



SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ Kevin may have been born to run, he was not however, born to write. I don't know how anyone can make sense out of all this word salad. ”

-Bruce Springsteen

The Boss checking in.
Love your music, but “speed ball”....seriously, you couldn't have just used fastball?

Notes From The Commissioner

Here's hoping we have a better pennant race than we had in 1916. Looking at the teams real quick, I think 3 teams in the AL and 5 teams in the NL will battle for the 4 available playoff slots.

My Fearless predictions:

American League:

1. Stogies
2. Miners
3. Pines
4. Skeeters
5. Vipers
6. Rebels
7. Gorillas

I don't think the bottom 4 teams have any chance to make the playoffs, nor will they see .500.

National League:

1. Caterpillars
2. Blue Meanies
3. Warbirds
4. Crimson Tide
5. Robins
6. Terrapins
7. Tornados

This could shape up to be a 5 man dogfight.

The Miners will beat the Stogies.

The Caterpillars will beat the Blue Meanies.

Miners vs Caterpillars in the 1916 SCL World Series.

1916 In The Second Chance Baseball League

MLB IN 1916:

- Home Run Baker begins his NY Yankee career after being sold by the A's for \$37,500.
- Tris Speaker leads all hitters with a .386 average.
- League leaders Wally Pipp, Dave Robertson, and Cy Williams all hit 12 HRS.
- Grover Alexander wins the Pitcher's Triple Crown with 33 wins, a 1.55 ERA and 167 K's. He also tossed a record 16 shutouts.
- Zack Wheat had a 29 game hitting streak.
- Babe Ruth led the AL with a 1.75 ERA, he also hit 3 Hrs, tied for the Red Sox team lead.
- Tom Hughes no-hit the Pirates
- Rube Foster no-hit the Yankees
- Joe Bush no-hit Cleveland
- Dutch Leonard no-hit the Browns
- Catcher Ray Schalk steals 30 bases, a record for catchers that lasted until 1982.
- The NY Giants won 26 games in a row, and still managed to finish in 4th place.
- Nap Lajoie plays his last game on 8/26
- Christy Mathewson and Mordecai Brown face off in their final game. Mathewson wins the game 10-8.
- Walter Johnson tosses 371 innings without giving up a HR. Babe Ruth tosses 324 innings without giving up a HR.
- The Red Sox beat the Dodgers in the 1916 World Series in 5 games.

The Future of the Second Chance League

1. Can we expand to 16 teams?

It looks like we will expand to 16 teams in 1917. 2 Divisions of 8 teams.

Any suggestions on an expansion draft? Let me know.

2. Finalize a keeper/draft pick/trade keeper rule.

16 Keepers(50% rule applies)

Any trades for players, before the draft will not count toward your keepers.

When it's all said and done the only rule is: The computer will always draft your final 8 players.

If you have just 16 Keepers-you draft 6 manually, the computer drafts your final 8 picks.

If you have just 12 Keepers- you draft 10 manually to get to 22, the computer drafts your final 8.

If you have 16 keepers and an additional 4 players acquired by trade- you manually draft 2 players, the computer drafts the final 8.

If you have 16 Keepers, plus 5 draft picks in the 1st 2-3 rounds. You would have just 1 more manual pick after the 3rd round, the computer drafts the final 8.

When You reach 22 players on your active roster, you are done drafting, the computer will finish your final 8 picks.

3. Do we expand the Playoffs to include 2 more teams? And how do we run a postseason with 6 playoff teams?

Looks like 3 teams per division.

2nd and 3rd place teams play a best of 5 to meet the 1st place team in a best of 7. How's that sound?

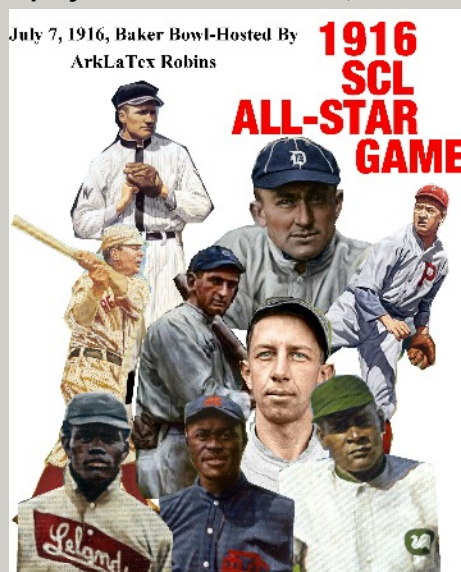
4. We need names for the Post Season Awards.

