



SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“In my book “Death By Black Hole” I describe how horrible it would be to get sucked into a black hole. Very similar to reading the Second Chance News.”

-Neil deGrasse Tyson

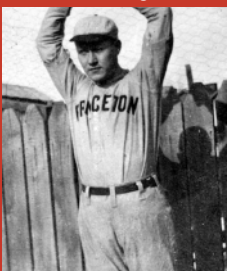
Hey Neil, did you pull that joke out of Uranus?

Notes From The Commissioner

The American League won the 1913 SCL All Star Game 6-5, giving each league 2 victories in the mid-season classic. Jimmy Keenan(Terrapins), Mike Murphy(Miners) Adam Graham (Warbirds) and myself hooked up on Google Hangouts to play this game live. I thought it was a lot of fun and the DMB play-by-play can be a real kick in the testicles; changing the outcome of a play in the very last line. Some base hits became outs, and some outs became hits. And it's kind of weird that Chick Gandil booted a groundball at 1st to allow an NL run to score, while Hal Chase struck out to end the game. Did the Gamblers get to them?

I want to try to do this every season, and also play as many Playoff games as I can this way as well. I urge all Gms to join in when possible. It's worth it just to hear Jimmy Keenan taunt me the entire time. He's an NL/Terrapin rooster through and through. I can live with the taunting, but when he brings his dog, cat and mother into the hangout and tries to get a wave started, it's just embarrassing.

FYI- The 1914 draft brings us not just Babe Ruth, but Red Faber and Harry Heilmann. And future Skeeter, knuckleballer, King Lear.



“When we are born, we cry that we are come to this great stage of fools.” Welcome to the Skeeters Mr Lear.

1913 In The Second Chance Baseball League

With around 55 games to go, it doesn't look like the Stogies, Rebels, Warbirds and Caterpillars are going to let anybody else join in on the pennant race fun. The same teams in the Playoffs in back to back seasons? Not the stuff that baseball dreams are made of.

My question to you is, How do we get parity in the League?

1. Playoff teams get to keep less players than non playoff teams?

I'm not a fan of this. I like to see players stay on the team that drafted them. I'd like to see 20 keepers. I wouldn't have had to release Doc Crandall and Beals Becker from the Skeeters if we had 20 keepers.

I also think it hurts the Gms that really work at the draft. A Gm that does his homework gets punished, while a GM that drafts with no prep gets a pass, and a higher draft pick. Not sure what will work here.

2. Change the draft to a straight draft from start to finish? Or go with a snake draft throughout?

I flip flop on this. On a snake draft the League Champion would get 2 of the top 15 picks, while the lowest ranked team gets 2 picks in the 1st 28 picks. That doesn't seem right? Maybe we should keep it the way it is, but start the snake draft with the start of the 3rd round. (The Champion would get picks 14, 28 and 29. The lowest ranked team would get picks 1, 15 and 42)

3. Allow 2 more teams in as a Wild Card?

Maybe if we expand to 16 teams.

4. Change nothing, things will work out?

Maybe the Gms of the Stogies, Rebels, Warbirds and Caterpillars will always put a top tier team on the field, no matter what's thrown at them.

5. Implement a salary cap?

Ruth's fat salary would force the GM of his team to surround him with a lot of 2nd tier players. Not sure where to begin with salaries, and it seems like a lot of work to implement this. But I don't rule it out.

6. Expand to 16 teams?

1914 and 1915 gives us a lot of additional Federal League players, to go along with the 100 Negro league players. But I don't know how viable 16 teams would be after 1915.

Let me know what you think. There are no stupid suggestions, I'll consider anything that's proposed.

A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Rabbitt Maranville- Shamokin Stogies



[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)

1. Walter James Vincent Maranville was born in 1891 in Springfield, Massachusetts (home to the basketball Hall of Fame).

2. He worked as a pipe fitter and played semi-pro ball before signing with New Bedford of the New England League in 1911. He got his nickname there in 1912 because people thought he hopped around like a rabbit while playing short.

