

The INSIDE GAME



The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. XVI, No. 2: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!"

APRIL 2016

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by John McMurray

The announcement of the winner of the 2016 Larry Ritter Award, *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* by Charles Leerhsen, provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the origins and history of the award. Now in its fifteenth year, the Ritter Award has been a centerpiece of the Deadball Era Committee almost from its start. Approximately one year after the Committee was formed in 2000, Tom Simon, now DEC Chair Emeritus, decided to present an award to the best book set primarily in the Deadball Era published during the year prior. A proposal for such an award was introduced at the Deadball Era Committee meeting at SABR 31 in Milwaukee and subsequently approved. The first Ritter Award subcommittee consisted of Simon, Al Blumkin, Scott Flatow, David Shiner, and Dick Thompson, and was chaired by Paul Rogers. The group corresponded by e-mail for the first time in 2002, and while it was too late to select a winner in time for that year's Boston convention, the first winner was Martin Kohout's *Hal Chase: The Defiant Life and Turbulent Times of Baseball's Biggest Crook*. Kohout was grateful for the award, writing: "My heartfelt thanks to the award committee, and to all of you

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LEERHSEN BIO OF TY COBB IS 2016 RITTER AWARD WINNER

by Doug Skipper

A fresh look at the Deadball Era's greatest player and most controversial figure has earned the 2106 Larry Ritter Award. Charles Leerhsen has been selected to receive the honor for *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* (Simon and Schuster, 2015). The award is granted annually by the Deadball Era Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) to the author of the best book about baseball between 1901 and 1919 published during the previous calendar year. The winner's work must demonstrate original research or analysis, a fresh perspective, compelling thesis, impressive insight, accuracy, and clear, graceful prose. Leerhsen's new Cobb bio contains these requisites in abundance.

Leerhsen, a veteran magazine and book author, challenges conventional wisdom regarding the Georgia Peach, baseball's all-time batting average leader and a member of the first group inducted into the Hall of Fame. For decades, Cobb has been portrayed as crusty, combative, bigoted, hostile, hateful, malevolent, malicious, and racist. And while he may, at times, have exhibited all of those characteristics, Cobb's personality was a complicated one. Leerhsen peels back the many layers of his subject's

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Accurate Runs Scored:

The 1916 Detroit Tigers

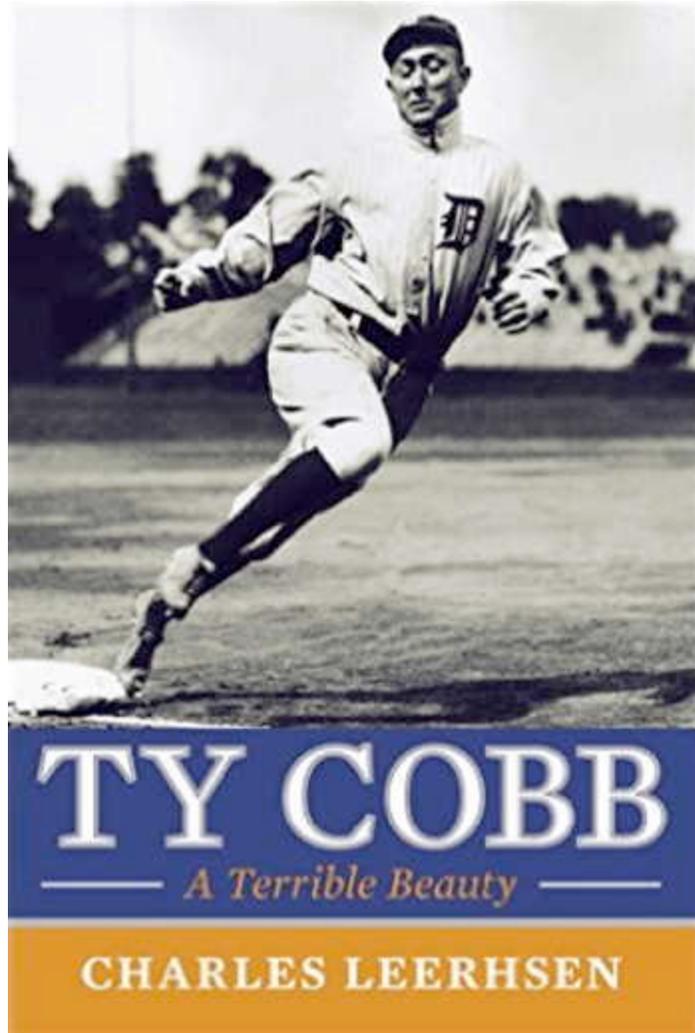
by Herm Krabbenhoft page 19

strident persona and examines the events that shaped Cobb's highly competitive and combative character. These include the tragic death of young Ty's father at the hand of his mother and incessant hazing by Detroit teammates during his early years with the Tigers. Leerhsen suspects that those events caused Cobb to suffer a nervous breakdown during his second season, and influenced his behavior through the remainder of his career.

The author concedes the flaws in the Peach's personality, but also endeavors to provide context for Cobb's conflicts on the field and off. Particularly careful scrutiny is applied to Cobb's conflicts with persons reportedly of color (some of whom were actually white) and the effect his upbringing in the post-Reconstruction South had on his racial attitudes. Leerhsen also provides sympathetic treatment of the Peach's often-overlooked good works and humanity, especially his willingness to assist and aid old teammates and foes in their sunset years. In all, *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* provides a complete and well-

rounded portrait of an outstanding ballplayer and a complex man.

When informed of the award, Charlie was both thrilled and honored. He is well-versed on previous winners, and spoke fondly about reading *The Glory of Their Times*. We are



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McMURRAY WORK HONORED

Congratulations to DEC Chairman John McMurray. His article "Examining Stolen Base Trends by the Decade from the Deadball Era to the 1970s" was named the winner of the Historical Baseball Analysis/Commentary Award at the SABR Analytics Conference held in Phoenix this past March. John's outstanding piece was published in the Fall 2015 issue of the *Baseball Research Journal*.

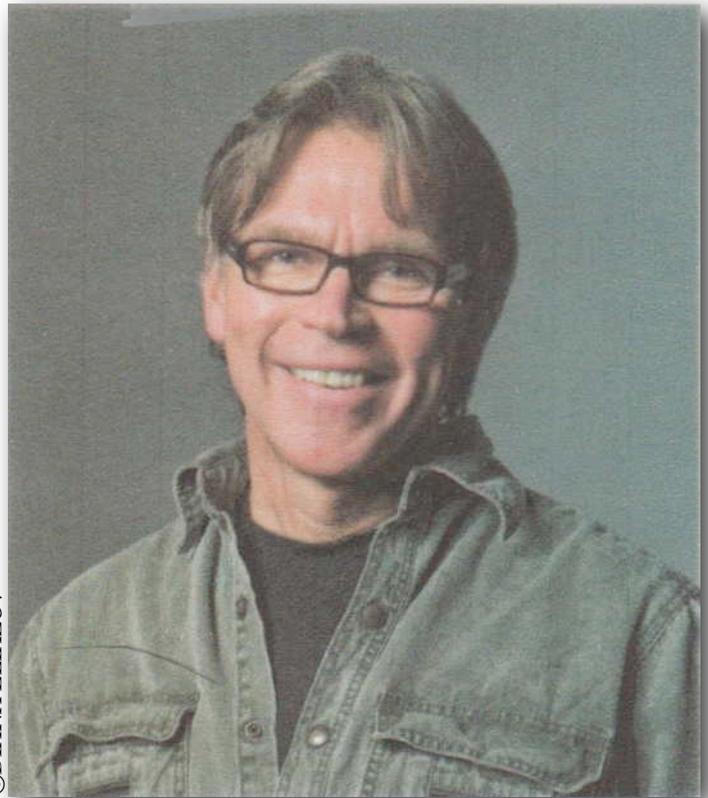
hopeful that Charlie will be able to attend this year's ceremony and accept his award in person.

The 2016 Ritter Award winner prevailed over very worthy competition. The other finalists were: *The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball* by Charles Fountain; *The Miracle Braves, 1914-1916* by Charles C. Alexander; and *The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership That Transformed the New York Yankees* by Steve Steinberg and Lyle Spatz. Conferred annually since 2002, this year's Ritter Award will be formally presented at the DEC meeting at SABR 46 in Miami. The Larry Ritter Book Award Committee is chaired by Doug Skipper, with Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Craig Lammers, John McMurray, Mark Pattison, and Tom Simon, members.



George McManus 1902

©DIANA ELIAZOV



Charles Leerhsen

NOT YOUR AVERAGE DAY AT THE BALLPARK

by John Zinn

When 16-year-old Samuel Arnold plunked down his two quarters for a grandstand seat at Philadelphia's Huntingdon Street Grounds (later Baker Bowl) on August 28, 1911, he probably anticipated little more than an enjoyable day at the ball park. Certainly he could not have had any idea his enthusiastic rooting for his beloved Phillies would set off a chain of events which would reach a meeting of the National League owners. Arnold's support for the home team was understandable. Led by rookie sensation, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Philadelphia was enjoying a successful season, comfortably in the first division. And, if that was not sufficient attraction, the young fan was doubtless looking forward to a pitching matchup between two future Hall of Famers: the aforementioned Alexander and Cub star Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, both of whom would win 20 games that season. While Arnold's Phillies at 8½ games out

of first were a long shot to catch the first place Giants, the defending National League champion Cubs approached September only 1½ games back of McGraw's men. Another intense pennant race between the two arch-rivals seemed highly likely, lending even more anticipation to the day's events at Huntingdon and Broad Streets.

