

The INSIDE GAME



The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. XIII, No. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" FEBRUARY 2013

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by **John McMurray**

At the suggestion of Bill Lamb, editor of *The Inside Game*, the Deadball Era Committee has decided to hold a vote of our membership to determine who the All-stars were at each position between 1901 and 1919. From now through March 31, 2013, anyone who is a member of the Committee can vote, with the results being announced at SABR 43 in Philadelphia this summer.

The Committee previously selected American League and National League All-Star teams for the two *Deadball Stars* books. Still, when those were chosen, the membership of the Committee was a fraction of what it is today. We think it is useful to see if assessments have changed with time — or if they haven't.

In contrast to, say, contemporary All-Star Game balloting, where repeat voting is encouraged and personal favorites often lead the way, our goal here is to get the selection process as "right" as we can, meaning for each person to use a single ballot to pick the best player at each position primarily for reasons of performance.

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BLACK SOX SALARY HISTORIES

by **Bob Hoie**

[Editor's Note: In the Spring 2012 issue of Base Ball, A Journal of the Early Game, noted Black Sox expert Bob Hoie used recently made available player salary data to put to rout the long-held notion that the 1919 Chicago White Sox were underpaid. As it turns out, the Sox had the second highest player payroll in the majors that season. Page space constraints precluded publication of Bob's analysis and commentary on the individual salary histories of the eight banished Black Sox. The Inside Game is pleased to provide the Hoie treatment of Joe Jackson's salary history here. Bob's assessment of the other Black Sox salary histories will appear in the next newsletter.]

Joe Jackson: Jackson started his major leagues career inauspiciously, playing a mere five games for the Philadelphia Athletics in both the 1908 and 1909 seasons, batting a combined .150 (six-for-40). In 1910, the A's optioned him to New Orleans of the Class A Southern Association and then made Jackson a part of a late-July trade that sent him and Morrie Rath to Cleveland in

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exchange for Bris Lord. Jackson remained in New Orleans until the close of the SA season before making his Naps debut on September 16, 1910.

Jackson began his Cleveland tenure in sterling fashion. He batted .387 in 20 late-1910 season games and then joined American League batting leaders, hitting .408 in 1911 and .395 in 1912. On the morning of August 17, 1913, Jackson's batting average for the season was .396, giving him a .400 average (rounded up from .3995006) for his first 430 games with Cleveland. No player – before or since – has ever gotten off to such a prolific start. From there, Joe tailed off slightly, batting .324 for the remainder of the season, which left him with a 1913 BA of .373. For the third straight year, Joe Jackson was named as an outfielder on the “All America” team selected by *Baseball Magazine*.

During Jackson's first three seasons, it could be said that he was the equal of the best players in the game: Ty Cobb, Eddie Collins, Tris Speaker, Home Run Baker, *et al.* But he lagged behind them in the salary department. In 1913, Cobb's salary was \$12,000. Speaker made \$7,500, Collins \$6,000, and Baker \$4,500. Jackson was

low man at \$4,000. In 1914, the others took advantage of the looming conflict with the upstart Federal League to boost their incomes. Cobb and Speaker signed two-year contracts for a handsome \$15,000/season, while Collins and Baker inked three-year deals with Philadelphia that called for \$8,333 and \$6,667 per season, respectively. The illiterate Jackson did not fare as well. He “signed” a three-year pact with Cleveland that paid only \$5,333/season. But in retrospect, the salary numbers are not that inequitable. For although he was only 26-years old, Joe Jackson's best years were already behind him.

In 1911, the introduction of the cork-centered baseball had inflated American League batting averages. From 1910, AL scoring increased a run per game, from 3.64 to 4.60 in 1911, while the collective league batting average jumped from .243 to .275. By 1914, however, pitchers had adapted, and AL batting and scoring norms reverted to 1910 levels: 3.65 runs/.248 BA. During the 1914 season, Joe Jackson was sidelined for nearly a month by an ankle injury, but he still finished fourth in league batting standings with a .338 BA and was once again

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NEW DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

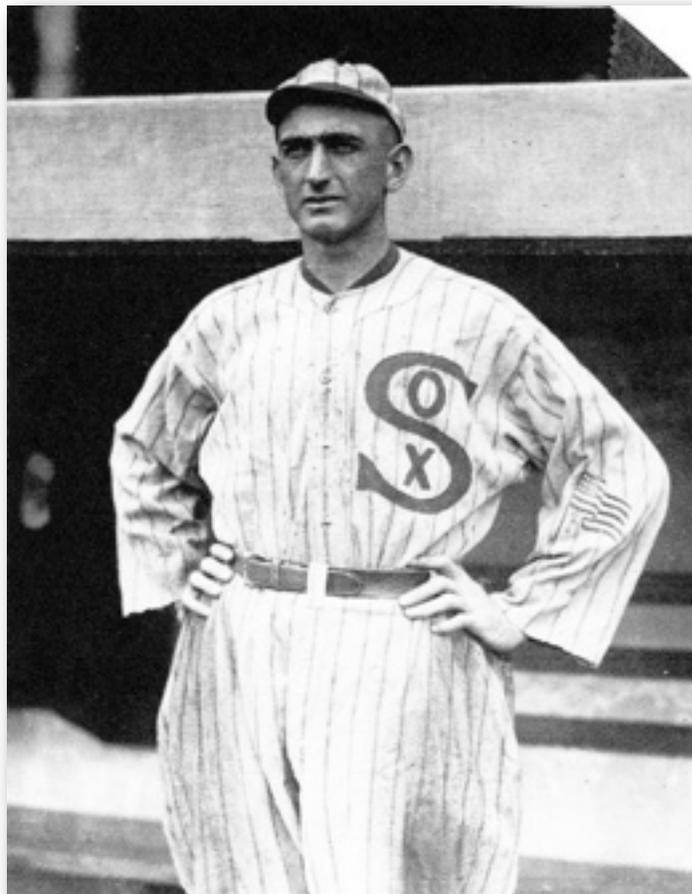
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Terry Turner
Jim Wagner

These new committee members, as well as all contributors to this newsletter, can be contacted through the SABR directory. We look forward to their active participation in Deadball Era committee endeavors.

named to *Baseball Magazine's* All America team. This put him in fairly exclusive company, as only Cobb, Collins, and Walter Johnson shared the distinction of being named to the team for each of the 1911-1912-1913-1914 seasons. Despite the honor, the 1914 season signaled the arrival of a decline in Jackson's performance. Offensive stats were down across the board in the American League for 1914, with batting averages dropping eight points and OPS down 19 points from the previous season. The drop-off in the Jackson numbers was more dramatic. His 1914 BA was 35 percentage points under his 1913 figure, while his OPS was down a whopping 149 points. By comparison, the decline of his peers was less eye-catching. Cobb dropped 22 (BA) and 23 (OPS), while Speaker was down 25 and 48, and Baker down 18 and 84.

But it was not just Jackson's hitting that deteriorated. His fielding was also past its prime. After averaging 30 assists per year during the 1911-1912-1913 seasons, Jackson's assist totals dropped into the mid-teens for the rest of his career. And while his throwing arm remained strong, it was increasingly described as erratic. The metrics which consider fielding reveal an even steeper decline. From 1913 to 1914 and adjusting for differences in the amount of games played, Pete Palmer's BFW for Jackson drops 40 percent, Bill James' Win Shares goes down 34 percent, and the Baseball-Reference version of WAR for Jackson declines 38 percent. It appears plain, therefore, that Joe Jackson no longer belonged in the game's highest echelon after the 1913 season. From 1914 through 1919, he essentially became another Bobby Veach. That is hardly an aspersion, as Veach was a fine player. But he was not a great one.

Jackson started the 1915 season about the same way he finished 1914. On July 7, he was injured when a wagon swiped his automobile. No bones were broken but Jackson suffered an elbow injury that kept him out of the lineup for three weeks. For reasons that are not clear, Joe signed a two-year contract extension covering the 1917-1918 seasons on August 7, 1915. The new deal provided for a \$6,000/season salary for those two years. Four days later, Cleveland dealt



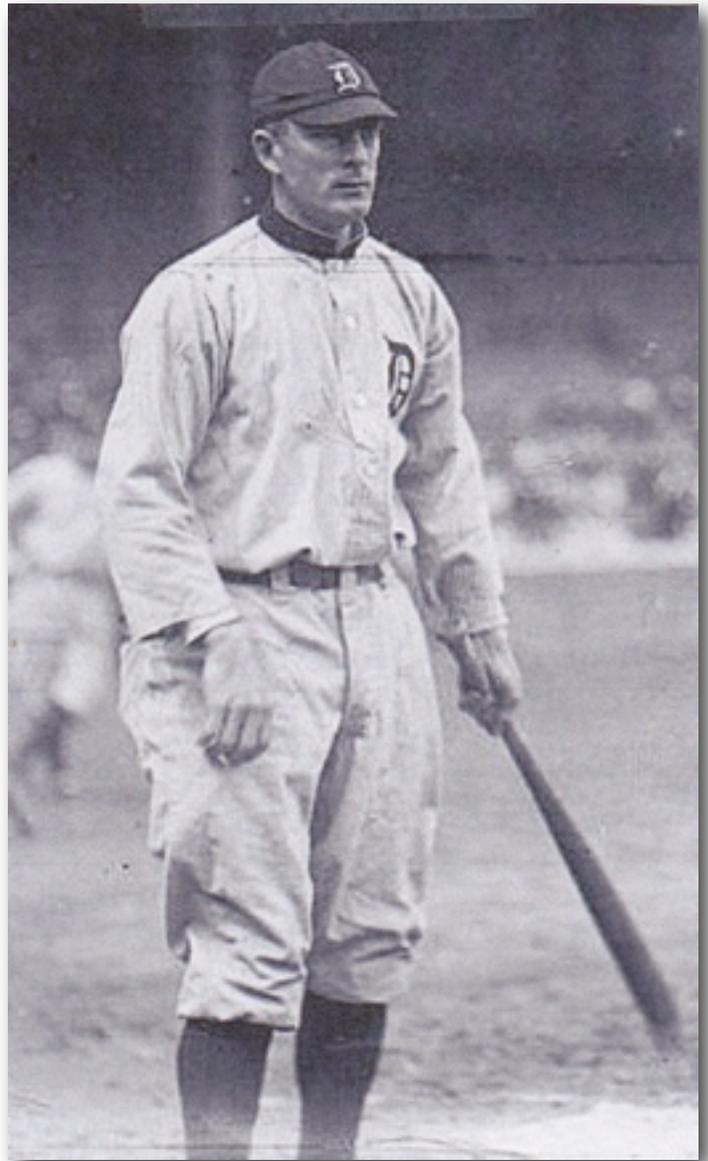
Substandard performance in 1917 and the uncertainties generated by World War I held Joe Jackson's salary in check.

Jackson to the Chicago White Sox for \$31,500 and three players. There, he joined Eddie Collins, an erstwhile A's teammate who had followed a far more lucrative path to Chicago. In the midst of the 1914 season, the hardnosed, Ivy League-educated Collins had played the Federal League card, inducing Philadelphia to replace the three-year \$8,333/season deal that he had signed before the season with a five-year pact calling for \$11,500 per season. Importantly, the new Collins contract also contained a provision that specified that Collins "shall not be transferred to any other club without his consent." At the end of the 1914 season, AL President Ban Johnson brokered a deal that sent Collins to the White Sox in exchange for \$50,000. The parties were then informed that the requisite Collins consent came with a price tag. For agreeing to the transfer, Collins was given a \$10,000 bonus for signing yet another contract for his baseball services, his third of the year. This latest pact boosted the

Collins salary to \$15,000/season for the next five years. In the meantime, Jackson hit only .271 in 45 games for the 1915 White Sox. His performance was such a disappointment that just prior to the American League winter meeting, rumors swirled that the Sox wanted to trade Jackson to the Yankees for Fritz Maisel. Nothing came of such talk, and it may have been no more than a ploy designed to get Joe's attention. If so, it succeeded.

