



## SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“The Second Chance News is amateurish, boring, and irrelevant.” - Dan Shaughnessy

Dan has always been jealous of my boyish good looks, and he's been stealing pencils and toilet paper from the *Boston Globe* for years.

### Notes From The Commissioner

**1913** is upon us, new players , new teams, new Gms.

Welcome Mike Murphy(Kenmore Miners) and Phil Bohne(Alexandria Tornados-misspelled on purpose) Both of these guys are experienced DMB players, so expect them to put together strong teams.

Not a lot of big names making their SCL debuts. Rivington Bisland and Unknown Cooper will be available to draft. Unknown Cooper is a Negro League player with minimal stats, and was listed without a 1<sup>st</sup> name on Seamheads. I had to include him.

Dutch Leonard, Slim Love, Wally Pipp, Ed Roush, Bob Shawkey, Lefty Williams, and Cristobal Torriente, get to start their second chance this season. Slim Love needs to be a Skeeter. Also , the Fighting Amish is avaiable as an SCL team name, I've decided to remain a Skeeter.

It is every Gm's responsibilty to try to put together the best team possible, and to put the best lineup on the field all season long. It should be every SCL GM's goal to work all season long to try to unseat the Warbirds. I know Adam will do everything he can to not let that happen.

Good luck to all. Go Skeeters!

### 1912 In The Second Chance Baseball League Second Chance League World Series Recap

#### GAME #1

Claude Hendrix vs Walter Johnson



10/14/1912, Forbes Field

Smile Fred, you hit a HR.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Rebels	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	4	1
1912 Warbirds	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	x	3	6	0	6	1

A Fred Luderus solo HR in the 2<sup>nd</sup> put the Rebels up 2-0. Walter Johnson settled down allowing no runs and just 3 singles to allow the Warbirds to earn a comeback victory. An Amos Strunk triple tied the score in the 6<sup>th</sup>, he scored the game winner on a sac fly off the bat of Duffy Lewis.

#### GAME #2

Joe Dubuc vs Joe Wood



10/15/1912, Forbes Field

Burt Shotten and I share the same

10/18 Birthday.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Rebels	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	9	0
1912 Warbirds	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	x	4	9	1	7	0

A second 1 run loss for the Rebels. Rip Williams tripled and scored the tying run in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and a 2 out triple by Burt Shotten drove in the game winner in the 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### GAME #3

Ray Collins vs Bob Groom



10/17/1912, WW12-VR12, Washington Park

Beals Becker- Mr. Clutch

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Warbirds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10	5	9	0
1912 Rebels	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	x	5	5	2	7	1

Despite getting just 5 hits the Rebels finally got in the win column, thanks to a Beals Becker 2-run HR, and a 10 hit CG from Bob Groom.

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Amos Strunk- Wheaton Warbirds



[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)

Strunk on second and another runner on third, Mack would order a suicide squeeze. Strunk was fast enough to score from second on the bunt. There are a couple of stories of him doing this, but I was unable to determine how frequently he did so.

He stayed with the A's through 1917, which means he was with the miserable 1916 team that lost 117 games. He was easily their best player. In 1918, Mack sent him to Boston. He took over as the regular center fielder (a position once held by Tris Speaker) and helped the Red Sox to their final World Series win in the 20th Century. In mid-1919 he went back to Philly, stayed into 1920, then went to Chicago where he helped try to rebuild the White Sox in the wake of the Black Sox scandal. He remained in Chicago through 1923. After one game with the ChiSox in 1924, he went back to Philadelphia, where he completed his career.

In 1925, he was player-manager for the Shamokin Shammies (don't you love that name?) of the New York-Penn League. He retired from baseball in August of that season and went into the insurance business. He died in 1979.

