



# SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ I just read the latest Second Chance News, and in my 94 years on this planet, I’ve never read anything like this. ” - Larry Storch

Wow, you’re still alive!? I loved you in Hogan’s Heroes. I don’t know why everyone says you’re so dumb!?

## Notes From The Commissioner

Robins’ GM, V, used to eat sugar cookies on rookie pitcher, Ben Tincup’s front porch. Dave Nemece used to toss his future Stogie pitcher, George Uhle’s morning paper into his bushes, and he had a huge schoolboy crush on Rabbit Maranville’s daughter. Man, these guys are old!!

I once shared a short plane ride with George Carlin. Not baseball related, I know, but it was still a special moment for me. He hogged the middle armrest. But, hey, he’s George Carlin. He’s earned the middle armrest.

In the grand scheme of life, Ben Tincup and George Uhle are insignificant players on the world stage. George Carlin has made millions of people laugh, and will be remembered for many years to come. But, for me, Ben Tincup’s 8 Major League wins, and George Uhle’s lifetime 3.99 ERA are what’s important. V once said to me in an email exchange that he wasn’t worried about winning, for him it was about the journey. I’m right there with you, except I really want to beat up on the Gorillas and Warbirds. A guys gotta have some fun on his journey!

## 1914 In The Second Chance Baseball League

1914 saw the Miracle Braves led by Manager George Stallings charge back from 7<sup>th</sup> place in the NL on July 4<sup>th</sup>, to win the NL Pennant and an eventual sweep of the Philadelphia A’s in the 1914 World Series. Does the SCL have a miracle team in 1914?



Johnny Evers and George Stallings

Bennie Kauff (Miners) led all of baseball with a .370 average. Ty Cobb (Vinegars) and his .368 average might have something to say about that. Gavy Cravath (Skeeters) hit 19 Hrs, while Walter Johnson (Warbirds) won 28 games. Dutch Leonard (Gorillas) put up a record 0.96 ERA. His 0.89 WHIP wasn’t too shabby either.



Dutch Leonard

Honus Wagner (Turks) and Nap Lajoie (Skeeters) both reached the 3,000 hit mark. George “Rube” Foster (Stogies) tossed 42 consecutive scoreless innings on his way to a 1.70 ERA. Joe Benz (Gorillas) no hit the Indians on 5/31. He would go on to lose 19 games for the White Sox that season. Babe Ruth (Pines) made his MLB debut on 7/11/14. Jim Scott (Gorillas) no hits the Senators for 9 innings, only to lose 1-0 in 10 innings. George “Iron” Davis (Terrapins) no hits the Phillies 7-0 on 9/9/14. His only career shutout.



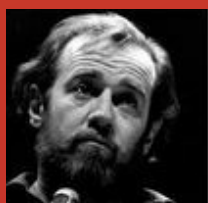
Welcome to the SCL Babe



Ben Tincup



George Uhle



George Carlin Sez:  
Baseball is the only major sport that appears backward in a mirror.

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Joe Tinker- Alexandria Tornados

[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)



He is one of the most famous shortstops in the history of baseball, primarily for a piece of bad poetry that begins "Tinker to Evers to Chance." Despite not having played a game outside baseball's Stone Age, Joe Tinker is still known, if only vaguely, because people know that single line. But today marks the centennial of Joe Tinker doing something no other Major Leaguer had ever done. On Tuesday, 28 June 1910, in an 11-1 romp over Cincinnati, Tinker became the first big league ballplayer to steal home twice in a single game.

Over a career lasting from 1902 through 1916, Tinker played 1806 games, all but 267 with the Chicago Cubs. He managed to hit .262 with 2273 total bases, 263 doubles and 114 triples. His OBP was .308, his slugging percentage was .353, giving him an OPS of .661. He stole 336 bases (including the two on this date one hundred years ago) and walked 416 times. In 1914 and 1915 he played in the Federal League, hitting about what he hit for his career. He managed the Federal League Chicago Whales to second place in 1914 and then won the Fed's pennant in 1915. In 1916 he took over the Cubs manager's role and led them to fifth place, a spot down from their 1915 position. He was let go and the Cubs remained in fifth for 1916.

