



SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“ One of my favorite things to do is read the Second Chance News. That, and getting my hair cut. They give me a lollipop when they’re done.” -Kim Jong Un

Notes From The Commissioner

So I’m watching the Yankees on TV, and CC Sabathia is pitching. He’s got his cap skewed to the side just enough to be off-center. The opposing pitcher did the same thing, as well as some of the fielders. This bothers me more than it should, maybe because I’m officially, “Get off my lawn,” old, or maybe because I was tutored by every baseball coach I ever had, how to wear my cap; how to respect the game, by respecting the uniform.

As Commissioner and founder of the Second Chance league, I know that none of the players in this league will wear their cap skewed to the side. They respected the game, by respecting the cap. Except for Nick Altrock....and Al Schacht....and Germany Schaefer, and.....Rabbitt Maranville,you know what.....just forget I even brought this up.

1912 In The Second Chance Baseball League

Before looking into the real life fielding stats in 1912, my guess would have been that the error rate in the Second Chance League is a little high. Currently we sit at .956, and it seems there is at least 1 error in every game. The Shamokin Stogies top the SCL with a .975 fielding %, while the Blue Meanies kick the ball around better than many High School soccer teams, with a .942. That’s just shy of 2.5 errors per game. Despite my astute observational skills, it turns out that the fielding% in 1912 was also .956. Sometimes the Diamond Mind Baseball software gets it right, who’d a thunk?

It still seemed to me that every single game this season had at least 1 error. So I put on my SABR statistical cap, whipped out my calculator, analyzed the tangent, co-signed another loan for my son, and began checking box scores. As of the May 12th games there have been only 3 games played this season without an error. The last error free game occurred on April 7, when the Warriors and Vinegars pulled off that SCL rarity. That currently gives us 197 straight games with at least 1 error. I’m personally rooting for that streak to reach 250. Something we can all be proud of.

So who are the top 3 guys that will do their best to keep this streak alive?

- Larry Doyle**(Gorillas)- 19 errors at 2B
 - Pop Lloyd**(Blue Meanies)- 27 errors at SS
 - Del Pratt**(Turks) -51 errors at 3B
- That’s not a typo, 51 errors! Del Pratt played 1 game at 3B in 1912, committing one error, giving him an .875 fielding %. He is currently dodging ground balls for the Turks at a crisp .710 pace. I’m on the dark side of my 50’s, and I think with a couple of weeks worth of fielding practice, I could field at least .650. Luckily for the Turks, he makes up for his deficiencies at the hot corner, by hitting .208, almost 100 points below his actually 1912 average. I think it’s time for the Turks to make a roster move. You’re sullyng the greatness that was Del Pratt.



Rabbitt Maranville and Nick Altrock



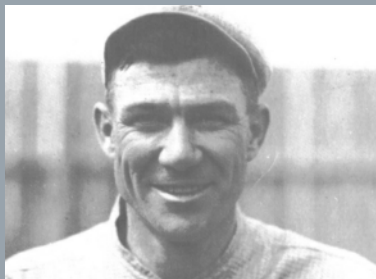
Smile Del, It’ll get better.

A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Larry Doyle-Gashouse Gorillas

-[VERDUN 2's Blog](#)



Like a number of players from the Deadball Era, Larry Doyle came out of the mines. His mines were in Breese, Illinois. He hated the mines, loved baseball, was better at the latter than the former and after a couple of years in the minors ended up in New York with the Giants in 1907.

Doyle was a third baseman in the minors and the Giants had a third baseman (Art Devlin). What they needed was a second baseman, so Doyle was handed the job. He was awful. Eventually he got better, but was never considered a first-rate second baseman. He seems to have never gotten the knack of coming in properly for a slow roller and many of his errors were of the glove, not arm, kind.

What he could do well was hit. He moved quickly into the two hole in the Giants order and spent most of the next ten years as a reliable two hitter. He had good bat control, speed, and a good eye, all critical in a bunt oriented one-run-at-a-time offense. He led the National League in triples once (1911), in hits twice, and in doubles once. In 1915 he won the batting crown. In 1912 he won the NL's Chalmers Award, the 19-teens version of the MVP award, setting career highs in both average and RBIs. His reward was a Chalmers automobile, which he managed to wreck in 1913 causing him to miss several games toward the end of the season.

During his tenure with the Giants, the team won the NL pennant in 1911-1913, but lost all three World Series' to the American League team. In the 1911 Series Doyle led the team in hits (7) and average (.304). In 1912 his Series performance was much worse, and got even worse in 1913 when he managed to hit only .150 with three hits.

Doyle stayed with the Giants through 1915, managing to room with Christy Mathewson for most of the period. The two men became good friends and were very good at coming up with joint investments, which left Doyle with a nice nest egg for his early retirement years. He also became great friends with first baseman Fred Merkle and always supported him against detractors after the base running blunder of 1908.

In 1916 Doyle was traded to the Cubs with nine games left in the season (the Giants got Heinie Zimmerman). He stayed with Chicago through 1917, then came back to New York for the final three years of his career, retiring after the 1920 season. After his playing days he worked with the Giants as a minor league manager, scout, and sometime coach. He managed to go through most of his money and by 1942 was in bad shape both economically in healthwise. He got tuberculosis and ended up, with help from the NL, in the same sanitarium where his old roommate Mathewson had lived his last years. He outlived the sanitarium. It closed in 1954. He died at home in 1974.