3. He was signed by the Boston Braves in late 1912 and made 11 errors in 26 games while hitting .206.

4. By 1914 he was hitting clean up (until Possum Whitted showed up at mid-season). He hit .246 with four home runs and 28 stolen bases. He drove in 78 runs (a team and career high) and finished the season hitting seventh in the lineup. Boston won the 1914 World Series with Maranville hitting .308 with an OPS of .708. He finished second in the Chalmers Award (an early version of the MVP Award) voting in 1914.

5. During World War I he served as a gunner on the battleship USS Pennsylvania.

6. In 1921 he was traded to Pittsburgh, where he played through 1924, finished seventh in MVP voting in '24. He was promptly traded to Chicago.

7. He was with St. Louis when they made the 1928 World Series. He hit .240 in the regular season, but .308 in the World Series. The Cardinals were swept.

8. He went back to Boston in 1929, remaining there through 1933.

9. In spring training 1934 he broke his foot sliding into home. He was out all of the '34 season, then failed in a 1935 comeback (He hit .149 in 23 games).

10. In retirement, he managed a little, then caught on as director of a sandbox baseball school for one of the New York City newspapers. Among the players he taught was Whitey Ford.

11. He died in January 1954 and was elected to the Hall of Fame shortly afterward. Many people still contend it was a sympathy and tribute vote.

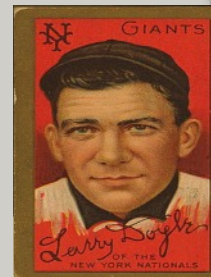
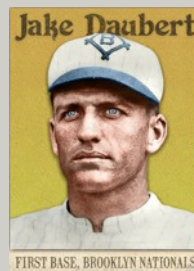
12. For his career Maranville has a triple slash line of .258/.318/.340/.658 with an OPS+ of 82. His OPS+ peaks at 114 in 1919 (in a season in which he plays more than 11 games). His Baseball Reference.com offensive WAR is 29.5 and his defensive WAR is 30.7. He was considered a superior shortstop in his era and did extraordinarily well in MVP voting for a guy who never hit above .284 in years when an MVP was awarded.



SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



As of this writing Jake Daubert and Larry Doyle have played in the most consecutive games in the SCL. They have both played in 562 straight games all with the Gashouse Gorillas. Sam Crawford(Gorillas) and Dick Hoblitzel(Caterpillars) are just 1 behind at 561. Only 24 players in the history of the game have played in 560+ consecutive games. None are currently playing in the SCL.



TEAMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

After 4 SCL All Star Games the team with the most All Star representatives are the Wheaton Warbirds with 20. The Jersey City Skeeters are 2nd with 18. The expansion Blue Meanies hold up the rear with 5 All Star selections.

I presume that the Yankees have the most all time All Stars, because they're awesome. Also because I couldn't find this information on the web.



SECOND CHANCE WORDS

“Shortstop”-by Charles Ghigna



The slits of his eyes
hidden in shadows
beneath the bill of his cap,
he watches and waits
like a patient cat
to catch what comes
his way.

Crack!
and he pounces
upon the ball,
his hands flying
above the grass,
flinging his prey
on its way
across the diamond
into a double-play.



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

Cobb's reputation took another hit from the national press in 1985, when Pete Rose broke his all-time hit record. The majority of these sports writers never knew Cobb yet they promulgated all of his alleged misdeeds, most of them gleaned from Stump's article. Ty's reputation didn't fare well in the Kens Burns baseball documentary nor did he get a favorable mention in the movie "Field of Dreams." In the latter, the players didn't want Cobb to play in their heavenly game in the cornfield because they hated him. In 1994 the movie Cobb, starring Tommy Lee Jones, was another film based on Stump's research and written work. Once again the depiction of Cobb wasn't very flattering. The surviving members of Cobb's family were disappointed in the film' as well.