From his seat on the third base side just behind the box seats, reportedly filled with a large number of ladies and gentlemen, Arnold must have joined in the cheering when the home town heroes took the lead by scoring once off Brown during the bottom of the second, a lead Alexander preserved through five frames. As the game headed to the sixth, the Philadelphia fans may have been hoping for a shutout from their young ace (he would record seven for the season), but the Cubs quashed those hopes and the Phillies' lead with a four-run uprising. Understandably depressed by this turn of events, Arnold and his fellow fans took heart as Philadelphia staged their own sixth-inning rally, culminating with a Hans Lobert single which plated Sherry Magee with the tying run. With

two on and only one out, Brown was clearly on the ropes, and it was at this point that Arnold became more than just another fan. With Fred Luderus coming to the plate for the Phillies, future Hall of Fame umpire Bill Klem stopped the game and directed acting Philadelphia manager Otto Knabe and the police to eject a fan, one Samuel Arnold, or he would forfeit the game to the Cubs.

Accounts of exactly what happened differ. Writing in the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Sam Weller, no doubt writing from a Dickensian moral view, claimed that Arnold had been "insulting the Cub players personally all through the game" before moving on to a "vicious and vulgar attack" on Klem himself. According to Weller, however, the umpire's order to eject the obnoxious fan was based not on the verbal abuse directed at Klem, but concern about ladies being subjected to such reprehensible and unmanly behavior. From the Philadelphia perspective, however, Jim Nasium (Edgar Forrest Wolfe) of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* dismissed Arnold's actions as nothing more than someone "trying to get more than his money's worth of yelling." Nasium, who illustrated his game accounts with his own cartoons, said the whole thing was an overreaction on Klem's part, sarcastically wondered if instead of watching a major league game, he was witnessing a contest between the Fifth Ward Juniors and the Newsboys Home. Perhaps not surprisingly, the fans strongly objected to the ejection, but unexpectedly the police all the way up to the captain in charge also resisted enforcing Klem's order. So incensed were the umpires that Klem's partner, Bill Brennan, went into the stands to pick out the miscreant. After lengthy debate, Arnold was escorted outside the grounds and refunded his 50 cents which supposedly was forced upon him.

Given his passion for the Phillies and/or against the Cubs, Arnold may have been better off missing the rest of the game. Brown retired the Phillies without further incident to end the sixth and Chicago scored four times in the eighth to defeat Alexander 8-4. Nasium, however, was not willing to drop what seemed to be an unjustified ejection and after some investigative reporting,



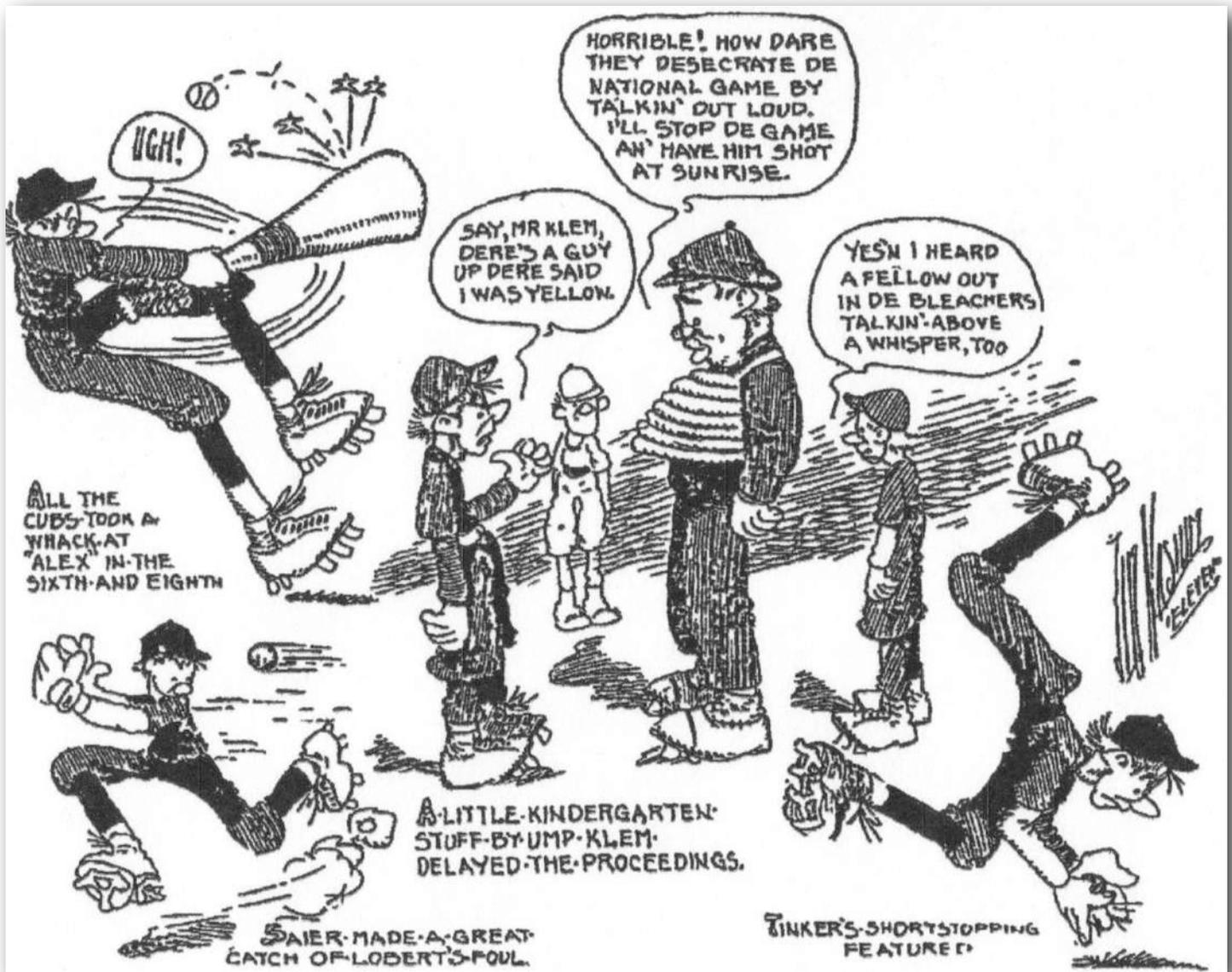
Bill Klem

wrote that while the 16-year-old had called Brown, "yellow," he never used profanity or any language that bothered the ladies seated nearby. As the *Inquirer* writer and cartoonist understood it, Brown complained to Klem about the name calling which triggered everything that happened afterwards. If the Cubs star was that sensitive to taunting, one wonders how he felt when Nasium referred to him as "Mr. Minus Digit" in print. It is not clear whether the reporter ever spoke directly with Arnold, but regardless of where the idea may have come from, the ejected and no doubt humiliated fan was also unwilling to let the matter drop. Less than two weeks later, the *Inquirer* reported that Arnold had sued the Philadelphia club for \$5,000, claiming the

ejection was illegal and breached the contract established by his ticket purchase.

Most club owners would have worked the whole thing out behind the scenes, but Phillies president Horace Fogel was no ordinary club owner, if, in fact, he really was the owner. A former sportswriter, sports editor, and baseball manager, Fogel had purchased the Phillies in 1909, although it appeared the acquisition was financed by Charles Taft, the half-brother of President William Howard Taft. According to an article by Steve Steinberg in the fall 2012 issue of *Base Ball, A Journal of the Early Game*, Fogel was "a protégé of the outspoken and acerbic" Charles Murphy, the owner of the Cubs, also reportedly financed by Taft. Like his mentor,

Fogel was not reluctant to share his opinions with his fellow magnates. With the Arnold trial scheduled for February 29, 1912, Fogel wrote at length to National League president Thomas Lynch and then raised the issue of the pending lawsuit at the owners meeting in early February. In his letter, the Philadelphia magnate shed further light on what happened that August afternoon. According to Fogel's account, Brown denied he had ever said a word to Klem about Arnold. Taking responsibility instead was Chicago catcher Tom Needham who admitted he had fanned the flames because Brown was in trouble and needed time to recover. In other words, Needham had simply "put a job up on Klem."



Philadelphia Inquirer, August 29, 1911

If Klem did not recognize he was being manipulated, the Philadelphia fans, according to Fogel, knew exactly what was going on. Rather than being offended by Arnold, those sitting near him were "amused" by how he cheered and none of it was "in the slightest degree offensive." That explained why the fans opposed Arnold's ejection so vehemently and the police were unwilling to enforce it since comments like "Take him out," "He is weakening," and the previously mentioned "yellow" characterization were hardly grounds for ejection. None of this, however, was why Fogel was raising the issue with Lynch and the other owners. Before finally giving in on the ejection which he knew would further infuriate the crowd, the police captain in charge, asked Klem if the National League would assume liability for any claims arising out of the incident, to which the umpire responded in the affirmative. Such a claim had now been made and Fogel with a marginal franchise financially did not want to be on the hook if a jury sided with the increasingly sympathetic-looking fan. Not surprisingly, president Lynch and the owners took the position that crowd control was the home club's problem and declined any liability.

To date nothing has been discovered about the outcome of Arnold's lawsuit. The apparent lack of newspaper accounts about the result of a lawsuit which attracted extended media attention when it was filed, suggests some kind of out-of-court settlement. If the young man was as enthusiastic as it appears, he might conceivably have accepted tickets for 1912 games in exchange for dropping his lawsuit and a commitment to moderate his vocal comments. In any event, by the end of 1912 the lawsuit was the least of Horace Fogel's problems. Fogel began his letter by suggesting the inappropriate ejection was another example of the umpires' prejudice against the Phillies. While that was bad enough, Fogel was even less discreet later in 1912 when he wrote in the *Chicago Daily Post* that the National League pennant race had been fixed in favor of the Giants. Understandably, the other owners could not and would not tolerate such an allegation. Fogel was tried, convicted, and



Horace Fogel

banished from baseball in November of 1912. How Samuel Arnold felt about this is hard to say, but one hopes that a few years later in 1915, he was once again in the stands, cheering for his Phillies as they won the National League pennant.

