



# SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ I’m sure there are billions and billions of reasons to read the Second Chance News, but I can’t think of one of them. ”  
- Carl Sagan

Carl Sagan opened my eyes to the wonder and majesty of the Universe, but I’ll never understand his choice of the turtle-neck.

## Notes From The Commissioner

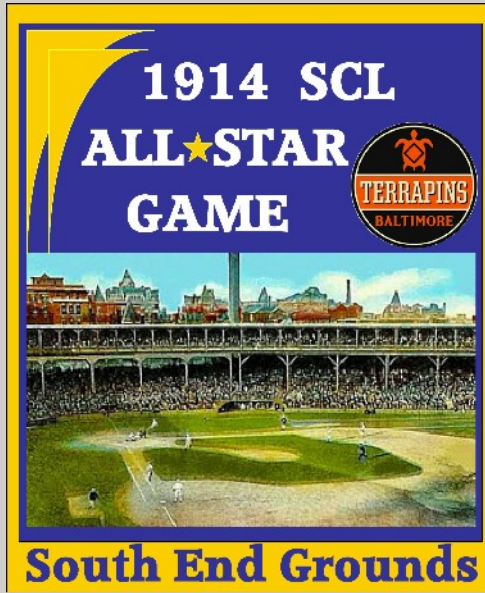
I have a bookshelf full of books. Now that I think about it, I guess that is kind of redundant. If I filled those same shelves with Beanie Babies, they would be Beanie Baby shelves full of Beanie babies. Awesome, I know, but I got those beauties safely stored away. They’re going to make a comeback some day, and I’ll be rolling in dough! You just wait and see! My wife thinks I’m crazy, but she’ll see, just like everyone else that doubts me. I was wrong about the pogs, but not about this. They’ll be calling me the Beanie baby King, and who’ll be laughing then?



Pecan-A hamster Beanie (Adorable...Amirite?)

The majority of the books that I have are baseball related, both fiction and non-fiction. They are joined by a lot of books on history, science fiction, football, and even Shakespeare. So I know you must be thinking “What are your favorite baseball books, Kevin?” I’m glad you asked Buckley. Check out [Page-9](#) It has a list of my favorite non-fiction baseball books.

## 1914 In The Second Chance Baseball League



The 1914 SCL All Star Game will be played July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914 at the South End Grounds, home of Jimmy Keenan’s Baltimore Terrapins. The SCL mid-season classic is currently tied at 2 games apiece.

It is tentatively scheduled to be played live on Sunday 12/17/17. An SCL holiday gift that’s better than a sweater and almost as good as a snuggie. Once again I’m looking for a GM from each league to pick the players. If you are interested please let me know. Preference will be given to any GM that has not picked the All Stars in the past. Any and all Gms are invited to participate in managing the teams when we play it on Google Hangouts.

If you volunteer to select the All Stars, you must be able to submit your line up in a timely manner. The stats used to make your choices will be posted after the games played on

Wed 12/13, and must be sent to me by Sat. 12/16 6pm ET.

### Who’s got the early edge on making the team, and who could be left off? WHO’S IN WHO’S OUT

- Tornados- Cristobal Torriente, Walt Dickson
- Robins- Jules Thomas, Fred Anderson
- Terrapins- Charlie Hanford, Russ Ford
- Blue Meanies- Pop Lloyd, Mellie Wolfgang
- Gorillas- Al Scheer, Gene Packard
- Pines- Eddie Foster, Guy Morton
- Skeeters- Sherry Magee, Babe Adams
- Miners- Ben Taylor, Hooks Dauss
- Vinegars- Hal Chase, Mordecai Brown
- Caterpillars- Tris Speaker, Smokey Joe Williams
- Stogies- Eddie Collins, Doc Ayers
- Turks- Del Pratt, George Suggs
- Rebels- Joe Jackson, Dave Davenport
- Warbirds- Burt Shotten, Jeff Pfeffer

- Spottswood Poles, Zip Zabel
- Bill McKechnie, Cannonball Redding
- Lee Magee, George Mullin
- Wildfire Schulte, Ray Fisher
- Larry Doyle, Rube Benton
- Edd Roush, Joe Bush
- Nap Lajoie, Reb Russell
- Buck Herzog, Chief Bender
- Ty Cobb(?), Cy Falkenberg
- Clyde Milan, Rube Marquard
- Zack Wheat, Jeff Tesreau
- Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson
- Solly Hoffman, Claud Hendrix
- Bobby Veach, Walter Johnson(?)