Stump, who put out two additional books on Cobb, later ran into his own trouble. Stump claimed to own the shotgun that was used in the murder of William Cobb. Amanda Cobb's own court testimony states that she used a pistol in the shooting of her husband. There were further accusations by law enforcement and baseball collectors regarding Stump's sale of forged letters supposedly written by Cobb. In addition, there were allegations against Stump for trying to sell other dubious Cobb memorabilia. Stump also wrote about a number of questionable incidents that supposedly occurred in Cobb's life, including the murder of a mugger in Chicago that has never been substantiated. Like Cobb, Mr. Stump is no longer alive to defend his himself. So in fairness to the departed, the reader can look into the facts regarding Mr. Stump in order to draw their own conclusions regarding his veracity. In no way is it the intention of the author to cast aspersions on the late Mr.Stump. The author is only referencing

what is now considered public knowledge, the information being gleaned from Mr.Stump's Wikipedia page.

Cobb's exploits on the diamond are legendary but his private life is shrouded in controversy. A number of present day sports writers and a variety of other people have labeled him a racist, most of the charges stemming from Stump's True Magazine article and later books. However, there are no contemporaneous newspaper accounts that the author is aware of that corroborate these claims. As a young man, Cobb certainly had a temper, which led to fights with people from all ethnic backgrounds. With the participants in these brawls long since deceased, we'll never know the real cause of these altercations. Conversely, there are numerous confirmed firsthand accounts of Cobb's generosity and kindness to minorities from all backgrounds. Later in life Cobb spoke out publicly against baseball's color line that held back African-Americans from playing professional baseball.

Cobb's children have implied that he was a loving father who could be distant at times. Family members have stated that he held lifelong grudges against some of his kids. Later day stories about Cobb being rude to young fans and unwilling to sign autographs have proven to be completely false. Hundreds of Cobb signed items have surfaced over the years, many of them personalized to children. There have been veiled insinuations of spousal abuse but, as all parties have passed on, there's no way to accurately address this issue. Cobb's personal life is truly an enigma wrapped in a mystery.

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“ If it wasn't for baseball, I'd be in either the penitentiary or the cemetery. ”

- Babe Ruth



Same here Babe, although It would probably be a women's prison.

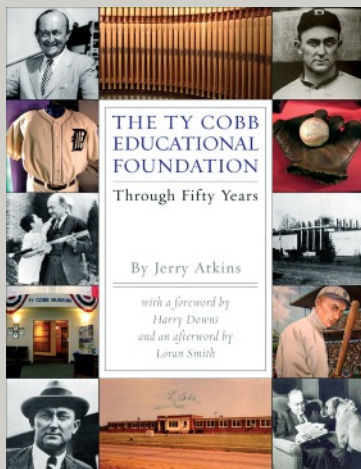
In an interview shortly before his death Ty reminisced about his playing days, "I wouldn't change a thing. I played every game to the hilt. I always played to win. But I never filed my spikes the way they said I did, and I never deliberately spiked anyone in my life."

Infielder Frank O'Rourke played on the Tigers from 1924-26 when Ty was the player-manager," When asked what it was like playing for Cobb, O'Rourke responded, "I liked him. He liked to win and I respected him for that. To me, he was a gentleman at all times. He was a hustler and a fighter. He just wouldn't take any backtalk from anybody."

What we do know for certain is that Cobb was a philanthropic man, a fact that is rarely mentioned. In 1950 he donated \$100,000 to establish the Cobb Memorial Hospital in Royston, Georgia in memory of his parents. This hospital has evolved into the modern day Ty Cobb Health Care System. This group of medical centers has provided assistance to people of all races, creeds and religions. At no time did he ever make any stipulations as to who could receive treatment at the facility that bears his family name.