This piece originally appeared in author John Zinn's: A Manly Pastime – A Baseball History Blog. John is currently working on a biography of Brooklyn club owner Charles Ebbets.

Fred Knowles, the secretary of the New York National Baseball Club, called at the office of the director of public safety in Philadelphia yesterday to see if protection could not be obtained for his team in leaving the grounds. Assistant Director South immediately detailed a squad of plain clothes men to ride in the carriages with the players after the game.

New York Tribune, July 6, 1905

CHARLES DEXTER — THE PRETTY, THE PRETTY BAD, AND THE PRETTY DARN HEROIC

by **Dennis Pajot**

When I first started work on this article I envisioned its title as “Charles Dexter — The Good, The Bad and The Ugly”, focusing on the events of August 23, 1904 and October 2, 1905. But when further research brought to light the events of December 30, 1903, I decided to change that title. Readers will see why.

Charles Dexter was born in Evansville, Indiana, on June 15, 1876. According to contemporary reports he carried the reputation of being the youngest man to enter the National League when he was signed to the catching staff of the Baltimore Orioles at the age of 16. It was reported he was released because of a sprained knee.¹ Baseball-Reference records his first minor league appearance with the Evansville Black Birds of the Southern Association in 1895. He played with Louisville in the National League from 1896 to 1899. Dexter was then purchased by the Chicago National League club and played in the Windy City until going to the Boston Beaneaters in July 1902. In spring 1904 the 27-year-old catcher was purchased by Louisville of the American Association, to become the Colonels player/manager.² He started 1905 again as the catcher/manager of the Colonels, but was given his unconditional release in early July — reportedly due to his injured hands — and immediately signed to manage St. Joseph in the Western League.³ In August Dexter left St. Joseph and signed with the Des Moines Underwriters of the same league, as a utility player. In September Underwriter manager Herman Long resigned, due to a falling out with club president Mike Cantillon, and Dexter became the team’s manager.⁴ He continued to play in Des Moines until the 1908 season.

With that brief summary of Charlie Dexter’s playing career, I focus here on three days in his life.

AUGUST 23, 1904 — THE PRETTY:

The Louisville Colonels came to Milwaukee for a two game series on Tuesday, August 23, 1904. Before the first game was played, cupid took his turn at bat. Charlie Dexter had brought his fiancée Mary Olson of Boston to Milwaukee, and the couple appeared in the judicial chambers of Judge Neelen in City Hall. With the couple were Dexter’s best man, Brewer manager Joe Cantillon, and a witness. Unfortunately the couple did not know that a five-day interval after the license was issued was required for the ceremony to be performed. The judge, appreciating the fact that the captain of a baseball team is entitled to a special dispensation, waived the five-day waiting requirement. Within minutes the new groom, bearing his bride on his arm, hastened almost unobserved to the elevator and out of the building. As Tuesday was Ladies’ Day at the ballpark, the new Mrs. Dexter said she would be at Athletic Park to see her husband’s team beat the Brewers.⁵

And beat the Brewers the Colonels did in this first game of the series, by a score of 10 to 5. Unfortunately, the new Mrs. Dexter did not see her husband in the whole game, as he was ejected from the grounds for “coaching too loudly” by umpire Bill Klem.⁶

OCTOBER 2, 1905 — THE PRETTY BAD:

After the regular 1905 American Association season ended most of the members of the Milwaukee Brewers went on a barnstorming tour. On September 27 this tour went to Des Moines, that city’s Underwriters being the 1905 Western League champions. This club was owned by Milwaukee manager Joe Cantillon and his brother Mike. Charlie Dexter was the manager. The Underwriters won the first two games, but the Brewers came back to win the last three games. The night after the series ended — Monday, October 2 — a number of the players from both teams made a final round of the local saloons. Exactly what happened is open to debate. What is known is that Charlie Dexter

produced a knife and cut Brewer first baseman Quait Bateman in the chest.

In the following days, reports from several Iowa and Milwaukee newspapers provide a reminder of how facts get distorted in the telling and re-telling. All reports have one fact in common. The players had been drinking — according to the *Milwaukee Journal* the players were “badly intoxicated”.⁷ At the corner of Sixth Avenue and Walnut Street at 8:00 in the evening something happened. Initial reports stated Dexter, “who had partaken freely until he was in an ugly humor,” drew Bateman aside and the two became engaged in a heated argument, allegedly over the portion of the cab fare Dexter thought Bateman owed.⁸ The *Muscatine Journal* of October 3 gives this melodramatic description of the supposed following events:

Bateman was heard to apply an epithet to Dexter, and the next instant a knife glittered in Dexter’s hand and descended on Bateman’s breast, cutting a deep gash in the right lung. Bateman sunk to the sidewalk with a groan. He was immediately taken in an ambulance to the office of Dr. L D. Rood, where he made a statement to the effect that he and Dexter had been together for a time renewing old acquaintances and were engaged in a few words on Walnut Street. “I didn’t think he would do it,” said the injured man, “but without any warning he pulled a knife and stabbed me. I didn’t think ‘Dex’ would do it.” Loss of blood prevented a further statement.

Bateman was taken to Mercy hospital. Dr. Rood made the statement there he doubted Bateman’s recovery. Dexter remained on the street corner after the stabbing, and to friends who tried to reason with him he made threats of violence. Finally an officer placed him under arrest. He is now held in the city jail. He refuses to talk. No charge has been made against him yet.⁹



The Milwaukee Journal, August 23, 1904

Other reports in the next day or two described the knife as “a big pocket knife” and Bateman’s wound as “piercing the lung and opening a six inch gash.”¹⁰ Another had Dexter “in a fit of demoniac temper” utter an oath, and draw a “huge pocket knife from his pocket and plunge it straight into Bateman’s bosom, cutting a gash six inches in length and several inches in depth.”¹¹

The *Ireton (Iowa) Weekly Ledger* ran a quote from Dr. Rood:

The physician in attendance said that he feared for the injured ball player. “The cut is a very deep one and gives every indication of being fatal. It is in the right lung and is a cut six or seven inches long. Of course anything coming in contact with the lung is apt to be dangerous, not to say fatal. Bateman bled profusely and the loss of blood rendered him very weak. It will be some time before I will be able to determine his exact condition, but for the present I believe he is in a most dangerous condition”.¹²

To show how the story quickly got out of hand, the published report in the *Waterloo (Iowa) Times Tribune* the day after the incident had the cutting happen during the game:

STABBED ON BALL FIELD: In the seventh inning of a ball game in the series being played in this city (Des Moines] between the Milwaukee team of the American Association and the Des Moines team of the Western League, catcher Charles Dexter of the Des Moines team pulled a long knife and stabbed first

baseman Bateman of the Milwaukee team, striking him several times with the knife and cutting gashes that will undoubtedly result in the death of Bateman.

The two teams have been playing a long series in this city and a strain of bad blood between the two players had been allowed to grow unchecked during the series, the trouble becoming greater each day until this afternoon, when the stabbing occurred. The act by Dexter was done so quickly that none of the players nor spectators could interfere.

Dexter is under arrest and will be held pending the death or recovery of Bateman. The affair caused a great disturbance between the player and in the grandstands. At a late hour the death of **Batemen** seemed imminent and he is sinking quickly.¹³

Charlie Dexter was arrested and taken to jail. Quait Bateman was treated by a doctor. But within a day the severity of his injury and treatment was being reported differently. On October 4 the *Algona (Iowa) Advance* (and other sources) reported there was very little of a fight. The players in the group said Dexter had a small pen knife in his hand and was talking in a loud tone. He struck out with his hand and the knife went through the clothing of Bateman, who happened to be the nearest to Dexter. The cut was little more than a scratch, and Bateman walked himself to the doctor's office.¹⁴

The cut, however, must have been something more than a scratch, as Bateman was taken to and admitted to Mercy Hospital. The *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier* of October 4 stated reports from the hospital showed that Bateman was in very good condition and would be out in a few days. His temperature and general condition were normal and the big Texan was able to talk of the affair, which he deplored "as having been the unnecessary cause of a great deal of noise." The wound, not considered especially serious after all, was long and deep and the knife had



Charlie Dexter

splintered one of Bateman's ribs. He would be in the hospital a few weeks.¹⁵

Quait Bateman told authorities his injuries were minor and did not wish to prosecute. He signed an affidavit to that effect and Charlie Dexter was released from police custody, immediately taking off for Chicago.¹⁶ Bateman's injury had to be more serious than put on, as shortly after the first of the year it was reported he was still weak, but hoping to be ready for spring training.¹⁷ It was thought in some quarters that Bateman's declination to prosecute was brought on by a hospital visit from Underwriters' co-owner Mike Cantillon. The *Oxford (Iowa) Mirror* later wrote that Cantillon visited the ball player at Mercy Hospital and after talking with him, had influenced Bateman to withhold charges against the Des Moines player.¹⁸

It appears the entire incident was totally out of character for both players. The *Milwaukee Journal* told its reader that Bateman was considered one of the quietest players on the team, and in fact, it was said he was not even a drinking man.¹⁹ An unknown person wrote to

the *Waterloo Times Tribune* shortly after the incident, saying this:

In reference to the stabbing of a ball player in Des Moines a few days ago it has been asserted that Charlie Dexter, the man who did the stabbing, is possessed of a very bad temper and is pugnacious at all times. This writer, from personal acquaintance, is in a position to refute this statement and positively assert that Dexter is as fine a fellow as one would care to meet. While of a disposition which might be construed by those not well acquainted with the personality of the ball player, he might be regarded as surly but even by his enemies he has never been accused of being belligerent. Dexter's reputation has always been of the best and in all of the writer's personal experience with Charlie Dexter he has never known the player to be guilty of a dishonorable action. Dexter, however, seems to have acquired the disposition known in base ball circles as a 'crab' but other than that nothing can be said against Dexter's personality.²⁰

Quait Bateman would recover and play 155 games for the Milwaukee Brewers in 1906.

