



## SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“I’ve always wanted to write an article for the Second Chance News. Maybe when I get out on parole in October, I might take a stab at it.” - OJ Simpson

That’s it OJ, stick with what you know.

### Notes From The Commissioner

I first got involved in baseball simulation leagues through Bill James Classic Baseball back in the 90’s. I didn’t have a computer, so the team was run by phone, and snail mail. I played it for 2 seasons, and fielded a .500 team both times. It was an all-time players league, with a salary cap, so my team had Eddie Cicotte as well as Bobby Murcer and Lou Brock. Cicotte was horrible, Brock under performed, and Murcer hit .300 both seasons, but was randomly injured so much, he only got into about 110 games each season. Very frustrating.

Tom Seaver was a late season pick up for me and tossed a no-hitter in his 1<sup>st</sup> start. Charlie Jamieson, a player I was not familiar with, kicked ass for me both seasons, and I hope to have him as a Skeeter in 1915. Cool Papa Bell was awesome for me, and if the SCL lasts long enough, he will be a fine addition to the Skeeter legacy. Very satisfying.

Why does this matter? It just does.

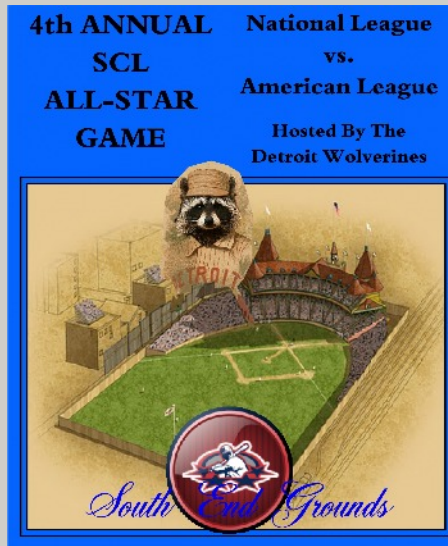
Historical baseball sims won’t solve World Peace, but they do keep the Charlie Jamieson’s of this world relevant. The SCL keeps Cristobal Torriente and Dizzy Dismukes relevant. This amateurish, insignificant newsletter has given Rabid Charlie Racater relevance in an All-Star game to be played in 2017. Why does that matter? It just does.



Charlie Jamieson-Skeeter

### 1913 In The Second Chance Baseball League

Based on my crack calculations the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Chance League All-Star Game will be played Sunday 8/27. The game will be played at the South End Grounds, home of the Detroit Wolverines. (The little fellow overlooking the ball field is Rabid Charlie Racater.)



Each mid-season classic, so far, has followed the same pattern with the home team winning by 2 runs . This means we can probably look forward to an American League win this season.

As in past seasons a GM will pick the squad for their respective leagues. Jimmy Keenan(Terrapins) has picked the last 2 seasons for the NL, and Ryan Buckley(Gorillas) picked for the AL last season. After picking their 22 man league roster, I’ll make a final Commissioner’s Pick for each team, to get the rosters to 23.

If any GM would like to assume this huge responsibility for the upcoming All Star Game, please let me know. Jimmy and Ryan-you guys are more than welcome to continue to do so.

#### How this will work:

1. After the games are played on the Wednesday before the All-Star Game, I’ll update the stats and the Gms can make their choices based on those stats.
2. You will choose 2-C, 2-1B, 2-2B, 2-SS, 2-3B, 6-OF, 5-SP, 1-RP(Choices must be made based on their primary position played this season. Just because Frank Baker may have played 1 game at SS, doesn’t make him eligible as a SS. A starter that relieved in 1 game, cannot be chosen as the RP)
3. The choices must be submitted to me by Saturday morning.
4. I’ll choose 1 more player(Probably a Skeeter in the AL!!!) for each team.
5. The game will be played live on Sunday afternoon 8/27. I’ll set up a Google hangout, and all GMs are invited to attend. Jimmy Keenan traditionally manages the NL squad, but I’m sure he would welcome any help. It’s always a fun time and takes about an hour to complete the game.

Let me know if you’re interested in choosing the players, and I hope to see you all at South End Grounds on 8/27.

