



# SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ The Second Chance News is fake news. Believe me, I know more about Historical Baseball Sims than anyone. I’m a very stable baseball genius. People say “goofy” Graham is the worst commissioner ever-SAD. #MAGA ”

For once your words ring true Donald.  
Spasibo i do svidaniya  
Comrade Trump

## Notes From The Commissioner

People often stop me in the street and ask me, “What’s the hardest part about running an Historical baseball league?” Being the private person that I am, I usually curl up into the fetal position and scream like a newborn. That doesn’t answer their question, but they usually leave me alone.

But it did get me thinking. Is it inputting all the Negro League stats? Although that is time consuming and makes me want to join a nunnery(I hear the food is good)but that’s not the hardest part. Is it putting up with all the prima donna Gms? David Nemec (Stogies)won’t answer my emails unless I use comic sans font in all correspondence(Writers!!! Amirite?) V(Robins) insists that I address all emails to him with “King of all Gms” (Oklahomans!! Amirite?) And Ryan Buckley(Gorillas) won’t answer my emails unless I promise him a lollipop(Teenagers!!!! Amirite?)

No, I’d have to say, without a doubt that running the draft is the worst part of running this league. Trying to keep up with an email trail 20 emails long, while at work, on an I Pad that makes Gmail look like Cantonese. Getting asked questions like, “Do walks count as hits?” “Can I use the DH?” “Where do babies come from?” “Can I draft Lou Gehrig?” NO, NO, ask your mom Buckley, and NO!!! What is wrong with you people? Make a pick, and move on! And stop calling me at all hours of the night!

OK, I feel better now. Let’s have a great 1915 season. Go Skeeters.  
Also, welcome to the league Dan Bacon.(Crimson Tide) Let’s make sure this rookie knows his role is to lose and lose often.

## 1915 In The Second Chance Baseball League

### MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS:

ERA- Joe Wood(Warbirds)-1.49  
WINS-Walter Johnson(Warbirds)- 27  
K’s- Walter Johnson(Warbirds)- 203  
AVG.- Ty Cobb(CrimsonTide)- .369  
HRS- Braggo Roth(Stogies)- 7  
RBI- Sam Crawford(Gorillas), Bobby Veach(Warbirds)-112

### MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS:

ERA- Grover Alexander(Caterpillars)- 1.22  
Wins- Grover Alexander(Caterpillars)-31  
K’s- Grover Alexander(Caterpillars) - 241  
AVG.- Larry Doyle(Gorillas)- .329  
HRS- Gavvy Cravath(Skeeters)- 24  
RBI- Gavvy Cravath(Skeeters)- 115

### WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN MLB:

1. HR Baker(Terrapins)takes a year off
2. 4/5- Rube Marquard(Caterpillars) tosses a no-hitter
3. 4/24- Frank Allen(Pines) tosses a no-hitter in the Federal League
4. 5/6 Babe Ruth(Pines) hits his 1<sup>st</sup> home run, taking Jack Warhop deep.
5. 5/15 Claude Hendrix(Rebels) tosses a no-hitter in the Federal League
6. 8/20 Cleveland trades Joe Jackson(Rebels) to the White Sox
7. 9/7 Dave Davenport(Rebels) tosses a no-hitter in the Federal League
8. 10/3 Ty Cobb(Crimson Tide) steals his 96<sup>th</sup> base of the season
9. 10/17 The Red Sox beat the Phillies in the World Series.

### SCL RECORDS BROKEN IN 1914:

1. Ben Taylor(Miners) hits 72 doubles smashing the old record of 54 set by Nap Lajoie(1910) and Tris Speaker(1912)  
Ben Taylor(Miners) has 95 EBH’s breaking Ty Cobb’s record of 84 set in 1911.
2. Gavvy Cravath(Skeeters) hits 34 Hrs breaking Wildfire Schulte’s record of 21 in 1911.
3. Pop Lloyd(Blue Meanies) hits in 30 straight games, topping Tris Speakers record of 29 in 1914.
4. Harry Coveleski(Skeeters) and Claude Hendrix(Rebels) tie Russ Ford’s record of 8 shutouts.
5. Candy Jim Taylor(Miners) has 130 RBI breaking the old record of 126 held by Tris Speaker.

