

The INSIDE GAME



The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

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THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by John McMurray

1914-1915 CRACKER JACK BASEBALL CARDS

The accessibility of the Deadball Era derives, in part, from the many existing images of players from the period. It is worthwhile to recall that some of the most vivid and enduring player portrayals are on contemporary baseball cards. The most famous Deadball Era cards are from the T205 and T206 sets, which are large, comprehensive, and relatively available tobacco issues (with some notable exceptions). Still, many collectors prefer the 1914-1915 Cracker Jack cards even if these cards are more expensive and difficult to locate, as they likely are the most impressive baseball cards issued during the Deadball Era. The Cracker Jack cards (sometimes known by the E145-1 designation for the 1914 set and E145-2 for 1915, with caramel cards having an 'E' set designation rather than 'T' for tobacco) are a wonderful window into the Deadball Era in the middle of its second decade.

With a clean presentation and bright red backgrounds, the Cracker Jack cards had the most eye-appeal of any card issued to date. Today, some collectors still consider them to be

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2018 LARRY RITTER AWARD NOMINEES

Biography, ballpark history, storied major league teams, and close pennant races are among the topics covered by the nominees for the 2018 Larry Ritter Award. Indeed, no fewer than nineteen works with diverse Deadball Era-related content published during the past year will be scrutinized by the award committee. The contenders, various of which were reviewed in past issues of this newsletter, are:

The Half-Game Pennant of 1908: Four Teams Chase Victory in the American League, by Charles Alexander (McFarland);

Casey Stengel: Baseball's Greatest Character, by Marty Appel (Doubleday);

National Pastime: US History Through Baseball, by Martin C. Babicz and Thomas W. Zeller (Rowman & Littlefield);

Red Sox vs. Braves in Boston: The Battle for Fans' Hearts, 1901-1952, by Charlie Bevis (McFarland);

Showdown at Rickwood: Ray Caldwell, Dizzy Dean, and the Early Years of America's Oldest Ballpark, 1910-1931, by Art Black (Blue Rooster Press);

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Borchert Field: Stories from Milwaukee's Legendary Ballpark, by Bob Bluege (Wisconsin Historical Press);

St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team, by Bill Borst, Bill Rogers, and Ed Wheatley (Reedy Press);

Connie Mack's First Dynasty: The Philadelphia Athletics, 1910-1914, by Lew Freedman (McFarland);

Hitting Secrets from Baseball's Graveyard: A Diehard Student of History Reconstructs Batmanship of the Late Deadball Era, by John R. Harris (independently published);

Ken Williams: A Slugger in Ruth's Shadow, by Dave Heller (McFarland);

From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball During the Great War, by Jim Leeke (University of Nebraska Press);

Black Baseball in New York City: An Illustrated History, 1885-1959, by Larry Lester (McFarland);

1917-2017, One Hundred Years of White Sox Baseball: Highlighting the Great 1917 World Championship Team, by Mark Pienkos (The Peppertree Press);

When Baseball Met Big Bill Haywood: The Battle for Manchester, New Hampshire, 1912-1916, by Scott Roper and Stephanie Abbot Roper (McFarland);

Ed Bolden and Black Baseball in Philadelphia, by Courtney Michelle Smith (McFarland);

Urban Shocker: Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age, by Steve Steinberg (University of Nebraska Press);

Baseball's Business: The Winter Meetings, 1901-1957, Volume 1, Steven Weingarden and Bill Nowlin, eds. (SABR);

Sportsman's Park in St. Louis: Home of the Browns and the Cardinals at Grand and Dodier, Greg Wolfe (author, editor), James Forr, Bill Nowlin, and others editors (SABR), and,

Legendary Lumber: The Top 100 Player Bats in Baseball History, by Joe Orlando, Tom Zappala, and Ellen Zappala (Peter E. Randall).

First presented in 2002, the Larry Ritter Award is the centerpiece of the Deadball Era Committee's endeavors and is bestowed annually upon the best work set primarily in the Deadball Era published during the preceding year. The award is named in honor of late DEC member Lawrence S. Ritter, the author of *The Glory of Their Times*, the work that revived interest in the Deadball Era and often cited as the greatest baseball book ever written. The task of reviewing this year's award nominees is assigned to a DEC committee chaired by Doug Skipper, with John McMurray, Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Craig Lammers, Mark Pattison, and Ben Klein as the other judges. The nominees' list will be pared down to four finalists in early March, with the 2018 Larry Ritter Award to be publicly announced the following month. Coverage of the award selection process and the winning work will appear in the next issue of *The Inside Game*.



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

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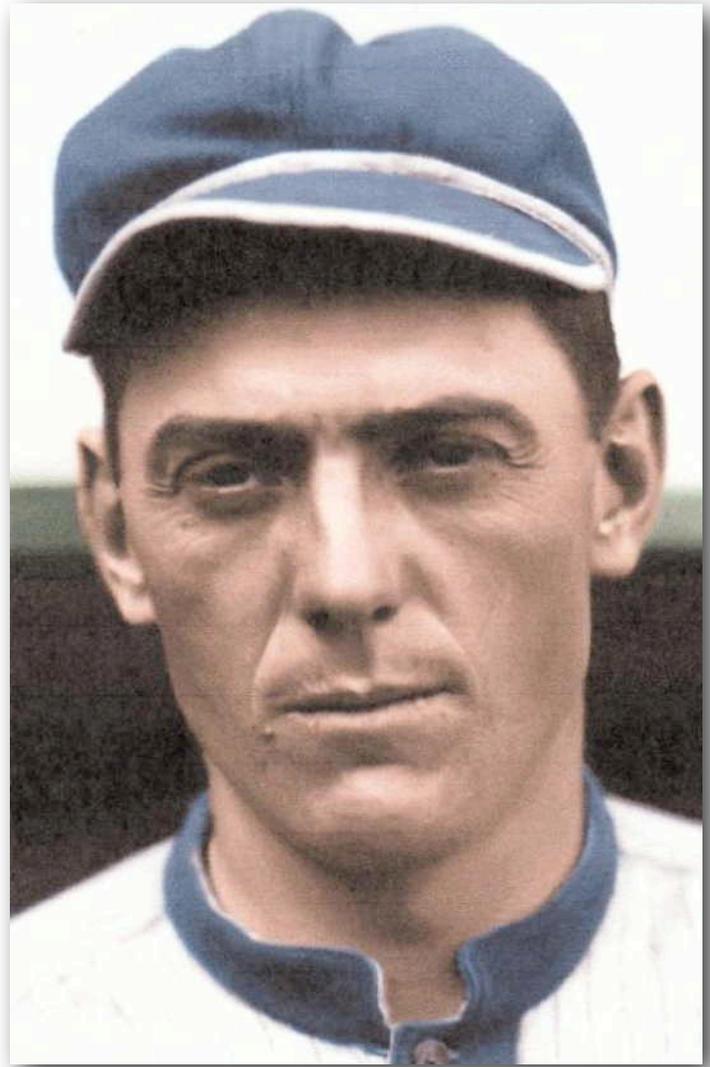
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ACCURATE RBI RECORDS FOR PLAYERS OF THE DEADBALL ERA: PART 14 — THE PLAYERS ON THE 1910 DETROIT TIGERS

by Herm Krabbenhoft

The baseball diamond is loaded with nemeses. For example, Chicago White Sox *pitcher* Frank Lange was the nemesis of Boston's Tris Speaker on June 16, 1912 — he collared The Grey Eagle in five at bats (once via the strikeout route), thereby snapping Speaker's 20-game hitting streak. Then, in the very next game, Speaker started a new hitting streak that reached 30 games. Thus, the bottom line is that nemesis Lange interrupted Spoke's 51-game hitting streak. Similarly, Boston Red Sox *batsman* Harry Hooper was the nemesis of Philadelphia's Herb Pennock on April 14, 1915 — he connected for a ninth-inning single. That was the only hit that Pennock allowed in the game. Thus, nemesis Hooper denied Pennock hurling a no-hitter in that game — on Opening Day! There have been many, many other instances of a pitcher being the nemesis of a batter or a batter being the nemesis of a pitcher. How about a fielder being the nemesis of a batter? How about this: Washington Nationals *center fielder* Clyde Milan was the record-denying nemesis of Detroit's Sam Crawford on June 9, 1910. In each of the eleven previous games (from May 28 through June 8), the Wahoo Man had driven in at least one run. Because of Milan's phenomenal fielding, Crawford failed to bat in a run in that contest and thereby his Consecutive-Games-Run-Batted-In (CGRUNBI) streak was terminated, one game shy of an even dozen games.

Crawford's CGRUNBI streak of eleven games is the longest such streak that I have uncovered thus far in the research project I undertook a few years ago to find out if any player from the Deadball Era put together a CGRUNBI streak longer than those assembled by Ray Grimes (17 games with the Chicago Cubs in 1920) and Tris Speaker (14 games with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1928) — the current holders of the NL and AL records, respectively.¹ Because RBIs were not recorded officially prior to 1920, there



Clyde Milan

are no *official* game-by-game RBI records before 1920. Thus, to ascertain the longest pre-1920 CGRUNBI streaks, one must do the research to generate the requisite *unofficial* game-by-game RBI information. It is important to note, however, that *unofficial full-season* RBI stats are available for the players of the Deadball Era from two sources:

- (1) Ernie Lanigan, who contemporaneously compiled RBI statistics — *unofficially* — from 1907 through 1919. Lanigan's RBI statistics were presented in various publications, such as *The Sporting News*, *Baseball Magazine*, newspapers (e.g., *New York Press*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*), and books (e.g., *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball* by

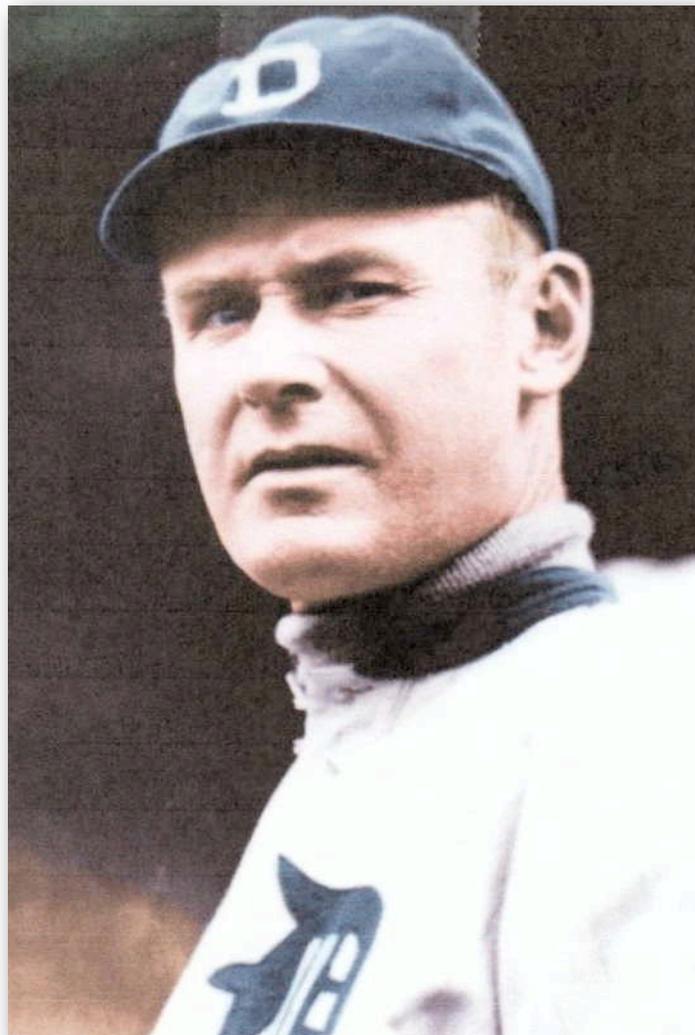
Turkin and Thompson, and *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball* by Spink).^{2,3}

(2) David S. Neft, who directed a research effort in the mid-1960s to compile RBI statistics — *unofficially* — from 1890 through 1919. Neft's RBI statistics were presented in *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (published by Macmillan in 1969), and *Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (by Neft and Cohen).^{4,5} Neft's RBI statistics have also been incorporated "as-is" into the baseball database created by Pete Palmer and thereby perpetuated in two other baseball encyclopedias (*Total Baseball* by Thorn and Palmer and *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* by Gillette and Palmer) as well as numerous websites (e.g., MLB.com, Baseball-Reference.com, and retrosheet.org).^{6,7} Similarly, Neft's RBI statistics were also incorporated by STATS into its database and thereby disseminated in the STATS *All-Time Baseball Sourcebook* and *All-Time Major League Handbook* as well as numerous "Team Media Guides" and other publications.^{8,9}

Unfortunately, whatever game-by-game RBI information Lanigan and Neft collected for players of the Deadball Era is no longer extant.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

For the present investigation, I utilized the same rigorous *modus operandi* employed in my previous research efforts.¹⁰⁻²² Thus, for each of the 679 runs scored by the Tigers in 1910, I sought to obtain three critical components: (a) the identity of the player who scored the run; (b) the details of the run-scoring event [e.g., a 2-RBI double, a balk, a 1-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error), a 0-RBI grounder (batter safe on a fielding error), a 1-RBI bases-loaded walk, etc.]; and (c) the identity of the player who completed his plate appearance during the run-scoring event (i.e., the player who could be credited with batting in the run). I followed the appropriate official scoring rules to credit or not credit for RBIs.²³ I then provided the complete documentation that I assembled to Retrosheet's



Sam Crawford

Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for their independent review, upon which we achieved 100% agreement and Retrosheet decided to incorporate all of the runs-scored and runs-batted-in numbers in its Box Score file (and derived Player Daily files) in its next (Summer-2018) release of updated information.²⁴ Appendix A-1 (available on SABR.org) provides a tabulation of the critical "(a)-(b)-(c)" information for each of the 679 runs scored by the 1910 Tigers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

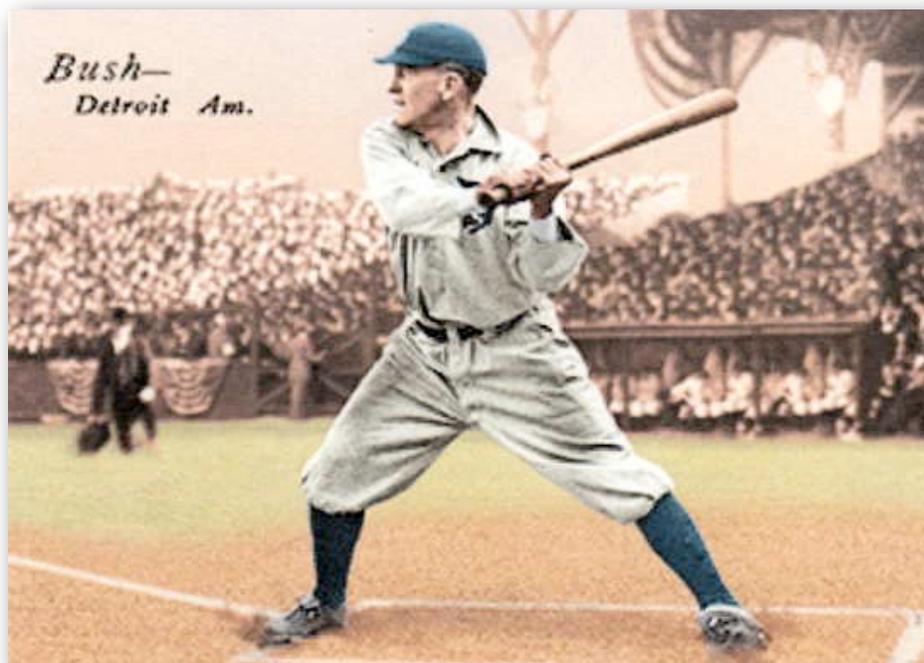
Table 1 presents the RBI numbers, according to my research, for each of the 30 players who participated in at least one game for the Detroit Tigers in the 1910 campaign. Also shown for comparison are the RBI numbers claimed by

Neft.⁴⁻⁵ I was not successful in my efforts to locate a comprehensive list of RBI numbers according to Lanigan for the 1910 season.

