

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

Nineteenth Century Notes is a publication of the Nineteenth Century Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research

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## Inside this issue:

19th Century Book Club	5
The First Big League No-Hitter	6-8
Jacob Lookabaugh	9-11
Overlooked Legend Preliminary Election Results	12
News & Notes	13

## Breit and Pink

by R. Dixie Tourangeau

If your souvenir ticket jar has some 1890s major league game stubs in it, you know well the adept duo in the headline. Researchers of that frenzied decade have few problems reporting the accomplishments of Theodore Breitenstein and Emerson Hawley, but fans unfamiliar with that timespan might stare blankly when seeing their names.

These two workhorse stalwarts were not the best pitchers of that era, but they were on the envelope's edge. Anyone glancing at "Gay Nineties" records could pass

them over as mediocre drones in lackluster hives. But that would be an unfair assessment.

Each player has a SABR biography written about him, and the articles are lengthy, thorough and entertaining. However, both diligent authors missed the "Big Connection," the two as teammates and foes. It is eerie how much of their careers entail only a sliver of difference. Each biography mentions several associated names but neither story has the other pitcher noted in any way. They spent half their National League lives as

mates and also battled each other several times. All that marvelous competition has been ignored.

Southpaw Breitenstein (1891-1901, 160-170, 2,973 innings) and right-hander Hawley (1892-1901, 167-179, 3,013 frames), were born and died three years apart. Raised about 390 miles distant in St. Louis, Missouri, and Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, respectively, they each started their NL life with the scuffling St. Louis Browns.

Breitenstein (born 1869) got into six games in 1891 with his

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Co-Chairs' Corner

by Peter Mancuso

The 2023 Fred is around the corner (April 28 & 29 at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown). Please, email or call Co-Chair, Peter Mancuso to determine if there is any space to register at this year's Confer-

ence or to be placed on the waiting list.

**-Overlooked 19cBB Legends** 2023 elections are now past (the Primary was February 27 – March 16) and future (the Finals will be mid-May – early June). We thank all our Commit-

tee members who cast their ballots in this year's Primary and we encourage our members to vote in the SABR-wide Final elections. Please, watch for emails from SABR in mid-May for the bios and ballot for the Final elec-

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## Breit and Pink (cont.)

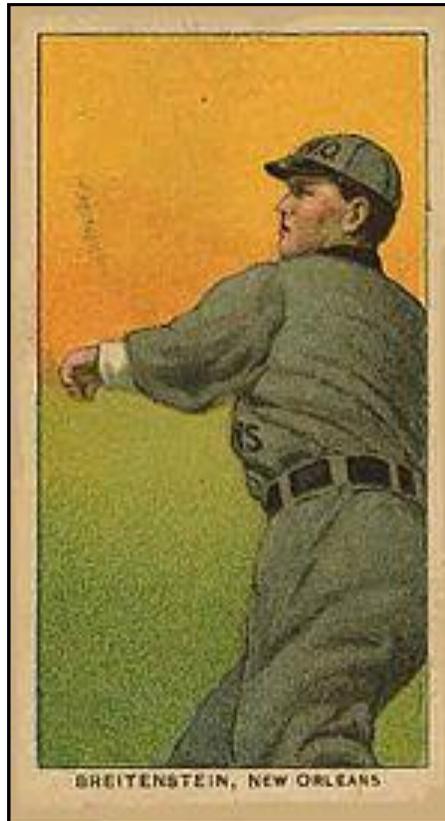
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hometown's last American Association entry where he shocked baseball fans by throwing a no-hitter in his first starting role, walking only Louisville Colonel first baseman Harry Taylor in an 8-0 victory. After 10 wild years, it was the final curtain call for the long-financially doomed AA. The expansionist-thinking NL absorbed the four most promising clubs, padding itself to 12.

Favorite Beaver Dam son Hawley joined the newly added St. Louis NL team in mid-1892, losing his first outing on August 13, at Louisville, 4-2, when an injured finger caused him much wildness. "Pink" (born in 1872) got his forever colorful nickname by being the twin brother of Elmer "Blue" Hawley. Their nanny could not tell the babies apart and so she tied ribbons to them with Emerson getting pink. On June 30, 1891, Blue, a talented schoolboy catcher in his own right, tragically died of pneumonia/grip.

Rookies Pink and Breit were then the new hopes for owner Chris von der Ahe's franchise. St. Louis was a formerly good team gone bad, so both tossers toiled away for three years for 56, 57 and 56 second-division wins. Combined, they won half those games, and improved slightly each season, but the Brownies did not. By 1894 they were the best hurlers on the staff, with Breit (27-23) leading the circuit in innings pitched (447) and starts (50) while Pink 19-27, led it in losses thanks to meager offensive support. The previous season Ted, despite losing a second-worst 24 NL games, led the circuit with a 3.18 ERA, besting

New York fire-balling ace Amos Rusie (3.23, 482 innings, 208 Ks) denying him the pitcher's Triple Crown. Breit also tied Cleveland's Cy Young for third on the strikeout list with 102.



Ted Breitenstein

Hawley had constant contract and personal difficulties with irascible, ill-tempered and egomaniacal owner von der Ahe and in 1895 was dealt to Pittsburgh where he improved immediately topping the NL in innings (444) and shutouts (4) while compiling a 31-19 record for a decent (71-60) club. Poor Breitenstein continued losing (19-30, most losses) with an even worse St. Louis squad but he managed to garner almost half the team's 39 wins in 438 innings and led the NL with

51 heroic starts and 47 complete games.

Of course, with all these innings in the mix, they finally faced one another. Hawley had the upper hand with a slightly better roster behind him. In 1895 the duelers split four games, with Pink shutting out Breit's boys 6-0 in the first outing. Despite being traded to a much better Cincinnati team in 1896, Breit lost the next three games to Pink, 8-5, 6-5 and 7-6 before stomping the Pirates 11-3 in 1897. Hawley's Pittsburgh days ended then and he found himself back with old buddy/foe Breit in Porkopolis in 1898.

