

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by **John McMurray**

For all of the enduring baseball accomplishments in 1912, it is surprising that there has never been a comprehensive treatment of that season in book form. Perhaps such a project has been overlooked simply because the 1912 World Series, Smoky Joe Wood's league-leading 34 wins, Rube Marquard's 19-game win streak, and Tris Speaker's outstanding batsmanship, among other 1912 highlights, are given coverage individually in various books and articles. It is therefore worthwhile to take a look at Phil Rosenzweig's pending project, a work wherein he aims to chronicle the 1912 season through the T202 Hassan Triplefolder baseball cards, a defining set of the period.

Noting that the 1912 season is mentioned more frequently in Lawrence S. Ritter's *The Glory of Their Times* than any other, Rosenzweig points out that the season also coincided with "the release of the finest of baseball cards," namely the T202s. The Hassan set is brilliantly colorful, with player portraits on each end. In the middle is a center panel action shot, making T202 the first set to employ multiple-player game action images. Along with the most detailed and comprehensive writeups on card backs which had ever been released, these cards offer a window into the season, all while including the charming sports vocabulary of the times.



Phil Rosenzweig

The cards themselves offer a significant glimpse into the baserunning vigor of the early twentieth century. "Baseball in that era," as Rosenzweig notes, "was a game of wits and speed, of sacrifice bunts and stolen bases, but of few home runs." Not only is the famous Charles Conlon a center panel in the T202 set, but so is a panel of Clyde Engle sliding into third; of Speaker scoring; and of Hal Chase in a head-first slide. Rosenzweig notes that cameramen often were stationed near first or third base with their state-of-the-art Graflex cameras, now possessing the ability to capture live action with shutter speeds up to 1/1,000th of a second. Because Conlon was often at Hilltop Park and Louis van Oeyen was frequently at League Park in Cleveland, shots from

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those two locales are well represented. It is no surprise, as Rosenzweig points out, that Highlander Chase appears on six center panels and the Naps George Stovall on five.

Rosenzweig says that the cards, along with postcards of stadiums and other photographs, aim “to convey what it might have been like to follow baseball in 1912, one of the game’s most splendid seasons.” At the same time, the author blends fondness for the game’s style of play with open-eyed recognition of the contemporary game’s realities: “Yet if the times were simpler, they were hardly genteel,” Rosenzweig writes. “Heroics on the diamond were matched by stories of rowdy fans and fistfights with umpires, drinking and broken bones, gambling and labor disputes and racial prejudice.” He devotes attention to each.

As he tells the story of the season, Rosenzweig goes chronologically. Rather than listing every game or including box scores, he picks the most noteworthy game(s) of the day, such as the May 2 victory by the White Sox over the Naps which extended Chicago’s early-season record to 12-4, and provides a few lines of overview. Similarly, on June 10, Rosenzweig highlights how the Red Sox

victory pulled the team into a first-place tie with Chicago, and so on. Still, the game summaries are brief, and it would add value for historians if Rosenzweig were to expand them as he proceeds with his research. Most pages use the game highlights as a point of entry to discuss particular players or scenes on one of the T202 cards, which means that the cards and the players are more of a centerpiece than are the day-to-day games of the 1912 season.

What Rosenzweig does particularly well is to expand the discussion beyond just the games. He gives background on the city series and the field days, both infrequently mentioned in historical accounts. He discusses players coming from the coal mines. He refers to the untimely death of Bugs Raymond (who died in 1911 but is still featured in the T202 set) and cites the fire at the Cadillac Hotel in Detroit where players ranging from Walter Johnson to Chick Gandil served as rescuers. The many facts included therein and the multifaceted display on each page makes *One Splendid Season* a volume to peruse and to enjoy.

Unlike many books which showcase baseball cards, Rosenzweig focuses on the card backs as much as the fronts. He notes that all of the card end panels together “total more than 18,000 words, equivalent to a small booklet that offers a detailed portrait of baseball and America in 1912.” Interestingly, he points out that the backs contain no mention of driving in runners, as runs batted in was not an officially recognized statistic until 1920. Also, the card backs chronicle stolen bases but not unsuccessful attempts, which were not counted until the 1913 season. Win-loss percentage is a frequently-cited statistic for pitchers (Eddie Cicotte, who went 13-5, is described as having “figures” of .722). Of note too are the language in the descriptions on the card backs, where Ed Walsh was initially “a raw, lusty youngster not long from the Pennsylvania mountains” or Germany Schaefer was “one of the wittiest ball players that ever made a hit.”

Of course, there are set oddities. Honus Wagner and Connie Mack are not included in the T202 set in spite of each having a major presence in the game. There are five Rustlers in the set, but only



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one — Al Mattern — appears in a Boston uniform. Two players appear in the T202 set who do not have portraits in the T205 set; one (Smoky Joe Wood) seems to be an important one to include while the other (Walter Blair) made little impact. New York's American League team is referred to four different ways on the end cards, as the Americans, Highlanders, Yankees, and the New Yorks, and the center panel "Cree Rolls Home" refers to them as the Hilltoppers. The Pittsburgh Pirates, though a first-division team in 1911, do not have a single center panel in the entire T202 set. Yet the imperfections and incongruities add nuance and delight.

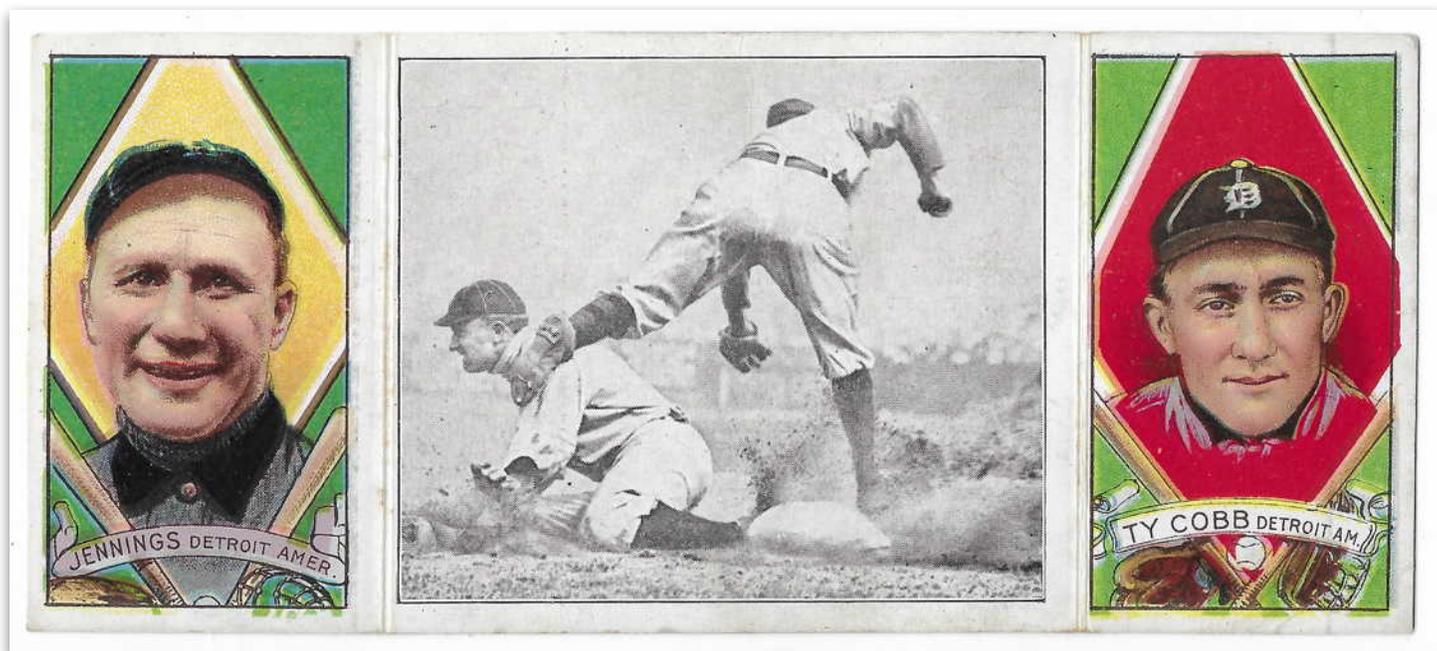
Through it all, Rosenzweig's appreciation for the T202 cards is evident. He began collecting these cards in 1970, at age 15, and continued until the early 1990s. All but two of the T202s in the book are from his collection, and they are not graded or always in immaculate shape (tape is visible on some), which gives the cards more of a vintage feel. The book, no doubt, could use an expansion of its coverage of the World Series, which is all-too-brief given that Series' prominent place in history. Moreover, since the T202s are presented along with the daily regular season games, cards from other contemporary sets are used in the World Series section once the T202's are exhausted.

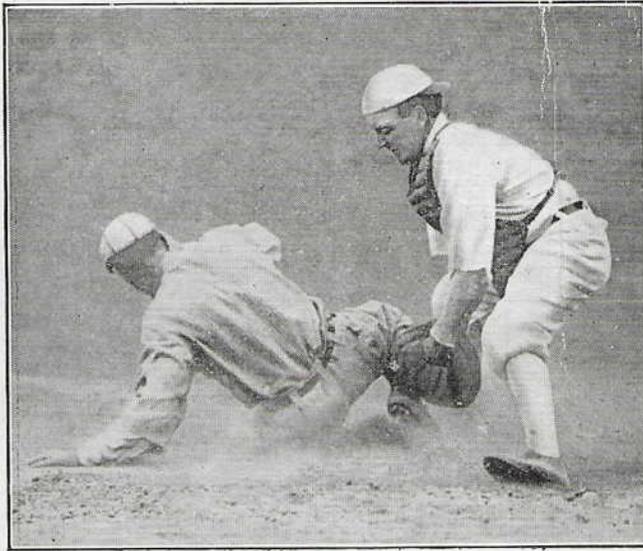
The book is not intended to be a text-heavy account of the 1912 season, but there certainly would be opportunities to expand the history and to make it into one. There is a balance between artful presentation and expansive text, but there is room to expand the technical coverage of the 1912 season to fill that void in the historical record. The question may be whether the book is to be primarily for collectors or for historians and how to reach a happy medium between the two.