Inspection of Table 1 reveals that, according to my research, there are “either-or” RBI numbers for three players — Sam Crawford (either 119 or 120 or 121 RBIs), Jim Delahanty (either 49 or 50 RBIs) and George Moriarty (either 63 or 64 RBIs). The reason for these either-or RBI numbers is that there are two distinctly different descriptions of who batted in whom for the Detroit-at-Cleveland game on September

10, 1910. In this game, Crawford had either 2 or 3 or 4 RBIs, Delahanty had either 0 or 1 RBI, and Moriarty had either 3 or 4 RBIs, with the total RBIs divided among these three players being seven. The pertinent information for this game is provided in Appendix A-2.

The RBI numbers ascertained in my research and the RBI numbers claimed by Neft are in agreement for 16 or 17 of the 30 players (i.e., 53% or 57% agreement). For the principal position players (i.e., those who played in at least 70 games), there is agreement for only two or three of the ten players (i.e., 20% or 30%), which is in line with the results from my previous studies.¹⁰⁻²² With regard to the magnitude of the differences [i.e., delta (Δ) values], it is seen that the range is minus-three to plus-four. According to Neft, the top-three RBI leaders for the American League in 1910 are Crawford (120), Cobb (91), and Eddie Collins (81). According to Lanigan, these players had the following RBI numbers: Crawford (115), Cobb (88), and Collins (80). The range of my RBI numbers for Crawford (119 or 120 or 121) includes Neft’s 120 RBIs, while my RBI number for Cobb (88) is in agreement with Lanigan’s 88 RBIs; my RBI number for Bush (32) does not agree with Neft (34) or Lanigan (31).²⁻⁵ Because game-by-game



Donie Bush

RBI statistics are not available as support for Neft’s full-season RBIs nor for Lanigan’s full-season RBIs, it is not possible to identify the specific games that lead to the differences in full-season RBI numbers. It is re-emphasized that I have assembled compelling game-by-game evidence in support of the full-season RBI numbers claimed in this work and that the supporting evidence has been independently reviewed by Tom Ruane and Dave Smith with the result that we have achieved 100% concurrence of the RBI statistics which will be included in the Retrosheet box score file and the derived Retrosheet player-daily file.²⁴

With reliable game-by-game RBI statistics in hand, one can extract accurate CGRUNBI streak information. As indicated at the outset of this article, according to my research, in 1910 Sam Crawford achieved a CGRUNBI streak of eleven games. Table 2 presents the pertinent details for his streak as well as for a few additional games before and after the streak. Appendix A-3 provides the complete details for each of the plate appearances Crawford had in each of the games from May 27 through June 15,

Crawford began his 11-CGRUNBI streak on May 28. In the preceding game, on May 27, Crawford went hitless in three at bats against Walter

Johnson, who tossed a two-hitter as Washington defeated the Tigers 2-1. Crawford did, however, have a hand in Detroit's solitary marker. In the fourth inning, with Bush on first base with one out, Crawford grounded to third baseman Conroy who threw to first to retire Crawford. But Bush hightailed it to third and drew a wild throw from primary sacker Unglaub, which allowed Bush to run home. That was the fifth straight game in which the Wahoo Man had been shut out in the RBI department.

Crawford commenced his RBI streak with a fielder's choice ribbie in his final at-bat against the White Sox in Detroit. With Donie Bush on third base in the sixth inning with one out, Crawford sent a grounder to third baseman Rollie Zeider who fielded the ball and threw to catcher Bruno Block at the plate. But Bush beat the throw home and scored. So, thanks to Bush's speed on the basepath, Crawford earned an RBI.

Crawford extended his streak to two games the next day against the Browns in the St. Louis, again in his final at bat. Crawford brought Ty Cobb home from third base with a nobody-out single to right. Crawford repeated this on the next day, in the first game of a Memorial Day doubleheader. Then in the second game of the twin-bill he picked up a first-inning RBI with a groundout that plated Bush from the hot corner. The Wahoo Man extended his skein to five games in the final contest of the series versus the Browns on the last day of May — his third-inning single brought Bush home from third.

Crawford upped his string to six games in the June 3 series opener against the Athletics to begin a 22-game homestand — his fourth-frame triple drove in both Bush (from third) and Cobb (from first). This was the first of two multiple-RBI games that he achieved during his CGRUNBI streak. In the next two games versus the Philadelphia nine, Crawford again collected his RBIs without making a hit — on June 4 he sent in Bush with a third-session sacrifice fly. And on June 5 he again benefited from Bush's speed and prowess on the basepaths — with Bush on the keystone and one out, Crawford sent a grounder to shortstop Stuffie McInnis, who

managed to stop the ball with one hand and throw Crawford out. Bush, who had started with the pitch and tore for home without pausing at third, easily beat first sacker Harry Davis' relay to backstop Jack Lapp.

The Wahoo Man's first-inning triple plated Cobb from second base in the opener of a four game series with the Nationals on June 6. In the next day's contest Crawford had his second 2-RBI game, both of his RBIs coming on groundouts, Bush tallying in the fourth frame and Davy Jones denting the plate in the fifth stanza. Crawford had now reached double digits in his CGRUNBI streak. He extended his streak to eleven games on June 8 with an RBI single in the eighth inning, bringing in Bush from the third station. Then, in the closing game of the Tigers-Nationals series, Clyde Milan was the principal player in thwarting Crawford's efforts to stretch the streak to an even dozen games.

In the first inning of the June 9 fray, according to the account given in the *Detroit Free Press*, "Bush walked after McIntyre had beaten the breezes. Cobb dissected the infield with a single that nobody could reach, Bush being held at second. Then Crawford drove a liner to center field, on which Milan perpetrated his daylight robbery. Bush streaked for home when the ball was hit and easily was doubled before he had a chance to think about going back." The description in the *Detroit Times* provided this additional information on the play: "Milan slid fifteen feet along the grass to catch Crawford's hard smash and Bush, who had run all the way home, was doubled at second, [shortstop] McBride getting the put out." Coverage of Milan's first-inning defensive gem was also highlighted in several DC newspapers. The *Washington Evening Star* headlined Milan as a hero, exclaiming "Milan's Work Sensational." In the accompanying article, J. Ed Grillo wrote, "Milan's star play came in the first inning. Walter Johnson had walked Bush after striking out McIntyre, and Cobb got a hit. This brought Crawford up and he sent a line drive to short center. There did not seem to be a chance for Milan to get the ball, but he came in like a deer, slid, made the catch, turned a somersault, and

threw to second in time to double up Bush. Milan was cheered all the way in from the field.” Similarly, William Pert of the *Washington Herald* wrote, “Milan’s greatest performance was a catch of Crawford’s liner in the first inning that kept Detroit from scoring. Had he failed, the whole course of the game might have been changed. Milan came in fast on a low line drive, saw he could not reach the ball standing up, and slid at least fifteen feet head first and caught the ball just before it hit the ground.” And, the *Washington Post* account had this summary: “Milan got away with another of his sensational shoestring catches in the opening inning, robbing Crawford of a hit and breaking up a rally by doubling Bush off second. The catch was a magnificent fielding feat, so difficult in fact that many believed Milan had trapped the ball.”

Milan wasn’t done with his nemesising of the Wahoo Man. In Crawford’s next at bat, leading off the fourth frame, Milan took a “sure” home run away from Crawford by making a catch of his fly ball in deep center field. E.A. Batchelor wrote the following in his article for the *Detroit Free Press*, “Milan went a mile back on a dead run to pull down a drive from the Wahoo Man’s bat.” In the *Washington Evening Star* Grillo wrote, “In the fourth inning Milan robbed Crawford of a home run drive when he ran far out into center and pulled down his long drive.” And Pert included this description in his account for the *Washington Herald*: “Milan went almost to the scoreboard in deep left center for Crawford’s smash in the fourth. When the ball started out it looked like a sure home run.” In the sixth session, with the bases empty and one out, Crawford was retired on fly out to left fielder Jack Lelivelt. And in his final at bat (in the ninth inning, with nobody on and one out), Crawford grounded to shortstop George McBride, who booted the ball. So, Sam Crawford’s batting performance that day was four at-bats, no runs, no hits, and no runs batted in. And his 11-CGRUNBI streak was finished. What if ...

As shown in Table 2, right after Milan terminated Crawford’s 11-CGRUNBI streak, the Wahoo Man embarked on another CGRUNBI streak, which lasted for four games. Had Milan

not performed his heroic fielding feats in the June 9 game, the Wahoo Man would have put together a 16-CGRUNBI streak — an accomplishment two games longer than the current AL record mentioned previously. Nonetheless, Crawford’s 11-CGRUNBI streak is now the benchmark for the Deadball Era, as indicated in Table 3, which lists the longest CGRUNBI streak ascertained for each team thus far (i.e., for the 1908-1919 seasons as obtainable from the Retrosheet website).²⁵ Also shown for comparison are the current leaders for the “original” sixteen Deadball Era teams.²⁶

Examination of Table 3 reveals three particularly interesting items. First, Bob Fisher — with a 9-CGRUNBI streak in 1913 — is currently the team leader for the Deadball Era Brooklyn Dodgers as well as the present-day Los Angeles Dodgers (although Augie Galan and Roy Campanella equaled the mark in 1944 and 1955, respectively). Second, Babe Ruth — with a 7-CGRUNBI streak in 1919 — is currently the team leader for the Deadball Era Boston Red Sox and — with an 11-CGRUNBI streak in 1931 — is also the current team co-leader (with Joe DiMaggio) for the New York Yankees. Third, for four of the teams — Cardinals, Indians, Browns, and Nationals — the longest CGRUNBI streak in the Deadball Era (at least for the 1908-1919 seasons) is just five games. The likely reason for these particularly low values is that full-season game-by-game RBI statistics are not yet available in the Retrosheet box score files (and the derived player-daily files) for quite a number of games. Table 4 illustrates this predicament.

It can be reasonably expected that reducing the number of games with blank-RBI columns will result in finding some players with longer CGRUNBI streaks. A particularly cogent example of this situation is given by the Retrosheet box score file for the 1910 Detroit Tigers, which was released in the summer of 2017. Upon its release, the Retrosheet box score file for the 1910 Detroit Tigers had 22 games for which the RBI column was blank — including the four games on May 29, 30 (1), 30 (2), and June 5. Similarly, referral to any Detroit player’s daily file shows blank RBI

cells for these dates. Thus, at the time of the Retrosheet release, the longest CGRUNBI streak for a Detroit Tigers player was *apparently* four games, achieved by both Cobb (June 22-25) and Crawford (May 12-16). However, when the RBI statistics determined in my research — including each of the 22 games for which Retrosheet was missing RBI stats — are incorporated, Crawford emerged with his 11-CGRUBI streak: the Wahoo Man had one RBI in each of the “missing-RBIs” games on May 29, 30 (1), 30 (2), and June 5, which dovetailed perfectly with the RBIs he collected in each of the games on May 28 and 31 and June 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8; see Table 2. So, the message is crystal-clear — there may be significantly longer CGRUNBI streaks (partially) hidden in the “missing-RBIs” games. Hopefully, others will join the effort to ascertain complete and accurate RBI records for the players of the Deadball Era by researching Retrosheet’s “missing-RBIs” games for their favorite teams and players.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Table 5 presents the players who assembled the longest CGRUNBI streak each season during the 1908-1919 period, according to the statistical information provided on the Retrosheet website (and in this article); also shown are the Detroit Tigers players who came up with the longest CGRUNBI streak during these years.

As can be seen, looking ahead back to the 1909 season, Jake Stahl of the Red Sox appears to have assembled the longest CGRUNBI streak, a 6-gamer. The longest CGRUNBI streak for the players on the 1909 Detroit Tigers appears to be the 3-gamers put together by Cobb and Crawford. And, as things stand now, the top-ten longest CGRUNBI streaks during the Deadball Era (based on the information currently available on the Retrosheet website and the research reported in this article) are shown in Table 6.

Finally, it is pointed out that the unofficial game-by-game runs-scored numbers ascertained in my research for the players on the 1910 Detroit Tigers are in complete accord with the corresponding runs-scored numbers shown on

the official Day-By-Day (DBD) records. Such complete concurrence is not usual — as shown previously, my research has discovered runs-scored errors in the official DBD records of Tigers players on the 1906, 1911-1916, and 1918-1919 teams.²⁷⁻³² See also Appendix A-2 for the details of an error discovered in the official DBD records for a base on balls mistakenly credited to Tom Jones instead of Davy Jones in the Detroit-versus-Cleveland game on April 15, 1910.

Next up on my schedule for ascertaining accurate runs-batted-in (and runs-scored) records is the 1909 Tigers — the last year of three-consecutive AL pennants for Detroit and the year that Ty Cobb won the triple crown, leading the Junior Circuit in RBIs with 107 (according to Neft) or 115 (according to Lanigan). And, as shown in Table 5, according to the information presently available the Retrosheet website, Cobb and Crawford each fashioned the longest CGRUNBI streak for the Tigers that year — paltry 3-gamers. So, it will be important to find out if filling in the 66 “RBI-blanks” results in even longer CGRUNBI streaks — Tyrus Raymond could end up with a 10-gamer; the Wahoo Man could emerge with another 11-gamer.

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 23. Runs-Batted-In statistics were not *officially recorded* until the 1920; moreover, the Run-Batted-In was not even *officially defined* until 1931. (a) Official Scoring Rule for Runs Batted In (1920-1930) — *The summary shall contain: The number of runs batted in by each batsman.* [Rule 86, Section B] (b) Official Scoring Rule for Runs Batted In (1931) — *Runs Batted In are runs scored on safe hits (including home runs), sacrifice hits, outfield put-outs, infield put-outs, and when the run is forced over by reason of the batsman becoming a base-runner. With less than two outs, if an error is made on a play on which a runner from third would ordinarily score, credit the batsman with a Run Batted In.* [Rule 70, Section 13]

24. Email correspondence between Herm Krabbenhoft and Tom Ruane and Dave Smith, December 9-17, 2017.
25. Tom Ruane, personal communications (emails) to Herm Krabbenhoft, December 11, 2017.
26. For simplicity, the “original” sixteen Deadball Era teams are the teams shown in Table 3. It is, of course, appreciated that the original 1901 Milwaukee Brewers franchise was succeeded by the St. Louis Browns franchise in 1902 and that the original 1901-1902 Baltimore Orioles franchise was succeeded by the New York Highlanders (Yankees) in 1903.
27. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Missing ... Found ... Phantom: The Accurate Runs-Scored Record for the 1906 Detroit Tigers,” *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, No. 2 (April 2014), 3.
28. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era: The Players on the 1911 Detroit Tigers,” *The Inside Game*, Volume XVII, No. 4 (September 2017), 4.
29. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era: The Players on the 1912, 1914, and 1915 Detroit Tigers,” *The Inside Game*, Volume XVII, No. 3 (June 2017), 21.
30. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era: The Players on the 1913 Detroit Tigers,” *The Inside Game*, Volume XVI, No. 4 (September 2016), 15.
31. Herm Krabbenhoft, “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era: The Players on the 1916 Detroit Tigers,” *The Inside Game*, Volume XVI, No. 2 (April 2016), 19.
32. For the runs-scored errors discovered in the official DBD records of the players on the 1918 and 1919 Detroit Tigers, see references 14 and 12, respectively. As stated in reference 15, there are no runs-scored errors in the official DBD records for the players on the 1917 Detroit Tigers.