In 1953 Cobb started a scholarship fund for Georgia students, The Cobb Educational Fund extends financial aid to Georgia students from every race, creed and religion so they can obtain college educations. The foundation's mission statement reads as follows, "To provide help for the manual arts school, technological, professional or college education of qualified boys or girls, who otherwise would be unable to secure such education."



When he passed away in 1961, Cobb, whose net worth was estimated to be around 93 million in today's economy, left 25% of his estate to his educational foundation. The remainder of his fortune was distributed among his children and grandchildren. As of 2012, Cobb's foundation has distributed over \$12,000,000 in scholarships to young adults of all races from Georgia.

Cobb summed his baseball career up best in 1916 saying, "I know enough of fame on the diamond to know it lasts as long as the ability is there to win it. I shall have my day like all the rest, and whatever I have done will be forgotten."

After Cobb's death Dr. Stewart Brown Jr. of Royston started an effort to honor the town's native son with his own museum. Over \$500,000 was raised, mostly in private donations, for the project.

The museum was eventually built but it, like Cobb's legacy, didn't fare well. State funding of the museum ended in 1975. The building was sold back to the city for \$1. part of the structure becoming Royston's new City Hall.

Thanks to Brown, four billboards were erected that read, "Welcome to Royston, Home of Baseball's Immortal Ty Cobb." A 1978 Associated Press article noted that two of the signs had fallen into disrepair but there wasn't any money in the city coffers to have them refurbished. Royston Mayor Jerry Gaines attempted to explain the decline of the Cobb Museum, "It all began when Interstate 85 opened up. We used to be a major traveling artery through (Georgia State Highway) 29 and people would stop off to see the historic sites but 85 ended all that. Occasionally, there is a person who will drive off I-85 and ask for the Cobb Museum. Perhaps we didn't promote the idea enough in the beginning. But there was a problem in that most of Cobb's stuff was sent to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown (N.Y.) and his family didn't cooperate that much. What we have now is over at the hospital."



The city of Royston opened a new Cobb Museum on July 17, 1998. The goal of this museum, which is housed in one of the buildings of the Ty Cobb Health system, is to provide the true story of their hometown hero. Chairman of the Museum Committee, Matt McRee, told the Associated Press, "Some of the stories about Cobb have been so exaggerated over the years, they're not even accurate any more."

As the years roll on and generations come and go, one's lifetime accomplishments are absorbed into the endless abyss of time. In Cobb's case it's safe to assume that he'd be astonished at the lambasting he has received at the hands of the modern day media. No benefit of the doubt has been given to a man who is no longer around to address his accusers. For the most part his once storied legacy has been tarnished by people that never met him. Hopefully, Cobb's true persona, good, bad or indifferent, will emerge someday from the depths of negativism that has



engulfed one of our national pastime's greatest players. Cobb, imperfect as any human being, assuredly had his faults. On the other hand, he had a good side too, which should count for something as we formulate our opinion of this old-time baseball legend.

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



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.



That is Dizzy Dismukes currently pitching for the Kenmore Miners.

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

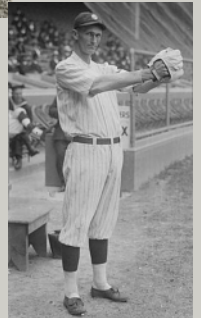
This is Hank Gowdy. He served as a captain in World War II at the age of 53 and is believed to be the only big-league baseball player to serve in both wars. He is presently a member of the Detroit Wolverines.



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.

Slim Love, currently pitching for the Virginia Rebels, was topped by the 6' 8" Stefan Wever in 1982. He pitched just one game for the NY Yankees.

*****GM Ryan Buckley's guess of the Notorious B.I.G. Makes me question his sanity.**



More Who's Who in the SCL:

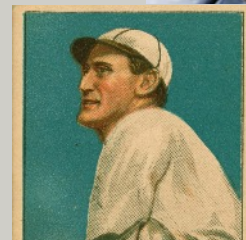
1. Who is this 1913 SCL rookie hurler who shares his given name with a US President?