For now, Rosenzweig's book is a limited edition of about 120 printed copies and is not yet publicly available. What form the book will ultimately take — be it in print or as a digital release — has yet to be decided. The book serves as a delightful introduction to the Deadball Era, with an obvious fondness for the game's style of play and the people who made the era so memorable.

The great care which Rosenzweig has put into the book's presentation, working closely with a designer, and into maintaining historical accuracy more than pays off. His project shines a needed light on one of the most important baseball seasons of the Deadball Era, all from a new and innovative angle. It will be interesting to see where he takes this endeavor next.

Phil Rosenzweig welcomes questions or comments about his book at phil.rosenzweig@gmail.com.





BARNEY PELTY

"Barney" Pelty, one of the regular pitchers on the staff of the St. Louis Americans, is a native Missourian. In 1902 he covered first base for the Cairo team, and in 1903 he both pitched and caught for the Cedar Rapids. At the end of that season the Browns got him, and he has since taken his turn in the box with their other twirlers. Support considered he has done well.

HASSAN
CORK TIP
CIGARETTES

A Close Play at the Home Plate

No one could tell from the picture on the other side whether the runner was touched out or not. The chances are that he was; for he wouldn't have one chance in a million if Sullivan got the ball soon enough. This man behind the bat is one of the best backstops in any league, and is considered by many as the pick of American League catchers. As a matter of fact, he is always included with the very few near the top, and probably works harder than any. Ever since he left the minors in 1899 and went with the Boston Nationals, he has been rising. He was with the Boston Nationals for only two seasons, when the Chicago Americans bought him, and they have hung onto him ever since.

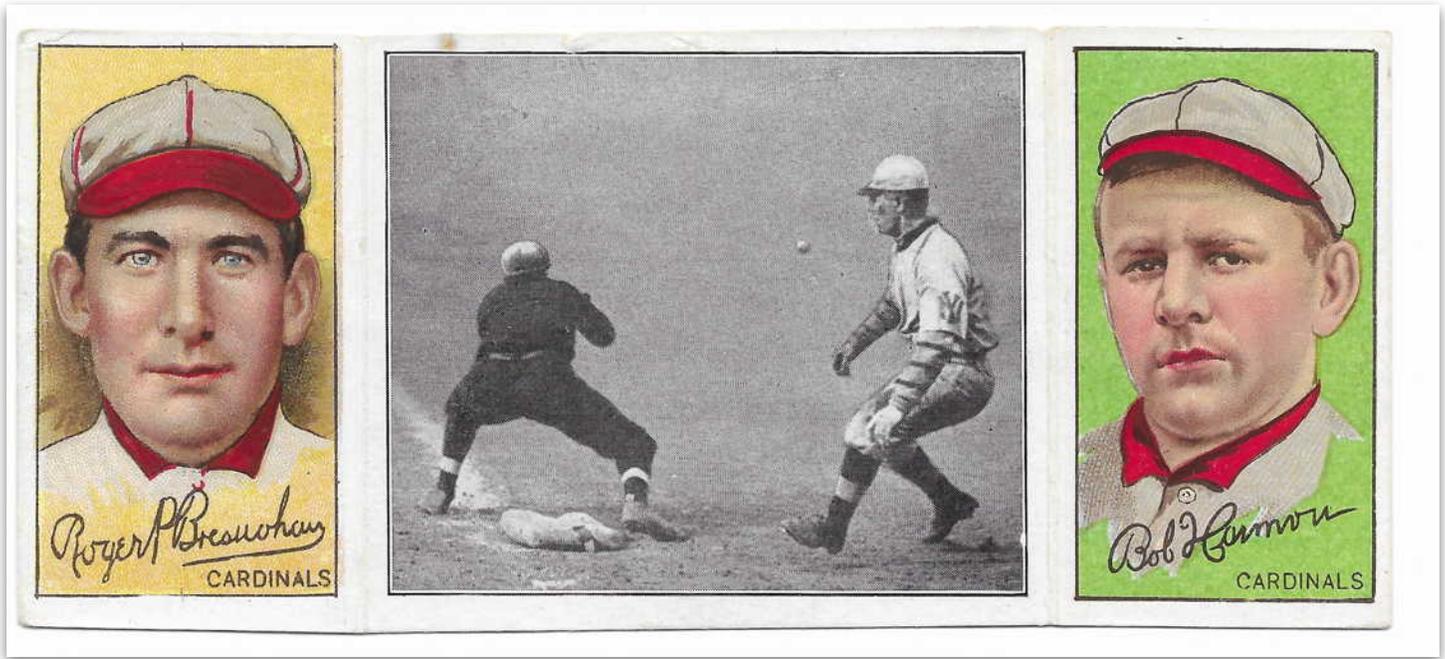
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HASSAN
CORK TIP
CIGARETTES
THE ORIENTAL SMOKE

R. J. WALLACE

Roderick J. Wallace, shortstop and manager of the St. Louis Americans, started as a pitcher, but being tried at third base when he was with Cleveland, soon showed himself to be a star infielder. He has been with the St. Louis Browns since 1902, playing mostly at short, but sometimes at third. In 1911 he batted .232 and fielded .943.

HASSAN
CORK TIP
CIGARETTES



Forbes Field, Champion Pirates' Base Ball Park, Pittsburg, Pa.



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2022 LARRY RITTER AWARD NOMINEES FORM A DEEP AND DIVERSE FIELD

by **Doug Skipper**

Although it ended a full century ago, the Deadball Era continues to provoke interest for readers and writers alike. Works including biographies, historical fiction, true crime, and investigative research make up the strong field of 11 books that have been nominated and will receive consideration for the 2022 Larry Ritter Award. The award is bestowed annually by the Deadball Era Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research to the author of the best book about baseball in the first two decades of the twentieth century published during the previous calendar year. The winner's work must demonstrate original research or analysis, a fresh perspective, compelling thesis, impressive insight, accuracy, and clear, graceful prose.

The award honors Larry Ritter, the author of *The Glory of Their Times*. In the 1960s Ritter interviewed a number of Deadball Era players about their experiences and memories, and the resulting book launched the field of Deadball Era research. Here are the books nominated for the 2022 Larry Ritter Award:

Allen Abel, *The Short Life of Hughie McLoon: A True Story of Baseball, Magic and Murder* (Sutherland House)

Dave Heller, *Gettysburg Eddie Plank: A Pitcher's Journey to the Hall of Fame* (McFarland)

Jimmy Keenan, *Banned for Life: The Benny Kauff Story* (independently published)

Greg Klein (author) and Andy Brown (illustrator), *The Paper Tigers: The untold true story of how eight guys from the streets of Philadelphia became major league players for one day* (Paper Tiger Press)

Kent Krause, *Wahoo Sam Crawford: The King of Sluggers* (Kodar Publishing)

Jim Leeke, *The Best Team Over There: The Untold Story of Grover Cleveland Alexander and the Great War* (University of Nebraska Press)

Jarol B. Manheim (author) and John Payne (illustrator), *This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson* (Summer Games Books)

Pat O'Neill and Tom Coffman, *Ted Sullivan, Barnacle of Baseball: The Life of the Prolific League Founder, Scout, Manager and Unrivaled Huckster* (McFarland)

Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg, *Comeback Pitchers: The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn* (University of Nebraska Press)

Don Zminda, *Double Plays and Double Crosses: The Black Sox and Baseball in 1920* (Rowman & Littlefield)

Finalists for the award will be named in March, and the winner will be announced in April.

Conferred annually since 2002, the Larry Ritter Award is usually presented at the DEC meeting during the annual SABR convention. Like the last two conventions, the 2020 and 2021 award presentations were postponed and rescheduled for the SABR convention in Baltimore this August. Randy Roberts and Johnny Smith received the 2021 award for their book *War Fever: Boston, Baseball, and America in the Shadow of the Great War* (Basic Books). The winner of the award is selected by the Larry Ritter Award Committee chaired by Doug Skipper (theskipper1@yahoo.com) with members Mark Dugo, Ben Klein, Craig Lammers, Mark Pattison, Andrew Milner, Don Jensen, and DEC Chairman John McMurray. For more info about the award, please see: sabr.org/about/awards/larry-ritter.

To insure [sic] getting the side out Klem declared four men out in the third. Gleason's out at first retired the side, but Klem also called Thomas out at third after making the decision on Gleason.

Philadelphia Record, July 29, 1906

DEADBALL ERA ALL-STAR MANAGER

by Norman Macht

Suppose we were naming a Deadball Era All-Star team combining players from both leagues. Who would you choose to be your manager? John McGraw? Connie Mack? Frank Chance? Let's look first at their records. During the 19-year Deadball Era, Chance's winning percentage was .614 (including two years with the Yankees); McGraw's .593; Mack's .507. Mack and McGraw both won six pennants while Chance won four (Hughie Jennings won three). Mack and McGraw were in five World Series each; McGraw was 1-4, Mack 3-2. Chance was 2-2. Mack and McGraw faced each other in three World Series; McGraw won in 1905, 4-1, behind Matty's three shutouts. Mack won in 1911 (4-2) and 1913 (4-1).