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Bennie Kauff- Kenmore Miners

[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)



1. Benjamin Kauff was born in Pomeroy, Ohio in 1890. Quitting school at age 11 he joined his father working in the coal mines.

2. Baseball was, for Kauff as for dozens of other players, a way out of the mines. After playing locally, he was signed by Parkersburg of the Virginia Valley League in 1910. He spent 1911 in the minors, played five games for the Highlanders (Yankees) in 1912, went back to the minors, and was picked up by the Cardinals in 1913. They sent him to Indianapolis in the minors.

3. In 1914 a third major league, the Federal League, was formed. Indianapolis was one of the cities given a team. As the ownership knew Kauff and his skill level, he was signed to play for the fledgling team.

4. Known as "The Ty Cobb of the Feds," Kauff led the Federal League in hits, runs, doubles, stolen bases, total bases, average, slugging, and WAR in 1914. He was almost as good in 1915.

5. At the end of the 1915 season the Feds folded and he signed with the New York Giants. He did poorly in 1916, much better in 1917.

6. In 1917 he made it to the World Series as the Giants starting center fielder. He hit .160, but had two home runs, five RBIs, and four hits in a losing cause.

7. He had another good year in 1918 and fell off in 1919. By 1920 he was considered a solid, rather than great, player. He was, by this point, known as much for his fancy clothes and jewelry as for his playing ability and considered one of the flashiest dressers in the game.

8. After 55 games in 1920 he was arrested for selling a stolen car. He was already under suspicion for fixing games (there is no evidence he ever did) while playing with Hal Chase (who did fix games) on the Giants.

9. According to Kauff two of his friends stole a car, convinced him they owned it legally (apparently they showed him a forged bill of sale) and he helped them paint the car and then was involved in selling the car. He owned a car dealership and the premises were used for the detailing of the stolen car. He was arrested and charged with auto theft and selling stolen property.

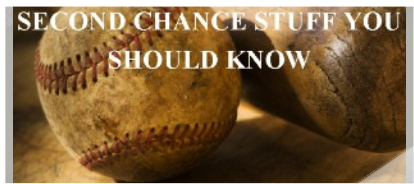
10. Kauff was placed on trial, denied the charges (providing a receipt showing he was having dinner with his wife in a restaurant when the car was stolen), and was acquitted in 1921. While charges were pending Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis banned him from the Major Leagues. He played in Toronto in the International League.

11. Despite the acquittal, Landis banned Kauff from baseball in 1921. Landis didn't like some of the information about Kauff that came out at the trial (association with thieves and gamblers) and declared he did not, despite the jury verdict, believe Kauff.

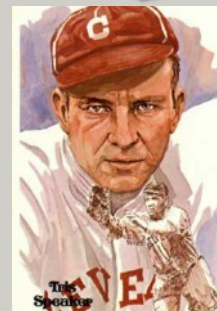
12. Kauff sued at the New York Supreme Court, but lost as the court declared it had no standing in the case. He later worked as a scout (he was banned from playing, not scouting) and as a clothing salesman (what else for the flashiest dresser in the big leagues) for the John R. Lyman company in Columbus, Ohio.

13. Benny Kauff died in Columbus, Ohio in 1961.

## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



The SCL record for doubles in a game is 3. 15 different players have accomplished this feat. Tris Speaker (Caterpillars) has done it 3x, the only player to do it more than once. Babe Adams (Skeeters) is the only pitcher with 3 doubles in a game. The MLB record is 4, with over 20 players on that list. The only players to do it 2x are Gavy Cravath (Skeeters) and Albert Belle. (Both in 1999)



Tris Speaker



Gavy Cravath

## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The MLB team record for doubles in a season is held by the 2008 Texas Rangers with 376, led by Ian Kinsler's 41.

The Wheaton Warbirds hit an SCL record 265 doubles in 1911, led by Duffy Lewis' 40.





# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

**First Time At Third**

- Jacqueline Sweeney

First time at third  
nothing but nerves.  
He fist-whomps his glove,  
tucks in his shirt,  
kicks up the dirt  
for the twenty-fifth time.

Gets in position  
pumped up to win,  
ump sweeps the plate.  
Will it ever begin?

A quick-line drive!  
He leaps for the sky.  
His body's an arrow,  
glove aimed high.

What's this?  
He stumbles,  
he tumbles to earth.

His glove is still empty,  
face red as his shirt.

The game hasn't started?  
"Play Ball!" can be heard  
and he's tried to snag  
a low flying bird;  
Fast flying, line driving  
feathers and all.

How could he think  
that a bird was a ball!



This guy's obviously never played Beer League softball.

## Jack Graney- Georgia Pines

While flipping through a book of Charles Conlon's baseball photographs, I came across this picture of Jack Graney. Why does this guy look so happy? What's his story? Well, I'm glad I asked myself!

Jack Graney was born in Canada on June 10, 1886. He played 14 seasons(1908, 1909-1922) all as an outfielder with the Cleveland Naps/Indians. He hit a mediocre .250 over that span, but his more than respectable .354 OBP made him an ideal lead-off hitter. As a lead-off hitter he got to experience a couple of memorable 1st's. In 1914 he was the 1st hitter to face Babe Ruth, he singled, and in 1916 he was the 1st official player to appear in a game with a number on his uniform.

Graney was also the proud owner of Larry, the official Cleveland mascot. Larry was a bull terrier that used to put on exhibitions before the games. His acrobatic skills were a crowd favorite, which included leaping over the backs of the ball players. He loved to chase down foul balls and would do so during the games. He was eventually banned from the ball park during games in 1914 when he refused to relinquish a foul ball to the umpire. There is also the possibility that he may have mauled a young child while retrieving a ball. This kind of puts a bumner on this feel good story, but which one of us haven't mauled a child for a foul ball. I'm looking at you Buckley! Larry died in 1917.



Jack Graney was a member of the 1920 Indians' Championship team. He appeared in 3 games as a pinch hitter, going hitless. He was the roommate of Ray Chapman in 1920 when he was killed by a Carl Mays pitch. Graney never forgave Mays, and always felt that the fatal beaming was done on purpose.

Graney retired after the 1922 season, and in 1932 he was hired by Cleveland radio station WHK to broadcast Indian home games, becoming the 1st professional player to make that transition. He was selected by CBS to work the broadcast of the 1935 World Series between the Cubs and the Tigers. As the voice of Cleveland baseball he also got to broadcast the 1948 World Series, the last Championship of the Indians. "He was a careful reporter and observer," Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter Bob Dolgan later remembered. "His voice dripped with sincerity and crackled with vitality. He wasn't bored with baseball, you could tell he loved his job. He made baseball sound like sport." He retired from baseball broadcasting in 1953. He passed away on April 20, 1978 in Missouri, he was 91 years old. He is a member of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, and the SABR Cleveland Chapter is named after him.



Jack Graney is currently playing out field, and is a teammate of Babe Ruth, for the Second Chance League Georgia Pines. Larry is right there with him, getting his second chance to chase down foul balls.

“ I've always tried to work hard. I'm not trying to show anybody up or do something spectacular for attention. ”

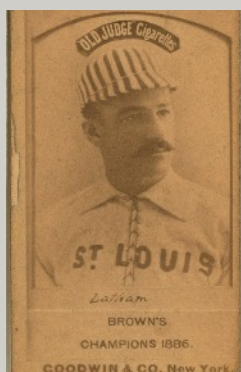
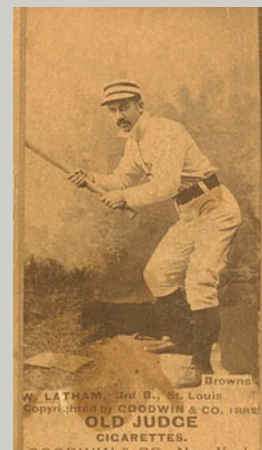
-Roy Halladay



## Arlie Latham Bio-David Nemec

Watching returning Civil War veterans playing the game in his small West Lebanon, New Hampshire hometown first ignited Walter Arlington “Arlie” Latham’s interest in baseball, especially since one of them was his father, a bugler in the Union army. Between 1877-79, he worked in a shoe factory and played with several New England semipro clubs, including Pittsfield and the General Worth Club of Stoneham, Massachusetts.