In a 17 year career over 1512 games, Strunk had the following triple slash numbers: .284/.359/.374/.732 with an OPS+ of 112. He scored 696 runs and had 530 RBIs. With 1418 hits, he managed 213 doubles, 96 triples, and 15 home runs, for 1868 total bases. He had 185 stolen bases. The caught stealing numbers are incomplete for his career, but in most years in which they are available, he's caught more than he's successful.

If you look at the numbers above closely, you'll see some of the problem with Strunk's career. He played 17 years, and played in only 1523 games (an average of 89 games a year). Now some of that is garbage time as a kid and as an old player just hanging on, but Strunk had a lot of injuries over his career, mostly in the legs. He managed 130 or more games three times, peaking at 150 in 1916.

Strunk is one of those players whose stats I keep looking at and thinking, "One heck of a ballplayer." But when I ask myself if he's a Hall of Famer, I say no.

They called him "The Flying Foot." Amos Strunk was fast, very fast. Connie Mack put him in center field and he helped lead the Athletics to four pennants, three World's Championships, then moved on to Boston to help Babe Ruth win one. He was one of the finest outfielders of his day.

Amos Strunk was born in Philadelphia in 1889. As usual for the era, he played semipro ball, got to the minors, was noticed by someone with big league connections, and ended up in the Majors. For Strunk, it was 1907 for the minors, and in 1908 Connie Mack brought him to Strunk's hometown team, the Athletics. He got into a handful of games in both 1908 and 1909, but spent most of each season in the minors. At 21 he made it to the Major Leagues to stay. Unfortunately, he suffered a knee injury and only played 16 games that season.

His career took off in 1911. He became the regular center fielder for the A's, replacing Rube Oldring (who moved to left). He was fast, had a good arm, and was considered a superior outfielder (for the era and equipment available). He was noted for being able to track down balls in deep center field and catch most anything. He led the American League in fielding five times and was never in the top handful in errors (which can happen when a speedy outfielder gets his glove on a ball that other outfielders wouldn't have gotten near).

As a hitter he was decent, but not spectacular. In years he played in at least 50 games, he hit .300 or better four times. He was mostly a singles hitter, managing 20 or more doubles only three times (his high was 30). Despite his speed, he never stole a lot of bases. His forte was going from first to third on a single and scoring from second on a single. He was used occasionally on a double steal. With

## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

Walter Johnson (Warbirds) was the MVP in this season's All Star Game, the NLCS, and the World Series. Derek Jeter (2000) is the only player to be the All Star and World Series MVP in the same season.

Duffy Lewis (Rebels) has the most hits (16) runs (7) and rbi (9) in the SCL World Series. His 1 HR is tied for the lead with 8 other players. Yogi Berra-71 hits, Mickey Mantle-42 runs, 40 rbi, and 18 Hrs are the MLB career records.



## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

3 SCL World Series and we have yet to have a 7 game Series. That's got to end in 1913.

Disregarding the best of 9 Series in 1903, 1919, 20, and 21, there have been 38 7 game World Series.

The Cardinals (8-3) and Yankees (5-6) have each played 11 Game 7's. The Cardinals are 3-2 against the Yankees in Game 7's.

The Pirates are a perfect 5-0 in Game 7's.



The Pirates beat the Tigers in 7 games in the 1909 World Series.



# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

## The Base Stealer

-By Robert Francis



Poised between going on and back, pulled  
Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker,  
Fingertips pointing the opposites,  
Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball  
Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on,  
Running a scattering of steps sidewise,  
How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,  
Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird,  
He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him,  
Delicate, delicate, delicate, delicate - now!

This was written in 1948 and I  
think it describes Jackie  
Robinson to a tee.