HALL OF FAMERS: Mack developed six Hall of Famers. Except for Rube Waddell, five of them he signed as rookies: Frank Baker, Eddie Collins, Chief Bender, Eddie Plank, and Herb Pennock (although Mack admitted he gave up on Pennock too soon – after four years). McGraw had three, two of whom he inherited: Christy Mathewson and Joe McGinnity. After brief appearances in the National League, Roger Bresnahan was signed by Baltimore in 1901. He came to the Giants the following season. In addition to Tinker-Evers-Chance, the Cubs had one more Cooperstown entrant, Mordecai Brown.

SIMILARITIES: Mack and McGraw had the final say – and therefore the responsibility – for spending money to buy players, making trades, and releasing players. McGraw had more money



*John McGraw and Connie Mack
1913 World Series*

to spend in the early years. Chance did not have that financial autonomy.

All three began their careers as hot-tempered managers. In Mack's first year as the Pittsburgh manager, umpire Hank O'Day called a Giants player safe on a bang-bang play at second base. Mack called O'Day every name in a muleskiner's vocabulary and was tossed out, but refused to leave the field. He was finally removed by three policemen. After games, Mack berated players for mistakes. Fired by the Pirates, he went to Milwaukee to learn how to manage players, but learned to cool his temper only by staying out of the clubhouse after a game, taking a walk to cool off. After that in Philadelphia, he rarely went into the A's clubhouse after a game.

McGraw's vitriolic attacks on umpires and club and league officials subsided only because of aging and declining health. Chance was a sharp-tongued, no-nonsense brawler on and off the field, big for his time at six feet and 190 pounds. He drove his players hard and didn't care what they thought of him. Chance once said he could tell a player's character by playing poker with him. Only later physical problems curbed his aggression.

DIFFERENCES: Player fines: McGraw used fines more liberally if you missed a sign or bed check after curfew. He hired private detectives to check up on his carousers. The trainer was his snitch. Mack didn't like to levy fines; he saw it as penalizing families. He seemed to know what all his boys were up to, as if people in every town were his eyes and ears. Mack thought of his players as his sons; McGraw didn't, except for Mathewson and Ross Youngs, and later Mel Ott. Chance didn't care what his players thought of him and treated them accordingly, and they responded aggressively on the field.

Mack preferred college men. He encouraged independent thinking. His players were free to invent defensive strategies, flash their own signs to base runners, or steal a base. McGraw had a sign in his office: THINK. But Joe Moore and George Kelly said McGraw did all the thinking. On August 24, 1921, Pittsburgh led New York by 7½ games when the Pirates came into New York for



Frank Chance, 1907

a five-game series. In the first game Kelly got a hit sign on a 3-0 count, something, he said, McGraw never gave. Kelly hit a home run. "After the game McGraw never said a word about the home run," just "If my brains hold out we'll win this thing." The Giants swept the series and won the pennant by four games.

Chance was not a teacher or strategist; he preached and practiced aggression.

In 1901 Mack started a new franchise from scratch with no players and had a pennant winner in his second year in Philadelphia. McGraw started in 1901 with a depleted Baltimore American League team and took over the established Giants in mid-1902. With a pair of pitchers named McGinnity and Mathewson he had a winner in his second full year in New York. [Not incidentally, the rookie Mathewson, after a half-season in 1900 with the Giants, had signed with

the A's and accepted an advance in 1901. But the Giants browbeat Matty into reneging on his contract with Mack. How different the story of the Deadball Era might have been if Mathewson had kept his word and teamed with Bender and Plank and Waddell and Jack Coombs on the A's.)

Chance had been with the Cubs since 1898 and took over as manager during the 1905 season, finishing third with 92 wins. The next year Chicago won a since-tied major league record 116 games. So, who's your choice to manage our Deadball All-Stars?

Eminent baseball historian and DEC member Norman L. Macht is the author of a magisterial three-volume biography of Connie Mack (University of Nebraska Press). The first volume, Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball, was the winner of the 2008 Larry Ritter Award.

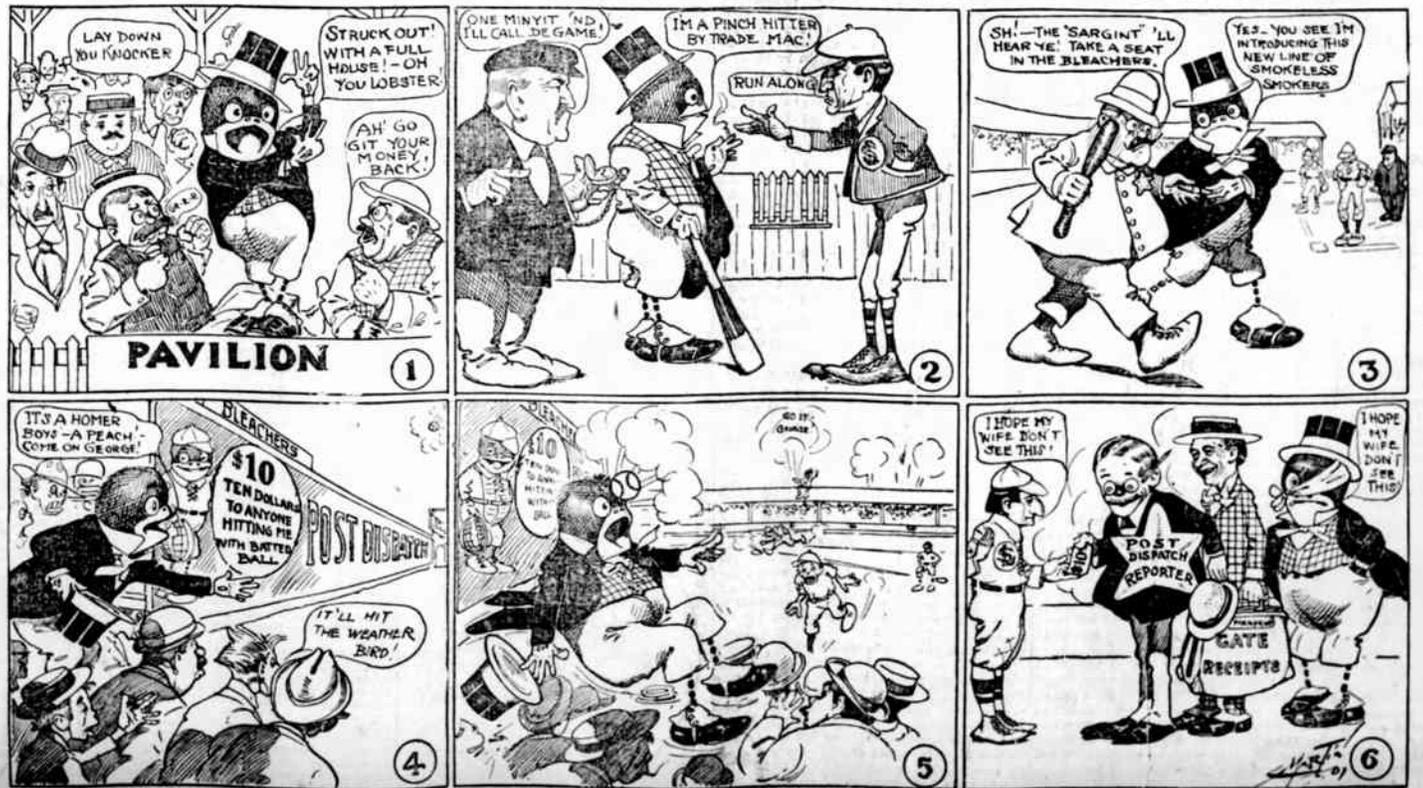


Robert Edgren 1913

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Toledo News-Bee, Mar 7, 1911

THE 'ADVENTURES OF MR. P. D. WEATHERBIRD AT THE BALL GAME



St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 19, 1907

MORE THAN LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE: SMOKY JOE WOOD IN 1912

by **Gerald C. Wood**

The MLB-TV *Prime 9* series declared Joe Wood's 1912 season the greatest "lightning in a bottle" pitching year in baseball history. According to the writers at MLB, it was the most unexpected and unduplicated year on the mound in the history of baseball. Wood was certainly deserving: 34 wins to 5 losses, 35 complete games, 10 shutouts, 16 consecutive wins, an ERA of 1.91, and three wins in the World Series. But the implication is that Wood's career had little greatness before or after, that it was a bit magical, even lucky, like catching lightning in a bottle. The story is, in fact, more complex and interesting than that — in 1912, as well as before and after.

First qualification: Wood was great before 1912. In his first four years (1908-1911) after coming to the majors at 18 years old, Wood maintained an ERA under 1.98 (1.69 in 1910), winning 23 in 1911 while pitching over 275 innings, 55 more than any other Red Sox hurler. Included were a no-hitter, two one-hitters, and two two-hitters. He even struck out more batters per inning in 1911 than 1912 (7.5 to 6.8). There were already many talented sparks in the 1912 Joe Wood bottle.

There also are more fascinating dramas in his *annus mirabilis* than recorded on *Prime 9*. Well noted was his 1-0 win over Walter Johnson on Friday, September 6, at Fenway, giving Wood his fourteenth consecutive win, which led to his tying the record at 16, set earlier that year by the Big Train. Less known is another game, carrying more weight in the history of baseball than the Wood/Johnson game. On the Fourth of July in the first game of a doubleheader in Philadelphia (before more than 55,000 fans) Joe pitched against future Hall of Famer Eddie Plank. Wood had nine consecutive wins, a no-hitter through four innings, and a 1-0 lead after he doubled and scored in the third. He gave up four runs, one unearned on his own wild pitch, in the next in-



Smoky Joe Wood

ning. But the Red Sox still would've won easily with quality play on the bases.