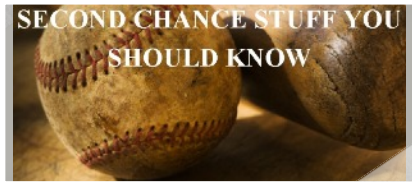
He played in four World Series', all with the Cubs. He was part of a winning team in 1907 and 1908, and suffered losses in 1906 and 1910. He didn't do particularly well in World Series play, hitting .235 with one home run, seven stolen bases, and 21 total bases. His best Series' were 1908 when he hit the home run, slugged .421, and had four RBIs; and 1910 when he hit .333, slugged .444, and had two doubles.

Over the years, because of the poem, he's become most famous for his fielding. It's also become common to deride his fielding as nothing special. His fielding numbers certainly aren't bad for the era, but Honus Wagner he isn't. It is, however, wrong to deride his contribution at short. He finished first in assists by shortstops three times and second another three. He was also first in errors once and second a further two times. His range factor was consistently in the top four shortstops and led the league three times (plus once in the Federal League). He still ranks 38th in defensive games as a shortstop.

I think a lot of the problem people have with Tinker is that he's in the Hall of Fame. His numbers aren't bad, but to single him out for the Hall is a bit much for most people. He was elected to Cooperstown in 1946 by the "Old Timer's Committee" (We now call it the "Veteran's Committee", which has a nicer ring for us old timer's.). Prior to his election he'd not gotten a lot of support among the writers, but was steadily climbing the ladder, peaking at 27.2% in 1946, the year the Veteran's Committee put him over the top.

I'm not sure Tinker really deserves enshrinement in Cooperstown. Maybe he does; maybe he doesn't. And I guess that says a lot about what I truly think. It seems to me that there should be no question about whether a player is in the HoF or he isn't, so if you have a question, then he's probably not someone who should, in your opinion, be there. Now I don't mean to imply by that comment that all of us will question the same people or agree on the same people, only that if you have a question in your own mind then you probably deep down inside don't think the guy ought to be honored. For me Tinker is one of those. Having said all that, I'm still glad he's remembered.

## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Surprisingly, Germany Schaefer's .315 career average is good for 10<sup>th</sup> place in the SCL. (Minimum 1000 PA)  
He is sadly, unsigned for 1914.

Clyde Milan (Caterpillars) is the SCL career leader in SB's with 301.  
He has a .752 success rate.



## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Caterpillars have led the league in stolen bases for the last 2 seasons, totaling 537 thefts, thanks to Clyde Milan's efforts. The Gorillas are a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> with just 394. The Gorillas stole a league record 329 bases in 1911, led by Bob Bescher's 102. The modern record is 341 by the 1976 Oakland A's, led by Billy North's 75





# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

“ Game Called”- Grantland Rice



Game Called by darkness — let the curtain fall.  
No more remembered thunder sweeps the field.  
No more the ancient echoes hear the call  
To one who wore so well both sword and shield:  
The Big Guy's left us with the night to face  
And there is no one who can take his place.

Game Called — and silence settles on the plain.  
Where is the crash of ash against the sphere?

Where is the mighty music, the refrain  
That once brought joy to every waiting ear?  
The Big Guy's left us lonely in the dark  
Forever waiting for the flaming spark.

Game Called — what more is there for us to say?  
How dull and drab the field looks to the eye  
For one who ruled it in a golden day  
Has waved his cap to bid us all good-bye.  
The Big Guy's gone — by land or sea or foam  
May the Great Umpire call him “safe at home.”

Grantland Rice was born on November 11, 1880 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Other notables born in Murfreesboro are former 1st Lady, Sarah Polk, and 70's journeyman pitcher Chuck Taylor. You would think a big time cultural hub such as Murfreesboro would have more quality alumni, but you'd be wrong. It is the hometown of **The Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza**, a heavy metal punk band, but you probably already knew that.

Rice attended Vanderbilt University where he played football, and was the shortstop and team captain of the baseball team. He graduated in 1901 with a degree in classics. Very similar to myself.

He was a sportswriter for the *Atlanta Journal*, the *Cleveland News*, and the *New York Tribune*. He was posthumously awarded the Baseball Hall of Fame's J.G. Taylor Spink Award in 1966. This award is given for “meritorious contributions to baseball writing”. He joins, among many others, Ring Lardner, Hugh Fullerton, Damon Runyan, and more recently Peter Gammons, and bitter detractor of the Second Chance News, Dan Shaughnessy. (See SC News volume1 #6)



His account of the 1924 Notre Dame backfield in a game against Army, “**Four Horesmen**” is quintessential Rice.