There is one Tiger recruit who does not have to worry over the blue envelope. He is John Couch, a pitcher. John and his five brothers own a 16,000-acre cattle ranch in Montana.

Chicago Eagle, April 21, 1917

TABLE 1. RUNS-BATTED-IN NUMBERS FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1910 DETROIT TIGERS

Player (G)	RBI (This Work)	RBI (Neft)	RBI Δ	Player	RBI (This Work)	RBI (Neft)	RBI Δ
Heinie Beckendorf (3)	2	2	0	Art Loudell (5)	1	1	0
Frank Browning (11)	0	0	0	Matty McIntyre (83)	25	25	0
Donie Bush (142)	32	34	(2)	George Moriarty (136)	63 or 64	60	3 or 4
Joe Casey (23)	2	2	0	George Mullin (50)	11	11	0
Ty Cobb (140)	88	91	(3)	Charley O'Leary (65)	11	9	2
Sam Crawford (154)	119, 120, or 121	120 (1), 0, or 1		Marv Peasley (2)	0	0	0
Jim Delahanty (106)	49 or 50	45	4 or 5	Hub Pernoll (11)	1	0	1
Bill Donovan (26)	2	2	0	Boss Schmidt (71)	27	23	4
Hughie Jennings (1)	0	0	0	Hack Simmons (42)	7	9	(2)
Davy Jones (113)	22	24	(2)	Dave Skeels (1)	0	0	0
Tom Jones (135)	48	45	3	Oscar Stange (88)	25	25	0
Ed Killian (11)	1	1	0	Sailor Stroud (28)	0	1	(1)
Jay Kirke (8)	3	3	0	Ed Summers (30)	6	7	(1)
Chick Lathers (41)	5	3	2	Ed Willett (38)	4	4	0
Bill Lelivelt (1)	0	0	0	Ralph Works (18)	1	1	0

NOTES:

- (1) Players shown in boldface indicates that they are considered “principal players” (i.e., they played in at least 70 games).
- (2) A Δ value enclosed in parentheses indicates that the “This Work” RBI number is less than Neft’s RBI number.
- (3) The following Lanigan RBI numbers have been reported — Bush (31), Cobb (88), Crawford (115).²⁻³

**TABLE 2. RBI INFORMATION FOR SAM CRAWFORD
FOR GAMES FROM MAY 27 THROUGH JUNE 15, 1910**

Game	OPP	I-BO	Result	RBI
May 27	WAS*	—	Went hitless in 3 at bats with no RBIs; see text.	—
May 28	CHI	6-T	Hit 1-out grounder to 3rd baseman who threw home, Bush beating the throw: SOFC-1	1
May 29	STL*	9-T	Hit 0-out single to right, batting in Cobb: S-1	1
May 30 (1)	STL*	8-BL	Hit 1-out sacrifice fly to right field, batting in Stroud: SF-1	1
May 30 (2)	STL*	1-ST	Hit 1-out grounder to pitcher who threw out Crawford at 1st, Bush scoring: GO-1	1
May 31	STL*	3-ST	Hit 2-out single through the box, batting in Bush: S-1	1
June 3	PHI	4-FS	Hit 2-out triple to deep right, batting in Bush and Cobb: T-2	2
June 4	PHI	3-FT	Hit 0-out sacrifice fly to right field, batting in Bush: SF-1	1
June 5	PHI	3-S	Hit 1-out grounder to shortstop who threw Crawford out at 1st, Bush scoring: GO-1	1
June 6	WAS	1-S	Hit 1-out triple to deep left, batting in Cobb: T-1	1
June 7	WAS	4-ST	Hit 0-out grounder to 1st baseman who tagged out Crawford, Bush scoring: GO-1	2
		5-ST	Hit 2-out infield single to second, batting in D. Jones: S-1	
June 8	WAS	8-T	Hit 1-out single to right, batting in Bush: S-1	1
June 9	WAS	—	Went hitless in 4 at bats with no RBIs; see text.	—
June 10	NY	6-T	Hit 1-out sacrifice fly to right field, batting in Cobb: SF-1	1
June 11	NY	2-BE	Hit 0-out home run into left field bleachers: HR-1	1
June 12	NY	1-ST	Hit 1-out grounder to 2nd baseman who threw Crawford out at 1st, Bush scoring: GO-1	2
		3-T	Hit 1-out sacrifice fly, batting in Cobb: SF-1	
June 13	NY	5-S	Hit 2-out single to left, batting in Bush: S-1	1
June 15	BOS	—	Went 1-for-4 (single) with no RBIs; see text.	—

NOTES:

- (1) The "I-BO" column gives the Inning and the Bases Occupied at the time Crawford batted; the "BO" symbols are — BE (Bases Empty); F (First base only); S (Second base only); T (Third base only); FS (First and Second); FT (First and Third); ST (Second and Third); and BL (Bases Loaded).
- (2) The "OPP" column gives the team that opposed Detroit; an asterisk attached to the OPP team indicates the game was played there.
- (3) The "Result" column gives the result of Crawford's plate appearance.
- (4) The "RBI" column gives the total unofficial RBIs credited to Crawford for the game.

TABLE 3. PLAYERS FROM THE DEADBALL ERA WITH THE LONGEST CGRUBI STREAK FOR EACH TEAM (1908-1919)

Team (NL)	DEADBALL ERA LEADER			CURRENT LEADER		
	Player	Year	CGRUNBI Streak	Player	Year	CGRUNBI Streak
Braves	Walter Holke	1919	6	Sid Gordon	1951	10
Dodgers	Bob Fisher	1913	9	Bob Fisher	1913	9
				Augie Galan	1944	
				Roy Campanella	1955	
Cubs	Vic Saier	1913	9	Ray Grimes	1920	17
Reds	Larry Kopf	1919	8	Bubbles Hargrave	1922	11
Giants	Heinie Zimmerman	1919	7	Mel Ott	1929	11
Phillies	Sherry Magee	1913	8	Pinky Whitney	1939	11
Pirates	Walter Barbare	1919	6	Paul Waner	1927	12
Cardinals	Tom Long	1915	5	Ripper Collins	1935	12

Team (AL)	DEADBALL ERA LEADER			CURRENT LEADER		
	Player	Year	CGRUNBI Streak	Player	Year	CGRUNBI Streak
Red Sox	Babe Ruth	1919	7	Joe Cronin	1939	12
				Ted Williams	1942	
White Sox	Happy Felsch	1919	9	Taffy Wright	1941	13
Indians	Buddy Ryan	1913	5	Larry Gardner	1920	11
	Terry Turner	1913		Odell Hale	1935	
	Joe Jackson	1913				
	Joe Harris	1917				
	Elmer Smith	1917				
	Steve O'Neill	1919				
Tigers	Sam Crawford	1910	11	Mickey Cochrane	1934	12
				Rudy York	1940	
Yankees	Frank Baker	1916	7	Babe Ruth	1931	11
				Joe DiMaggio	1939	
				Joe DiMaggio	1940	
Athletics	Stuffy McInnis	1912	10	Tris Speaker	1928	14
Browns	Baby Doll Jacobson	1917	5	Ken Williams	1922	11
	George Sisler	1918		Red Kress	1931	
				Doug DeCinces	1978	
Nationals	Howie Shanks	1913	5	Kirby Puckett	1988	11
	Mike Mitchell	1914				
	Howie Shanks	1915				
	Doc Lavan	1918				

TABLE 4. GAMES WITHOUT RBI STATISTICS FOR DEADBALL ERA TEAMS ON RETROSHEET WEBSITE

Team	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	Total
BSN	10	12	14	6	4	9	7	*0*	16	14	6	37	135
BRK	0	4	20	6	10	13	0	2	11	19	16	19	120
CHC	7	12	20	13	5	2	3	*0*	9	7	14	16	108
CIN	7	24	54	9	12	2	10	6	20	16	22	62	244
NYG	2	1	*0*	5	6	7	2	*0*	8	9	12	10	62
PHP	29	22	55	33	30	34	19	4	29	9	37	58	359
PIT	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	*0*	5	29	34	60	132
SLC	24	34	52	31	41	34	22	7	42	52	55	64	458
BOS	*0*	2	4	5	10	8	10	0	7	5	6	3	60
CWS	15	8	*3*	24	11	4	1	1	5	5	4	4	85
CLE	48	21	18	57	53	51	0	6	66	48	52	67	487
DET	*1*	*1*	*5*	*1*	*5*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*3*	*1*	66	66	154
NYN	7	4	6	8	11	17	4	1	0	8	14	23	103
PHA	45	18	28	54	54	57	22	1	39	18	56	63	455
SLB	46	26	36	58	45	51	24	7	62	35	60	70	520
WAS	9	1	4	13	18	10	7	1	18	17	8	8	114
Total	250	192	320	323	315	301	135	37	340	291	462	630	3596

NOTES:

- (1) The entries were taken from the information given for each team in the game-by-game Retrosheet Batting/Fielding Logs, accessed on December 15, 2017.
- (2) The entries bracketed with asterisks and shown in boldface indicate that that team-season was covered in one of the articles in the title series (References 10-22 and this article).



by New York Giants pitcher Al Demaree

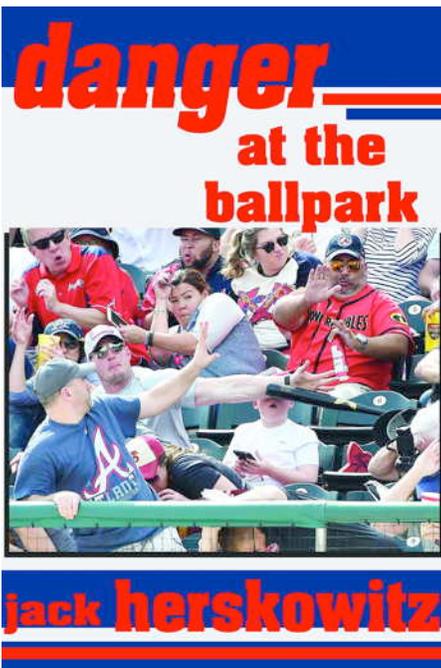
Chicago Tribune, May 7, 1914

TABLE 5. YEARLY LEADERS IN LONGEST CGRUNBI STREAK (1908-1919)

Year	Player (ML)	CGRUNBI		Player (Tigers)	CGRUNBI	
		Team	Streak		Streak	
1908	John Anderson	CWS	7	Ty Cobb	6	
1909	Jake Stahl	BOS	6	Ty Cobb	3	
				Sam Crawford		
1910	Sam Crawford	DET	11	Sam Crawford	11	
1911	Jim Delahanty	DET	9	Jim Delahanty	9	
1912	Stuffy McInnis	PHA	10	Sam Crawford	6	
1913	Vic Saier	CHC	9	Eddie Onslow	7	
	Bob Fisher	BRK				
1914	Sherry Magee	PHP	7	Sam Crawford	6	
	Dutch Zwilling	CHF				
	Ted Easterly	KCF				
1915	Jimmy Esmond	NWF	8	Ty Cobb	6	
1916	Home Run Baker	NYY	7	Bobby Veach	7	
	Bobby Veach	DET				
	Benny Kauff	NYG				
1917	Shoeless Joe Jackson	CWS	7	Ty Cobb	5	
				Harry Heilmann		
1918	Benny Kauff	NYG	7	Harry Heilmann	4	
				Bobby Veach		
1919	Happy Felsch	CWS	9	Bobby Veach	7	

TABLE 6. PLAYERS WITH THE LONGEST CGRUBI STREAKS (1908-1919)

Player	Team	Year	CGRUNBI Streak
Sam Crawford	Detroit Tigers	1910	11
Stuffy McInnis	Philadelphia Athletics	1912	10
Jim Delahanty	Detroit Tigers	1911	9
Vic Saier	Chicago Cubs	1913	9
Bob Fisher	Brooklyn Superbas	1913	9
Happy Felsch	Chicago White Sox	1919	9
Birdie Cree	New York Highlanders	1911	8
Chief Wilson	Pittsburgh Pirates	1911	8
Duffy Lewis	Boston Red Sox	1912	8
Frank Baker	Philadelphia Athletics	1912	8
Chief Wilson	Pittsburgh Pirates	1912	8
Sherry Magee	Philadelphia Phillies	1913	8
Jimmy Esmond	Newark Peppers	1915	8
Shoeless Joe Jackson	Chicago White Sox	1919	8
Larry Kopf	Cincinnati Reds	1919	8
Larry Kopf	Cincinnati Reds	1919	8



**DANGER AT THE
BALLPARK**

BY JACK HERSKOWITZ

2017, Trimark Press
[ISBN: 978-1-943401-32-1, 195
pp., \$14.95 USD. Paperback]

Reviewed by
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In the concluding chapter of *Danger at the Ballpark*, Jack Herskowitz recommends that for spectator safety, major league baseball teams “Extend state-of-the-art netting or clear Plexiglas from the backstop behind home plate down each foul line to the fence.” Four months after his book was published, a toddler, just short of her second birthday, was struck in the head and injured by a foul ball hurtling 105 miles per hour during a late September 2017 game at Yankee Stadium. Faced with player and fan outrage, ten

teams immediately extended the protective netting at their ballparks, and a dozen more announced plans to expand netting prior to the 2018 season. Herskowitz, a Miami attorney, contends that MLB teams have been derelict in their duty to provide spectators a safe ballpark experience. He blames “the Baseball Rule,” an archaic set of legal precedents established in the past century that generally shield stadium and team owners from litigation by spectators injured while attending a ballgame.

Many fans would be surprised to know that their safety at a Major League Baseball game is their own responsibility. As long as teams provide minimal protective netting in the area adjacent to home plate and cryptic warnings about objects leaving the field on signage and on game tickets, the Baseball Rule assigns the risk of injury at a baseball game to the fan. Herskowitz describes that risk as substantial. He cites a number of court cases in which spectators litigated after they were injured by batted or errantly tossed balls, or by broken, splintered or inadvertently flung bats, resulting in serious injuries and even death. These spectators were wounded before, during, or after games; while going to or returning from concession stands or rest rooms; or while sitting in their seats and being distracted by their cell phones, other fans, or even umbrellas. In some cases, the distractions were generated

by the team, including pregame pepper games, costumed mascots, and scoreboard graphics. Some fans were paying attention but simply did not have time to react to balls and bats that rocketed into the stands.

