



## SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ Michelle and I read the Second Chance News every chance we get. It’s nowhere near as bad as a Trump tweet.” - Barack Obama

Thanks Obama!

### Notes From The Commissioner

1914 begins shortly in the Second Chance League. The 5<sup>th</sup> SCL season, and Babe Ruth’s rookie season in the SCL. It will be interesting to watch his performance as the seasons roll on.

The Georgia Pines’ (formerly the Detroit Wolverines) GM Joe Clark will probably draft the Bambino with his 1<sup>st</sup> pick in the 1914 draft. But, maybe he’s never heard of Ruth. Maybe he’ll suffer the smelliest brain fart in the history of historical baseball simulations. Maybe my trade offer of Fred Merkle for his 1<sup>st</sup> round pick will tickle his fancy. Maybe Joe Clark is really a Ryan Buckley alias, and we all know how baseball illiterate Buckley is!

NOTE: It is the obligation of every GM in this league to make sure the Warbirds do not three-peat. Plan your draft, work your roster, make some trades. (Oh, and the Gorillas can’t win either)

Kevin G. Commissioner



Babe Ruth-Jersey City Skeeters  
(It could happen)

### 1913 In The Second Chance Baseball League

#### 1913 SCL World Series

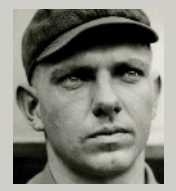


GAME #1 10/13/1913, Forbes Field  
Christy Mathewson vs Walter Johnson

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

Mathewson vs Johnson. A World Series match-up that was long over-do. The Big Train easily bested Big Six pitching a 7 hit CG. Johnson struck out 7, did not allow a walk, while giving up just 2 unearned runs.

Mathewson struggled early, giving up 2 runs in the 1<sup>st</sup> before getting the 1st out. A Stuffy McInnis 2 run double was the big blow.



GAME #2 10/14/1913, Forbes Field  
Hank Robinson vs Ray Collins

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
Stogies	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	7	10	0	11	0
Warbirds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	2	9	1

Vic Saier had a World Series game for the ages. 5 hits, which included 2 doubles and 2 triples, to go with his 4 rbi. Hank Robinson tossed a 9 hit CG, while 21 game winner Ray Collins got roughed up for 6 runs in 5.1 IP.



GAME #3 10/16/1913, Navin Field  
Eddie Plank vs Bob Groom

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
Warbirds	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	13	1	11	2
Stogies	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	10	0

Eddie Plank the unsung # 3 starter for the Warbirds tossed a solid 6 hit CG. Miller Huggins banged out 4 hits from the lead off spot for the Warbirds.

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# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Sherry Magee- Jersey City Skeeters



[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)

121 games, Magee was banned for the remainder of the season.

1.) Sherwood "Sherry" Magee was born in Clarendon, Pennsylvania in 1884.

2.) He was good at baseball, football, and basketball as a student. He also excelled as a bowler.

3.) While playing for the local semipro team at age 19, he was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1904.

4.) He played 95 games in 1904, getting 101 hits, 12 of them for triples which led the team.

5.) In 1905 he stole 55 bases, good for second in the National League and the Philadelphia record. The record lasted until 1984.

6.) In 1907, 1910, 1914, and 1918 he led the National League in RBIs.

7.) His career year was 1910 when he led the NL in runs, RBIs, total bases, batting average, OBP, Slugging, OPS, and OPS+, was second in WAR among everyday players, second in doubles, and second in triples. He was also third in hits and fifth in home runs with six.

8.) In 1911 he was called out on strikes, argued with the umpire and was thrown out of the game. He responded by slugging the ump (drawing blood and rendering the umpire unconscious). After playing only

9.) After leading the NL in hits, RBIs, doubles, total bases, and slugging in 1914 he was traded to Boston (the Braves, not the Red Sox). He'd been passed over for manager and asked for a trade. Despite not playing for the team since 1914, he still holds the Phils team record for triples and stolen bases.

10.) Injured in training camp in 1915, his career slipped and in 1917 and he was waived. Cincinnati picked him up.

11.) In 1919 he got into his only World Series, going one for two as a pinch hitter for the victorious Reds. It was his last season.