Continued:

6. Jersey City Skeeters hit 84 team Hrs, breaking their own record of 68 hit in 1913.
7. Skeeters set the team record for walks with 526, breaking their own record of 524 set in 1910.
8. Skeeters set a team fielding% record of .974 breaking the Stogies record of .973 set in 1912.
9. Skeeters set the double play record with 153 breaking their own record of 141 set in 1910.

#### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS THE 1915 SEASON:**

1. Eddie Collins(Stogies) should be the 1<sup>st</sup> SCL player to reach 1300 hits
2. Tris Speaker(Caterpillars) and Sam Crawford(Gorillas) should both reach the 500 rbi mark.
3. Sam Crawford(Gorillas) should reach 125 career triples.
4. Tris Speaker(Caterpillars) should reach 250 career doubles.
5. Gavvy Cravath(Skeeters) should reach 75 career Hrs
6. Walter Johnson(Warbirds) should reach 1300 K's as well as 130 Wins.

#### **FEARLESS PREDICTION:**

The Skeeters will not repeat as SCL Champions, nor will they make the Playoffs But they will host the 1915 All Star Game at League Park

#### **1915 Final standings:**

<b>American League-</b>	<b>National League-</b>
Stogies	Blue Meanies
Pines	Warbirds
Skeeters	Terrapins
Gorillas	Robins
Rebels	Caterpillars
Miners	Crimson Tide
Turks	Tornados

Blue Meanies beat the Stogies in 7 games for the Championship.



Woodrow Wilson throwing out the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch in the 1915 World Series. If you look behind his left shoulder you'll see Stogies GM David Nemec and Robins GM V taking in the action.

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Johnny Evers- Kenmore Miners

[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)



Some players have careers that are easy to evaluate. Whatever criteria you use, whatever stats you emphasize, whatever stats you make up, Babe Ruth is going to be pretty clearly marked out as a player. Others aren't so easy to define. One of those is Johnny Evers.

Evers was born in upstate New York in 1881, and began his minor league career in 1902. That same year he was the "throw in" guy in the purchase of a pitcher by the Chicago Cubs. Evers was short, weighed barely 100 pounds, had great range, could throw well, and made a lot of errors because of his range (he got to a lot of balls then couldn't make the play). Initially the shortstop, he was moved to second base after about a week. There he was terrific by Dead Ball Era standards. He teamed with Joe Tinker at shortstop and Frank Chance (later his manager) to form the most famous, if not necessarily the best, double play combination of the era. The team won 116 games in 1906 (a number equaled once, and that with eight more games on the schedule) but lost the World Series. They won the Series the next two years. Evers hit well, but this was a team built on pitching and defense and his play at second was, perhaps, more significant than his hitting.

He was also a pain, which is a nice way of saying few people liked him. It helped earn him the nickname "The Crab". He and Tinker didn't speak off the field for years. You get a lot of reasons depending on the source. Evers own version has Tinker firing a ball to record an out that hurt Evers hand. When Evers complained, Tinker laughed and that destroyed any brewing friendship. And with Evers there

don't seem to have been a lot of friends. To say he was "high-strung" is to understate the measure. He alienated teammates with his criticism of bad plays, opponents with his hard play. In fact, he alienated almost everyone (I guess his folks liked him, but that's a guess). In 1911, he had a nervous breakdown that cost him most of the season. Again there are a lot of stories of what happened, but Evers own account says he lost money in a business venture and was broke.

Evers also had a habit of not going out with the guys in the evenings. With his personality, would you want him along? (A Dale Carnegie graduate he wasn't.). He used his spare time to read, including the baseball rulebook. He became something of an expert on the more arcane rules, which led to his participation in the most famous of all Dead Ball Era plays, the "Merkle play". With two out in the bottom of the ninth of a tie game in 1908, Giants baserunner Fred Merkle failed to advance from first to second on a single while the winning run scored (there are a lot of places on-line where you can get the details). Evers retrieved a ball (probably not "the" ball), stepped on second, and demanded the umpire declare Merkle out and the run void. Apparently Evers and umpire Hank O'Day knew the rule. O'Day called Merkle out, the game ended in a tie, the season ended in a tie, the Cubs won the replay, and their last World Series to date.

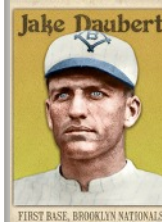
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## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



The SCL record for triples in a game is 3. 4 players have achieved this feat. Jake Daubert(Gorillas) and Boss Schmidt(Rebels)in 1910. Chief Wilson (Skeeters)and Andrew Payne (Robins) in 1912.

