

# The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee



VOL. XVII, No. 4: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" SEPTEMBER 2017

## DEADBALL AT SABR 47 RECAP

SABR 47 in New York City provided a record-breaking 806 convention attendees a wide variety of offerings to enjoy – everything from engaging panel discussions, celebrated individual speakers, research presentations, a baseball-related poster show, a Friday night trip to Citi Field for a Mets-Phillies game, and the annual meetings of SABR committees, not to mention the pleasure of renewing old acquaintances and making new ones in the hallways, bars, and surrounds of the Grand Hyatt Hotel. By almost any measure, SABR 47 was a great success.

Several members of the Deadball Era Committee did us proud with informative and entertaining presentations on events pertaining to the game in the first decades of the 20th century. Leading off was George Boziwick, chief of the Music Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Expanding upon a topic that he wrote about authoritatively in *Base Ball, A Journal of the Early Game*, George delved into the societal implications of the classic *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. The song's broader message of support for suffrage, female empowerment, and the acceptance women in the public sphere are embodied in verses of the song that are rarely performed today and now mostly



photo by Dixie Tourangeau

**Dan Levitt**

forgotten. In short, more than the joy of just going to a baseball game was meant to be conveyed by the verses of this familiar seventh-inning stretch anthem.

The trying executive tenure and tragic end of National League President Harry Pulliam were placed in perspective by Dr. Steven A. King, an eminent pain management physician. Overshadowed by his perplexing suicide in early 1909 are Pulliam's important contributions to the game during the turbulent NL-AL war years and thereafter. A good part of Steve's presentation was devoted to recalling the important life events and achievements that preceded Pulliam's untimely death.

### ON THE INSIDE:

**Accurate Runs Scored for the 1911 Detroit Tigers**  
by Herm Krabbenhoft ..... page 4

**Game Worn**  
reviewed by John Rossi ..... page 8

**Plié Ball**  
reviewed by Mark Pattison ..... page 9

**Lefty O'Doul**  
reviewed by David Poremba ..... page 11

**Baseball Meets the Law**  
reviewed by Mitchell Nathanson ..... page 12

**Who Did What? (Joe Benz and Namesakes)**  
by Bill Lamb ..... page 14

That legendary New York Giants manager John McGraw had his differences with NL umpires is hardly a secret, but additional light was shed on Little Napoleon's many run-ins with the men in blue during the presentation of newsletter book section editor Dan Levitt. Making good use of the Garry Herrmann papers recently cataloged for baseball researchers, Dan provided attendees with detail on how umpires like Bill Klem and Bill Byron reported their encounters with McGraw to the league office. These first-hand accounts of their confrontations with McGraw and his outrageous antics provide valuable new insight into his complex, often contradictory, personality.

Pinch-hitting for committee chairman John McMurray, Dan also moderated the annual meeting of the Deadball Era Committee. Among other things, those in attendance were reminded of the growth in good research covering the Deadball Era, much of it stimulated by the DEC and its members, and encouraged to continue their pursuits. Thereafter, editor Steve Steinberg

provided a status report on the forthcoming pictorial history of Deadball Era World Series. The highlight of the meeting was formal presentation of the Larry Ritter Award by award committee chairman Doug Skipper. This year, the laurel was given to veteran sports journalist Glenn Stout for his compelling *The Selling of the Babe: The Deal That Changed Baseball and Created a Legend* (Macmillan, 2016). In his acceptance remarks, Glenn highlighted his research techniques, including his extensive explorations of the era and people, and his hunt for interesting sources such as the Frazee papers and the Harry Ransom Center in Austin.

Next summer, we look forward to an encore at SABR 48 in Pittsburgh.

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

**Committee Chair**  
John McMurray: [deadball@sabr.org](mailto:deadball@sabr.org)

**Committee Vice Chair**  
Trey Strecker: [ninebaseballeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ninebaseballeditor@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bill Lamb: [wflamb12@yahoo.com](mailto:wflamb12@yahoo.com)

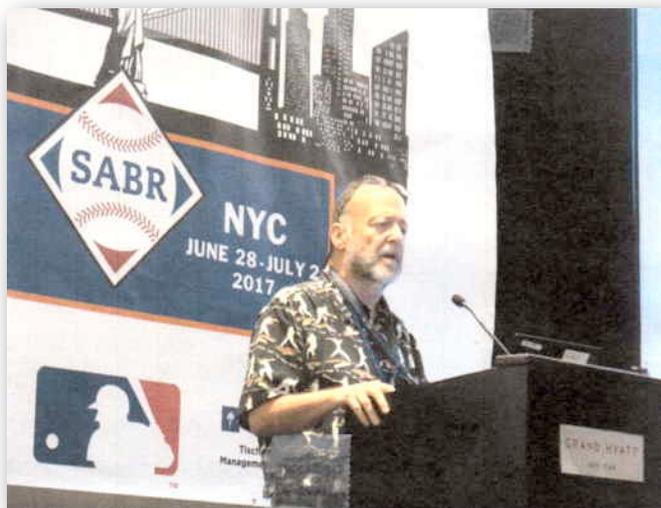
**Assistant Editor**  
Mark Dugo: [claydad96@aol.com](mailto:claydad96@aol.com)

**Assistant Editor**  
Bob Harris: [bob@bumblebeagle.org](mailto:bob@bumblebeagle.org)

**Book Review Editor**  
Dan Levitt: [danrl@att.global.net](mailto:danrl@att.global.net)



*Ritter Award Winner Glenn Stout*



*Steve Steinberg*

photo by Dixie Tourangeau

photo by Dixie Tourangeau

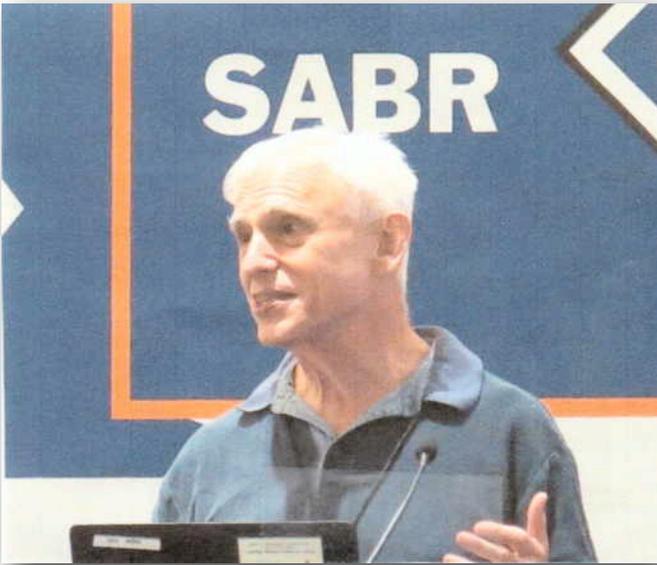


photo by Dixie Tourangeau

***Dr. Steve King***



photo by Dixie Tourangeau

***George Boziwick***



photo by Dixie Tourangeau

***Dan Levitt and SABR Executive Director Marc Appleman***

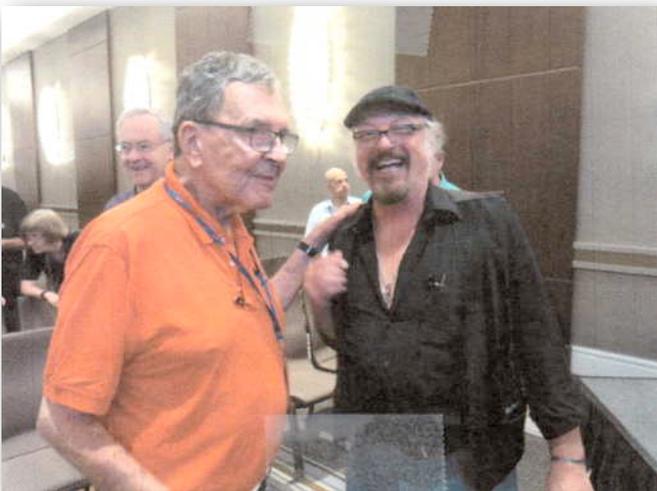


photo by Dixie Tourangeau

***Dick Beverage and Glenn Stout***



photo by Dixie Tourangeau

***Glenn Stout, Ritter Award Committee Chairman Doug Skipper, and Dan Levitt***

Many thanks to committee member Dixie Tourangeau for the SABR 47 photos displayed herein.

# ACCURATE RUNS-SCORED RECORDS FOR PLAYERS OF THE DEADBALL ERA: THE PLAYERS ON THE 1911 DETROIT TIGERS

by **Herm Krabbenhoft**

In previous reports I have documented the corrections of runs-scored errors in MLB's official records for players on the Detroit Tigers for the 1906 and 1912-1919 seasons.<sup>1-6</sup> In this article I present the results of my research in which I discovered — and corrected — runs-scored errors in the official Major League records for the Detroit Tigers players from the 1911 campaign.