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Walter Johnson- Wheaton Warbirds



Here's a list of things you ought to know about Walter Johnson:

1. He was born in Kansas in 1887, moved to California with his parents, and ended up in Idaho where he pitched Minor League ball.
2. The "Big Train" was signed in July 1907 at age nineteen by the Washington Senators.
3. He wasn't an instant success. He went 32-48 in his first three seasons. He did, however, have 395 strikeouts in 663 innings.
4. He hit his stride in 1910, going 25-17 with an ERA of 1.26 and 313 strikeouts (almost doubling his "K" total in one season). His ERA+ for the season was 183, and it was to get even better.
5. In 1912 and 1913 he won over 30 games each season, leading the American League in the latter year. He was to lead the AL in wins five more seasons, the last time in 1924.
6. He won strikeout titles every year from 1912 through 1919, then again in 1921, 1923, and 1924. He won the pitching triple crown (wins, ERA, strikeouts) in 1913, 1918, and 1924. The latter year he was 36 years old.
7. The Senators won two pennants while he pitched (1924 and 1925), winning one World Series ('24). Johnson went 3-3 with a 2.56 ERA and 35 strikeouts over 50 innings. He is one of only two Senators/Twins pitchers to win a road game in the World Series (George Mogridge is the other—see an earlier post).
8. When he retired he had 3509 strikeouts, 705 more than the second place pitcher (Cy Young). The record stood until 1983. He's currently ninth. No hitter currently ranked in the top

[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)

96 in batter strikeouts faced Johnson. Babe Ruth, at 97th, has the highest strikeout total of any hitter who faced Johnson (Ruth's highest single season total was 93 in 1923). Johnson compiled his strikeout total against players who didn't regularly strikeout 150 times a season. Jimmie Foxx, whose rookie year was 1925, is next among hitters Johnson faced at 104th on the list (12 strikeouts ahead of David Ortiz).

9. Johnson retired after the 1927 season with 417 wins, 279 losses, an ERA of 2.17, a winning percentage of .599, the 3509 strikeouts mentioned above, 1363 walks, a record 110 shutouts, two MVP awards (1913 Chalmers Award and 1924 MVP), and an ERA+ of 147, fifth all-time, and third to Pedro Martinez and Lefty Grove among starters who pitched from 60'6" (Reliever Mariano Rivera and 19th Century starter Jim Devlin are also both ahead of Johnson).

10. After his retirement he managed the Senators, didn't do very well, managed the Indians (also without much success), did some announcing on the radio in 1939, and was in the initial class of the Hall of Fame.

11. He got into politics a little after his retirement (What? Playing for the Senators wasn't punishment enough?). He was a county commissioner in Maryland and ran twice for Congress, losing both. He died in 1946 and is buried in Maryland.

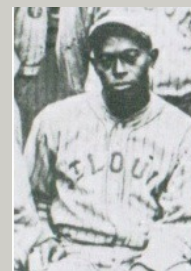
12. In 1969's Centennial of Professional Baseball voting, he was chosen both the greatest right handed pitcher ever and the greatest Senators player.

## SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Dan Kennard(Skeeters) and Heinie Zimmerman(Warbirds) hold the SCL record of 3 Hrs in a game.  
No player during the Deadball Era(1900-1920) hit 3 Hrs in a game.

17 different players have hit 4 Hrs in a game. Bobby Lowe(5/3/1894) was the 1st, and Scooter Gennett(6/6/2017) was of course the last.



## TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

According to Seamheads.com (the unofficial Negro League statisticians for the SCL) there were 168 teams in the history of the Negro Leagues. Two names make up exactly 33% of the team names. 28 teams were Giants in one form or another and 28 teams were Stars/All Stars. But only one French Lick Plutos, as it should have been.



# SECOND CHANCE WORDS

"Father Time is Coming" \*

Leroy "Satchel" Paige

1906?-1982

by J. Patrick Lewis

Out of a windmill windup,  
the whipcord arm grooves a dartball  
on a string past the hopeful, waiting  
at the plate for a miracle.

It might have been the bee ball,  
the looper,  
the drooper,  
the jump ball,  
the wobbly ball,  
the two-hump blooper,  
the bat dodger,  
the famous hesi-  
tation pitch,  
or the radioball ("You hears it,  
but you never sees it").

Joe DiMaggio couldn't hit him.

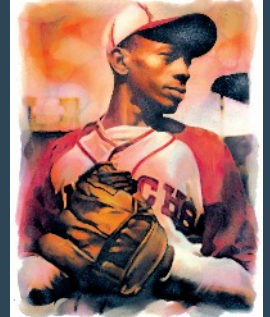
And said so.

Babe Ruth never faced him.

Lucky Bambino.

"I'm Satchel," he said,

"I do as I do."



