



SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ I laughed so hard reading the last Second Chance News, milk shot out of my nose. Which has me a little worried, I was drinking bourbon at the time.” - Hunter S. Thompson

Notes From The Commissioner

The Top 10 Reasons the Gorillas will not repeat as Champions this season:

10. They had a heavy lunch
9. Haven't gotten over the sinking of the Titanic.
8. Too busy whining to the Commissioner that the Stogies are cheaters.
7. Pre-game pep talks by Christy Mathewson are so damn depressing.
6. Fatty Arbuckle is their 3rd base coach.
5. The Gorilla's mascot had to be put to sleep.
4. Ryan Buckley's favorite saying is "Okie Dokie"
3. The original team name was going to be the Fighting Amish
2. Sapho Bartlett
1. The Skeeters



On further review, I kind of like it.

1912 In The Second Chance Baseball League

I recently picked up a book that listed the Best 1000 Players in Baseball. For me, the list had some issues. Gene Tenace #187, ahead of Roger Maris #195, and Randy Johnson #245, along with at least 600 other players he should be behind. Dickie Thon #579, beat out Tommy Davis #581, and Pete Hill #655. Dickie Thon? Seriously? (#1000- Rich Dauer #666-Johnny Romano -Satan's fantasy pick) Babe Ruth was of course #1. So I figured I'd do some research and list the Second Chance League players that made the list.

Warbirds:

Walter Johnson(5)
 Eddie Plank(249)
 Wilbur Cooper(370)
 Bobby Veach(376)
 Art Fletcher(417)
 Miller Huggins(501)
 Stuffy McInnis(638)
 Heinie Zimmerman(639)
 Duffy Lewis(708)
 Chief Bender(803)
 Joe Wood(833)
 Amos Strunk(980)

Turks:

Honus Wagner(3)
 George Burns(276)
 Del Pratt(422)
 Herb Pennock(449)
 Ed Konetchy(517)
 Hank Severeid(632)
 Ivy Wingo(663)
 Jim Delahanty(725)
 Solly Hofman(881)
 George Cutshaw(981)

Caterpillars:

Tris Speaker(12)
 Pete Alexander(16)
 Smokey Joe Williams(87)
 Johnny Kling(230)
 Larry Gardner(333)
 Clyde Milan(373)
 Stan Coveleski(392)
 Donie Bush(553)
 Rube Marquard(580)

Blue Meanies:

Pop Lloyd(31)
 Tommy Leach(197)
 Jack Fournier(353)

Louis Santop(558)

Eppa Rixey(591)

Danny Murphy(604)

Cy Williams(680)

Jimmy Austin(857)

Jack Quinn(942)

Skeeters:

Ed Walsh(135)
 Roger Bresnahan(136)
 Sherry Magee(174)
 Gavy Cravath(280)
 Art Devlin(688)
 Buck Herzog(735)
 Hank Gowdy(739)
 Fred Merkle(820)
 Babe Adams(894)

Gorillas:

Christy Mathewson(41)
 Larry Doyle(228)
 Harry Hooper(272)
 Ray Schalk(366)
 Roger Peckinpaugh(429)
 Jake Daubert(566)
 Hippo Vaughn(810)
 Eddie Foster(978)

Doughboys:

Max Carey(185)
 Jimmy Sheckard(279)
 Bingo Demoss(341)
 Spotswood Poles(620)
 Buddy Petway(707)
 Benny Kauff(931)
 Heinie Wagner(963)

Stogies:

Eddie Collins(18)
 Wahoo Sam Crawford(99)
 Zack Wheat(194)

Bobby Wallace(355)

Rabbit Maranville(385)

Turkey Mike Donlin(506)

Hans Lobert(753)

Rebels:

Joe Jackson(73)
 Johnny Evers((180)
 Heinie Groh(266)
 Eddie Cicotte(342)
 Chief Meyers(516)
 Jack Barry(867)

Wolverines:

Nap Lajoie(35)
 Ray Chapman(440)
 Dode Paskert(646)
 John Titus(780)
 Buck Weaver(807)

Vinegars:

Ty Cobb(4)
 Mordecai Brown(100)
 Wildfire Schulte(538)
 Hal Chase(748)

Superbas:

Joe Tinker(236)
 Pete Hill(655)
 Rube Foster(806)
 Jose Mendez(959)

Warriors:

Frank Chance(164)
 Red Smith(729)
 Al Bridwell(937)
 Fred Snodgrass(976)

Terrapins:

Home Run Baker(76)

A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Olaf Henriksen-Bridgeport Blue Meanies



-VERDUN 2's Blog

had 48 RBIs. He managed 22 games in center field, 42 in left, and 61 in right field with 31 games in the field in 1916 being his high, much of his field work coming after the trade of Speaker to Cleveland.

