasiums, which are now, what, 96-foot, and you had to beat them down. If you didn't, they would set up the zone defense. Everything was on defense. At 6-foot-2, and 165 pounds, I could climb with anybody.

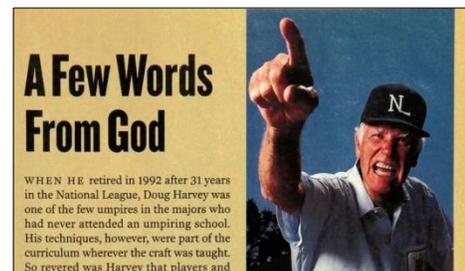
**Q: Baseball is full of colorful nicknames. Could you share with us your nickname in baseball and how it came about?**

**Harvey.** You know, normally, Andy, I wouldn't do this. By the way, fellas, Andy Strasberg is the gentleman that got me here today. He asked me to come down and I told him I would. It takes five and a half hours to drive down here and I have to drive back tomorrow morning because we're having a Super Bowl party. I know what Andy speaks of. I was in baseball 31 years and about the last...what was the year the Padres won the first pennant... '84? I went until '92, so it was over the last eight or nine years.

They called me "God." I've never spoken like this to any other organization or even mentioned the fact that they did call me God, except for one time. *Sports Illustrated* came out with a write-up and I did not give them the story, but the guy on a sidebar wrote the story that they called Doug Harvey, "God." And all of the players called me "God." And, so for your idea of what was taking place, I'm going to tell you the true story on how my nickname "God" came to be.

So, here we were in New York with the Padres, it's raining and I'm told that it would be hard to get this night's game in. I said, "You don't understand, (Mets GM) Frank (Cashen), I work every night to get games in, very hard." If you look in the rolls since I became crew chief, I had lost less games than any man probably in the history of the game. And I worked less doubleheaders come August than any crew had. So, you should pay attention to those things. Yes, I will work hard.

So I ask, "Is there a reason to call the game?" He said, "It's going to rain tonight and it's going to rain all night, but it should be fairly light. Tomorrow, it's going to rain all night. It's going to be fairly heavy. The next night you will not come to the ballpark the way it's looking now. We will call you at the hotel and it will be off." And the Padres were leading their division. I think New York at the time was



October 19, 1998, "A Few Words from God," *Sports Illustrated*, p.49.

leading their division. But anyway, I said, “No problem, we’re working.” I’m working the plate that night, so I know we are going to get the game in as long as a lightning storm doesn’t start, believe me.

We get to the third or fourth inning. Two outs, nobody on base, Mookie Wilson at the bat for New York. The pitch comes in, Mookie hits a one-hopper. Ka-boom, high one-hopper. You had to know Steve Garvey. Steve Garvey is playing first base. Well, Steve has to back up a little bit and he’s got his hand out to the pitcher. Now, it’s 35 feet to the first base bag. He’s already got his hand out. The ball hasn’t reached him yet. With his gesture he’s telling the pitcher, ‘Forget it, I’ve got it.’ The pitcher is already breaking toward first where he belongs for a toss, but stops. Garvey, meanwhile, when he pushes off his back foot in the little bit of mud back there, slips and he goes down to one knee...and now there isn’t anyone to throw it to, because he’s already told him I’ve got it, you know, ‘Let Superman handle it.’

**‘God’ was in the right place at right time at Shea**

NEW YORK (UPI) — Some people refer to Doug Harvey as “God,” and not because they worship the ground he umpires on. Harvey, apparently, can be a little too omnipotent and omniscient for some tastes. Monday night, however, his ex-

**Mike Tully**  
UPI baseball writer

has to be worked. It’s just the fact that before the game we warned ‘em. If we feel they’re throwing at somebody, the pitcher’s going to be ejected.” Harvey was born 56 years ago in Southgate, Calif., and broke into the National League in 1967. That

thing, but inside means inside the plate, not inside the man’s body.” Harvey’s instincts showed again in the ninth, when the Mets were leading 3-1 and Guerrero was retired to open the inning. Harvey told the Mets catcher to hold up the game for a moment, until

it came from, and it had to have come from the second deck. “So Tommy got mad naturally and jumped up and was going to start something with the people down below and I wanted him not to because I wanted to get the game in because now we’ve got