Herskowitz argues that many spectators, especially children and neophyte fans, do not understand the danger they are in and that they are more vulnerable in some sections of the stadium than others. He tells of his own close call with a line drive foul ball while attending a game with his wife and grandson, and discusses a gripping photo (shown on the book’s cover) of Atlanta Braves fan Shaun Cunningham extending an arm to deflect a flying bat about to strike his nine-year old son, Landon, in the face. He chronicles several historical incidents where fans were not so fortunate, and sued the team or stadium owner. In nearly every case, the courts sided with the team or stadium owners based on the Baseball Rule and determined that the injured fan was legally and financially responsible for any injuries.

It isn’t just the threat of being struck by airborne objects. Herskowitz also discusses ballpark falls, and lists a number of incidents in which fans plunged to serious injury or death. Although many featured acts of irresponsibility, including fans walking on elevated ledges, sliding down escalator banisters, or performing

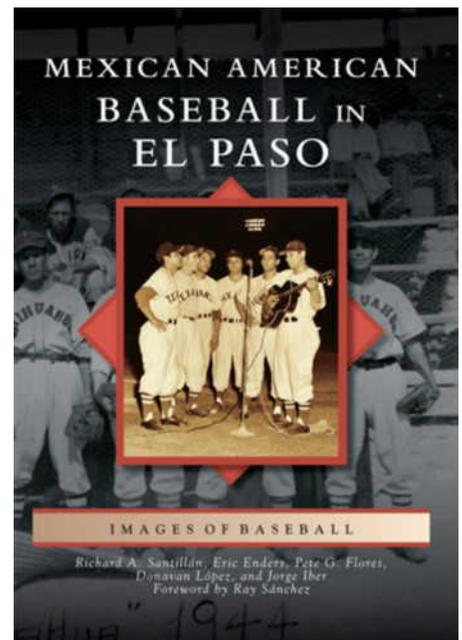
acrobatic stunts near upper deck railings, several of the incidents occurred simply because a fan leaned too far over a railing or just lost their balance. Herskowitz suggests “Either raise the height of railings in front of the first row in lower and upper decks and around the outfield walls or extend netting or perhaps clear Plexiglas upwards to a sufficient height above the railing.”

Having made his case that more protection is needed against flying objects and to prevent falling bodies, Herskowitz turns his attention to other dangers at the ballpark. He discusses injuries caused by mascots and during promotional events, and bodily damage sustained by fans scrambling for foul balls or home run balls. And he briefly discusses injuries caused by fan on fan violence, often fueled by alcohol. Herskowitz argues that to protect fans, teams should refrain from selling alcohol at the ballpark, an idea unlikely to find many supporters among fans or MLB teams. And with an attorney’s zeal for vilifying his subject, Herskowitz reaches to suggest that teams are further neglecting fan safety by serving concessions that contribute to obesity.

Herskowitz presents a stronger case that teams take more responsibility for spectator safety, suggesting “MLB teams could carry insurance to compensate fans injured by a line drive or flying bat, at the

very least, for medical bills and lost wages,” and that “MLB could have a system of arbitration before a single panel of arbitrators ... who would consider claims of injured fans and render an award based on the extent of the injury...” While Herskowitz makes a persuasive argument, it seems unlikely that teams will voluntarily give up the legal protection they enjoy from the Baseball Rule. It is more likely that teams will continue to add protective netting, and Herskowitz’s argument urging teams to do so is timely. It would be more balanced, though, if he also mentioned that teams have resisted not only due to the cost, but because many fans would happily accept the risk of getting hit by a foul ball in order to not have to look through protective netting. And while the case studies are interesting, a summary of how the Baseball Rule evolved would have added interest for historians. Despite a title that sounds like a Hardy Boys novel and a style that makes little effort to recognize the other side of the argument, *Danger at the Ballpark* raises important issues and merits a place on the baseball fan’s bookshelf.

Doug Skipper is an active member of SABR’s Halsey Hall chapter in Minnesota, serves as chair of the Larry Ritter Award Committee, and has contributed to several SABR publications.



**MEXICAN AMERICAN
BASEBALL IN EL PASO**
**BY RICHARD A. SANTILLÁN,
ERIC ENDERS, PETE G.
FLORES, DONAVAN
LÓPEZ, AND JORGE IBER**

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Although I have been a lifelong baseball fan, I never played the game nor had any close connections that would have led me to remember family picnics after weekend games or community gatherings where everyone seemed to celebrate their love for the game. My memories are mostly limited to taking in Twins games at the sterile Metrodome or Saints games at rundown Midway Stadium. Therefore, sometimes I forget the bonds others have forged through a lifelong

relationship with this game, not through sitting in the stands watching strangers play but in creating memories that link community members together for a lifetime. Thankfully there are books like *Mexican American Baseball in El Paso* to remind me why baseball is often referred to as “the national pastime.”

Written by several authors, this new work showcases the variety of ways baseball can break down barriers and bring people of different cultures together. El Paso (Spanish for “the pass”), a border town in Texas looking across the Rio Grande River into Mexico, has a history with the game that is well into its second century. The short (125 page) book is divided up into chapters highlighting different aspects of its connection with the game, from well-known minor league teams such as the El Paso Diablos to the 1949 Bowie Bears, the first state champions from an El Paso high school.

As the subtitle of the book, “Images of Baseball” implies, it is packed with hundreds of photos, old posters, and other artifacts telling the story of their community. (Looking at the photo credits and seeing that many of them are from individuals reinforces my belief as a historian and researcher that sometimes the most valuable resources are found not in an established historical society, but in attics and on dusty shelves in someone’s basement.) It wasn’t always a rosy history, and I appreciate

that the authors include information on some of the racial tensions present in the area – for example, in 1916 following the massacre of 18 Americans captured by Pancho Villa’s troops in Mexico a riot broke out at a baseball game in El Paso in which a Mexican American player’s face was slashed with a broken bottle.

As much as I enjoy looking at old photos, I found that the book at times had a “yearbook” feel in that if you weren’t personally connected to those in the community featured in a photo, its the sentimental value could be somewhat lost on you. In their summary of the book the authors refer to it as “the photographic history of baseball in America’s largest border community.”

There are some faces that any baseball fan will recognize, including a photo of Willie Mays standing in the dugout during an exhibition game between a team of El Paso military all-stars against a squad of African American big leaguers. But the main focus of the book is on community members, so much so that one caption of a local umpire reads in part: “He volunteers as an usher and greeter at St. Gertrude’s Catholic Church.” But there are plenty of photos of Willie Mays out there. If the intent of the authors was to highlight those who have devoted a lifetime to the game and have not received the same recognition and they want to ensure their stories are not lost in the passing of time, they

succeeded. Everyone has a story, whether they are a Hall of Fame outfielder or not.

Some of the narrative introductions to specific chapters were fascinating and left me wanting to learn more. The chapter titled “Borderland Baseball” highlights the innovations of the El Paso Diablos including fireworks night and the introduction of nachos at the concession stand. Now that’s something that any baseball fan can relate to. Who hasn’t sat in the stands on a beautiful summer day with a helmet of corn chips slathered with a yellowish-orange concoction?

The second to the last chapter highlights the work of the Latino Baseball History Project and offers other resources for those interested in expanding their knowledge of this part of baseball history and others who have devoted their time and talents “for the love of the game.” Overall, this new work is a fitting addition to the vast library of stories celebrating the national pastime.

Sarah Johnson is a Minnesota-based member of SABR and a freelance writer who has authored articles on sports, history, food, and travel for a variety of publications.



Walt Hoban 1914

Connie Mack's First Dynasty

The Philadelphia
Athletics, 1910-1914



Lew Freedman

**CONNIE MACK'S FIRST
DYNASTY:
THE PHILADELPHIA
ATHLETICS, 1910-1914**
BY LEW FREEDMAN

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Reviewed by

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Most dynasties fall away by as players age and retire, are traded, or become free agents. But the Philadelphia Athletics of 1910 to 1914 were different. They were dismantled by owner-manager Connie Mack after winning three World Series in four years and becoming one of the dominant teams and first dynasty of the Dead Ball Era.

Prolific author and former newspaperman Lew Freedman has written a highly readable and competent overview of

Connie Mack's first dynasty. This is a book geared to the reader who is looking for a brief, general history of the era. Freedman does not dwell much on statistics nor does he break new ground. Most knowledgeable fans of Connie Mack and the Philadelphia Athletics will find little new in this volume. However, if you are looking for an enjoyable concise review of Mack and the pre-Great War A's, this will fill the bill.

Freedman relies heavily on secondary sources from Norman Macht's *Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball* to recent player biographies. Connie Mack's *My 66 Years in the Big Leagues* is also cited, along with numerous newspaper and magazine interviews of former players. Each regular season and post season is outlined, along with profiles of notable players.

In the days before extensive front office operations and full time scouts, Mack acted as scouting director, general manager, and field manager. The Athletics won American League pennants in 1902 and 1905, a foreshadowing of the dynasty which would emerge five years later. By 1909, Mack had signed first baseman Stuffy McInnis, second baseman Eddie Collins, shortstop Jack Barry, and third baseman Frank "Home Run" Baker. The "\$100,000 Infield" would play together through the 1914 season. The outfield was anchored by Rube Oldring,

Amos Strunk, and Eddie Murphy. With ace starters Chief Bender and Eddie Plank on the mound, it appeared the roster was set to dominate baseball for many years.

The Athletics won the World Series in 1910 and 1911, but in 1912 they fell back to third as Boston captured the AL flag. By the next season, however, they were back in form, winning 96 games as they captured their third flag and third World Series title in four years. By this time, the Athletics were the dominant team in baseball and many fans figured that the 1914 season would be a walk in the park. While they did win the AL pennant by 8½ games, trouble was brewing in Organized Baseball.

The Federal League had largely been ignored by the mavens of major league baseball when it was formed as a minor league in 1913. However, it quickly attracted deep-pocketed owners who saw opportunity in baseball's growing popularity. They challenged the baseball establishment by signing established players at big salary bumps. When asked about his concerns that his players would jump to the new league, Mack responded "There isn't a chance for any member of a championship outfit to desert to the outlaws."

Throughout the 1914 season, talk among the A's was rife about the large salaries being paid by the new league as players discovered their true

market value. It was rumored that many stars would sign with the new circuit at the end of the season. In that year's World Series, the A's were heavily favored over the Boston Braves who had won the National League by ten and one-half games, finishing 68-19 over their last 87 games. In a stunning upset, Boston swept the Athletics four games to none. The Miracle Braves had deposed the mighty Mackmen.

Of course, talk of the Federal League loomed large and most observers felt it served as a distraction to the A's. Players knew that if the new circuit succeeded, players would see big increases in salary. From mid-season through the World Series, A's players weighed their options and considered their future, with Bender and Collins being among the most disgruntled. Mack was not in denial. While he could offer loyalty, praise, and skimpy contracts to his players, he, like several of his fellow owners, was unwilling to compete with Federal League owners like Harry Sinclair, founder of Sinclair Oil, and Charles Weeghman, the owner of the Chicago Feds who made his fortune with a chain of fast lunch restaurants. As Mack surveyed the changing economic landscape of the game, his solution was to dismantle the team he had built.

Did Mack overreact? Freedman doesn't say. No one knew that the Federal League would only

last two years. At the same time, the A's attendance was on the decline and Mack could only act on what he knew. "I'm willing to start all over again and develop a new team," he said. "I did it once, I can do it

again." It would take him 15 years.

Bob Komoroski lives in Minneapolis and is a member of SABR's Halsey Hall Chapter. He is a longtime Chicago White Sox fan.

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[It] has been suggested that President Lynch may include [in a new rule regulating bench conduct] a clause compelling a player banished from the field to go direct to the clubhouse instead of stepping through a door behind the bench into a closet from which he can keep in close touch with his teammates. Several managers have conveniently located closets near the benches, where they can retire and yet keep control of their players by means of apertures in the partitions. President Lynch has received several pointers regarding this practice from his umpires and may take it up at the rules committee meeting.

The Pittsburg Press, January 15, 1910

VERY INGENUOUS

Elsie: What are goose eggs in a baseball match?

Harry: They are the innings when no runs are made. Why do you ask?

Elsie: Oh, I thought maybe they were laid by the fouls in the game.

*(Hugo, Colorado) Range Ledger, October 10, 1908
Contributed by Jim Wohlenhaus*

**ON THE TRAIL OF BILL
(LATER ED) IRWIN:
THE BASEBALL LIFE, VIOLENT
DEATH, AND CURIOUSLY
EVOLVING REFERENCE WORK
LISTINGS FOR A ONE-GAME
1912 DETROIT TIGERS
REPLACEMENT PLAYER**

by **Bill Lamb**

In mid-May 1912, management of the Detroit Tigers confronted a strike by Tigers players angered by the indefinite suspension of star Ty Cobb by American League President Ban Johnson. To avoid forfeiting a May 18 away game in Philadelphia and possibly incurring a \$5,000 fine, a group of mostly Philadelphia college and sandlot players was hastily recruited to assume the place of the striking Tigers regulars. These recruits, plus aging Tigers coaches Deacon McGuire and Joe Sugden, then absorbed a 24-2 shellacking from the defending AL champion A's. Provoked by the game's farcical outcome, Johnson thereupon threatened the strikers with permanent banishment from Organized Baseball if they did not immediately get back into uniform, which they did. The return of the Tigers regulars brought to a close the one-game career of the replacement players, none of whom ever made another major league appearance – save third baseman Billy Maharg who played an inning in the season-ending game of the 1916 Philadelphia Phillies.

A replacement recruit who did not fit the college/sandlot player profile was a journeyman minor league catcher and Philadelphia resident whom Baseball-Reference, Retrosheet, and other modern reference works now identify as Ed Irwin. Known during his lifetime as *Bill* Irwin, this normally light-hitting backstop established an arcane major league record that stands to this day: most triples by a player without another base-hit. Irwin hit a pair of three-baggers off frontline A's pitchers during the May 18 contest, while striking out in his only other at-bat. Some four years after his record-setting day, Irwin was dead, succumbing to injuries suffered during a



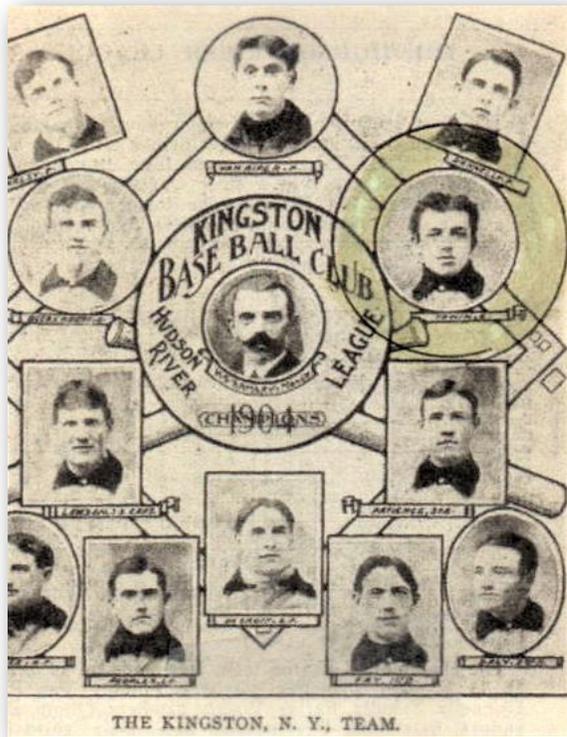
***Ed Irwin, Baseball-Reference photo
Source unknown***

Philadelphia saloon fracas. What follows is the story of Irwin's sadly abbreviated life and the ensuing, and largely without source, evolution of his listing in modern baseball reference works.