Addie Joss Award for pitchers

Honus Wagner Award for Hitters

Rube Foster Award for Rookies. (Any other suggestions, I'm open to change them.)

5. The 1916 SCL All-Star Game will be played in the Baker Bowl, Home of the ArkLaTex Robins.



A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW



Chief Bender- Jersey City Skeeters

-VERDUN 2's Blog

ERA of 2.46. In World Series play he pitched ten games going 6-4 with 64 hits, 59 strikeouts, and 85.1 innings pitched. Certainly a good enough career.

In one way it's an even better career. Because Bender was an American Indian he faced the standard racial prejudices of his day every time he took the mound. Phil Sheridan of "The only good indian is a dead indian" fame had only been dead for 15 years prior to Bender's rookie campaign. He faced problems from the stands and from the opposing players. One symbol of it was his nickname, "Chief." It was common in the period for any American Indian player to have that nickname and frequently it was meant derogatorily. Mack, sensitive to Bender's problem and his initial feelings about the name, referred to him as "Albert", his middle name. Bender seems to have at a point late in his career finally embraced the name (or at least quite despising it) and used it as a badge of honor against a hostile world. One of his favorite responses to heckling from the stands was to refer to the hecklers as "Foreigners."

His teammates and most of the Philly fans liked him (Considering the way they treat their own players today, what happened to Philly fandom in the last 100 years???). He was considered a good teammate and friend, a player the other players liked to be around both on and off the job. Mack trusted him with scouting and developing minor league players after Bender's retirement. It wasn't easy being an American Indian in 1910, but among his friends, coaches, and teammates Bender was respected and liked.

By this point, he's been almost forgotten. Unlike the black community's embrace of Jackie Robinson, the American Indian Movement never picked up on him as someone to remember and that's a real shame. They probably should have done so. He's worth it as both ballplayer and man.

Charles Albert Bender was born in Minnesota in 1884. He was a Ojibwa tribal member who attended both Carlisle Indian School (before Jim Thorpe arrived) and Dickinson College, both in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He seems to have been an OK student and was a gifted pitcher. In 1903 Connie Mack brought him to the Philadelphia A's where he became the third pitcher and leading right-hander behind southpaw aces Eddie Plank and Rube Waddell. He pitched in the 1905 World Series, taking both a win and a loss. The win was Philly's only victory in the series. By 1910 he was well established as one of Philadelphia's aces. He was also a Connie Mack favorite, who was generally chosen to pitch critical games. In 1910, he will start two World Series games, splitting them. In 1911, he will start three going 2-1. With Coombs disabled in 1913, Bender will be the ace and win two games in the series. In 1914, lost his only start in the Miracle Braves sweep.

With the advent of the Federal League in 1914, Mack began dismantling his team. Bender jumped to the Baltimore Terrapins of the Federal League where he had a terrible year, going 4-16 giving up more hits than innings pitched. With the collapse of the Feds, Bender ended up back in Philadelphia, but this time with the National League Phillies. He went 15-9 with other good numbers too. He retired then, went into war work for World War I, then coached for the White Sox in the 1920s. He got into one game in 1925, giving up a run in one inning with a walk and a hit, then was through for good. In 1953 he was elected to the Hall of Fame and died the next year.

For his career, including the Federal League year, Bender was 210-128 (a .621 winning percentage) with 1711 strikeouts in 3017 innings, 712 walks, and an

PLAYERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1916 Offensive Leaders in the
SCL?
AVG- Ty Cobb(C- Tide)- .361
Hrs- Gavy Cravath(Skeeters)-16
2Bs- Tris Speaker(C-Pillars)-45
3Bs- Joe Jackson(Rebels)-24
RBI- C Torriente(Stogies)-120



Ty Cobb



Gavy Cravath



Tris Speaker



Joe Jackson



Cristobal Torriente

TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Who will win it all in 1916?

Peoria Caterpillars vs Kenmore Miners

Caterpillars winning it all.