In 1916, Joe Jackson returned to earlier form, batting .341 and collecting 200 base-hits for the first time in four seasons. In recognition of his fine campaign, Jackson was again selected to the *Baseball Magazine* All America team – the fifth and final time that he would be accorded that honor. The 1917 season, however, was a struggle. Going into September, Jackson was batting just .276. A .444 surge the rest of the way elevated his final 1917 batting average to .301, the lowest of his career. Joe again rebounded in the early 1918 season. He was batting .364 when he left the club on May 13 to work and play baseball for the Harlan and Hollingsworth Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, Delaware. He was registered by the company as a “necessary employee,” the designation required to exempt him from the World War I draft. A month later, pitcher Lefty Williams and backup catcher Byrd Lynn, Jackson's best friends on the White Sox, joined him at the Harlan shipyard.

After the November 1918 Armistice, Jackson returned to his home in Savannah. The contract extension that he had signed in August 1915 had finally expired and now, for the first time in 3½ years, Jackson had to negotiate a new contract. He could not have picked a worse time. In 1918, the Chicago White Sox had pulled in only \$128,396.74 in revenues, leaving a sizable \$51,672.12 deficit for the year. Jackson's last full season in 1917, moreover, had yielded the poorest stats of his career. Nor had Jackson's abandonment of the club early in 1918 endeared him to club owner Comiskey, a vocal backer of the war effort who, like many others, deemed men who had avoided military service by taking a defense plant job to be “slackers.” Comiskey also held Jackson responsible for the defection of



From 1914 through 1919, Bobby Veach posted offensive numbers comparable to those of Joe Jackson.

his pals Williams and Lynn. Thus, the best wage that Jackson could get from the White Sox for the 140-game 1919 season was a \$1,000/month stipend (or \$5,250 for the likely 5¼ month long season). But a five-line contract addendum provided that if Jackson were a Chicago team member in good standing at the close of the season, he would receive an additional \$750. Thus, the Jackson contract offered the prospect of a \$6,000 salary for 1919.

While his 1919 salary ended up being the same as that his August 1915 contract extension had provided for the 1917 and 1918 seasons, Jackson

would now be getting the highest pay rate of his career: \$1,143 per month (given the shortened 1919 playing schedule). The Sox also apparently agreed to a longstanding Jackson contract sweetener. The club would foot the bill for wife Katie Jackson's attendance at spring training and cover her travel expenses on those occasions when she joined Joe on the road during the regular season. All in all, given the circumstances and the uncertainties of the oncoming season, Jackson had not made that bad of a deal for himself.

In 1919, Joe Jackson hit .351, with 52 extra base hits and 96 RBIs for a pennant-winning White Sox club. In February 1920, he signed a new three-year contract that called for an annual \$8,000 salary. In comparison, Bobby Veach had batted .355, with 65 extra base hits and 103 RBIs in 1919. Jackson (7) had hit more homers than Veach (3) that season, but Veach had led the entire AL in hits, and posted offensive numbers superior to those of Jackson in virtually every other category except OPS and slugging, where Jackson's stats were slightly higher. For his reward, Veach received a \$1,000 raise, boosting his 1920 salary to \$6,000 (or \$2,000/season under Jackson). Over a broader period, the Jackson and Veach offensive numbers also appear comparable. During the 1914 to 1919 time

span, for example, Veach had posted seven "black type" numbers in total, leading the American League in hits once, doubles twice, triples once, and RBIs three times. During the same period, Jackson had been a league leader only twice, in triples and total bases for 1916. For his entire career, Jackson posted black type numbers ten times: hits (1912, 1913), doubles (1913), triples (1912, 1916, 1920), OBP (1911), slugging (1913), OPS (1913), and total bases (1916). In 1920, Jackson had a superb season, batting .382, with a league leading 20 doubles, while posting personal bests in home runs (12) and RBIs (121). But 1920 was the only occasion in which Jackson topped the century mark in runs batted in. Veach did it six times. On the other side of the action, the two men were not equals. By any objective measurement, Veach was a better defensive player than Joe Jackson.

Over time, perceptions often change. Nowadays, Bobby Veach is a mostly-forgotten figure from the Deadball era while Shoeless Joe Jackson has become immortal – the tragic central character of Black Sox melodrama. But analysis of their respective salaries and those of contemporaries like Ty Cobb and Eddie Collins is instructive. It is, of course, easy to say that Joe Jackson should have made more money during his major league playing career. But the notion that he was cruelly underpaid cannot withstand scrutiny of historical evidence and circumstance.

Bob Hoie, a retired Los Angeles County urban planner, is a recognized authority on both the Black Sox scandal and West Coast baseball. He is also the 1987 recipient of the Bob Davids Award, SABR's highest accolade.



Advice to umpires — Before you take a punch at an enraged and abusive player, count ten. But be sure to duck while you're counting.

Toledo News-Bee, August 9, 1912

DEADBALL BIOGRAPHIES

Since the release of the last issue of The Inside Game, the BioProject has continued to post profiles that should be of interest to Deadballers. The most recent Deadball Era bios include Doc Adkins, Ed Bolden, King Brady, Fred Burchell, Gene Dale, Babe Danzig, Pat Donahue, Charlie Graham, Larry Hesterfer, Billy Maharg, Carlton Molesworth, Harry Niles, Chet Nourse, Harry Ost diek, Frank Owens, Gene Packard, Gene Paulette, Bob Peterson, Tex Pruiett, Pop Rising, Frank Robison, Stanley Robison, Frank Shaughnessy, Biff Schlitzer, Al Shaw, Denny Sullivan, Len Swarmstedt, Jake Thielman, and Jack Thoney. If you have not already read these bios, please check them out.

TWO TRADES INVOLVING DOGS

by Dennis Pajot

On December 11, 1910, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* ran the following story in sportswriter Manning Vaughan's Diamond Small Talk column:

Charles Sheldon Havenor, boss of the Brewers, has a picture on his desk of Joe Cantillon and his favorite hunting dog. One of Uncle Sam's mercurys brought the photo in the other morning along with a letter from the Minneapolis wizard.

"The mother of the dog on the picture is the one I received in exchange for Alonzo Hedges, the pitcher," penned the card. And thereby hangs a tale.

During the pennant race of '03 when Cantillon was manager of the Brewers, half his pitching staff was on the ailing list and he was burning up the telegraph wires with C.Q.D. messages. But the help did not show up and as a last resort he decided to give Hedges a trial.

Hedges had been recommended by a friend of Joe's in Paducah, Ky. He was a long, lean southerner with the dimensions of a lemonade straw and a thirst like a Pittsburg millionaire. He blew into town and Joe was so pinched for boxmen that he grabbed Hedges off the train and stuck him on the rubber the day he reached here. Much to everyone's surprise, the slat pitched a wonderful game, holding Columbus to one hit and shutting them out.

"Pitched great ball today, kid," piped Joe after the game, in the clubhouse.

"Only faih, sah, only faih," drawled the Kentuckian. "If Ah had been suah that catchah could hold me, Ah wouldn't have allowed a hit, sah."

A few days later Joe trotted out the "phenom" again, and sure enough he pitched another wonderful game, holding the opposition to two or three hits and



Milwaukee Brewer manager Joe Cantillon delighted in telling the story that he had traded pitcher Alonzo Hedges for a dog named Sue.

scoring another shutout. By this time the papers were raving over him, and a big crowd turned out to see him when he went on the slab for the third time. Naturally, everyone was looking for something that would put Matty to shame. But shades of Frank Schmeiberg, what a drubbing! They biffed them in the nose, broke down the fences and did everything but kill all the fielders. Joe let him take the medicine for three or four innings, and then yanked him out. He was sent back a few days later and the bombardment was renewed with

increased fury. It was the same thing the next time.

A couple of days later Cantillon went to Springfield, Ill., to see a friend of his who owned the Springfield club and ran a café on the side. During the course of the afternoon the friend showed Joe a couple of dandy setter puppies.

“Fine pups,” quoth Joe, and he began to think. “O, by the way, have you a pitcher you can let us have,” asked the Springfield man. Joe was all business in an instant and he offered to sell Hedges.

“What do you want for him?” questioned the minor leaguer.

“Well, you’re a good friend of mine, etc., so if you are willing I’ll let you have this fellow for one of those dogs,” answered generous (?) robin redbreast. The bargain was made then and there.

Mr. Hedges may not have been much of a bear cat as a pitcher, but he probably has the distinction of being the only ball player in captivity ever traded for a dog.

The player-traded-for-a-dog story found its way into the press again a little over four years later. On January 20, 1915, *Milwaukee Sentinel* sportswriter J.J. Delany told his readers that Joe Cantillon had told him a dozen times how he had traded Hedges to Dick Kinsella of the Springfield club for a bird dog. According to Delany, Hedges was never worth a rip to Kinsella, but the dog was a valuable setter. Cantillon often laughed loud and long over the trade, readers were told.

Three days later, a different Milwaukee newspaper, the *Milwaukee Journal*, published another version of Joe Cantillon’s trading of Hedges for a canine. Joe Holland, who had been the secretary of the Brewers in 1903, remembered the incident and talked about it. Holland’s version was a little different from the other two. He told the *Journal* that the trade happened during Hedges’ second season with the Brewers. On a cold, rainy day, Cantillon had sent Hedges out to warm up during the game. This



Joe Cantillon

affected the youngster’s arm and he was of little use after that. The Brewers were playing spring games with the Springfield (Illinois) club of the Three-I League at that time and Frank Donnelly, who was managing the Springfield club, wanted a pitcher. Here is the rest of the Holland version of the story, directly from the *Journal*:

During the three visits to the Illinois city, Cantillon, accompanied by Holland, went out to Donnelly’s farm, where he had a number of English bull terriers. Cantillon took a fancy to one of the dogs and told Donnelly that he wanted it. Frank soon told him that the dog was worth \$250 and then Joe wanted the dog worse than ever. Frank informed Joe that he wanted a pitcher and Cantillon, calling Holland aside, informed him that he was going to trade Hedges for the dog. No sooner said than done and the deal was closed on the spot. The dog was brought to Milwaukee,

where Cantillon gave her the name of "Sue." The dog is still with Cantillon and can be seen at the Minneapolis ball park.

Holland has one of the pups and says that he never saw a finer dog. When the team came home, the late owner, Charles Havenor, of the club, called Cantillon into the office one day and informed him that the club had never been paid for Hedges. When he asked Cantillon about it, Joe told him that he got "Sue" for the pitcher. Havenor nearly fell out of his chair, says Holland, but everything came out all right in the end.

The reason why these January 1915 stories were in the press was a lawsuit regarding the Federal League. Pitcher Mordecai Brown had recently submitted an affidavit in Chicago alleging that Joe Cantillon had once traded a professional ball player for a bull dog. Brown also claimed that Roger Bresnahan, while manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, had traded a pitcher named Bill Hopper to Springfield owner Richard Kinsella for a bird dog.

The stories published in the Milwaukee newspapers alternately named the seller of the dog as: (1) an unnamed owner of the Springfield club, who also ran a café on the side; (2) Dick Kinsella, owner of the Springfield club; and (3) Frank Donnelly, manager of the Springfield club. It could be that the 1915 versions included a mixture of Mordecai Brown's affidavit, which told of two separate incidents — one being Cantillon's trading an unnamed player for a bulldog; the other being Bresnahan trading Bill Hopper to Kinsella for a bird dog. But the original 1910 story — one printed four years before the Brown affidavit was given — reported that Cantillon had traded pitcher Alonzo Hedges to the owner of the Springfield club for a setter puppy.

So was some trade of a ballplayer for a dog really made, and, if so, with whom?

