



# SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ I was captured and tortured by the North Vietnamese for 6 years, witnessing all kinds of atrocities, and I never saw anything like the Second Chance News ” - Sen. John McCain

Thank you Senator, I really appreciate the kind words.

## Notes From The Commissioner

For every newsletter I include a baseball quote. There are 1000's of them out there, so I'll probably never run out of ones that I like. But I came across the following quote included in a list of a hundred baseball quotes.

“I love the game of baseball.”  
- Dusty Baker

Why would that be included in any list of quotes, anywhere? “I love the game of baseball.” That's like using this quote- “I like music.”- Stevie Wonder. Or, “ I like fast cars.” -Any red-neck ever. Or “Hola.”- Hugo Chavez

Maybe I'm missing the nuance in Dusty's words. Maybe it's about world peace, global warming, or his horrible relationship with his father. Don't get me wrong, I love Dusty Baker. He's my 2nd favorite baseball player named Dusty, but I'm pretty sure he's said something a bit more pithy than, “I love the game of baseball.”

Also, I'm seriously considering changing my team name to the Fighting Amish. Someone needs to talk me out of it.



He does look happy.



## 1912 In The Second Chance Baseball League

Below is a screen shot of the Diamond Mind Game that I use to simulate the Second Chance League games. Some of you may be familiar with it, but I thought I'd show everyone else what it looks like. The image isn't the greatest, but if you zoom in it becomes clearer.

This is an exhibition game I set up between the Superbas and my Skeeters. It's the top of the 7th and the Superbas have just tied the game at 3, they have the bases loaded with just 1 out. My starter Ed Walsh had pitched a great game until this inning, and typical for the entire season, he has ruined it by giving up a big inning. Frank Lange has come on to pitch to Jesse Barber. Without going into the details of a meaningless exhibition game, let's just say Barber hits into a double play, and the Skeeters go on to win 15-3.

On the left of the screen is the lineup of the team that is batting, on the right is the batter's info, which includes what he has done in the game so far, what he has done in the season, and his real life stats. Because it's an exhibition game, the season total shows just the game total.

On the bottom left are a list of the bench players that are left. You'll notice the Superbas have taken advantage of the extended rosters. On the bottom right is the pitcher's totals.

The player photos are available for use in a file provided by dedicated fans of the game. Diamond Mind does not supply them. I did have to upload the photos for all the Negro League Players. Whoever put the file together mistakenly used Christy Mathewson's photo for Fred Merkle, and I haven't gotten around to fixing it. So it's kind of funny to see the twins facing off against each other.

The stadium image is League Park, home of the Skeeters, and is also not included in the game. I needed to hunt down an image for each stadium on the web. The position player markers do not line up that well with the image. Diamond Mind should really tweak the software to allow you the ability to move them around on the screen.

APK12	JCS12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
1912 AtkLaTex Superbas													
1 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 0 1													
1912 Jersey City Skeeters													
0 0 3 0 0 0 0 3 5 1													

Better	a2	a3
Jesse Barber%		
BLap		
Gm	Yr	Real
AVG	.667	.667
OBP	.667	.667
SFC	.667	.667
AB	3	3
HR	0	0
RBI	0	0
BB	0	0
K	0	0

AVGvsPwr vsLH	.000/	.000/	.000/	Fv
AVGvsPwr vsRH	.000/	.000/	.000/	Fv
Bunt	saachit			Av / Av

Pitcher	TR
Frank Lange	
Gm	Yr
ERA	0.00
NH	0.0
H	0
HR	0
BB	0
K	0
W-L	0-0
S	0

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Vic Saier-Shamokin Stogies



The most famous, if not necessarily the best, double play combination in Major League history is still Tinker to Evers to Chance. By 1911, the combination was broken up for good. Tinker was still at short. Evers was out much of 1911, but was back for 1912 and 1913. The real problem was first baseman Frank Chance. By 1911, Chance was 34 and appeared in only 31 games. For the entire rest of his career he would play in only 15 more.

Ever wonder who replaced him at first? Let me introduce you to Vic Saier.

Victor S. Saier was born in 1891 in Michigan. He was scouted as early as 1908, but not signed. He attended a local Business College, played on the local team, and was signed in 1910 by Lansing of the Southern Michigan League in 1910. He led the league in hits, batted over .300, and caught the attention of the Cubs. They signed him for 1911. He began 1911 as Chance's backup, but when Chance was injured became the starter at first after failed attempts to draft two of the outfielders as first basemen. He played 73 games, hit .259 with a home run and 11 stolen bases. It wasn't Chance, but it was good enough to get him the job for 1912.