SECOND CHANCE WORDS

"Willie's Brother's Demise

-Jack Regan

Willie was an office boy,
Willie was a fan;
Willie knew more baseball
Than any other man.
Willie said his brother
Was sick as a man could be
And "Please could he get off to-day
To bear him companee?"

"You may," the Boss said gently,
Gazing at Willie the while
And Willie's look as he stood there

Was totally free from guile.
His head bowed low with sorrow,
He slowly went outside
While gloom hung over the office,
And the secretary cried.

Next day he showed up at the office,
With a frown as black as night;
The Boss, with kindly manner,
Inquired if all was right.
"Not on your life," said Willie,
Forgetting himself in his rage,
Which was rather improper of Willie,
Considering he wasn't of age.

"Oh tell me, Willie, tell me, "
The gentle Boss then cried;
"Your brother- is he safe at home?
Or has the poor chap died?"
"I should say he wasn't safe at home
(There was venom in every word),
"In the end of the ninth-de score a tie-
The sucker DIED AT THIRD!"



Second Chance Baseball League: The Reverse Rewind Rewind?

I've been kicking around the idea of retroactively sending the SCL back to 1903, and incorporating the "lost" seasons of 1903-1909 into the historical record of the league. I think I might give it a try, and here's how:

This would all be done primarily by the computer. Use the teams from 1910, migrate them back 1 season to 1909, keep all players that were drafted originally by the Gms in 1910 on the same team, let the computer run the entire draft, I would set up the lineups, auto-play the games, play the playoffs, and the World Series, and then include all stats into the Second Chance League encyclopedia. Repeat for 1908 and so on until 1903 is completed.

Ground Rules:

I would do all the work

The draft order will be generated by a Random Number Generator

30 man active roster to start the season.

I would set the line-ups for all teams, based strictly on the players with the full-time stats. If a player has 530 abs at shortstop and hits .225, he will play over the shortstop that has 150 abs and hits .310. Same for pitchers. The pitchers with the most IP will be in the starting rotation. Once a player reaches 110% he will become inactive, and will be replaced in the lineup with the next viable player. If a team falls below 22 active players, less than 8 pitchers, or 2 catchers, I will assign a player from the free agent pool to the team in need.

“It's a wonderful feeling to be a bridge to the past and to unite generations.
The sport of baseball does that, and I am just a part of it.”

-Vin Scully

Vin Scully is the youngest person to ever call a World Series game, and he has called 19 no-hitters.



I'll start out each team with a 5 man rotation, with the computer option to use the #1 starter if rested. After 100 games or so, I'll look at the rotation and if able move it to a 4 man rotation. My goal is to get as many of the full-time starters as close to 100% usage as possible.

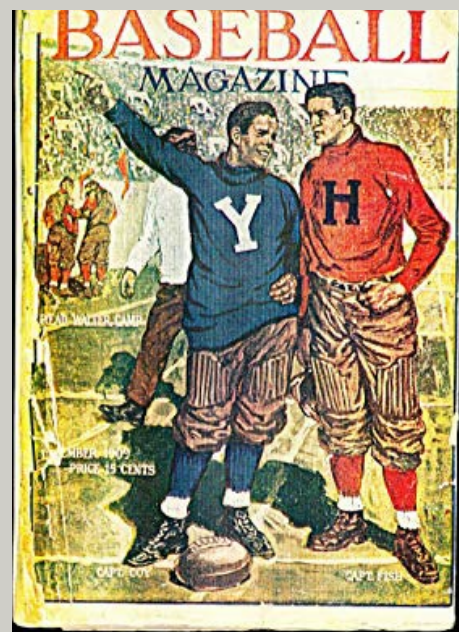
Playoffs and World Series will be best of 7, with the 10% rule in place.