In 1880, Latham made his major league bow with Buffalo of the National League, playing shortstop, catcher and in the outfield. After a rousing debut on July 5, 1880, at Buffalo that culminated with him scoring the winning run in a 1-0 triumph over Worcester’s Lee Richmond was followed by 21 lackluster outings with the Bisons, Latham was handed his release and joined an independent team in Brockton, Massachusetts. Two years later, while playing with the independent Philadelphia Athletics, the slender right-handed infielder (5’8” and 150 pounds), who preferred to be known by a derivation of his middle name, was come upon by Ted Sullivan. Looking for players for the American Association St. Louis Browns, Sullivan signed Latham for \$100 a month to play third base for the struggling second division team. Latham would remain with St. Louis for seven seasons and become one of the Browns’ biggest stars and, arguably, their main drawing card.



By the time he finished his ML career he had scored 100 or more runs nine times, logged the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest single season stolen base total (129) in ML history, and compiled 739 career steals, good for 8th on the all-time list despite playing three full seasons (1883-85) when his thefts were not tabulated.

However, Latham (a/k/a “Jimmy Fresh”) is best remembered today as “The Freshest Man On Earth” and an unbridled and unpredictable free spirit, determined to use baseball as his personal stage.” The list of Latham antics during his career is long and varied but includes such things as doing cartwheels down the third base line after hitting a home run, making speeches and singing to the crowd from his defensive position, pretending to faint after what he perceived to be a poor call by an umpire and heckling the opposition, and somersaulting at home plate as he scored a key run. Browns owner Chris Von der Ahe was one of the favorite targets of Latham’s rapscaillon wit. He enjoyed foisting practical jokes on the St. Louis owner and delighted even more in ridiculing him by speaking with a thick German accent. After his playing days ended, Latham estimated that Von der Ahe had probably fined him over \$1 million dollars for his clowning, very little of which, of course, was ever paid.

Latham also was a pioneer in the 19<sup>th</sup> century style of base coaching characterized by loud and obnoxious yelling that was designed to rattle opposition players and umpires. A pivotal figure, to say the least, in the Browns’ rowdy march to four consecutive pennants, Latham not only used his skills as an entertainer and performer on the field but also in the off-season. For several years he toured with a theater troupe, performing comedic pieces, singing, and dancing to generally positive reviews.

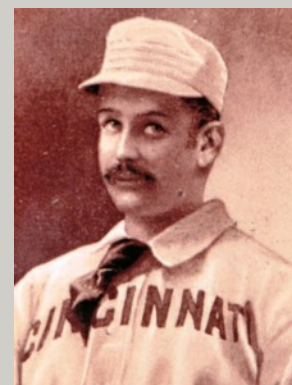
But far from all of Latham's exploits and behavioral quirks were favorably received. He and his first wife were famed for their violent screaming quarrels, usually about trivial subjects. Finally, in June 1886, he was granted a divorce from her and two days later married a woman of dubious repute named Ella Garvin.

The following September, Latham was one of the ringleaders on the Browns that cabled Von der Ahe to inform him the team would not play a scheduled exhibition game against the black Cuban Giants after Von der Ahe had already purchased train tickets for the entire club.

In late March 1888 a woman with whom he'd spent the night and had a previous relationship with that no one could ever imagine he'd renewed allegedly robbed him of \$150 diamond stickpin, and she accused him in turn of leveling a false charge to get even with her.

Then in 1889, during the heat of the AA pennant race while the Browns were trying to hoist their fifth straight pennant, Latham was suspended just days after Von der Ahe reportedly said the Browns would not take \$100,000 for him when it emerged that he was associating with the same Washington gambler that had been linked to pitcher Dupee Shaw in 1886 after suspicions arose that Shaw might be dumping games. When nothing untoward was proven against Latham, player-manager Charlie Comiskey coaxed Von der Ahe to reinstate him, only to suspend him again when he went on a bender with pitcher Elton Chamberlain. As a consequence of all the turmoil, Latham played only 118 games, slipped to .246 and Brooklyn ended the Browns' four-year reign as AA champions.