Together as wily veterans, the left-right tandem was terrific, battling the two greatest teams of the 1890s decade, Boston and Baltimore. The Reds lineup featured hit man Jake Beckley, icon Bid McPhee, Dusty Miller (.299), rookie of later Cub fame Harry Steinfeldt, Algie McBride (.302) and underrated Elmer Smith, another Pirates migrant, who tied for third in batting (.342).

Hawley (27-11) and Breitenstein (20-14) led the lean staff of five with "Still" Bill Hill, Frank Dwyer and Bill Dammann adding a sum total of 45-34 to set the franchise record of 92 wins in the expanded 152-game season. Ted edged Cy Young 3-2 on Opening Day, an omen for the year. In mid-summer they were cozily in first place, but Cincy's success bubble finally burst in mid-September when they lost six straight. Cincinnati finished third, 10 wins behind defending champ Boston, and were 10-17 against the Beaneaters and Orioles. The Reds would not see close to 90 wins again until their 1919 pennant.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Breit and Pink (cont.)

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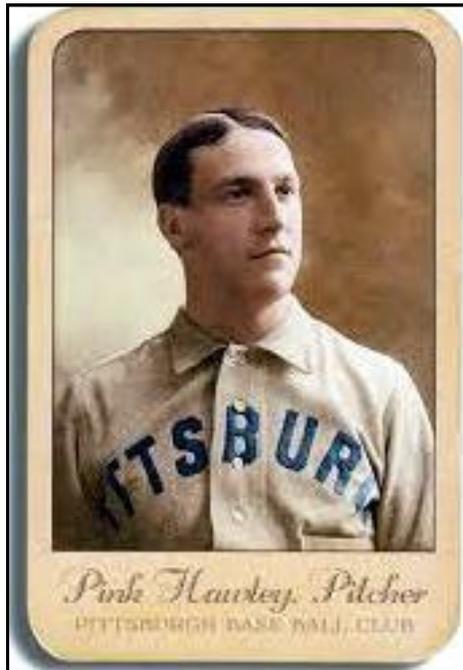
With age and innings accumulating, 1899 was the last year for the two pals to be Reds. They became second bananas on the Reds staff as lefty rookie strikeout phenom George “Noodles” Hahn (23-8, 2.68, 145 Ks) surprised the NL and Bill Phillips (17-9) became the top hurlers. Pink (14-17) and Briet (13-9) had enough left to help Cincinnati stay in the first division, above .500, but in sixth place (83-67). The decade and century ended with Breitenstein a 10-10 seventh-place Red, while Hawley was relatively effective, 18-18, for awful eighth (last) place New York. Baseball fate matched them one more time on July 18 in New York. Breitenstein led 9-7 in the eighth, but usual starter Ed Scott (17-20) allowed three ninth-inning runs in a closer’s attempt, losing 10-9. That cost Breit a winning season and saved Pink from a losing one.

In all they clashed nine times with Hawley taking six while hitting .265/4 runs off Breitenstein. Normally the lesser batsman, Ted hit .300/5 runs off Pink. Hawley hit the only home run, a meaningless ninth-inning shot in a 9-5 Breit win.

The major league curtain fell on both players before the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s first year was complete. Somewhat appropriately, Breitenstein was home in St. Louis for just three starts, losing 14-12, and twice to K-King Noodles Hahn, 7-5 and 9-3. His last slab fling was May 9 when in the first inning he allowed six runs after two outs on four hits, four walks, a wild pitch and an error. Cincy flychaser Dick Harley (.273 in 1901) ended the inning’s run burst and was Breit’s final batter faced.

Pink found a final life in Mil-

waukee with the brand new American League Brewers. He couldn’t help the cellar dwellers going 7-14. Thriving Boston host Cy Young (1901 Triple Crown winner, 33-10, 1.62, 158 K) ended Hawley’s career, 6-0 on August 20, with help from a Charlie “Chick” Stahl three-run shot in the fourth, the last major league pitch



Pink Hawley

Pink threw. Stahl, .333 off Hawley that year, had tripled and doubled before the insurance clout.

Though both noteworthy 1890s players hurled minor league ball after 1901, their major league dust had settled. Their amassed figures create the before-mentioned eeriness. There’s no debate that the greatest pitchers of the 1890-1900 span were, Boston’s “Kid” Nichols, New York’s Rusie and Young of Cleveland-St. Louis. They possess the godlike inning, win and strikeout records. Cluttered in the next tier of star boxmen are: Bill

Hutchison, Jack Stivetts, Gus Weyhing, Jouett Meekin, Bill “Brickyard” Kennedy, Frank Killen and our two dependable laborers. Of this group, only Breitenstein (160-167) and Hawley (160-165) have losing records. Neither was a strikeout pitcher *per se*, Breit had 890 (eighth) and Pink 818 (tenth) for that specific time frame. On a K-game ratio, southpaw Breit maintained a 2.7 clip, and Hawley 2.6, a smidge below the best 15 pitchers of the decade. Their same number of wins were achieved via the fifth most innings thrown (Breit 2,958) and sixth (Hawley 2,830). Gus Weyhing was fourth (2,997, 180 wins).

With excellent hindsight available, one simple way for the twosome to compile winning records was to avoid pitching against Nichols and his repeat champ Beaneaters. Kid’s prowess alone was good enough, especially against poorer teams, plus he was backed by a machine-like offense and blanketing defense. He held a 9-6 career record over Hawley and 8-1 over Breitenstein. In certain stretches he won seven straight from Pink, including games of 3-2, 2-1, and 4-3, and the first eight from Ted. Hawley beat Nichols 1-0 in May 1895 on a masterly-thrown four-hitter.