For the next couple of years he was good. He hit .288 in 1912, then had 14 home runs (3rd in the National League) in 1913 to go along with a league leading 21 triples. In 1914, he slugged a career high 18 home runs, second in the NL. He was doing well in 1915, when he injured his leg in a home plate slide. He was out for three weeks. He managed 11 home runs, 11 triples, 35 doubles, and 29 stolen bases, most prior to the injury. He

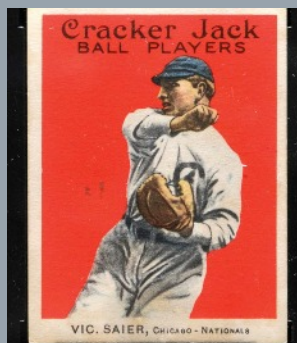
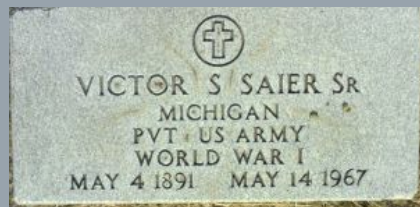
didn't recover well. His 1916 numbers were down, then in 1917 he was hurt in another play at the plate and was done after six games.

In 1918 he joined the Army and was tasked with working in a defense plant helping the World War I effort.

He resurfaced in baseball in 1919, this time with Pittsburgh. He got into 58 games, hit .223, and was done at age 28.

For his career his triple slash line is .263/.351/.409/.760 with an ERA + of 120. He had 775 hits in 865 games, scored 455 runs, had 143 doubles, 61 triples, and 55 home runs to go with 395 RBIs. His WAR is 15.1 (Baseball Reference.com version of WAR).

After his career ended, he moved back to Michigan, ran a club in Lansing, and died in 1967. It wasn't a great career. It also wasn't a bad career.

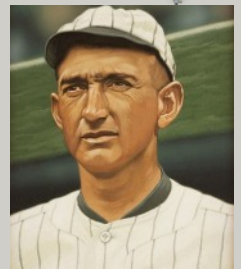


-VERDUN 2's Blog

SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Chief Wilson (Skeeters) 39 triples has topped his MLB record of 36. Joe Jackson's -28(Rebels) tops his AL best 27. Billy Pierce-25 (Terrapins), Larry Gardner-20(Caterpillars)and HR Baker-20(Terrapins) join the 20 triple club. The last time there were as many as 5-20 triple hitters in 1 season was actually 1912. If Sam Crawford (Stogies) can hit 3 more he would rejoin that exclusive club.



## Teams You Should Know

Teammates HR Baker, and Billy Pierce give the Terrapins a pair of 20 triple players on one team. The last time that was done in MLB was also 1912, when Ty Cobb and Sam Crawford each topped the 20 triple mark. Unless Crawford can hit 3 and Cobb 6, they will not match that feat.

The 1894 Orioles had 4 players reach 20 triples, the all-time record. Heinie Reitz, Dan Brouthers, Willie Keeler and Joe Kelly were the culprits.



Just a bunch of dudes hanging out in front of a curtain.



# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

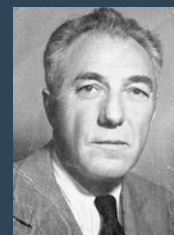
## Along Came Ruth

-Ford Frick



Art work by Craig Kreindler

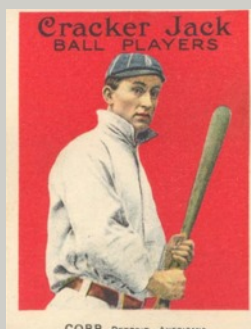
You step up to the platter  
And you gaze with flaming hate  
At the poor benighted pitcher  
As you dig in at the plate.  
You watch him cut his fast ball loose,  
Then swing your trusty bat  
And you park one in the bleachers-  
Nothing's simpler than that!