## **TY COBB-** By Jimmy Keenan     **A 6-part Biography PART-4**

In 1921 Cobb became the player-manager of the Tigers. The team never won a pennant during his tenure at the helm but their hitting improved under his tutelage. The first year he took over the club, the team's batting average jumped from .265 to .316. Near the end of the season, Cobb and umpire Billy Evans nearly came to blows on the field at Griffith Park in Washington. The dispute arose after Evans called pitcher Rube Oldham out on what Cobb perceived as bad call. Cobb challenged Evans to a fight after the game. The two met in the in the visitor's clubhouse, with both teams in attendance. Cobb punched Evans' face into bloody mess in a fight that Tigers second baseman Sammy Barnes later recounted as the worst he ever witnessed in baseball. Barnes noted that Evans was popular with the players, quite a few of them rooting for him to win the fight. Word got back to Ban Johnson and Cobb was suspended for the final three games of the season. Evans with his face covered in bandages umpired the next day. The fearless arbiter would be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973.

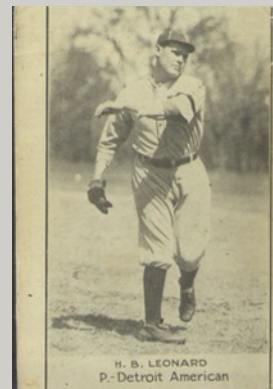
In February of 1922 Cobb purchased a large percentage of the Augusta Tourists in the South Atlantic League. The team was renamed the Tygers a short time later in honor of Cobb. For the next few years Ty continued to hit well but the Detroit Club, under his managerial reign, finished no higher than second in the American League standings.

On November 3, 1926, Cobb and the Cleveland Indians' Tris Speaker unexpectedly resigned as player-manager of the respective teams. The newspapers reported that Cobb said, "He'd been in harness long enough and was entitled to a rest." It was implied in the papers that Cobb was tired of the criticism regarding his managerial skills as well as what he perceived as interference from Tigers owner Frank Navin.

The following month a story broke that alluded to the real reason for Cobb's unexpected departure from the game. In late December,

baseball commissioner Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis made a stunning announcement that was carried in all of the national newspapers. Baseball's top man announced that Cobb and Speaker were possibly involved in fixing a game that took place between the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians on September 25, 1919. The claims were made by former Tigers pitcher Dutch Leonard, who had recently lodged a complaint against the Detroit club for back salary. In addition, Leonard had an axe to grind with Cobb for many reasons, including putting him on waivers in 1921. Leonard was also angry with Speaker, a close friend, for not picking him up off the waiver wire.

Leonard asserted that he, Cleveland pitcher outfielder "Smoky" Joe Wood, Cobb and Speaker, met under the stands at Navin Field(Detroit) on September 24 to discuss throwing the next day's game. Detroit needed to win in order to clinch third place. Leonard stated to American League officials that Cobb was going to bet \$2,000 on the game while the other three conspirators were supposed to lay out \$1000 apiece. Leonard said that Cobb and Speaker failed to put up any money. He went on to say that he and Wood won \$130 each after the Tigers won the game 9-6. The statement about the two players winning money was never corroborated by anyone other than Leonard. Cobb went one for-five with a triple in the game so he didn't contribute much to help his team win the supposed bet. He wasn't the manager at this time so he couldn't do anything else to affect the outcome of the game. Speaker on the other hand had three hits including a triple. These don't appear to be the actions of a man who was trying to lose. Wood did not play in the game.



Continued next page-

“ I never threw an illegal pitch. The trouble is, once in a while I toss one that ain't never been seen by this generation.”

— Satchel Paige



Satchel Paige will make his  
Second Chance League debut in  
1928

....fingers crossed!

The disgruntled ex-Tiger tosser produced two letters, one from Cobb, one from Wood that reportedly mentioned betting in general but gave no specifics. Leonard received \$20,000, the same amount he wanted from the Tigers in back pay, from American League officials in exchange for the letters. It should be noted that baseball players gambling on their own team baseball wasn't against the rules at this time. Newspapers regularly publicized the betting line for the World Series during the Deadball Era of baseball (1900-1920). Prior to the 1919 Black Sox Scandal, the only players banned from baseball for gambling were those who were believed to have fixed games.