12.) He spent a few seasons in the minors, then became an umpire, serving in the NL in 1928.

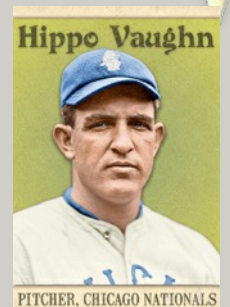
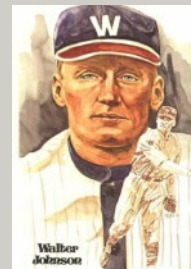
13.) Sherry Magee contracted pneumonia in March 1929 and died on 13 March 1929. He's never gotten much consideration for the Hall of Fame. In 2003 he was chosen for the Phillies Wall of Fame (the team's version of a Hall of Fame).

## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Walter Johnson (Warbirds) is the SCL leader in career wins, (100-37) and strikeouts. (974) He narrowly trails Russ Ford (Terrapins) in ERA. 2.21 vs 2.25. Jose Mendez's 2.13 ERA does not quite meet the 400 IP requirement (385 IP).

The SCL career leader in saves is Hippo Vaughn (Gorillas) with a whopping 49.



## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Wheaton Warbirds have won a League high 380 games. The record for wins in a 4 year span in MLB is 426 by the 1906-1909 Chicago Cubs. Their 104 wins in 1911 give them an amazing 530 wins in 5 seasons.



# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

"Base Ball"-by Anonymous

Published: A Little Pretty Pocket Book (1744)



The *Ball* once struck off,  
Away flies the *Boy*  
To the next destin'd Post,  
And then Home with Joy.

Is it just me, or does this poem  
have a whole different meaning if  
Joy is a prostitute?

## THE BEST SHORTENED SEASON HITTING PERFORMANCE IN MAJOR LEAGUE HISTORY

-Contributed by David Nemec

In 2010, when the Twins' Justin Morneau, sustained a concussion in a play at second base that abruptly truncated his season before the All-Star break, he was hitting .345 with a 1.055 OPS. He had just played in his 81<sup>st</sup> game—exactly half a season. Interestingly, in Morneau's American League MVP season, four years earlier, the reverse phenomenon had occurred. Luke Scott, after starting the year in the minors with Round Rock of the Pacific Coast League, was summoned to the Diamondbacks after the 2006 All-Star break and logged a gigantic 1.045 OPS in 65 games in the second semester. These two exceptional shortened season hitting feats in recent times beg an intriguing question. What player in major league history while participating in no more than half his team's scheduled games posted the most outstanding overall hitting performance?

No player on a major league roster for longer than half a season was considered in researching the question posed. So as to make allowances for pre-expansion performers who may have played a game or two more than 77 when the schedule called for only 154 games but was frequently extended to enable teams to play off tie games, the maximum length of roster time was set at 81 games. To eliminate freakish outliers like Bob Hazle in 1957 and Todd Hollandsworth in 2001, to name but two part-timers that got on an uncharacteristic roll for just a few weeks or a month, players with less than 200 plate appearances were eliminated.

Lastly, the determining factor for establishing who had the best shortened season ever was the owner of what is generally viewed as the most significant measure of a hitter, the highest OPS (on-base percentage + slugging average). To calculate the all-time leader the current version of Lee Sinins's invaluable device, *The Complete Baseball Encyclopedia*, was used. After focusing the Sinins creation on single season achievements and setting my two parameters--minimum number of plate appearances (200) and maximum number of games (81)—I selected OPS, RBI and batting average from among the stats offered. The latter two were chosen largely to satisfy my curiosity. OPS remained the key measuring point.

In addition to Morneau's and Scott's achievements, among the other shortened season hitting achievements that seemed certain to appear on the Sinins "Top 10" list were Mickey Mantle's 1963 campaign when he had been enjoying a monster year before he broke his foot on June 5 running into a fence at Baltimore and was sidelined for all but 65 games during the regular season; Joe DiMaggio's 1949 blockbuster when he missed the entire first half of the season while recovering from heel surgery; and Willie McCovey's dynamite partial year in 1959 after the Giants brought him up from their Phoenix farm club on July 30 and could only blink in wonder when he clubbed .354 and became the lone Rookie of the Year to date not to arrive in the majors until after the All-Star break.