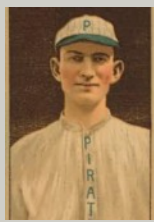
George Strief (1885) and Bill Joyce (1897) are the only players to hit 4 triples in a game. 50 players have hit 3 triples in a game. Dave Brain did it twice in 1905 with 2 different teams. Yasiel Puig (2014)is the last player to hit 3 in a game.



Jake Daubert



Boss Schmidt



Chief Wilson



Andrew Payne

## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The MLB team record for triples in a season since 1900 is held by the 1903 Boston Red Sox with 113. The highest total in the last 50 Years were the 79 hit by the 1979 KC Royals. The last team to hit 100 triples were the 1932 Washington Senators.

The Jersey City Skeeters hit an SCL record 117 triples in 1912.





# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

## OPENING DAY- Don Angel

*Listening on the radio for play-by-play,  
I hear, "Welcome to Opening Day".  
Despite cold temperatures for today's game,  
A sellout crowd has came.  
I turn my attention to the bullpen.  
The starting pitcher is number 10.  
Managers present line-ups  
Pitcher throws warm up.  
Umpire yells, "Play Ball!"  
Fielders heed the call.  
Innings one, two and three,  
No score too be.  
Inning five,  
Visitors come alive  
Back-to-back singles down the line.*

*Sacrifice fly - position nine.  
No one at fault,  
But one run results.  
Inning eight,  
Still not too late.  
The home team takes their swings.  
A base hit and stolen base, leadoff would bring.  
Will this one get a hit?  
No, second base smothers it.  
Fly ball and a play at the plate.  
A perfect throw ends the eighth.  
I review the pitcher's stats,  
As the visitors come to bat.  
Four straight balls and a walk,  
Pitching coach comes out too talk.  
A new pitcher trots to the mound.  
Three feared sluggers shut down.  
Bottom of the ninth,*

*Climax at its height.  
An error on a bad hop.  
Line drive over shortstop.  
Fans express belief,  
Even with the closer now in relief.  
Double off the fence.  
The crowd is in suspense.  
Rounding third, anxiously awaiting the final word.  
This is what I heard.  
"Here comes the winning run",  
Safe! and "That's a winner" 2-1.  
Spectators approve with a deafening roar,  
Seconds later, fireworks would soar.  
Baseball and America's pastime is my reason,  
I think I'll go to another game this season.*

In 1913, Evers became manager of the Cubs. Think about that. Here's a high-strung guy that fights with everyone, that no one likes, and you make him the team manager (and you wonder why the Cubs don't win often). Despite all that, the Cubs still finished third, but Evers managed to alienate everyone, including the beer salesmen and the owner, so out he went. They sent him to Boston where he took over the second base job for the Braves. His leadership skills ("Play hard or Evers will scream") and his getting hot with the bat during the last half of the season were considered reasons why the "Miracle Braves" moved from last to first in the final three months of the season to capture the National League pennant, then win the NL's first World Series since 1909 in a four game sweep of the Athletics. Evers won that season's NL Chalmers Award (the early version of the MVP).

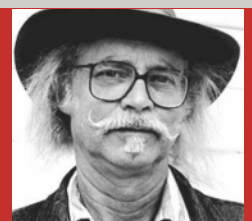
It was his last good year. He was on the downside of his career anyway and his nerves began really fraying. He did poorly in 1915, worse in 1916, and was cut prior to the 1917 season. He did some managing after his retirement, skipping both the Cubs and the White Sox. He did reasonably well, but never won. He got into one game in both 1922 and 1929, drew two walks and had no hits, then retired for good. He ran a sporting goods store in Albany, New York (wonder how he was with customers), had a stroke in 1942, made the Hall of Fame in 1946, and died in 1947.

For his career Evers hit .270, slugged .334, had an OBP of .356, for an OPS of .690 (OPS+ of 106). He hit all of 12 home runs, had 216 doubles, 70 triples, and 1659 hits for 2051 total bases. He scored 919 runs and knocked in 528. He had 324 stolen bases. He never led the NL in any major hitting category but finished as high as second in both walks and stolen bases. In World Series play he hit .316, scored 11 runs, knocked in six, and stole eight bases. He hit .438 with an OBP of .500 in the 1914 World Series victory. As a fielder he led the NL in assists twice and also in errors twice, doing both in 1904 (now that's a neat trick). He also led the league in putouts and fielding percentage among second baseman once each.