According to most (but not all) baseball authorities, William Edward Irwin was born in Philadelphia on an unspecified date in 1882.¹ His sketchy 1916 death certificate states that Irwin was the son of Irish immigrant William E. Irwin and his wife, the former Maria Straton of Philadelphia. The Irwin family has proved difficult to pinpoint in government records, but the 1860 US Census lists a William Irwin, age 10 and born in Ireland, who was likely our subject's father. Master William is recorded as residing in Philadelphia with his father Robert Irwin (age 37, a laborer born in Ireland) and mother Martha (maiden name unknown, age 32, born in Scotland) and four younger Pennsylvania-born siblings. Apart from that, next to nothing has been uncovered about our subject's early life, education, non-baseball occupation and activities, or pre-professional playing days.

EARLY MINOR LEAGUE YEARS

Listed today as a righty batter and thrower,² Irwin began his professional career in 1903 with the Kingston (New York) Colonials, champions of the Class D Hudson River League. Primarily a backup for first-string catcher (and future major



Irwin, c., 1903 Kingston Colonials
Source: 1904 Reach Guide



Irwin, 6 (circled)
Source: Ebay

leaguer) Heinie Beckendorf, Irwin batted a modest .247 in 22 games for Kingston.³ Early the following year, it was reported that Irwin had signed with the New London Whalers of the Class D Connecticut League.⁴ But by mid-June, he was back in Kingston livery⁵ and thereafter posted a .239 BA against now-Class C minor league pitching. The following spring, *Sporting Life* declared that “Bill Irwin has been signed by Manager McCabe [of the HRL Poughkeepsie Colts] in place of Al Burch who jumped to an outlaw league.”⁶ His stay in Poughkeepsie proved a brief one, and by July, *Sporting Life* was advising readers that “Bill Irwin has been released by Poughkeepsie management.”⁷ At season’s end, he was back in Kingston, and reserved by the Colonials for the upcoming 1906 campaign.⁸ The return of “W. Irwin, catcher” to the club was confirmed the following May,⁹ and early in the season it was reported that “catcher Irwin of Kingston is doing heavy and timely hitting.”¹⁰ But whether he kept up the good work is unknown, as no season-ending stats survive for the 1906 Hudson River League. Thereafter

and for the next three years, the Irwin trail grows faint.

SUBSEQUENT MINOR LEAGUE PLAY

The personal and playing whereabouts of Bill Irwin during the 1907-1908-1909 seasons are mostly lost. His disappearance from Baseball-Reference during that three-season period suggests that Irwin may have left Organized Baseball to play in unrecognized or semipro leagues in the Philadelphia area. One thing that can be documented for this time frame is a change in Irwin’s marital status. Pennsylvania marriage records establish that William E. Irwin and Raydi K. Hahn were wed in Philadelphia sometime in 1907.¹¹ Their union would endure for the remaining nine years of Irwin’s life, but the couple was apparently childless.

Irwin returned to the low minors in 1909, batting .232 in 54 games for the Raleigh Red Birds of the Class D Eastern Carolina League. A Raleigh team photo depicts Irwin as a nice-looking man and the tallest player on the club.¹² His following season was split between two clubs



Irwin (circled), 1909 Raleigh Red Birds
Source: 1910 Reach Guide

in the Class D Ohio State League: the Chillicothe Infants and the Portsmouth Cobblers. Local box scores establish that Irwin spent the year primarily as a first baseman, catching only occasionally. Between the two clubs, he batted a meager .214 (84-for-392),¹³ but seems to have been a welcome late-season arrival in Portsmouth, nonetheless. In his summary of the 1909 OSL season, *Sporting Life* correspondent Robert W. Reed stated that “early in August, first baseman Scudder drew his release ... and Irwin, who had been with Chillicothe, was secured and proved a decided improvement [for Portsmouth].”¹⁴ That Bill (not Ed) Irwin was the name then employed in newsprint for our subject is reconfirmed by coverage of league action by

the *Marion (Ohio) Mirror*: “Bill Irwin led off the seventh” against the Marion Diggers with a single, but “curly-haired Bill” was thrown out stealing later that inning (August 29, 1910), and “sharp defense kept the Diggers off Bill Irwin’s shoes” at first (August 31, 1910). A team photo of the league champion Portsmouth Cobblers published in the *Cincinnati Post*, September 23, 1910, contains “Irwin, 1b” standing in the back row and looking very much like the Irwin in the Raleigh team photo of the year before.¹⁵

In 1911, Irwin again split the season between two low minor league clubs: the Jackson (Mississippi) Drummers and the Greensboro (Mississippi) Scouts, both of the Class D Cotton States League. Combined, Irwin batted a dismal .132 (12-for-31), while posting a .979 FA in 28 games behind the plate.¹⁶ He then returned home to Philadelphia for the winter.

THE 1912 SEASON

Irwin’s playing year began after he responded to an unusual advertisement published in the *Philadelphia Press*, April 12, 1912: “Wanted – A catcher. Manager [Red] Dooin would like one to or two husky backstops to report to the Phillies’ clubhouse to assist in warming up the large squad of pitchers. Dooin says it is a good chance for some youth to ‘show the goods.’” Although hardly “some youth,” veteran minor league



Irwin (in triangle)
1910 Chillicothe Infants Postcard



Irwin, 1b (circled), 1910 Portsmouth Cobblers
Source: Cincinnati Post, September 23, 1910

catcher and Philadelphia resident Bill Irwin responded to the ad and was promptly engaged by Dooin. Irwin never played in an official major league game for the Phillies, but he made at least one exhibition game appearance for the club. On April 21, 1912, "Irwin" went 1-for-4 (a double) and caught the full nine innings in a 5-1 Phils' victory over the Wilkes-Barre Barons of the New York State League.¹⁷ By early May, however, the Phillies had dispensed with Irwin's services.

The Ty Cobb-Claude Lueker incident, Cobb's ensuing suspension by AL president Ban Johnson, the walkout of Tigers players in protest of that suspension, and the Philadelphia A's clobbering of the hastily-assembled replacement squad fielded by Detroit is an oft-told tale.¹⁸ In summaries of the May 18 rout, various newspapers expressly excluded Irwin from the contingent of college/sandlot replacements put in uniform by the Tigers. Rather, he was identified as a player recently released by the Phillies. See e.g., the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, May 19, 1912: "[Detroit manager] Jennings picked up eight schoolboys and with Jim McGuire and Joe Sugden and Irwin, lately released by the Phillies, ..." and *Sporting Life*, May 25, 1912: "Presenting eight schoolboys along with veterans Joe Sugden and Jim McGuire, the coaches of the Tigers pitchers, and Irwin lately released by the Philadelphia Nationals, the Detroit club naturally put up a weak and insignificant effort."

An inning-by-inning account of game action was not located, but an excellent overview is provided by Joe Naiman in "The First Replacement Players: The 'Tigers' of May 18, 1912," *Baseball Research Journal*, No. 25 (1996), 121-123 (which calls our subject *Ed Irvin*. More on this below). For some reason, Jennings put the 48-year-old McGuire behind the plate to start the contest. Irwin did not enter the game until the fourth inning when he replaced an injured Billy Maharg at third base. Soon thereafter, Philadelphia took advantage of the out-of-position catcher and began bunting on him, much to the chagrin of pitcher (and future Jesuit priest) Allan Travers.¹⁹ An eight-run fifth inning quickly turned what

had been a respectable 6-2 deficit into a lopsided A's lead. In the seventh, Irwin moved behind the plate and caught the final two innings for the Tigers. Whatever his defensive shortcomings (and he was charged with only one error by the official scorer), Irwin was the unlikely batting star for the replacements. Although a weak batsman against Class D minor league pitching, Irwin smashed a pair of triples off Philadelphia rotation regulars Boardwalk Brown and Herb Pennock. He struck out in his other at-bat, ending the game with a 2-for-3 batting line. Under threat of permanent banishment from Johnson, the Detroit regulars returned to the field the following day, bringing the major league career of the replacement Tigers (except Maharg) to a close. Irwin's final big league numbers are gaudy: a .667 BA/2.000 SLG/2.667 OPS slash line, with establishment of an obscure major league record since tied by Cecil Bolton of the 1928 Cleveland Indians: most triples by a player without another base-hit (2).²⁰

Contemporary reportage does not identify the Irwin who went from non-roster Phillies catcher to Detroit replacement player by his first name. Rather, the newsprint that establishes that this Irwin was our subject Bill Irwin (and not someone else with the same surname) emanates from his subsequent signing with the Columbia (South Carolina) Comers of the Class C South Atlantic League for the remainder of the 1912 season. See e.g., the *Charleston Evening Post*, May 22, 1912: "Manager Ted McGrew (of Columbia) announced this morning that Player Irwin has accepted terms and would join the team at once. Irwin has been with the Philadelphia Nationals this spring as a warm up catcher," *The (Columbia) State*, May 23, 1912 headline: "Trio of Players Added to Comers; Bill Irwin Secured from Philadelphia Nationals" and text: "To begin with, Bill Irwin, catcher, was obtained from the Philadelphia Nationals," and *Charleston Evening Post*, May 23, 1912: "Catcher Bill Irwin has arrived and will probably catch for Columbia." Thereafter, SALLY League chroniclers continued to identify the Columbia catcher as *Bill Irwin* as the season progressed.²¹

The identity of Bill Irwin of the Columbia Comers as the Irwin who played for the Detroit Tigers on May 18, 1912 is conclusively established by commentary subsequently published in *The State*, June 17, 1912: "On the present trip Bill Irwin will catch the game and get a chance to show what he can do behind the bat. The former Philadelphia player has not had a chance to show just what he can deliver. It is an interesting fact that Irwin is the leader of the American League in batting. He played third base and caught the game for the Detroit "irregulars" against the Athletics when the famous strike of the Tigers was on and in that game appeared at bat three times. He secured two hits, both triples. Two hits out of three times up is the best record of the league and Irwin leads the American League with the stick."

Unhappily for AL batting leader Irwin, he reverted to previous minor league form during his tour of duty with Columbia, batting a mild .233 in 30 games for the Comers.²² Released after the season, Irwin filed a salary and travel expenses grievance against the club, and was victorious before the National Board.²³ The SALLY League subsequently ordered the Columbia club to settle the claims of Irwin and two other successful grievants "within 30 days or forfeit its protection in organized ball."²⁴

Bill Irwin's career in Organized Baseball appears to have ended upon the close of the 1912 season. Sometime after his return home to Philadelphia, the good-sized backstop secured employment as a special officer with the Pennsylvania Railroad.²⁵ He did not give up ball playing entirely, however. Through 1915, Irwin spent his summer weekends catching for local semipro nines.²⁶ He also became active in Philadelphia's 28th Ward Union Republican Club.²⁷

A VIOLENT DEATH AND THE ENSUING METAMORPHOSIS OF *BILL* INTO *ED* IRWIN

On the evening of February 5, 1916, Irwin attended a funeral. On his way home, he and an acquaintance named William Fitzmyer stopped at McCool's Saloon, a neighborhood watering hole, where hostilities between the two soon

broke out. As with most bar fights, witness accounts of the incident varied, as did subsequent newspaper reports. The *Philadelphia Public Record* reported that Irwin and Fitzmyer stood "besides a front bulk window [and soon] got into an argument. Words led to blows and the two men grappled. Before other patrons ... or saloon attendants could reach the grappling men, ... Fitzmyer lunged forward at Irwin with terrific force, careen[ing him] into the window."²⁸ But recounting the eyewitness testimony provided the following morning by none other than the victim's brother Benjamin G. Irwin, the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 6, 1916, portrayed Irwin's injuries as accidental. According to Benjamin, his brother challenged Fitzmyer to fight following an argument. "The men fought hard, and finally my brother backed up toward the window," Ben informed Police Magistrate Beaton.²⁹ "My brother slipped and fell back, striking his head against the glass. Fitzmyer did not throw him against the window nor did he touch him when the accident occurred."³⁰

As Irwin's frame shattered the glass, a jagged shard lacerated his jugular vein and "blood gushed from his neck."³¹ Patrons tried to stanch the blood loss with little effect, and by the time that an ambulance arrived, Irwin had gone into shock. Despite the ministrations of an on-board police surgeon, Irwin was dead upon arrival at Women's Homeopathic Hospital.³² Several days later, he was interred at Northwood Cemetery, Philadelphia. William Edward Irwin was about 33 years old.³³

Meanwhile, Magistrate Beaton had bound over Fitzmyer without bail on a homicide charge pending a coroner's inquest, the exculpatory testimony of Benjamin Irwin notwithstanding.³⁴ No official report of coroner William R. Wright, Jr. was discovered by the writer, but the outcome of the inquest is predictable enough. This is because, a century ago as now, prosecuting agencies disdain bar fight homicides – unless the survivor had used a weapon and his victim was unarmed.³⁵ But in this matter, William Fitzmyer had not used a weapon; the deceased had died of

HURLED OUT WINDOW IN BAR BRAWL, KILLED

Philadelphia, Feb. 7.—Pitched head-foremost through a window during a brawl in a saloon, Edward Irwin, of North Gratz street, near Somerset, was so badly cut by glass that he bled to death in a patrol wagon on the way to a hospital.

**Headline/Lead paragraph
Franklin News Herald
February 7, 1916**

injuries suffered from a fall through a glass window. On top of that, the victim's own brother asserted that the death was "accidental."³⁶ Given these factors, a coroner's verdict of justifiable self-defense or death by misadventure would have been a foregone conclusion. Whatever the official determination, no criminal charges were preferred against Fitzmyer and he was released from custody.

A curious byproduct of this tragedy was a newsprint change of the deceased's first name. Throughout his pro baseball playing career, our subject had been known as *Bill* Irwin. But newspaper reports of his death identified him as *Edward* (or *Edwin*) Irwin.³⁷ This situation repeated itself at the coroner's office where the death certificate informed by his widow gave the full name of the deceased as *Edward Irwin (Irvin)*.³⁸ Death notices published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 8, 1916, correctly identified the "suddenly" deceased Irwin as "William E., beloved husband of Ray Irwin (nee Hahn)." Notwithstanding that, a biographical stone had now been cast. In future, baseball reference works would identify the player known during his lifetime as Bill Irwin by the name Ed Irwin.

This began in 1951 when the seminal but error-plagued first edition of *The Official Encyclopedia*

FORMER DANVILLE BASE BALL PLAYER MET A TRAGIC END

**Edward Irvin Hurled Through Bar
Room Door and Jugular Vein
Was Severed.**

Edward Irvin, of Philadelphia, catcher for the Danville team in the Susquehanna league during the last year of the league's existence and who is well remembered throughout the circuit by the league followers, was recently killed in a bar-room brawl in Philadelphia.