Looking for the truth, or at least some clarity on the differing stories, I checked what contemporary sources I could find on Hedges



The report that Bill Hopper (left) had been traded for a bird dog was steadfastly denied by St. Louis Cardinals manager Roger Bresnahan (right).

and the trade. Alonzo Hedges played for the Paducah Chiefs earlier in 1903 and had then been signed by the Brewers in late June. He posted a 5-4 record in 13 games for Milwaukee in 1903. Unlike the original story, the record shows that Hedges actually finished the 1903 season with the Brewers and reported to 1904 spring training with Cantillon's team. This corresponds with the second version of the story published in the 1915 *Milwaukee Journal*. It further appears everyone was not as down on the pitcher as later stories suggested. There appeared to have been interest in Hedges during the off-season. On January 6, 1904, the *Paducah Sun* reported that the St. Louis Browns wanted Hedges and that he was conferring with the club. There was also a report that the pitcher had been sold to the Cincinnati Reds, but Hedges himself said that he had heard nothing about this. The January minor league bulletin confirmed that Hedges signed a 1904 contract with the Milwaukee Brewers.

In April 1904, the Brewers played four exhibition games with the Springfield team, with Hedges pitching in the last one. On April 23, 1904, the *Milwaukee Journal* reported that Joe Cantillon had turned over Hedges and infielder John Hankey to the Springfield club of the Three-I League. Three days later, the *Paducah Sun*

reported that Hedges had been sold by the Brewers to Springfield. Of course, there was no mention of a dog in any of these reports.

In September 1904, it was reported that both Alonzo Hedges and John Hankey had been sold by the Springfield club back to the Brewers for \$500 each, the draft price. Could it have been that Joe Cantillon sent Hedges (and Hankey) to Springfield to hide them, rather than because of his affection for a dog? In the end, there seems to be enough information from people close to the Brewers and to Joe Cantillon for us to believe that Cantillon once made some sort of trade that involved a dog. Exactly how it happened is lost to time, but why ruin a good story with quibbling about facts?

The other incident involved Bill Hopper [also referred to as Booth Hopper in contemporary reports] supposedly being traded by Roger Bresnahan to Springfield for a bird dog. As stated above, Mordecai Brown swore in a federal court affidavit that he believed this was the case. Bresnahan denied it, explaining in his affidavit that: "Hopper tried to sell me a dog, but I refused, as I had five dogs. Just before the opening of the regular season, Mr. Kinsella, then manager and owner of the Springfield, Ills. Base Ball Club, came to St. Louis in search of a pitcher. I told him I had a young man by the name of Hopper, whom we were going to let out, and if he wanted to talk with him and sign him for the Springfield Club he could do so. Kinsella told me if Hopper developed and showed any ability at all he would give the St. Louis National League club the first opportunity to purchase his [Hopper's] release that Fall. During the conversation Kinsella had with Hopper at our clubhouse in St. Louis, Hopper again asked me to buy his dog, as he needed money. Mr. Kinsella asked me if I wanted the dog. I told him I did, but as I then had five I would not buy it. Mr. Kinsella said he wanted to do something for me and if I would accept the dog he would buy it. I do not know what transaction Kinsella had with Hopper, but I do know that Hopper sent for his dog and Kinsella brought it to me at St. Louis. This statement that I traded Hopper for a bird dog is an absolute falsehood, and I would suggest

that Mr. Hopper be communicated with, as he can verify my statements, as can Kinsella."

In addition to Bresnahan's affidavit, Herman D. Seekamp, manager and treasurer of the American Base Ball and Athletic Exhibition Company of St. Louis, then the operators of the St. Louis Cardinals, deposed that he had no knowledge of the alleged bird dog transaction and that his records showed that the services of Hopper were purchased by the Cardinals in August 1913 for \$2,000. Weighing in on the issue from the other side was Dick Smith, a baseball man in Ironton, Ohio. Smith declared that while playing with the Springfield club, he had witnessed the transaction whereby Kinsella secured Hopper from Bresnahan for \$25 and a bird dog, the deal taking place in a hotel lobby.

A pitcher only identified by the surname Hopper is listed in Baseball-Reference and the SABR Encyclopedia as having played for Springfield in 1911, posting a 9-9 record. On January 28, 1915, a story published in the *Pittsburgh Press* stated that Bresnahan had gotten Bill Hopper a job with Springfield of Three-I League in 1911 [the Springfield team was moved to Decatur on May 31, 1911] after he had pitched for a university team in 1910. Given that Jackson, Tennessee was both home to Union University and the birthplace of major league pitcher William Booth "Bird Dog" Hopper, I will assume that this Hopper is Bill. As Bresnahan was manager in St. Louis at the time and Kinsella owned the Springfield franchise, could this have been how Bresnahan got Hopper the job? And does this explain the Hopper nickname "Bird Dog"?

In August 1913, the St. Louis Cardinals purchased Hopper from New Haven of the Eastern Association, and he went 0-3 in three late-season starts for the Cardinals. After appearing in three more games for St. Louis early the following season, the pitcher was sold to St. Paul of the American Association on May 20, 1914. By this time, however, Roger Bresnahan was gone from St. Louis. After the 1914 season was over, St. Louis regained the rights to Hopper, and in February 1915, the club traded Hopper to the Washington Senators for

outfielder Tom Long. *Sporting Life* predicted trouble in Washington for Hopper, writing that the first time he pitches “every humorist in the grandstand will have a sore throat from attempting to bark.”

Hopper evidently took offense to canine references. In the off-season, he was arrested in his hometown in Kansas on a complaint by a neighbor who charged that Hopper had assaulted him. When the judge asked Hopper why he had attacked the man, Hopper replied: “He insulted me.” When the judge asked how he had insulted him, Hopper, almost beside himself with indignation, shouted: “Say! He said ‘bow wow.’” Later in the month, Hopper’s winter would turn worse by the sad news that his father had passed away. Thereafter, Washington fans reportedly were “disposed to take a friendly interest in this promising twirler and expressions of sympathy were numerous.” Hopper would have no wins and one loss with the Senators in 1915 before being sent to Minneapolis of the American Association in exchange for pitcher Harry Harper in July.

The two ballplayer-traded-for-a dog stories became even more commingled in 1916. On May 10, 1916, this account ran in the *Milwaukee Journal*:

Somewhere some wise guy has said: “He who laughs last, laughs best.” If that’s the case, Booth Hopper, Minneapolis flinger, will have to call in a Columbus osteopath to untangle his ribs. He surely did have the big guffaw at the expense of Roger Bresnahan after he had pitched the Millers to a 4 to 3 win over the Iron Men. And thereby hangs a tale.

Once during the major league managerial career of Roger Patrick, Hopper was a member of his St. Louis team. Roger didn’t need young pitchers, but Joe Cantillon, then Washington boss, had a bird dog that Roger thought would look mighty sweet pointing quail. So he traded the pitcher for the bird dog. That was the first laugh. Hopper went plugging along

and last year was one of the Miller sensations.

So now we have yet another version of the ballplayer/dog trade story. In this rendition, Bresnahan traded Bill Hopper to the Washington Senators when Joe Cantillon was the manager there. But problems abound with this yarn. The historical record reveals that Cantillon managed in Washington in 1907, 1908, and 1909. Bresnahan took over as the St. Louis manager in 1909. Thus, the only overlapping year of the two managers was 1909. And Bill Hopper was not even playing professional ball at that time, as he would not turn 18-years old until August 1909. In addition, nowhere before this May 1916 *Journal* item are Cantillon and Bresnahan mentioned in the same story.

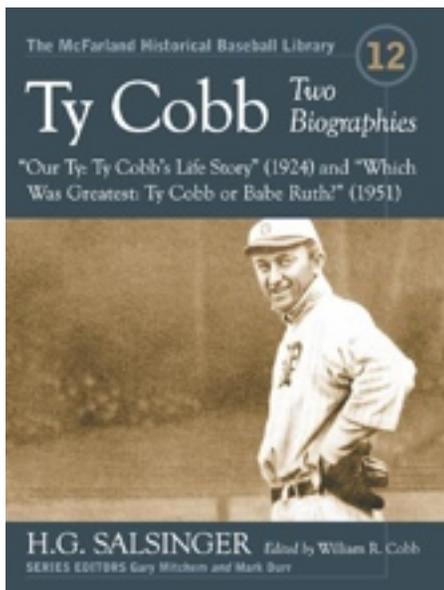
There are so many other discrepancies in this particular telling of the story that it is not worthy of further dissection. But this final entry showed how different stories about the same alleged event had gotten mingled and the facts distorted. Even by 1916, what the facts might truly have been was hopelessly muddled. Still, in Milwaukee the tale of the ballplayer-traded-for-a-dog persisted.

Dennis Pajot is a frequent contributor to The Inside Game and an authority on early baseball in Milwaukee.

Following its custom of previous years, The Day will megaphone every play in each of the world’s series games from the windows of the editorial room. Complete story of each game, dictated by a baseball expert, will be received over The Day’s Associated Press wire, direct from the playing field, and will be read to the fans within a minute of the time the play is made.

Those who are unable to be among the fans taking advantage of The Day’s megaphone service are invited to use the telephone. Three wires will enable the telephone inquirers to get prompt and accurate returns.

The New London Day, October 7, 1914



**TY COBB: TWO
BIOGRAPHIES —
OUR TY: TY COBB'S
LIFE STORY
and
WHICH WAS
GREATEST: TY COBB OR
BABE RUTH?**

**BY H.R. SALSINGER,
EDITED BY WILLIAM R.
COBB**

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Ty Cobb: Two Biographies is really one biography (*Our Ty: Ty Cobb's Life Story*, written in 1924), paired with an updated, repackaged, and shorter version of the same story (*Which Was Greatest: Ty Cobb or Babe Ruth?* published in 1951). The 12th volume in the

McFarland Historical Baseball Library delivers both variations of H.G. Salsinger's sympathetic portrayal of Cobb, the strident character who defined baseball's Deadball Era.

Salsinger served as the *Detroit News* sports editor for 49 years. In 1924, near the end of Cobb's dynamic career and with his blessing, Salsinger chronicled the life of the "Georgia Peach" in a series of 58 syndicated columns that appeared in his and other newspapers. In 1950, Salsinger dusted off the serial and shortened it to 22 chapters, referenced a few events that had occurred in the interim, and re-worded some of the content, including what were supposed to have been direct quotes from Cobb himself. That version ran as a series in *The Sporting News* as the counterpoint to a Fred Lieb article that championed Ruth as the greatest player of all time, and in its entirety in the 1951 *The Sporting News Baseball Register*. William Cobb, a member of the Board of Advisors at the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston, Georgia, and of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), compiled and edited the two serials, and added photos with captions that complement Salsinger's narrative.

In the 1924 version, Salsinger argued that Cobb was baseball's greatest player because he was best at what he himself valued: disciplined place-hitting, aggressive base running, and out-thinking the

opponent, and because Cobb was innovative and had caused the game to be played in his own image. Salsinger's argument was virtually the same a quarter of a century later. Although the title of the later version suggested a comparison of baseball's two greatest players; Salsinger devoted just one paragraph to the Cobb-Ruth debate, and mentioned Ruth (and how he changed the game) only once after the second chapter.

That Salsinger championed Cobb is no surprise; he probably saw the Georgia Peach play more often than did any other writer. He felt a sense of civic pride that Ty toiled for his hometown Tigers, and the two were long-time friends. The familiarity between writer and ballplayer, acceptable at the time, allowed Salsinger insight into Cobb's complicated personality. He suggested that the Georgia Peach was driven by his father's opposition to his baseball career, and admonishment that the younger Cobb not return home as a failure, and by the taunts and teasing from teammates that Ty endured as a young player. Cobb's success was not a result of his natural talents, according to Salsinger, but hard work, superior intelligence, and his ability to expose and exploit weakness in his opponents. "In him were strangely combined all of those qualities that were needed to make a perfect competitor, a man with playing faults but

with the most highly developed competitive spirit and the finest developed brain that the national pastime of the United States has produced [p. 7].”