**TY COBB-** By Jimmy Keenan [A 7 part Biography PART-6](#)

After he left baseball Cobb returned home to Augusta where he lived at 2425 Williams street in the Summerville district of the city. A few years later, Cobb bought an estate in Atherton, California near San Francisco. An avid outdoorsman and crack shot, he made frequent hunting trips to the Sierra Rockies and Canada. He stayed in shape by playing at least four rounds of golf each week. He later purchased a home in Zephyr Cove, Nevada on the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

Cobb spoke at a baseball banquet in San Francisco in 1934, telling the crowd, "If I had it to do over again I wouldn't have taken baseball so seriously. In my playing days I was bearing down all the time. I guess I was pretty rough and tough. Looking back over the years I believe I could have cut out a different path than I did. There were some mighty fine fellows playing in my days. We battled our way through baseball. It was a fight tooth and nail. I could have cemented some wonderful friendships with fellows who would be real friends today. I believe I made a mistake there. Baseball is a great game but there is such a thing as taking it too seriously."

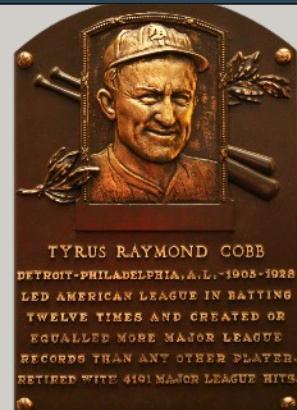
In 1936 Cobb was voted into the first Hall of Fame class along with Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson. Ty received 222 out of 226 votes. Cobb was proud of receiving the national pastimes' greatest honor. When his health permitted, he traveled to Cooperstown to greet each group of incoming inductees. He was an ardent emissary for the game of baseball as well as the Hall of Fame.

In 1942 The Sporting News polled 102 famous ballplayers and

managers as to who was the greatest player of all time. Cobb was the winner by a landslide, receiving 60 votes. Honus Wagner came in a distant second with Babe Ruth finishing third.

Over the next few years, Ty continued to follow baseball while pursuing his hobbies of golf, hunting and fishing. In 1945, for the second year in a row, Esquire magazine sponsored an East-West All-American game for talented amateur prospects, age 14-17, from around the country. Babe Ruth was the manager of the East team and Ty Cobb the West. Ruth's charges defeated Cobb's squad 5-4 in front of 23,617 fans at the Polo Grounds. One of the players was a young man name Frank Lane. The youngsters were required to report to New York for ten days of practice before the game. Lane later recounted, "When I went there I wanted to meet Ruth. I had come there expecting Ruth to be the friendly one and Cobb to be the nasty one. But Ruth didn't pay attention to any of us ballplayers. Cobb was the nice guy. He had patience with us. He worked with us. The two guys were opposites." According to Lane, Cobb even gave some up some of his private time to help mentor the kids. In Ruth's defense, he wasn't in the best of health. He died from cancer three years later.

Continued next page-



“ When I began playing the game, baseball was about as gentlemanly as a kick in the crotch. ”



I don't know Ty. I was once kicked in the crotch by Jimmy Carter, and a finer gentleman, I've never met.

In a 1946 interview with sports writer Eugene Phillips, Cobb briefly described the circumstances that led to him retiring from baseball, "I didn't want, at my age, to disillusion a lot of people. I was tired after being in the game 24 years. Also I wanted to quit while I was still hitting better than .300. And they were catching up with me."

Cobb and his first wife Charlotte divorced in 1947, Two years later, he married Frances Fairburn Cass. In late July of 1951, Cobb was called to appear before Congress to discuss baseball's reserve clause. The meeting was called by a House Judiciary Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Emanuel Celler of New York, to look into allegations that baseball violated anti-trust laws. Cobb testified that he thought the reserve clause helped baseball as it kept the wealthier teams from buying up all of the established stars. He also suggested that the players have the option of renegotiating their contracts every five years if they weren't happy with their salary.

Ty divorced his second wife in 1956, both citing mental cruelty. This union produced no children. That same year, hoping to pass on his baseball knowledge, Cobb collaborated with writer John McCallum on an instructional guide to the game called *The Tiger Wore Spikes: An Informal Biography of Ty Cobb*.

In 1958 he returned home to his native state, moving into a small apartment in Cornelia, Georgia. Beginning in December of 1960, Cobb was hospitalized on four different occasions. He was suffering from prostate cancer, diabetes, chronic heart disease, bursitis plus a back injury he incurred while hunting in Idaho. During this time, Cobb contacted Doubleday Publishing about putting together his biography. Doubleday put him in touch with writer Al Stump (1916-1995). Stump was a former war correspondent, who dabbled in sports stories. Stump and Cobb spent about three weeks together in 1960-61 working on the book.