The above article telling us Dexter was never guilty of a dishonorable act does not even come

close to telling the heroic tale in Dexter's life only two years before.

DECEMBER 30, 1903 — THE PRETTY DARN HEROIC:

On the afternoon of December 30, 1903, the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago presented a matinee performance of the musical play "Mr. Bluebeard" before a standing room only crowd. Many of the estimated 2,000 persons in attendance were children. Shortly after the beginning of the second act an arc light shorted out and ignited a curtain. Efforts to put the fire out were not successful. In the hysteria to get out of the theater hundreds of people were trampled, crushed, or asphyxiated. Others made it to the inadequate fire escapes and jumped to their death. In the end, more than 600 people perished.²¹

In the audience that afternoon were Charlie Dexter and his friend Frank Houseman, a former infielder who had played a little in Chicago nine years earlier. The two had purchased seats in an upper box, and Houseman commented there were a great many of women and children present. When the fire was first noticed Houseman and Dexter told the patrons in the box with them of the situation and began to leave the theater quietly, as not to start a panic. As the flames started to intensify and the fire spread panic ensued. Dexter was separated from



Quait Bateman



John Franklin Houseman



Charlie Dexter

Houseman, so he decided that the best thing to do was to jump onto the stage and get out through the stage door. Dexter said people were running all over and he ran into a crowd of little children. In his own words Dexter explained what happened next: *“The people were running over one another. I saw some draperies hanging and I opened them. I didn’t know where I was going, and I found two doors of glass or wood. I didn’t stop to examine them but I opened them. I found myself up against some iron doors. I didn’t know how to work them. The only thing I could see was a cross-bar, and I started to shove that up, and I couldn’t shove very well, and I started to beat at it. By this time the people were pushed up against me, and I didn’t know whether I would be able to get it open or not. I had all the poor little kids around me, and I beat the thing until finally it went up, and as it did of course the people behind me — we went out into the alley. I turned and looked back and saw a wave of fire sweeping over the whole inside of the theater”*.²²

W. A. Phelon, Jr. wrote about the heroics of both players in *Sporting Life*. He related what one little boy wrote in a letter to Dexter. The kid thanked Charlie for saving his tiny life. The boy had been trampled down in the rush to get out and was laying on the floor “when Dexter seized him, lifted him up, and catching another child with his remaining hand, bore both the little ones to safety.” Phelon wrote that “Houseman’s old-time skill came back to him as he caught a frantic woman leaping from the balcony — he braced for the shock just as he would have braced himself to withstand a sliding runner, and though knocked down and bruised, succeeded in keeping the woman from injury.” Even given that Phelon used some poetic license in describing the actions of Dexter and Houseman at the fire, he was no doubt correct when he wrote: “The coolness of the ball players in the hour of dread and danger was something as marvelous as it was heroic.” Later reports credited the ball players with saving 200 to 300 lives. This number could be high, but the two men did what they could in a terrible situation.



Iroquois Theater Fire

Charlie Dexter should be remembered for his actions inside the Iroquois Theater, the other incident placed as a footnote of a heroic man.

Early-Milwaukee baseball historian Dennis Pajot is a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

1. *Muscatine (Iowa) Journal*, October 3, 1905; *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, October 10, 1905.
2. *Sporting Life*, March 12, 1904.
3. *Sporting Life*, May 27, 1905, July 15, 1905, and July 22, 1905.
4. *Sporting Life*, August 26, 1905, and September 23, 1905.
5. *Milwaukee Journal*, August 23, 1904.
6. *Milwaukee Journal*, August 24, 1904; *Evening Wisconsin*, August 24, 1904.
7. *Milwaukee Journal*, October 3, 1905.
8. *Cedar Falls (Iowa) Gazette*, October 10, 1905.
9. *Muscatine Journal*, October 3, 1905.
10. *Milwaukee Journal*, October 3, 1905.

11. *Cedar Falls Gazette*, October 10, 1905.
12. *Ireton (Iowa) Weekly Ledger*, October 6, 1905.
13. *Waterloo (Iowa) Times Tribune*, October 3, 1905.
14. *Algona (Iowa) Advance*, October 4, 1905.
15. *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, October 4, 1905.
16. *Jefferson (Iowa) Bee*, October 12, 1905; *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Reporter*, October 4, 1905.
17. *Indianapolis Sun*, January 8, 1906.
18. *Oxford (Iowa) Mirror*, October 19, 1905.
19. *Milwaukee Journal*, October 3, 1905.
20. *Waterloo Times Tribune*, October 5, 1905.
21. "A Tragedy Remembered", *National Fire Protection Association Journal*, July/August 1995 p. 75-79; "Chicago's Awful Theater Horror," The Project Gutenberg e-book, 2012.
22. "Chicago's Awful Theater Horror."
23. *Sporting Life*, January 23, 1904, 5.
24. *Burlington (Iowa) Evening Gazette*, October 3, 1905.

NEW YORK FAN HAS NEW RAGTIME DROP

MARQUARD LEARNS TO PITCH A FOOLER AND FANS DONLIN FOUR TIMES

NEW YORK—For once in the history of baseball a fan has come to the front which Manager John McGraw of the New York Nationals believes will be of practical use.

A man named [Ned] Wayburn, after watching the game for many years, has invented the "ragtime drop," which, he maintains, is virtually impossible to hit except by mere chance. Wayburn went up to the Polo Grounds for [the Giants'] practice period yesterday morning and putting on a glove and mask instructed "Rube" Marquard in its use.

Mike Donlin, the once hard hitter, was on hand also and Marquard, using the "ragtime," struck out the former captain of the Giants four times. According to Manager McGraw, Marquard is the only pitcher who will be invested with the syncopated secret for the present and he is expecting to win many a game with it before it becomes common property.

Spokane Daily Chronicle, April 20, 1911

STEINBERG AND SPATZ GARNER 2016 SABR BASEBALL RESEARCH AWARD

Distinguished DEC members Steve Steinberg and Lyle Spatz were among the recipients of the 2016 SABR Baseball Research Award. Their winning collaboration, *The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership That Transformed the New York Yankees* (University of Nebraska Press, 2015), explored the improbable but congenial working relationship that allowed club owner Jacob Ruppert and manager Miller Huggins to elevate a previously sad sack franchise into the dominant operation in all professional sport. Exhaustively researched and fluidly written, this dual biography amply satisfies the standard required for award recognition: it significantly expands our knowledge and understanding of baseball.

HERE'S A NEW ONE; THE FORKED BALL

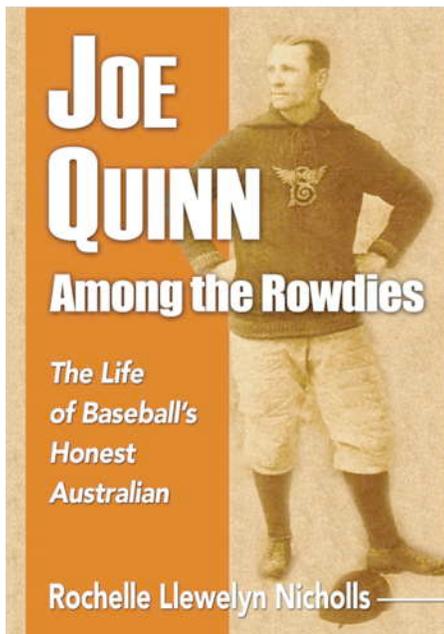
The forked ball is the latest. Jim Hall, pitcher for the Tacoma Northwestern league team, is inventor and sole pitcher of the new curve. He holds the ball between his index and second fingers, which gives it the name, forked ball.

Hall's catchers say the ball breaks something like the spitter, only it drops quicker and shoots more to one side. Hall's hands are unusually large. A pitcher with small hands could not master the delivery.

The Toledo News-Bee, March 4, 1911

The Cleveland club has followed the plan of the Athletic club in removing the sign advertisements on the fence in a direct line with the batsman's eye while facing the pitcher. The fence has been painted a dark green.

(Newport News) Daily Press, April 13, 1907



**JOE QUINN AMONG
THE ROWDIES: THE
LIFE OF BASEBALL'S
HONEST AUSTRALIAN**

**BY ROCHELLE
LLEWELYN NICHOLLS**

*2014. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland
(www.mcfarlandpub.com;
800-253-2187)
[ISBN: 978-0786479801.
284pp. \$35.00 USD,
Softcover]*

Reviewed by
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While there has been a virtual explosion in the quality and quantity of in-depth studies on the general topic of late nineteenth and early twentieth century baseball, there has been a dearth of full-length biographies of the leading players, except for a few superstars. Rochelle Llewelyn Nicholls has helped to fill this void with her long-awaited and

anticipated biography of Joseph James Quinn, the first Australian native to play and manage in the major leagues. Ms. Nicholls, a sports scientist in Australia with a specialty in the science of baseball, did not become aware of Quinn until 1999 when she found a reference to him in a newly-published SABR biography of Wilbert Robinson. This discovery set in motion a project spanning three continents, immersion in a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, contact with a large number of individuals and groups, and requiring 15 years to complete. Her primary goals in writing the book were to acquaint Australians, who have become increasingly interested in baseball in recent years, with Quinn, still a largely unknown figure in his native land, and overall, to rescue him from the obscurity into which he had fallen despite significant contributions to the early years of professional baseball.