## RESEARCH PROCEDURE

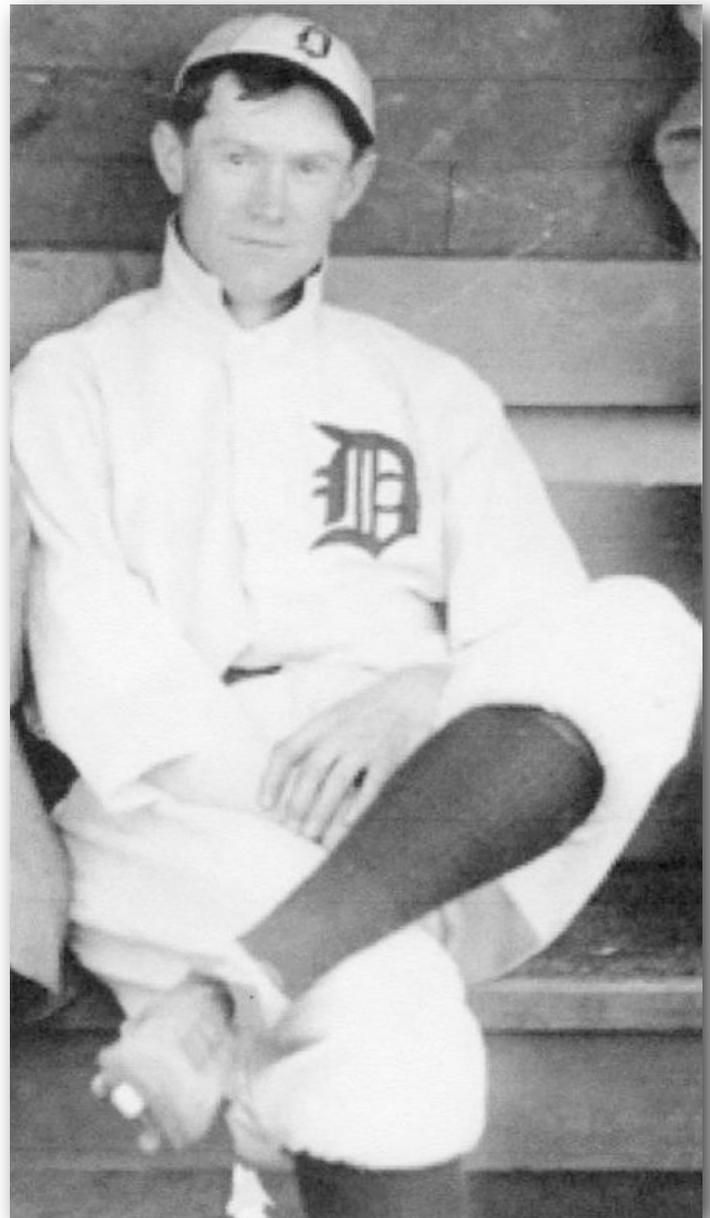
For the 1911 season, during which the Tigers scored 831 runs, I utilized the same rigorous *modus operandi* employed in my previous research efforts to ascertain accurate runs-scored and runs-batted-in numbers.<sup>1-9</sup> The Appendix to this article (available at SABR.org) provides the complete details of my research procedure.

## RESULTS

Table 1 presents the full-season runs-scored numbers, according to my research, for each of the 29 players who participated in one or more games for the Detroit Tigers in 1911. Also shown for comparison are the full-season runs-scored statistics from the *originally-generated* official DBD sheets. With a few exceptions, the originally-generated official DBD runs-scored numbers are also shown in each of the various most-recently published hard-copy baseball encyclopedias: *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* (2008); *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (2007); *Total Baseball* (2004); *Bill James presents STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* (2000); *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (1996).<sup>10-14</sup> Likewise for the website *Baseball-Reference.com* (accessed on June 23, 2017).

Examination of Table 1 reveals that there are differences between my runs-scored numbers and MLB's originally-generated official runs-scored numbers for six players — Ty Cobb, Del Gainer, George Moriarty, Jack Ness, Biff

Schaller, and Oscar Stange. Inspection of the official DBD records for each of the players reveals that there are no mathematical errors for any of the players. Next, comparison of my Game-By-Game (GBG) runs-scored numbers with the official Day-By-Day (DBD) runs-scored numbers resulted in my unearthing of five games with errors in the official records for seven players. Table 2 collects the pertinent information. The Appendix provides the newspaper text descriptions for each of the runs scored in each of these five games; also provided are the runs-scored numbers according to the newspaper box scores.



**Jim Delahanty**

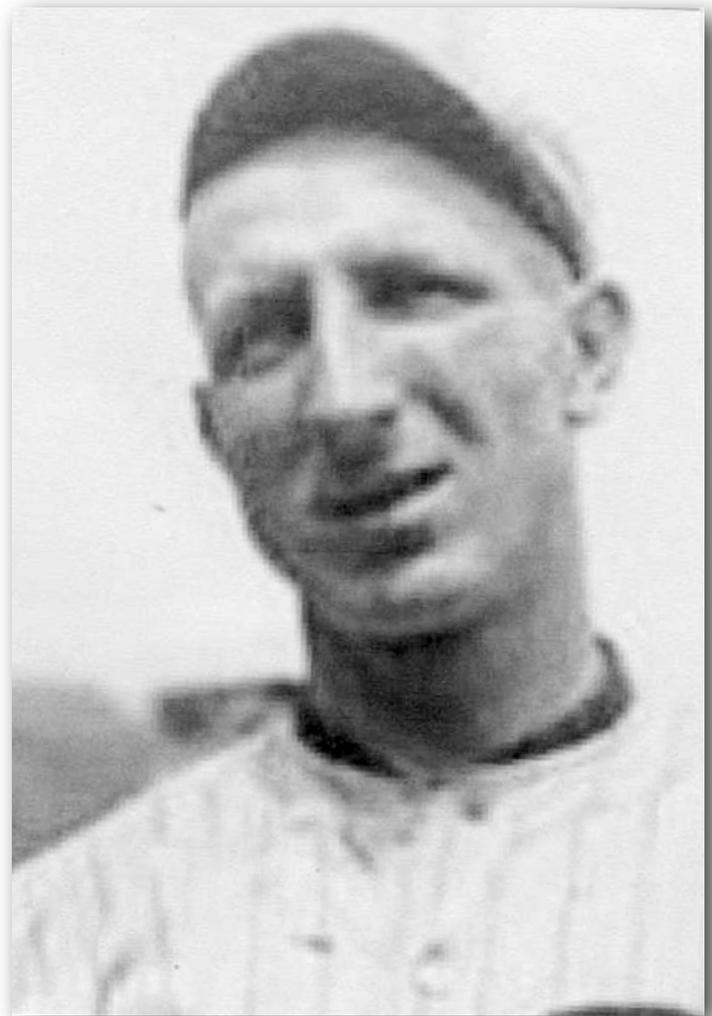
## DISCUSSION

Certainly, the most important runs-scored error in the official DBD records is the one for the second game of the doubleheader between the Tigers and Athletics on June 28 in Philadelphia — because it impacts the runs scored by Tyrus Raymond Cobb. According to the official DBD records, Cobb led the Majors in runs scored with 147. According to my research, including the marker he tallied in the June 28 afterpiece, Cobb actually scored 148 runs. As indicated in Table 2, all of the most-recent hard-copy baseball encyclopedias, as well as MLB.com (the official website of Major League Baseball) and Baseball-Reference.com (each accessed on June 23, 2017), show Cobb with 147 runs scored. Only one source (of which I am aware) correctly shows Cobb's 1911 runs-scored number — *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* has, beginning with the 2003 edition and continuing with each subsequent annual edition, shown Cobb as the AL leader in runs scored with 148 runs.<sup>15</sup> Two other players had incorrect runs-scored numbers in that June 28 nightcap — Moriarty and Stange were each credited officially with one run scored, when, in actuality, each had no runs scored in the game.

Jim Delahanty had runs-scored errors in two games. In the second game on August 2 (at Boston), the official records show him with zero runs scored; he actually tallied once. In the second game on September 4 (in St. Louis), the official records show him one run scored; in actuality, he did not score any runs. Thus, the two errors cancel each other, resulting in his full-season runs-scored total (83) being unchanged. For the other two 1911 Tigers players with runs-scored errors in the official records, it appears that for the May 24 game against the Senators, the official scorer simply made a mistake by placing the runs-scored entry (1) on Ness's stat line instead of on Schaller's batting line — Schaller pinch hit for Ness in the eighth inning, drawing a base on balls and eventually scoring.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

In my previous research efforts, I discovered and corrected runs-scored errors in the official DBD records for Cobb, Gainer, Moriarty, and Stange.



**Jack Ness**

The runs-scored errors and corrections reported here for Delahanty, Ness, and Schaller brings the to-date-total number of Tigers players from the 1906 and 1911-1919 seasons of the Deadball Era with runs-scored errors in the official DBD records to 23. The next Tigers season on my “Accurate Runs-Scored Records for Players of the Deadball Era” schedule is 1910 — during which Detroit topped the Junior Circuit in runs scored with 679 and The Georgia Peach again led the American League in runs tallied with 106 (according to the official DBD records).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am again very grateful to Tom Ruane and Dave Smith for reviewing the documentation I assembled to ascertain accurate runs-scored numbers for the players on the 1911 Detroit Tigers.

## REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 (April 2016), 15.
4. 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.
5. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 5 — The Players on the 1918 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XV, No. 2 (April 2015), 12 and Appendix.
6. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 3 — The Players on the 1919 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, No. 4 (October 2014), 11.
7. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate Runs-Scored Statistics for the Players on the 1912 Chicago Cubs," *The Inside Game*, Volume XIV, No. 6 (December 2014), 1.
8. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 12 — The Players on the 1912 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XVII, No. 2 (April 2017), 24.
9. Herm Krabbenhoft, "Accurate RBI Records for the Players of the Deadball Era: Part 11 — The Players on the 1914 Detroit Tigers," *The Inside Game*, Volume XVII, No. 1 (February 2017), 19.
10. Gary Gillette and Pete Palmer, *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2008).
11. David S. Neft, Richard M. Cohen, Michael L. Neft, *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007).
12. John Thorn, Phil Birnbaum, and Bill Deane, *Total Baseball* (New York: Sport Publishing Media, 2004).
13. Bill James, John Dewan, Don Zminda, Jim Callis, and Neil Munro, *Bill James presents ... STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* (Morton Grove, Illinois: STATS Inc., 2000).
14. Jeanine Bucek (Editorial Director), Traci Cothran, Bill Deane, Bob Kerler, Maria Massey,



***Biff Schaller***

- Bob Tiemann, Richard Topp, and Ken Samelson (Statistical Director), *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (New York: Macmillan, 1996).
15. Seymour Siwoff, *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* (New York: Board Book, 2017), 386.

Back to the poor little country town,  
The big league player goes;  
Back to brag of his victories,  
And recite his tale of woes.  
And around the stove in the country store,  
He will entertain the rubes;  
Explaining how he was king of the game,  
And his team-mates nothing but boobs.

by Billy Murphy

*The Toronto Sunday World, December 15, 1912*

**TABLE 1: RUNS-SCORED NUMBERS  
FOR PLAYERS ON THE 1911 DETROIT TIGERS.**

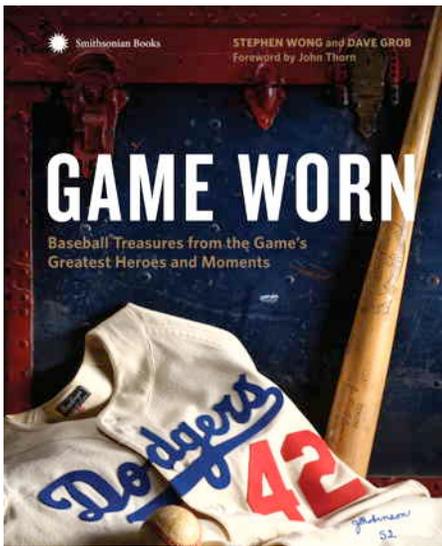
Player	Runs (This Work)	Runs (Official)	Player	Runs (This Work)	Runs (Official)
Paddy Baumann	8	8	Clarence Mitchell	2	2
Donie Bush	126	126	<b>George Moriarty</b>	<b>*50*</b>	51
Joe Casey	2	2	George Mullin	4	4
Pug Cavet	0	0	<b>Jack Ness</b>	<b>*5*</b>	6
<b>Ty Cobb</b>	<b>*148*</b>	147	Charley O'Leary	29	29
Tex Covington	6	6	<b>Biff Schaller</b>	<b>*9*</b>	8
Sam Crawford	109	109	Boss Schmidt	4	4
Jim Delahanty	83	83	<b>Oscar Stanage</b>	<b>*44*</b>	45
Bill Donovan	11	11	Ed Summers	4	4
Delos Drake	37	37	Wiley Taylor	0	0
<b>Del Gainer</b>	<b>*33*</b>	32	Guy Tutweiler	3	3
Davy Jones	78	78	Ed Willett	15	15
Ed Lafitte	6	6	Squanto Wilson	2	2
Chick Lathers	5	5	Ralph Works	2	2
Jack Lively	6	6	—	—	—

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

**TABLE 2: RUNS-SCORED ERRORS IN OFFICIAL DBD RECORDS FOR  
PLAYERS ON THE 1911 DETROIT TIGERS — CONSEQUENCES  
(INDIVIDUAL GAME AND FULL SEASON) OF CORRECTING THE ERRORS.**

Player	Game	OPP	Runs Game (This Work)	Runs Game (Official)	Runs Season (This Work)	Runs Season (Official)	Runs Season (Encyclopedias)
Cobb	July 28 (2)	PHI*	1	0	148	147	147
Delahanty	August 2 (2)	BOS*	1	0	83	83	83
	September 4 (2)	STL*	0	1			
Gainer	September 29	WAS*	1	0	33	32	32
Moriarty	July 28 (2)	PHI*	0	1	50	51	51
Ness	May 24	WAS	1	2	5	6	6
Schaller	May 24	WAS	1	0	9	8	8
Stanage	July 28 (2)	PHI*	0	1	44	45	45

NOTES: The entries in the "Runs Season (Encyclopedias)" column are from the baseball encyclopedias given in references 10-14 as well as from the MLB.com and Baseball-Reference.com (accessed on June 23, 2017). An asterisk in the "OPP" column indicates that the game was played in the opposing team's city.



**GAME WORN:  
BASEBALL TREASURES  
FROM THE GAME'S  
GREATEST HEROES  
AND MOMENTS**

**BY STEPHEN WONG AND  
DAVE GROB**

*2016, Smithsonian Books  
[ISBN: 978-1588345714. 320  
pp. \$34.95 USD. Hardcover]*

Reviewed by  
**John Rossi**  
rossi@lasalle.edu

For my first baseball uniform I asked for the number 5 worn by my hero Joe DiMaggio. After all I was half Italian. As a kid I knew the numbers of all the great players of the time — Ted Williams' 9, Stan Musial's 6, Jackie Robinson's 42 — and I desperately wanted the Yankee Clipper's number. Instead, I got 37, Casey Stengel's number. I was not happy.

This trivia arises because of a new book by Stephen Wong and Dave Grob that traces the role that the uniform has

played in baseball's history. The book's title is slightly deceptive. What the authors have given us essentially is a history of major league baseball since 1901 through the evolution of the baseball uniform. They note that little attention was paid to uniforms until fairly recently when they became highly collectible. Wong and Grob believe that the popularity of the baseball uniform is directly tied to the way they personify ballplayers and their era.

The book is richly illustrated with brilliant color photographs of baseball uniforms worn since the Deadball Era. Beginning with a slightly faded Philadelphia Athletics uniform with pale blue A on the front worn by Jack Coombs during his 1906 rookie season, the book also showcases evocative photographs of the players that wore them. Along the way, Wong and Grob show how uniforms have changed. In the first two decades of the twentieth century they were usually heavy wool with long sleeves and high collars. One of the most evocative photographs in this section is a bright red blazer worn by Harry Hooper of the Red Sox during the 1912 World Series. Equally fascinating is a heavy gray sweater with *Tigers* in black letters across the front and a large *D* on the right side worn by Ty Cobb in 1920. Few uniforms from this era have survived. For example, only one Black Sox uniform from

the infamous 1919 World Series has survived.

By the 1920s the heavy flannels of the past had given way to lighter wool blends with innovations such as zippers and numbers on the back. One of the most memorable from this period is the St. Louis Cardinals uniform with its bright red *Cardinals* on the front along with a bat on which sits two bright red cardinal birds. It has hardly changed since the 1930s.

Uniforms from the Depression through WW II and a number of years thereafter are among the most sought after because the ballclubs extended their use to reduce costs. During the war many uniforms were donated to the military. Interestingly, among the most valuable uniforms are those worn by the Houston Colt 45s. These uniforms adorned with Colt 45s were replaced when Houston moved into the Astrodome with its new space icon as symbol of the team. The Colt 45s are among the rarest because they were later used by minor league teams and literally wore out.

Post-World War II uniforms associated with successful teams such as the New York Yankees, Brooklyn Dodgers, and Boston Red Sox are also highly collectable. The form-fitting ones from the 1970s made of cotton and synthetic material with multi-color designs, such as George Brett's powder blue uniform, are popular with collectors the

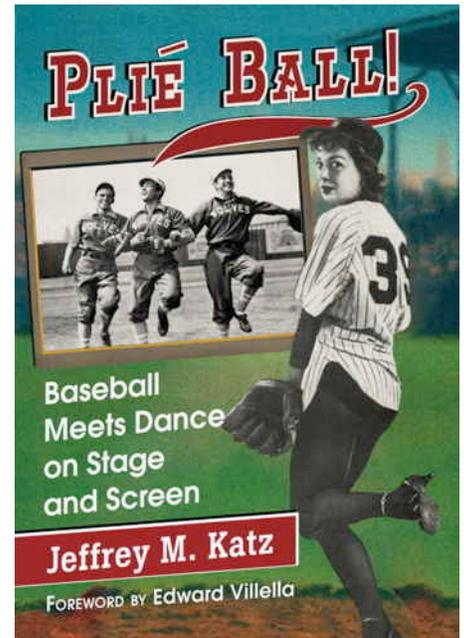
author's assert because of their vitality.

Wong and Grob don't say much about the way uniforms are worn today. What happened to the stirrup which was popular for so long? How did the current trend of wearing the pants to the ankle develop? Also, it is interesting that in the past players like Jimmie Foxx and Ted Kluszewski modified their uniforms by cutting the sleeves to the shoulder. You don't see anything like that today. The last quarter of the book is devoted to something called Compendium which seems to be a collection of material that the authors could not find use for and has little to do with the uniforms analyzed in the opening sections of the book.

Wong and Grob have done a good job of highlighting an important and neglected aspect of baseball history. The book is beautifully put together. The

stories of the uniforms and the players that wore them makes for good reading. Unfortunately the book is also filled with petty mistakes that a baseball scholar would have caught. Attendance rose sharply and didn't drop in 1920 after the Black Sox Scandal. The dimensions given for Forbes Field are incorrect. Tom Seaver didn't strike out 25 batters in a game. Eddie Waitkus didn't return during the 1949 season after he was shot by a demented young woman. Also, why not give more information on the monetary value of various uniforms? None of that, however, should detract from the fact that Wong and Grob have broken new ground and have produced a first-rate addition to books on the history of baseball.