For much of his career, Doyle was the finest second baseman in the National League, rivalled only by Johnny Evers (both Eddie Collins and Nap LaJoie in the American League were better). For his career he hit .290, slugged .408, had an on base percentage of .357 (765 ops) with 2654 total bases. He averaged 21 stolen bases a season (which includes two seasons when he did not play 100 games). He wasn't much of a second baseman. His career .949 fielding average isn't very good, even by the standards of the era (although there are worse).

Doyle was one of those players who is absolutely necessary for a team to do well, but who is not the big star on the team. He won an MVP but was usually lost behind the great names of the era. He was the best at his position in his league, but the other league was stronger at the spot. There are a lot of those types in baseball history.

SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



Tris Speaker(Caterpillars) has the longest hitting streak in the league at 29.

At the start of the 1912 season, Jack Coombs(Wolverines) had given up the most doubles(102), triples(39) and HRS(30) in the league. His 36 losses are also a league high. His 40 wins, however are good for 3rd in the league.



Teams You Should Know

The Gashouse Gorillas have the longest winning streak in the league with 15 in 1911.

The Rebels,(1910) and the Warriors(1911) have both lost a league record 14 in a row.

The NY Giants won a record 26 in a row in 1916.(Includes 1 tie).

The Phillies lost a record 23 in a row in 1961.

THE LAST WORD

Baseball's Sad Lexicon

BY FRANKLIN PIERCE ADAMS

These are the saddest of possible words:

“Tinker to Evers to Chance.”

Trio of bear cubs, and fleeter than birds,

Tinker and Evers and Chance.

Ruthlessly pricking our gonfalon bubble,

Making a Giant hit into a double—

Words that are heavy with nothing but trouble:

“Tinker to Evers to Chance.”

FYI- A gonfalon is a pennant or flag. A great word that will probably never make it back into contemporary usage.

Hearing Joe Girardi say, “I can't believe the Red Sox pricked our gonfalan again this season!” Just might be taken the wrong way.



Groucho Marx once said that he'd never join a club that would have him for a member. I would gladly join this group of guys if they let me. As you'll see, the Gms of this league have some serious baseball chops. Here is just a sampling of what they've written. Please let me know if I missed anybody, or if you'd like me to mention something that you think the other Gms should know about.

John McMurray-Vinegars

1. SABR Committee Chair of the Oral History Committee
2. SABR Committee Chair of the Deadball Era Research Committee. The Inside Game Newsletter is the best of any committee.

This is a link to the latest newsletter. <https://sabr.box.com/shared/static/3s6j6ka0syzieruisfowhe6r6ukqcuu2.pdf>

3. Author of 14 player bios for the SABR Bio Project, including Second Chance players, [Jimmy Austin](#), [Amos Strunk](#), and [Neal Ball](#)

Jimmy Keenan-Terrapins

1. Author of 23 player bios for the SABR Bio Project, including [Moonlight Graham](#), [Lefty George](#), and [John Lyston](#), his Great Grandfather.
2. Author of 16 submissions for the SABR Games Project
3. Published 2 books: [The Life, Times, and Tragic Death of Pitcher Win Mercer](#). (Currently on my bookshelf)(Also reviewed in the latest Deadball Newsletter, linked above)

[The Lystons- A Story of One Baltimore Family And Our National Pastime](#)(Soon to be on my bookshelf)

V- ArkLaTex Superbas

[VERDUN 2's BLOG](#) A Great baseball history blog, whose archived player posts will be a mainstay in this newsletter.

....Continued....

“Nice guys finish lunch!”

-Leo Durocher.....no wait, that was my grandmother that said that. She made a grilled cheese sandwich to die for.

Kevin Graham- Skeeters

1. Commissioner of the 2nd best Historical Baseball League on the web. (Well...top 20 at least)
2. Several contributions to the SABR Baseball Cards Blog
 - [1887 Kalamazoo Bats](#)
 - [T206 Goodness](#)
 - [One Man's Garbage](#)
3. And my proudest accomplishment. A letter to the editor in *Sports Illustrated*. That's right, Nov. 19, 1990.

Bill Bishop- Wolverines

Author of 6 player bios for the SABR Bio Project, including [Jimmy Archer](#), [Rube Benton](#), [Rube Oldring](#), and [Casey Stengel](#).

Howard Miller- Doughboys

Co-Writer of [The Hall Of Miller And Eric Blog](#):Two Baseball Obsessives Elect Their Own Hall Of Fame. An incredibly detailed and researched blog.

David Nemeč- Stogies

Winner of the 2015 Henry Chadwick Award, presented by SABR to honor baseball's best researchers. Author, Co-Writer, and Contributor of a ton of baseball books too numerous to mention, but here are a few that I have on my bookshelf:

1. [The Great 19th Century Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball](#)
2. [The Beer and Whiskey League](#)
3. [Major League Baseball Profiles 1871-1900 Volumes 1-2](#)
4. [Great Baseball Feats, Facts And Firsts](#)
5. [The Baseball Chronicle](#)

I've been trying for awhile to get one of these books autographed by David, but we can never seem to get together. I knock on his door, but he doesn't answer. His car is in the driveway, but he never seems to be at home. I saw him once through the kitchen window but he seemed to be in a hurry to get to another room. The hectic life of a writer, I guess. I've even sent him a bunch of pictures of me, just so he'd know I'm not some kind of weirdo.

I'll keep trying, and now that I have his cell phone number, it should be no problem. We could probably have lunch together....or go to the park. Maybe we could ride a teeter-totter together. Do parks even have teeter-totters anymore? I hope they do, that would be awesome.



LEAGUE PARK, CLEVELAND