In a May 1898 game Breit led Kid 4-1, but Boston soon tied it. Hawley relieved in the fifth, allowed only two hits and won 5-4. Finally in late June 1900, in what was Breit’s final shot at Nichols, the “would-he-ever-win” drama climaxed. In the ninth inning Kid led 2-0 and a dejected Breitenstein made the first out -- and

(Continued on page 4)

## Breit and Pink (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

the last. Two walks and a hit loaded the bases and safe liners by rookie Sam Crawford and Algie McBride unloaded them for a 3-2 win before a jubilant Ohio River Queen City throng. Against Cy Young the boys did better, Pink was 2-4, while Breit, for reasons unknown, had Cy's number, 7-5-1. The tie in St.

Louis was a June 1892, 16-inning, 3-3 marathon and was the longest game Young or Breit pitched in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Rusie didn't face either foe that often, being 2-2 with Pink and 3-1 versus Breit.

Hawley and Breitenstein each died in his respective hometown in his 66<sup>th</sup> year and both are remembered fondly as good base-

ball citizens in the many locales in which they hurled and managed. Perhaps the special career-long connection of "The Breit" and "Pink" sprouted from Hawley's early loss of brother "Blue." It seems as if the more sentimental baseball gods arranged for and provided him with a "Blue II."

## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion. The Results will be announced during our Nineteenth Century Committee's Annual Business Meeting during SABR 51 in Chicago.

**SABR 51 and Our Nineteenth Century Committee's Annual Business Meeting** will be held at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago sometime Thursday, Friday or Saturday, TBA, during SABR 51 (Wednesday, July 5 through Sunday, July 9). We hope to have a good turnout of our Committee Members. Please, see the SABR website for details to register for the SABR Convention and to book a room at the Convention's hotel.

**19cBB Speakers Series, Season IV** (September 2023 through May 2024) will again take place on the 2nd Tuesday evening, 8:p.m. E/T of each month, via SABR's Zoom ac-

count. An initial Call for Abstracts was issued in February. Abstracts should be 200 – 400 words, have a title, and provide contact information. Emailed Abstracts to Bob Bailey and Peter Mancuso by the deadline, May 15, 2023. Presentations should have a PowerPoint component by the time given.

**19cBB Grave Marker Project** Chairperson, Sam Gazdiack has notified us that the stone grave marker for Bobby Mathews has been put in place in the Baltimore cemetery where he lays at rest. Sam is talking with the Baltimore SABR Chapter about a dedication ceremony date. Next up is likely, "Slithers," the Baseball Clown (Frank Oakley) who was the inspiration for baseball mascots who have followed in his footsteps since the late 19th century. He is buried in Queens, NY.

**NEW: A 19th Century Baseball Book Club** is being planned for our Committee Members who would like to share in discussions of selected books focused our 19th Century Game, its leagues, its teams, its players and other aspects. We have secured five potential moderators of what would be virtual on-line Zoom Meeting discussions. We are also asking for the input of our Committee Members to help point us in the direction of which books may be of most interest. Please, see further discussion of this project within this issue of our newsletter. We are hoping to launch this 19cBB Book Club in the July – September quarter of this year.

Best Regards, Peter and Bob,  
 "...because, baseball history is not only baseball history."

# Nineteenth Century Baseball Book Club

There are literally hundreds of books devoted to 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball, some actually dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while others are hot off the presses of today or are in some kind of digital format. This bolsters the old saying, “So many books so little time. Bob Bailey identified over sixty books focused on the 19<sup>th</sup> century game in his own home library and if I were to add what’s on my shelves, I’m sure we would easily cross the 100 mark. We, furthermore, don’t consider ourselves in any way unique among our 700 Nineteenth Century Committee members.

We certainly recognize that “book clubs” are not everyone’s “cup of tea but on-the-other-hand we also know that many members enjoy discussing what they have learned from books devoted to our 19<sup>th</sup> century game and we think that interactive discussion is largely what our membership is about. For that reason, we wish to encourage discussion and, not, a one-way flow of information, even of the Q & A variety.

The idea, so far, is to create a series of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Book Group sessions dedicated to a single book or book series that allows committee members to engage in a spirited discussion about what that book tells us about 19<sup>th</sup> Century baseball.

As we start this venture we hope to get away from author interviews so we will not ask authors to attend these discussions and do not seek to create a lecture on any book. We, therefore, wish to step off in a direction that encourages discourse among readers rather than one, sin-

gle opinion on the content of the book under discussion. There are certainly places for that format but we want to step off for this group’s purposes, with a format that allows discussion, debate, conversation, opinion, questions, and inquiry.

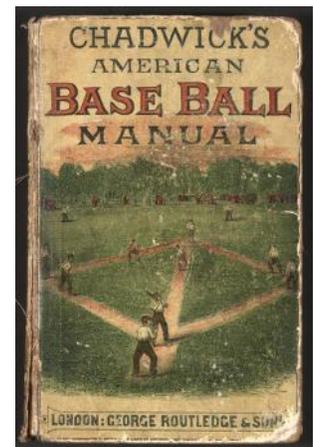
So in place of a book authors talking about their own books we have identified a handful of Nineteenth Century Committee Members who have volunteered as Book Club Moderators to encourage discussion on books they themselves have read and are familiar with. There may be anywhere from one to five separate Book Club discussions going on within a three month period: summer, July thru September; autumn, October thru December; winter, January thru March and spring, April thru June, aligned with our quarterly newsletters. We are planning on commencing this program during this summer’s quarter utilizing SABR’s Zoom Meeting online capabilities. The Book Club Moderators will set a schedule of dates that are best for their individual groups of readers. Each session would provide for as much as 90 minutes for discussion. Committee members are welcome to participate in any of the sessions.

Although our volunteer Moderators (who will be named by June) have been asked to develop an individualized list of several books for possible discussion, however, we and they, would also like to reach out to our reading membership to ask

them which books they would like to read or re-read and discuss. For help in developing a larger list of potential books to be discussed and to assess what books are of the most interest to Committee Members we are asking our membership, to email to Peter Mancuso at [peterplus4@earthlink.net](mailto:peterplus4@earthlink.net) the titles with author(s) or editor(s) of books you would personally like to take part in discussing. Receiving this information starting this month (April) and running until May 15<sup>th</sup> would be very helpful in our development of the 19cBB Book Club. Thank you in advance for your help and we hope you find this program to be fun and of interest, as intended.