*John Rossi is Professor Emeritus of History at LaSalle University in Philadelphia.*



**PLIÉ BALL! BASEBALL MEETS DANCE ON STAGE AND SCREEN**

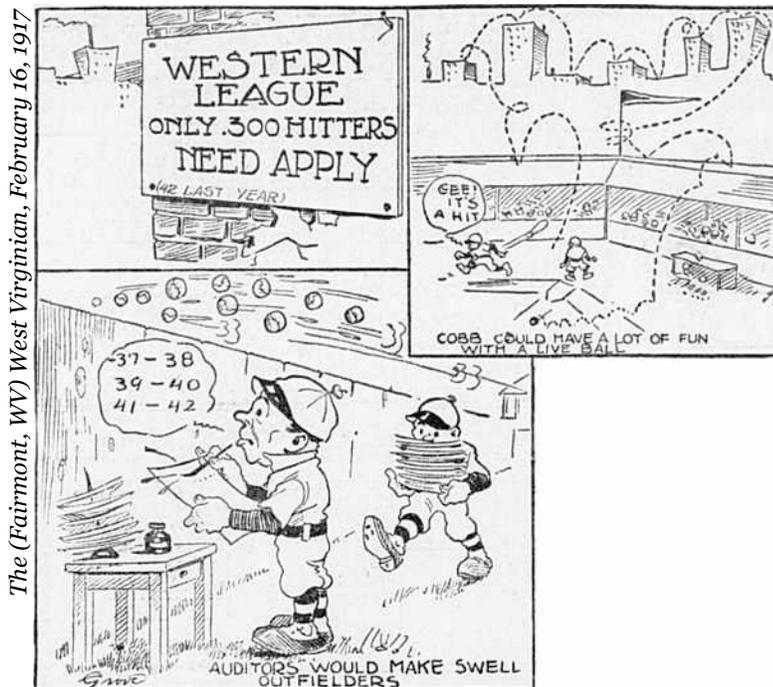
**BY JEFFREY M. KATZ**

2016, McFarland  
 [ISBN: 978-0-7864-6406-7.  
 304 pp. \$39.95 USD.  
 Paperback]

Reviewed by  
**Mark Pattison**  
 pattison\_mark@hotmail.com

For those of us who have known all along that baseball has pervaded every aspect of life, along comes a book to affirm that assertion to the nth degree. If you'd thought the only corollary between baseball and dance was the pirouetting of a double-play combination at second base, you've got a lot to learn, and Jeffrey M. Katz is the one to teach you.

*Plie Ball!* is *sui generis*; there's nothing I've read or seen like it. The closest, yet imperfect, analogue is Rob Edelman's books on baseball movies.



Author Jeffrey M. Katz, a New York City librarian and educator, appears both authoritative about the subject, yet affectionate to his subjects. The book is nothing if not thorough. (It's also in McFarland's expanded 7"x10" format.) Indeed, this completist approach is likely best since there probably won't be a flood of other authors rushing in to address the topic.

How completist? While reading, I couldn't wait for examples to appear in his mostly chronological timeline. Yes, in the index there was a listing for *T.E.A.M. (The Baseball Game)*, one song from the 1967 off-Broadway musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. (I'd played the title character in high school). Then I had to confirm whether there would be mention made of *I Don't Dance*, a key plot-turn song in the 2007 Disney Channel made-for-TV (and made for kids in my daughter's demographic) movie, *High School Musical 2*. Indeed! Satisfied, I settled in to read the rest of *Plie Ball!* at a more measured pace, and then near the end I found a dance-related passage quoted from a tattered book I had purchased at an antique shop for four bucks in

my pre-fatherhood years: Zane Grey's 1909 novel, *The Short-Stop*.

Deadball devotees will take great comfort in Katz telling tales of such players as Germany Schaefer, Turkey Mike Donlin, Rube Marquard, Nick Altrock, and such 19th-century types as Cap Anson, King Kelly, and John Montgomery Ward taking to the footlights in the days when vaudeville and music halls ruled the roost. But that's just one chapter in a book that covers the intersection of baseball and dance through 2015. Readers may find added succor when films crop up like the musical comedy *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, featuring a trio of decidedly Deadball hoofers like Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly, and Jules Munchin taking bows on and off the field with the "Wolves."

Katz separates each chapter with "interludes" — his literary parallel with the theater's "entr'acte" — interviews with dancers and choreographers who have staged or performed baseball-themed works. These can get a bit tedious at times, but one can't risk skipping them. Otherwise you'll miss the choreographer who took in a full season of Cleveland

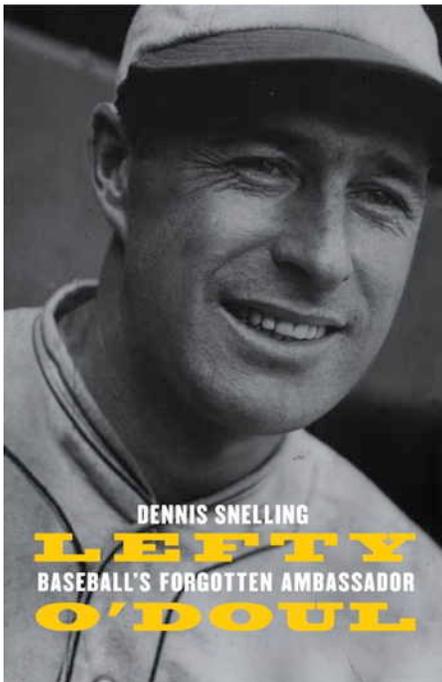
Indians games, taping the broadcasts and taking note of any player movement that resembled a dance motion so he could incorporate it into his next dance piece. Or the kid who was knocked out when a thrown ball hit him on the head while he was playing "running bases" in New York City. His mom found his crumpled form on the stoop, dragged there by his friends, and made him come to his sister's dance class to keep him away from those ruffians; one thing led to another and he ultimately became a member of George Balanchine's New York City Ballet.

Let's get one thing straight: This book is not going to be for everyone. Descriptions of any player or team's performance on the field, or life off it, are in extremely short supply. And if that's what you look for in a baseball book, save your money. But if you have room in your life for artistic exploits that aren't easily quantifiable by baseball-reference.com, you may want to give *Plie Ball!* a look.

*Mark Pattison is a SABR member since 2000 and a journalist since 1978, and loves to read while listening to ballgames on the radio.*



"Squirrel Food" by sportswriter-turned-cartoonist Gene Ahern in *The (Fairmont, WV) West Virginian*, March 19, 1917



**LEFTY O'DOUL:  
BASEBALL'S  
FORGOTTEN  
AMBASSADOR**

**BY DENNIS SNELLING**

*2017, University of Nebraska  
Press*

*[ISBN: 978-0803290969. 392  
pp. \$27.95 USD. Hardcover]*

Reviewed by

**David Poremba**

daveporem@yahoo.com

There are too many unknown or forgotten ballplayers throughout the sport's history, and it is refreshing when one of them gets to step out of the shadows and into the limelight once again. In Dennis Snelling's extremely capable hands, Francis Joseph "Lefty" O'Doul is no longer one of them.

This is the story of an amazing baseball career, beginning in the sandlots of San Francisco

in 1912 and ending in the manager's role of the Pacific Coast League in 1957. Nearly six decades in the ranks of Organized Baseball is an awful long time, but author Snelling keeps things moving with a lively, flowing narrative. He uses contemporary sources, including newspapers, family and friends interviews, and a wide-ranging amount of archival resources.

Snelling tells his story using two timelines: one at the beginning of each chapter is closer to the present. Then, a few pages later, he uses the chronology from the beginning of O'Doul's life. At first, this was a bit disconcerting but as you continue to read, you begin to anticipate it and the narrative is that much smoother. As an example, the book begins in 1958, then a few pages later, Snelling starts with his subject's early life. Towards the end of the book, the two timelines dovetail together perfectly to end the story.

O'Doul's career was certainly not an ordinary one. Picked up off the semipro sandlots as a left-handed pitcher in 1918 by the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League, he pitched 50 games for them with an ERA of 2.63, before enlisting in the United States Navy. Assigned to a submarine base in California, he pitched for the Navy until his discharge the following year. Drafted by the New York Yankees, O'Doul took up his pitching duties in 1919 and suffered an arm injury during a mid-season

throwing contest. A talented southpaw on a staff that included another talented lefty named Babe Ruth, O'Doul refused to give up the mound, which ultimately cost him his position. In 1924 he found himself back in the PCL, this time with Salt Lake, appearing in 23 games as a pitcher but also playing the outfield and excelling at the plate with a .392 average. The following year he hit .375 with over 300 hits in the long-season PCL. Back with the Seals in 1927, he won the first-ever PCL MVP award with 278 hits, 33 home runs, and a .378 average. O'Doul longed to get back to the big leagues and with his transition to the outfield complete, he got a chance when the New York Giants brought him back strictly as an outfielder at age 31. Traded to the Phillies at the end of the 1928 season, in 1929 he had a stellar season – finishing one hit shy of .400 for average. O'Doul pounded out 254 base-hits (a National League single-season record which still stands, later tied by Bill Terry in 1930), with 32 dingers and 122 RBIs, to win his first of two National League batting titles. He lost the MVP by six points, finishing second to Rogers Hornsby.

After another great year at the plate for Philadelphia, he was traded to the Brooklyn Robins, where in 1932, he won his second batting title and finished third in the MVP voting. After one more season with the Giants, O'Doul retired

with a career batting average of .349, fourth highest all-time behind only Ty Cobb, Rogers Hornsby, and Joe Jackson.