In 1890, Latham, like most of the top players on the Browns, jumped to the Players League, joining Comiskey in Chicago but was let go after he hit just .229 in 52 games. He was then allowed to join Cincinnati of the National League rather than return to St. Louis because Von der Ahe no longer wanted any part of him and had gotten a waiver the previous winter from other AA clubs, all of whom felt similarly about him after the brush with the Washington gambler. Although Latham regained a measure of respectability as both a player and a man with Cincinnati, he probably hurt the Reds as much as he helped them during his five and a half seasons in the Queen City. In 1891 manager Tom Loftus appointed him captain and leadoff hitter, but by September the skipper was accusing his third baseman of giving the team "the double cross all season." The following month Loftus acknowledged in *The Sporting News* that Latham had been a disaster as captain and admitted his mistake in allowing Latham too much latitude, which resulted in his captain coming to practices late or not at all and generally behaving like a spoiled brat.



On the field Latham retained much of his speed and range at 3B but began to acquire a reputation for ducking hard-hit balls and playing "for the record" (his personal stats). Yet, while he continued to score 100+ runs a season, the only stat of his from the 1890s for which he is remembered today occurred in 1892 when he became the first player in ML history to post as many as 600 at-bats in a season (626) without hitting a home run.



By the close of 1895, Cincinnati was anxious to unload Latham, and he was returned to St. Louis as part of a six-player trade. In the spring of 1896 Browns manager Harry Diddlebock named him bench captain since he was only a substitute at the moment and made shortstop Monte Cross field captain. Latham then proceeded to constantly overrule Cross and meanwhile had his way with Diddlebock. The rest of the team, led by Cross, came to loathe him as both a captain and as a player-- by now Latham just waved his glove at hard hit balls whenever he was in the game—but Von der Ahe nonetheless made him the manager on May 8 in place of Diddlebock. Latham's first act as pilot was to bench Cross and put Tom Niland, a sycophantic friend of his, at shortstop. The move reeked of Latham's mutual dislike for Cross and resulted in his almost immediate dismissal as manager on May 10.



Latham finished 1896 with Columbus of the Western League and then played in the minors until 1899 when Washington NL manager Arthur Irwin hired him as a combination utilityman and base coach. Latham lasted only six games as a player, and when Irwin had no wish to retain him just as a coach, Nick Young hired him in early July to finish the season as a regular NL umpire. The following August, after flirting most of the season between playing with a team in Atlantic City and umpiring a few NL games, he was hired by Cincinnati strictly as a base coach. The groundbreaking move was seen at first by the media as a publicity stunt to draw fans, and local scribes feared Latham would undermine Reds manager Bob Allen's authority while Cincinnati players saw the hiring as a ruse for Latham to spy on their participation in the newly formed Players Protective Association. By September 1900, however, the Cincinnati Times-Star was praising Latham's coaching and the team's prescience in hiring him to do it. But it was not until 1909 that Latham found a permanent home for his base-coaching skills with the New York Giants. In addition, Giants manager John McGraw used him in four games at age 49 and revealed when he stole a base and went 1-for-2.



It was during his days with the Giants that Latham restored his image as a colorful character and a goodwill ambassador for baseball. During World War I, while in England to organize baseball for American soldiers, he was invited to Buckingham Palace and took it upon himself to show King George V how to throw a baseball. He later said of the king, "He had a middling fair arm but it was hard to break him of the habit of his stiff arm way from playing cricket." Latham remained in England for some years as the Administrator Commissioner of Baseball.

After returning to the United States in 1923, he operated a delicatessen in uptown Manhattan and was the press box custodian for both the Yankees and the Giants, depending on which team was at home. Latham enjoyed his duties, especially because it gave him an audience for his torrent of tales about his playing days. Beat writers welcomed having him in the press box, and he held the position until his death at age 92 in Garden City, NY.