This concept is still evolving and Moderators may create different formats to facilitate the discussion.

We are also working with the SABR office to create listings of these events on the SABR Events Calendar along with registration procedures to allow Zoom links to be forwarded to participants.



# The First Big League No-Hitter

by Bob Tiemann

## THE FIRST BIG LEAGUE NO-HITTER – a Batter-by-Batter Account July 28, 1875, at the grounds at Twenty-fifth and Jefferson streets, Philadelphia

Chicago	ab	r	h	rbi	po	a	e	Philadelphia	ab	r	h	rbi	po	a	e
Dick Higham, c	4	0	0	0	5	2	2	Tim Murnane, 1b	4	0	1	0	13	0	1
Jim Devlin, 1b	4	0	0	0	13	0	0	Mike McGeary, 2b	4	1	1	1	5	4	2
Paul Hines, cf	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	Bob Addy, rf	4	1	2	1	0	0	1
John Glenn, lf	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	Levi Meyerle, 3b	4	1	2	1	0	0	1
John Peters, ss	3	0	0	0	0	7	0	Charley Snyder, c	4	0	0	0	4	1	0
Joe Miller, 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	Chick Fulmer, ss	4	0	0	0	0	4	1
Mike Golden, p	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	John McMullin, cf	4	0	0	0	3	0	0
Warren White, 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	Joe Borden, p	4	0	0	0	1	2	0
Oscar Bielaski, rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	Fred Treacey, lf	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
Chicago	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 = 0							Philadelphia	0 1 2 0 0 0 0 1 0 = 4						

Left on Base – Chicago 3, Philadelphia 4. Reached First on Errors – Chicago 4: Peters, Bielaski, Higham, Devlin; Philadelphia 1: Fulmer. Earned Runs (modern) – Chicago 0, Philadelphia 1. Two-base hit - Philadelphia 1: Meyerle. Stolen bases – Chicago 1: Peters; Philadelphia 1: Murnane. Struck out – Chicago 2: Miller, White; Philadelphia 4: McMullin(2), Fulmer, Borden. Bases on balls – none. Passed balls – Higham(3). Wild pitch – Golden. Time of game – 1 hour 40 minutes. Umpire – Nick E. Young. Gate receipts - \$175.75 (indicating about 370 paid admissions).

A little while back your humble editor (who has a lot to be humble about) received an e-mail from former Committee Chairman Bob Tiemann:

“The SABR Games Project account of the first professional no-hitter, July 28, 1875, has almost no accounting of the actual game. I have worked up a nearly complete batter-by-batter account of this game that may be of use to you in some future Nineteenth Century Committee Newsletter. Feel free to use it as you wish.”

Well the time has come and here is the details of Bob’s research on this game. Above is the expanded box score of the game with data not commonly included in the papers in the 1870s. Next will be Bob’s com-

ments on the game and his sources and finally will be the Batter-by-Batter Account.

Tiemann comments:

-Accounts in five Philadelphia newspapers all agreed that there were no safe hits, so there were no questionable calls in the scoring of the errors that gave Chicago first base. And the reporters and spectators were very much aware of the magnitude of a no-hit game. As in many subsequent no-hitters, outstanding fielding plays, preserved the gem. In this game, the catches by McMullin in the six inning and Teacey in the seventh inning were cited as outstanding.

-The batter-by-batter account comes mainly from in the *Philadel-*

*phia All-Day City-Item*, and there are some gaps in the timing of the runner advancements. In the top of the ninth, the only details in the *City Item* are, “The Chicagoes were retired in one-two-three order.” The Philadelphia Times says the visitors went out on “two fine stops by Josephs and a foul catch by Snyder.”

-This was Joseph Borden’s third game with the National Association Philadelphias. Pitching for the amateur J.B. Doerr team, he had been the winning pitcher in an exhibition game versus the NA Athletics on July 12<sup>th</sup>. He then debuted with the rival Phillies (or

*(Continued on page 7)*

## The First Big League No-Hitter (cont.)

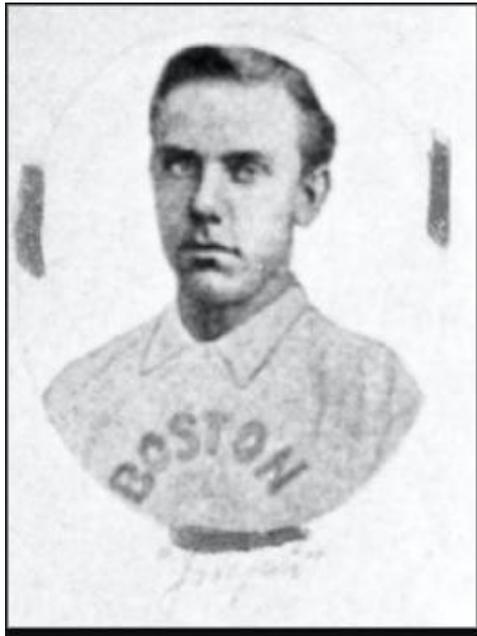
(Continued from page 6)

Pearls, or Quakers) versus the Athletics on July 24<sup>th</sup>, losing 11-4. On the 26<sup>th</sup> he pitched versus Chicago and lost 5-1 before getting his first win with this no-hitter on the 28<sup>th</sup>. His well-to-do family did not approve of baseball as a profession, so Borden used the pseudonym “Josephs,” though his real identity was known from the start. He pitched the next three championship games for Philadelphia (August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>), but a report in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* on August 13<sup>th</sup> stated that “he will pitch no more with (the Philadelphias), his father declining to allow him to do any more work of that kind.” He did resurface to pitch one more NA game versus Boston on September 2<sup>nd</sup> (a 10-inning, 8-8 tie). This was apparently an audition to give the Bostons a chance to look him over, and days later he signed a three-year contract with the Red Stockings to begin in 1876. He was slated to pitch at least one more time for the Phillies later in 1875, but failed to show up. “Josephs” did appear in a Boston uniform on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, when he pitched for the “1876 Bostons” versus the “1876 Chicagos.” This exhibition game showcased four of the 1875 Boston players who had signed with Chicago for the next year playing as White Stockings. Borden “showed a lack of practice” and was hit hard, as he and the leftover Red Stockings lost 14-0.