In the sixth, with runners on first and third and one out, Jake Stahl hit a long fly to center, but Duffy Lewis failed to return to first before Rube Oldring's throw got there, making the third out. Worse yet, Speaker loafed from third and didn't score before that out was made at first, negating an easy run. The next inning, after walking, Joe was thrown out at third after Harry Hooper singled to left. The Sox lost 4-3. Why are all the blunders on the mound and bases so crucial to identifying the lightning in 1912? If the Sox had won, as they would've without errors by Lewis, Wood (twice), and Speaker, Joe's winning streak in 1912 would've been twenty-six, not sixteen. That would be, as reporters love to say these days, a record for the ages.

Also largely unrecognized in that season was Smoky Joe's hitting. He had 13 doubles, the same number of RBIs, a triple and home run, and scored 16 runs. He also walked 11 times, which combined with his 36 hits (good for a .290 batting average), gave him a .348 OBP. Why is that significant? From 1918 until 1922, Wood was a position player with the Cleveland Indians, where he batted .298, had an RBI every 5.3 at bats and slugged as high as .562. In his last two years, 1921 and 1922, Wood batted .366 (hitting over .400 into September) and .297 with 92 RBI. Hidden in that 1912 imaginary bottle was a glimmer of Joe Wood's second career as a fast

and accurate-throwing outfielder and clutch, often powerful hitter.

The greatest drama of Smoky Joe's career began at the end of the 1912 season, also barely touched on in the MLB piece: injuries and his reactions to them. As anxious Red Sox fans reflected on the 1912 year, they were concerned that Joe had pitched 344 innings (70 more than in 1911), thrown 122 pitches in the tense first game of the World Series, and then lost his speed and effectiveness during the last two games of that exhausting Series. In his four appearances, Joe gave up 27 hits and 11 runs, all earned, in 22 innings, for a 4.50 ERA.



The Wood delivery

The fans' fears were prescient. On April 12, 1913 in Philadelphia, Joe injured the thumb on his pitching hand while sliding into second base. When he returned a month later in relief against the Tigers in Detroit, he was ineffective and showed a lack of command in games over the next few weeks. Then on July 18, again in Detroit, in the fourth inning, with runners on first and third, Joe fielded a swinging bunt up the third base line, slipped, and fell on the same thumb he had hurt weeks before sliding into second. It was broken and put in a cast, with Joe only able to make a couple of token appearances late in the year. His record was fine: 11-5 with a 2.29 ERA. But his walks per inning almost doubled, as did his wild pitches and hit batters. In addition to losing the feel on curves and the hop on fastballs, he felt shoulder discomfort.

The next year, 1914, Joe's struggles continued as he recovered from an emergency appendectomy in February. His speed was noticeably down, and he needed extra rest between starts. While he regained some of his control, his ERA jumped to 2.62 as he managed a 10-3 record.

The last flash from that 1912 metaphoric bottle came in the 1915 season. Smoky Joe pitched that year with what we now know was a torn rotator cuff. He could only start about once every three weeks, unable to raise his arm above his waist in the meantime. Despite the lay-offs and pain, Joe threw a one-hitter on August 7 against Cleveland at Fenway and posted a 15-5 record with an ERA of 1.49, both best in the American League. Near the end of Wood's career, F. C. Lane called it more remarkable than the play of Tris Speaker, and Grantland Rice declared Smoky Joe best known for his "brains and courage."

Smoky Joe Wood's struggle against hand, arm, and shoulder injuries, traceable to the relentless 1912 season, was the most hidden and explosive electricity in that bottle imagined on MLB-TV.

Gerald C. Wood is Emeritus Professor of English at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson, Tennessee, and the author of Smoky Joe Wood: The Biography of a Baseball Legend, winner of the coveted Seymour Medal.

SMOKEY JOE BACK

MANCHESTER, N.H.—Joe Wood, the leading pitcher of the Boston Red Sox, got in the game [yesterday] for the first time since he was injured two months ago. He defeated a picked team from the Manufacturers' League in an exhibition game here yesterday, 3 to 1.

He pitched for three innings and allowed one single.

Arizona Republican, September 9, 1913

TO FORM COLORED LEAGUE

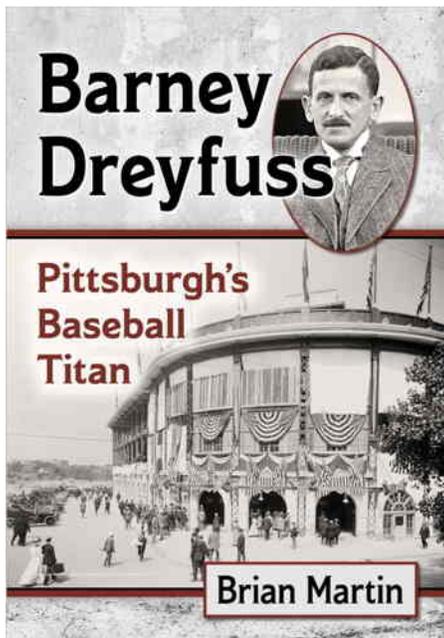
INDIANAPOLIS—The plans for the formation of the National Colored Baseball League will probably be consummated at a meeting called for this city tomorrow. The promoters say that applications have been received for franchises from numerous cities, but it has not yet been decided whether the organization shall embrace six or eight clubs. Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Louisville and one or two other cities are mentioned as possible members of the new organization.

Bakersfield Morning Echo, February 16, 1908

TWILIGHT BASEBALL PLANNED

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Baseball games during the twilight hours are being considered by managers of the Western League, it was said here yesterday by E. W. Dickerson, league president whose headquarters are in Kansas City. He said it probably would be tried in some cities in the circuit and that if it were successful others would adopt it. The plan, he said, would be to start the game at five o'clock so that many business men and others who cannot go to the games earlier could attend.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 11, 1918



**BARNEY DREYFUSS,
PITTSBURGH'S BASEBALL
TITAN**

By Brian Martin

*2021, McFarland
[ISBN: 978-1476679617. 231
pp. \$39.95 USD. Softcover]*

Reviewed by
Ralph Christian
ralphjchristian@msn.com

In recent years there has been a welcome interest in the history of the business of baseball and those who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the game. Due to the availability of source materials and common interest, these studies have tended to focus on the post-World War II period and generally neglect earlier eras. Brian Martin has made a major contribution to narrowing this gap with the first full length biography of Barney Dreyfuss, the Pittsburgh owner who helped transform the Pirates

into one of the most successful and financially stable franchises in early twentieth century major league baseball. A fan first and foremost, Dreyfuss personally funded one of the first concrete and steel ballparks, helped start the World Series, advocated the creation of a Commissioner of Baseball, and fielded teams that won six National League pennants and two World Series.

Martin divided his work into eighteen chapters and an epilogue and includes chapter notes, an extensive bibliography, and a well-organized index. The book is amply illustrated with photographs and maps that feature well written captions. Somewhat surprisingly, Martin devotes his first chapter largely to the construction and opening of Forbes Field and its amenities like a parking garage under the grandstand. This approach highlights Martin's thesis that Dreyfuss was one of the most innovative team owners of the early twentieth century whose election to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008 was long overdue.

Born in 1865 in the duchy of Baden, soon to become a state in the German Empire, Barney Dreyfuss immigrated to the United States and Paducah, Kentucky, in 1882 after accepting a position as assistant bookkeeper for Bernheim Brothers, a whiskey wholesaling and distilling firm owned by his first cousins Isaac and Bernhard. Barney had served a successful apprenticeship in

bookkeeping for a German bank but found himself facing discrimination because of his Jewish heritage. He was already familiar with the United States and Paducah from stories told by his father who had lived there in the 1850s.

Paducah introduced Barney Dreyfuss to baseball, and he quickly became a fan, player, and organizer of local teams. His skills in accounting and business management set him apart in an era when shaky finances were a constant issue even for winning teams. At the same time, Bernheim Brothers experienced phenomenal growth in large part due to its I.W. Harper brand, one of the first whiskies sold in its own bottles. In 1888 the firm relocated to Louisville, and Dreyfuss was promoted to head bookkeeper and credit manager. Two years later, the Bernheims gave him a ten percent interest in the business, making him a wealthy man at the young age of twenty-six.

Dreyfuss quickly became an ardent fan of the Louisville Colonels, the city's entry in the major league American Association. He began purchasing stock in the team in 1890, and within two years was on the board of directors and working to secure players for the franchise, which joined the National League in 1892. By 1895 Dreyfuss had become secretary-treasurer of the team. Because of his duties with Bernheim Brothers, he hired his friend Harry Pulliam as financial manager in an effort to

make the team a paying proposition and acquire quality players. Dreyfuss and Pulliam had some success in putting the team's finances into order and signed future Hall of Famers Fred Clarke and Honus Wagner. They were plagued however by poor quality of play, low attendance, and wooden ballparks that tended to burn down. By late 1896, Dreyfuss had a controlling interest in the team and Pulliam was installed as president and general manager in early 1897.

Faced with the loss of the Louisville franchise due to the proposed contraction of the National League from twelve to eight teams for the 1900 season, Dreyfuss and Pulliam devised a strategy that led to the purchase of the Pittsburgh Pirates and the transfer of fourteen players including Clarke, Wagner, Deacon Phillippe, Rube Waddell, and Jack Chesbro to Pittsburgh. With financial assistance from the Bernheims, Dreyfuss purchased the team outright, named himself president, and installed Pulliam as secretary-treasurer. Their efforts were immediately successful with the team finishing second and making a substantial profit. The Pirates proceeded to win back to back pennants in 1901 and 1902. At the 1902 National League winter meeting, Harry Pulliam won election as National League president, an action that insured that Barney Dreyfuss would play a major role in league affairs. Dreyfuss had already taken on the task of developing the league's schedule

on a yearly basis, something he would continue for many years.