Salsinger frequently employed other absolutes to describe Cobb (“No one was better at ...,” “Nobody worked harder ...,” “Cobb sooner or later mastered every pitcher that he faced”), referenced specific plays from games in the distant past as anecdotal evidence of Cobb’s ability to outsmart opponents, and he may have crafted and shaped Cobb’s quotes to portray the player in a more favorable, refined way. Today, his accuracy, veracity, and objectivity would be challenged, but Salsinger faced no such scrutiny in his own time.

Salsinger conceded that his friend was flawed. He pointed out failures Cobb suffered on the field — including unsuccessful World Series performances — and described some of his darker moments. Ever protective, he hinted that some victims of Ty’s terrible

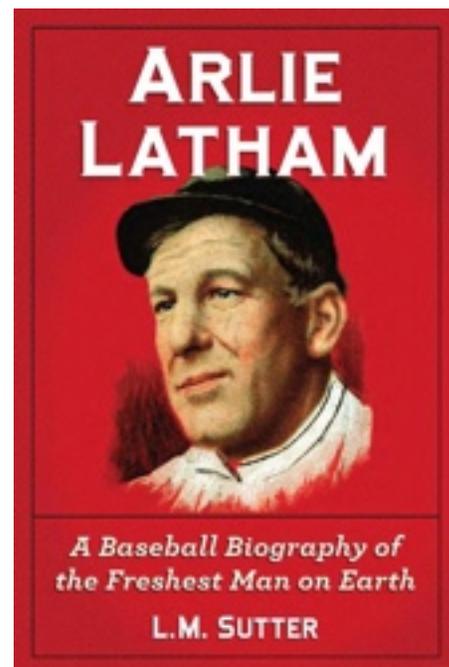
temper provoked his violent outbursts, and argued that without deep-seated rage, Cobb might not have been the same ballplayer.

There is value to Salsinger’s work as both an eyewitness account of Cobb’s glorious career and as a first-hand study of Cobb’s complex personality. This should not be the first Cobb biography on your bookshelf, but can supplement Richard Bak’s *Peach* (2005) or Charles Alexander’s *Ty Cobb* (1984) both of which build on Salsinger’s profile of an anger-driven, complicated Cobb, and both of which are well-researched and objective biographies.

Doug Skipper is a marketing research, customer satisfaction, and public opinion consultant from Apple Valley, Minnesota. A SABR member since 1982, he has written four biographies for Deadball Stars of the American League, and has contributed to several SABR biographical publications.

THE INSIDE GAME CATALOGED IN THE BASEBALL INDEX

Since its inaugural issue in 2000 through November 2012, *The Inside Game* has published several hundred articles about the players, ballparks, and events of the Deadball Era. Every article that has appeared in our newsletter is now included in The Baseball Index maintained by the Bibliography Committee. To access this info, members need only go to the Research Section of the SABR website and hit The Baseball Index link. Research can be done via either the People or Topic Search option.



ARLIE LATHAM: A BASEBALL BIOGRAPHY OF THE FRESHEST MAN ON EARTH

BY L.M. SUTTER

2012. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland and Company.
[ISBN 978-0-7864-6138-7;
Ebook ISBN
978-0-7864-9168-1. 272 pages.
\$29.95 USD, Paperback (6" X
9")]

Reviewed by
J. Thomas Hetrick
chrisandtom@starpower.net

L.M. Sutter’s *Arlie Latham: A Baseball Biography of the Freshest Man on Earth* offers a colorful look at one of the early game’s brightest stars. After laying the foundation for 19th century baseball organizational structure and rules, Sutter proceeds to describe, in meticulous detail, the long life of one Walter Arlington

Latham (1860-1952), born in New Hampshire the year before the start of the Civil War.

A born showman and loudmouth, Latham patrolled third base, mostly for the American Association St. Louis Browns and the National League Cincinnati Red Stockings in the 1880s and 1890s. When his team was at bat, he became a "coacher" at his favorite place on the diamond: third base. Perhaps to "boom the game" (slang for popularizing baseball), merely to entertain the "cranks," to let off steam, or all of the above, Latham riled opponents with his incessant on-field chatter, while delighting his home fans. This boisterous ants-in-the-pants behavior led to numerous run-ins with the opposition, umpires, his own teammates, and his favorite foil, Chris Von der Ahe, the owner of the St. Louis Browns. Latham also freely participated in the sport known as "kicking" (kicking dirt on the umpire) made into an art form by the St. Louis Browns, and encouraged by Von der Ahe. Yet, despite all the hullabaloo he created on the diamond, Latham was a genuinely talented balltossing, a leadoff hitter extraordinaire who could also swipe bases and field his position as well as anyone in the game; well, mostly. For many hard smashes that came to his hot corner position, Latham simply dodged the ball and waved his hands, preferring not to have the

sphere break his fingers or bounce up and whack him in the face. This maneuver became known as an "Arlie Latham."

Latham was not without his personal demons, however, and author Sutter ensures coverage of this part of Latham's life without judgment. The thrice-married Latham was accused of wife beating and his spendthrift personality contributed mightily to his personal failings. In addition, Latham's need to be the life of the party led to his checkered theatrical career.

Following his playing career, Latham continued to be involved in baseball, serving as league umpire and later in life as an usher at Yankee Stadium. At every opportunity, Latham regaled sportswriters with anecdotes about the past. In 1951, Toots Shor, owner of the famous restaurant in New York City, threw a party celebrating the Jubilee Anniversary of the National League. Attended by a host of baseball Hall of Famers

like Cy Young, Ty Cobb, and Jimmie Foxx, this august fraternity was also attended by Arlie Latham, who in a group photo is shown raising his leg like a skittish new colt. Although 91-years young, raconteur Latham enjoyed an evening of banter and storytelling.

With this biography, L.M. Sutter has made an important contribution to the literature of 19th century baseball. The use of contemporary language adds to the narrative. Despite some occasionally dense prose, Sutter's style befits the man, boldly explaining the life of a nearly forgotten pioneer of baseball. As a challenge to historians and aficionados, many more books about 19th century baseballers should follow.

J. Thomas Hetrick owns and operates Pocol Press, publishers of baseball books. He also has authored Chris Von der Ahe and the St. Louis Browns (1999) and MISFITS! Baseball's Worst Ever Team (1999).

Publishers' contacts for books reviewed in this issue:

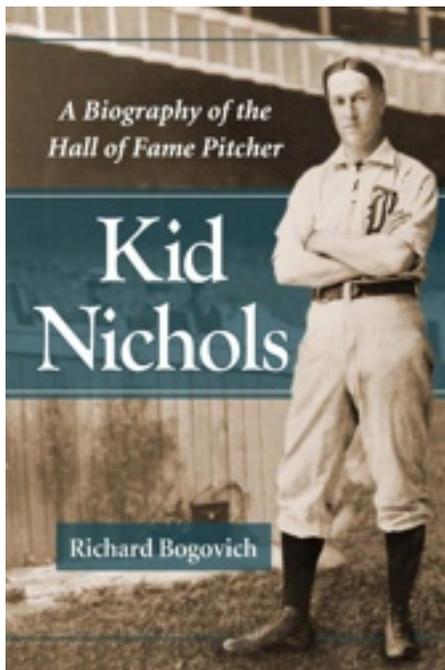
McFarland & Company, Inc.

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**KID NICHOLS: A
BIOGRAPHY OF THE HALL
OF FAME PITCHER
BY RICHARD BOGOVICH**

2012. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland and Company.
[ISBN 978-0-7864-6522-4;
Ebook ISBN
978-0-7864-9280-0.
262 pages. \$29.95 USD,
Paperback (9" X 6")]

Reviewed by
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Any reasonably competent baseball fan can recite from memory the litany of the game's five winningest pitchers. There is Cy Young, followed by Walter Johnson, then either Christy Mathewson or Grover Cleveland Alexander, then the other, and finally Warren Spahn. Familiar names, all of them. So why is one of the two people tied for

the No. 6 spot so hard to remember?

Perhaps it's because Charles Augustus "Kid" Nichols, whose 361 victories puts him in a tie with Jim Galvin for that sixth spot, somehow lacked the charisma or sex appeal of those other guys. There are plenty of people alive today who saw Warren Spahn pitch. Mathewson had the glamour of McGraw's New York as a backdrop, Young has the award, Johnson had the sort of backwards distinction of starring for a truly awful club, and Alexander had booze plus a movie starring Ronald Reagan.

Unless you are enthralled by an addiction to bowling or cigars — Nichols was a champion bowler and the owner of a large bowling complex in Kansas City — you will find the story straightforward and focused in reflection of his Midwestern background. The result may not have been glamorous, but it did yield seven 30-victory seasons in eight years, a lead role on eight pennant winners, and 300 victories by the symmetrical age of 30.

Richard Bogovich, Nichols' biographer, tells the pitcher's story as straight as it was lived. Beginning in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1869 as the youngest son in a large family, the man known almost from the start as "Kid" grew under the tutelage of Frank Selee in Kansas City, moved with his mentor to the Boston Beaneaters in 1890, and

prospered there. Nichols' secret was the simplicity of his approach. He relied almost entirely on a fastball delivered with a simple motion that minimized arm fatigue as well as wear and tear. As a result, he was able to make 40 or more starts every season between 1890 and 1898, completing all of them and working 44 relief appearances around those starts.

Bogovich provides an interesting measure of the scope of Nichols' baseball prominence as measured by the trade rumors that floated around him. "The Boston management refused to surrender Nichols in exchange for Rusie," he notes, referencing an 1896 report in *Sporting Life* (p. 88). If any pitcher was considered the equal of Nichols in the mid 1890s, it was Amos Rusie, property of the New York Giants, and recognized as an even harder thrower than the Kid. That's why he was known as "The Hoosier Thunderbolt." Beyond that, Giants owner Andrew Freedman had reason to attempt to unload Rusie in 1896, since the pitcher at that moment was engaged in a season-long one-player strike occasioned by Freedman's withholding part of Rusie's salary at the end of 1895, allegedly for drunkenness.

Considering that Rusie had won three more games than Nichols between 1891 and 1894, Beaneaters owner Arthur Soden might have been at least slightly tempted. Soden,

however, was a cautious owner. Instead of acquiring Rusie, he contributed to a fund compensating Rusie for the loss of his 1896 salary, prompting the pitcher – also a major gate attraction – to return to the Giants for 1897. He won 28 games; Nichols, by the way, won 31.

The Baseball Hall of Fame was created in the mid-1930s, but for many years the most prominent 19th Century players found it difficult to gain entry. There seemed to be a bias against those who performed prior to the turn of the 20th century, and Kid Nichols was among the

overlooked. Bogovich notes that in the initial 1936 election, the Kid was supported by only three of 79 voters. Incredibly, it got worse. In 1946, 203 Hall of Fame voters cast ballots and just one of them included the name of Kid Nichols. At that point, prominent sportswriters and former players began to ask what the heck was going on? Cy Young and Ty Cobb raised Nichols' profile in public interviews, Cobb declaring that the Hall "has overlooked one of the greatest pitchers of all time" (p 208). Grantland Rice joined the campaign, others followed, and by 1949 the Kid was in. "I've been hoping that I would be named before I

passed on," the Kid, then 79, said (p. 211).

The book will be appealing to fans who enjoy a more or less pure baseball story – with a side dish of bowling. It is also amply illustrated, including one photo from the pitcher's wedding dinner that will make you want to pass the celery.