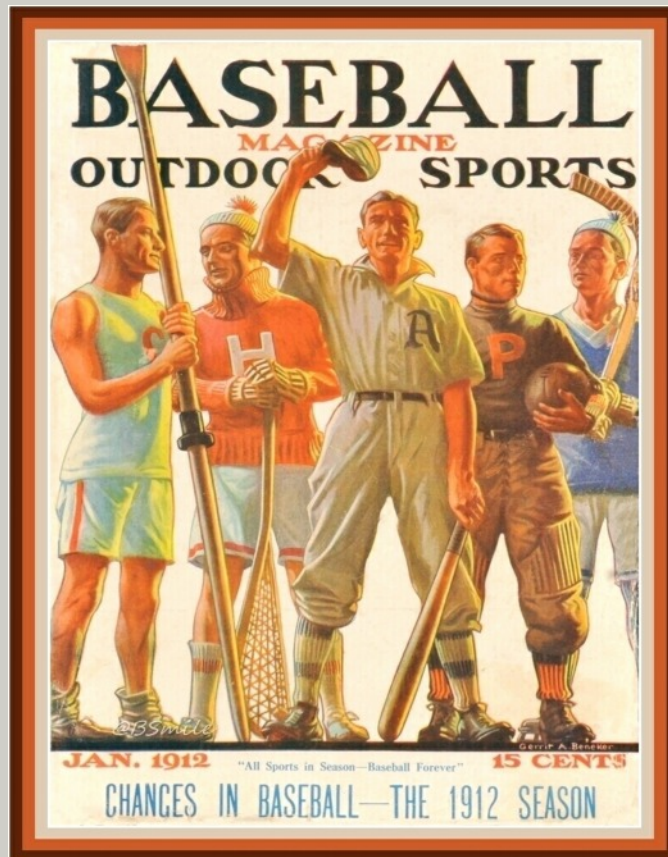
2. This guy holds the Detroit Tiger franchise record for wins.



3. This guy, who shares a nickname with Whos Who #2, lost a perfect game when he hit a batter with 2 outs in the 9th inning. He also got the save in one of the greatest pitched games in the SCL.



******NOTE- The 1st GM to email me with the correct answer to all 3 Who's Who will win a Nap Lajoie baseball card. keving1701@gmail .com**



Restoration by Bruce Menard

“ All Sports In Season-Baseball Forever” by Garritt Beneker

This is a 1912 cover for *Baseball Magazine-Outdoor Sports* soon to be just *Baseball Magazine*. Garrit Beneker was an American illustrator that had 100's of illustrations featured on popular magazines during the golden age of illustration. Along with his work on *Baseball Magazine*, he appeared on the cover of *Scientific American*, *Harpers Weekly*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. He was hired by the US Navy to do posters to aid the War effort during WW I, and did several advertising illustrations for Ivory Soap. He died in 1934 at the age of 52.

The above cover features 5 prominent athletes of the day, covering the big 5 team sports of the time. Rowing, Lacrosse, Baseball, Football and Hockey. Baseball takes center stage(as it should) with Napoleon Lajoie proudly acknowledging the American reverence of baseball in that era.

My problem with this cover is Lajoie's depiction. The 4 other athletes on the cover are obviously in the prime of their careers, young, tan and manly. Lajoie, who would have been just 37 in 1912, looks old, weather beaten and frail. At first I thought it might have been Connie Mack portrayed in an A's uniform. Just look at the gray hair, wrinkles, and pipe-cleaner arms. He looks like he's struggling to hold up his cap. At 6-1, 195 lbs, Lajoie was a big man for his time, and he deserved to be portrayed as such. You couldn't tell by this cover. If I was Lajoie I wouldn't have been too happy with this illustration. I might have taken one of my pipe-cleaner arms and shoved it up Beneker's ass.