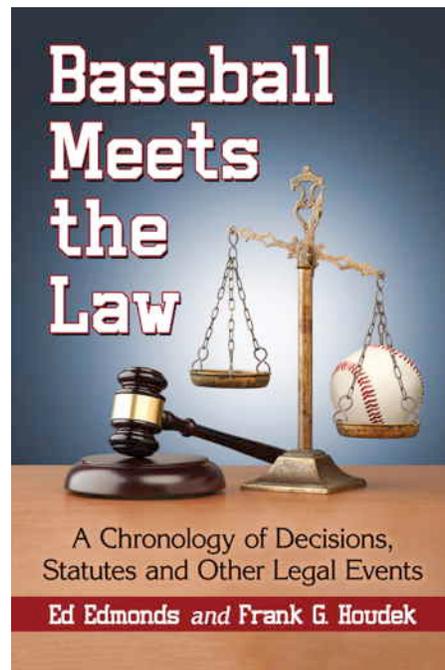
In 1935, Lefty returned to the PCL as the manager of the Seals, beginning a 15-year stint in that position. The team won the PCL championship that year, an attestation to his ability as a manager. He loved to help the young kids coming up and his students included Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, and Joe and Dom DiMaggio. O'Doul even taught actor Gary Cooper a thing or two for the Gehrig biopic *Pride of the Yankees* in 1942. Ultimately, Lefty became the PCL's winningest manager with over 2,000 wins.

The subtitle of this book refers to him as baseball's forgotten ambassador, and it points to perhaps Lefty's most enduring legacy – that of goodwill ambassador, especially to the Japanese people. From his first tours in the 1930s O'Doul promoted baseball in Japan; his 1949 trip was endorsed by General Douglas MacArthur and helped tremendously to bolster morale. O'Doul is still revered in Nippon and was elected to the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Dennis Snelling's book covers an awful lot of ground in recounting O'Doul's exceptional life. From a sore-armed pitcher to a prolific hitter to a winning manager to a goodwill ambassador, Lefty O'Doul was a tough competitor and a winner. Entertaining and

very informative, this book belongs on every sports bookshelf.

*David Poremba is a longtime SABR member with an interest in the Deadball Era and a former curator of the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection in Detroit.*



**BASEBALL MEETS THE  
LAW: A CHRONOLOGY  
OF DECISIONS,  
STATUTES AND OTHER  
LEGAL EVENTS**

**BY ED EDMONDS AND  
FRANK G. HOUDEK**

*2017, McFarland*  
[ISBN: 978-1476664385. 319  
pp. \$39.95 USD. Cloth]

Reviewed by  
**Mitchell Nathanson**  
nathanson@law.villanova.edu

There is no shortage of "baseball and the law" books. Some focus on the seminal

decisions, such as the Supreme Court cases that allegedly established and perpetuated baseball's antitrust exemption, some focus on the people and players involved in the cases that helped to shape the modern game, some focus on the legal wranglings that may not have overtly changed baseball but which have impacted it nevertheless. And then there is Edmonds and Houdek's *Baseball Meets the Law*, which acknowledges these varied approaches and makes a concerted effort to steer clear of the paths taken by others. Rather than focus on depth, Edmonds and Houdek aim for breadth, attempting to chronicle many of the famous and not-so famous brushes the game has had with the law between 1791 and 2015. Their efforts succeed splendidly as they have compiled a most readable reference that serves multiple purposes.

Despite their stated aim, Edmonds and Houdek have produced a book that will no doubt be an invaluable starting point for any researcher seeking greater insight with regard to any of the nearly 400 accounts referenced herein. For example, those interested in exploring Pennsylvania's ban on Sunday baseball would be wise to begin their search on page 76 of *Baseball Meets the Law* where they'll read a condensed summary of the June 25, 1927 ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on the issue along with some of the relevant background.

They'll also be directed to the book's priceless endnotes which provide the citation of the case as well as references to other works that explore the topic in greater depth. In short, although each entry in *Baseball Meets the Law* is roughly around 300 words, there is enough packed into each one to jump-start anybody's research project.

For those not interested in digging deeper, *Baseball Meets the Law* succeeds here as well as the brief entries make for enjoyable reference reading. Randomly opening the book – it does not appear to be formatted to be read from start to finish as one would, say, a biography – provides unexpected pleasures and fascinating new information on nearly every page. For me, the juxtaposition of entries (they're presented chronologically) provided occasional chuckles: immediately preceding the February 19, 1968 entry detailing the establishment of the game's first-ever basic agreement (a monumental moment that would upend the balance of power within the game a mere seven years later) comes the June 19, 1967 entry discussing a tax court decision permitting Cubs catcher Randy Hundley to deduct half of his \$22,000 bonus payment as a business expense "for valuable services performed by his father Cecil in coaching his son." Clearly this was a decision with the potential for upending the balance of power in the Hundley household only.

Beyond the giggles, the chronological order imposed here drives home the larger point that, in the eyes of the law, all cases are equal. Hundley's case may not have toppled the structure of the game but, to Hundley at least, it was no less significant. In a way, paging through *Baseball Meets the Law* forces the reader to acknowledge this important truth, one that often gets lost in other "baseball and the law" books. On each page exists genuine issues involving the law, each one with the potential to disrupt or enrich somebody's life. No case is insignificant, at least to the people litigating it. *Baseball Meets the Law* affirms this maxim.

Finally, a note on the notes (and other points of reference) contained within the book. This book contains 47 pages of endnotes along with a 33-page bibliography, an extensive index of the cases and statutes referenced within the text, a general index and three appendices, a selective list of

lawyers involved in baseball, a selective chronology of the Black Sox scandal, and a selective Black Sox bibliography. This cornucopia runs counter to the recent trend, even among (at least some) academic publishers, toward limiting the inclusion of (if not excising altogether) reference material and notes in such scholarly works. While I understand the argument centered on rising publication costs, I cannot help but stress that books such as *Baseball Meets the Law* gain much of their value through their notes. Without them, they become significantly diminished. An otherwise vital work can be rendered useless frippery due to an absence of supporting material. Kudos to McFarland for bucking the trend. Unlike in litigation, we're all winners as a result of this decision.

*Villanova Law School professor Mitchell Nathanson is a SABR member from Philadelphia and the author of God Almighty Hissself: The Life and Legend of Dick Allen.*

#### **PUBLISHERS ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Publishers that generously supplied us with copies of the works reviewed herein include McFarland & Company (*Plié Ball* and *Baseball Meets the Law*), Smithsonian Books (*Game Worn*), and the University of Nebraska Press (*Lefty O'Doul*). Books published by McFarland can be ordered by telephone (800-253-2187) or email (info@mcfarlandpub.com). Works by Smithsonian Books can be obtained by calling 202-633-6012 or emailing info@smithsonianbooks.com, while the University of Nebraska Press can be reached via telephone (800-848-6224) or email (orders@longleafservices.org). As always, we respectfully urge your patronage of these publishers.

# WHO DID WHAT: UNTANGLING THE MINOR LEAGUE PITCHING CAREERS OF JOE BENZ, HOWARD BENZ, HENRY BENZ, AND EMIL BENTZ, 1909-1915

by Bill Lamb

At various times during the 1909-1915 period, there were four pitchers playing for Midwestern minor league clubs who had the same or a similar surname. They were Joe Benz (sometimes misspelled Bentz), Howard Benz (also sometimes misspelled Bentz), Henry Benz (occasionally misspelled Bentz), and Emil Bentz (sometimes called Benz). Newspapers of the day and modern baseball reference works have had trouble distinguishing pitchers Benz/Bentz, and at times misattribute the record of one to another. What follows is an attempt to set their records straight, year-by-year. In the end, the professional fate of these men varied. Joe Benz would go on to achieve a respectable nine-season major league career. The others would never rise higher than the mid-level minors and soon abandon the game for other pursuits.

As far as has been discovered, none of the four pitched professionally in 1908. Thereafter, the whereabouts and activities of Joe, Howard, Henry, and Emil are as follows:

## 1909

1. Joe Benz: Began the 1909 season pitching for the Clarksburg (West Virginia) Bees of the Class D Pennsylvania League. Joe was sent home to Batesville, Indiana after developing a sore arm. Thereafter, he played semipro ball for a Batesville club, demonstrating his arm's recovery. Joe pitched the second half of 1909 season for the Newark (Ohio) Newks of Class D Ohio League, the same club that Howard Benz had pitched for earlier in the 1909 season. Joe went 10-7 with the Newks. He was given a late-August promotion to the Des Moines Boosters of Class A Western League and pitched in a handful of games there.<sup>1</sup>

2. Howard Benz: Was signed from the Cleveland semipro ranks by the Toledo Mud Hens of the Class A American Association in early 1909.<sup>2</sup> In

early May, *Sporting Life* reported that "Howard Benz, the Cleveland semi-pro was shunted off to Newark, where he will probably play in the outfield."<sup>3</sup> Howard spent the first half of the 1909 season pitching for Newark, with the Cleveland papers periodically keeping hometown fans informed of his exploits.<sup>4</sup> Later, he graduated to the Decatur (Illinois) Commodores of the Class B Three-I League. He beat Springfield 4-2 for Decatur in his debut,<sup>5</sup> and finished the season at 6-5 in 12 games for the Commodores.<sup>6</sup> Howard Benz was reserved by Decatur for the 1910 season.<sup>7</sup>

3. Henry Benz: A 16-year-old living in his hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin. No professional record discovered (or likely).