Sources –

Stagno Collection game accounts: *Philadelphia All-Day City Item*, *Philadelphia Times*, *Philadelphia Sunday Mercury*, *Philadelphia*

*Public Record*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *New York Clipper*, Other newspapers: *Boston Globe*,



Joe Borden aka Joe Josephs

*St. Louis Globe-Democrat* Archives: Chicago club ledgers accessed at the Chicago Historical Society

[A word on team nicknames – The newspapers mainly used “Philadelphias” and Chicagos” (or “Chicagoes”) in referring the teams. But the *City-Item* also called the home team “the Pearls” one time, while the *Times* used “Quakers.” *The Public Record* used “White Stockings” specifically to refer to Chicago.]

Batter-by-Batter Game Description:

FIRST INNING - Philadelphia won the toss and sent the Chicagos to bat shortly after 4 o'clock  
Chicago – Higham went out

on a foul bound to catcher Snyder. Devlin followed with a foul tip to Snyder. Hines out at first on a ball hit to first baseman Murnane.

Philadelphia – Murnane opened the inning for the ‘Pearls’ with a fly out to left fielder Glenn. McGeary retired at first, shortstop Peters to first baseman Devlin. Addy was out at first, pitcher Golden to first baseman Devlin.

SECOND INNING –

Chicago – Glenn retired on a fly ball to second baseman McGeary. Peters reached first base on a throwing error by second baseman McGeary. Peters stole second base as McGeary dropped Snyder’s throw. Miller grounded out, second to first, with Peters advancing to third base. Golden went out on a fly to the second baseman.

Philadelphia – Meyerle hit a beautiful two-baser between right and center field (He scored on a passed ball by Higham). Snyder out on a foul bound to catcher Higham. Fulmer retired at first on a grounder to shortstop Peters. McMullin struck out and was retired from catcher to first base.

THIRD INNING –

Chicago – White retired on a fly to shortstop Fulmer. Bielaski reached first on a fumble by second baseman McGeary. Higham forced Bielaski out on a hit to second base, but the batter reached first safely when Murnane dropped the throw trying for a double play. Devlin reached first and Higham moved to second on an error by third baseman Meyerle.

(Continued on page 8)

## The First Big League No-Hitter (cont.)

*(Continued from page 7)*

Hines grounded out, shortstop to first base.

Philadelphia – Borden (called “Josephs” in most reports of the game) went out on an easy fly to center fielder Hines. Treacey made a safe hit. Treacey moved to second on a passed ball by Higham. Murnane was retired, shortstop to first base. McGeary’s safe hit brought Treacey home with a run. Addy’s safe hit brought McGeary home with a run. Meyerle went out on a fly to center fielder Hines.

### FOURTH INNING –

Chicago – Glenn out on a fly to McGeary. McGeary also made a nice stop and threw out Peters at first. Miller struck out.

Philadelphia – Snyder out on a fly to Glenn. Fulmer popped out to Miller at second base. McMullin flied out to Glenn.

### FIFTH INNING –

Chicago – The Whites were retired on three ground outs: Golden to Borden, White to McGeary, and Bielaski to Fulmer.

Philadelphia – Borden out on a foul bound to third baseman White. Treacey was thrown out by

the shortstop. Murnane made a clean base hit and stole second on a bad throw by Higham. McGeary grounded out, shortstop to first base.

### SIXTH INNING –

Chicago – Higham was out on a fly to center fielder McMullin. Devlin was retired by the same fielder on a brilliant catch. Hines grounded out, shortstop to first base.

Philadelphia – Addy out on a little pop up to pitcher Golden. Meyerle grounded out, second base to first. Snyder out on a foul bound to the catcher.

### SEVENTH INNING –

Chicago – Glenn retired at first on a ball hit to shortstop. Peters sent a long fly to left that was caught by Treacey with one hand while running at full speed, one of the greatest catches ever seen at the Philadelphia grounds. Miller popped out to second base.

Philadelphia – Fulmer struck out but reached first on an error by catcher Higham. McMullin struck out. Fulmer reached third on a passed ball. Borden struck out and was re-

tired, catcher to first base.

Treacey was retired at first on a grounder to first baseman Devlin.

### EIGHTH INNING –

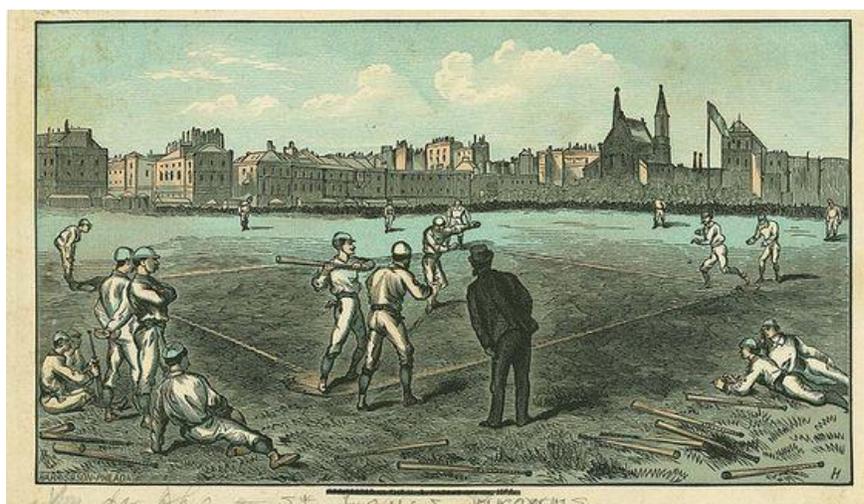
Chicago – Golden was retired on a foul fly to first baseman Murnane. White struck out and was thrown out at first base by catcher Snyder. Bielaski was out at first on a grounder to the second baseman.