**Headline/Lead paragraph
Danville Morning News
February 7, 1916**

of Baseball by Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson listed our subject as *Edward Irwin*. Six years later, the second edition of the work changed our subject's listing to *William Edward Irvin*, giving him a new surname (Irvin); an 1892 birth year; a mistaken February 16, 1916 date of death; and a TR (throws right) designation. As with all things T&T, the source(s) for these data is not given and unknowable.³⁹ When the first edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (David S. Neft, ed., Macmillan) was published in 1969, same adopted the name change to *Irvin* and repeated T&T's erroneous date of death. Our subject's birth year, however, was returned to 1882. This revised listing was then repeated in subsequent editions of Big Mac.

IRWIN — Suddenly, on Feb. 5, 1916, WILLIAM E., beloved husband of Ray Irwin (nee Hahn), aged 31 years. Relatives and friends, also members of the Union Republican Club, 28th ward, are invited to attend the funeral services, on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock at his late residence 2743 N. Gratz St. Viewing Tuesday evening from 7 to 9. Interment Northwood Cemetery.

**Death Notice: Philadelphia Inquirer/
Philadelphia Public Record
February 8, 1916**

Published in 1989, the initial edition of *Total Baseball* reiterated the Macmillan encyclopedia listing for Ed *Irvin*, and added the notation BR (bats right). The source of this new datum is another unknown. For reasons yet again unknown, things changed thereafter, and by the time that the seventh edition of *Total Baseball* was released in 2003, the *Irvin* surname had been jettisoned.⁴⁰ Our subject was now listed as: Ed Irwin, William Edward Irwin (but the erroneous date of death remained). A year later, *The Perfect Hands of the Irresistible Ed*, an award-winning play about the 1912 Detroit replacement players penned by David James Brock,⁴¹ likewise gave our subject's name as Ed Irwin (not Irvin). And as noted at the outset, Baseball-Reference, Retrosheet, and other current baseball reference works list Irwin as Ed Irwin: William Edward Irwin, with his date of death corrected to February 5, 1916.⁴²

By whatever name, Irwin is now long-forgotten. Nevertheless, he remains the co-holder of an obscure major league batting record and led an interesting, if sadly shortened, life.

The writer is indebted to Anthony DiGiovanni, cataloguer and researcher at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, for his assistance in gaining access to Philadelphia newspaper reportage about Irwin's death.

SOURCES

Sources for the biographical information provided herein include the Ed Irwin file maintained at the Giamatti Research Center, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York; Ancestry.com; and certain of the newspaper articles cited below. Unless otherwise noted, stats have been taken from Baseball-Reference.

ENDNOTES

1. Baseball-Reference, Retrosheet, Baseball Almanac, and other modern baseball reference works state that Irwin was born sometime in 1882. An anomaly is the on-line site FAQs which gives our subject a November 30, 1881 birth date. No source for this date is provided by FAQs, and it conflicts with the age at death (31) provided in the Irwin death notices published in the

Philadelphia Inquirer and *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 8, 1916. The death notice age of 31, in turn, does not yield an 1882 birth year for Irwin. The reliability of the current baseball reference work 1882 birth year for Irwin is, therefore, uncertain. And it, too, is unsourced.

2. Reference works beginning with the first edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (David S. Neft, ed., Macmillan, 1969) have listed Irwin as a right-handed thrower (presumably because he was a catcher). By the time that the initial edition of *Total Baseball* was published in 1989, the Irwin entry had been expanded to include: bats right. The source of this info is unknown, and no contemporaneous mention of how Irwin batted (or threw) was discovered by the writer.
3. Late in the season, Kingston loaned Irwin to Saugerties, a nearby Hudson River League rival, "on account of Harrison, the regular [Saugerties] catcher being laid up," per *Sporting Life*, September 12, 1903. A head shot of the curly-haired "Irwin, c." was included in the Kingston championship team collage subsequently published in the 1904 *Reach Guide*, 195. "Irwin" is also depicted as player No. 6 in a 1903 Kingston team photo currently posted on Ebay. Both photos are integrated into the text, above.
4. See *Sporting Life*, January 23 and March 15, 1904.
5. See Hudson River League Notes, *Sporting Life*, June 18, 1904: "Manager Ramsey of Kingston has released pitchers Smythe and Murphy and signed catcher W. Irwin."
6. Hudson River Hits, *Sporting Life*, May 20, 1905.
7. Hudson River League Notes, *Sporting Life*, July 22, 1905.
8. As per the reserve list for the 1906 Hudson River League published in *Sporting Life*, October 7, 1905 (which lists him as "William B. Irwin").
9. See *Sporting Life*, May 19, 1906.
10. *Sporting Life*, June 16, 1906.
11. As per the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Marriage Index, license no. 299790, accessible via Ancestry.com.
12. See the 1910 *Reach Guide*, 436. The guide also provides Irwin's fielding stats (178-35-6 = .972 FA) while catching for Raleigh in 1909.
13. As per season-ending Ohio State League stats published in *Sporting Life*, December 17, 1910. In 106 games combined at first, Irwin posted a .972 fielding average. Baseball-Reference notes Irwin's presence on the Chillicothe and Portsmouth rosters, but provides no stats for him with either club.

14. *Sporting Life*, October 15, 1910.
15. Although the Irwin depicted in the two team photos look much-alike, poor image quality precludes a conclusive identification of the two as the same man, per Mark Fimoff, editor of the Pictorial History Research Committee newsletter and a facial recognition expert. Many thanks to Mark for his insights on the Irwin photo identification question.
16. Per final Cotton States League statistics published in the 1912 *Reach Guide*, 478-479. Baseball-Reference lists Irwin as a member of both the Jackson and Greensboro clubs, but provides no 1911 stats for him.
17. As per the game account and box score published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 22, 1912.
18. See e.g., Jim Reisler, "A Beating in the Stands, Followed by One on the Field," *New York Times*, April 28, 2012. See also, Gary Livacari's BioProject profile of replacement squad organizer and pitcher Allan Travers.
19. See Livicari, Allan Travers.
20. Co-record holder Bolton went 2 (triples)-for-13 in his four-game career with the Indians.
21. See e.g., *The State*, May 26, 1912, *Sporting Life*, June 12, 1912, and *The State*, June 17, 1912.
22. Per season-ending stats published in *The State*, October 8, 1912. Baseball-Reference places an otherwise unidentified "Irwin" on the 1912 Columbia roster, but provides no other info about him and does not connect him to the B-R listing for Ed Irwin.
23. See *Sporting Life*, October 19, 1912: "Claim of player Irwin v. Columbia allowed."
24. Per the *Charleston Evening Post*, November 30, 1912.
25. The occupation listed on the Irwin death certificate.
26. At the time of his death, it was reported that Irwin had caught for the Danville team in the semipro Susquehanna League during 1915. See the *Danville (Pennsylvania) Morning News*, February 26, 1916 (which remembered the deceased as a "tall, well built man who had curly black hair").
27. Per the Irwin death notices published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 8, 1916. The only survivor listed was wife Ray Irwin.
28. *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 7, 1916.
29. As quoted in the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 6, 1916.
30. Ibid. See also, the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, February 7, 1916.
31. As per the *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 7, 1916.
32. *Philadelphia Bulletin* and *Philadelphia North American*, February 6, 1916, *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 6 and 7, 1916, and *Franklin (Pennsylvania) News Herald*, February 8, 1916.
33. But the Irwin death certificate and locally published death notices gave his age as 31.
34. As reported in the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 6, 1916.
35. The writer speaks from 30+ years experience as a state/county prosecutor in New Jersey. Bar fight homicides involving unarmed combatants have utterly no jury appeal, with the most that can usually be hoped for is conviction on some minor offense like simple assault or fighting should a murder-type charge be predicated on the incident.
36. See again, the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 6, 1916.
37. For Edward Irwin, see the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and *Philadelphia North American*, February 6, 1916, *Philadelphia Public Ledger* and *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 7, 1916, and *Franklin News Herald*, February 8, 1916. For Edwin Irwin, see the *Philadelphia Public Record*, February 6, 1916. The *Danville Morning News*, February 26, 1916, meanwhile, gave Irwin's surname as *Irvin*.
38. The death certificate similarly identifies Raydi Hahn Irwin as "Mrs. Edward Irwin."
39. Because Pennsylvania death certificates have become generally accessible only in the past few years, the Irwin death certificate can be eliminated as a possible Turkin & Thompson source of information.
40. Wikipedia, however, continues to identify our subject as Ed *Irvin*.
41. For the work, author (and lifelong Detroit Tigers fan) David Brock was declared 2004 Special Merit Winner in Theatre BC (British Columbia)'s National Playwriting Competition.
42. The source and authenticity of the photo that accompanies the Ed Irwin entry in Baseball-Reference is unknown.

ANOTHER LOOK AT A PAST RITTER AWARD WINNER

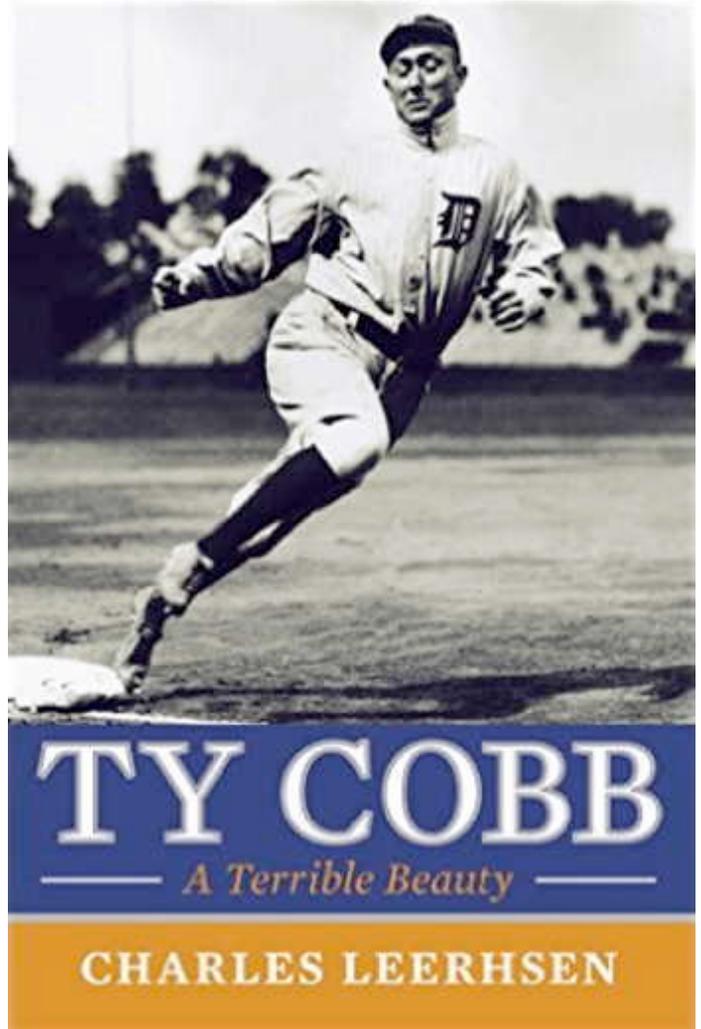
by Lawrence S. Katz

Ty Cobb has always been a fascinating study. Both Cobb and Babe Ruth were highly celebrated in their times, bigger than life, as they say. In the days of Cobb and Ruth, however, certain aspects of a sports celebrity's life were protected by the media. Contrasted with the universal image of the Bambino as genial and approachable, the Cobb narrative has been muddled by a mix of negative fact and legend that followed his retirement from the game. Charles Leerhsen's book *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* (Simon & Schuster, 2015), seeks to reclaim Cobb's reputation with a combination of vigorous advocacy and sharp critique of several previous treatments on this subject, particularly those by Al Stump and Charles Alexander.

As a criminal defense attorney, I respect Leerhsen's efforts to redeem Cobb from baseball hell. Leerhsen reminds us that conventional wisdoms are always subject to reevaluation. And contrary to other baseball historians (certainly not limited to Stump and Alexander) he finds no supporting evidence for the characterization of Cobb as an "avowed racist," "a near psychotic," or a "spikes-sharpening son of a bitch," nor for the accusations that he was a murderer and intentionally injured other players on the baseball diamond. In Leerhsen, Cobb has a found a skilled and stylish biographer determined to restore humanity to his subject.

However, Leerhsen, who is not reluctant to point out the mistakes of prior researchers, at times exhibits a less-than-stellar understanding of some important details of the baseball world of the early Twentieth Century. For example:

1. Contrary to Leerhsen's speculation, it is farfetched to think that in 1908 Cobb was consoled about the steep decline in his batting average to .324 by his 108 RBIs. It was not until 1907 that a stats freak named Ernie Lanigan began to experiment with this concept at his roll-top desk. Throughout most of Cobb's career, little was made of the art of driving in runs.



Indeed, runs were rarely driven in in bunches. A run, particularly in Cobb's early days, was regarded as a team effort, the product of a base hit, usually a single, followed by any one of a number of different events, like a bunt or a hit-and-run, moving the runner along.

The reluctance to accept this statistic stemmed from the belief that it worked to the unfair advantage of hitters in the middle of the lineup. The player whose hit was ultimately responsible for scoring that runner was not seen as having accomplished more than the player who got the first hit and ultimately scored. Runs Batted In did not become an official major league statistic until 1920.

2. Leerhsen describes the namesake of Cobb's first home ballpark, Charlie Bennett, as a "beloved old minor league catcher." That's far from the case. A beloved catcher, yes. But

Bennett was a 15-year major leaguer who played on four pennant-winning teams. Based on modern metrics, he has been ranked among the National League's leaders in 10 seasons in Defensive Wins Above Replacement. Baseball historian Bill James has described him as perhaps the best defensive catcher of his era and well worthy of Hall of Fame consideration.

3. Leerhsen describes Cobb as having worked to get Sam Crawford into the Hall of Fame. In fact, Crawford was an A-List Hall of Famer. True, Crawford, who retired in 1916, wasn't inducted until 1957. But the Veteran's Committee had been busy until then – and continued to remain active for many more years – recognizing for enshrinement the large numbers of luminaries from bygone eras. Crawford, ranked in a recent poll of experts as the 84th greatest baseball player of all time, didn't need Cobb's help. His induction was inevitable.

Leerhsen also exhibits a naivete about how publicity campaigns in that era created outward appearances which distorted the truth about a celebrity's true character and personal life.

1. Leerhsen unquestioningly accepts as a given a reporter's contemporaneous description of Cobb's home life as idyllic, described like something out of a 1950s sitcom (p. 321, first paragraph). Cobb's actual home life was another story. His children were upset by Al Stump's unflattering biography of their father, but not because they regarded it as fictitious. Cobb was estranged from his son, Ty, Jr., as Leerhsen himself admits.

Daughter Shirley Beckworth said Cobb had a temper and beat his wife and children. Shirley said she was always scared of him: "I never spent five seconds with that man that I wasn't scared pea green. He beat everybody, and we weren't bad children." *Augusta* (Georgia) *Chronicle*, December 23, 1999.

Daughter Beverly McLaren agreed, offering that she did not dispute Stump's general description of her father. Beverly said he could be "a rascal, psychotic, a devil," and "could be awful." Asked if she loved him, she responded, "I don't think I

did. I felt pity for him." She said he flew into rages and seemed threatening. At one point, she said, they didn't speak for six months. "I fought my father," she said. "He wasn't going to make me go under." Cobb refused to give her away at her wedding. When asked if he beat his wife, Beverly refused to comment. "He had an uncontrollable temper," she said, "[and] wondered within himself if he was any good." *Augusta Chronicle*, January 9, 1995.