So those numbers don't sound all that great, do they? Even for Dead Ball Era players they're not that spectacular. But Evers seems to be one of those guys that is more than the sum of his stats. He's bright, he's aggressive, he's also a pain. Those are things difficult to evaluate. He's a good second baseman, a lousy teammate. He's a good glove man, not so great with the bat. He's knowledgeable about the game, but he can't stay healthy. He's certainly a mixed bag. I like him because he's fun to study, but I don't think I'd like to have known him. And maybe that's the fascination with Evers. He's all those things listed above and that makes for an interesting character.



“Baseball is meant to be a contemplative game. They play music to draw young people to the game. If young people can't come to the game without music, then they should stay home.” - W.P. Kinsella



# SCL STUMPERS

## WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

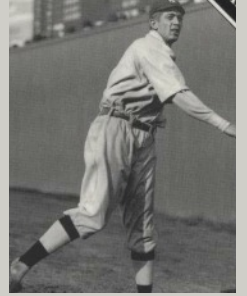
1. Who is this SCL player that consistently used a 48 ounce bat?

2 x batting Champion, Edd Roush(Georgia Pines) out muscled Babe Ruth in the bat department by 6 ounces.



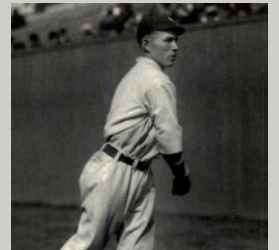
2. Who is this SCL pitcher that Damon Runyan described as the "...the most slender pitcher in captivity."?

Ray "Slim" Caldwell.(Robins) On 8/24, 1919 he was struck by lightning in Cleveland, after a couple minutes to recover, he retired the final batter in the game.



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

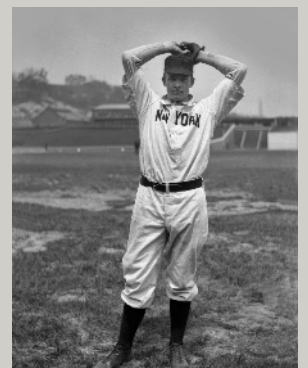
On 5/6/1915 Jack Warhop(currently unsigned) served up the Bambino's 1<sup>st</sup> HR while pitching at the Polo Grounds.

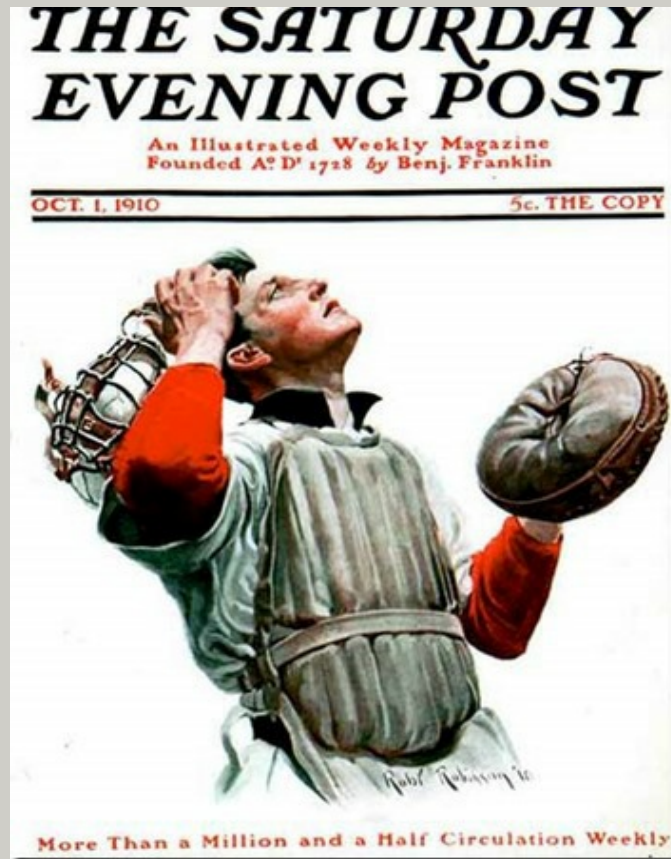


1. In this Charles Conlon action shot taken in a 1912 game between the Highlanders and the Naps, Umpire Billy Evans calls out a former Terrapin, after being tagged out by a current Warbird , on a throw made by a current Rebel. A current Turks second baseman looks on. Who are these players?