The book is organized chronologically into seven parts, containing fifteen chapters. Not surprisingly, Nicholls devotes considerable space to providing context relative to Australian history and culture and the Quinn family's place in it. His parents had immigrated to Australia in the early 1850's from Ireland in the wake of the Great Famine and supported themselves as itinerant gold miners and farm laborers, constantly on the move seeking work and trying

to survive. In Nicholls' view, Joe Quinn's life was an underdog story, which Australians tend to love, and which embodied the Australian character trait of "Giving it a go."

In 1872, ten-year-old Joe Quinn and his family emigrated to the United States settling in Dubuque, Iowa where he and his father and older brother found steady employment in the city's lead and zinc mines. It was in Dubuque that Quinn first encountered baseball, a game yet to be introduced to Australia but one in which he soon excelled in as a player. At the time Dubuque was a baseball hotbed in large part due to the activities of local resident Ted Sullivan, who organized the Northwestern League, one of the first minor leagues, in the late 1870s. In 1879 Sullivan managed the league champion Dubuque Rabbits whose roster included future Hall of Famers Charles Comiskey and Charles Radbourn and several other future major leaguers. Considered to be one of the best judges of baseball talent in the country, Sullivan soon had his eye on Joe Quinn, and by 1881 had recruited him for the Rabbits where he served as Comiskey's backup at first base.

By 1883 Ted Sullivan had shifted his base of operations to St. Louis where he helped organize a new major league, the Union Association, which began play in 1884. As

manager of the St. Louis franchise, Sullivan signed Quinn to play for his Maroons. On April 26, 1884, the 21-year-old Quinn made his major league debut, playing first base and getting a hit in his first at bat. While the team ran away with the pennant and Quinn batted a very respectable .270, the new league fell apart, and the Maroons ended up in the National League for the 1885 season. The team played poorly and Quinn fell prey to the sophomore jinx, his batting average falling to .213.

Quinn made St. Louis his permanent home after the 1885 season. He had become acquainted with Thomas McGrath, a local undertaker and livery owner, who offered him post season employment and promised to teach him the funerary trade. A year later, he married McGrath's daughter and became a partner in McGrath and Quinn Undertakers, earning the sobriquet "The Undertaker" among baseball fans and making him a leading contender for most unusual postseason occupation.

The 1886 season proved disastrous for both the Maroons and Quinn with the former disbanding and the latter batting .232 in limited action and having his contract sold to Duluth in the Northwestern League. Here in 1887 and in Des Moines in 1888, he revived his career by mastering the intricacies of playing second base and batting .372 and .309

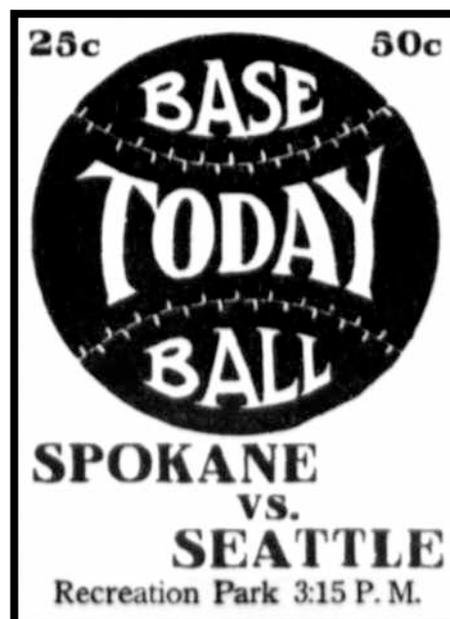
respectively. On August 15, 1888, the financially struggling Des Moines team sold Quinn to the Boston Beaneaters for a reported \$4,000, and the Australian started what would prove to be a 14-consecutive season run in the majors.

Quinn quickly established himself as one of the best second basemen of his era and became a fan favorite because of his honesty and integrity and refusal to break contracts or go back on his word. In 1893 readers of *The Sporting News* voted him "America's Most Popular Ball-Player" despite coming off of one of his worst seasons at the plate and in the field. Considered managerial material, he was named player-manager of the St. Louis Browns for 1895 but met with only limited success. Even more discouraging perhaps was his 1899 tenure with the Cleveland Spiders who posted the worst won-loss records of all time despite Quinn turning in one of the best seasons of his career. It would be his last year as a fulltime player, and to date, he remains the only Australian to manage at the major league level.

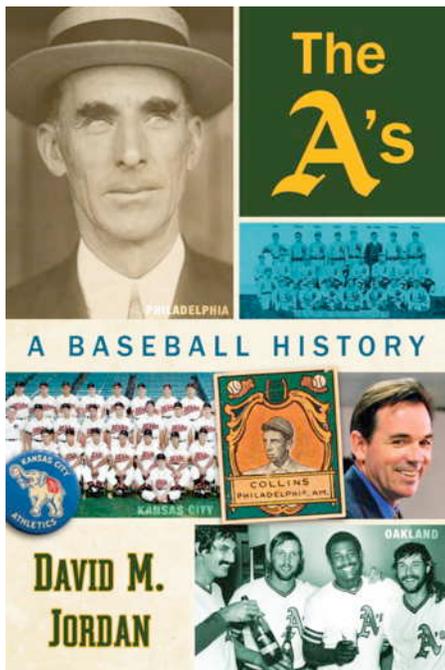
Quinn finished his major league career in a utility role for St. Louis and Cincinnati in 1900 and Washington in the newly launched American League 1901. He was coaxed out of retirement to manage and play for Des Moines in the Western League in 1902, taking him back to his baseball roots. After two sub-.500 seasons, Quinn retired from

the "Undertakers," so dubbed as homage to his off-season occupation, despite pleas from local management to remain. From that point forward, until his death in 1940, his primary focus was on his large family and his highly successful undertaking business.

Nicholls has done an outstanding job of telling Quinn's story and developing the background context of the era in which he lived and played baseball. Readily admitting that he is highly unlikely to be enshrined in Cooperstown, she produced excellent documentation for his 2013 inclusion in the Australian Baseball Hall of Fame. Although 27 other native Australians have followed Quinn to the majors, none of them have approached his records for seasons and games played, hits, and most other offensive and defensive categories. Her book is well documented and footnoted, amply illustrated, and highly recommended by this reviewer.



Spokane Daily Chronicle, June 23, 1915



THE A's: A BASEBALL HISTORY

BY DAVID M. JORDAN

2014. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland

(www.mcfarlandpub.com;
800-253-2187)

[ISBN: 978-0-7864-7781-4.
252pp. \$29.95 USD, Softcover]

Reviewed by

T.S. Flynn

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The back cover synopsis of David M. Jordan's *The A's: A Baseball History* describes the book as a "straightforward history of the Athletics franchise." It's an assessment that is as accurate and efficient as the work it describes. Jordan documents the first 114 years of the club's history in just 218 pages, neatly summarizing each season from 1901 to 2013, checking off the team's watershed accomplishments and failures

as the march of time advances swiftly across 22 chapters. Of course, such economy necessarily sacrifices depth. Often, careers are reduced to a sentence or two, entire seasons to a page or two. Compared with the 2,009 pages Norman Macht devoted, across three hefty volumes, to Connie Mack, the man at the center of the franchise for its first fifty years, *The A's: A Baseball History* is mostly a surface-level accounting of the facts. That isn't necessarily a bad thing.

In addition to Macht's *Connie Mack* trilogy, there are a number of worthy books available for readers interested in more substantial explorations of the A's history, including Jordan's earlier book *The Athletics of Philadelphia: Connie Mack's White Elephants, 1901-1954*. It is clear from the outset of *The A's* that Jordan's primary intent is to provide readers with an entertaining introduction to the people, events, and seasons that shaped the A's history in three cities across twelve decades. The book is well-researched and the writing straightforward and clean, though the pace slows when games, series, and even seasons are reduced to recitations of statistics and scores with little color or background. Thankfully, our guide's breezy tour through A's history is enlivened with occasional anecdotes and quotes.

Three men loom larger than any subject or season in *The*

A's: Connie Mack, who guided the club on and off the field for its first fifty years in Philadelphia; Charlie Finley, who owned the club from 1960-80 and moved it from Kansas City to Oakland; and current Oakland general manager Billy Beane, whose strategies for finding and exploiting market inefficiencies revolutionized the ways contemporary front offices and fans view the game and evaluate ballplayers. The stories of the seasons that mark the tenures of these men effectively divide Jordan's book into tidy thirds.

Throughout Mack's half century in charge, he relentlessly pursued talent. The early chapters of *The A's* are peppered with the names of stars he acquired and the prospects who washed out or filled roster spots during the club's long stretches of cellar dwelling. Occasionally, details and backstories behind the acquisitions are provided. One interesting case is that of Sam Chapman, who reported to Shibe Park for a tryout in 1938 after being told by Ty Cobb "that Connie Mack knew more baseball than anyone else in the game." Perhaps impressed by the former University of California halfback's speed, Mack made Chapman the club's starting center fielder on the spot, despite the fact that he'd always played the infield. As I often did while reading *The A's*, I set the book aside to find more information online. In doing so, I discovered that

Chapman played 1309 games across 11 big league seasons, all but 20 of them in the outfield. I also saw that Jordan had erred in referring to Chapman as a second-year player in 1940; in fact, he was then in his third season. It's a minor misstatement and the only one I found in my reading.