At the mid-point of the season, I'll make All-Star selections. No game will be played

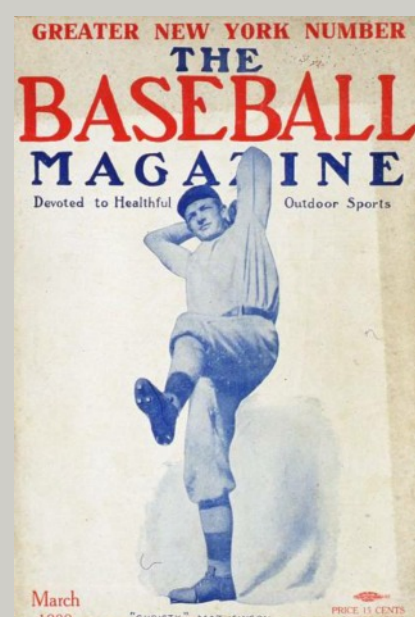
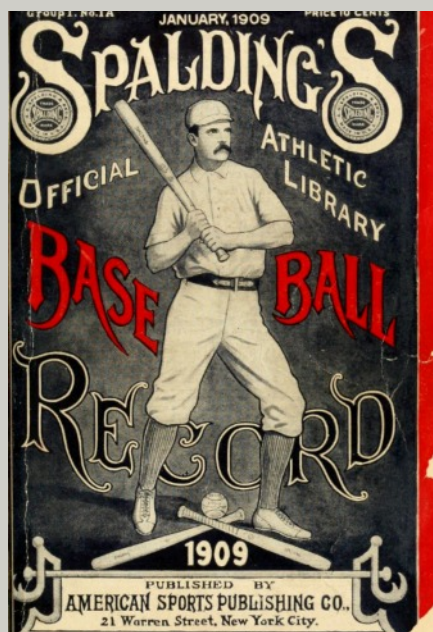
At season's end there will be post season awards.

When completed I'll give a season summary in the newsletter.

What do you think? Just wasting my time? Might be cool to see how it works out? Don't bother nobody gives a crap? Let me know.



Is it me, or does it look like one if these is not like the others?



Dan Bacon's 1916 Second Chance League Preview:

For those not named Joe Clark, Doug Slothower, or Phil Bohne, you are not familiar with my writings of another league I've done in multiple formats for years. I'm kind of like your baseball shrink, I'm here to tell you most of your troubles are caused by the fact that you're an idiot and you did this to yourself. So without further ado I give you my own musings of an SCL preview for this 1916 season.

We've seen the US go down in its fight to take caffeine out of Coca-Cola (Thank You 'Merica this Cokes for you!), The Cubbies are at Weedghman Park, & we sent Aircraft to get reconnaissance of Mexico, we're in this thing to win this thing.....

The American League

Jersey City Skeeters

Batting: If this was anymore top heavy they'd flop over under the weight of its head. Cravath is still a stud but w/o a full season of most of the talent we'll be dreaming about next season. D+

Pitching: Talents like Russell and Coveleski are solid building blocks but most of this squad is still looking to earn more pocket change in the future. C

Gas House Gorillas

Batting: The 'Tomorrow' song from Annie may not be out until 1977 but this team could use it right about now for positive thinking. Most of its productive parts are quite limited in playing potential. D

Pitching: The pitching is competitive to a point and will probably keep the games pretty close most of the year. I said close....I didn't say winning. C+/B-

Georgia Pines

Batting: For the season in which we are in this team's offense is up to the challenge, it will get on base as consistent as a lineup could in 1916. The triple header of Hornsby/Strunk/Felsch are a tough card to draw on the bump. B+/A-

Pitching: This Ruth fellow is a solid pitcher, I expect him to stay on the mound for a long time. They have the longevity it seems to be in almost every game this season, I expect them to at the least push into the 2nd WC spot. B+/A-

Shamokin Stogies

Batting: Torriente is looking like he will pickup where he left off last year with a track towards pushing some MVP votes. Adding Hal Chase was a huge move for this offense and getting pitchers to throw to Torriente. This is another team like the Pines that are going to be somewhat consistent at the plate. B+/A-

Pitching: Junco leads a pretty potent pitching staff. I see this staff able to go toe to toe with the Pines on most days. B+

Virginia Rebels

Batting: 'Ol Shoeless will make a very charged debate for the MVP interesting if his numbers hold out. They have some meat in the order but not quite enough depth to make a serious run from this outsiders viewpoint. C+/B-

Pitching: Cicotte stands out as a really nice talent and the overall staff isn't sub par they just don't have enough fire power to push them over the offensive flaws. C+

Vegas Vipers

Batting: They may not be ready to vault to first place yet but a combo of Wheat & Sisler will be fun to watch this season. C