Cobb spoke to reporters, saying that he was innocent of all charges. He demanded an official hearing from the commissioner's office to clear his name. American League president Ban Johnson told the media that he had additional evidence that further implicated Speaker and Cobb, but it was never produced. On September 9, 1926, a special board of American League directors held a secret session. At this covert gathering headed by Johnson, the junior circuit's officials voted that both Cobb and Speaker should be banned from the American League for life.

Johnson was not happy with Commissioner Landis for going public with the letters from Leonard. Johnson gave them to Landis with the understanding that their contents would remain private. Even without definitive proof that they fixed the game, Johnson was determined to make an example out of both Cobb and Speaker. In an unusual stance on the situation, Johnson wanted both players banned from the American League for life but didn't want their reputations sullied in the press.



For months, the case was tried in the court of public opinion in newspapers throughout the country. Landis called for a hearing so that Leonard could confront Cobb and Speaker in



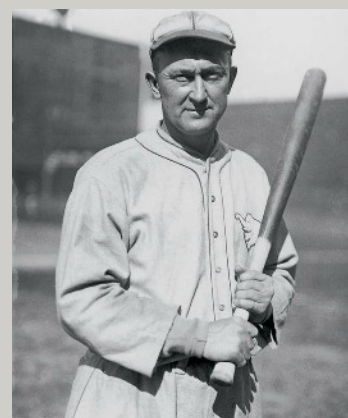
person with his charges. Leonard refused to appear. With the principle witness unwilling to cooperate, Landis, disregarding Johnson's wishes, reinstated both players into the good graces of major league baseball. Commenting on making the contents of the letters public, Landis felt that he had no choice as Leonard's accusations had become common knowledge. If there had been definitive evidence that Cobb and Speaker threw a game, Landis would've banned them from baseball. Without overwhelming proof, Landis, who personally liked both men, knew he didn't have a strong case. After the hit baseball took during the 1919 Black Sox scandal, it's safe to surmise that Landis didn't want to go down that road again unless he was totally convinced of their guilt.

Most of the American League owners, led by Charles Comiskey, had been at odds with Ban Johnson for years. On January 24, 1927, the day before Cobb and Speaker were originally scheduled to appear before Landis. Johnson was voted out by the owners as American League president. He was allowed to receive his salary through 1935 but Johnson no longer

wielded any power in baseball. He had hopes of reclaiming the presidency, but the American League magnates made it known that he wasn't welcome to return. Johnson, who had been in poor health for some time, died in 1931.

Back in the good graces of baseball, Cobb signed with Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics in 1927 season for \$70,000. His contract called for an additional \$10,000 bonus if the A's won the World Series. Cobb planned to sue baseball over the accusations that he fixed a game. Mack, whose reputation and honesty was beyond reproach, believed in Cobb's innocence, which led to Ty putting the matter to rest. Speaker rebounded as well, signing with the Washington Senators. It turned out to be a good year for Cobb and the Athletics, who finished in second place. Mack's club was in the final stages of rebuilding. In just two years, his Athletics would be considered one of the greatest teams in baseball history. Cobb collected his 4,000 hit that year, at age 40, hitting .357 with 22 stolen bases.

Cobb joined back up with Philadelphia in 1928 in what would be his last major league campaign. Tris Speaker left the Senators and signed with the A's in early February of 1928. Eight members of this Athletic team, including manager Connie Mack were destined for enshrinement in Cooperstown. Cobb, batting second in the lineup, hit safely in seventeen of the first eighteen games. On June 15, he stole home against the Cleveland Indians for the last time of his career. On July 28, Cobb scored his last run before leaving the game after being nailed in the ribs by Detroit pitcher Sam Gibson. Ty spent the rest of the year on the bench as seldom-used pinch hitter, finishing with a .323 batting average. He recorded his last hit, number 4189, against the Washington Senators at Griffith Park. The A's finished in second place again. Retiring at the end of the season, Cobb told the press. "I prefer to cease active playing while there still may remain some base hits in my bat."