June 1, 1988, *The Herald*, Jasper, IN

And now of course, we’re in trouble, the umpires, not Garvey. So, what happens? The next guy up is Darryl Strawberry. First pitch downtown, Sadie Brown, bam, gone. First pitch. Right there, bang, hits it 90 miles. We get to the sixth inning and the Padres are still down 2 to 0 and it starts raining hard. I called, “Time out! Get the field covered!” I tell the grounds crew. By this time I’ve already repaired the infield like eight times. We repaired the infield 17 times that night to get the nine innings in. But now it’s too much. I said, “Cover it. It’s getting a little slick around here and get it covered.” I told Country Joe West, great friend and great guy, you make sure they get the cover on with no problems and I’m going to go and change some of my gear so I can get some dry shirts and stuff on. He says, “Sure Harv.” Well, I’m in and I’m changing and here comes Joe. He’s loud...he’s raucous...he’s North Carolinian. He’s a hell of a guy, but he comes in and he’s laughing. The whole room just reverberates. “Joe, what’s so funny, son?” I ask. He said, “Well I went and sat in the Padres’ dugout watching.” I said, “Oh, Joe, why did you sit in the Padres’ dugout for, for God’s sake? They’re mad at me right off the bat.” He said, “No, listen. Garvey come in and said, ‘Dad gummit, Joe, didn’t anybody think to check the infield before this game?’” And Joe says he told him, “Yeah, the chief checked it.” They always called me “chief” because I’m half Indian. He said the chief checked it. Down at the other end of the bench, Terry Kennedy is taking off his gear and he’s got his chest protector and his shin guards in one hand and he slammed them on the bench and said, “Well, that doesn’t count; that son of a bitch walks on water!”

So, now we go from New York to Chicago and we have a dear friend, Jerry Holtzman...a great writer and honest. When you told him something about a play, even if it was against the club, he wrote it exactly as you told him. That’s all we ever asked of any writer. There were only a few of them that we trusted to that extent. And, so we were in Chicago and I’m out checking the field and making sure everything is going right because I just worked the plate or whatever, and I’m watching. I go in and nothing is said to me or anything. They said Holtzman came by and said to say hi to you. I said, “That’s fine.” The next morning I lift up the *Tribune* and there in huge, bold type, “God visits Chicago.” That’s how it started. So, anyway, that’s the story.

## It's been a long, deliberate journey for the ump his colleagues call 'God'



July 2, 1992, *Chicago Tribune*, Chicago, IL, p.55

**Q:** *What is the quality of today's umpire and is there any validity to the strikeout controversy, and if so, what do think?*

**Harvey.** TV and baseball itself is ruining the game. That overhead camera that gives you shots. I told both presidents, both of them, you people don't seem to understand. There's a 17-inch-wide plate. I went out for two straight years and I judged the umpires. They're better than ever before. They are absolutely outstanding. I sit behind home plate and I tell them, "I don't care what you say, I'm here to judge the umpires, I'm going to be working, I'm not here to enjoy your damn game. I want to see the strike zone."

I've had several scouts tell me that there's no way, Harv, that you can sit up here and tell whether the guy's missing them or doing what's right. I said, no kidding, sit right here. Pitch would come in and as a catcher would catch it, I'd say, "that's a ball." Next pitch, "That's a strike." Sitting 100 feet back, 120 feet back, I'm within 90 percent of calling what the umpire is calling. I said, "Don't tell me I can't tell after 31 years here plus four years in the minor leagues...a total of 35 years...that I can't tell what an umpire is doing in the way of a job." Then I would go sit at the side for two innings and watch his up and down movements, watching for height. I can tell what the hell they are doing. I can tell if they miss a play at first base from back there. They are better than ever.