2. Leerhsen says Cobb treated his mother well (at p. 268). Even if true, this might be "damned by faint praise." But in any event, other sources assert that he remained distant from his mother, seeing her only occasionally, and not attending her funeral in 1936.

3. Leerhsen cites Cobb's hiring of African American employees and his posing for various publicity shots as persuasive evidence of his personal tolerance. These things prove Cobb was a smart man, but we already knew that.

4. Leerhsen points to the support Cobb received from his teammates in 1912 when they staged the first players strike in baseball history after he was suspended for going into the stands and beating up a verbally abusive fan during a game in New York. This revolt coincided with general player restlessness with the prevailing baseball structure and the incipient union movement. This group protest was probably motivated by self-interest rather than love of Ty.

More reflective of players' attitudes toward Cobb was the St. Louis Browns' role in helping Nap Lajoie beat Cobb for the 1910 American League batting championship. The Browns third baseman played back on the edge of the outfield grass in a season-ending doubleheader with Cleveland, allowing Lajoie to drop seven bunt singles down the third base line. Lajoie's eight-for-eight day stole the title from Cobb, and Cobb's teammates wired Lajoie their congratulations.

Leerhsen is committed to the restoration of the image of a figure he regards as "arguably the best player in baseball history." Cobb pointed with pride, as the book notes, to his status as the

highest vote-getter among the initial crop of Hall of Fame inductees, which included Babe Ruth. Cobb was undeniably among the very greatest players of all time. But he played in the days before the development of data about what events on the field actually win games. Only recently, for example, has the baseball community reached an understanding that On Base Percentage (OBP) and OPS (on base percentage plus slugging average) contribute more to offensive productivity than batting average. Compare Cobb's stratospheric .433 OBP and .945 OPS with Ruth's even better .474 OBP and 1.164 OPS. For fans of Wins Above Replacement (WAR), Cobb's career WAR of 151.0 ranks number four on the all-time list. Ruth's career WAR ranks as number one all-time at 163.1. Metrics are one reason why the judgment of the old-school electors in 1936 is not shared by most contemporary baseball scholars. Just add Ruth's brilliant pitching career during his early years: 94-46 with a 2.28 ERA.

Leerhsen's direct writing style and obvious respect for his reader make his book a pleasure to read. He knows the adage that if you tell a lie

enough times, it becomes the truth, and his able defense brief is rooted in a determination to stem the tide of perceived defamation. Much has been written about Cobb and much more will be written. In the end (will there ever be an end?) Cobb will be judged on the entire body of work about him, which now spans over 100 years. The notion that Cobb was an imperfect person didn't originate with Al Stump and won't end with Charles Leerhsen.

It is unlikely anyone really knew Cobb in his day. If this is the case, it is unlikely that anyone will ever be able to figure him out. But *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* makes a valuable contribution to the growing body of literature about Ty Cobb in his times and may bring us a little closer to understanding this elusive personality.

Lawrence S. Katz is the author of Baseball in 1939: The Watershed Season of the National Pastime (McFarland, 1995 and 2012). A member of SABR since 1983, he has written about baseball for a wide variety of publications, including Sports Collectors Digest and the Baseball Research Journal. He is a criminal appellate attorney in the State of Michigan.

FIST FIGHT IN WESTERN LEAGUE

“DUCKY” HOLMES OF LINCOLN TEAM EXCHANGES BLOWS WITH UMPIRE CICOTTE AT DES MOINES

DES MOINES, IN.—The second game of a double header here [yesterday] broke up in a fist fight between Manager “Ducky” Holmes of Lincoln and Outfielder Corkhill of Des Moines. Cicotte, the Lincoln pitcher, was serving as umpire, and allowed Holmes to run out around the base line to dodge the catcher. The game continued for an inning, but in passing Holmes and Cicotte made uncomplimentary remarks and then clinched and exchanged blows. They were separated and the game called. Both teams returned to town in street cars.

Chicago Tribune, July 15, 1907

UMPIRE WANTED TO SEE GAME

COTTON STATES LEAGUE OFFICIAL, FINDING DIAMOND TOO WET, LAYS OUT ANOTHER IN OUTFIELD

VICKSBURG, MISS.—What is believed to be a precedent in organized baseball was established here today, when umpire Laroque, a regular official in the Cotton States League, allowed Vicksburg to finish a game with Meridian on an impromptu diamond laid out in the outfield on the grass. This occurred after several innings had been played on the regular diamond, which was put out of commission by heavy rains. Formal protest has been made. Vicksburg won, 5 to 2. The race is a close one between Vicksburg and Jackson for the pennant, and the season closes in two weeks.

Chicago Tribune, August 5, 1908

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

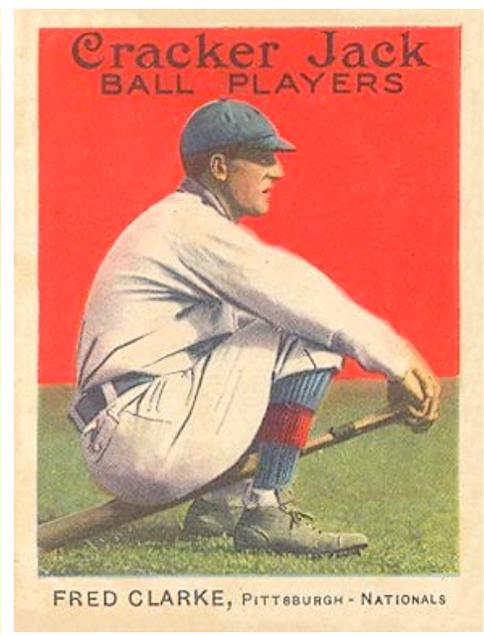
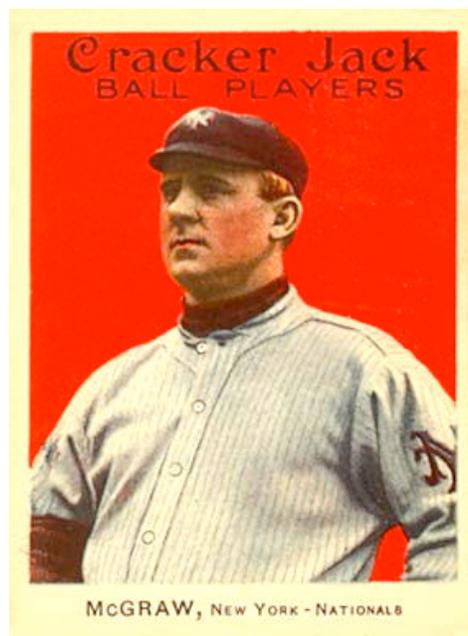
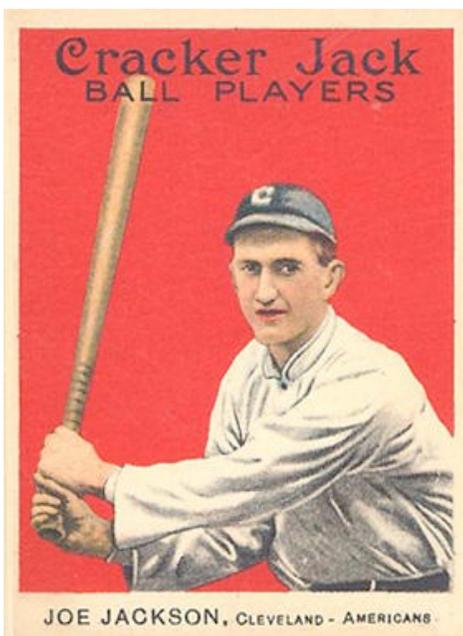
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the most attractive baseball card design ever produced. These 2-1/4" by 3" cards were also nearly twice as large as most of their tobacco card counterparts and included the most biographical detail of any baseball card yet manufactured. But it is the detailed artwork and many action poses which make this set a perennial collector favorite. In some sense, these are baseball cards doubling as art.

Here, among the Cracker Jack cards, are the best baseball card images of Shoeless Joe Jackson's swing, of Walter Johnson's pitching motion, and of Ty Cobb's glare. The action shots, too, are magnificent: Chick Gandil reaching for a ball at first base is a beautifully done horizontal image, as is that of Ray Keating pitching. Then there are the catcher poses, with Hick Cady, Ted Easterly, Les Nunamaker, Frank Owen, and Wally Schang shown in action in full catcher's gear. The portraits of Charles Comiskey and Connie Mack seem to capture their respective professional reputations. If you would like to see a commanding picture of John McGraw, a side view of Gavy Cravath at bat, or a pensive pose of Honus Wagner, these sets are the place to look. Surely, no better card of Smoky Joe Wood has ever been produced than in the Cracker Jack

sets, and there is a sometimes-overlooked card of Branch Rickey as manager of the St. Louis Browns. As many have noted, what is missing is a card of Babe Ruth in either set, a real incongruity since so many lesser names are included. But, except for Ruth, there is really nothing missing from these relatively small sets.

The 1914 Cracker Jack cards are significantly more scarce than the ones issued in 1915. "While collecting complete sets from either year is tough, there is no question that the 1914 set is infinitely more difficult to acquire, and it all comes down to the way the cards were distributed," wrote Joe Orlando, president of Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) and PSA/DNA, in a chapter about the origins of the cards in *The Cracker Jack Collection: Baseball's Prized Players* (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2013) by Tom Zappala and Ellen Zappala. Orlando said that the 1914 cards were distributed only in packages of Cracker Jack, making the cards more susceptible to damage, while the 1915 cards were available both in packages with the candy and also through a mail-in redemption where the entire set could be acquired for "either 100 coupons or one coupon plus a whopping 25 cents!" Add to it that the 1914 cards were printed on thinner card stock than their 1915 counterparts, and it is clear why so few of the former exist in top condition.



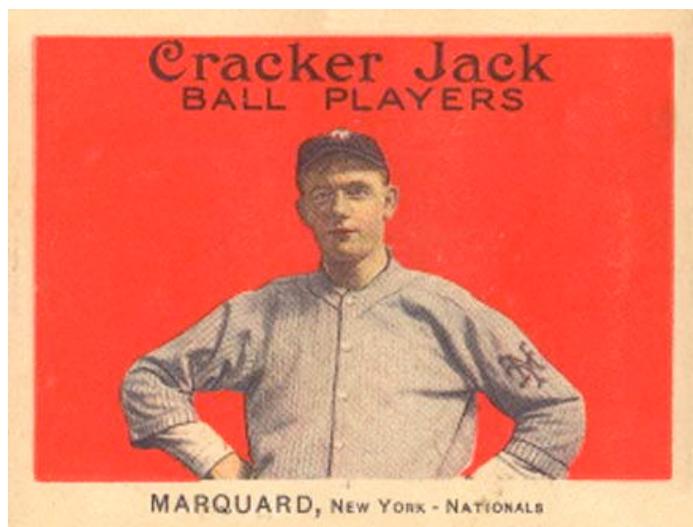
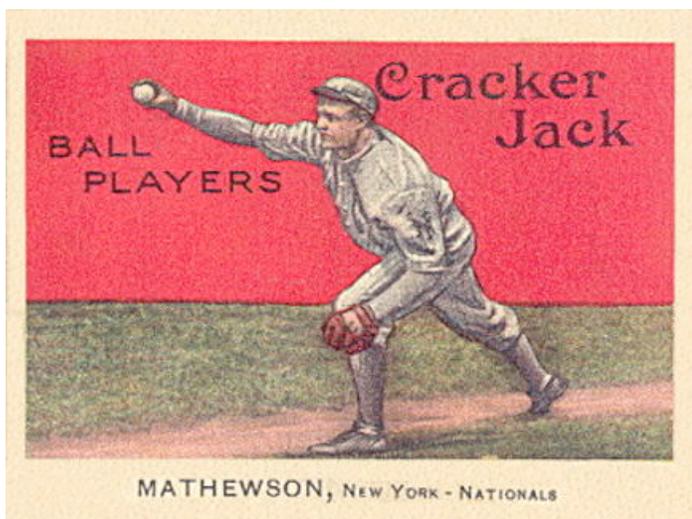
As Orlando outlines (see Zappala and Zappala, pp. 163-173), the 1914 set has 144 cards, while the 1915 version has 176. For most part, the first 144 cards are identical between the sets, as they have the same players and poses. Two players have different poses from the first year to the second: Christy Mathewson and Del Pratt each have an action pose in 1914 and a portrait in 1915. The 1914 Mathewson card, is, by far, the most popular and expensive Cracker Jack card, but it is very difficult to locate. The PSA website notes that one in excellent condition sold for \$95,000 in 2012. Four players (Harry Lord, Jay Cashion, Nixey Callahan, and Frank Chance) have cards in the 1914 set but not in the 1915 edition. The final thirty-two cards of the 1915 set (Nos. 145-176) are not included in the 1914 version. A few cards from 1914, as Orlando notes, were replaced from 1914 to 1915: Rollie Zeider's standing pose (he had two cards in 1914) was removed for Oscar Dugey, and Hal Chase would take the place of Frank Chance. The easiest way to tell the 1914 and 1915 cards apart is that the backs of the latter were printed upside down "so the card information could be read while mounted in the specially-designed albums (available by mail order for the 1915 set only)," wrote Orlando. He notes, though, that some 1915 cards show some staining from glue, likely used to keep the cards in these albums.

The backs of the cards are succinct, usually outlining each player's basic biography and how

he got to the major leagues, occasionally capped with understated praise. Cobb "is noted as a marvel for speed and batting." Wagner, his card says matter-of-factly, "has batted over 300 (*sic*) for ten years." Rabbit Maranville with Boston "has been a great success." At the bottom, the card backs in 1914 note that the company's first issue is "15,000,000 pictures," while the 1915 backs detail the offer for the complete set and to acquire what the company called the "Handsome Album to hold (the) full set of pictures."

An oft-forgotten component of these sets is their Federal League players including Rube Marquard who is erroneously identified as being with the Brooklyn Tip-Tops, and Artie (Circus Solly) Hofman, whose surname is misspelled as 'Hoffman'. George Suggs' uniform as a member of the Baltimore Terrapins stands out, while Bill Rariden is shown in his Boston Braves uniform in spite of having joined the Federal League's Indianapolis Hoosiers, as his card notes. Rollie Zeider's standing pose clearly shows the word 'Feds' on his Chicago uniform, and the bold word 'Buffalo' across Walter Blair's chest is a clear indication that things were different in baseball during 1914 and 1915.