Long an advocate of post season championship play, Dreyfuss helped introduce the modern World Series in 1903 when his Pirates played the American League champion Boston Pilgrims in a best-of-nine game series. Although the Pirates lost and the National League refused to play a series in 1904, Dreyfuss continued to agitate for its resumption. His efforts paid off and it became a permanent fixture in 1905. Dreyfuss finally won a World Series in 1909 when the Pirates celebrated the opening of Forbes Field. Dreyfuss would have to wait sixteen years for his next World Series title when the Pirates defeated the Washington Senators in Game Seven at Forbes Field.

Dreyfuss played an active role in National League affairs. In addition to annually preparing league schedules, he took an active role in discussions about governance, which in time led to the creation of the commissioner's office and the banning of the spitball. In 1929 he was elected as the first vice president of the league, a largely ceremonial post. For many years, he had been grooming his son

Sammy to eventually to take over the franchise, but Sammy died suddenly in 1931. His son's death was a blow from which Dreyfuss never recovered, and he passed away on February 5, 1932.

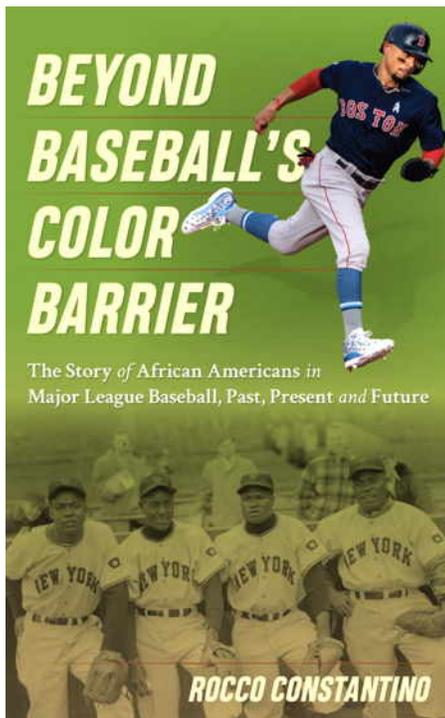
Ownership of the team and Forbes Field passed to his widow Florence who asked her son-in-law Bill Benswanger to oversee the team. Dreyfuss had earlier hired him to take over Sammy's former duties, and Benswanger would run the team until 1946 when Florence Dreyfuss sold it for \$2.5 million to a syndicate that included John W. Galbreath and Bing Crosby.

The author has done an outstanding job of researching his subject and utilized most available primary and secondary resources. His prose is clear and understandable, and the book is very readable. The reviewer recommends it highly.

Ralph Christian spent nearly 36 years as a historian and architectural historian for the State Historical Society of Iowa's Historic Preservation Office. A SABR member since 1994, he has made numerous presentations at SABR conventions and conferences.

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**BEYOND BASEBALL'S
COLOR BARRIER:
THE STORY OF AFRICAN
AMERICANS IN MAJOR
LEAGUE BASEBALL, PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

By Rocco Constantino

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Reviewed by

Mark S. Sternman

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The struggles of Major League Baseball to integrate and to attract top Black athletes remain ripe for explication. In *Beyond Baseball's Color Barrier*, Rocco Constantino provides an overview of the Black experience in MLB. His sweeping history over baseball's nearly entire existence has its moments but doesn't live up to its promise.

The first chapter deals with the Deadball Era, and its last sentence ends with this assertion: "No matter what side of the debate people were on regarding nonwhite players playing in the major leagues, both sides had one thing in common: They agreed that the major leagues should be closed to African Americans." He does offer a few dissenting voices, however. Constantino quotes Leo Durocher saying, "I certainly would use a Negro ballplayer if the bosses said it was all right." Constantino paraphrases Ray Blades likewise blaming the owners. Because the book lacks footnotes it's difficult to determine when these remarks occurred and when attitudes may have changed.

Any history of baseball's color line needs to acknowledge the massive presence of Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who ruled baseball from 1921 to his death in 1944. Constantino discusses but does not take a position on the commissioner, writing, "At this point, it's up to fans to do their own research and make their own determinations... The case of ... Landis is probably best left for individual interpretation based on the available facts."

On Jackie Robinson, Constantino seems to underestimate the pressure he faced: "As with any player who dominated AAA the way he did, the stage was set for Robinson to debut in 1947. He had nothing to prove on the field ..." But un-

like other players with similar promise, there was nothing inevitable about Robinson's eventual promotion. Moreover, once he debuted in the white major leagues, Robinson faced greater scrutiny than any player ever.

The book would have benefited from a fact checker. Constantino describes Pepper Martin as "the colorful shortstop" although Martin never played this position in his 13-year career. Elsewhere he writes, "The immortal Jimmie Foxx was coerced out of retirement after two years away from the sport to play for the Boston Red Sox ... and he registered a 1.57 ERA against the watered-down competition." In fact, Foxx missed only one year (1943), went from the Cubs to the Phillies, and had a 1.59 ERA. On Hank Aaron's 715th home run, Constantino writes, "[Pitcher Al] Downing is also known for giving up Hank Aaron's record-breaking home run in 1975," although the record-breaker took place in 1974. George Foster did not hit more than 50 homers in 1972 (he hit 2), but in 1977. In another spot, the Yankees "lost the World Series in ... 1948, when they fell to ... the Indians." In actuality, the Indians won the 1948 AL pennant in a playoff against the Boston Red Sox. The Yankees finished third in the league.

Nevertheless, there are some interesting stories and perspectives. The best part of the book looks at the influential New

York columnist Dick Young and discusses his evolution or flip-flopping on fully including Black players in the Hall of Fame. For those looking for more, an excellent recent book on the experience of Black

players in MLB is *Cobra: A Life of Baseball and Brotherhood* by Dave Parker and Dave Jordan. The firsthand insights about race and sport in that book provide a powerful account.

Mark S. Sternman has contributed to SABR books on the Negro Leagues and profiled Bonnie Serrell for the BioProject.

GEORGE BARCLAY: THE EARLY DEADBALL ERA OUTFIELDER WHO INVENTED THE FOOTBALL HELMET AND CAPTAINED A NATIONAL COLLEGE GRIDIRON CHAMPION

by **Bill Lamb**

Early Deadball Era outfielder George Barclay crammed significant achievement into a sadly abbreviated life. He first gained prominence as captain and star halfback for an 1896 national champion football team at Lafayette College. He later found success coaching college and pre-NFL professional elevens. Barclay is also generally recognized as the inventor of the football helmet.

But not all his acclaim was gridiron-connected. While at Lafayette, Barclay was a letterman in track, as well as the captain and leading player on the school baseball team. Several years after he left college, Barclay broke into major league baseball by batting .300 for the 1902 St. Louis Cardinals. But a seemingly bright future in the game was derailed by his contracting malaria during spring training the following season. He never fully recovered, and thereafter was merely a shadow of his former self as a ballplayer. During off-seasons, however, he prepared for post-baseball life by attending dental school. Young Dr. George O. Barclay had established a thriving dentistry practice in Philadelphia when he was stricken with appendicitis in late March 1909. He died from post-surgical complications a week later at age 33. Fuller exposition of his short but event-filled life follows.

George Oliver Barclay was born on May 16, 1875 in Millville, Pennsylvania, a rural hamlet located



1897 Lafayette Yearbook

in the east-central region of the state. He was the younger of two sons born to Union Army veteran-turned-factory hand Z. Britton Barclay (1847-1932), a Pennsylvania native, and his New Jersey-born wife Margaret (nee Gardner, 1853-1899).¹ George was raised in Milton, a railroad whistle stop situated about 20 miles southwest of his birthplace, and educated in local schools. In Spring 1893, he entered Bucknell Academy, a secondary school affiliated with Bucknell University in Lewisburg. Despite being a prep schooler, George served as starting catcher on the university baseball team. The following fall, he was selected as captain and signal caller for Bucknell's fledgling varsity football team.² In the season finale, Barclay touchdowns and conversions accounted for all 20 of Bucknell's points

in a 20-12 Thanksgiving Day victory over Dickinson College.³

When he completed his course work at Bucknell Academy, Barclay did not continue his education at the university. Rather, in January 1894 he matriculated to Lafayette College, some 90 miles away in Easton, Pennsylvania.⁴ His reputation as an athlete preceded him, and he was quickly recruited for the baseball team. Catcher Barclay, “an elegant base thrower, hard hitter, and speedy runner,”⁵ was a college star from the beginning. After school let out for the summer, he caught for a fast amateur club in Atlantic City.⁶ But George’s first sports love was football.

At 5’10”/162 pounds, Barclay was not the prototypical bruiser of football’s Flying Wedge era. But agility, exceptional foot speed, and sound judgment made him a standout running back. In his first game as a collegian, George scored two touchdowns in a 36-0 rout of Gettysburg. Thereafter, he combined with the equally fleet-footed George Walbridge to give Lafayette two “phenomenal ground gainers” in the backfield.⁷ Barclay also “displayed strong tackling skills on defense.”⁸ Against arch-rival Lehigh, he went on a scoring rampage with three touchdowns and four drop-kicked extra points in a 28-0 pasting of the Engineers.⁹ But several long Barclay runs proved to little avail against a powerful University of Pennsylvania eleven, then in the midst of a three-season unbeaten streak. Lafayette lost, 26-0.¹⁰ Often playing larger schools, Lafayette struggled to a 5-6 record. But better things were in store for the inexperienced team. And the 1894 season saw something new introduced into college football, courtesy of our subject.