Bill Felber is executive editor of The Manhattan Mercury, a daily newspaper in Manhattan, KS. He is the author of several books on baseball history and strategy, including A Game of Brawl (2007), the story of the 1897 National League pennant race.

NINE: A JOURNAL OF BASEBALL HISTORY AND CULTURE

Most readers of this newsletter are familiar with *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*, edited by Deadball Era Committee Vice-Chair Trey Strecker. The most recent editions of *NINE* contain articles bound to be of interest. The Spring 2012 issue features "It Was His Fairness That Caught Wrigley's Eye": William L. Veeck's Journalism Career and His Hiring by the Chicago Cubs, by Jack Bales, and Royal Match: The Army-Navy Service Game, July 4, 1918, by Jim Leeke. The Fall 2012 issue of *NINE* includes articles entitled: Stephen Crane, Baseball, and a Red Badge, by Rich Barton and Jan Finkel, and Shoeless Joe, the Bambino, the Big Bankroll, and the Jazz Age, by John Thorn. For information on obtaining these issues or subscribing to *NINE*, contact Trey at: tstrecker@bsu.edu.

MATERIAL NEEDED FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

An early editor of *The Inside Game* observed that the hardest part of the job was obtaining material to publish. Apart from submissions from a handful of steady contributors, he found newsletter stories hard to come by. Some things never change. *The Inside Game* does not write itself. It relies upon contributions from its readership. So if you are researching something Deadball-related that you would like to see in print, or have attended an event that might be of interest to fellow Deadballers, or have come across an interesting old news item, obituary, etc., please consider contributing same to the newsletter. Material can be emailed to newsletter editor Bill Lamb via wflamb12@yahoo.com or mailed to him at 4 Mudgett Avenue, Meredith, New Hampshire 03253. All newsletter contributions will be acknowledged and much appreciated.

THE DEADBALL ERA ALL-STAR TEAM

A favorite pastime of baseball fans everywhere is selecting an all-star team. Members of this committee are doubtless no exception. Accordingly, the Committee chair and the staff of *The Inside Game* invite newsletter readers to select their personal Deadball Era All-Star team. To assist the electorate, TIG staff has compiled an advisory, and unavoidably subjective, ballot. Needless to say, electors are not limited to the official slate of candidates. Vote for the Deadball Era all-stars of your choice. The all-star team selected by the DBE membership will be unveiled at the 2013 SABR Convention in Philadelphia and should be a topic of interest and lively conversation. Obviously, the broader the participation in the election, the more credible the outcome. So please take the relatively brief time required to contemplate whom you would choose and then vote, either electronically or by mail. Kindly cast your ballot by the election deadline of March 31, 2013.

Eligibility: There are no rigid election rules. Selection of each elector's team is a matter of personal discretion. The slate of candidates named on the ballot is only offered to assist in the exercise of elector judgment. Anyone who played major league ball or pre-Negro Leagues ball during the years 1901 through 1919, inclusive, is eligible. A player's status with the Commissioner's Office is immaterial. Voters, however, are urged to confine their evaluation to a player's performance during the Deadball Era, not before or after. This has caused the omission of players who played significant time during the DBE but achieved their renown either before (e.g., Willie Keeler, George Davis, Hughie Jennings) or after (e.g., Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby) the Deadball Era from the official ballot. Votes cast for such candidates, however, will be tabulated by the election overseers, and such candidates may be elected to the Deadball Era All-Star team, if that proves to be the will of the voters.

The All-Star Team Ballot: The ballot of All-Star team candidates is found on the next page.



Deadball Era all-stars, including Ty Cobb in a borrowed Cleveland uniform, gathered for a 1911 benefit game for the widow of Addie Joss.

This ballot is advisory only, as each elector is free to write in the name of another Deadball Era player in any position, including pitcher(s), as he/she sees fit. You will note that the sample ballot requires voters to select one player for catcher and one player for each of the four infield positions, while three outfielders, without designation of left/center/right fielder, are to be chosen. The ballot provides for writing in a three-player bench chosen from players at any non-pitcher position and a five-pitcher staff. A Deadball Era all-star manager is also to be selected.

The Electorate: For reasons both practical and philosophical, eligible voters will be confined to members of SABR's Deadball Era Committee.

Voting Procedure: Ballots may be cast electronically or by mail. To cast an electronic ballot, follow this link to

<http://sabr.org/deadball-all-star-survey-2013>

or type that webpage address into your web browser. Then follow the instructions on that page to complete the ballot. For those who prefer to vote by mail, kindly detach or photocopy the ballot from the newsletter, make your selections, and then mail the completed ballot to: Bill Lamb, 4 Mudgett Avenue, Meredith, New Hampshire, 03253. Whether voting electronically or by mail, each committee member is requested to cast only one all-star team ballot. Thanks very much for participating.

Bill Lamb, Editor
The Inside Game

THE DEADBALL ERA ALL-STAR TEAM BALLOT

(Deadline for voting is March 31, 2013 – DEC members only)

FIRST BASE/SELECT ONE

Frank Chance ____
Hal Chase ____
Jake Daubert ____
Ed Konetchy ____
Stuffy McInnis ____
George Sisler ____
Write-In _____

SECOND BASE/SELECT ONE

Eddie Collins ____
George Cutshaw ____
Larry Doyle ____
Johnny Evers ____
Miller Huggins ____
Nap Lajoie ____
Write-In _____

SHORTSTOP/SELECT ONE

Dave Bancroft ____
Jack Barry ____
John Henry (Pop) Lloyd .. ____
Rabbit Maranville ____
Joe Tinker ____
Honus Wagner ____
Write-In _____

THIRD BASE/SELECT ONE

Frank Baker ____
Jimmy Collins ____
Art Devlin ____
Larry Gardner ____
Heinie Groh ____
Heinie Zimmerman ____
Write-In _____

CATCHER/SELECT ONE

Roger Bresnahan ____
Lou Criger ____
Johnny Kling ____
Chief Meyers ____
Louis Santop ____
Ray Schalk ____
Write-In _____

OUTFIELD/SELECT THREE

Max Carey ____
Fred Clarke ____
Ty Cobb ____
Gavvy Cravath ____
Elmer Flick ____
Harry Hooper ____
Joe Jackson ____
Sherry Magee ____
Edd Roush ____
Tris Speaker ____
Cristobal Torriente ____
Zack Wheat ____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____

BENCH/SELECT THREE

Any three position players not otherwise designated a starter on your ballot.
Write-In _____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____

PITCHER/SELECT FIVE

Grover Alexander ____
Chief Bender ____
Mordecai (Three Finger) Brown .. ____
Jack Chesbro ____
Eddie Cicotte ____
Wilbur Cooper ____
Walter Johnson ____
Addie Joss ____
Sam Leever ____
Rube Marquard ____
Christy Mathewson ____
Jose Mendez ____
Joe McGinnity ____
George Mullin ____
Deacon Phillippe ____
Eddie Plank ____
Rube Waddell ____
Ed Walsh ____
Smokey Joe Williams ____
Cy Young ____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____
Write-In _____

MANAGER/SELECT ONE

Frank Chance ____
Fred Clarke ____
Hughie Jennings ____
Connie Mack ____
John McGraw ____
George Stallings ____
Write-In _____

To cast your ballot electronically:

Follow this link to
<http://sabr.org/deadball-all-star-survey-2013>
or type that webpage address into your web browser. Then follow the instructions on that page to complete the ballot.

To cast your ballot by mail:

Detach or photocopy the ballot from the newsletter, make your selections, and then mail the completed ballot to:

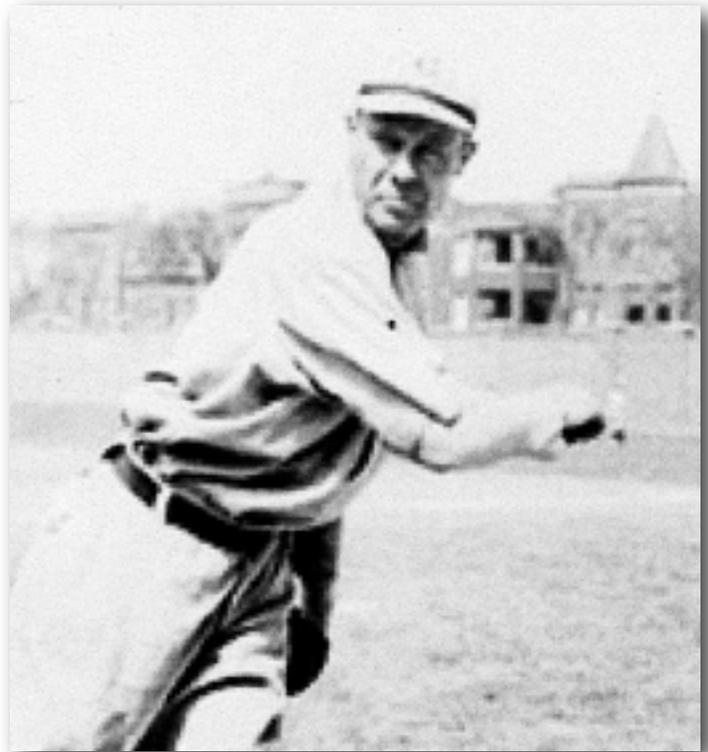
Bill Lamb
4 Mudgett Avenue
Meredith, NH 03253

DALE, PAULETTE, AND PACKARD: A TRIO OF UNCLEAN GENES

by **Bill Lamb**

Gene Dale, Gene Paulette, and Gene Packard were more than Deadball Era journeyman linked by a common first name. This trio was also among the lesser baseball lights that fell into disrepute around the time of the Black Sox scandal. In January 1921, Dale was formally expelled from organized ball for suspected participation in game-fixing during the 1919 Pacific Coast League pennant race. Two months later, Paulette's association with St. Louis gamblers earned him the distinction of being the first player banished by newly-installed baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis. The blight on Packard's reputation, however, took time to accumulate. Packard first incurred official disdain when he abandoned the pitching-starved Philadelphia Phillies for a steel plant team in the midst of the 1919 season. The following year, Packard was implicated in fix reports about an August 1920 Phillies-Chicago Cubs game. Fortunately for Packard, a Chicago grand jury empanelled to investigate the matter soon became engrossed in investigation of the 1919 World Series and ultimately took no action against him. But in baseball circles, Packard had become *persona non grata*. Decades later, the memoir of Bill Veeck, Jr. placed a final stain on the Packard name. According to Veeck, a diary maintained by longtime Chicago White Sox club secretary Harry Grabiner labeled Packard a "1918 World Series fixer."