“I'd walk through hell in a gasoline suit to play baseball.”  
-Pete Rose



Go ahead Pete. No one would miss you.



While each of these Hall of Famers did indeed place high on the list, the winner was a long forgotten player who emerged as the leader not only in OPS but also in RBI and batting average.

Reb Russell.

Now, if you're asking who was Reb Russell, let's find out.

But first, the complete Top 10 list:

		<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OPS</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>AVG</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>(1)</u>
1@	Reb Russell	1922	1.091	250	60	.368	75	
2@	Willie McCovey	1959	1.085	219	52	.354	38	
3*	Mickey Mantle	1963	1.063	213	65	.314	35	
4*	Justin Morneau	2010	1.055	348	81	.345	56	
5*	Joe DiMaggio	1949	1.055	329	76	.346	67	
6*	Gary Sheffield	1995	1.054	274	63	.324	46	
7@	Luke Scott	2006	1.047	249	65	.336	37	
8*	Matt Williams	1995	1.046	318	76	.336	65	
9#	Dick Wakefield	1944	1.040	332	78	.355	53	
10*	George Selkirk	1937	1.040	293	78	.328	68	

The six players marked with a \* all lost half a season or more to surgery or injuries; Wakefield, the lone player marked with a #, missed the first half of the 1944 season while completing a World War II naval cadet training program; and the three marked with a @ all spent the first half of the season in the minors. But where Russell differed from McCovey and Scott, the other minor league call ups, is that he was no longer a prospect in 1922; he was 33 years old at the time and had been away from the majors since early in the 1919 season when he had washed out as a pitcher after battling wing trouble, a weight problem and sundry injuries for several seasons.

Nine years earlier Russell had first strutted onto the major league scene with the Chicago White Sox as an unpolished and unheralded 23-year-old Texas farm boy who had gone just 4-4 in 1912 with the Fort Worth Panthers of the Class B Texas League. Used mostly in relief early in the 1913 season by Sox manager Jimmy Callahan, he had suddenly blossomed into the top rookie southpaw in the Deadball Era, finishing the year with 22 wins, an AL rookie-record 316 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings and a share of the AL rookie record for shutouts with eight. (2) But the following year he slipped to 7-11 and never again quite regained his unparalleled frosh brilliance. What's more, no serious thought was ever given to making Russell into a position player since he was little more than an average hitting pitcher and carried just a .209 career BA with one home run in 465 at bats when the Sox cut all ties with him in 1919. Released to Minneapolis of the American Association, he got into just one game as a pitcher and finished the 1919 season in center field when the Millers ran short of outfielders, where he displayed some power by leading the team in homers with nine but hit just .266.

Russell was working the following summer as an auto assembler in his adopted hometown of Indianapolis when the Millers again found themselves thin in the outfield and took him back on board for the duration of the 1920 season. After batting .339 in 85 games, Russell hit his full stride at the plate in 1921, leading the Millers in batting, homers and RBI with marks that were outstanding but not extraordinary in what had now become the Lively Ball Era, a .368 BA with 33 homers and 132 RBI.

That winter Bill McKechnie, after playing with Russell in Minneapolis in 1921, retired as a player to join Pittsburgh as a coach under manager George Gibson and tried to generate interest among the Pirates' brass in his former Millers teammate, but Pittsburgh ultimately decided to pass on the 33-year-old, wary not only of his age but also of Minneapolis's Nicollet Field, whose short right field porch made it something of a paradise for left-handed hitters. However, in early July of 1922 Gibson resigned his post when the Pirates were languishing below .500, far out of contention, and McKechnie renewed his efforts to acquire Russell when he was named Pittsburgh's new skipper. On July 17, McKechnie landed his man, procuring Russell for a chunk of cash and pitcher John Hollingsworth. Four days later Russell was in Pirates garb for the first time. Batting cleanup and playing right field on a Friday afternoon in Forbes Field, he went an uninspiring 0-for-2 in a 6-0 win over the Phillies' Jimmy Ring and Jesse Winters. On the morning of Russell's arrival the Pirates were 41-44 and ensconced in sixth place, 12 games behind the front-running New York Giants. They had been using a platoon of Ray Rohwer and Johnny Moka in right field and would employ seven different right fielders all told in 1922, including Russell.