These sets distinctively capture the individuality of many players. Though the artwork can vary in its quality (Max Carey's card, for one, is not the sharpest), it is fair to say that the portrayals often capture the essence of well-known players, and particularly of the top stars. Fred Clarke's sitting

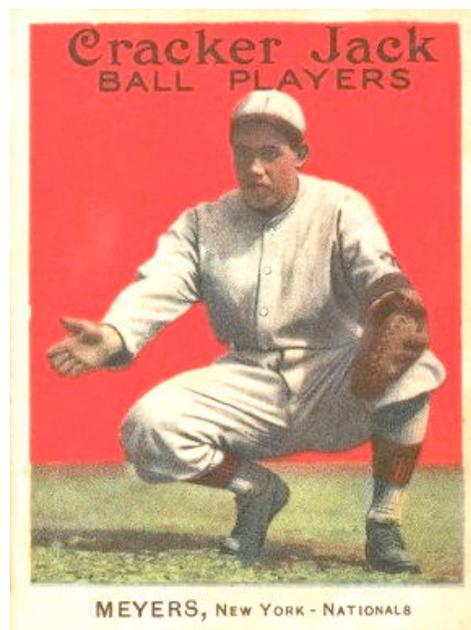
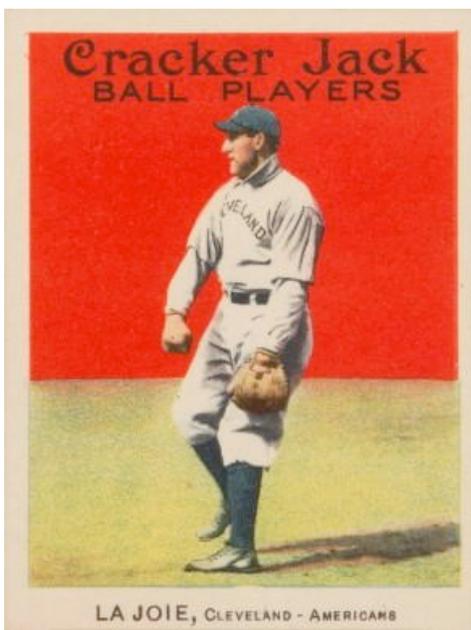
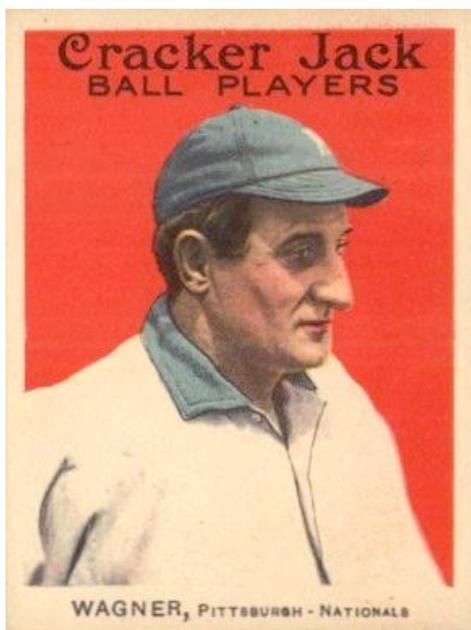
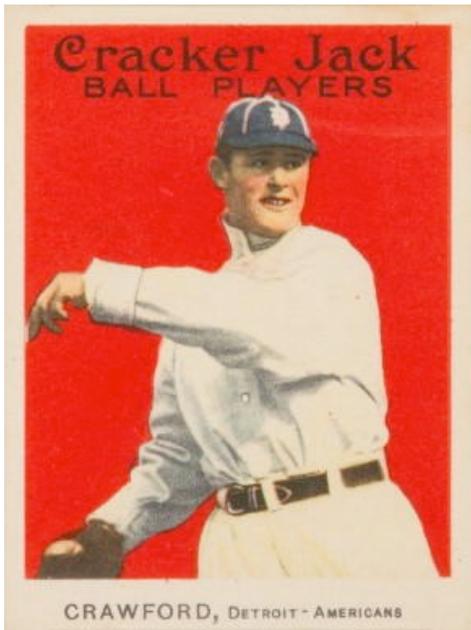
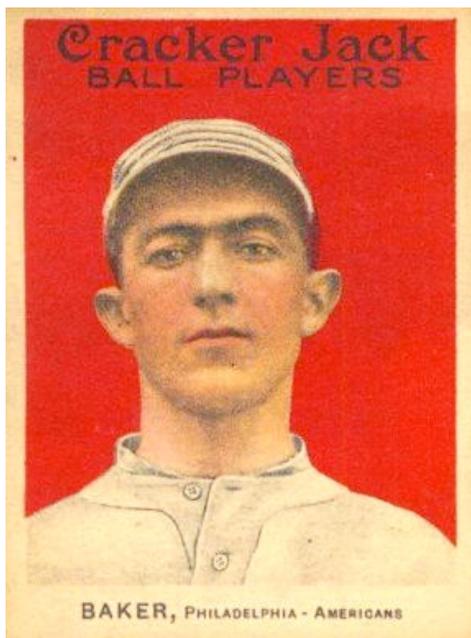


pose gives an air of focused effectiveness, and Sam Crawford's throwing motion offers a contended, carefree style. The grit and crustiness of the era also come through in Doc Gessler's swing or in Sherry Magee's throwing pose. Eddie Cicotte's easy smile on his Cracker Jack cards, alas, is reminiscent of a time before scandal hit the sport. In the Cracker Jack cards, no two poses or portraits look the same, making the set

stand out from those which often repeat similar images.

A card of a common Cracker Jack player in very good condition, which is to say, showing considerable wear, will likely cost between \$150 and \$200. Because of the demand for these cards and their relative scarcity, a star player will likely cost more than \$500, with steep increases in price as condition improves even marginally.

1914 CARDS

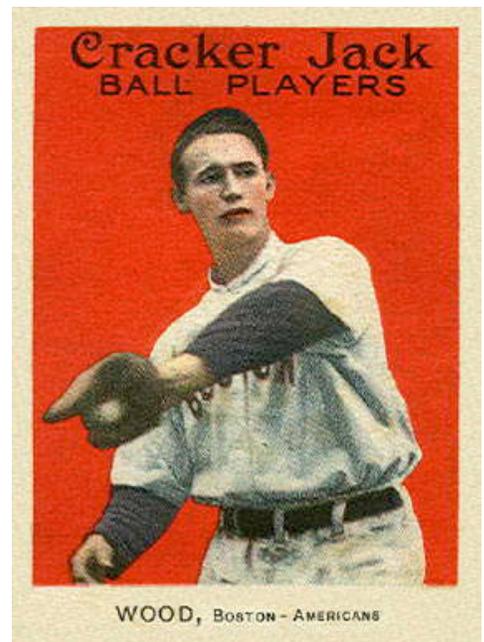
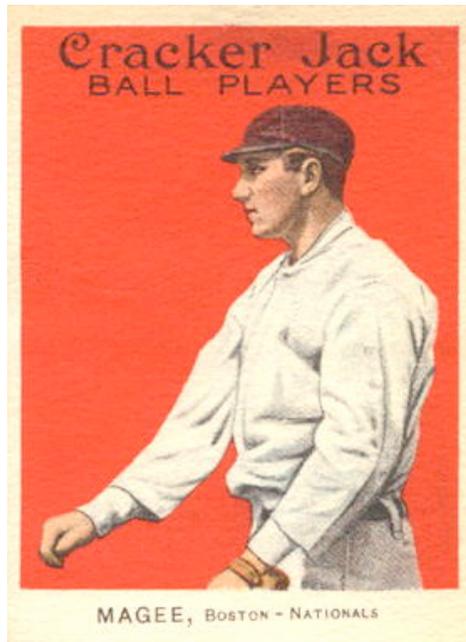
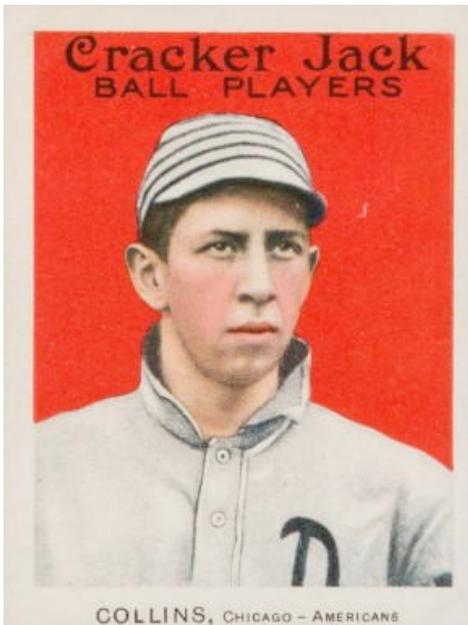
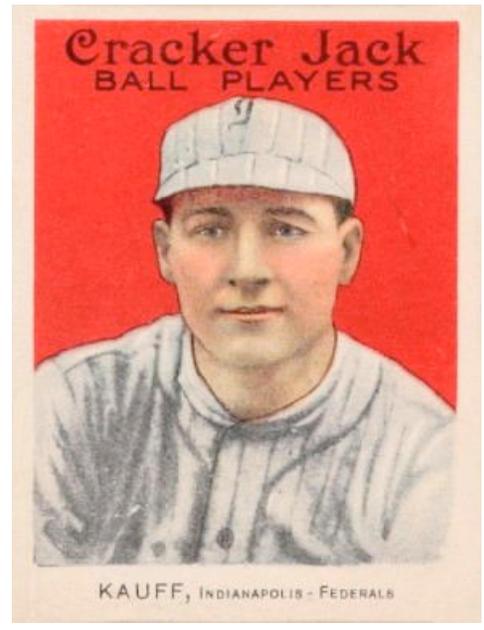
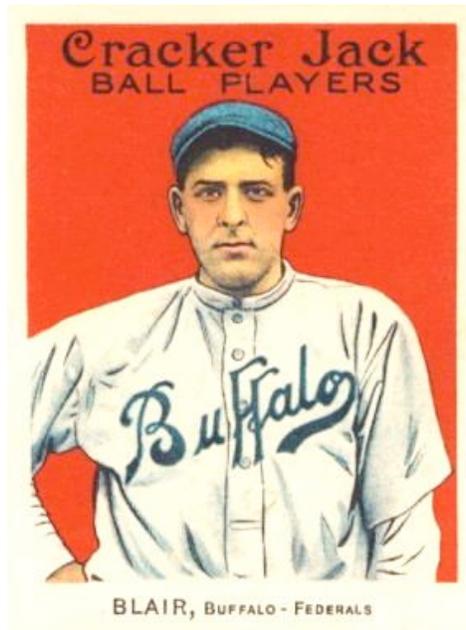
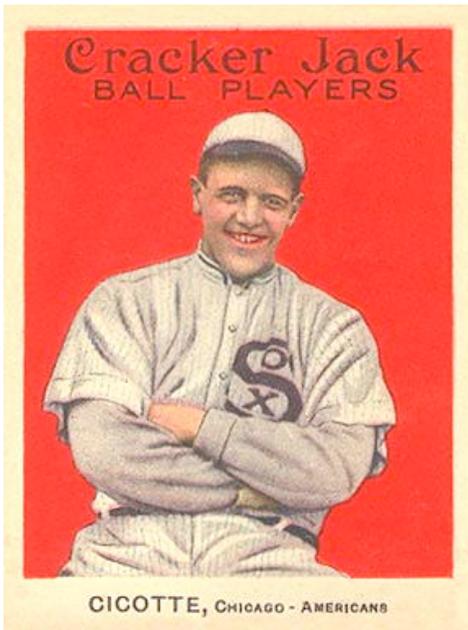


Cards issued in 1914, of course, almost always command a higher price. It speaks to the endurance of the Deadball Era and its players that desire for these cards remains so solid and strong more than a century after they were produced.

Many vintage baseball card collectors begin with the T205 and T206 sets because those sets include more players, and most cards are

available for about half of the price of the Cracker Jack cards. That is a fair approach. At the same time, while very different in appearance from traditional tobacco cards, the Cracker Jack sets include artwork that is at least as good, if not better, as well as an array of player poses and biographical detail not found in other contemporary card sets. These cards justifiably play a part in the telling of the story of the Deadball Era.

1915 CARDS



GAMES AND BIOPROJECT

Over the holiday season, contributors to the Games Project and BioProject kept working, resulting in the publication of numerous entries that should be of interest to DEC members. Eight new Deadball Era game accounts range from those covering a three-game series involving the Philadelphia Stars and Cuban X-Giants in September 1903 to an 18-inning Tigers-Senators contest late in the 1918 season. Meanwhile, the BioProject published profiles of Joe Evans, Rube Marquard, Bill Burns, Steamboat Williams, Jack Kibble, Skipper Roberts, George Hogriever, Gus Fisher, Fritz Buelow, Sled Allen, Lee Fohl, Jack Ness, Harry Bemis, and Boston sportswriter/editor William D. Sullivan. As always, we urge you to check these out if you have not already done so.

NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Ian Braun
Steven W. Burns
Ralph Carhart
Wesley Fricks
Matthew Hicks
Steve Klein
Alec Rogers
Kerry J. Roth
Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau

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.

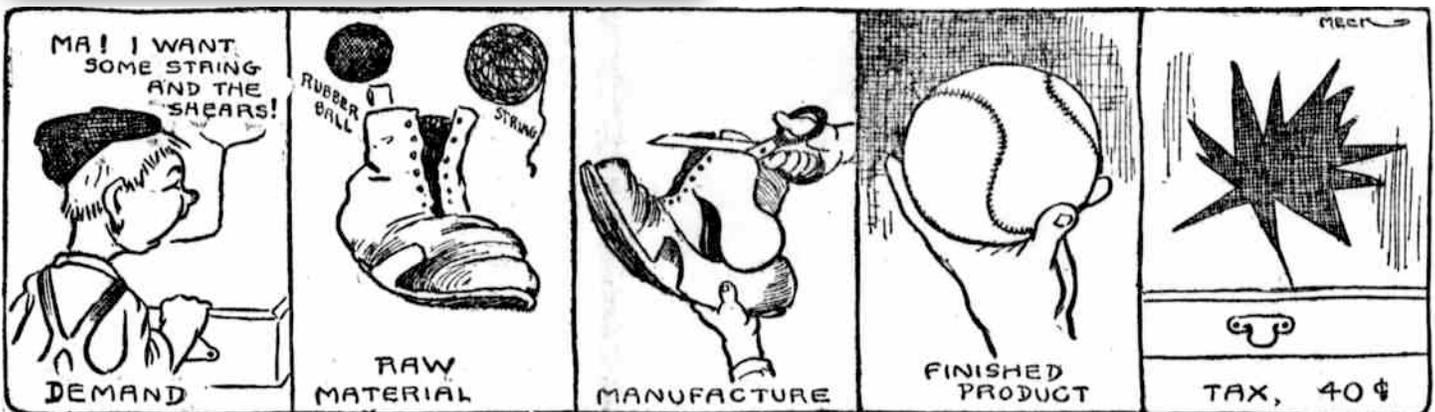
SUBMISSIONS NEEDED

As readers are often reminded, *The Inside Game* does not write itself. The newsletter depends upon contributions submitted by DEC members and others interested in Deadball Era baseball. And at the present, the contributions cupboard is pretty bare. So, if you have ever considered submitting a story to the newsletter, now is the time. Receipt of Deadball Era news items, doggerel, and cartoons is also welcomed. If the newsletter is to sustain the five-issues-per-year pace maintained since 2014 (and we would like to), we need your help. Kindly forward inquiries and submissions to the newsletter editor at wflamb12@yahoo.com. Thanks.

CUBAN BASEBALL TOURISTS SKIP

HAVANA—A baseball game was scheduled today between the Americans and Almendares teams. A great crowd went to the grounds, but the American team failed to appear. Instead they went aboard the steamer for Key West. Hoffman, one of the players, was arrested on his way to the dock, charged by McAllister with violation of contract. He was arraigned before the Provincial Governor who immediately discharged him in default of evidence. The whole team then sailed.

The Philadelphia Record, December 21, 1909



The Tacoma Times, March 13, 1911