Probably the least remembered of the three Genes, Thomas Eugene Dale was born in St. Louis on June 16, 1889. A willowy (six-foot-three/180 lb.) right-hand pitcher, Dale first attracted attention playing in the semi-pro St. Louis Trolley League. After several failed major league auditions, Dale received a late-1911 season tryout with the hometown St. Louis Cardinals. A cumulative 0-7 record with the Cards over parts of the 1911-1912 seasons prompted Dale's demotion to Montreal of the International



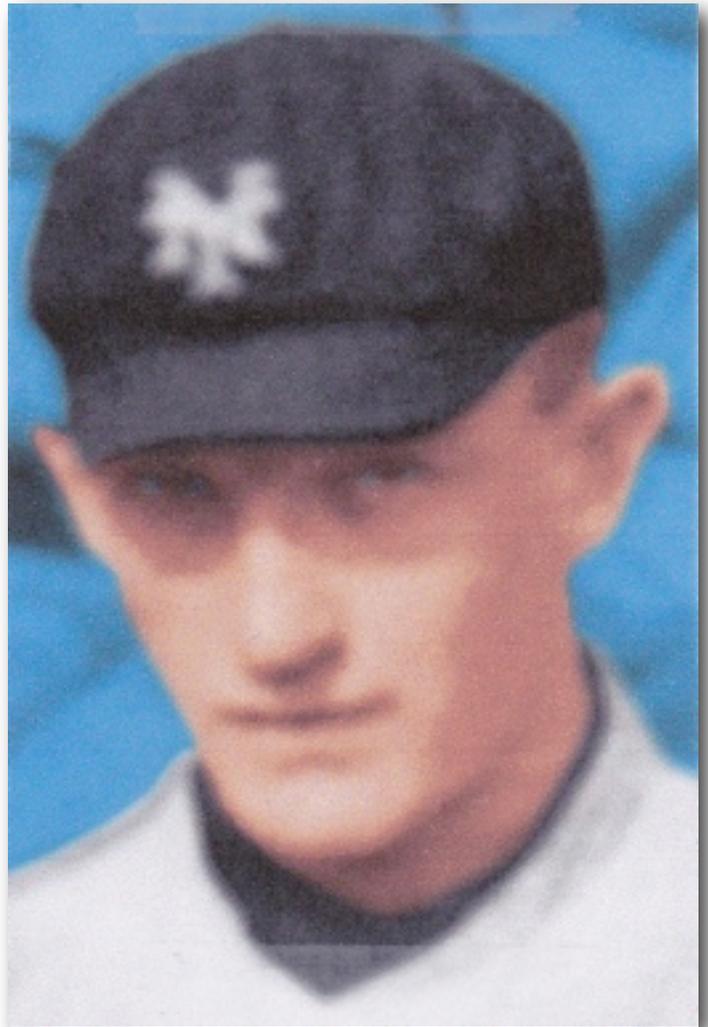
Gene Dale was banished from Organized Baseball for suspected involvement in game-fixing during the 1919 PCL pennant race.

League where he labored through 1915 with mixed results. Notwithstanding so-so minor league numbers, Dale received a second big leagues chance with the Cincinnati Reds in 1916. Pitching for a cellar-dwelling club, Dale was outstanding, going 18-17, with four shutouts and a sparkling 2.46 ERA in a yeoman 296 1/3 innings pitched. Sadly, Gene Dale proved a one-year wonder. By 1917, National League batters had solved the slow curve and side-arm delivery that had so befuddled them the previous year and Dale was hit hard. To make matters worse, Dale did not handle adversity well, frequently blaming teammates for a lack of support. After another lackluster outing in early July, Dale renewed his complaint about teammates to an unsympathetic listener, Reds manager-second baseman Buck Herzog. Fed up with Dale's whining, Herzog ordered the pitcher to remain behind as the team prepared for a Fourth of July trip to St. Louis, Dale's hometown. Defying orders, Dale made his own way home, publicly declaring that he was "through with baseball"

while taking his leave of Cincinnati. When word of Dale's insubordination reached Reds club president Garry Herrmann, he immediately placed Dale on indefinite suspension. Days later, Dale's contract was sold to the Indianapolis Indians of the American Association. His major leagues career was over.

Dale continued pitching in the minors and by 1919 was a member of the starting rotation for the Salt Lake City Bees of the Pacific Coast League. The 1919 PCL pennant race was captured by the Vernon Tigers. In August 1920, PCL president William H. McCarthy stunned West Coast baseball followers with the announcement that a number of prominent players, including star Salt Lake outfielder Harl Maggert and Vernon first baseman-captain Babe Borton, had been suspended pending further inquiry into gambling and game-fixing allegations. In time, the scandal mushroomed into indictments returned by a Los Angeles County grand jury. Gene Dale, the recipient of \$500 from Borton during a crucial late-1919 Vernon-Salt Lake series in which Dale had pitched ineffectually, figured prominently in various fix scenarios. Sensing his peril, Packard evaded appearance before the grand jury, refusing to set foot inside California. In the short run, the strategy appeared to work. The grand jury declined to charge Dale, reportedly having misgivings about its jurisdiction over him. Maggert, Borton, and the others indicted also had short-term good fortune. The charges were dismissed by a Los Angeles Superior Court judge who determined that fixing professional baseball games was not something prohibited by California penal statutes. Rather, such conduct represented a breach of contract by the players and was a matter to be resolved via civil litigation.

Pacific Coast League officials were outraged by the dismissals. "If the law cannot punish them [Maggert, Borton, et al], it remains for baseball to do its share ... and keep them from participating in the professional ranks," declared PCL president McCarthy. The action demanded by McCarthy was not long in coming. On January 12, 1921, the National Association of



Utility man Gene Paulette holds the distinction of being the first player barred from baseball by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

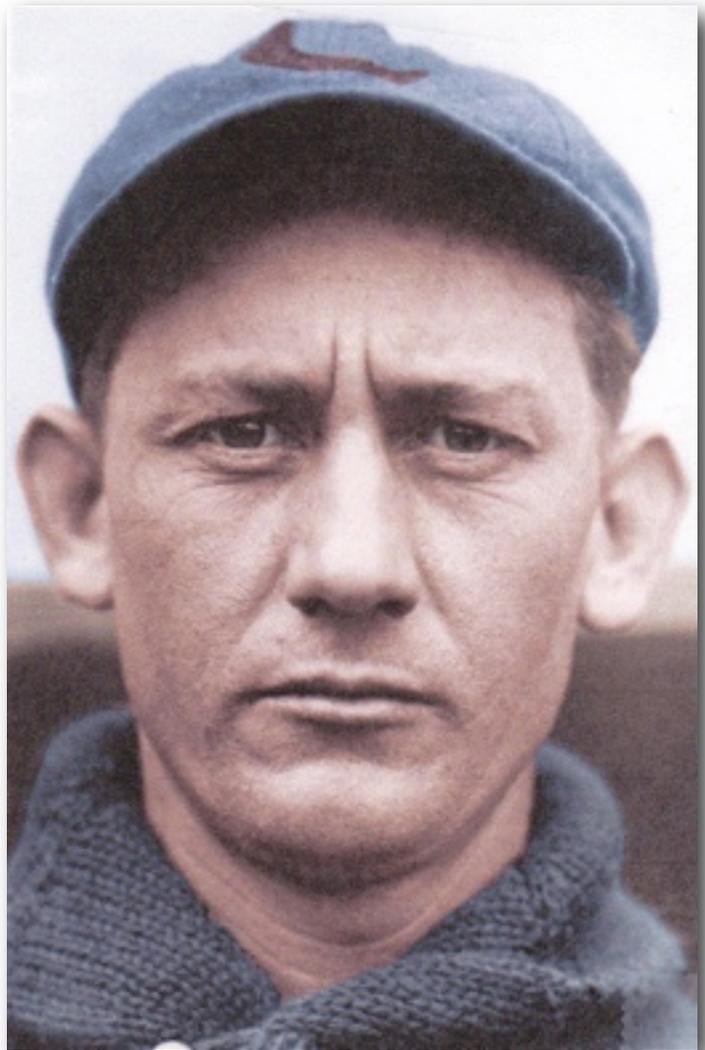
Professional Baseball Leagues, then the governing body of minor league baseball, formally expelled Maggert, Borton, Salt Lake City outfielder Bill Rumler, and Gene Dale from Organized Baseball. Almost simultaneously in Chicago, federal district court judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was being installed as major leagues commissioner. Months later, the PCL case and the sanctions imposed upon judicially-exonerated ballplayers would provide baseball's new, all-powerful czar with instructive precedent in dealing with acquitted Black Sox defendants.

While the Black Sox case made its way toward a Chicago trial court, a new problem was dumped in Commissioner Landis's lap. This headache

involved the association of Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Gene Paulette with St. Louis gamblers, one of whom (Carl Zork) was about to be charged in superseding indictments returned by the Black Sox case grand jury. Born in Centralia, Illinois on May 26, 1891 but a resident of Little Rock, Arkansas for most of his life, Eugene Edward Paulette had been signed as a catching prospect by the New York Giants in 1911 and saw big leagues action briefly that season. Thereafter, a weak bat kept Paulette in the minors until the St. Louis Browns brought him back up late in 1916. Early the following season, Paulette got a chance to play regularly when picked up by the St. Louis Cardinals. He batted a respectable .265, but hit with little power. Defensive versatility – he played virtually every position on the diamond competently – was what afforded Paulette a professional livelihood.

While in St. Louis, Paulette became acquainted with members of its thriving gambling fraternity. Sometime early in the 1919, Paulette obtained money from bookmaker Elmer Farrar and businessman-gambler Carl Zork, who then importuned Paulette to dump games for them. Later, Paulette wrote a letter to Farrar claiming that he could get two other Cardinals players to cooperate in game-fixing. But further game-fix plans were aborted by the trade of Paulette to Philadelphia. Subsequent developments suggested that the management of both the Cardinals and the Phillies were aware of Paulette's association with St. Louis gamblers. Phillies owner William Baker even managed to gain possession of the letter that Paulette had written to Farrar. Baker, however, was content to accept Paulette's assurances that he had done nothing untoward – until the Black Sox scandal exploded in September 1920. Then, Baker turned the Paulette letter over to National League president John Heydler. As soon as Commissioner Landis took office, Heydler transferred the missive to him.

Summoned before Landis on March 7, 1921, Paulette denied that he had engaged in any wrongdoing. But he had difficulty explaining the contents of the letter that he had sent to Farrar. Paulette admitted accepting “loans” from Farrar



The shady reputation of left-hander Gene Packard was further tarnished by allegations in Bill Veeck's 1965 memoir.

which were never repaid and exonerated the two Cardinals players (never publicly identified) implicated in the letter. Landis was not satisfied, and when Paulette failed to appear before the Commissioner for a subsequent interrogation session, the Landis gavel fell swiftly. On March 24, 1921, Paulette became the first player permanently banned from Organized Baseball by the new commissioner. In his expulsion decision, Landis acknowledged that Paulette had denied ever having thrown a game and that Paulette maintained that he had separated himself from former gambling acquaintances. These claims had very little effect upon the Commissioner. “The fact remains,” proclaimed Landis, that Paulette “had offered to betray his team and that

he put himself in the vicious power of Farrar and Zork.” On these grounds, Paulette was placed on baseball’s permanently ineligible list.

Blessed with more talent and a better destiny than the other two Genes, left-hander Eugene Packard never had his fitness to be in uniform formally scrutinized by baseball officials. The worst thing that ever happened to Packard was placement on the Philadelphia Phillies ineligible list a year after he had quit the team. But in time, he, too, would be deemed unemployable in Organized Baseball. Born outside Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 13, 1887, Packard boasted excellent minor league credentials when drafted by the Cincinnati Reds late in the 1912 season. Packard, however, never remained in one place very long. After pitching for the Reds in 1913, Packard jumped to the upstart Federal League where he posted back-to-back 20-win seasons for the Kansas City Packers. Acquired by the Chicago Cubs in 1916, Packard joined a clubhouse sprinkled with players believed to be on intimate terms with gamblers, including Heinie Zimmerman, Claude Hendrix, and Tom Seaton. A season later, this cohort was joined by Phil Douglas and Paul Carter. By 1921, these men would all be quietly excluded from the game, save for Douglas who was publically banished by Commissioner Landis during the 1922 season.

Used only in spots, Packard pitched effectively for the Cubs (10-6, with a 2.78 ERA) but was traded to the Cardinals in April 1917. Here, Packard replicated his previous year’s work, going 9-6 with a 2.47 ERA in spot starter/long reliever duty. In 1918, he posted a 12-12 mark in a World War I-shortened season and had no visible connection to the troubled World Series won by the Boston Red Sox over his former Cubs team in six games. In January 1919, the peripatetic Packard was on the move again, traded from a poor Cardinals team to an even worse Phillies club. He lasted until mid-August, before giving the Phillies ten-days notice that he was leaving the club to work/pitch for a steel plant in Massillon, Ohio. After the 1919 season, Phillies assigned the rights to Packard to the Boston Braves. But after Packard rejected a

contract tendered by Boston, the Braves returned the Packard rights to Philadelphia, which eventually placed Packard on the club’s ineligible list. By then, Packard’s pitching career was behind him.