Prior to his death, Latham had been one of the last remaining bridges between the old and the modern game. His passing resulted in a celebration of a man who combined a lifelong love for baseball with a unique flair for adding comedic elements to it. Until the day he died he retained a sharp mind and a sprightliness that endeared him to everyone he met in part because it included an ability to admit that he had not always been a model player. Latham was even able to laugh at his personal addition to the baseball vernacular. An "Arlie Latham" today is a hard shot that an infielder dodges because it is too hot to handle.



# COLONEL STOGIES' STUMPERS



## WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

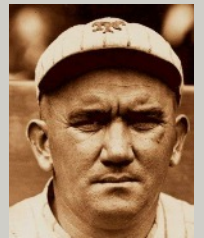
1. This SCL pitcher won 19 straight games in the Texas League in 1917?

**Snipe Conley won 27 games, including 19 in a row for the Dallas Submarines of the Texas League. He is currently waiting to make his SCL debut for the New Jersey Skeeters.**



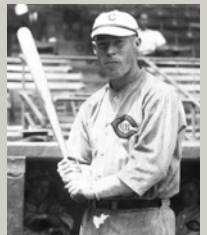
2. This hard drinking SCL pitcher was banned from baseball by Kenesaw Mountain Landis in 1922?

**Shufflin' Phil Douglas was suspended for trying to get money to "influence" the 1922 National League pennant race.**



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

**Eugene "Bubbles" Hargrave won the NL batting title in 1926 while playing for the Cincinnati Reds. He got the nickname Bubbles because he used to stutter on words with the letter "B". His brother William McKinley "Pinky" Hargrave got his nickname because of his red hair.**



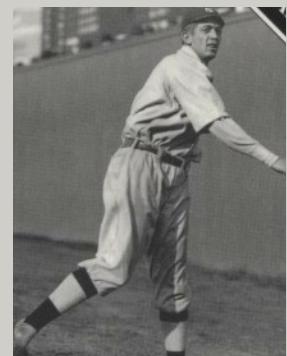
Ryan Buckley did not submit a guess this time. Could be the shitty Wifi in his cell block again.

## This weeks Who's Who in the SCL:

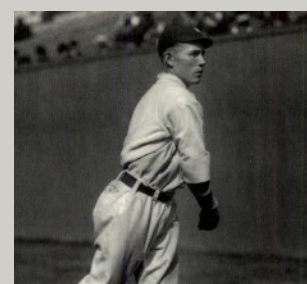
1. Who is this SCL player that consistently used a 48 ounce bat?