### Philadelphia –

Murnane retired on a ground out, shortstop to first base. McGeary popped out to the pitcher. Addy made a clean hit to right field and advanced to third base when Bielaski let the ball get past him for an error. Meyerle’s safe hit sent Addy home with a run. Snyder flied out to the second baseman.

### NINTH INNING –

Chicago – Higham, Devlin, and Hines went out in one-two-three order on two good stops by Borden and a foul catch by Snyder. When the last out was made, the Philadelphia crowd burst into a loud ovation for what they had just witnessed.



# Jacob Lookabaugh: “The Mysterious Immutable”

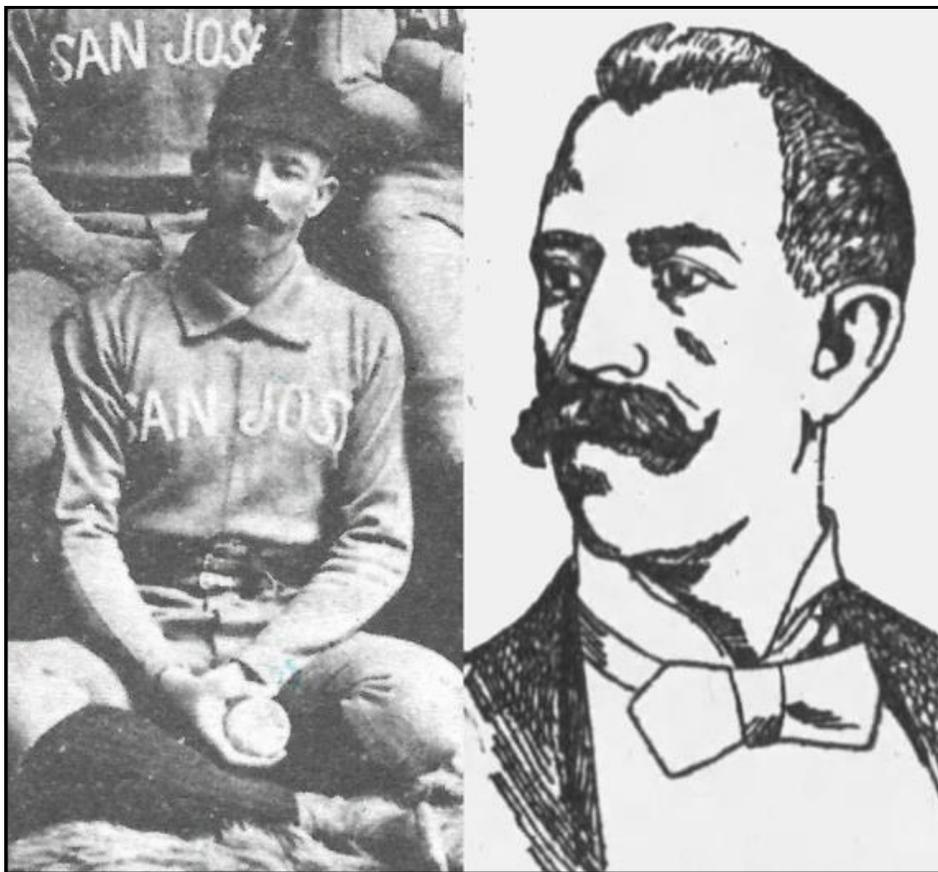
by Brian Morrison

“Lookabaugh is one of those mysterious immutables who can be batted out of the box one inning and still smile and strike out three men the next inning.”

Over a three-year period, Jacob Lookabaugh is as good of a pitcher that the competitive California League had to offer. From 1890 to 1892, the right-handed workhorse of the San Jose Dukes won 123 games, with 221 complete games and 1,986 innings pitched. That’s an average of 41 wins, 74 complete games and 662 innings per season. To put his durability into a modern-day perspective, Lookabaugh’s 1,986 innings are 725 more than current four-time all-star and two-time Cy Young award winner Jacob DeGrom has totaled in his entire eight-year major league career. He was a mere 20 innings shy of averaging nine innings per start. In 1892, a 30-year-old Lookabaugh started 90 of San Jose’s 170 games and leads the California League in innings

pitched with 803. The major league record for a season is a mere 680 innings set by 24-year-

season until persuaded by Sacramento manager Pete Sweeney to don a Senators’ uniform in the first week of July. Or perhaps he was wary of a new rule instituted during the off-season. In an effort to create more offense, professional baseball had moved the pitcher’s box, which had previously been on flat ground, back five feet from 55 1/2 feet to 60 1/2 feet from home plate. Five extra feet to the 5-foot-8, 155-pound curveball specialist must have seemed like, and probably was, too great a challenge to overcome. Lookabaugh’s last hurrah comes in 1895,



Jacob Lookabaugh with the San Jose Dukes and a more formal woodcut image

old Will White of Cincinnati in 1879.

Then comes 1893. Perhaps the luxuriously-mustached Lookabaugh knew that his arm was finished after the 800-inning season, as for the first and only time in his eight-year pro career he was a holdout come spring time. He elected to remain at his barbershop in San Jose for the first three-and-a-half months of the

after taking the mound twice for the Bloomington Suckers of the short-lived Western Interstate League which folded on May 24 three weeks after debuting. Persuaded to come to Streator, Illinois, he finished his diamond career playing the outfield (with an occasional turn on the mound) for the semipro Streator Reds. In his eight minor leagues seasons,

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Jacob Lookabaugh (cont.)

*(Continued from page 9)*

Lookabaugh was 140-133-5 with 267 complete games and nine shutouts.