The A's never finished above fourth place during their 13 seasons in Kansas City. In 1960, in the midst of this stretch, Finley purchased the club and essentially played out the string of seasons until the team's lease for Municipal Stadium expired. Despite KC citizens voting to authorize \$43 million dollars in bond funding for two new stadiums, Finley moved the club to Oakland following the 1967 season. U.S. Senator Stuart Symington, who'd worked to keep the club in KC, called Finley, "one of the most disreputable characters ever to enter the American sports scene" before referring to Oakland as "the luckiest city since Hiroshima." Nevertheless,

he had beefed up his minor league talent while in Kansas City, and in Oakland, Finley's "Swingin' A's" played in five consecutive American League Championship Series (1971-75) and won three consecutive World Series (1972-74). Finley's reign as owner was punctuated by clashes with managers, players, and baseball executives until he sold the team in 1980.

Beane's legacy is a work in progress. Signed by the club as a ballplayer in 1989, the sixth and final season of the first-round draft pick's playing career, he was enlisted as an advance scout the following year. Just four years later he was promoted to assistant general manager. Named general manager in 1998, Beane has led the A's to eight playoff appearances, including one American League Championship Series, accomplishments that perhaps take a back seat to his role as the protagonist in Michael Lewis's national bestseller

Moneyball and the subsequent motion picture of the same name.

The A's: A Baseball History is a whirlwind survey that is a solid starting point for fans interested in an overview of an interesting franchise's long history. As for serious researchers, it might be more valuable for its extensive bibliography of sources than for its overall presentation of the A's story.

Play Ball!

FRED MACE

In the

UMPIRE

Strike 2! Ball 1!

You are Out!

At the

ILLINOIS THEATER

Tomorrow, Matinee and Night
Phone West 224

Rock Island (Illinois) Argus, April 20, 1907

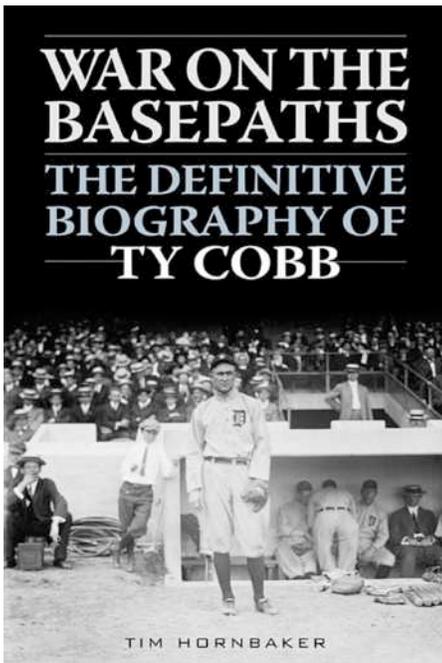
PUBLISHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Copies of the books reviewed in this issue were generously supplied to us by their publishers. The biography of Joe Quinn and *The A's: A Baseball History* were published by McFarland and Company, Inc., and can be ordered by telephone (800-253-2187) or email (info@mcrarlandpub.com). *War on the Basepaths: The Definitive Biography of Ty Cobb* was published by Sports Publishing, LLC, and can be obtained from the publisher by telephone (212-643-6816) or through any large book retailer.

PLAYERS WHO JUMPED TO SHIPYARDS MAY BE BANNED FROM GAME

CHICAGO—Baseball players of the American league who deserted their clubs last season for positions in shipyards would be barred from playing in the league if a resolution to be introduced at the annual meeting of the league tomorrow should be adopted. President Ban Johnson tonight said that a resolution had been prepared for submission to the meeting, but he withheld the name of the club owner who drew it.

The Lewiston (Maine) Daily Sun, December 4, 1918



**WAR ON THE
BASEPATHS:
THE DEFINITIVE
BIOGRAPHY OF
TY COBB**

BY TIM HORNBAKER

*2015. Sports Publishing
[ISBN: 978-1613217658.
400pp. \$24.99 USD,
Hardcover]*

Reviewed by
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When envisioning the “Georgia Peach,” the great Tyrus Raymond Cobb, certain iconic stereotypes come to mind: spikes high, a racist, a brawler, a member of the first Hall of Fame Class, a lifetime .366 batting average, and the biggest star of the Deadball Era. But who is the real Ty Cobb? In his new book entitled *War on the Basepaths: The Definitive Biography of Ty Cobb*, Tim Hornbaker offers

the reader a work whose goal is to establish who this iconic Tiger really was. What emerges is a very readable and insightful biography of a complex individual. What makes this work stand out is its attempt to probe into the psychology and life of Ty Cobb. The author focuses on each season of Cobb’s career and delves deeply into every incident that marred the great ballplayer’s reputation. Each of Cobb’s seemingly endless pugilistic endeavors, be it with handicapped fans, teammates, umpires, or his racially charged incidents are treated in explicit detail. The book is an effort to debunk the myth of the brawler inside the baseball player.

Hornbaker takes the reader on a journey that at times feels in part like a historical detective novel as evidence is viewed and deciphered. He explores the incidents that tarnished Cobb’s career and personal life and presents an argument that there was always some underlying cause that drove the man to behave the way he did. When a slur or a jibe is directed at him that would only ruffle another man’s feathers, it drove Cobb to seeing red. One particular trait the author explores is Cobb’s southern genteel nature and notion of honor. If Cobb felt his honor was slighted in the least by thought, word, or deed, it was his justifiable right to take action and redeem himself or those he cared for. It is also argued that this southern nature played a large role in his

hurtful treatment of African Americans, although the author observes later in the work that Cobb did support the integration of baseball after it finally occurred.

The reader is given an idea of what drove Cobb for his life and career in the first chapter of the book. The final words of his father when Ty Cobb left home for a life in baseball were, “Don’t come home a failure!” It can be argued that those words echoing in his mind motivated him each and every day. It is not a coincidence that Hornbaker starts his book by reminding the reader of the fighting spirit that made Cobb into the great player enshrined in Cooperstown.

One of the most intriguing arguments Hornbaker makes in his effort to redeem Cobb regards his turbulent relationship with the press. In the Deadball Era, the press were virtually a part of the team as they ate, slept, and traveled with them. Hornbaker argues in many sections of the work that it was the newspapers of the day that built the negative image of Ty Cobb that exists today — a dirty scoundrel. “Regardless of his statements to the press to the contrary, or the image he wanted to convey,” Hornbaker writes, “Sportswriters and fans continued to depict Cobb as a raging, conceited baseball fiend; a man who was so outlandish that he’d willingly hurt rivals with his spikes. The idea that Cobb and his colorful

Cobb persona were being exploited by newspapermen to sell papers apparently never crossed anyone's mind." This point makes the reader think back to the days when a good cover story could make or break a newspaper. The public could not get enough of the exploits of their diamond heroes, and like the dime novels of the past, there was a gray line between fact and fiction.

When looking at the book as a whole, one of its strengths, the use of extreme detail could also be seen as one of its downfalls. Incident after incident, season

after season, seem to sometimes blur into a mind-numbing overindulgence of facts. It is necessary for the author to present the evidence and supporting argument; however, it begins to take away from the overall readability of the biography. A complex man warrants a complex biography and *War on the Basepaths: The Definitive Biography of Ty Cobb* delivers. It is a good read that gives the reader every fact possibly needed to untangle and understand the multifaceted life and character of one Tyrus Raymond Cobb.

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:

Joseph Ardillo
Ira Levinton
Tim Riha
Gregory Sicari
Phil Wagner

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.

100% FUNNY

The Famous Humorist, H. C. Witwer, Has Written

“From Baseball to Boches”

For Laughing Purposes Only

It will appear exclusively, in New England, from day to day until completed, in

The Boston Post, Daily and Sunday

Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 11

Written in much the same style as “Dere Mable.” Slangy, funny, snappy, cheery and developing a delightful love story

(Introducing the Heroine)

When the Yankee in Khaki Met the Prettiest Girl in France

If she ever comes to that dear America, her address will be the Pollies, and that's a cinch. She couldn't of been five minutes over eighteen, and she had a complexion that would make a rose look like a cauliflower. When it come to figure—oh, doctor! I took one flash at her and forgot what I come to France for, also the rain and Daisy Gertner, which lives up on Lenox Ave. She happened to catch my eye, and without no warnin' she gimme a smile that removed all the sense from outa my head.

“'Allo, Americans!” she says.

Oh, boy!

The Lewiston (Maine) Daily Sun, December 12, 1918

Editor's note: Humorist H.C. Witwer's From Baseball to Boches can be read online at <https://archive.org/details/frombaseballtobo1witwgoog>

ACCURATE RUNS-SCORED RECORDS FOR PLAYERS OF THE DEADBALL ERA: THE PLAYERS ON THE 1916 DETROIT TIGERS

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

A fundamental mathematical axiom (the “partition postulate”) from the time of Euclid (i.e., during the fourth century B.C.) asserts that “the whole is equal to the sum of its parts.”¹ Thus, the runs scored by a baseball team must always be equal to the sum of the runs scored by individual players on the team. ... Except for many of the Deadball Era teams/players for which there are numerous instances of disagreement between MLB’s official stats for the runs scored by the team (i.e., the whole) and the sum of MLB’s official stats for the runs scored by the individual players (i.e., the parts) — including the 1916 Detroit Tigers.