Andy Strasberg Collection



I turned in two bad reports in two years. Horrible reports. One of them was on a guy named (Derryl) Cousins and the other guy was (John) Shulock, both in the American League. Shulock was over sitting on the rail between innings talking up a storm to some people over there.<sup>13</sup> That's not professional. He was wearing a cowboy gold belt buckle about that big (Harvey gestures with his fingers about four inches apart); it looked horrible to me. He gets the closest play in the world and he's one of the guys, "Yeah, he's out." Let me tell you something, if you don't **sell** the play, I as a manager am coming out. The only difference is, with an umpire like him, he doesn't believe in umpiring. His way, the cool way, is "If you come out, I'll bury you." That's the way he umpired. Well, I don't approve of that. I think that every man has his right—any time I had a close play, I assumed they'll be out on that. If they didn't come out, I'd say, you are some kind of idiot. You should have been out on that one. So, when they came out, it wasn't something I wasn't expecting. And it didn't bother me when they came

<sup>13</sup> Ed. Note: An interesting coincidence perhaps was that both Cousins and Shulock were hired as replacements during the 1979 umpire strike.

out, except for one thing. If they get up like this (he places the palm of his hand within an inch of his face), I'd say, "You know you're way too close...back off or get out," and they would back off!

I used common sense with everything I did. Common sense will take you further in life than the greatest learning in the world. Learning by doing is the greatest thing you can have in the world, in my opinion. My mother was the greatest worker I've ever seen in my life, and so was my dad. Don't get me wrong. My dad carried ice for the Union Ice Company for 22 years in downtown LA. I've seen him take a 300-pound chunk of ice, take a single-bladed ice pick, and reduce it to 12½ pound sections in a matter of no more than 5 minutes. He was great. And then, the way he had to reduce it was to put it in a gas-fired chopper, chop it up, take it out, put it in a 100-pound sack, take it up those stairs to the Elks Club. Great man. He never weighed over 170 pounds in his life. He was strong as a bull. But the day I picked Dad up, I was wrestling at the time, I picked him up from behind. I was fooling around with him, and I broke his ribs. I knew then that he was getting older.

**Q:** *You were a physically fit person, what are your comments on the umpires that are not exactly the picture of fitness?*

**Harvey.** Well, what are your comments on Tony Gwynn? He looks like hell all the time and he does a pretty good job, doesn't he?

**Q:** *Well, there's hell and then there's pitiful!*

**Harvey:** I know. I put in to be president of the National League when (Leonard) Coleman got it. I submitted a bio and an application. The guy I submitted it to called me on the phone and said, "Harv, who wrote your bio and application?" I said, "I did both, sir." He said, "Those are the two finest examples of what should be handed in of anybody I've ever seen." I replied, "I appreciate it." It was a big man, one of the owners. I talked to another owner after that and I asked him, "Did you guys get my application?" "No," he said, "it was never handed in."

The umpire's association, over 25 years ago, gave to President Chub Feeney the right to take any umpire off the field, send him to a fat farm as long as you pay him. And not one president has ever done it. Years and years have passed. I asked (President) Bill White, "Why don't you do it? You complain about it!" He said, "Oh no, I couldn't do that." What the hell are they doing as president? So, I don't understand. Needless to say, I didn't get the job.

Joe Amalfitano came up to my wife and me at a function, I don't even remember what it was, and he said, "You know, Doug will never get another job back in baseball." She said "Why?" He said, "He's too honest and he's too strong." And, that's the crime of it to me.

**Q:** *Can you talk about the first Umpires strike when all of the umpires wanted to strike about 20 years ago?*

**Harvey.** 1963. I'm an original signer on the document that formed the association. It was the National League Umpires Association. Now, the reason we did this, that we formed the Association, umpires at the time were getting \$100 a year in retirement for every year of service. When I retired at age 62 I would have gotten \$3,100 a year in retirement. We asked them to better our retirement because at the time we were getting \$1,500 a series for the World Series and the losing players were realizing \$18,000 each. We asked them to raise that and they said 'no' to both suggestions.

At the time, I had to pay 50 percent of our Blue Cross/Blue Shield costs. For the first two years that I was in the league, neither my wife nor I were covered with insurance because I couldn't afford the \$75 a month that it cost us for our half of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. So, these were the things that we first took to them, and they said 'no.' What we told them is that we had better hear from you in discussion before July 4. This was May 5. We picked July 4, Independence Day, intentionally. We knew that there were doubleheaders across the board. Every place they were playing there were doubleheaders scheduled. We said *if* we have to walk, we didn't say we *were* going to walk. We told them, "If we do not hear from you by July 4, we will take action." That's all we told them, and they came around.