2. This is a photograph taken by Charles Conlon of Christy Mathewson in 1904. What is the significance of this photograph to Charles Conlon?

3. This should be any easy one. Who is this?





**“Catcher Looking Up” by Robert Robinson**

Robert Robinson was born in 1886, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, just 20 miles south of this humble Commissioner. He was an illustrator for The Saturday Evening Post from 1910-1925. He did a lot of illustrations featuring the new-fangled invention, the automobile, but he stepped away from his comfort zone to give us a really nice baseball themed illustration.

“Catcher Looking Up” was featured on the Oct 1, 1910 issue and captures a frequent moment in many baseball games, the catcher eyeing up a pop fly somewhere near home plate. One of the things that I like about this illustration is the fact that the catcher still has his catcher’s mask in his hand. A smart catcher will hold on to his mask until the final seconds of a foul pop, before tossing away his mask, thus avoiding the embarrassment of tripping over it. The chest protector is nothing more than a thin piece of stuffed cloth, while the catcher’s mitt is a round heavily padded glove with just a small pocket to catch the ball in. A big difference from today’s hinged catcher’s mitt. Looking at the glove, it makes me wonder if our illustrated catcher was able to make the catch.

I did a little research to determine, if this was an illustration of an actual Major League catcher. Who might it be? The uniform with the distinctive black turned up collar looks very much like the home uniform of the Cleveland Naps. If so, their primary catcher that season was Ted Easterly. Currently donning the tools of ignorance for the Wheaton Warbirds.



## FICTIONAL BASEBALL BOOKS YOU SHOULD PROBABLY READ

In no particular order:

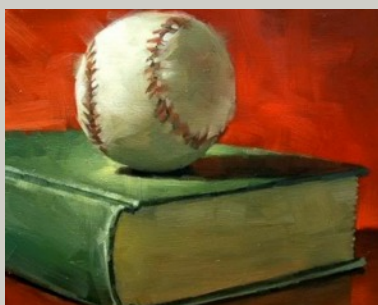
1. The Natural- Bernard Malamud It has to be on everyone's favorite list. If you haven't read it, you should. It's a little different from the movie, particularly the ending.
2. The Celebrant- Eric Rolfe Greenberg Deadball Era baseball, Christy Mathewson, and the 1919 World Series as told by jewelry designer Jackie Kapinski.
3. If I Never Get Back- Darryl Brock Time travel, 1869 Red Stockings, and Mark Twain. What could be better?
4. The End of Baseball- Peter Schilling Jr. Bill Veeck signs Negro League players to play for his Philadelphia Phillies team in 1944. Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, and Cool Papa Bell get to play in the Major Leagues.
5. Bang The Drum Slowly- Mark Harris- If you liked the movie with Robert DeNiro, you'll like the book even more.
6. The Universal Baseball Association Inc.:J. Henry Waugh Proprietor.- Robert Coover One man's obsession with a fictional baseball universe, played with dice on his kitchen table.
7. Murder At Fenway Park- Troy Soos Soos has a number of baseball mysteries centered around utility infielder Mickey Rawlings. Deadball Era baseball at it's mysterious best. They are all worth a read.
8. Last Days of Summer- Steve Kluger. A young boy growing up in 1940's Brooklyn starts a pen pal relationship with an All Star player for the NY Giants.
9. Hoopla- Harry Stein— The 1919 Black Sox as told by a fictional baseball writer.
10. Shoeless Joe- WP Kinsella If you haven't read the book, you should. It's different from the movie in a lot of ways.

**Overrated-** You Know Me Al- Ring Lardner. It's supposed to be funny, but I just found it annoying. Ring Lardner annoys me. Does that make me a bad person.

The Great American Novel- Philip Roth This book has been described as "ribald, richly imagined, and a wickedly satiric novel, with ebullient wordplay" If ebullient means to make you nauseous, then I agree. I also imagined myself wickedly throwing myself off a bridge while reading it.