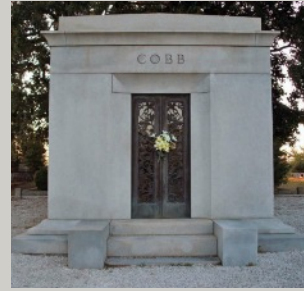
On July 5, 1961, Cobb entered Emory Hospital in Atlanta for the last time. Twelve days later he succumbed to the deadly cancer that had ravaged his body. He was survived by his estranged first wife Charlotte, his three living children Shirley, Beverly and Jimmy along with their families. The Cobbs arrived in Georgia a few weeks earlier, keeping a bedside vigil until he died. After his passing, they put together his funeral then settled his estate. Two days after Cobb died, the family held a private service at the Cornelia Christian Church led by Reverend A.E. Miller. There were 150 relatives and friends in attendance. After the funeral, Cobb was interred at the family mausoleum at Rose Hill Cemetery. Only three former players, Nap Rucker, Mickey Cochrane and Ray Schalk attended the service. The Director of the Baseball Hall of Fame, Sid Keener, was also there. It is understandable that there weren't many of ballplayers there because Cobb had outlived many of his closest friends in the game. It has been reported that the family made a request that members of major league baseball and other celebrities stay away from the service. The Cobbs may have

wanted to avoid the large crowds that would've been involved with such a high profile funeral.

The Lexington, North Carolina, Dispatch of July 19, 1961, reported that the following baseball notables would be attending Cobb's funeral as honorary pallbearers: The names included Casey Stengel, Ford Frick Joe Cronin, Del Webb, Charlie Dressen, Fred Haney, Herold "Muddy" Ruel, Frank "Home Run" Baker, Sam Crawford, Mickey Cochrane and Earl Mann. For

whatever reason all of them, excluding Cochrane, didn't attend. Paying one's respects at funerals is a time-honored tradition among those associated with our national pastime. It appears the family wanted a private funeral and their wishes were honored. Cobb counted some of America's most influential people as his close friends but they too, weren't at the service. Only the Cobb family knows the true story. Even so, they received hundreds of telegrams and letters of condolence from numerous baseball dignitaries and celebrities from all walks of life.

The result of the collaboration between Cobb and Al Stump was the book, *My Life in Baseball: A True Record* that came out shortly after the Georgia Peach passed away. It was well received and stayed in print for years. In December of 1961 Stump published an unflattering article about Cobb in True Magazine called *Ty Cobb's Wild Ten Month Ride To Live*. Stump intimated that Cobb's creative control over the book didn't allow him to write the real story. Stump portrayed Cobb in last few months on earth as a deranged alcoholic/drug addict lunatic who hated everything and everybody. Stump, failing to acknowledge the family's request for privacy, wrote that Cobb was so unpopular that no one from organized baseball bothered to show up for his funeral. After reading Stump's article on Cobb, Sid Keener remarked, "Why should an author wait until the idol of millions was locked in that mausoleum in Royston, Georgia to type such caustic and scathing prose? "



Final installment in next Newsletter

# COLONEL STOGIES' STUMPERS

Each *Second Chance News* will feature a couple of trivia questions from the Shamokin Stogies' GM David Nemec. Email your answers to David, and we will announce the names of the Gms that got it right in the next Newsletter.

philtomney@yahoo.com



## Stogies Stumpers #3

1. What team in Kevin's lifetime finished the season having to play back-to-back doubleheaders on the road on the final Saturday and Sunday, splitting both of them? Had it swept both of them it would have won the pennant by 1 game. Had it swept even one of them and split the other it would have tied for the pennant and forced a 1-game playoff. As it was, it finished tied for 2nd, just 1 game out of first, its best finish in over 20 years. The following year, fueled by its near miss, it won the pennant.

The 1967/68 Detroit Tigers is the correct answer. The Tigers defeat of Cardinals in the 1968 World Series, had a major effect on my life. The Cardinals were my favorite team, and when Lou Brock and Bob Gibson failed to beat the Tigers, 10 year old me switched allegiance to the NY Yankees. Thank You, Mickey Lolich, you helped me see the light.