The American League did not join us because (President Joe) Cronin told them, "You go ahead." He opened the drawer and said, "You see these," and threw a sheaf of letters out on the desk. "These people all want to umpire in the major leagues and I can get any of them. Hell, I'll hire 20 postmen to take your places."

Well, everyone thinks that it's easy. Let me tell you something. I can take any of you folks out here with a decent background in baseball. I can teach you to call balls and strikes, fair and foul, out and safe. Those are really important parts of umpiring. It would take me about six months, but I'll build you up close to maybe Triple A, Double A, at least. But let me tell you something, it's how you handle it when the shit hits the fan...that's what makes a good major-league umpire. Not how you are built. Not one percent of you in this room here has it within you to have a guy get in your face and scream his whole head off.

Let me tell you Doug Harvey's rule of thumb: "Anytime they get personal, you're gone." You come up and tell me, "Harvey, that was a horseshit call." Fine, that was your opinion of my call. The minute you walk up and you say, "Harvey, you're horseshit, you're anything," you're gone. I won't call you something, don't you call me something. There was a man, Ray Perry was his name, in minor leagues, who walked up and said, "You freaking hot dog." And he's gone! He said, "I didn't curse you." I said, "I won't call you names, you don't call me names."

There's a cute story. We had white shirts in those days in the minor leagues. Ray Perry came out and he was a tobacco chewer. Every time he'd say, "Oh, bullshit." And he would just talk slobbingly. So I said to myself, you've got to get to this guy. I'm at second base and I've got a close play and out comes Ray Perry. Ray said, "Bullshit." And I said, "Ray, let me tell you something." Oh, he stopped right away. I said, "I'm going to look down at my shirt, and if there are **any** tobacco stains on my white shirt, I'm going to eject you." I looked down at my shirt knowing full well that I was a tobacco chewer and I'd been spitting all day and there were some little ticks down there. I knew they were there, but I had him loaded. I looked down at my shirt. When I looked up and started to go like this (Harvey gestures with hand and arm giving an "Out" signal), all I saw was his butt and his elbows going around the end of the dugout. He ejected himself!

**Q: *The rules are clear on the repercussions of major gambling on baseball, so what's your opinion of Pete Rose's lifetime banishment?***

**Harvey.** In the first place, let me tell you something. Mr. Bart Giamatti was the gentleman that nailed Pete. When Bart was assigned the president's job, I saw Bobby Brown, American League President. And I said, "Bobby, what makes a professor emeritus a logical contender to be the president of a baseball league?" The man is head of Yale University or Harvard, one of them. He said, "All I know is that the guy loves the game. He's written several books on it. He absolutely is taken with the game. He hangs around all the time. He's an astute gentleman and learns quickly. I think he'll be great."

I said, "Well, like everyone else, I'll give him a chance."

My opinion: he was the best baseball man to ever come down the runway. The first thing he did was walk in and hold a meeting with his crew chiefs and tell all of us, “You go back to the three members of your crew and you tell them, I am going to back the umpires. You are my police force. When you start getting overbearing, I will come down on you hard. But, if you can show me common sense, decency, the way to run a game, hard-boiled but with good sense, I’ll back you to the hilt.”

And he did that marvelously and he was terrific about it. When he nailed Pete Rose I was in Cincinnati. I wish I had saved the newspaper accounts of it because there were a lot of things there that were not released to the rest of the United States. Right off the bat they had his signature on these “over and unders” they call them. I come out as a gambler and I set the rate and I see Cincinnati is playing Pittsburgh today. Cincinnati has beaten Pittsburgh three out of four games this year, Cincinnati’s got the “Big Red Machine,” everybody is healthy...we’ll put this Cincinnati minus four. They expect them to beat Pittsburgh by four runs that day. Pete Rose would go down and bet that they don’t beat them by four runs. Betting on his team. We’ll bet on it, but the come is not going to make it.

Or, he might bet knowing more about the pitcher that’s going to be in against him. He adjusted his lineup to go against that pitcher. He would have a three-run lead and a couple of men on base with two outs and he’d tell his pitcher, “You’re worn out.” He’d put in a pinch-hitter that he knows can’t hit that relief pitcher out there. The guy strikes out with a man on second and third. Then he puts in a new pitcher, the guy gives up one run and Pete wins his bet. That was the danger. That was the fallacy of Pete. Pete Rose had a horrible gambling habit, according to all news reports.