4. Emil Bentz: Pitched late in the 1909 season for the Racine (Wisconsin) Malted Milks of the Class D Wisconsin-Illinois League, but without much success. Bentz was the losing pitcher for Racine in a 9-3 defeat by Green Bay;<sup>8</sup> failed as a pinch-hitter during a loss to Rockford;<sup>9</sup> was the losing pitcher in 4-0 setback in Madison;<sup>10</sup> and was touched for 15 hits in a 9-3 loss to Freeport.<sup>11</sup> The *1910 Reach Guide* provides no pitching record for Emil Bentz with Racine, but he appears in the Guide photo of the 1909 Racine team<sup>12</sup> (and looks nothing like Joe Benz or Howard Benz, by the way).

## 1910

1. Joe Benz: Began the 1910 season with Des Moines, but was optioned to the Green Bay Bays of the [now] Class C Wisconsin-Illinois League in early May. Record for Green Bay: 12-10. The *1911 Reach Guide* listed Benz's Green Bay stats under the name "Bentz,"<sup>13</sup> but his surname on the photo of the 1910 Bays is correctly rendered as "Benz."<sup>14</sup>

2. Howard Benz: Listed among the pitchers for the 1910 Danville (Illinois) Speakers of the Three-I League in an early February local news report.<sup>15</sup> In mid-season, his hometown paper proudly noted that outfielder-turned-pitcher Howard Benz of the Newark and now Danville clubs formerly starred for Cleveland's Central High School.<sup>16</sup> A published game account of a late-season 7-2 Benz win over Springfield stated

that “the big fellow joined Decatur in mid-season 1909,” and went on to commend Benz’s “work for Danville this spring.”<sup>17</sup> The Benz final record for last-place Danville in 1910: 9-18 in 27 games.<sup>18</sup> Howard also played a handful of games in the Danville outfield, and was reserved by the club for the 1911 season.<sup>19</sup> A Danville team photo shows that Howard looked nothing like namesakes Joe Benz and Emil Bentz.<sup>20</sup>

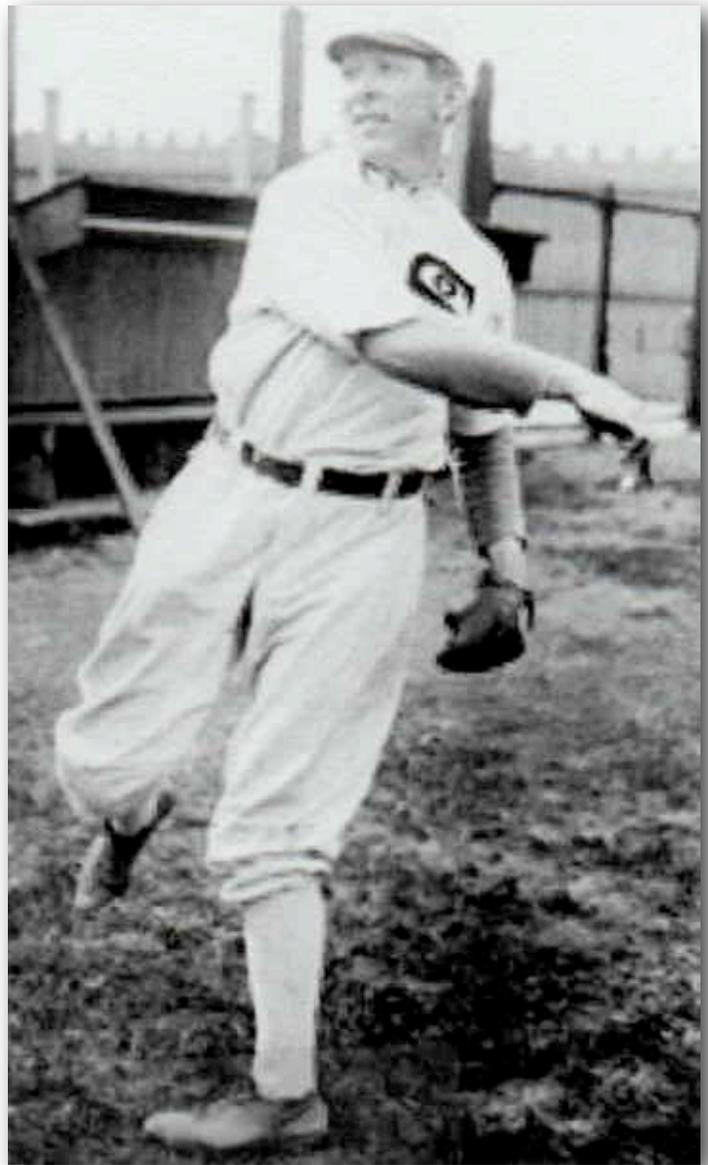
3. Henry Benz: Nothing discovered and likely still not yet a professional.

4. Emil Bentz: “Emil Bentz, a pitcher, signed with Racine,” reported the *Rockford (Illinois) Register-Gazette*, February 27, 1910. Thereafter, Emil Bentz was listed as a member of the Racine club in pre-season rosters published by the *Register-Gazette* on March 23 and April 11, 1910. But the *1911 Reach Guide* did not include Bentz in its stats for 1910 Racine pitchers, and his actual whereabouts during the season are unknown. After the 1910 season was concluded, however, the notation “Emil Bentz, suspended” by Racine of the Wisconsin-Illinois League appeared in the official NAPBBL (Minor Leagues) notice published in the *Register-Gazette*, October 6, 1910, and *Sporting Life*, October 15, 1910.

5. Miscellany: Baseball-Reference has no 1910 listing for Joe Benz, and erroneously assigns Joe’s 12-10 record with Green Bay to Emil Bentz. As noted above, Joe Benz pitched for Green Bay in 1910, while the whereabouts of the suspended Bentz during that season are unknown. *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* states that Henry Benz pitched twin shutouts for Green Bay in a July 17, 1910 doubleheader against Racine.<sup>21</sup> This is also wrong. The doubleheader shutouts were pitched by Joe Benz, not Henry.

### 1911

1. Joe Benz: Began the 1911 season with Des Moines of the Western League. Joe went a respectable 10-10 in 33 games for a woeful Boosters club headed for a last-place finish. In mid-season, his contract was purchased by the Chicago White Sox. Joe Benz made major league debut on August 11, 1911, entering in relief of George Mogridge during an 8-1 loss to Detroit.



**Joe Benz**

He remained with the Sox for the rest of the 1911 season, posting a 3-2 record, with a 2.32 ERA record in 12 games. After 1911, Joe Benz did not pitch in the minor leagues again.

2. Howard Benz: Signed for 1911 season with Danville,<sup>22</sup> and a mid-season 5-3 loss by “Bentz” of Danville to Quincy was noted in the *Illinois State Register*, July 2, 1911. Howard appears to have drawn his release shortly thereafter, but authorities conflict regarding his final season record. According to the *1912 Reach Guide*, Howard Benz posted a 3-7 record in 16 games for Danville. According to Baseball-Reference, he went 16-16 in 42 games for the club. Whichever the case, Howard Benz, clad in jacket, tie, and

working man's cap, remained with Danville long enough to be included in a photo of 1911 club members.<sup>23</sup>

3. Henry Benz: Uncertain, but research by Dennis Pajot has uncovered a July 11 local newspaper report of an otherwise-unidentified Benz pitching for an independent club in Henry Benz's hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin.<sup>24</sup> But two weeks later, this pitcher was described as "Benz, once of Racine in the state league" by the *Racine (Wisconsin) Journal*, July 31, 1911. That description makes it seem more likely this Wausau pitcher was Emil Bentz, then on the Racine suspended list, rather than Henry Benz.

4. Emil Bentz: The suspension of Emil Bentz by the Racine club of the Wisconsin-Illinois League continued into 1911, as reported by local news outlets early in the year.<sup>25</sup> But the Wisconsin-Illinois League folded before the season began. Thus, the "Benz, once with Racine in the state league" reportedly pitching for Wausau that summer was probably Emil Bentz. At 1911 season's end, however, the annual NAPBBL notice continued to list "Emil Bentz (suspended)" by the Racine club of the [soon to be revived] Wisconsin-Illinois League.<sup>26</sup>

**1912**

1. Joe Benz: In 1912 Joe went 13-17 with a 2.91 ERA in 42 games for the Chicago White Sox.
2. Howard Benz: Probably not in Organized Baseball, as no stats were discovered for Howard

Benz in 1912. In July, it was reported that the Tellings club of the fast Cleveland municipal league had signed "Howard Benz, a former minor leaguer."<sup>27</sup> Thereafter, Howard pitched for the Tellings for the remainder of the summer, as per various *Cleveland Plain Dealer/Cleveland Leader* game accounts. Still, the name Howard Benz appeared on the Danville reserve list for 1913.<sup>28</sup> Thereafter, he was identified as "pitcher Howard Benz of the Danville Three-I League club" in news articles about his engagement<sup>29</sup> and marriage to Virginia Williamson of Danville.<sup>30</sup> After the ceremony, the couple was to reside in Cleveland where Benz's father was "a prosperous contractor."<sup>31</sup>

3. Henry Benz: Listed as a laborer in the 1912 Wausau City Directory.

4. Emil Bentz: Nothing concrete, but he may well have been the semipro pitcher named "Bantz" who worked "in a number of games in the [Wisconsin] Lake Shore league" during the 1912 season.<sup>32</sup> Dennis Pajot found mention of "Benz" playing right field for the Weinbrenners of the Sundays-only Lake Shore League in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 20 and 27, and June 3, 1912, and as pitcher "Blitzen Benz" in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, June 17, 1912.