According to the official records of Major League Baseball, the Detroit Tigers team scored a total of 670 runs in the 155 games it played in 1916.² And, a Game-By-Game (GBG) recheck of the game scores confirms that the 1916 Detroit Tigers team did, in fact, score a total of 670 runs.³ However, when one adds up the runs scored by each of the 34 men who participated in at least one game for the 1916 Tigers, according to the official Day-By-Day (DBD) records, one ends up with a sum of 673 runs — i.e., three *more* runs than the whole team.²

How can that be possible? To find out, I carried out a comprehensive and in-depth research effort to ascertain which Tigers player scored each of the 670 runs tallied by the Detroit team in 1916 ... and which player(s) were credited with the extra three markers.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

To ascertain which Detroit player scored each of the 670 runs generated by the 1916 Tigers, I examined the game accounts provided in numerous newspapers to compile a GBG runs-scored record for each player who participated in

at least one game for the 1916 Tigers. The daily newspapers that I utilized included the *Detroit Free Press*, *Journal*, *News*, and *Times*; the *Boston Globe*, *Herald*, and *Post*; the *Chicago Daily News*, *Examiner*, *Herald*, and *Tribune*; the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*; the *New York Herald*, *Sun*, *Times*, and *Tribune*; the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *North American*, *Press*, *Public Ledger*, and *Record*; the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *Post-Dispatch*, *Republic*, and *Star-Times*; and the *Washington Evening Star*, *Herald*, *Post*, and *Times*. The complete details from my research for each of Detroit’s 670 runs were provided in my article on the accurate RBI records of the players on the 1916 Tigers.⁴ I then compared my GBG runs-scored findings with the runs-scored numbers presented in the originally-recorded official DBD sheets, which are available on microfilm at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the full-season runs scored numbers, according to my research, for each of the 34 players on the 1916 Detroit Tigers. Also shown for comparison are the full-season runs scored statistics from the originally-recorded official DBD sheets — which are also shown in each of the various most-recently published hard-copy baseball encyclopedias: *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* (2008); *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (2007); *Total Baseball* (2004); *The STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* (2000); and *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (1996).⁵⁻⁹

Inspection of Table 1 reveals that there are four players for whom my full-season runs-scored numbers are different from the full-season runs-scored numbers given in the originally-recorded official records: Del Baker (8 runs vs. 7 runs); Oscar Stanage (17 vs. 16); Bobby Veach (91 vs. 92); and Ossie Vitt (84 vs. 88). Comparison of my GBG runs-scored numbers with the official DBD runs scored statistics for each of these players pinpoints three games with runs scored discrepancies: April 21, 1916 (Detroit vs. Chicago); May 17, 1916 (Detroit at Washington); and September 14, 1916 (Detroit vs. New York).

The descriptions for all of the runs scored by the Tigers in each of these games as presented in several newspaper accounts are provided in the Appendix (which is available on the SABR website). Here are summaries of my findings for each of these games.

April 21, 1916 — Detroit vs. Chicago — Detroit scored 3 runs

Summary of 3 runs scored by the Tigers

- 1 (Sixth Inning) — Vitt scored on a 1-RBI single by Veach.
- 2 (Sixth Inning) — Veach scored on a 1-RBI sacrifice fly by Heilmann.
- 3 (Seventh Inning) — Stanage scored on a 1-RBI double by Vitt.

Newspaper Box Scores — 3 runs scored by the Tigers

Vitt 1, Veach 1, Stanage 1; all other players (Bush, Kavanagh, Heilmann, Burns, Young, and Dauss) 0.

Official DBD sheets — 3 runs scored by the Tigers

Veach 1, Vitt 1; all other players (Burns, Bush, Dauss, Heilmann, Kavanagh, Stanage, and Young) have a blank in the run (R) column.

Conclusion: The originally-recorded official DBD record for Stanage is wrong — Stanage actually scored 1 (not 0) run in the game on April 21, 1916. Therefore, Stanage actually scored 17 (not 16) runs during the entire 1916 season.

Comment: The official DBD sheets show only 2 runs scored by the individual players — one run each by Veach and Vitt. The official DBD sheets show that the Detroit Tigers team scored 3 runs. Thus, there was a transcription error somewhere along the line in generating the official DBD sheets, specifically Stanage erroneously being shown with “no” runs since the cell for the April 16 game in the run (R) column is blank. Moreover, Stanage is mistakenly shown with one (1) hit in the hit (H) column while the batter-by-batter play-by-play description given in the Detroit Times account shows that he had zero hits — Third Inning, “Stanage was called out on



Oscar Stanage

FATS SECURE INJUNCTION

JUDGE ASHE ISSUES ORDER RESTRAINING LEAN TEAM AND PAT NEWNAM

An injunction was yesterday granted to the Fat Men's Baseball Team, S.Y.D. Proctor, manager, restraining the Lean Men's baseball team from having the services of Pat Newnam, Houston's League team first baseman, as coach in preparation for the great contest on July 14.

The injunction goes on to state that Mr. Newnam is not of light enough weight to be used on the thin team and that he should be an impartial spectator and not interested on either side. Considerable time and money was spent in arguing this case against the Lean Men, both teams being represented by the very best legal talent in Houston. Much regret is being expressed over the depth of feeling that is being displayed by the members of the two teams.

Houston Chronicle, June 28, 1906

strikes.” Fifth Inning, “Stanage walked.” Seventh Inning, “Stanage bunted and Young was forced, Danforth to Terry.” Likewise, the box score in each of the various newspaper accounts shows Stanage with 2 at bats, 1 run scored, and 0 hits. Thus, Stanage actually had 2 (not 3) at bats, 1 (not 0) run, 0 (not 1) hit, and 0 (not 1) total bases in the game.

May 17, 1916 — Detroit at Washington — Detroit scored 4 runs

Summary of the 4 runs scored by the Tigers

- 1 (Eighth Inning) — Dubuc scored on a 1-RBI groundout by Bush.
- 2 (Eighth Inning) — Vitt scored on a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk to Heilmann.
- 3 (Eighth Inning) — Cobb scored on a 1-RBI single by Burns.
- 4 (Ninth Inning) — Baker scored on a 1-RBI single by Cobb.

Newspaper Box Scores — 4 runs scored by the Tigers

Vitt 1, Cobb 1, Dubuc 1, Baker 1; all other players (Bush, Veach, Harper, Dalton, Heilmann, Burns, Young, Stanage, James, Kavanagh, and Crawford) 0.

Official DBD sheets — 4 runs scored by the Tigers

Cobb 1, Dubuc 1, Veach 1, Vitt 1; all other players (Baker, Burns, Bush, Crawford, Dalton, Harper, Heilmann, James, Kavanagh, Stanage, and Young) have a blank in the run (R) column.

Conclusion: The originally-recorded DBD records for Baker and Veach are wrong — Baker actually scored 1 (not 0) run and Veach actually scored 0 (not 1) runs in the game on May 17, 1916. Therefore, for the full 1916 season, Baker actually scored 8 (not 7) runs, and Veach actually scored 91 (not 92) runs.

Comment: Somehow a transcription error made its way into the originally-generated official DBD records such that Veach was mistakenly credited



Bobby Veach

with the run that Baker actually scored in the game on May 17, 1916.

September 14, 1916 — Detroit vs. New York — Detroit scored 2 runs

Summary of the 2 runs scored by the Tigers

- 1 (Seventh Inning) — Veach scored on a 1-RBI single by Young.
- 2 (Ninth Inning) — Veach scored on a 1-RBI double by Crawford.

Newspaper Box Scores — 2 runs scored by the Tigers

Veach 2; all of the other players (Vitt, Bush, Cobb, Crawford, Heilmann, Young, Stanage, D. Baker, Mitchell, Boland, Burns, Harper, and McKee) 0.

Official DBD sheets — 2 runs scored by the Tigers

Veach 2, Vitt 4; all other players (D. Baker, Boland, Burns, Bush, Crawford, Cobb, Harper, Heilmann, McKee, Mitchell, and Stanage) have a blank in the run (R) column.

Conclusion: The originally-recorded official DBD record for Vitt is wrong — Vitt actually scored 0 (not 4) runs in the game on September 14, 1916. Therefore, Vitt actually scored 84 (not 88) runs during the entire 1916 season.

Comment: The official DBD sheets show 6 runs scored by the individual players — 2 runs by Veach and 4 runs by Vitt. But the official DBD sheets for the Tigers team shows that they scored only 2 runs. Thus, a transcription error was introduced somewhere along the line in the generation of the official DBD sheets, specifically Vitt being shown with no at bats (i.e., his AB cell is blank) and 4 runs scored. Furthermore, each of the newspaper box scores shows Vitt with 4 at bats and 0 runs scored. Thus, Vitt actually had 4 (not 0) at bats and 0 (not 4) runs in the game.

In order to effect the dissemination of the correct full-season runs-scored numbers for Del Baker (8), Oscar Stanage (17), Bobby Veach (91), and Ossie Vitt (84), I provided the supporting documentation to Retrosheet's Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for their review.¹⁰ After evaluating the evidence, Retrosheet agreed 100% with my conclusions and will incorporate the corrections in their data base, i.e., the Retrosheet Box Score file (and derived player daily files).¹¹ I then informed Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette of my corrections of the runs scored errors for Baker, Stanage, Veach, and Vitt so that the appropriate changes could be implemented in Palmer's database of baseball statistics — which is utilized by Baseball-Reference.com and retrosheet.org (for its "player profile" pages).¹² And, Palmer also concurred with my conclusions.¹³

CONCLUDING REMARKS

So now, after a hundred years, the disconnect within the official baseball records for the total runs scored by the 1916 Detroit Tigers team and the sum of the runs scored by the individual players on the team has been resolved. This is the third such discrepancy rectified for the Detroit Tigers teams from the Deadball Era, the resolutions of the runs scored disparities for the 1906 and 1919 seasons having been described in previous articles.^{14,15} There remain a half-dozen



Ossie Vitt

more seasons for the Tigers during the Deadball Era for which there are apparent violations of the Partition Postulate, i.e., where the runs of the whole (i.e., the team) are not equal to the sum of its parts (i.e., the individual players) — 1901 (741 vs. 742); 1905 (512 vs. 511); 1907 (693 vs. 695); 1908 (647 vs. 644); 1912 (720 vs. 721); and 1913 (625 vs. 624). There are also numerous analogous runs-scored inequalities for the other teams from the Deadball Era. Hopefully, others will join the effort to ascertain accurate runs-scored numbers for their favorite teams.¹⁶

Herm Krabbenhoft's original research articles into Deadball Era statistics have become a regular newsletter feature. The next installment will appear in the pre-SABR convention newsletter issue.