The events which cast further blemish on Packard’s reputation began on the morning of August 31, 1920, when Cubs president William E. Veeck, Sr. was disturbed by a rash of telephone and telegram messages warning him that the day’s Cubs-Phillies game had been rigged for Chicago to lose. Veeck promptly contacted Cubs manager Fred Mitchell who replaced scheduled starter Claude Hendrix with staff ace Grover Alexander. Still, the Cubs lost, 3-0. Little more than a week later, a Cook County grand jury was convened to investigate the fix reports. Soon, however, investigation of the suspect Cubs-Phillies game was overshadowed by allegations that the 1919 White Sox-Reds World Series had been corrupted. Still, the suspect Cubs-Phillies game was not entirely ignored. Late in the grand jury probe, American League president Ban Johnson revealed intelligence about the game provided by Kansas City sports editor Otto Floto. According to Floto, there had, in fact, been a plot to rig the Cubs-Phillies game. The fix principals were Cubs pitcher Hendrix and Kansas City gambler H. A. “Frock” Thompson. Also involved in the affair were incorrigible game-fixer Hal Chase and former Kansas City Packers ace Gene Packard. Denials were promptly issued by Hendrix and Thompson, who each disclaimed even knowing the other, and the grand jury had larger baseball corruption in its cross-hairs. No action was therefore taken by the panel regarding the suspect Cubs-Phillies game.

Emerging unscathed by the grand jury probe, Packard soon joined the other two Genes in quiet obscurity. Gene Dale spent his final years working as a plater for a St. Louis steel products company. He died in March 1958, aged 68. Gene Paulette worked in the yards of the Missouri Pacific Railroad for more than 40 years. He died at home in Little Rock in February 1966. He was 74. Gene Packard drifted from place to place until settling down in Riverside, California. He

died there in May 1959 at age 71. Six years after Packard went to his grave, the allegation that he was involved in the purported fix of the 1918 World Series was circulated via the publication of Bill Veeck, Jr.'s memoirs. Veeck Jr., who had never heard of Gene Packard himself, maintained that he was only repeating an accusation contained in the diary of one-time White Sox club secretary Harry Grabiner. The Veeck assertion, however, would have to be taken on faith. The Grabiner diary had gone missing and its contents were therefore not subject to verification by a third party.

In the almost 50 years that have passed since the Veeck memoir was published in 1965, the notion that the 1918 World Series was compromised has been the subject of printed speculation, but no hard evidence has ever surfaced. Nothing whatever has been found linking Gene Packard to the matter. Thus, even if one accepts the Veeck memoir as an honestly written one, the charge of World Series corruption lodged against Packard remains unproven.

Bill Lamb is the editor of The Inside Game. This article is adapted from his BioProject profiles of Gene Dale, Gene Paulette, and Gene Packard.

Youngstown Vindicator, May 6, 1909

BOOZE VERSUS BRAWN

"Keep Your Eye on the Ball"

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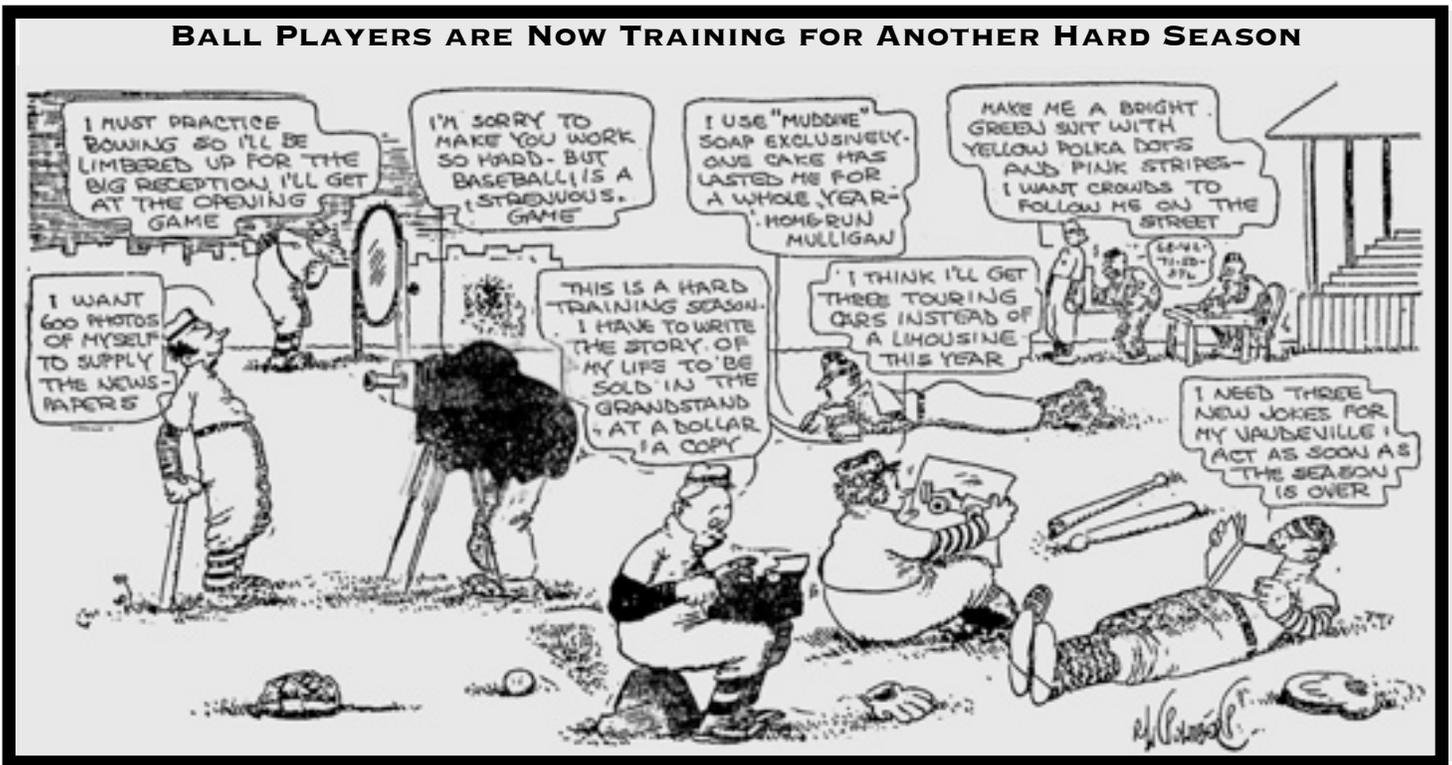
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Place--The Park Theatre

Good Music Everybody Welcome
Lovers of Out-of-Door Sport Especially Invited



Providence News, April 10, 1919

HENRY FRANCIS “HANK” O’DAY

by **David W. Anderson**

[Editor’s Note: Given the pending induction of Hank O’Day into the Hall of Fame, The Inside Game is pleased to present this profile of the famed Deadball Era arbiter from David W. Anderson’s forthcoming book “You Can’t Beat the Hours,” expected to be available this Spring. Following the O’Day profile, David offers some commentary on the O’Day enshrinement and outlines the other content in his work.]

Hank O’Day is one of the few men in history to play, umpire, and manage in the National League. A loner with no family life and little interest in anything but baseball, O’Day was best friends with fellow NL umpire Bob Emslie. Often they would spend their free time together, seldom exchanging a word. “Look at O’Day,” said American League umpire Silk O’Loughlin. “He is one of the best umpires, maybe the best today, but he’s sour. Umpiring does something to you. The abuse you get from the players, the insults from the crowds, and the awful things they write about you in the newspapers take their toll.”¹ Bill Klem called O’Day a “misanthropic Irishman, and ... wouldn’t speak a civil word to anybody he had known for 20 years.”² Christy Mathewson said that arguing with O’Day was like “using a lit match to see how much gasoline was in the fuel tank.”³

Born in Chicago on July 8, 1862, Henry Francis O’Day began his major league career as a right-handed pitcher in the American Association in 1884-1885. He spent the next four years in the National League with Washington and New York before winding up his pitching career in the Players League with a 22-win season in 1890. As a pitcher, Deacon McGuire said O’Day was “... smart and had good stuff ... but he threw the heaviest and hardest ball I ever caught. It was like lead and it came at me like a shell from a cannon.”⁴

Still, Hank O’Day’s overall pitching record was mediocre — 73-110 with a 3.74 ERA. But he

made a great impression as a substitute umpire by filling in to avoid a postponement when illness, injury, or travel problems prevented the assigned umpire from officiating a game. Hired as a full-time NL umpire in 1895, O’Day became known for his bravery to make the right call, no matter how unpopular. He was also noted for making sound safe or out calls and for intolerance of rowdiness. O’Day was the only umpire to toss Connie Mack from a ballgame. He fined Mack \$100 as the result of the incident.⁵

O’Day is best remembered for his actions on September 23, 1908, at the end of a game between the Chicago Cubs and the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds. O’Day was behind the plate, with his friend Emslie on the bases that day. With the score tied in the ninth, Al Bridwell singled with Moose McCormick on third and Fred Merkle on first. Seeing McCormick score the apparent winning run, Merkle immediately ran for the Giants clubhouse. Cubs second baseman Johnny Evers screamed for the ball fielded by teammate Artie Hofman. Before Evers could get the ball, Giants pitcher Joe McGinnity intercepted it and threw it into the crowd. Evers found another ball, tagged second, and appealed to Emslie to call Merkle out. Emslie made no call because he had not seen anything. Evers then appealed to O’Day, who made the out call, negating an apparent Giants victory. Because of

HENRY FRANCIS “HANK” O’DAY

Born: July 8, 1862 Chicago, IL

Died: July 2, 1935 Chicago, IL

National League:

1889-89, 1893, 1895-1911, 1913, 1915-1926

35 years, 3985 games

Home Plate...2709, First Base...1124

Third Base...152

10 World Series, 57 games

Home Plate...23, First Base...19

Second Base...7, Third Base...8

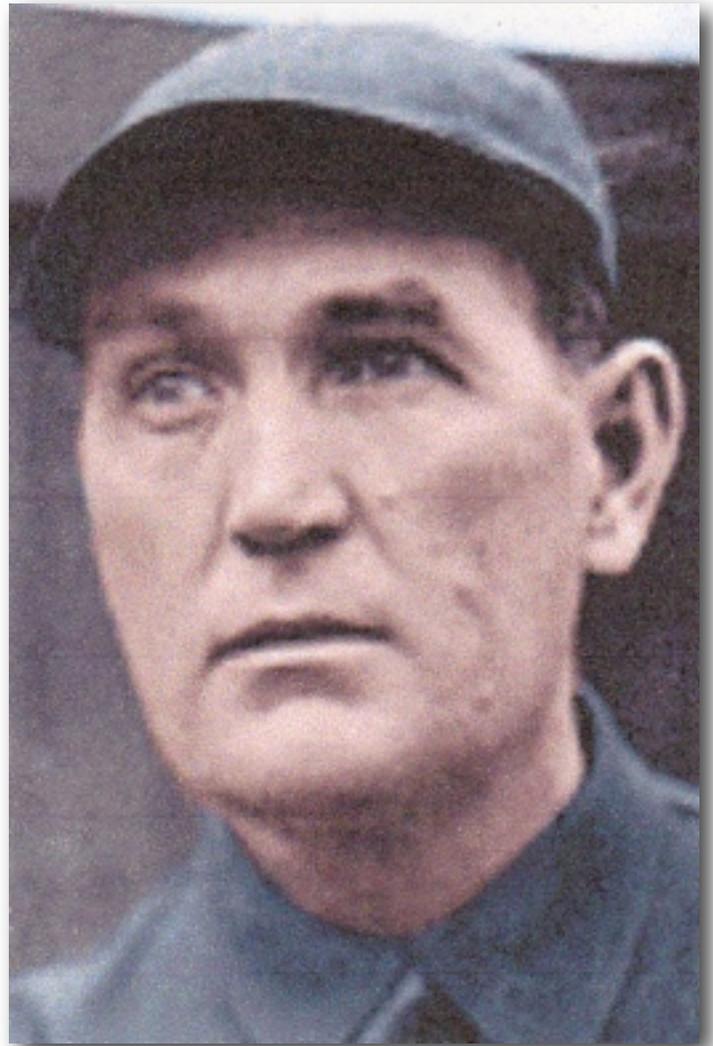
“You can’t hit ‘em if you can’t see ‘em.”
Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 3, 1935.

the chaos on the field, O'Day then ruled the game a tie and left.