Jacob Duncan Lookabaugh was born on March 28, 1862, in Armstrong, Pennsylvania, one of eight children to Jacob and Rachel Buzzard Lookabaugh. A civil war veteran with Company E of the Pennsylvania 62nd Volunteer Regiment, his father served less than two months in the Union army before being discharged on September 5, 1861. Lookabaugh got his start in organized baseball in 1887 as a 25-year-old with an amateur team in Smith Center, Kansas, and then later in Red Cloud, Nebraska. He made his professional debut a year later with Danville (Illinois) of the Central Interstate League. In 12 starts for Willard Johnson's Browns, he was 2-10 when he jumped his contract and signs with league foe Rockford. Prior to his switching teams, Lookabaugh also committed to a semipro team in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After going 2-1 with Rockford, he left for New Mexico before eventually ending up in Beatrice, Nebraska.

For a second-straight year in 1889, Lookabaugh cast his lot with teams and a league that were unable to finish the season and as a result he once again plies his wares in multiple towns. He begins the season with the Pueblo Ponies of the Colorado State League and is credited with at least four victories for the first-place Ponies before they disband on July 21 after the players hadn't been paid for two months. Some players never receive a dollar in

pay while Lookabaugh said he pocketed \$150. Following a couple of weeks playing for a semipro team in Sterling, Illinois, Lookabaugh returned to the star-crossed Colorado State League, donning the uniform of the lastplace Denver Solis. After the Solis fold on June 2, he cast his lot with another semipro team in McCook, Nebraska. Moving up to the more competitive and better paying California League in 1890, Lookabaugh signed with San Francisco and was the workhorse of manager Mike Finn's Metropolitan staff. Despite missing two weeks to injuries to his right hand, he appeared in 68 games, including 66 starts with 64 complete games and finished the season 34-29-2 with one save (by today's standards). Five times Finn started Lookabaugh on three successive days and four times he pitched in back-to-back days. He was 13-8 in one run games. From August 15 to the end of the season, the "slow curve slabster," was 21-7 and along with William "Roscoe" Coughlin, a key factor as the Metropolitans are 42-19 (.689) and go from third place and 9 1/2 games behind first-place Sacramento to tying for the regular season championship. Despite winning 34 games in 1890, San Francisco denied Lookabaugh's pay raise request in 1891 and he decided to sign with the newly-minted San Jose Dukes who were replacing Stockton in league membership. Proving his durability for a second-straight

year, Lookabaugh was 44-24 with 68 complete games and 608 innings pitched as the Dukes capture the league pennant by 5 1/2 games over his former teammates, against whom he was 15-11. Twice he had five-game winning streaks and four-game winning streaks three times. On two occasions he started four days in a row, going 3-1 each time. In the 19-game post-season championship series with Portland, champs of the Pacific Northwestern League, he was 5-4, including pitching back-to-back complete game wins in a double-header sweep of the Gladiators on January 9. After pitching over 600 innings in 1891 and nearly 1,200 innings in back-to-back seasons, Lookabaugh doubled down in 1892, appearing in a career-high 803 innings over 91 games, including 90 starts and 89 complete games for San Jose. The iron man right-hander with the big breaking pitch was 45-43-1 with a career-high four shutouts. Over a three-year span (1890-1892), Lookabaugh totaled 123 wins, 221 complete games including seven shutouts, and pitches 1,986 2/3 innings with 626 strikeouts and 787 walks. In addition, twice in his first three seasons in the California League his team won the league pennant - San Francisco in 1890 and San Jose in 1891. Following his 45-win, 800-inning season, Lookabaugh is either (1) exhausted, (2) a holdout, or (3) retired, as he remains in his adopted home

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Jacob Lookabaugh (cont.)

*(Continued from page 10)*

town of San Jose when the season started and where he owned a barber shop. He is initially rumored to be going to the Los Angeles Angels who have just parted ways with 15-game winner George Nicol, but eventually Sacramento manager J.W. Moore convinced Lookabaugh to put down his shears and come to the Capital City where he made his Sacramento debut on July 7 with a 12-8 win over Oakland. When the California League shuttered its doors on August 13, Sacramento was in last place with a 30-58 record and Lookabaugh is 4-4 with 92 hits and 36 walks allowed in 69 innings.

Following the collapse of the California League, Lookabaugh caught on with the San Jose entry in a reorganized semipro Central California League where he was winless in three starts before the team folded in early October, followed by the league soon thereafter. When George Stallings is named manager of the Southern Association's Nashville Tigers in the 1893 off-season, the 26-year-old California League vet-

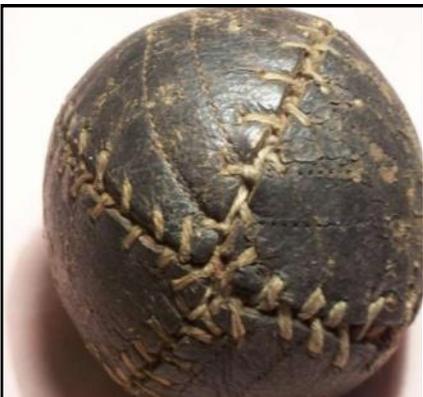
eran, sets about rebuilding the Tigers' roster with a number of West "Coast" players from his days with Oakland and San Jose. In addition to acquiring Lookabaugh, Stallings recruited fellow California League pitchers George Borchers and George Harper. Borchers led the team with 11 wins while Harper was 8-3. Lookabaugh, on the other hand, was 1-6-1 allowing 93 hits and 51 walks in only 67 innings. On May 19, he was released for the first time in his career. Lookabaugh isn't a free agent for very long signing with the Lincoln Treeplanters of the Western Association five days later. He won his first game with the Transplanters pitching a six-hitter against Quincy, but then lost six of his next seven decisions. The nadir of Lookabaugh's career may have taken place on July 11, 1894, after a 7-4 loss to the last-place Des Moines Prohibitionists. Lincoln was leading 4-1 in the seventh inning when Lookabaugh "looses control of the ball at a bad time," allowing the Prohibitionists to tally six runs on four hits and two walks in the win. After the game, several of his Treeplanter teammates express concern that Lookabaugh "sold the game" to Des Moines. Released three days later, he signed with the Omaha Omahogs where he was 3-6 in 12 games, including seven starts, be-

fore being released for the third time in four months.