In addition to his athletic gifts, George Barclay was a handsome young man, reputedly a favorite of the opposite sex and concerned about the effects that playing football might have on his good looks. Amused Lafayette teammates thereupon dubbed him *The Rose*. To protect himself from disfiguring cauliflower ears, Barclay engaged an Easton harness maker to construct a protective device that he had devised. The device consisted of bulky leather ear muffs held in place by strapping. Barclay called the contraption a “head har-



Barclay (left), with backfield mate George Walbridge, head harnesses in hand, 1894

ness,” but today his invention is almost universally recognized as the primitive first version of the football helmet.¹¹

In spring 1895, George split time between the Lafayette outdoor track and baseball teams. On the cinders, he ran the dashes and quarter-mile, and was also a long jumper.¹² Barclay’s speed soon gave rise to a new nickname: *Deerfoot*. Otherwise, he returned to catch for a so-so 11-10 Lafayette diamond squad. That fall, behind the running of halfbacks Barclay and Walbridge, the Maroon and White posted a much-improved 6-2 record, highlighted by a 22-12 victory over Lehigh.¹³ The game featured 10- and 75-yard touchdown sprints made by Barclay. But he and his mates were again throttled by an undefeated Penn team on its way to a national college championship, 30-0. That one-sided outcome, however, did not discourage Penn from quietly recruiting Barclay “should he choose to leave Lafayette” once the football season was over.¹⁴

George remained in Easton, spending the spring at his customary backstop position for the Lafayette nine. During summer break, he played nine games for the Chambersburg (Pennsylvania) Maroons of the independent professional Cumberland Valley League, a brief engagement that soon spawned college eligibility questions. For the most part, however, George returned to

the lineup of the amateur Atlantic City club that he had played for previously.¹⁵

In Fall 1896, George Barclay became captain of the football team and a Lafayette College immortal. In late September, the Maroon and White warmed up for serious competition with a 44-0 thrashing of the Volunteer Athletic Club of New York. The following week, the opposition was the Princeton Tigers, a formidable team coming off a 10-1-1 season in 1895 that included a 14-0 win over Lafayette. This time, Lafayette dominated play, but botched its scoring opportunities. Then, a last-second touchdown gallop by George Walbridge was nullified when he failed to cross the goal line before the final whistle sounded, allow-

ing Princeton to escape with a 0-0 draw.¹⁶ Lafayette thereupon traveled to West Virginia for a three-game set against the WVU Mountaineers that Lafayette swept by a combined score of 58-0. Then came the ultimate test: playing a defending national champion Penn team that had not lost a game since the 1893 season. Coming into the match against Lafayette, the mighty Quakers sported an 8-0 record, having outscored opponents by an astonishing 188-0 margin.

Calamity seemingly befell Lafayette when Walbridge was stricken with appendicitis on the train ride to Philadelphia. He was promptly removed to a local hospital. Surgery was successful, but Walbridge was lost for the season. A de-



***1896 co-national champion Lafayette football team
Barclay, middle row circled***

pleted but resolute Lafayette eleven then played Penn tough before some 13,000 fans gathered at Franklin Field. With Penn clinging to a 4-0 lead late in the fourth quarter, a blocked punt gave Lafayette a final shot from the Penn 25-yard line. On the first play, Barclay carried the ball down to the Penn 10. With time now running out, the Lafayette captain swept around end for the game-tying score (touchdowns counting for only four points in 1896). A two-point Barclay drop-kick conversion then sealed a stunning 6-4 Lafayette upset victory.¹⁷

From there, Lafayette sailed through the remainder of the schedule – but not without controversy. Asserting that old nemesis Barclay's summer stint in semipro baseball cancelled his amateur athlete status, Lehigh demanded that he be declared ineligible for play in the annual Lafayette-Lehigh match. When Lafayette refused to sideline Barclay (who had scored eight touchdowns in four previous games against the Engineers), Lehigh refused to play the two-game set scheduled between the schools – the only year between 1884 and 2019 in which the Lafayette-Lehigh football rivalry was not contested.¹⁸ Lafayette closed the 1896 campaign with an 18-6 win over Navy in which Barclay ran for two scores. It turned out to be the final game of his college football career. In his three seasons for the Maroon and White, Barclay registered 43 touchdowns and kicked 11 field goals.¹⁹ Shortly thereafter, Lafayette (11-0-1) and Princeton (10-0-1) were declared national college football co-champions by the National Championship Foundation.²⁰

Although acclaimed for his athletic prowess, George Barclay was more than just a multi-sport jock. He was a serious student and junior class president. He also enjoyed campus life, belonging to Sigma Chi fraternity, and was highly popular with fellow undergrads. Elected baseball team captain in 1897, Barclay completed his fourth spring as the Lafayette catcher. But at season end and with an undergraduate degree in sight, George left college to play semipro baseball in upstate New York.²¹ That fall, he accepted the position as player-coach for the Greenburg Ath-

letic Club of Pittsburgh, a top-flight pre-NFL professional football team.²² During the spring, Barclay performed the same functions for the Greenburg A.C. baseball team. And between seasons, he studied medicine under the tutelage of a local practitioner.²³ He pursued the same regimen in 1898.

George Barclay entered Organized Baseball in 1899, signing with the Rochester Bronchos of the Eastern League. Although Barclay was an excellent defensive backstop, veteran Rochester manager Al Buckenberger thought that a change of position would put the young recruit's blazing speed to better use. So, he installed the right-handed throwing and batting rookie in left field. A contact, rather than power, hitter, Barclay promptly proved that he could handle the bat, posting a solid .290 batting average, with 19 extra-base hits (but no home runs in 362 at-bats). He also stole 31 bases. But his outfield defense (.921 FA)²⁴ was mediocre. Still, Barclay had made a good start in pro ball, while Rochester (72-43, .628) cruised to an Eastern League title.

After the season, George remained in town, taking the post of football coach for the University of Rochester. Working with under-experienced and not-overly-gifted playing material, Coach Barclay led the university team to a surprisingly successful 6-2-1 record, drawing praise from the local press.²⁵ Over the winter, he returned to Philadelphia where he soon opened a sporting equipment business styled G. Barclay & Company. The demands of that new enterprise required Barclay to remain close and to forego return to the Rochester Bronchos for the 1900 season.²⁶ He leavened his business responsibilities, however, with ballplaying for O'Rourke's Crescents, a Philadelphia semipro nine for which Barclay & Company supplied the uniforms.²⁷ George also took the post of baseball coach at Penn Charter School, a local prep school.²⁸ The ensuing summer found him back in Atlantic City catching for his old amateur club.²⁹

Unhappily for Barclay, his sporting equipment venture failed, necessitating a return to Organized Baseball for the now-26-year-old. Back in Rochester, however, his old job with the Bucken-

berger-managed Bronchos awaited him. The year away from top-level minor league pitching seemed to have little effect on Barclay's hitting. He paced the Bronchos with 194 base hits (including 34 extra-base knocks) while posting a professional career-high .339 batting average. But demerits had to be assigned to his (220-8-27 = .894 FA) defense. That deficiency notwithstanding, the St. Louis Cardinals purchased Barclay's release during the off-season.³⁰ As he awaited the arrival of spring training, George returned to coaching the University of Rochester football team, his leadership again drawing raves from the local press.³¹ Barclay capped a gratifying year with marriage to Emma Field, the affluent daughter of a deceased Easton physician.³² The couple remained together until George's untimely death but their union was childless.

Reeling from the jump of high-production Jesse Burkett (.376) and Emmet Heidrick (.339) to the American League St. Louis Browns, the Cardinals hung out the outfield vacancy sign during spring training. Newcomer Barclay's speed out of the batter's box and on the base paths impressed observers, including St. Louis outfielder-manager Patsy Donovan. By Opening Day, Barclay was the Cardinals' starting left fielder. He made his major league debut on April 17, 1902, and went one-for-three (a single) plus a successful sacrifice bunt against Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Deacon Phillippe. But George and his teammates failed to dent the plate and lost a 1-0 decision.

Barclay continued to hit as the season progressed, dueling center fielder Homer Smoot, another St. Louis rookie, for team batting average leadership into mid-August. In the end, the veteran Donovan outdid both youngsters, hitting .315. But Smoot (.311) and Barclay (.300) gave the otherwise wanting sixth-place (56-78-6, .418) Cardinals a good-hitting outfield and some hope for the future. Barclay, in particular, looked like star material. Over 137 games, he led the club in base hits (163), runs scored (79), and RBIs (53), and placed second in stolen bases (30). Defense was another matter, his .904 fielding average being well below the standard set by Donovan (.959) and Smoot (.931). Never-



George Barclay, St. Louis Cardinals, 1902

theless, big things were expected of Barclay in 1903.