Because of the circumstances of the game, O'Day wrote a letter to the league office to explain himself. In O'Day's words this is what happened: "Merkle did not run the ball out; he started toward second base, but on getting halfway there he turned and ran down the field toward the Club House... (Giant pitcher) McGinnity ran from the coach's box out in the field to second base and interfered with the play being made... Emslie, who said he did not watch Merkle, asked me if Merkle touched second base. I said he did not. Then Emslie called Merkle out and I would not allow McCormick's run to score... The people ran out on to the field. I did not ask to have the field cleared as it was too dark to continue play."⁶

After the NL upheld the ruling and the Cubs won the replay of the game, John McGraw maintained that O'Day had robbed him of the pennant. Ironically, about two weeks prior to the Merkle incident a similar call had presented itself. In a game between the Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates, a Pirate runner failed to touch second on a game-winning hit. When second baseman Johnny Evers tried to inform O'Day of the situation, O'Day said he did not see the play and could not do anything. However, the play remained in O'Day's mind.

In the October 24, 1914 issue of *Sporting Life*, O'Day commented further on the "Merkle Play." These remarks were made after Evers had said that he was influential in the play. O'Day said this: "We did not make this decision because Evers touched second when Merkle started for the clubhouse as is commonly supposed. We did it because Joe McGinnity, when the ball was thrown back to the infield by Artie Hofman, interfered with Pfiester, and threw [the ball] into the crowd, which by this time was swarming on the grounds back of third base. Steinfeldt retrieved the ball and ran to second base with it, tossing it to Evers just before reaching the bag. If McGinnity's interference had not given us that clear point to rule on, the credit for the play on Merkle would have gone to Hofman, who deserves it anyway, for he threw the ball in when



Hank O'Day's call on the Merkle force out play was harshly criticized by fellow NL umpire Bill Klem and castigated for years by Giants fans.

most fielders, following custom, would have kept it and fled to the clubhouse in the belief that the game was over."⁷ Thus, the call was the end result of Giants' interference with the play on Merkle. Fellow umpire Bill Klem called the Merkle decision the worst decision in the history of baseball, but the ruling has stood the test of time.⁸

The most curious part of O'Day's career was his two tours of duty as a manager, first with the 1912 Cincinnati Reds and later with the 1914 Cubs. During his time with Cincinnati and Chicago some opponents grouched that his former colleagues gave him an edge.

According to his biographical file, O'Day offered to umpire pre-season games for the Reds back in 1907. This may have been the beginning of his relationship with Garry Herrmann, the president of the Cincinnati Reds and a member of the National Commission. Herrmann wanted to pay him \$10 per game. O'Day asked for \$25 per game, saying he would umpire alone. They settled for \$200, plus expenses. Later as Reds manager, O'Day constantly discussed pitching prospects with Herrmann. O'Day had been a pitcher and believed it all started with a strong pitching staff. All of O'Day's ministrations did little to improve the Reds pitching. They finished fourth in hurling stats, tied with the Cubs with a team ERA of 3.42. During the season, the Reds had used 24 pitchers and by the end of the campaign, O'Day had accused his catcher Larry McLean of insubordination. Overall, the 1912 Reds finished in fourth place with a record of 75 wins and 78 losses.⁹

O'Day had done little to upgrade the team and the Reds fans showered abuse on him. Nevertheless, O'Day asked for a bonus because the Reds record had improved by five wins over 70-83 log of the previous year. Reds secretary-treasurer Max Fleishmann turned him down, saying "... I should say it is absolute nonsense and not to be seriously considered for a moment."¹⁰ Early in 1913, the Reds sacked manager O'Day, replacing him with the popular Joe Tinker.

O'Day returned to umpiring in 1913, without problems from the league, owners or players. In 1914 he became the manager of the Chicago Cubs amid turmoil in the club's front office. One problem was team owner Charles Murphy's divisive personality. Another was Cubs second baseman-manager Johnny Evers. After the 1913 season, Murphy had fired Evers as manager and now he was threatening to jump to the Federal League, a problem ultimately solved by the departure of Evers for the Boston Braves. Incoming manager O'Day had the backing of his team and led the Cubs to a respectable 78-76 finish. But then, Murphy sold the club. New management under Charles Taft, the brother of former US President William Howard Taft,

dismissed O'Day and named Roger Bresnahan the Cubs manager for 1915.

O'Day was now without a job. American League President Ban Johnson wanted him, but nothing ever came of it. On August 9, 1915, National League President John K. Tener was attending a Chicago-Brooklyn doubleheader. In the fourth inning of the opener, Tener sent word for O'Day to come to his box. After a brief conversation, O'Day departed to change his clothes. He had been re-hired as an NL umpire, and soon took his position on the field. What was astounding was the fans; they gave umpire O'Day a ten-minute ovation.¹¹

O'Day stayed as a NL umpire until 1927. The length of his career, which lasted 35 years in total, is second only to Bill Klem. O'Day also worked ten World Series (as did Klem) and was on the field when Cleveland's Bill Wambsganss completed an unassisted triple play in the 1920 Fall Classic. O'Day served as an umpire scout for the National League after his retirement as a field umpire. Hank O'Day died in Chicago on July 2, 1935.

One player who knew O'Day well was Jimmy Archer. He played for him as a member of the Cubs and was a catcher. "Umpire O'Day never robbed a ball player of a ball or strike in his long career. He had an iron nerve that refused to budge."¹² Other observers said he was a hard-bitten, eagle-eyed umpire. But there was also a charitable side to him. Close friends said that he made many gifts of money, food and clothing to neighbors and needy acquaintances.¹³ But in all honesty, O'Day was a loner and often surly. Whether umpiring did that or whether something else was the cause, no one can say. But there was one man who liked O'Day and remained his friend until O'Day died. He was Connie Mack. Mack had caught O'Day in 1887 and 1888 and while they presented a brainy battery, O'Day was a hard luck pitcher.¹⁴ Their friendship remained strong even though O'Day had later ejected Mack from a ball game. That occurred on September 6, 1895.

In *Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball*, Norman L. Macht tells this story: "Once, when he

was an umpire, he was sitting in a hotel lobby concealed behind a newspaper when a stranger sat down beside him and said, ‘Good umpiring job in the game today, Mr. O’Day.’ O’Day frowned and stood up, folded his paper and muttered, ‘What does one need to get any privacy in this hotel?’ O’Day then walked away.”¹⁵

In 1931, former NL president John Heydler praised O’Day by saying, “He is a wonderful character and a wonderful umpire, doubtless the best the game has known on balls and strikes. He was always a stickler for the rules. He was an umpire and nothing else. He spent his winters getting ready for the summer work of his life. He was always in shape. He did not want to quit when he was retired from active service.”¹⁶

Hank O’Day was the son of a steamfitter and was one himself until baseball called. He did not marry and baseball was his life. As of 2012, he is not in the Hall of Fame — mainly because no one thought of it, because of his mannerisms, and because he made the Merkle call.

Some follow-up thoughts by the author

I believe that a wrong has finally been addressed with Hank O’Day’s entry into the Hall of Fame. While I, as a historian, look askance at conspiracy theories, I believe that O’Day was kept out of the Hall because of the Merkle call and Bill Klem. Klem’s contribution came in his four-part article with William J. Slocum. While the interview was a classic, Klem said the Merkle call was “the worst verdict in the history of the game.” This despite the fact the force out rule had been part of the game well before Klem donned his umpire’s uniform in 1905. A good many sportswriters probably agreed with Klem.

Another part of this is the fact that umpires have been under-appreciated since time began. When you look back at the *75th Anniversary of the National League*, a book edited by Charles Segar, it makes no mention of umpires. Illustrations show no umpires. It is like umpires never existed.

My book has been a project for over ten years. It includes biographies of the major league umpires, from Klem and O’Day to Haskell and Conway. It also has chapters on the game during

the Deadball Era, communication among umpires, players, and fans, the honesty of umpires, and the clothing worn by umpires. It is being edited by Mark Ruckhaus and David Nemec and should be ready for publication this spring.

I chose to self-publish this book through CreateSpace simply because the book publishing industry has changed a great deal and we will be seeing more of this type of work in the future. I guess I am a guinea pig here, but that is the way it is.

David W. Anderson

January 9, 2013

David W. Anderson of Olathe, Kansas is a frequent contributor to *The Inside Game* and the author of the well-regarded 2000 book *More Than Merkle*.

- 1 Klem and Slocum, “I Never Missed One in My Heart,” *Collier’s Magazine*, March 31, 1951, 61
- 2 *Ibid.*
- 3 Hank O’Day Biography File, Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 4 Edited by Frederic Ivor-Campbell, Robert L. Tiemann and Mark Rucker, *Baseball’s First Stars* (Cleveland, Ohio: Society for American Baseball Research, 1996), 123.
- 5 Edited by David Nemec, *Major League Baseball Profiles*, Vol. 1 (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2011), 145.
- 6 Hank O’Day, Biography File, Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 7 *The Sporting News*, October 24, 1914, 19.
- 8 Klem and Slocum, “Jousting with McGraw,” *Collier’s Magazine*, April 7, 1951, 31 and 51.
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- 11 Hank O’Day, Biography File, Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 12 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 3, 1935.
- 13 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 3, 1935.
- 14 Norman L. Macht, *Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2007), 56.
- 15 *Ibid.*
- 16 Hank O’Day, Biography File, Baseball Hall of Fame.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

continued from page 1

Compiling the ballot, as Bill himself found, is an inexact process. Because we are concerned with which players made the biggest impact during the Deadball Era, those whose primary contributions occurred either before or after are not listed; for that reason, neither Babe Ruth nor Willie Keeler, for instance, is included. Further, a case could be made that Cy Young — whose days as a star were over by 1910 — should not even be listed here, yet he is. It is important to keep in mind that we are compiling a list of Deadball Era All Stars, not providing an endorsement of the greatest players in baseball history.

Consequently, it is the role of you the voters to decide whose names should make up the final team. To that end, we encourage you to write in candidates freely. If you think that Babe Ruth should be considered one of the finest Deadball Era pitchers of all time, then, by all means, write his name in. The same could go for other omitted players who bridge eras, like Ray Chapman, Oscar Charleston, Lave Cross, and Buck Weaver, among others.

As you consider your own votes — particularly for the position of catcher, where there are several candidates close in merit — we encourage you to review chapters in either of the *Deadball*



Pittsburgh Press, June 8, 1906

Stars books published by SABR or individual player biographies on the BioProject website, as they provide a sense of each player in context in a way which mere statistics do not. Because strategy played such a role in games played during the Deadball Era, players who used their wits and skill often came out ahead of those with greater physical gifts. In that sense, the narrative for each player matters.

The greater your individual participation, the more meaning and resonance these results will have. I encourage you to take time and to deliberate before casting your vote for each position. Discussion with other members — either individually or in one of SABR's online forums — is strongly encouraged. Earning the title of the best Deadball Era player at a particular position may one day have an impact on a given player's legacy and biography, and there is something to be said for that.



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