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NEW FROM THE GAMES AND BIOPROJECT

Since our last newsletter was released, the Games Project has published an account of the August 27, 1916 contest between the Chicago American Giants and the Indianapolis ABC's by Stephen V. Rice. Meanwhile, the BioProject continues to produce bios of Deadball Era figures that should be of interest. The latest include: Pat Duff, Ginger Clark, Harry Wolfe, Warren Shannabrook, Bill Dahlen, Sam McMackin, Greasy Neale, Moxie Meixiel, Lafayette Henion, Bob Brush, Pat Newnam, Frank Selee, Al Mamaux, Bill Abstein, and Nick Maddox. As always, we encourage you to check out these bios if you have not already done so.

**TABLE 1: FULL-SEASON RUNS SCORED NUMBERS
FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1916 DETROIT TIGERS**

Player	Runs Scored (Krabbenhof)	RBIs (Official DBD)	Player	Runs Scored (Krabbenhof)	RBIs (Official DBD)
Del Baker	*8*	7	Earl Hamilton	0	0
George Boehler	1	1	George Harper	4	4
Bernie Boland	4	4	Harry Heilmann	57	57
George Burns	60	60	Bill James	3	3
Donie Bush	73	73	Deacon Jones	0	0
Ty Cobb	113	113	Marty Kavanagh	6	6
Harry Coveleski	7	7	Grover Lowdermilk	0	0
Sam Crawford	41	41	George Maisel	2	2
Geo. Cunningham	7	7	Red McKee	3	3
Jack Dalton	1	1	Bill McTigue	0	0
Hooks Dauss	8	8	Willie Mitchell	3	3
Jean Dubuc	3	3	Tubby Spencer	7	7
Ben Dyer	4	4	Oscar Stange	*17*	16
Howard Ehmke	1	1	Billy Sullivan	0	0
Babe Ellison	0	0	Bobby Veach	*91*	92
Eric Erickson	0	0	Ossie Vitt	*84*	88
Frank Fuller	2	2	Ralph Young	60	60

**SOMETHING NEW:
THE WOBBLE BALL**

CHATTANOOGA—Something new is being added to freak pitching by Slapnika, Toledo recruit, in what he calls the “wobble ball.” It is a slow ball with variations. Manager Hinchman, who failed to hit it, says it is a cross between the knuckle ball and the fade-away.

Slapnicka will not explain how he throws it. The ball comes floating up to the plate rather slowly and without any apparent reason suddenly breaks in or curves outwards.

“Slap” controls the ball so perfectly that he can make it shoot either way. But he is having some trouble getting it over the pan and will not use it much in the games until he has mastered it completely.

The Toledo News-Bee, March 16, 1911

How Times Have Changed!

By Heath



Harrisburg Telegraph, July 13, 1914

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

continued from page 1

for making the DEC such an example of scholarly generosity and fellowship in action.”

Including Ritter's name on the award was the natural choice, according to Simon. Ritter, of course, was known for his groundbreaking book of oral history, *The Glory of Their Times: The Story of the Early Days of Baseball Told by the Men Who Played It*, which brought the Deadball Era to life and which is often cited as the greatest baseball book ever published. Ritter, in fact, became a member of the Deadball Era Committee near its start, writing to Simon in an e-mail (published here and below with Simon's permission) that “John Thorn tells me you are chairing an underground society devoted to the memory of such as Terry Turner, Dode Paskert, and Germany Schaefer. What Rites of Passage must I undergo to join? If they are not too strenuous, please count me in.” Simon says that Ritter had only one request when told that the award would be named in his honor. Rather than the more formally named Lawrence S. Ritter Award, which was the name Simon initially proposed, Ritter himself requested that the prize be named the Larry Ritter Award — which it is.

Ritter Award winners over time have focused on a range of subjects and topics. The 2003 winner was Jim Reisler's *Before They Were The Bombers: The New York Yankees' Early Years, 1903-1915*. Then came *The Tour to End All Tours: The Story of Major League Baseball's 1913-1914 World Tour* by James E. Elfers. The next three were *The American Indian Integration of Baseball* by Jeffrey Powers-Beck; *Peach: Ty Cobb in His Time and Ours* by Richard Bak; and *Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball's Cover-Up of the 1919 World Series Fix Almost Succeeded* by Gene Carney.

Biographical books have been frequent winners, including Norman Macht's *Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball* (2008 winner), *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe* by Kate Buford (2011), *Spitballing: The Baseball Days of Long Bob Ewing*, by Mike Lackey (2014), and *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty*



Larry Ritter

by Charles Leerhsen. Two books on the Federal League have also won: first, *The Federal League of Base Ball Clubs: The History of an Outlaw Major League, 1914-1915* by Robert Peyton Wiggins, and later, *The Battle That Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy* by Daniel R. Levitt.

During the past fifteen years, there have been two winning books about ballparks, namely *Ballparks of the Deadball Era: A Comprehensive Study of Their Dimension, Configurations, and Effects on Batting, 1901-1919* by Ronald M. Selter, and *Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark: A Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year* by Glenn Stout. There has also been one tie in the voting, resulting in the presentation of two awards last year, to Nathaniel Grow for *Baseball on Trial: The Origins of Baseball's Antitrust Exemption*, and to Chuck Kimberly for *The Days of Wee Willie, Old Cy and Baseball War: Scenes from the Dawn of the Deadball Era, 1900-1903*.

In the award's history, there have been five Ritter Award subcommittee chairs. Paul Rogers

oversaw the award's first six years; then I succeeded him; to be followed by Gabriel Schechter, Dr. Gail Rowe, and now Doug Skipper. Over time, the voting process has remained quite consistent. Through December 31 of each year, the panel considers nominations for the award, with its chief eligibility concern being whether the book's central focus is on Deadball Era baseball. Publishers have been kind enough to provide members of the subcommittee with review copies of a particular book. Some books begin arriving to subcommittee members in the fall, with a steady flow continuing into the winter months. Though books of history have exclusively been candidates in recent years, books of fiction with a Deadball Era-focus are eligible also, and several works of fiction have been considered for the award. Members read and review the books prior to submitting a list of votes for four finalists by March 1. Then, with the list of candidates reduced to four and the finalists having been announced publicly, subcommittee members vote for a winner by April 1 which is routinely announced by April 15. During the entire process, members are encouraged to discuss their opinions about particular books with the entire subcommittee. Sometimes the subcommittee has been large — peaking at eleven voters — to the more compact seven-member panel that decided on this year's award, consisting of myself, Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Craig Lammers, Mark Pattison, Tom Simon, and Skipper (chair). The annual award presentation is a highlight of the DEC meeting at the SABR Convention.

In selecting the 'best' book focusing on the period, several considerations can come into play. While the subcommittee has never issued a list of criteria for award winners, it is reasonable to infer that the panel cares a great deal about the originality of a particular topic or approach, historical accuracy, quality of writing, and depth of research. The selection process is a holistic one, and there is no restriction or limitation on which factors voters may use in making their choices.

While the Ritter Award winners justifiably receive the most attention, it is worthwhile to remember the depth and breadth of the

candidates the subcommittee considers each year. It is rare for the panel to receive fewer than ten books to review, and it is striking how active the area of Deadball Era scholarship remains. The 2013 finalists, for instance, include biographies of Jimmy Collins and Chief Meyers and a book by Joel Franks titled *The Barnstorming Hawaiian Travelers: A Multiethnic Baseball Team Tours the Mainland, 1912-1916*. Over time, nominees have included biographies of Chief Bender, Johnny Kling, and Napoleon Lajoie, among others, and candidates have been in the form of eBooks, books about teams, and compilations of player biographies.

In a January 2000 e-mail provided by Simon, Larry Ritter listed his favorite baseball books when completing a Deadball Era Committee survey. In order, he listed: "*Glory of Their Times, You Know Me Al, Eight Men Out, Baseball As I Have Known It, My Baseball Diary* (Farrell), *Cobb, My Life in Baseball, Seasons Past* (Damon Rice), *Baseball's Golden Age* (McCabe), *The Unforgettable Season* (Fleming), and any Troy Soos book." A day later, Ritter wrote again to Simon, saying: "I would like to take this opportunity to change my answer to one of the questions in your survey. Namely, in Question #4, please take out *Cobb, My Life in Baseball* and in its place put *Lefty O' the Big League* by Burt L. Standish. Finally, I am not sure whether or not James Farrell's *My Baseball Diary* qualifies as a book about the Deadball Era. If it doesn't qualify, then please replace it with *The Celebrant* by Eric Rolfe Greenberg [italics added]." In the same survey, incidentally, Ritter responded to a question about whether he would approve of the DEC publishing a twice-annual newsletter titled *The Inside Game* by writing: "Suits me."

Indeed, it is a challenge to pick the best Deadball Era book in any given year, let alone to compile a list of the best books on the period ever published. It is our hope and expectation that the award honors Larry Ritter's memory and his unique and enduring contributions to Deadball Era history.

One Evidence of the Baseball Season



The Salt Lake Herald-Republican, April 16, 1910 (H.E. Godwin)

IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHICH ONE, SO LONG AS THE SUPPLY HOLDS OUT

Editor's note: Philadelphia based cartoonist H. E. Godwin created several short-lived syndicated comic strips in the 1900-1910 time frame. His most notable creations were Crazy Charlie, Grandpa Scattergood, and Mr. and Mrs. Getrichquick.

The bulk of Godwin's work was in the form of one-shot gag panels. The above cartoon reflects the common meme of how the office boy gets out of work to see the ballgame.