The following spring, the Cardinals training camp in Dallas was wracked by disease. Various players were affected. All recovered without long-term debility, save one: George Barclay. Afflicted with malaria, he was never the same ballplayer thereafter. He was in and out of bed throughout camp, but managed an Opening Day appearance in mid-April, going one-for-three in a 2-1 Cards victory over Chicago. A month later, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* observed that "Barclay would be better off in a hospital."³³ He remained "full of malaria" in late May,³⁴ but manager Donovan was unsympathetic. In late June, the club "laid off Barclay without pay ... until he gets into condition."³⁵

Headed for a last-place finish, the Cardinals were reportedly beset by dissension in the clubhouse, with Barclay among those accused of undermining manager Donovan. Third baseman Jimmy Burke, shortstop Dave Brain, and the battery of Mike and Jack O'Neill were also suspected of conspiring against the club skipper. In late August, Jack O'Neill publicly denied that he or the others were disloyal to Donovan,³⁶ but animosity lingered in Cardinal ranks. As the season drew to a close, it was reported that "once reliable 'Deer-foot' [Barclay] is dissatisfied on account of salary being held back on him" and would "likely figure in a trade before long."³⁷

Barclay's stats did little to enhance his trade value. Limited to 108 games, his numbers declined across the board. His batting average fell to .248, with a poor strikeout (48) to walk (15) ratio. Runs scored (37), RBIs (42), and stolen base (12) totals were also down markedly from the previous season. About the only thing that remained constant was Barclay's substandard (.901 FA) defense in left field. Trade rumors persisted over the winter, but in the end it was manager Donovan who got the axe, not Barclay. George remained property of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Hoping for a fresh start under new Cards manager Kid Nichols, Barclay gave it a go during spring training but his malarial symptoms had now become chronic. "George is not himself," reported the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* in early March 1904. "He is losing weight, and ... it begins to look as though 'Deerfoot' is again doomed to experience a siege of sickness."³⁸ Against the odds, Barclay made the Opening Day lineup, going one-for-four in a 5-4 win over Pittsburgh. Although his health remained unstable, he managed 100 game appearances going into September. But his hitting had become anemic. With his batting average standing at a meager .200, Barclay was released to the struggling Boston Beaneaters, where he was happily reunited with former Rochester mentor Al Buckenberger.³⁹

Barclay rescued his major league career with a modest September comeback in Boston. He improved his batting average slightly (21-for-93 = .226 BA) and played decent (.935 FA) outfield



St. Louis Cardinals, 1903

defense. Perhaps more important, Barclay appeared healthier, fit enough to get into 24 late-season Boston games. Nevertheless, the time had come for George to look toward his post-baseball future. To that end, he switched his off-season studies from medicine to dentistry, enrolling in Philadelphia's Medico-Chirurgical College.

The baseball comeback was short-lived. Health problems resurfaced in spring training, and by late May the local press was reporting that "Barclay has not seemed to be a well man, and he certainly has not played to the standard of which he is capable."⁴⁰ Batting a woeful .176 in 29 games, he was released by Boston days thereafter, bringing his major league days to a close. In a four-season career that began with such promise, Barclay's final numbers were mediocre. In 401 games, he posted a .248 batting average, with only four homers and spare on-base (.286) and

slugging (.298) percentages. Barclay's career .911 outfield fielding average was also marginal.

Although he was now 30, Barclay was not yet ready to give up on baseball. And with first manager Al Buckenberger back at the helm in Rochester, George had a handy outlet for his playing aspirations. Shortly after his release, Barclay signed with his original pro club and finished the season there.⁴¹ On the plus side, Barclay finally seemed healthy, getting into 108 Rochester games. On the minus was the fact that he hit only .245, or 94 points lower than he had for the Bronchos only four seasons earlier. Still, the showing was enough for Rochester to reengage Barclay for the 1906 season.

A .190 batting average in 69 games prompted Barclay's release by Rochester in early August 1906.⁴² Yet George was still not willing to give the game up. Instead, he finished the year with the Lynn (Massachusetts) Shoemakers of the Class B New England League. In 1907, spring course work at dental school kept Barclay on the sidelines until his graduation in June. Immediately thereafter, he rejoined the Lynn club.⁴³ A .207 batting average in 43 games then finalized Barclay's time on the professional diamond.

Although now qualified to enter the dental profession, Barclay remained absorbed in sport. In September 1907, he returned to his first love, becoming the football coach at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.⁴⁴ His success there subsequently led to his appointment to the Muhlenberg faculty.⁴⁵ But once the football season was over, Dr. George O. Barclay returned to Philadelphia to establish his dentistry practice.⁴⁶ In short order, his office was flourishing.

A busy practice, however, did not suppress Barclay's desire to remain involved in sports. His affiliation with Muhlenberg was jettisoned when the position of football coach at his alma mater became vacant.⁴⁷ Under Barclay's direction, Lafayette went 6-2-2 in 1908, with the season marred only by late season losses to Penn and Lehigh. Still, with an excellent start on his dentist career, reconnection to Lafayette football, and a happy marriage, life doubtless seemed



Boston Beaneaters, 1904

good to George Barclay as the year 1908 came to a close. Sadly, he would not have much longer to enjoy it.

While at home with his wife on a late-March 1909 evening, Barclay was suddenly stricken by acute stomach pains. Removed to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, his condition seemed to improve over the ensuing days. A sudden relapse on April 2, however, necessitated late-night emergency surgery to remove his appendix. The operation exposed an irreversible stomach infection, and surgeons gave their patient little hope.⁴⁸ Death came to Dr. George O. "Deerfoot" Barclay at 8:40 the following morning. He was only 33. Peritonitis resulting from appendicitis was listed as the official cause of death.⁴⁹

Barclay's sudden passing stunned friends and admirers, and tributes to his memory flowed in. In a heartfelt eulogy delivered during Philadelphia funeral services, a college friend described the deceased as "a natural leader. Kind, considerate, generous, frank and genial, he was the idol of Lafayette undergraduates."⁵⁰ The Barclay remains were then transported north and interred at Easton Cemetery, little more than a long drop-kick away from the Lafayette College campus. Without issue, immediate survivors were confined to the deceased's father, widow, and brother.

As decades passed, so did those with living memory of George Barclay. But some 78 years after his captaincy of a national champion football team, he was enshrined in the Lafayette College Maroon Club Hall of Fame.⁵¹ If only in Easton, George Barclay became an immortal.

NOTES

1. Older brother John Hurley Barclay (1873-1945) spent most of his adult life as a self-employed gardener.
2. Per Don Sayenga, "The Upset of 1896: Part II – The Rose," Lafayette College Athletics, July 4, 2014, accessible on-line. At Bucknell and elsewhere during the late 19th century, students attending affiliated prep schools could play on the university's athletic teams, if good enough.
3. See "Orange and Blue Triumph," *Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Patriot*, December 1, 1893: 2.
4. As reported in the *Lewisburg (Pennsylvania) Chronicle*, January 13, 1894: 1.
5. Per "Captain Barkley of Lafayette," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 6, 1897.
6. Per the (Milton, Pennsylvania) *Miltonian*, June 8, 1894: 3.
7. The description of Barclay and Walbridge subsequently published in the *Boston Herald*, October 12, 1896: 6.
8. Sayenga, above.
9. See "Lafayette Downs Lehigh," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 15, 1894: 7.
10. The previous fall, Penn had shellacked Lafayette, 82-0.
11. See Steve Novak, "The Story Behind the 1st Football Helmet, a Lehigh Valley Invention," published August 26, 2018, accessible on-line via lehighvalleylive.com. See also, Sayenga, above.
12. Barclay posted times of 10.2 in the 100-yard dash, 23 seconds in the 220, and 51 seconds in the 440, highly competitive in the mid-1890s. See "Lafayette's Strong Team," *Philadelphia Times*, April 4, 1897: 23. He long jumped 23 feet, eight inches, per the *Allentown (Pennsylvania) Democrat*, October 4, 1907: 1. According to the 1897 Lafayette yearbook, Barclay was "the man who decided the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate championship in track in our favor."
13. See "Lehigh's Team Beaten," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 10, 1895: 9. Lafayette did not adopt its present-day nickname *Leopards* until 1924.
14. Per "Pennsylvania Not Buying Players," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 5, 1895: 5.
15. See "Atlantic City's Team," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 28, 1896: 24.
16. See "Lafayette's Great Game," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 8, 1896:
17. After the loss to Lafayette, Penn won its next 37 games.
18. See "No Lehigh-Lafayette Games," *Philadelphia Times*, November 7, 1896: 10. For a detailed account of the brouhaha, see Don Sayenga, "The Upset of 1896: Part III – The Vacant Year in the Rivalry," Lafayette College Athletics, July 5, 2014. The Lafayette and Lehigh campuses are less than ten miles apart, and until 1902 the two schools played twice each year. At present, the rivalry stands at Lafayette 80 wins, Lehigh 71, with five ties.
19. According to George Barclay profile on the Lafayette College Maroon Club Hall of Fame web page.
20. Other college ranking organizations bestowed the laurel solely upon Princeton, but the 1896 NCF national championship co-awarded to Lafayette is recognized today by the NCAA.
21. As reported in Barclay's hometown newspaper. See *Miltonian*, June 25, 1897: 2.
22. Per the *Harrisburg Patriot*, August 23, 1897: 3.
23. Per *Miltonian*, February 25, 1898: 3.
24. Per the *1900 Reach Official Base Ball Guide*, 73.
25. The (Rochester) *Democrat and Chronicle*, December 4, 1899: 12, declared that "too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Coach Barclay, Captain Stewart, and Manager Gorsline for their work on behalf of the team."
26. As announced in "Barclay Will Not Play Here," *Democrat and Chronicle*, February 21, 1900: 14.
27. Per "O'Rourke's Crescents," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 18, 1900: 14.