The first issue of *The Sporting News* that appeared after Russell's acquisition, on July 27, lamented how all season long the Pirates had been handicapped in right field and expressed the lorn hope in the Pittsburgh camp that since the club's youth rebuilding program had been an abysmal failure, Russell would provide a decent stopgap and perhaps even help the Corsairs climb as high as the first division. *The Sporting News* also emphasized that while the lefty-swinging Russell "took a healthy cut at every good ball pitched to him," the Pirates harbored no great dreams that he would be a home run hitter because no one had ever "made much of a home run record" in Pittsburgh owing to its "big plant." (6) Forbes Field's dimensions in 1922 were 376 feet down the line in right field (Russell's most inviting target), 356 feet in left and 456 feet at the deepest corner of center field. In the 69 games the Pirates had left to play once Russell joined them they went 44-25, playing the best ball of any team in the National League in the final two and a half months of the season, and finished in third place, just a game behind second-place Cincinnati. Russell's .368 BA and 75 RBI in just 60 games were eye-popping. At a glance, his 12 home runs, though impressive in so few games, only tied him for 12<sup>th</sup> place on the NL four-bagger chart in 1922. Yet they also tied him with Chief Wilson (1911) for the most home runs in a season by a Pirate since 1901 and fell only one short of Jake Stenzel's all-time club mark at that time of 13 in 1894.

McKechnie had every reason to claim bragging rights to the most stunning find of the year. Perhaps no one in his right mind could have reasonably expected Russell to sustain his excellence over a full schedule the following season, especially since he would turn 34 before it began, but few would have predicted that he would crash and burn almost from its outset. Russell got off to such a poor start in the spring that he was soon in danger of losing his job to Clyde Barnhart, a journeyman third baseman who had lost his position to Pie Traynor. The August 2, 1923, issue of *The Sporting News* recounted that Russell was not only a flop as a power hitter after being expected to rival Babe Ruth but also a poor base runner and a below average outfielder with an arm that was barely adequate, probably due to its having been weakened by his earlier bouts with shoulder and elbow trouble. (9) By that time Russell was spending most of his time either on the bench or being platooned, but he did manage to stick with the club for the entire 1923 season before dropping back down to the high minors where he again excelled until he was in his late 30s. (10) Too, he ended the big top portion of his career on a nice uptick. In his major league finale on September 30, 1923, at Cubs Park (later Wrigley Field) he played left field and went 2-for-4 with a home run and two RBI in a 5-4 loss to Cubs rookie Rip Wheeler. (11) In his official finale, that is.

Russell's version of his finale is quite different according to Rob Neyer. He claimed later in life that he was playing right field in Forbes Field one afternoon in 1923, with part of an overflow crowd sprawled on the grass directly behind him. When he went back for a deep fly ball, while the other spectators parted to make way for him one man who had been riding him hard all day stubbornly remained seated and got in his path. Russell claimed he went up for the fly ball and came down on the spectator, deliberately spiking him in the chest as payback and ripping "the hide right off his belly." After the game the obstreperous spectator went to the Pirates' front office and vowed he would never come to another game after what Russell did to him and the team fired Russell on the spot as a result.

There is not a word of truth to this weird and hardly self-aggrandizing story, just as there is little truth in most of the letters Russell wrote to the Hall of Fame and in particular to Lee Allen on his own behalf long after his retirement. In a 1965 letter to Allen, Russell maintained: "I really believe that I have received the least recognition of any player in baseball, considering my batting average, games won, and home runs . . ." (13) Russell also boasted in another letter six years later that he hurled against Babe Ruth in the first game Ruth ever pitched for the Red Sox in 1914 and not only beat him 1-0 but never lost to him in all the times they faced each other. (14) The problems here are that Ruth faced the Indians and not Russell's White Sox in the first game he chucked for the Red Sox on July 11, 1914, and that Russell faced Ruth only once as a starter in his career, that on September 24, 1917, when he lost 3-0 to the Babe at Fenway Park.