I was at a racetrack outside of Cincinnati...and I’m not a racetrack fan. One of my umpires said there’s nothing going on, it’s an off day, come on we’ll go out there and have dinner. I’m a \$2 better. I go out and bet \$2 on a horse. I go out there and I’m betting \$2 and I hear over here, “Seven, seven, and seven on number 4.” I thought, “What the hell, that is Pete Rose!” The guy would punch them out and Pete Rose, goes \$700, \$700, and \$700—\$2,100—on one horse for one race. Now, don’t tell me that that isn’t a sickness. This is my own judgment of what I’d seen. No one bets \$2,100 on one horse to win, place, and show. That’s just not done.

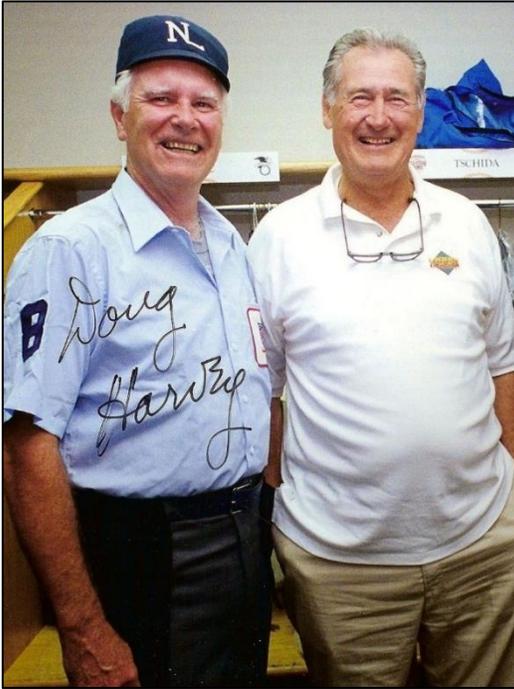
The man had a problem. Had you not been guilty and the Commissioner set you down for life, what would you have done? Wouldn’t you have hired a lawyer? Would you have signed what he had signed? I think Pete Rose, eventually because of his numbers, may be the first man ever forgiven who was kicked out of baseball for life. But he is going to have to serve a penance.

**Q: *Back to your earlier days in the major leagues, the infamous balk controversy of the 1960s. Can you talk about how that came about?***

**Harvey.** 1962. (National League President) Warren Giles had gripes from the ball clubs about balks. And they said, “They’re not stopping, they’re not stopping.”

Here’s the way they used to pitch. If you’re in a car and I get you out there in the parking lot and I say, “Go forward,” and you get going five miles an hour, and I say, “Now go backwards,” you can’t just go backwards. Even though you may not even hit the brakes, just take from one gear to another, you stop the impetus forward and you start backwards, correct? What have you done? You basically had to stop. Somewhere in there, there’s the stop of action. The motion to where there is nothing going forward with impetus. That was our idea of a halt.

Andy Strasberg Collection



Harvey with Ted Williams

So, Giles said, “No, we want a full second’s stop.” All right now, what’s a full second? Here’s a guy who used to referee basketball. Ten seconds to get across court, ten seconds to shoot the free throw. “One thousand one”...that’s a full second. One thousand one...it wasn’t happening. You’re making a definite stop, but it’s not “one thousand and one.” He said, “I want it according to the rule book.” The rule book stated “one thousand one”...a full second. So, we hit them with 61 balks in three and a half weeks. And they decided it wasn’t worth it.

It was 1962, because I go up to San Francisco, I have my first plate job. And, they make two changes that year. So, I get Billy Pierce pitching. He looks in, he winds it up, he comes in with the first pitch of the game. I said, “Strike one.” (Umpire) Al Barlick comes down from first base, “Hold it, hold it.” He could knock that wall down with his voice. I say to myself, “What the hell have I done, it’s my first call in major leagues and it’s a balk.” Well, the other part of the rule was that you couldn’t lift your foot. You had to put it in there, and you had to spin on it. In those days, they didn’t

wear the nub shoes. You put a pair of spikes on, put your foot on a rubber, and try and spin on it. You can’t do it, it’s impossible. But those were the typical calls that they were insisting on. It isn’t anything to do with what is wrong with the umpires.