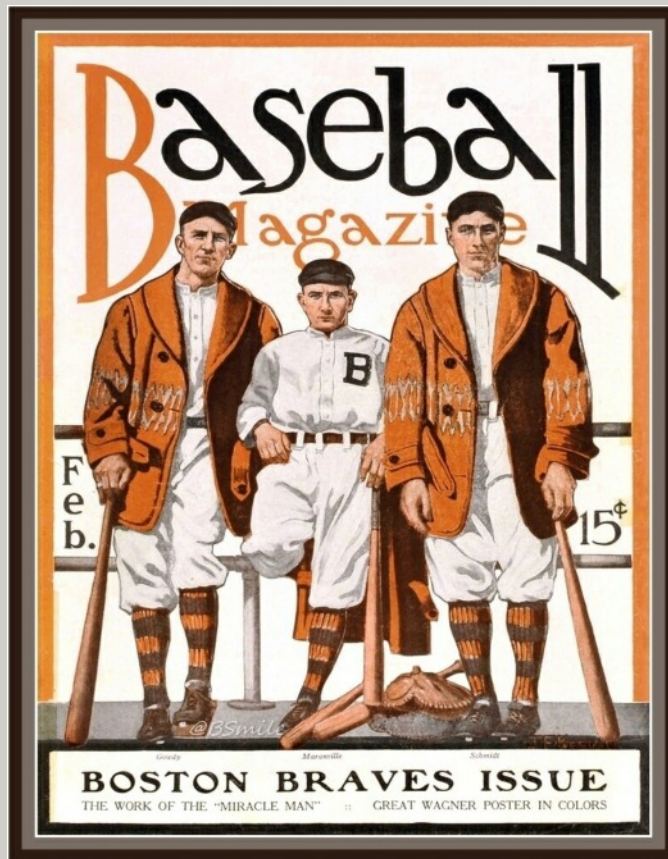


2. Who is this SCL pitcher that Damon Runyan described as the "...the most slender pitcher in captivity."?



3. Who is this former Skeeter that served up Babe Ruth's 1st HR?





February 1915 Baseball Magazine cover by J. F. Kernan

Hank Gowdy, Rabbit Maranville and Butch Schmidt become the 1<sup>st</sup> of many *Baseball Magazine* jinxes. After beating the A's in the 1914 World Series, they looked for more of the same in 1915. Although they had a decent season, going 83-69, that was only good enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NL.

They found themselves in last place with a 32-43 record on July 13<sup>th</sup>. They proceeded to win 15 of their next 16 to move all the way up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the end of the month. They got as close as 2.5 games after a doubleheader sweep of the Brooklyn Robins on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Another miracle season wasn't meant to be however, as they went just 13-12 down the stretch, finishing 7 games out.

As you can see Gowdy and Schmidt rocked the baseball sweater, while Maranville eschewed the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century baseball fashion statement. Maybe that particular sweater didn't come in extra small. Maybe he was having a bad day, seeing as he only has one leg. I know Pete Gray only had one arm, and his story was brought to the small screen in the wonderful movie "A Winner Never Quits" starring Keith Carradine. But you would think that a Hall of Fame shortstop that had only one leg would have gotten a little more love. Maybe Michael J. Fox could have played him and they could have called the movie, "Working At The IHOP- The Ironic Employer Of A One-Legged Ball Player."



Pete Gray hit .218 for the 1943 St. Louis Browns. He struck out just 11x in 253 plate appearances.



## BASEBALL BOOKS YOU SHOULD PROBABLY READ

In no particular order:

1. **The Glory Of Their Times-Lawrence Ritter-** Big surprise right? An oral history of over 2 dozen interviews of ball players ranging from Bob O'Farrell to Hank Greenberg. A ton of Deadball Era players.
2. **Our Game-Charles Alexander-** I could read Charles Alexander every day, and never get bored.
3. **The Great Encyclopedia Of Nineteenth Century Baseball- David Nemec-** If you want to know what happened in baseball in the 1800's this is the book you need.
4. **Macmillan 10<sup>th</sup> Edition Baseball Encyclopedia-** It's big, heavy, dog eared and so much more old-school than [baseballreference.com](http://baseballreference.com).
5. **8 Men Out- Eliot Asinof-** It's not the final word on the Black Sox scandal, but it was the 1<sup>st</sup>. An important work of baseball history.
6. **The Image Of Their Greatness- Lawrence Ritter and Donald Honig-** A ton of photos of the greatest to play the game make this a must have book for all baseball fans.
7. **Baseball- Geoffrey C. Ward-** The companion book for the Ken Burns documentary. May be the most money I ever spent on a book. Money well spent.
8. **Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract-** Whether or not you agree with his rankings, his decade lists of the best looking player, ugliest player, slowest player etc make this an enjoyable read.
9. **The Last Boy- Jane Leavy-** It's the Mick, what more do you need?
10. **The Summer of Beer and Whiskey- Edward Achorn-** 19<sup>th</sup> Century baseball, The American Association, and Chris Von der Ahe. A great baseball mix.

**Overrated- The Boys of Summer-Roger Kahn** I don't understand the appeal of this book. Kahn's writing style made this book a slog from start to finish. How do you make the 1955 Dodgers boring? I also think the title of the book should probably have been **Me Me Me, And More Me: Roger Kahn Talks About His favorite Subject**.

**Baseball in The Garden of Eden- John Thorn** I really wanted to love this book. I really do love me some John Thorn. But after the 1<sup>st</sup> 100 pages or so he introduces us to Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophical Society? It felt like he was trying to recruit me into a cult. Not a fun cult either. I wanted to wash my mouth out with soap, just to take my mind off the pain in my head this book was giving me. I still have nightmares, mostly about evil clowns, but also about Madame Blavatsky. This book made me sad.

So guys, what books are on your list. Let us know what they are and why.

Next SCL News I'll list my favorite Baseball Fiction.