Pitching: When you build from the ground up your going to have to take your lumps. They'll have lumps in spades this year but don't get to cocky AL, it'll come back around. D+/C-

Kenmore Miners

Batting: Sam Bennett will play roughly half the games this year. When he does play this offense will pretty impressive. Lots of players short on playing time but we should see the Miners, Pines, & Stogies duke it out for the most runs in the AL this year. A-

Pitching: Juan Padron is quite possible the front runner to win the AL Cy Young this year. I certainly don't expect him to be 18-18 at seasons end! B+/A-

AL Standings Prediction:

Kenmore Miners

Georgia Pines

Shamokin Stogies

Virginia Rebels

Vegas Vipers

Jersey City Skeeters

Gas House Gorillas

The National League

ArkLaTex Robins

Batting: Some quality bats exist here but they just aren't quite ready over all to be competitive yet. C

Pitching: If it werent for walks we'd have no base runners at all! I feel like this a case where Rick Ankiel could have fit in well back in 1916. Verdun is still hoping Kevin doesn't pull the plug until at least 1920 cuz he has some winning to do yet! C

Alexandria Tornados

Batting: Collins is the #1 option this year then well, maybe a Tornado will touch down and stop the game. D+/C-

Pitching: The starting rotation is actually pretty talented this year, if they had an offense this team could push their way to the top. B

Custer's Crimson Tide

Batting: That Ty Cobb guy sure comes in handy from time to time. Not quite firing on all cylinders yet the offense is still quite potent. I expect us to be not quite the top scoring NL team but close to it. B+/A-

Pitching: We still aren't quite ready for prime-time but we hope to show some fight this year more than last year. D

Baltimore Terrapins

Batting: They have some bright spots but they are bit limited by playing time. They do have some pop though in this lineup that will surprise some. C

Pitching: Gatewood was a solid 1st rd selection that with Rudolph are a real nice 1-2 rotation punch. The depth behind them does leave you wanting however. C+

Peoria Caterpillars

Batting: Tris Speaker is awesome! With OBP magnets like Gardner and Duncan, Speaker should be well endowed in the RBI department. B

Pitching: Stiff top of that rotation indeed, Pete Alexander, Marquary, & Shawke are high quality. Perhaps the back end of the rotation and bullpen may be shaky but the starters will definitely pull them through some games. B/B+

Wheaton Warbirds

Batting: Veach is a front line bat this year, I also thought the Lyons addition in the draft was outstanding. Really hard to be balanced 1-8 in this era, they don't quite get all the way through the lineup but it's close. B-

Pitching: This team is stout at this end of the spectrum. I have to assume they are gonna be near tops of the NL in pitching. A-

Bridgeport Blue Meanies

Batting: This team is going to slug over .400 as a whole, Until the 1920s that may be the only time we see this. Very high quality part time players and some really talented full timers this team is going to dominate offensively. A

Pitching: SCL merciful Lord show us your mercy. This team has good enough of a staff/rotation to win with that offense doing what it's going to do. I could see Rixey winning 25+. B/B+

NL Standings Prediction:

Bridgeport Blue Meanies

Peoria Caterpillars

Wheaton Warbirds

Baltimore Terrapins

Custer's Crimson Tide

ArkLaTex Robins

Alexandria Tornados

Thank You Dan for your predictions. It looks like you took a lot of time to analyze each team to come up with your mostly incorrect predictions. My predictions used the tried and true FAC method(Flip-A-Coin) It's quicker, easier, and obviously more accurate.

What do you think guys? Statistical Analysis Guy, or Lucky Guess Guy? Who got it right?



SCL STUMPERS

WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

1. This surly looking catcher was nicknamed Pancho. He's been described as, "Not full of fun; he won't take a joke because he doesn't give one. He just wants...to win, and baseball to him is serious business."

Caterpillars catcher-Frank Snyder



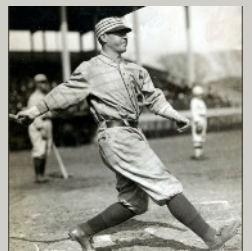
2. Another catcher. This guy scalded his right arm and leg when he fell in a vat of boiling soap. The horrible scars restricted his ability to fully extend his right arm.