Yes, Russell was something of a braggart when it came to his baseball exploits and was far from a reliable source on them, much like the semi-literate Jack Keefe whom Ring Lardner in all likelihood modeled after the Texas farm boy at least in part in his classic epistolary baseball novel *You Know Me, Al*, published in 1916. Yet about his greatest accomplishment in the game he seems never to have uttered a word.

In 1922 Ewell Albert "Reb" Russell had the greatest shortened season of any hitter in major league history.

# COLONEL STOGIES' STUMPERS

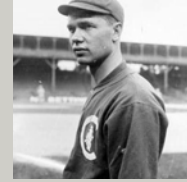


## WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

More Who's Who in the SCL: **Georges all the way down!**

1. Who is this 1913 SCL rookie hurler who shares his given name with a US President?

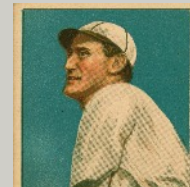
**George Washington "Zip" Zabel is a member of the Alexandria Tornados.**



2. This guy holds the Detroit Tiger franchise record for wins.

**George August "Hooks" Dauss is a starting pitcher for the Kenmore Miners.**

3. This guy, who shares a nickname with Whos Who #2, lost a perfect game when he hit a batter with 2 outs in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. He also got the save in one of the greatest pitched games in the SCL.



**George Leroy "Hooks" Wiltse hit pitcher George McQuillen to lose his perfect game.**

**He finished with a 10 inning no-hitter. Wiltse got the final 2 outs in a combined perfect game for the Turks.**

**Addie Joss was removed with 1 out in the 9<sup>th</sup> after a rain delay.**

**(Gorilla GM Ryan Buckley guessed: tofu, baked yams, and soybeans. He's obviously one of those nut job vegans!)**

1. This SCL pitcher is part African American, and part Comanche?



2. This SCL outfielder holds the Dodgers franchise record in hits?



3. This former Skeeter is the only major league player to graduate from the Wentworth Military Academy? Former Mutual Of Omaha's Wild Kingdom host Marlin Perkins is also an alumni.





Restoration by Bruce Menard

“ Hans Wagner Number” by J.F. Kernan

This is a 1915 cover for *Baseball Magazine*. J.F. Kernan is the illustrator. He had 100’s of magazine covers, including *The Country Gentleman*, *Outdoor Life*, and 26 covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Whenever I think of turn of the century baseball, I always think of Honus Wagner. Every player that played between 1900 and 1920 is made from his mold. Stoic, weather beaten, and dedicated to the game of baseball.



And everyone of them is wearing this sweater.

Ball players back then really loved their sweaters. Maybe it was colder back then, maybe it was just the style. They should bring the baseball sweater back. It makes you look tougher. Windbreakers just make you look delicate. Today’s ball player loves to wear a beard. They think it makes them look tough, but the windbreaker they’re wearing just screams “fragile”.



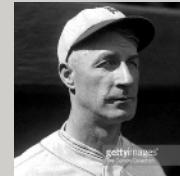


GAME #4 10/17/1913, Navin Field  
Walter Johnson vs Christy Mathewson

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

No image available  
for William Parks

Mathewson and Johnson battled for 7 innings. But with the scored tied at 2 in the 8<sup>th</sup>, a Red Smith error at 3<sup>rd</sup>, unhinged Mathewson. A pinch hit 2 run triple by William Parks was the big blow for the Warbirds.



GAME #5 10/18/1913, Navin Field  
Ray Collins vs Hank Robinson

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
Warbirds	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	11	2	11	0
Stogies	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	1	7	0

A Burt Shotten triple and a sac fly by Stuffy McInnis in the 7<sup>th</sup>, drove in the World Series clinching run for the Warbirds.

No home runs were hit, while each team hit 5 triples. The Warbirds hit .304, while the pitching staff put up a 2.20 ERA. The Stogies managed just a .204 team average to go with a 3.07 ERA. Christy Mathewson was hit hard, going 0-2 with a 5.54 ERA. The MVP for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight World Series is Walter Johnson. 2-0, 1.59 and 15 K's.



Drawing by- Diane Dobson Barton



The Athletics Eddie Collins smacks a base hit off Giants pitcher Jeff Tesreau in the 1913 World Series, won by the Athletics 4 games to 1.