**Outlined against a blue-gray October sky the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as famine, pestilence, destruction and death. These are only aliases. Their real names are: Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden. They formed the crest of the South Bend cyclone before which another fighting Army team was swept over the precipice at the Polo Grounds this afternoon as 55,000 spectators peered down upon the bewildering panorama spread out upon the green plain below.**

His writing style made athletes and their deeds larger, more mythical and heroic than anyone before or since. The final line of his poem “Alumnus Football” has been used by every player and coach for almost 100 years.

**"Keep coming back, and though the world may romp across your spine,  
Let every game's end find you still upon the battling line;  
For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name,  
He writes - not that you won or lost - but how you played the Game."**



Grantland Rice died on July 13, 1954, he was 73 years old.

**“I set records that will never be equaled. In fact, I hope 90% of them don't even get printed.”**

**- Bob Uecker**



I know Bob Uecker is in the Hall Of Fame, but he should also have an entire wing named after him.

## THE COMMISSIONER'S FEARLESS SCL PREDICTIONS:

I didn't use sabermetrics, WAR, VIP, WHIP, or OCD to make my choices. But I did use the time-tested method of POMA. Pulled it Out Of My Ass. It has never let me down, except for that one time in the ER. That was embarrassing!

### American League

1. Gashouse Gorillas- As much as it pains me. Dutch Leonard- 0.79, Hippo Vaughn- 2.05, Slim Sallee-2.10, and Joe Benz-2.26 are a formidable rotation. Jake Daubert-.328, Sam Crawford-.314, 26 triples, and Dutch Zwilling- .313, 16 Hrs, lead an offense that could see 6 starters hit over .290 with power.
2. Jersey City Skeeters- On paper they have the highest team batting average-.284, with the most team Hrs-93. Sherry Magee-.314, 15 Hrs, and Gavvy Cravath-.299, 19 HRs lead a pretty solid offense. Bill James-1.90, Babe Adams-2.51, Stan Coveleski-2.49 and Rube Foster -2.48 anchor a strong 4 man rotation. Throw in what should be a solid bullpen and I think the Skeeters have a chance.
3. Shamokin Stogies- Eddie Collins-.344, and Beals Becker-.325 provide the hits. Vic Saier provides the power. He could very easily win his 2<sup>nd</sup> SCL HR title. George "Rube" Foster- 1.70, and Jeff Tesreau- 2.37 are the top 2 starters. Tesreau does give up a lot of walks. While Christy Mathewson has seen better seasons. A 3.00 ERA and 16 HRs allowed are a concern.
4. Virginia Rebels- Joe Jackson hits "just" .338, while Fred Luderus provides the power with 12 Hrs. Claude Hendrix-1.69, and Eddie Cicotte- 2.04 are the top starters. The offense could struggle, but their pitchers should keep the ball in the park, allowing a league low 24 Hrs.
5. Kenmore Miners- Candy Jim Taylor's 18 Hrs, Benny Kauff's .370, and Ben Taylor's .367 may not be enough to win games for the Miners. Although they could steal a lot of bases, leading to more run production from the rest of the lineup. Chief Bender-2.26, and Nick Cullop-2.35 lead a thin pitching staff.
6. Sharpley Works Turks- George Burns- 303, and George Anderson-.316 lead a line up with very little power, that could struggle to score runs. Pastor Pareda-1.69, and Carl Weilman- 2.08 will keep them out of the cellar.
7. Georgia Pines- Casey Stengel-. 316 may be their best hitter, while Larry Gilbert's 6 Hrs may lead the team. Their 2.99 ERA is the highest in the AL, with Bob Harmon-2.53 their best starter.