They talked about the rule of throwing at people. Back in the ’60s they would throw at a batter and you’d say, “Alright that’s a warning. If you do it again, I’ll eject you.” So, you go on and in the next inning the guy walks up from the other team and drills the guy. “Alright, that’s a warning for you.” Well, by then you had a fist fight, so what do you do? They said, “Now if a guy drills a guy, you tell him, ‘No more. You are going if it happens again, and you’re going, too, Mr. Manager, if your pitcher does it.’” Well, they say, “Yeah,” but that’s weak. Come up with a better rule if you don’t like it, that’s my opinion. Because at least it stopped them from throwing at each other, basically. But it takes an umpire with guts to call that!

**Q:** *I did want to mention that SABR has an umpire rules committee among their various committees and they voted on the top umpires of the century, with Doug Harvey at number 2 in the survey.*

**Harvey.** Who the hell was number one? I’m as good as Bill Klem in case you’re interested.

**Q:** *Lee Gutkind wrote a book in the ’70s (The Best Seat in Baseball, but You Have to Stand: The Game as Umpires See It). My understanding from reading the preface is that your crew did not like the book.*

**Harvey.** Did not like it!? I went through it and I get 12 typewritten pages of innuendos and lies. I took it to the Umpires’ Association. It would have taken me \$25,000 to stop the dispersal of the book.

\$25,000 is what it would cost upfront...then go to court. I didn't have \$25,000. The Umpires' Association was trying to kick me out of baseball because of the book.

I told the league office, don't let this man Gutkind in our dressing room. He came down and said, "I'm supposed to sit in the umpires' dressing room." I said, "Not tonight." He said, "Please contact the office. I thought they would have contacted you." So, I called the league office and asked, "What the hell is going on?" Their response was, "Doug, I've checked this guy out. He's marvelous, he loves baseball, he's going to do a great book."

Well, he didn't. He slit throats right and left.

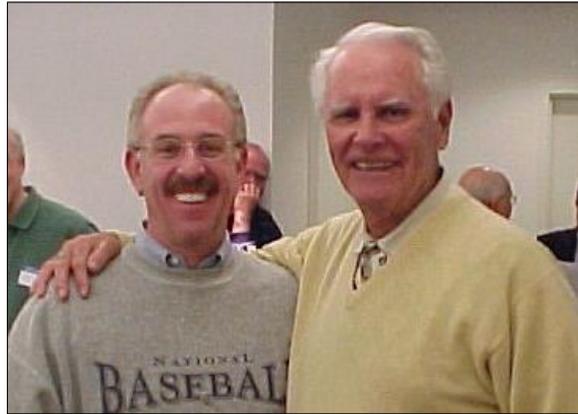
In baseball, one of the things that I'm a little upset about is how people are written about. Take, for example, the gentleman in Atlanta, the pitcher, John Rucker. I'm upset because in baseball circles, whether it is with a team of umpires or with players, there are all sorts of things said (i.e., in the locker room). I think we get carried away and think you can use free speech for anything you want to say outside, too. I think that's what that kid, Rucker, did. But I don't condone the writers and people who are condemning this kid. I just know it happens. You say things amongst you as men that you basically would never say in public. Umpires are the same way.

The year that that book was written, I had Art Williams, I had Harry Wendelstedt, and I had (Nick) Colosi—Italian, German, and Black. And me...half Indian. They are the ones who started calling me "Chief." Well, they started on me as Chief, and I called Wendelstedt "Herr Vindlestedt." We called Colosi, "Waffle," and we called Williams, "Hey, fella," because "we don't want to call you 'boy.'" That's the way