28. As reported in *Miltonian*, March 9, 1900: 2. See also, "Lafayette College," *Scranton (Pennsylvania) Republican*, March 19, 1900: 4.
29. As reported in the *Providence Evening Bulletin*, August 14, 1900: 4; and elsewhere.
30. See "Outfielder George Barclay," *Boston Herald*, December 1, 1901: 44; "Cardinals Sign Barclay," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, November 29, 1901: 10.
31. Reiterating its commentary of the year before, the *Democrat and Chronicle*, November 29, 1901: 14, stated "to Coach Barclay's ability as an instructor and knowledge of the game is due all the success that the varsity team has met this season."
32. In lieu of an occupation, the 1900 US Census recorded that Emma Field "has money."
33. "Cardinals Open Boston Series," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 12, 1903: 6.
34. Per "Donovan Earns His Big Salary," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 31, 1903: 6.
35. See "Donovan Removes Barclay," *St. Louis Republic*, June 27, 1903: 15.
36. See "Cardinal Players Not Dissatisfied," *St. Louis Republic*, August 28, 1903: 9; "Disloyalty to Manager Donovan Vigorously Denied by the Cardinals," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, August 26, 1903: 13.
37. Per "Burke and Barclay May Be Released," *St. Louis Republic*, October 7, 1903: 19.
38. "Barclay May Leave Training Camp; Cardinals Show Effects of Practice," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, March 10, 1904: 14.
39. Per "Nationals' New Outfielder," *Boston Globe*, September 10, 1904: 3; "Barclay Goes to Boston," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, September 10, 1904: 6. The acquisition cost Boston nothing, as St. Louis released Barclay unconditionally once his transfer to Boston had been arranged, according to "'Deerfoot' Barclay of Cardinals Released to Boston Nationals," *St. Louis Republic*, September 10, 1904: 11.
40. "Bob Dunbar's Sporting Chat," *Boston Journal*, May 23, 1905: 4.
41. Rochester's engagement of Barclay was reported in "George Barclay Signed by Buck," *Democrat and Chronicle*, June 1, 1905: 15.
42. As reported in the *Democrat and Chronicle*, August 3, 1906: 17.
43. Per "New Pitcher for Lynn," *Fall River (Massachusetts) Herald*, June 29, 1907: 2.
44. As reported in "Foot Ball Coach Arrives," *Allentown (Pennsylvania) Morning Call*, September 13, 1907: 5.
45. Per "Muhlenberg Has Again Increased Her Faculty," *Allentown Democrat*, March 12, 1908: 1; "Athletics at Muhlenberg," *Allentown (Pennsylvania) Leader*, December 21, 1907: 1.
46. As reported in *Miltonian*, December 13, 1907: 3.
47. Barclay's engagement by Lafayette was reported in the *Altoona (Pennsylvania) Times*, October 29, 1908: 8; *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 20, 1908; and elsewhere.
48. The above account of Barclay's death is condensed from reports published in various Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania newspapers.
49. Per the death certificate issued by state health officials and viewable on-line. Peritonitis resulting from appendicitis was also cited as the cause of death in most newspaper accounts of Barclay's passing.
50. "Some Quiet Observations," *Wilkes-Barre (Pennsylvania) Times-Leader*, April 6, 1909: 6, memorializing the eulogy of D.L. Reeves.
51. Barclay became a Lafayette Hall of Famer with the induction class of 1984-1985.

**LARRY PRATT TO SUE
UNDER LIABILITY LAWS**

**CLAIMS HE WAS INJURED
DOING DUTIES AS A CATCHER**

Larry Pratt, a former catcher of the Brooklyn Federal league team, will raise a novel legal question if he goes through with his expressed intention of suing for remuneration under the Employers' Liability act on the grounds that he was injured in the performance of his duties, and that his ten days' notice of unconditional release, received recently and effective yesterday, is in violation of the law.

Pratt asserts he was injured in a regular league game during the last series with Pittsburgh at Washington Park. Ed Konetchy bumped into him at the plate and badly bruised the Brooklyn player's throwing arm. Since then he has been unable to throw [with] his accustomed accuracy, which he says was the reason advanced by the Brooklyn club for his dismissal. He alleges there is a clause in his contract which states he must be paid while suffering from injuries received in service.

(New London, Connecticut) Day, July 10, 1915

GAMES/BIOPROJECT

Over the winter, contributors to both the Games Project and BioProject kept busy. Of interest to DEC members are recently published game accounts that run from Andrew Harner's recap of an Earl Moore no-hitter lost in the tenth inning in May 1901 to Eddie Plank's final major league win in July 1917 by Thomas E. Merrick. Meanwhile, the BioProject posted profiles of Deadballers Frank Edington, Blaine "Kid" Durbin, Weldon Henley, Babe Towne, Frank Scanlan, Rucker Ginn, Bobby Cargo, Joe Birmingham, Doc Scanlan, Walt Smallwood, and Jules Kustus. We suggest that you give these a look if you have not done so already.

DEC MEMBER NEWS

This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson (Summer Games Books) by DEC member Jerry Manheim was named a finalist in the Sports category of the American Book Fest Best Books Competition for 2021. The Manheim book, the only work of fiction to reach the final stage of the competition and reviewed in the August 2021 issue of this newsletter, is also a contender for the 2022 Larry Ritter Award.

BIG ED WALSH STARTS A CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL FOR SPITTERS

CHICAGO—Big Ed Walsh, twirling star of the White Sox, announced today that he has joined the faculty of a correspondence school, and hereafter must be addressed as "Professor."

For a paper dollar, Walsh will send out to aspirants for fame six lessons on the science of moistening the ball and putting it where the batter's bat isn't. Walsh starts his classes on Monday.

Detroit Times, May 24, 1913

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:

<i>Richard Albert</i>	<i>Dave Collison</i>
<i>Jasper J. Bishop</i>	<i>Chase Langendorf</i>
<i>Paul Cammarata</i>	<i>Michael Prasinov</i>
<i>Glynn A. Clapsaddle</i>	<i>Graeme Wright</i>

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.

STARS OF BASEBALL MAY PLAY AT FAIR

WORLD'S SERIES WINNERS EXPECTED TO PLAY EXHIBITION GAMES

TENER FAVORS PLAN

Prospects are that the winners of the world's series will go to the Panama-Pacific Exposition for exhibition games with an all-star team, also from the East. President Tener, of the National League, is in favor of it.

Mr. Tener so expressed himself upon his return from the Exposition, where he participated in the dedication of the Pennsylvania Building.

"The people of the West are hungry for good baseball, and naturally they desire to see the world's champions there next fall," said President Tener.

"The world's series, of course, could not be held in San Francisco, and neither would I consent to having the pennant winners of the leagues meet there after the regular world's series games are over.

"But I am strongly in favor of having the winner of the series go West and play against an all-star team picked from the other leagues."

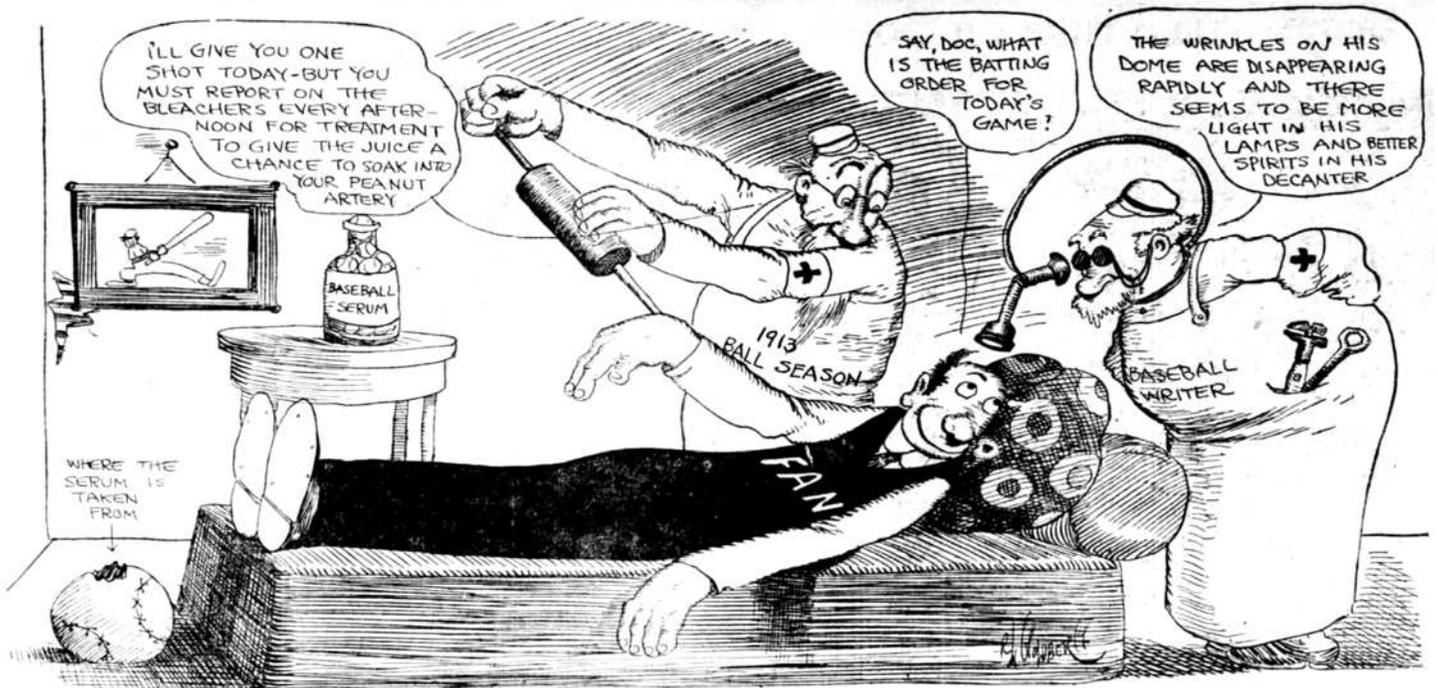
(Philadelphia) Evening Public Ledger, April 3, 1915



Philadelphia Inquirer sportswriter/cartoonist Jim Nasium (Edgar Forrest Wolfe) created this striking illustration of Ben Tincup for an August 24, 1913 feature on the young pitcher, recently acquired by the Phillies. The article focused upon the enrichment in real property, cash, and other government-bestowed benefits that that awaited Tincup as a member of the Cherokee tribe upon

attaining his 21st birthday. Before reaching Philadelphia, the 20-year-old right-hander had won 17 games in the Class D Texas-Oklahoma League and was deemed a promising prospect. The following season, Tincup went 8-10 with a commendable 2.61 in 28 games for the Phillies. But he never won a major league game thereafter in a professional career that lasted until 1942.

Famous Surgeon Demonstrates New Cure for That Tired Feeling



Rube Goldberg

Philadelphia Inquirer, April 10, 1913