Former Turks catcher-Jimmy Archer



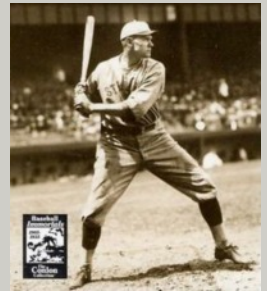
3. Damon Runyan described this player as, "He is an aggressive, chattery little chap, with a powerful punch in his bat, and he does not believe in hiding his light under a bushel. He is always swinging with his whole soul in every swing, and with his right cheek bulked out under the influence of the largest 'chaw' of tobacco ever worn by any man in baseball."

Kenmore Miners' O'Fer- Benny Kauff



More Second Chance League Stumpers:

1. At six-foot-three it was said that when this guy ".... starts after a fly ball the earth trembles."



2. This current SCL player is modeling a 1916 Dodgers uniform. As described: "The suits appear to be constructed from the material still in vogue at prisons which never came under reform influence, and what the caps look like cannot be stated in this family newspaper. Suffice it to say that they are perfect 'pep' extinguishers."



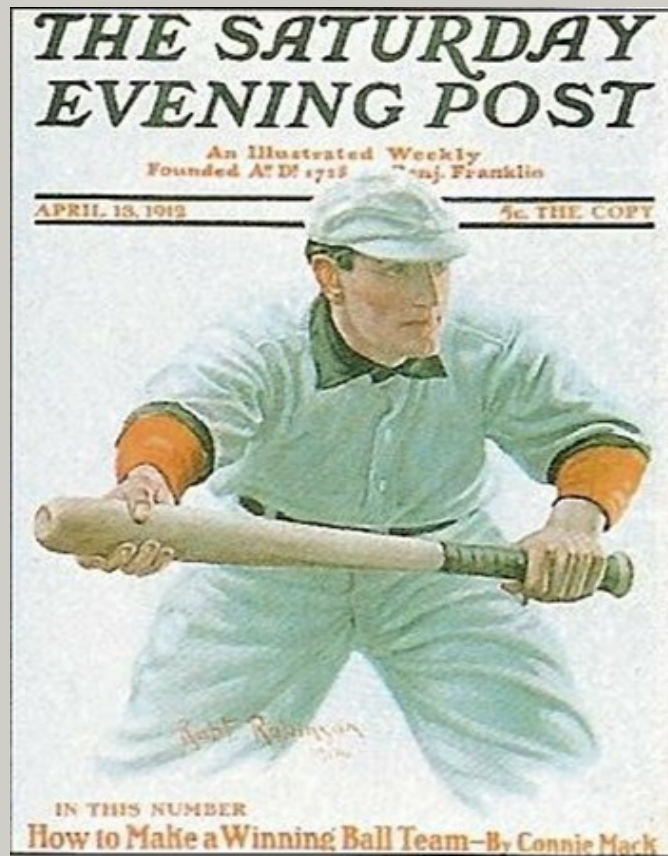
3. Babe Ruth has a .344 lifetime average. What did he hit as a pinch hitter?





I saw a photograph of Joe Jackson and thought, "Damn, does he look old!" Since he was wearing a Cleveland cap, at most he would have been 27 years old. 27.....going on 50. Early 20th Century baseball really aged a guy.

I thought I'd try drawing Shoeless, and I think it came out OK. The crow's feet around his eyes were much deeper than they show in the drawing, and his right ear looks way to big, but all in all not too bad.



“Player Squaring Around To Bunt” by Robert Robinson April 13, 1912

Another cover for Robert Robinson, but not a favorite of mine. This illustration is said to depict Honus Wagner getting ready to lay down a bunt. I don’t see Wagner in this illustration, he was never that pretty. It also looks like the batter has a cleft chin, and I don’t think Wagner had one.



Judge for yourself.

The biggest problem I have with this illustration is the bunting technique. I was taught back in Little League to keep my right hand behind the knob of the bat, not to wrap my hand around the bat so that my fingers are exposed. This guy’s looking to break a couple of fingers with his grip. Also, he looks too calm. Where’s the intensity, where’s the look of apprehension? This guy has just squared himself out over the plate right in the path of a 90 mph fastball, risking shattered digits in the process, and he looks like he’s checking out a book at the library. I on the other hand would be in the process of crapping myself.