### National League

1. Wheaton Warbirds- As much as it pains me. Offensively they are not the best. Stuffy McInnis hits .314, with just 21 EBH. Heinie Zimmerman hits .299. Their 25 team Hrs is the lowest in the league. Pitching is not a problem. Walter Johnson-1.72, Jeff Pfeffer-1.97, Walt Cooper 2.13, and Lee Wade-2.37 lead a pitching staff with a 2.39 team ERA. Who needs runs when you pitch a ton of shutouts?
2. Baltimore Terrapins- HR Baker hits .319 with 9 Hrs. Steve Evans-.348, 12 Hrs, and Charlie Hanford-.291, 12 Hrs lead an offense that could see 7 starters hit over .290 with some pop. Russ Ford-1.82, and Dick Rudolph-2.35, could both win 25 games. Their bullpen is suspect.
3. Caterpillars- Tris Speaker hits .338, to lead a rather anemic offense. Their 29 team Hrs are 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the Warbirds for lowest in the league. Smokey Joe Williams-2.03, Pol Perritt-2.36, Pete Alexander-2.38 and Earl Hamilton - 2.50 might not be enough to get them back to the playoffs.
4. ArkLaTex Robins- Jesse Barber-.336, and Bill Kenworth-.317, 15 Hrs lead an offense that could score a lot of runs. Doc Watson-2.01, and Rankin Johnson-2.26 lead a thin Robins' pitching staff.
5. Mid Western Spit N Vinegars- Ty Cobb hits .368, but will burnout at the 110 game mark. Fred Hutchinson's 16 Hrs will lead the team. Rube Bressler-1.77, Ray Caldwell-1.91, and Cy Falkenberg-2.22 are good, but the rest of the staff could struggle.
6. Bridgeport Blue Meanies- Louis Santop-.377, and George Shively-.343 lead a decent offense with some power. Bill Doak-1.72 might win 20 games, but it could be a struggle for any other starter to win 15.
7. Alexandria Tornados- Spotswood Poles-.418, and Cristobal Torriente-.392 will each play in about 100 games, with not much available to pick up the slack. Lefty Tyler- 2.69, and Jim Shaw- 2.70 lead a pitching staff with a league high 3.29 ERA.

Skeeters beat the Gorillas. (Because they must be destroyed) Terrapins beat the Warbirds. (Because they must be destroyed)  
The Terrapins beat the Skeeters in 7 games for the Championship.

## **COLONEL STOGY'S FEARLESS FORECASTS**

### **SKEETERS**

Hitting—Solid at all positions. Bradley and Lennox hugely important one-year wonder draft acquisitions.

Pitching—If even 3 of the top 4 starters come through and Lindsay does likewise in the pen this team is a lock to win the AL.

### **GORILLAS**

Hitting— Middle infield play will decide final finish.

Pitching-- Too much pitching depth not to contend, may give the Skeeters a run for it.

### **ROBINS**

Hitting-- Outfield and first base will decide, strongest infield in the SCL.

Pitching-- Anderson in the end will be the staff leader this year, may have to wait on Whitworth to develop to contend

### **PINES**

Hitting-- First rate OF, dicey elsewhere.

Pitching-- Morton out of the pen could be a rookie of the year darkhorse, rare team with the opportunity to experiment with plenty of candidates before settling on its best starters.

### **STOGIES**

Hitting-- Outfield bats must make up for mediocre to poor sticks everywhere else except 2B

Pitching-- Mathewson and Groom will determine how well this staff measures up. Schmutz will get the ball if this team gets in the Series and it goes 7.

### **TORNADOS**

Hitting-- Carr and Negro Leaguers may not be enough to make up for weak sticks elsewhere in the infield.

Pitching-- Hard to find a staff ace here but Zabel could emerge as the year's best pen man.

### **VINEGARS**

Hitting-- Should contend if Cobb is employed judiciously.

Pitching-- Caldwell could win 20 here if he had about 50 more innings to play with, sneakily good staff.

### **TERRAPINS**

Hitting-- A big year from Evans could overcome iffy output from 1B.

Pitching-- Lots to like here, Ford especially, but 4 starters who give up over 100 walks each may be too much to overcome.

### **CATERPILLARS**

Hitting-- Has the rare luxury of platooning at 1B, could well win it all.

Pitching-- Big years from Alex, Williams and either Shawkey or Perritt and the 'pillars remain a strong contender.

### **REBELS**

Hitting—OF is loaded—maybe overloaded when it comes to playing time; need decent season from Barry at SS and to spot start Crandall at 2B against other contenders.

Pitching-- Hendrix is the likely Cy Young winner and is joined by 2 starters that give up 0 home runs; if the bats do their share, the Rebs contend once again.

### **TURKS**

Hitting-- Weak at 3B, mediocre at 1B, but OH, MY that catching depth and a first-class leadoff hitter in Burns.

Pitching-- Deep staff with Pennock an excellent potential closer and LaClaire a potential sleeper rookie star.

### **WARBIRDS**

Hitting-- Outfield patchy but will nonetheless contend again.

Pitching— Johnson is...well, Johnson again. 'birds have the best lefty cast in the majors and are still the team to beat.

### **MEANIES**

Hitting—If their Negro Leaguers live up to their raw stats, this team could contend.

Pitching— Wolfgang should lead the league in saves if things go right with team's starters which will be led by Doak, a potential Cy Young candidate.

### **MINERS**

Hitting-- Catchers, Hooper and Carey need to provide enough offensive support for Negro League stars and Kauff. May have problems giving future team leaders enough playing time.