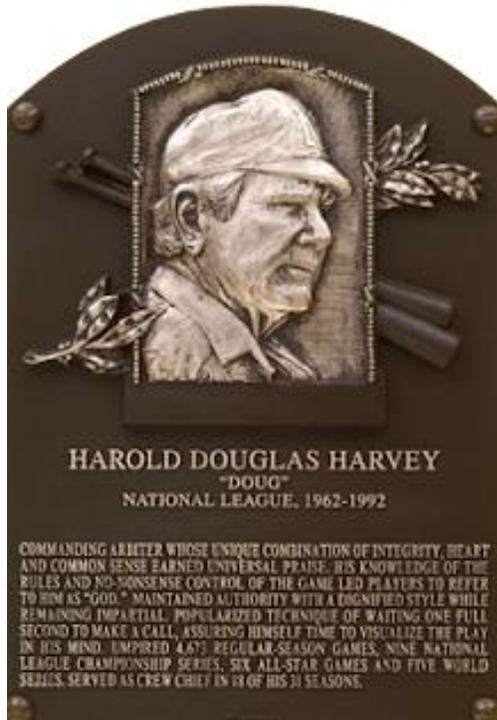
you talk with these guys. You talk with each other every place you go. You eat with each other. You sleep in hotels with each other. You are with these guys for six straight months and you get to where you know each other like brothers. I can say anything I want to my brother. I mean, I can tell my brother things I couldn't tell others because of our relationship. And he'll tell me, "I'll kick your tail, I'll punch you out," which he always could as a young fella.

But you can't do that anymore. It's a different world now. As an umpire and player you travel with the same people. And you are with them for every night for six or seven months, including spring training. You're not around your family.

My wife, after I'd be home for maybe three weeks, she would say, "Doug, you're not with the fellas now." She would say that because I'd use curse words up a storm...that's the way you talk in the dressing room. I mean, it's every second of every minute...that is, unless you're a ballplayer in a game and you walk up to an umpire...then you don't use those words!



Harvey and Andy Strasberg at Chapter meeting in January 29, 2000.



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## TED WILLIAMS CHAPTER NOTES



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David Clary  
Maureen Curran  
Carson Myers  
Jerome Sebastyn  
John Williams

### Check Out Norman Macht's Posts on *theSporting Blog*

Chapter member Norman Macht reports that he will add posts on a regular basis-- mostly but not always baseball -- and all about the past-- no current comment.

His first two posts were on baseball in the 1930s and one on Joe DiMaggio.

Click on the link below to read his latest post that is all about Jimmie Foxx's pitching career.

<https://thesporting.blog/blog/starting-pitcher-jimmie-foxx>



### CHAPTER ARCHIVES ARE AVAILABLE

For information on our chapter or to check out past Chapter newsletters and Chapter Project Reports click on this link:

<https://sabr.org/chapter/san-diego-ted-williams-chapter/>



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## LAST PAGE

## ANSWERS (to Trivia Quiz that is on Page 3 )

2. (1) Babe Ruth, (2) Lou Gehrig, (3) Roberto Clemente
3. Jack Morris 3.90
4. (1) Barry Bonds, (2) Alex Rodriguez, (3) Albert Pujols
5. (1) Larry Walker, (2) Ferguson Jenkins
6. (1) Rafael Palmeiro, (2) Alex Rodriguez
7. Warren Spahn, 363 wins, 363 hits
8. HOF: Bob Lemon (37); Pitcher with most HRS: Wes Ferrell (38) *[FYI, only 14 of Babe Ruth's 714 HRs were as a pitcher]*
9. (1) Barry Bonds, (2) Juan Gonzalez, (3) Roger Maris, (4) Dale Murphy
10. (1) Roger Clemens, (2) Denny McLain, (3) Bret Saberhagen, (4) Johan Santana
11. (1) Harmon Killebrew (.256), (2) Rabbit Maranville (.258), and (3) Ray Schalk (.253)
12. Hoyt Wilhelm (1985). (1) Rollie Fingers, (2) Dennis Eckersley, (3) Bruce Sutter, (4) Goose Gossage, (5) Trevor Hoffman, (6) Lee Smith, (7) Mariano Rivera
13. (1) Hank O'Day .399 (73-110, Elected to HOF as an Umpire), (2) Lee Smith .436, (3) Trevor Hoffman .449, (4) Bruce Sutter .489, (5) Rollie Fingers .491
14. (1) Steve Carlton 1833, (2) Phil Niekro 1809
15. Pedro Martinez with 3154 SO, 760 BB (4.15)



## WE WELCOME YOUR:

- Comments
- Ideas for future articles, or projects

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