**1913**

1. Joe Benz: In 1913 Joe went 7-10, with a 2.74 ERA in 33 games for the Chicago White Sox.



**DES MOINES, IOWA, TEAM—Champions Western League**  
 1. Hall; 2. Bachaub; 3. Colligan; 4. McGuire; 5. Biersdorfer; 6. Lange; 7. Dwyer;  
 8. Benz; 9. Kernan; 10. Burnum; 11. Matticks; 12. Nichol; 13. Dalton; 14. Baker;  
 15. Baingrower. Photo copyrighted by C. L. Hartshorn.

**1909 Des Moines Boosters: Joe Benz, dead center, tallest player**



**GREEN BAY, WIS., TEAM—Wisconsin-Illinois League**  
 1. Bauman; 2. Hines; 3. Mollwitz; 4. Pickett; 5. Benz; 6. Erickson; 7. Hackenberry;  
 8. Jayes; 9. Dill; 10. Riley; 11. Rohner; 12. McMillin; 13. Wells; 14. Chouinard;  
 15. Murphy; 16. Claffey. Photo by Betha.

**1910 Green Bay Bays: Joe Benz, back row, fifth player from left**

2. Howard Benz: Does not appear in Organized Baseball stats for 1913, but Howard Benz was still reserved for 1914 season by Danville.<sup>33</sup>

3. Henry Benz: In March 1913, it was reported that Henry Benz had signed with the Wausau Lumberjacks of the newly-reconstituted Class C Wisconsin-Illinois League.<sup>34</sup> How long Benz stayed with Wausau is unknown, but research by Dennis Pajot has revealed that Henry Benz was pitching for a semipro club in Tigerton, Wisconsin early in the 1913 season. On July 11, the *Rockford Register-Gazette* informed readers that “Henry Benz has signed with Green Bay” of the Wisconsin-Illinois League.<sup>35</sup> This corroborated a report to the same effect published a day earlier in the *Racine Journal*.<sup>36</sup> The paper added that Benz “has been playing good ball in semi-professional circles this summer and there is no doubt that he can make good with the Bays if he wants to.” The *Fond du Lac (Wisconsin) Commonwealth*, July 11, 1913, added this revelatory coda to its account of the signing of Benz by Green Bay: “Henry Benz, who was been seen in this league before ...,” thereby implying that Benz had seen at least some action with Wausau earlier in the season. The name Henry Benz does not appear in 1913 Wisconsin-Illinois League statistics published in the *1914 Reach Guide*, and Dennis could not find his name mentioned in local reportage. Nor does Henry Benz appear in the 1913 Green Bay team photo published in the following year’s guide.<sup>37</sup>

Nevertheless, the name Henry Benz appeared on the 1914 Green Bay reserve list published in the *Rockford Register-Gazette*, October 17, 1913, and *Sporting Life*, October 18, 1913.

4. Emil Bentz: In March 1913, various Midwestern newspapers reported that “Fred Bentz” had been signed by the Milwaukee Creams of the Wisconsin-Illinois League.<sup>38</sup> It seems highly like that this “Fred Bentz” was actually Emil Wilhelm Friedrich Bentz of Milwaukee, the long-suspended Racine pitcher. But the name Fred Bentz does not appear in the 1913 W-I League stats published in the *1914 Reach Guide*.

### 1914

1. Joe Benz: In 1914, Joe went 15-19 with a 2.26 ERA in 48 games for the Chicago White Sox. On May 31, he threw a no-hitter against the Cleveland Naps, winning 6-1.

2. Howard Benz: Nothing discovered and apparently no longer active in the professional game.

3. Henry Benz: Now 21, Henry’s occupation was listed as “ball player” in the 1914 Wausau City Directory, and he was listed as a Green Bay team member in the NAPBBL bulletin published in *Sporting Life*, January 23, 1914. Dennis discovered an item in the *Racine News Journal*, May 4, 1914, that described Benz as Green Bay’s “big southpaw recruit.” But months later, Benz was named as “one of the right-handers” that



DANVILLE, ILL., TEAM—Indiana-Illinois-Iowa League  
1. Pierre; 2. Ingalls; 3. Woods; 4. Reynolds; 5. Duffy; 6. Hopkins; 7. Benz; 8. McCarthy; 9. Wolfe; 10. Fisher; 11. Magee; 12. Kaylor; 13. Staley; 14. Hildebrand.

**1910 Danville Speakers: Howard Benz, back row, extreme right**



DANVILLE, ILL., TEAM—Illinois-Iowa-Indiana League  
1. McCarthy; 2. Kaylor; 3. Smith; 4. Woods; 5. Chapman; 6. Siner; 7. Price; 8. Ball; 9. Benz; 10. Fisher; 11. Cocchi; 12. McFarough; 13. Kirwan; 14. Staley; 15. Brentco; 16. Hildebrand; 17. Sullivan; 18. Ingalls.

**1911 Danville Speakers: Howard Benz, player #9 wearing working man’s cap**

Green Bay would pitch against Rockford in an upcoming series. See the *Rockford Register-Gazette*, July 25, 1914.

On May 31, 1914 – the same day that Joe Benz threw his no-hitter for Chicago – Green Bay’s Henry Benz no-hit Appleton, 4-1. Henry struck out 12 and walked only two in a dominant performance before the hometown fans. But for the 1914 season overall, he went 7-15 (.318) in 27 games, a poor showing for a second-place Green Bay team that otherwise posted a 66-36 (.649) record. Henry was not included in the photo of the 1914 Green Bay team published in the ensuing *Reach Guide*.<sup>39</sup> This suggests that Henry Benz may not have lasted with Green Bay for the entire 1914 season, and thus he could be the unidentified “Benz, the touted pitcher of Nekoosa” [a Wisconsin semipro club] mentioned in a *La Crosse (Wisconsin) Tribune*, August 31, 1914 game note. Whatever the case, Henry Benz was placed on the Green Bay reserve list for 1915, per *Sporting Life*, October 14, 1914, and re-signed by Green Bay for 1915 some weeks later, as per *Sporting Life*, December 5, 1914.

4. Emil Bentz: Nothing discovered.

### 1915

1. Joe Benz: In 1915, Joe posted a 15-11 log, with a 2.11 ERA in 39 games for the Chicago White Sox.

2. Howard Benz: Nothing discovered.

3. Henry Benz: Henry Benz was signed by the 1915 Green Bay team,<sup>40</sup> but the Wisconsin-Illinois League did not play that season. Later in April, it was reported that Henry had signed with the Wausau club of the unrecognized Wisconsin Valley League, as per the *Grand Forks (North Dakota) Leader*, April 19, 1915, which added that “Benz pitched for Green Bay of the Wisconsin-Illinois League last year.” Thereafter, a Benz pitching for Wausau was mentioned in Wisconsin newspapers throughout the summer.

4. Emil Bentz: Nothing discovered.

### EPILOG

Born January 21, 1886 in New Alsace, Indiana, Joe Benz pitched for the Chicago White Sox until his release early in the 1919 season. His major

### THE UNIQUE NO-HITTERS OF MAY 31, 1914

On May 31, 1914, a one-time event occurred. For the first and only time in the history of Organized Baseball, no-hitters were thrown on the same day by pitchers with the same surname: Benz. In Chicago, White Sox spitballer Joe Benz set down the Cleveland Naps without yielding a base-hit, winning 6-1. Some 200 miles to the north, Henry Benz (no relation) of the Green Bay Bays of the Class C Wisconsin-Illinois League matched his last-namesake, throwing a 4-1 no-hitter at the Appleton (Wisconsin) Papermakers.

league career record was 77-75, with a 2.42 ERA in 251 games, all with the White Sox. After he left the game, Joe worked various jobs in Chicago before opening up a tavern near Comiskey Park. Joseph Louis Benz died in Chicago on April 22, 1957, age 71. He was survived by his wife Alice Leddy Benz and two children.

After he left the game, Sutorious Howard Benz (born September 2, 1885 in Cleveland) followed his father into the construction business. Later, he was an executive with a Cleveland building supply company. Howard Benz died in Cleveland at age 65 in early 1951, and was survived by his wife Virginia Williamson Benz and their four children.

Born Heinrich Albert August Benz (March 24, 1893 in Wausau, Wisconsin), Henry continued



RACINE, WIS., TEAM—Wisconsin-Illinois League  
1, Chrisman; 2, Goede; 3, Wagner; 4, Harms; 5, Flynn; 6, Boes; 7, Duchien;  
8, Genins; 9, Armstrong; 10, Eberly; 11, Reilly; 12, Levings; 13, Mauch; 14, Bentz.

**1909 Racine Malted Milks: Emil Bentz,  
front row seated, extreme right**

pitching for Wausau into the 1916 season.<sup>41</sup> By 1917, however, he had left the pro ranks and was working as a local fireman, eventually rising to the rank of junior captain for Wausau Fire Company No. 2. Henry Benz died on June 13, 1930 at age 46, survived by his wife Emma Gahr Benz and two children.

Emil Wilhelm Friedrich Bentz was born on May 1, 1884 in Milwaukee and lived there his entire life. After baseball, he worked as a carpenter, thereafter as an inspector in a railroad carriage shop. Emil Bentz died in Milwaukee on January 4, 1934, age 49, survived by his wife Ida and two children.