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



## 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?

The correct answer is the 1915 Federal League St. Louis Terriers.

Final Standings:

Chicago Whales 86-66 .566

St Louis Terriers 87-67 .565

Pittsburgh Rebels 86-67 .562

It can't get much closer than that.

Correctly answered by yours truly.

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?

Benny Kauff (Doughboys) and Heinie Zimmerman (Warbirds)

Correctly answered by Jimmy Keenan-Terrapins



Bonus Question- Who is this SCL catcher named George?

That of course is George "Peaches" Graham (Wolverines)

Ryan Buckley guessed Brad Pitt. I'm beginning to think that Ryan knows nothing about baseball.

## Stogies Stumpers #3

1. What team in Kevin's lifetime finished the season having to play back-to-back doubleheaders on the road on the final Saturday and Sunday, splitting both of them? Had it swept both of them it would have won the pennant by 1 game. Had it swept even one of them and split the other it would have tied for the pennant and forced a 1-game playoff. As it was, it finished tied for 2nd, just 1 game out of first, its best finish in over 20 years. The following year, fueled by its near miss, it won the pennant.

2. What pitcher wakened on the morning of September 16 with 14 wins in a season that ended in early October and yet won 20 games? He is the only one to reach this pinnacle with so few wins so late in the season and in his next start after his 20th win became the only hurler to fashion a World Series shutout in a major league stadium that was his team's home for over 60 years.

Bonus Question: Who is this unsigned pitcher that was eligible to pitch in the 1912 SCL?



Two tough questions. Hint on question #1 I was born in 1958 (Although I look much.....much younger!!)

Any GM that submits the correct answers to all 3 questions will get an additional manual pick in the 1913 draft. That's 8 manual picks instead of 7!! Just imagine the sleeper pick awaiting you?

## 1912 Second Chance League World Series Recap

### GAME #4

Walter Johnson vs Nap Rucker

10/18/1912, Washington Park

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Warbirds	7	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	12	19	3	9	3
1912 Rebels	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	12	1	10	2

The Warbirds unloaded on Rebels' pitching banging out 19 hits while putting up a 7 spot in the 1<sup>st</sup> on their way to a 12-5 victory. The 7 runs tied the SCL World Series Record for runs scored in a game.

Heinie Zimmerman had the ignoble distinction of making the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> outs in the inning. The 12 total runs and 19 hits are SCL World Series records. Stuffy McInnis and Duffy Lewis each had 4 hits for the Warbirds.

This is the only game in the World Series in which the Rebels didn't have a lead.



Not a fan of  
Heinie.....the player,  
not the body part.

### GAME #5

Joe Wood vs Claude Hendrix

10/19/1912, Washington Park

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Warbirds	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	3	6	1
1912 Rebels	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	x	4	8	2	9	1

Claude Hendrix tossed 6 innings of no hit ball before Amos Strunk led off the 7<sup>th</sup> with a triple. Hendrix finished with a 4 hit CG victory.



Claude Hendrix won 22  
games for the Rebels.

### GAME #6

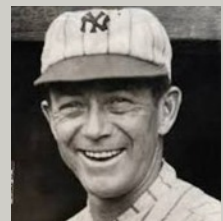
Bob Groom vs Ray Collins

10/21/1912, Forbes Field

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 Rebels	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	5	2
1912 Warbirds	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	x	5	11	2	12	1

The Rebels took the early lead for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the Series, but a 4 run Warbirds 4<sup>th</sup> sealed the win. 4 singles, and 2 walks, including a bases loaded walk by Miller Huggins led to the 4 runs.

Walter Johnson went 2-0 with a 2.70 ERA, winning Games 1 and 4 to win the SCL World Series MVP.



Yankee Manager  
Extraordinaire.