Pitching-- Loaded with potential staff workhorses but Cullop will be the go-to arm if this team contends. Daus, above all others, needs to have a good year.

**World Series Prediction: Skeeter's Ed Lennox 2 homers in Game 6 ends Warbirds bid for a 3-peat in Ray Collins's coda appearance in Wheaton garb.**

# COLONEL STOGIES' STUMPERS



## WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

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

Caterpillars' pitcher **Smokey Joe Williams** pitched 27 years in the Negro leagues, and was inducted into the Hall Of Fame in 1999.



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

Stogies outfielder **Zack Wheat's** 2804 hits were amassed in 18 seasons with the Dodgers. His 462 doubles, and 171 triples are also franchise records.



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.

**Beals Becker (Stogies)** was the 1<sup>st</sup> player to hit 2 pinch hit home runs in a season in 1910.

Did you ever notice that Marlin Perkins always got to feed the baby animals with a bottle, while his side kick Jim Fowler was always the one that had to wrestle the alligator, or stick his head in a hippo's mouth?



## More Who's Who In the SCL:

1. This SCL pitcher won 19 straight games in the Texas League in 1917?



2. This hard drinking SCL pitcher was banned from baseball by Kenesaw Mountain Landis in 1922?



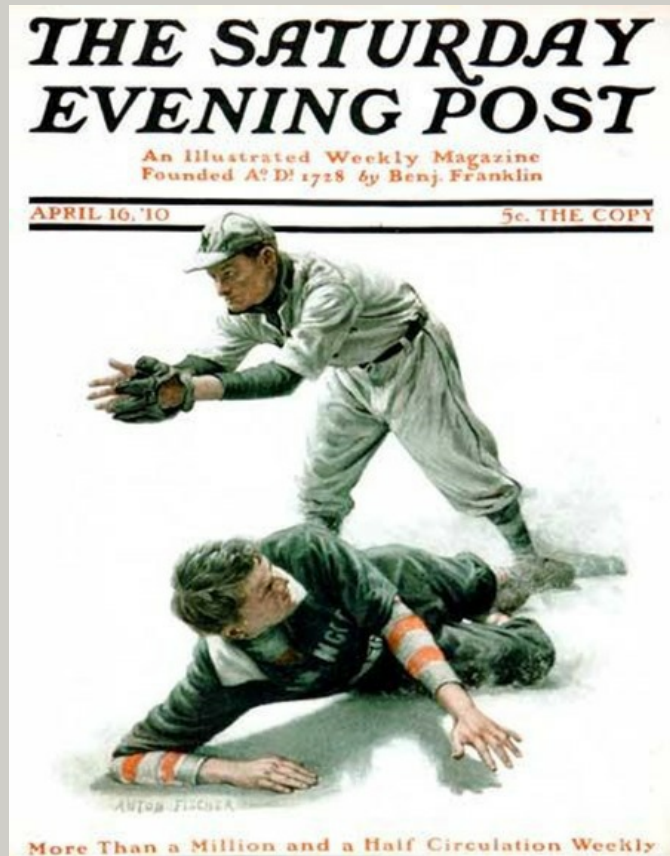
3. This future batting champion got his nickname because of his stutter?



Do you know who these SCL players are? Drop me a line. Don't let Ryan Buckley have all the fun!







Originally posted on Baseball Revisited

“Sliding Into Home Place” by Anton Otto Fischer 4/16/1910

Anton Fischer was born in Germany in 1882. When he was orphaned he ran away to escape from being forced into joining the priesthood. A wise choice if you ask me. He immigrated to the United States, and eventually became the Artist Laureate for the US Coast Guard. Who knew that even existed? He contributed illustrations for *The Saturday Evening Post* for 48 years, many of them depicting ships at sea. Personally, I think he should have stuck with boats.

Whoever named this illustration, obviously knows nothing about baseball. Home Place? Has any baseball player ever slid into home place? A description of this illustration makes note of the strange looking catcher’s mitt. Has that person ever seen a baseball game? This player is obviously not a catcher, and based on his freakishly long and pointed chin he may not be human. The other player is obviously safe, but has he slid into the 3rd level of Hell, because it looks like Beelzebub is looking to tag out his soul.

“Slide to me, and find what you fear the most.” (Insert satanic laugh here) No thank you Satan.



Am I wrong? Stick a baseball cap on this guy, and he could be our cover boy’s soul thieving twin.