*Bill Lamb is the editor of The Inside Game. He is indebted to Milwaukee baseball historian Dennis Pajot for his assistance on this piece.*

#### SOURCES

The primary sources of the biographical information contained herein are US Census data, various city directories, Benz/Bentz family posts accessed via Ancestry.com, and certain of the newspaper articles cited below. Statistics have been taken from Baseball-Reference, *Reach Guides*, and *The Official Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*, Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds. (Durham, North Carolina: Baseball America, Inc., 2d ed., 1997).

#### ENDNOTES

- 1 Joe Benz appears as player #8 in the photo of the 1909 Des Moines club published in the *1910 Reach Official American League Base Ball Guide* [hereafter *Reach Guide*], 458.
- 2 As reported in *Sporting Life*, January 23, 1909.
- 3 "American Association Notes," *Sporting Life*, May 1, 1909.
- 4 See e.g., the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, June 27 and July 26, 1909.
- 5 As reported in the (Springfield) *Illinois State Register*, September 2, 1909.
- 6 As per season-end stats published in *Sporting Life*, November 13, 1909, and the *1910 Reach Guide*, 341.
- 7 According to the *Illinois State Register*, September 27, 1909.
- 8 As per the *Rockford (Illinois) Morning Star*, August 25, 1909.

- 9 As per the *Rockford Morning Star*, August 29, 1909.
- 10 *Rockford Morning Star*, September 12, 1909.
- 11 As per the *Rockford Morning Star*, September 17, 1909.
- 12 Emil Bentz is player #14 (seated far right) in the Racine team photo found on page 406 of the 1910 guide.
- 13 See *1911 Reach Guide*, 461.
- 14 Id., 460.
- 15 *Illinois State Register*, February 6, 1910.
- 16 See the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, June 5, 1910.
- 17 *Illinois State Register*, September 25, 1910.
- 18 As reported in *Sporting Life*, October 22, 1910, and the *1911 Reach Guide*, 358
- 19 As per Three-I League season stats published in the *Illinois State Register*, September 26, 1910, and the *1911 Reach Guide*, 358. But Baseball-Reference inexplicably gives Howard Benz a 9-1 record in 30 games for Danville in 1910. Query: Does the B-R record contain an undetected typo and intended to read 9-18?
- 20 Howard Benz is player #7 standing in the back row of the Danville team photo published in the *1911 Reach Guide*, 354.
- 21 *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*, Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds. (Durham, North Carolina: Baseball America, Inc., 2d. ed. 1997), 174.
- 22 As per the *Illinois State Register*, February 6, 1911.
- 23 Howard Benz is player #9 in the 1911 Danville team photo published on page 358 of the 1912 guide.
- 24 Per a report in the *Stevens Point (Wisconsin) Gazette*, July 19, 1911.
- 25 See e.g., the *Rockford (Illinois) Republic*, January 12, 1911, and *Rockford Morning Star*, February 26, 1911.
- 26 As published in *Sporting Life*, October 15, 1911.
- 27 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 7, 1912.
- 28 See *Sporting Life*, October 19, 1912.
- 29 *Cleveland Leader*, October 17, 1912.
- 30 See e.g., the *Washington (DC) Evening Star*, November 4, 1912, and *Duluth (Minnesota) News-Tribune*, December 3, 1912.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 As subsequently mentioned in the *Milwaukee Journal*, March 2, 1913.
- 33 As per *Sporting Life*, October 18, 1913.
- 34 According to the *Rockford Register-Gazette*, March 19, 1913.

- 35 *Rockford Register-Gazette*, July 11, 1913.
- 36 *Racine (Wisconsin) Journal*, July 10, 1913.
- 37 Henry Benz does not appear in the 1913 Green Bay team photo published in the *1914 Reach Guide*, 370.
- 38 See e.g., the *Milwaukee Journal*, March 1, 1913, *Rockford Morning Star*, March 6, 1913, and *Rockford Register-Gazette*, March 14, 1913.
- 39 The photo of the 1914 Green Bay team was published on page 265 of the *1915 Reach Guide*. Henry Benz does not appear in it, and no photo of him, either individually or as a club member, was found by the writer.
- 40 As per *Sporting Life*, April 10, 1915.
- 41 Per local team coverage discovered in Wisconsin newspapers by Dennis Pajot.

**MAJORS TO STAGE TWO 70-GAME  
PENNANT RACES NEXT SEASON?**

CHICAGO—Two pennant races of 70 games each may succeed the time-honored 154-game schedule in the majors when big league ball clubs wheel into action next April!

American league moguls favor this change and a plan suggested by Capt. Huston of the New York Yankees has been approved by August Herrmann, chairman of the national commission.

Huston wants the first half of the 1917 flag grind to start in April and end July 1 and the second to run from July 1 to October 1. If two clubs win leagues they are to play off in a seven-game series to see which shall meet the winner of the opposition in a series for the world's championship. This plan has been tried successfully in many minor leagues.

The change if adopted will, according to Huston, offer many advantages to the ball clubs as well as the public. In view of the apparent ease with which a team can be knocked from leadership into nothing by a series of accidents and the fact that a club getting a late start has little or no interest in a big league race, the move is certain to be given consideration.

*The Tacoma Times*, August 28, 1916

**CY MORGAN NOW WEARING COP'S BADGE**

**FORMER ATHLETIC PITCHER GETS JOB  
PRESERVING ORDER AMONG  
MARTINS FERRY STRIKERS**

**ARRESTS A KNIFE WIELDER**

MARTINS FERRY, OHIO—It is a far cry from star pitcher for the Philadelphia Athletics to special policeman charged with the solemn duty of keeping the peace and preventing riots in connection with a small sized strike. That is the step however, which Harry Morgan of this city, known the country over as "Cy" Morgan, has taken.

The strike which gave Cy opportunity to exercise his police powers is that of the LaBelle Box Company of this city where about a hundred men are out demanding higher wages and recognition of the union. Cy happens to be home for a visit with his aged mother. He was one times a mill man and is a friend of men who toil. He also happens to be a born companion of Martins Ferry socialist mayor, Newton Wyckoff, to whom he proposed that a few special police might help out and prevent the fights and brawls which had been almost nightly occurrences at the box factory. Mayor Wyckoff acted on the suggestion and now Morgan is carrying a night stick instead of a baseball bat, and the star he wears on his coat means that he is a sure enough officer and not just the make believe cop of the movies. "Cy" has been posing for the movies in various roles for some time.

During the riot Thursday night when two men were perhaps fatally cut, Morgan was in the thick of things and helped restore peace as well as arresting the knife wielder.

Morgan expects to report to the Kansas City Association within the next two months, he having recently signed a contract for the coming season.

*(Pittsburgh) Gazette Times*, February 2, 1913

## JAY HUGHES UPDATE

Featured in the last issue of this newsletter was an article on the process that led to revision of the biographical data listed for standout turn-of-the-century hurler Jay Hughes. Changes included correction of his birth name to James H. Hughes (from the erroneous James Jay Hughes); adoption of the historically apt nickname *Jay* (not *Jim*); and deletion of the putative brother relationship of Jay Hughes and reprobate 1880s pitcher Michael J. "Mickey" Hughes. Nevertheless, the article, and a profile published almost simultaneously in the BioProject, still contained gaping holes in the biography of Jay Hughes. In particular, next to nothing was known about Hughes's parents, except that they were immigrants of Irish descent who settled in Sacramento. The only other identifiable member of the family was older brother Buck (John Edward) Hughes, a one-time prominent West Coast ballplayer.

This shortcoming quickly piqued the interest of DEC member Bruce Allardice, accomplished baseball historian and genealogist; newsletter readers who also take interest in the Black Sox scandal are well aware of the extraordinary work that Bruce has done on the shadowy life histories of the fix's gamblers. Working first from 1909 death records for Buck Hughes and thereafter examining various US Census reports

and Sacramento newspapers, Bruce soon uncovered significant family info. Although not quite conclusive, the data indicate that Jay and Buck Hughes were the sons of laborer-turned-plumber John Edward Joseph Hughes (born about 1847) and his wife, the former Margaret Ann Kehoe (1847-1887).

News items published in the *Sacramento Record-Union* suggest that Jay Hughes was something of a neighborhood thug in his youth. Several weeks after he reportedly stabbed a local youth named Dawson, 12-year-old Jay and an accomplice were arrested and jailed for burglarizing the apartment of tenants of his grandmother Julia Kehoe. Jay evidently straightened out thereafter, and by the time he reached his late-teens, Hughes was employed as a saddle maker and beginning to forge a reputation as a pitcher and outfielder on Sacramento-area diamonds.

The above info is now incorporated into the BioProject profile of Jay Hughes, and affords readers a much fuller portrait of his youthful years. Our commendation and many thanks to Bruce Allardice for shedding this additional light on Hughes.

Bill Lamb

## GAMES AND BIOPROJECT

Since the last newsletter came out, the Games and BioProject have continued to post entries of interest to Deadballers. Pertinent new Games Project entries span an October 1904 game in which Sam Mertes hit for the cycle to the 1918 season-ender between the Boston Braves and New York Giants. The BioProject, meanwhile, has published bios of umpire Jack Sheridan, and players Rip Hagerman, Homer Davidson, Bill Duggleby, Guy Morton, Joe Engel, Jim Neher, and Jimmy Zinn. As per usual, we urge you to check these out if you have not already done so.

## NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

**Mike Beasley**  
**John Richard Engrav**  
**Andrew Hersh**  
**Frank G. Houdek**  
**John Marinelli**  
**Luis Otaola**  
**Scott Tipson**  
**Jack Zerby**

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.