Despite being from Denmark, he was nicknamed "Swede". Apparently that was a generic nickname for Scandinavians in the era. As far as I can tell, Henriksen never went out of his way to correct others concerning his origins. He seems to have been both well liked and relatively quiet. His big moment came in the final game of the 1912 World Series, when he slugged a pinch hit double in the seventh inning tying the score. Boston ultimately won the game and the Series in extra innings. It was his only at bat of the Series.

As most of you know, the Boston Red Sox won the 1912 American League Pennant, their first since 1904. Then they went on to win the World Series in dramatic fashion. Their outfield of Duffy Lewis, Tris Speaker, and Harry Hooper consistently ranks as one of the premier outfields in Major League history and is frequently ranked as the best in the Deadball Era. With an outfield like that the backup outfielder tends to get lost in the shuffle. Olaf Henriksen, the backup in 1912, is one of those, even though he had a critical hit in the final game of the 1912 World Series.

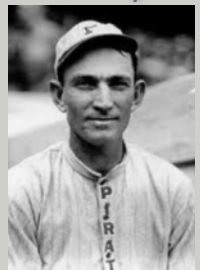
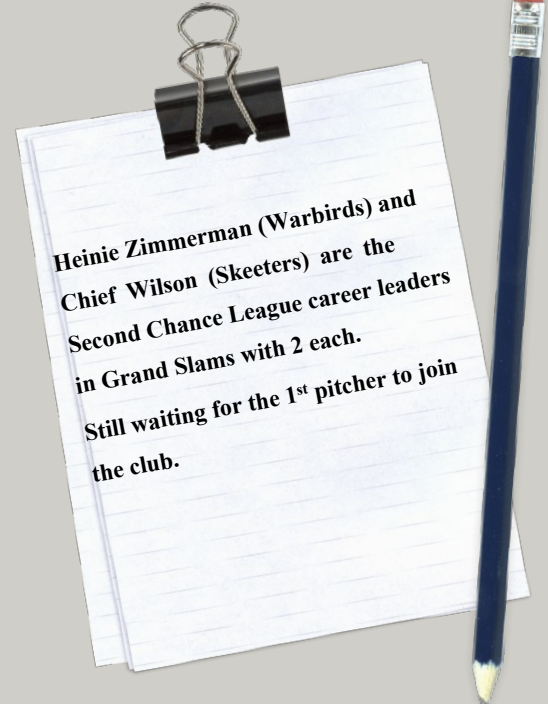
Henriksen was born in Denmark in 1888, the only Major Leaguer born in Denmark. He was still young when his family arrived in the United States. He discovered baseball, liked it, and best of all was good at it. He joined the New England League team in Brockton, Massachusetts and by 1911 was with the Red Sox. He was the backup outfielder in an era when there tended to be only one. He was considered primarily a left fielder (Lewis's replacement), he actually played very little in the field, becoming something of a specialty pinch hitter. He was good at it, managing a .449 OBP in 1911, still the second highest OBP by a rookie in the 20th Century. He surpassed that in 1912 with an OBP of .457, and set his career high in 1913 with an OBP of .468.

A left-handed batter (and thrower), Henriksen had little power, hitting one home run in his entire career (1914). In only 487 at bats he walked 97 times, struck out 73, scored 84 runs, and

His career was short, ending after the 1917 season. He hit .083 with an OBP of only .267. He was 29 and through. After a couple of years and a few odd jobs, he picked up the coaching job at Boston College. He managed the team from 1922-1924.

Henriksen is one of those players that go lost in the mists of time. But he was the kind of player that teams need in order to win consistently. He got on base a lot, made the most of his playing time, and was one of the pioneering career pinch hitters. You see that last quite a lot now. Guys like Manny Mota made their name pinch-hitting. Henriksen was, in some ways, their grandfather.

SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Teams You Should Know

The Skeeters have the franchise record with 6 Grand Slams. The Stogies, Doughboys, Rebels Meanies, and Wolverines have yet to take the Grand Tour.

I couldn't find the MLB Franchise totals, but the 2006 Indians, and the 2000 A's share the season record for Grand Slams with 14.