I remember reading in high school, The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway. I recall enjoying it very much. His talk of the Great Dimaggio was my 1<sup>st</sup> introduction to the Yankee Clipper. So while putting together this list of baseball fiction, I thought of this novel. It's not a baseball novel, so it doesn't make the list, but I thought I would give myself another dose of Hemingway by reading A Farewell to Arms. Just a touch of the snappy dialog: **"You must go on leave at once," the major said. "I would like to go with you and show you things," the lieutenant said. "When you come back bring a phonograph." "Bring good opera disks." "Bring Caruso." "Don't bring Caruso. He bellows." "Don't you wish you could bellow like him?" "He bellows, I say he bellows!"**  
**"Come on," said the captain. "We go to whorehouse before it shuts." "Good night," I said to the priest. "Good night," he said.**

The rest of the book is more of the same. It had a sad ending, but I was so overwhelmed with joy when I finally finished this piece of shit novel that I did a cartwheel. I pulled a muscle in my back, and landed in the emergency room, and that was still more enjoyable than this pile of manure. This book is actually an insult to manure, at least manure has a purpose. If you read this novel and liked it, you can never be my friend.







# 1914 Second Chance League World Series

## ArkLaTex Robins vs Jersey City Skeeters



### GAME #1

Frank Wickware vs Harry Coveleski

10/13/1914, League Park II

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Robins	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	6	1
1914 Skeeters	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	x	4	9	0	5	4



The Skeeters scored 2 runs in the 1<sup>st</sup> on a Sherry Magee triple and a passed ball. Gavvy Cravath added a solo HR in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and that was all they needed. Harry Coveleski pitched the CG, thanks to double plays in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> innings.

### GAME #2

Phil Douglas vs Babe Adams

10/14/1914, League Park II

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Robins	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	10	2	6	0
1914 Skeeters	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	7	0	7	0



Jesse Barber banged out 4 hits, including 2 out rbi singles in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> innings.

### GAME #3

Bill Lindsey vs Cannonball Redding

10/16/1914, Baker Bowl

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Skeeters	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	7	10	0	5	0
1914 Robins	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	10	2	9	2



Gavvy Cravath hit a 3 run HR in the 1<sup>st</sup>, and Billy Francis' 2 run double in the 3<sup>rd</sup> drove in the game winner.

### GAME #4

Reb Russell vs Dick Whitworth

10/17/1914, Baker Bowl

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Skeeters	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	0	16	0
1914 Robins	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	16	3	11	0



The Robins got a single, a double and a 2 run single by Armando Marsans all with 2 out in the 9<sup>th</sup> to tie the game at 6. In the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 walks and a 2 out walk-off single by George Burns ended this marathon.



# GAME #5

10/18/1914, Baker Bowl

Harry Coveleski vs Frank Wickware

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Skeeters	2	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	17	1	9	2
1914 Robins	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	12	2	11	2



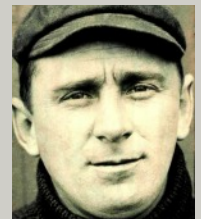
Doc Wiley had 4 hits, and Sherry Magee had 2 doubles to lead the offensive charge by the Skeeters. Harry Coveleski won his 2<sup>nd</sup> game with a rare 12 hit CG.

# GAME #6

Phil Douglas Vs Babe Adams

10/20/1914, League Park II

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1914 Robins	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	7	15	3	9	2
1914 Skeeters	6	0	0	0	1	2	6	2	x	17	23	0	9	0



An SCL World Series record 17 runs and 23 hits sent the Skeeters to their 1<sup>st</sup> SCL Championship. Series MVP Sherry Magee had 4 hits to lead the Skeeters offense.

My thoughts on winning this prestigious Championship:

Some people are born great, while others are born with a lazy eye. Is that your fault? Maybe your mother drank a lot during her pregnancy. Does that give people the right to make fun of you, at school, church, the playground, as the headliner of the local freak show? OK, maybe that last place was acceptable, but at church? Do you know when you're an altar boy with a lazy eye, how hard it is to light the candles before mass. Dangerous for sure, but it's no reason to call me walleyed, or cock-eyed, or stanky eye. Stanky eye? What does that even mean?

So.....anyway.....This SCL Championship is only my 3<sup>rd</sup> one in 5 tries, in about 40 seasons of playing. So I guess that means I'm not that good at this. David Nemec swept me in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century league years ago, he still sends me a Christmas card every year to remind me. I won one in a 1958 sim with Mickey Mantle and again in 1970 with Bobby Murcer. My 2 favorite All-Time Yankees. It may seem weird, but I was really happy to give Murcer a World Series Championship. I played Little League with a Murcer card tucked under my baseball cap, and it felt great having him playing on my team once again.

Thank You to all the Gms, for joining me in this league. I hope this is something that goes on for at least 20 more seasons. With some luck, maybe I'll even win another Championship.

Kevin G.

SCL Commissioner