**Ford Frick**- Baseball Commissioner  
-Total Babe Ruth fanboy  
- Asterisk abuser

## **TY COBB**- By Jimmy Keenan     A 6-part Biography PART-3

On May 15, 1912, the Tigers were playing the Yankees in New York. As the game progressed, a number of fans in the stands began heckling Cobb. Throughout the afternoon, he endured all types of insults from the crowd. It got so bad, that Ty stayed in the tunnel out in centerfield between innings rather than run the gauntlet of verbal abuse to get to the visitor's dugout. The most vocal of these rowdy fans was a man named Claude Lucker. After unsuccessfully looking for a policeman to throw the nere-do-well out of the ballpark, Ty, at the urging of his teammates, decided to go into the stands and take action himself. Lucker, who was missing one hand and three fingers on the other, was no match for Cobb. The Tiger outfielder pummeled him into a bloody pulp. Cobb's teammates and manager confirmed Ty's version of the incident. A few Tigers followed Cobb into the stands in case some of the other troublemakers had anything to say.



The newspaper accounts of the day supported Cobb's version of the incident but the press condemned the outfielder for the violent beating he inflicted upon the physically challenged fan. American League president Ban Johnson happened to be at the ballpark that day. The next day, Johnson suspended Cobb indefinitely. Every player on the Detroit team, unlike his earlier Tiger teammates, had his back. They were furious over the hasty verdict. They sent the following telegraph to Johnson:

"Feeling Mr. Cobb is being done injustice by your action in suspending him, we the undersigned refuse to play another game

after today until such action is adjusted to our satisfaction. He was fully justified in his actions as no one could stand such personal abuse from anyone. We want him reinstated for tomorrow's game, May 18, or there will be no game. If a player cannot have protection we must protect ourselves."

Tigers manager Hughie Jennings backed Cobb and his players, telling the press, "The suspension was not warranted, I am in the hands of my friends. If they refuse to play, I will finish way down in the league race. I expect Mr. Johnson to reconsider the matter, fine Cobb, or announce definitely the length of Cobb's suspension." 10

The Tigers next game was on May 18. Because of Cobb's indefinite suspension, the players refused to take the field against the Athletics at Shibe Park in Philadelphia. Hours before the game Jennings and coaches Joe Sugden and Jim McGuire started scouring the Philadelphia sandlots looking for players. They eventually picked up a hodgepodge of youngsters including St. Joseph College pitcher Joe Travers. With both Sugden and McGuire in the starting lineup, the replacement players were paid \$10 apiece with Travers receiving \$25 for his pitching effort. The game was a travesty as 15,000 fans watched their Athletics shellac the Tigers 26-2. Travers giving up 24 runs on 25 hits. The next day's game was postponed and a meeting was called with the striking players. American League president Ban Johnson levied a ten-game suspension on Cobb and fined him \$50 for his transgression. The striking players were fined \$100 apiece over the incident. Johnson also noted that each American League ballpark would now be required to have a larger police presence to protect the players from these types of situations.

Continued next page-

**“If you put a baseball and other toys in front of a baby, he'll pick up a baseball in preference to the others.”**

**-Tris Speaker**

You could also rip the Ballerina Barbie Doll out of the hands of a 5 year old boy, crushing his dreams of becoming the next Anna Pavlova.....  
I could pirouette like nobody's business.

Cobb finished the 1912 season with a .409 batting average. Continuing to establish his dominance as the most consistent hitter in baseball, from 1913-1919 he never hit under .368. He stole 96 bases in 1915. It remained the major league record until it was broken in 1962 by Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Maury Wills.

In 1917 he starred in the silent movie "Somewhere in Georgia," earning a reported \$25,000 for his part in the six-reel production. The Tiger star reportedly turned down at least 100 different movie offers before finally accepting this role. Ty played the part of a baseball playing Georgia bank clerk who saves the girl and wins the big game at the end of the film. The movie was based on a short story written by sports writer Grantland Rice.



That same year, Ty was involved with one of his more publicized baseball fights. The Tigers, who held their spring training in Waxahatchie, Texas, traveled to Dallas on March 31 to start a series of exhibition games against the New York Giants. Cobb shot 18 holes of golf in the morning and arrived at the ballpark just before game time. The Giants bench, with middle infielders Buck Herzog and Art Fletcher being the most vociferous, heckled Cobb for his superstar attitude in regard to his late arrival. Cobb singled his first time up and proceeded to steal second. While sliding into the bag, Ty's spikes ripped into second baseman Herzog's pants leg causing a bloody gash. Herzog joined by Giants shortstop Art Fletcher began fighting with Cobb in the dirt around second base. Players from both teams along with ballpark security eventually stopped the brawl, Cobb being ejected from the game. Later that night at the Oriental Hotel, where both teams were staying, Herzog challenged Cobb to a rematch. The fight took place in Cobb's room with Tigers trainer Harry Tuthill acting as the referee. From all accounts Cobb got the better of Herzog, an accomplished boxer, in the second fight.