SECOND CHANCE WORDS

Playing Stickball With Robbie Shea-

Mark Lukeman

At the wall
we play suburban stickball,
bat with a pitchfork handle
my grandfather
cut from his garden.
We pitch
tennis balls
light
as crisp apples.

Strips of electrical
tape

mark the strike zone
against
red school brick.
Rob throws strikes.
I swing hard
and miss. Robbie is so much better than me.
But today
the sky is blue,
summer is in our bones,
and so many things don't count yet.



I love the last 4 lines.

TY COBB- By Jimmy Keenan A 6-part Biography PART-2

William Cobb was a strict yet caring parent who wanted his son to be a doctor or lawyer or possibly pursue a career in the military. Eventually, giving him permission to seek a career in professional baseball telling him, "Don't come home a failure." 4 These ominous words from his dad were the driving force in his pursuit of excellence on the ballfield throughout his career.

Amanda Cobb spoke about her son in a 1912 article in Baseball Magazine , "I used to worry about him, because he was so impulsive and strong-willed, but his father, whenever I spoke of it, would always say, "Never mind that boy; he'll get along all right. He's a law unto himself and even though he is impulsive, he's got good common sense to rally under the bumps he's bound to get."

Right around the time of his father's death, Cobb, who was hitting .327 for Augusta, was sold to the Detroit Tigers for \$750. Ty made his big league debut on August 30, 1905 doubling off future Hall of Famer Jack Chesbro for his first hit in the majors. He finished out the year with the Tigers, hitting under .300 for the only time in his 24-year major league career. His initial contract with Detroit netted him \$18,000 for the season along with a \$300 bonus at the end of the year.

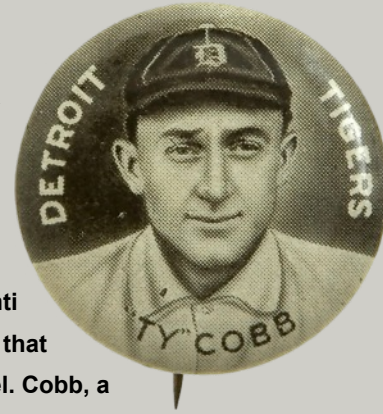
Ty soon established himself as one of the game's great stars, his annual contract escalating as his status grew. In 1907 he copped his first American League batting crown. That same year, he began his association with the Coca Cola Company. He eventually owned three bottling plants while retaining over 20,000 shares of stock in the company. On August 6, 1908 Cobb married

the former Charlotte Lombard in Augusta, Georgia. The couple would go on to have five children, Ty, Shirley, Herschel, Jimmy and Beverly.

Detroit won the American League pennant three years in a row from 1907-1909. The Tigers went on to lose to the Chicago Cubs in the fall classic twice in a row and then the Pirates. During this time there was an anti Cobb clique on the Detroit team that took rookie hazing to a new level. Cobb, a loner by nature, was going through a tough time coping with his father's death and his mother's subsequent trial. On top of all that, he had to deal with his teammates and their practical jokes. They sawed his bats in half, destroyed his belongings and even assaulted him. Cobb fought with Tigers catcher Charlie Schmidt on three separate occasions. Eventually these players left the team and things settled down on the Detroit ballclub.

In 1909 Cobb hit for what is now known as the Triple Crown, (.377 (9HR), (107 RBI). He also led the American League in hits (216) and steals (76) that season. On August 24, Cobb was involved in a controversial play that made national headlines. The Philadelphia Athletics were playing the Tigers at Bennett Park in Detroit when the incident occurred. In the bottom of the first, Ty walked, stole second and then tried to steal third. The ball arrived a little ahead of the runner so Athletics third baseman Frank "Home Run" Baker inexplicably tried tagging Cobb while holding the ball in his bare hand.

Continued next page-



“There are three things you can do in a baseball game.
You can win, or you can lose, or it can rain.”
- Casey Stengel

(You can also streak the 1976 State Championship in Hershey, PA. I actually managed to evade capture for 10 whole minutes, and the round of applause was pretty awesome.)

As Ty approached the bag, the two collided, resulting in a gash on Baker's forearm. Later in the game, Cobb slid into second base, knocking A's infielder Eddie Collins on his back in the process. This was the final straw for Philadelphia A's manager Connie Mack. After complaining about Cobb in the press, Mack eventually took his case to American League president Ban Johnson. Mack called for a suspension, telling Johnson that Cobb was the dirtiest player in baseball.