2. What pitcher wakened on the morning of September 16 with 14 wins in a season that ended in early October and yet won 20 games? He is the only one to reach this pinnacle with so few wins so late in the season and in his next start after his 20th win became the only hurler to fashion a World Series shutout in a major league stadium that was his team's home for over 60 years.

Gene Bearden pulled off this feat in 1948. The Indians beat the Boston Braves in 6 games to win the World Series. 41 Year old Rookie Satchel Paige got 2 outs in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning in Game #5.

Bonus Question: Who is this unsigned pitcher that was eligible to pitch in the 1912 SCL?

This is Aloysius Travers, the Seminary student that got to pitch in the Ty Cobb suspension game.

Ryan Buckley guessed Nelson Mandela. I'm beginning to think that Ryan is actually just a spam spewing robot.



## WHO ARE THESE SECOND CHANCE LEAGUE STARS?

1. This Second Chance League veteran is just hanging out, casually leaning on a post.

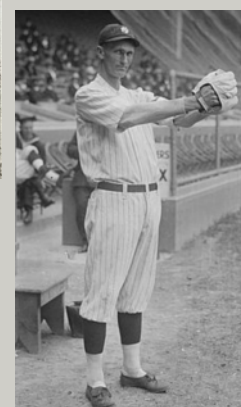
He later became a scout for the NY Yankees.

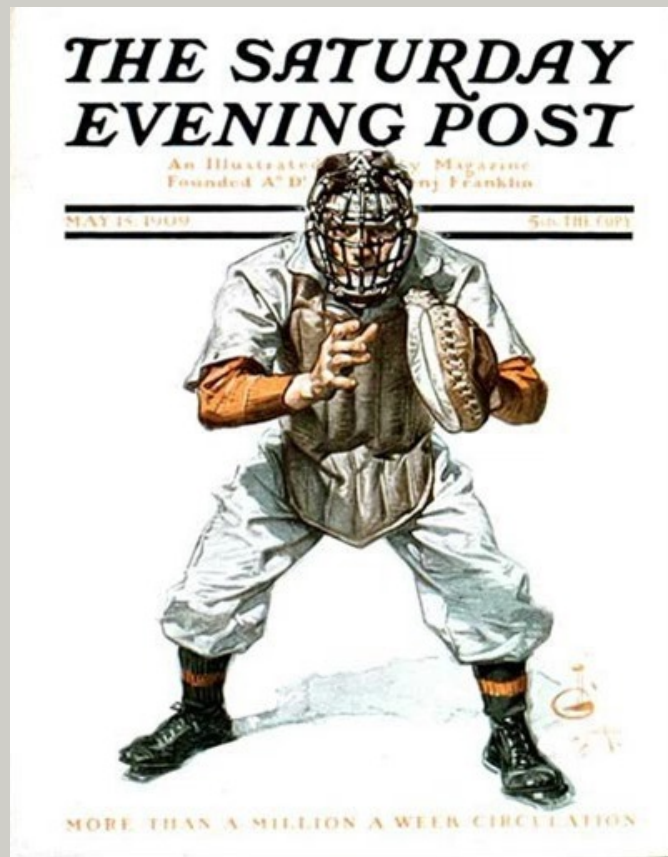


2. This Second Chance League player fought in the trenches during WW I. He later served during WW II.



3. This 6'7" Second Chance League player had the distinction of being the tallest pitcher in the history of the game for 69 years.





“ Baseball Catcher” by J.C. Leyendecker

J.C. Leyendecker was a German immigrant who moved to Chicago when he was 8 years old. He was a prolific illustrator with over 400 magazine covers to his credit. He contributed 322 to *The Saturday Evening Post* alone.

This illustration appeared on the May 15, 1909 cover, and with all due respect to J.C. Leyendecker, he got it mostly wrong. This is supposed to be a catcher from 1909. Heck, this is supposed to be a catcher. Clean polished spikes, a brand new mitt, chest protector and mask, and no dirt. They don't call these things the tools of ignorance for nothing. Have you ever seen a photo of a major league catcher looking as pristine as this guy. Where's the blood, sweat, and tears? Where's the dirt, the wear and tear of a season long struggle of catching a tiny ball thrown at 90+ MPH? Mickey Cochrane and Ernie Lombardi never looked this good. Heck, I've never looked this good, and I'm adorable.

Leyendecker did get something right. The catcher's right hand looks a little gnarled, maybe a couple of bones have been broken, but it should look so much worse. Plus this guy does have a look on his face that says he means business and he's ready for anything, maybe even some dirt.