The next morning in the hotel foyer, Giants manager John McGraw tried to exact some revenge on Cobb for the beating he inflicted on Herzog. McGraw was restrained by some bystanders before the fight could escalate. Despite this blowup, McGraw never wavered in his belief that Cobb was the greatest center fielder he ever saw. Ty refused to play in the rest of the scheduled exhibition games with New York. Instead, he traveled to Cincinnati where he worked out with the Reds until the Tigers finished their series of exhibition games with the Giants.

At the outbreak of America's involvement in World War I, Secretary of War Newton Baker issued his "Work or Fight" ultimatum to all men of draft age. This edict caused many professional baseball players to scramble for stateside jobs that supported the war effort in order to avoid military service.

Cobb didn't try to procure this type of employment. Instead, he enlisted in one of the most elite military units of the war, the Chemical Warfare Service. It was organized by General John Pershing to combat the deadly poison gas attacks by the German army. This unit was also known as the Gas and Flame regiment. The mission of the Chemical Warfare Service was as follows: "Anticipate German gas attacks where the heaviest trench fighting would be, then turn the tables on the enemy by quickly spraying their flanks with jets of flame from tanks strapped onto their backs. Then, once their tanks emptied they were to lob special "gas grenades" at fallen Germans and clear the area." 11

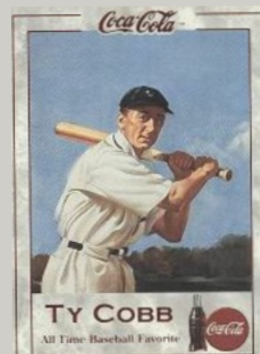
Cobb and another future Hall of Famer, Christy Mathewson, received Captain's commissions. Baseball executive Branch Rickey served as a major in this same regiment. Captain Cobb arrived in France in October of 1918.



Part of the Gas and Flame training regimen was to enter a closed chamber, put on their gas masks and endure a chemical attack. In one of these mock exercises, the soldiers either received a belated signal to put on their masks or they were slow in responding. Either way, many of the unfortunate men inhaled the gas. According to available reports some men died while others suffered permanent damage to their respiratory systems. Cobb developed a severe hacking cough from the incident but eventually recovered. Mathewson later contracted tuberculosis, dying seven years later at the age of 45. It can't be proven but some modern day baseball historians believe that Mathewson's premature death was due in part to this botched training exercise.

The war ended in November of 1918 and Cobb returned home. Contemplating retirement because of his diminished physical capacity, he eventually reported to spring training in March of 1919. Shaking off the lingering effects of the toxic gas, he went on to lead the American League with a .384 batting average.

Smart with his money, he began purchasing real estate early in his career. Throughout the course of his lifetime he profited greatly from these and other investments, including Coca Cola. He also purchased stock in cotton futures for a modest price on the New York Stock Exchange. At the conclusion of World War I, he sold his cotton shares for \$155,000. A stockholder in General Motors, he allowed his name to be used in the promotion of their automobiles, earning him an annual salary of \$25,000. A savvy businessman, he was paid to endorse a variety of products during his career.



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



OK, the response to the last newsletter's trivia questions was a little under-whelming. But we did get 3 responses, all of them incorrect. But here they are in the order in which they were received.

Anonymous answered- You suck Graham.

That of course is incorrect. I think anonymous was answering with his emotions, rather than any sort of baseball knowledge.

Ryan Buckley answered- Megatron, Bonecrusher, and Maximus Prime.

I think Ryan may have misunderstood the questions, but these are coincidentally my favorite Transformers.

My answer was- I don't know. Which makes me closest to the correct answers.

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.

**Gene Packard- A 2x 20 game winner in the Federal League, and currently warming the bench for the Gashouse Gorillas**

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?

**Nixie Callahan- In 1897 while pitching for the then Chicago Colts, went 12-9 in 189 IP, while hitting .292 with 105 hits. He is currently tearing up the league with The Vinegars, hitting a noteworthy .098.**

**Bonus Question: Who is this mischievous looking imp?**

**That of course is Ty Cobb.**



Colonel Stogies Stumpers#2

1. What Deadball Era team is the only team in major league history to not win the pennant despite leading its league in wins, not just tied for the lead?

2. Among the many players Judge Landis banned in an effort to clean up the game after the Blacksox Scandal were 2 former batting champions. Who were they?

Bonus Question- Who is this SCL catcher named George?



Please submit your answers to the email address above. Fame and glory awaits, Prizes galore for the winner.