Detroit owner Frank Navin was able to locate the photographer who took a picture of the play in question. The image was eventually published

in *The Sporting News*. The photograph showed Cobb sliding away from the bag with Baker falling into his path. In regard to this play, Cobb would later say, "I



never spiked a man deliberately. Eddie Collins (A's second baseman) goes into the bases the same way I do. He has hurt as many men as I have. That is baseball and if we get hurt we take our own medicine and don't go around crying over it." 6

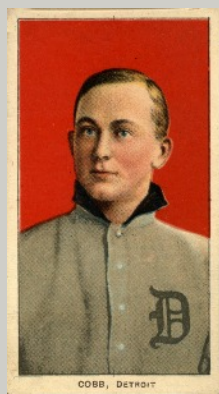
The following year Cobb won his third straight American League batting title despite nefarious efforts by members of the St. Louis Browns. Throughout the last month of September, Cobb and Cleveland second baseman Nap Lajoie were locked in a tight battle for the junior circuit's highest batting average. Cobb chose to sit out the last two games of the season with a .385 batting average.

Lajoie on the other hand went eight for nine against the St. Louis Browns to close out the season, finishing just below Cobb with a .384 mark. It was found out later that Browns manager Jack O'Connor, who despised Cobb, ordered his rookie third baseman Red Corriden to play back in the outfield grass every

time Lajoie came to bat. Taking advantage of the loose defense, Lajoie bunted for a base hit eight consecutive times. However, his ninth bunt attempt resulted in an error after Corriden threw the ball past the first baseman. After the game, Browns' coach Harry Howell offered the official

scorer a bribe to change the error to a hit but he was rebuffed. O'Connor and Howell were eventually blacklisted from professional baseball for their role in this unsavory incident.

Years later, noted baseball researcher Pete Palmer discovered that Cobb's last game in 1910 was tabulated twice in the final American League statistics. This modern statistical



adjustment meant that Lajoie actually won the 1910 American League batting title by percentage points. Palmer's find also affected Cobb's lifetime average, which fell from .367 down to .366.

Ty Cobb took the stage as an actor in the winter of 1910-1911. Touring the country in George Ade's play, "The College Widow" Cobb starred as Billy Bolton, an aspiring collegiate football player from Vanderbilt. He earned \$8,400 for his work in the production. He received mostly favorable reviews from the critics for his acting ability.



In 1911, Cobb swatted the horsehide at an amazing .420 clip. He followed that up with a .409 average the next year. As Ty ascended into baseball stardom his aggressive style of base running didn't ingratiate him with most of the opposing infielders. Many of these players were quite vocal in their belief that he was playing dirty baseball.

In 1912, Detroit Tigers manager and future Hall of Famer Hughie Jennings spoke to *Baseball Magazine* about those accusations, "I say at this time what I have stated before, that Cobb has never intentionally spiked another player in his life. He is particularly fast on the bases, and always plays the game for everything there is in it. But he is a considerate and likable player in every way, and I know from my own personal knowledge that he would never be guilty of such an unsportsmanlike act. If anyone will take the pains to examine the records he will find that Cobb has spiked fewer players than several other prominent stars who have never been criticized in the slightest degree, or accused of unnecessary roughness. I am sure the average critic nowadays is ready to admit there is nothing whatsoever of rowdyism or dirty tactics in the playing of Ty Cobb." 7

Jennings commented about Ty as a player as well, "It is hard to estimate what Cobb's worth is to the Detroit team. He is it's mainstay in batting and base running, and one of its strongest features in defensive work. In my long career on the diamond, both as player and manager, I have come in contact with most of the leading stars of the game, past and present, and I can say without prejudice, and I believe no one will accuse me of partiality, that I claim for Cobb the distinction of being the greatest player baseball has ever known." 8

Continued next Newsletter

COLONEL STOGIES' STUMPERS

Each *Second Chance News* will feature a couple of trivia questions from the Shamokin Stogies' GM David Nemec. Email your answers to David, and we will announce the names of the Gms that got it right in the next Newsletter.

philtomney@yahoo.com



1. Name the only pitcher since 1871 to collect two 20-win seasons in the majors but never win 20 games in a season in any of these major leagues: the National Association, the American Association, the National League or the American League.

2. What current Second Chance player was the last man to date to collect more than 100 hits and 162 innings pitched in the same season?

Bonus Question- Who is this mischievous looking imp?