He finished the year pitching semipro ball in Peru, Indiana. In 1895, Lookabaugh signed with the Bloomington Suckers of the ill-conceived and short-lived Western Interstate League. In the 22-day life span of the six-team circuit, Lookabaugh was 1-1, giving him his 140th win in a nine-year minor league career. After the league disbanded on May 24, Lookabaugh made his way to Streator, Illinois, where he plays out his competitive playing days with the town's semipro team for five seasons. Following his playing days, Lookabaugh continued his barbershop business in Lynnville, Illinois.

Lookabaugh passed away on July 3, 1925, in East Moline, Illinois at the age of 63.

This piece comes from Brian Morison who writes on *Diamonds in the Dusk*, a website that posts stories on baseball's little-known oddities. See [diamondsinthedusk.com](http://diamondsinthedusk.com)



# Overlooked Legend Preliminary Election Results

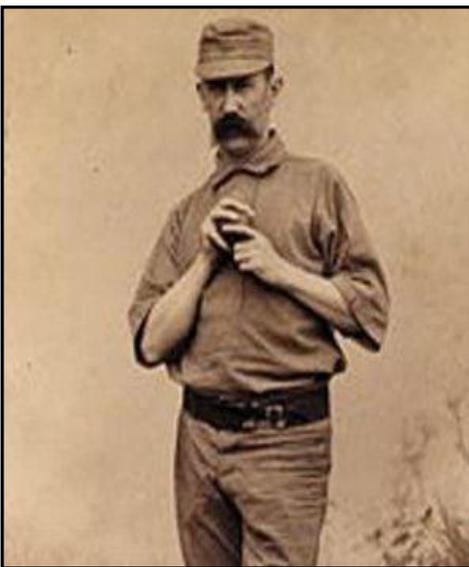
**A**dam Darowski reports the results of the SABR 19th Century Overlooked Legend Preliminary Election Results:

“The preliminary election ended at midnight (March 16) and I have the results. We had 179 ballots. These are the results. **As a reminder, the top three from each track are finalists.** Each track is color-coded.

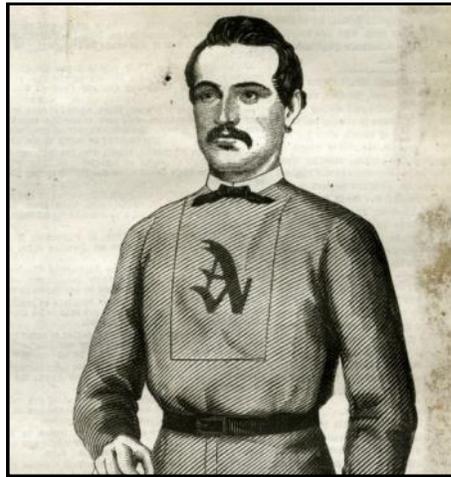
“Wait, what about Gaffney? Yes, he tied with Sodon. In other instances, I may have named both as finalists. But given the low support in general of the MEU group, I did not think it was appropriate to give them the highest representation on the ballot. As the tie-breaker, I went back to our committee vote, where Soden edged Gaffney by a vote.

“Interestingly, we also had a tie at the top, but that does not matter at this point. “

-Photos of Leading Vote Getters in each track



Bobby Mathews



Al Reach



GEORGE STOVEY



Chris Von der Ahe

Name	Votes
Al Reach (PC)	135
George Stovey (BB)	135
Bobby Mathews (PL)	129
Chris Von der Ahe (MEU)	123
Tommy Bond (PL)	118
Grant "Home Run" Johnson (BB)	103
Cal McVey (PC)	92
Paul Hines (PL)	85
Octavius Catto (BB)	84
George Van Haltren (PL)	82
Jimmy Ryan (PL)	78
Jim McCormick (PL)	72
Joe Start (PC)	71
Charlie Grant (BB)	56
Frank Bancroft (MEU)	50
Dick McBride (PC)	49
Francis Richter (PC)	41
William Wheaton (PC)	40
Frank Leland (BB)	40
Charlie Buffinton (PL)	39
Arthur Soden (MEU)	29
John Gaffney (MEU)	29
Nick Young (MEU)	22
S.K. "Cos" Govern (BB)	21
Colonel Thomas Fitzgerald (PC)	19
Henry V. Lucas (MEU)	18
Carlos Royer (BB)	18
Jack Sheriden (MEU)	12

# News & Notes

-Committee Member, author, 19th Century Contributor, New Jersey native, and Bob Davids Award Recipient Bill Lamb has been named the selection for the Russell Gabay Award by SABR's Elysian Fields Chapter.

-In his perusal of newspapers from the 19th Century John Thorn, committee co-founder, reports the following from New York Herald of April 6, 1846:

"FIELD SPORTS--The Knickerbocker Base Ball Club commence playing for the season, on Tuesday next, at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken."

He notes, "This is not the first appearance of baseball in the

daily press, nor even of the Knicks, who came in for mention in the Herald's November 11, 1845 report of an intramural game of the New York Base Ball Club: 'After the match, the parties took dinner at Mr. McCarty's, Hoboken, as a wind up for the season. The Club were honored by the presence of representatives from the Union Star Cricket Club, the Knickerbocker Clubs, senior and junior, and other gentlemen of note."

Interestingly, the Knicks visited the Stars in Brooklyn on April 13, 1846 to play what would have been their first match game, but were rained out. This was reported in the Herald of the following day.

- The third season of the 19th Century Speakers Series will come to a close on May 9, 2023. We are currently seeking a few additional speakers for the 2023-

2024 season. The series runs from September to May each season. We consider any presentation with strong links to 19th Century baseball. If you would like to be considered for a slot in the 2023-2024 season, send an abstract of 200-400 words on your potential presentation to Peter Mancuso

(peterplus4@earthlink.net) and Bob Bailey (bobbailey@cox.net).

The schedule will be set in early summer.

-As always, we are looking for articles on 19th Century baseball for the Newsletter. The next Newsletter is scheduled for release in July 2023. Please email articles or questions the the Newsletter editor at

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