



# SECOND CHANCE NEWS



“Yeah, Kevin used to publish a newsletter in prison. Called it *Leavenworth Levity*. Most guys chose solitary, rather than having to read that crap.” -Ted Bundy

NOTE: Ted was mad because I would never use him as the centerfold.

## Notes From The Commissioner

The 1971 All Star Game was played in Detroit. The American League won 6-4, ending their 9 game losing streak, and Reggie Jackson hit one of the most majestic Hrs I ever saw. None of that really mattered for me. My favorite player, Bobby Murcer was appearing in his 1<sup>st</sup> All Star Game, batting 2<sup>nd</sup> for the American League. He singled to center in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, and finished the game 1-3.

In the 1972 All Star Game, played in Atlanta, and won by the NL in extra innings 4-3, Murcer came up with Rod Carew on 1<sup>st</sup>, and scorched a line drive ticketed for extra bases to right, only to be snared by Willie McCovey at 1<sup>st</sup>. He forced Carew for the unassisted DP.

When Murcer came to bat in the 6<sup>th</sup> with Carew again on 1<sup>st</sup>, Murcer again scorched a ball toward right, only to have McCovey scoop the wicked grounder resulting in a 3-6-3 DP.

McCovey ripped the heart out of that little 12 year old boy. Why did he have to catch those balls? “Rot in Hades McCovey, DIE, DIE, DIE!”

When I checked Baseball Reference to refresh my memory of these 2 plays, I found out that it was Lee May, and not Willie McCovey that made those plays at 1<sup>st</sup>. All these years my hatred for Willie McCovey burned with the heat of 1000 suns. And It was the wrong guy!?

I would like to formerly apologize to the McCovey family for the grief that I may have caused them over the last 45 years. In hindsight I regret all the death threats, angry phone messages, and the pizzas delivered at 3AM. It was misplaced, juvenile and stupid, and does not reflect who I am as a human being.

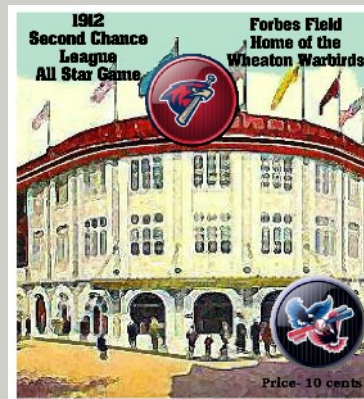
Now if you'll excuse me, I need to look up Lee May's address.

## 1912 In The Second Chance Baseball League

Forbes Field, home of the National League Wheaton Warbirds hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Second Chance League All Star game on 6/22/1912. The 1910 All Star game saw the NL win by a score of 2-0. The AL won 3-1 in last season's contest.

### American League

- C- Chief Meyers(Rebels)
- C-Dutch Sterrett(Gorillas)
- 1B-Fred Merkle(Skeeters)
- 1B- Jake Daubert(Gorillas)
- 2B- Eddie Collins(Stogies)
- 2B- Larry Doyle(Gorillas)
- 3B- Hans Lobert(Stogies)
- 3B- Roy Hartzell-Wolverines
- SS- Honus Wagner (Turks)
- SS- Art Devlin(Skeeters)
- OF- Chief Wilson(Skeeters)
- OF- Joe Jackson(Rebels)
- OF- Max Carey(Doughboys)
- OF-John Titus(Wolverines)
- OF- Zack Wheat(Stogies)
- OF- Sam Crawford(Stogies)
- SP- Jack Coombs(Wolverines)
- SP- Slim Sallee(Gorillas)
- SP- Buck O'Brien(Skeeters)
- SP- Claude Hendrix(Rebels)
- SP- Jimmy Lavender(Stogies)
- RP- Dizzy Dismukes(Doughboys)
- UT-Nap Lajoie(Wolverines)



### National League

- C- Jack Lapp(Terrapins)
- C- Dick Cotter(Blue Meanies)
- 1B-Tullie McAdoo(Warriors)
- 1B-Stuffy McInnis(Warbirds)
- 2B-Morrie Rath(Vinegars)
- 2B-Alex McCarthy(Terrapins)
- 3B-H. Zimmerman(Warbirds)
- 3B-Tom Downey (Warriors)
- SS-Jesse Barber(Superbas)
- SS-Pop Lloyd(Blue Meanies)
- OF-Ty Cobb(Vinegars)
- OF-Tris Speaker(Caterpillars)
- OF-Clyde Milan(Caterpillars)
- OF-Pete Hill(Superbas)
- OF-Armando Marsans(Peoria)
- OF- Danny Murphy (Meanies)
- P- Red Ames(Caterpillars)
- P- Pete Alexander(Caterpillars)
- P- Bill Lindsay(Superbas)
- P- Walter Johnson(Warbirds)
- P-Rube Marquard(Peoria)
- RP- Jose Mendez(Superbas)
- UT- Bill Pierce(Terrapins)

I'd like to thank Ryan Buckley(Gorillas) for picking the AL All Stars. And I'd like to thank Jimmy Keenan(Terrapins) for picking the NL All Stars and managing the team as well. We hooked up on Google hangouts and had a great time. The play-by play in Diamond Mind can be very funny, and sometimes it will change the outcome of a play in the last line of text, leading to some frustrating reversals of a call.

The boxscore and game summary are on Page 5 of the newsletter.

# A SECOND CHANCE PLAYER

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Vean Gregg-Midwestern Spit-N-Vinegars



Sylveanus Gregg was born in Washington Territory (now the state of Washington) in 1885. The nickname "Vean" comes from the middle letters of his first name (and I think is pronounced to rhyme with "peon", but it could rhyme with "pe-can", like the nut). His dad was a farmer and plasterer and the son learned both professions, apparently becoming quite adept at the plastering. It strengthened his arm greatly, and he had one of those rare items that baseball loves, a left arm that could control a baseball in flight.

Gregg pitched semi-pro ball, had a stint at South Dakota State, and eventually ended up with the Cleveland Naps (now the Indians). He found he could make more money barnstorming on the weekends and plastering during the week than he could make in professional baseball, so waited until 1908 to take the contract with a minor league team (Can you imagine that kind of salary structure today?). He spent two seasons in the minors, then was picked up by Cleveland. He refused the money and stayed one more year in the local Washington state minors, where he said he could make more money. Finally in 1911 went to Cleveland as a left-handed starter.

Although he was left-handed, he was essentially the replacement for Addie Joss. Gregg did well replacing the Hall of Famer. He went 23-7, won the ERA title as a rookie, struck out 125 men, and had a lot more innings pitched than hits allowed (a league leading WHIP of 1.054). It was his best year. He was 20-13 in both 1912 and 1913 with ERA's in the twos, then developed a sore arm. He started 1914 with Cleveland, went 9-3 with an ERA over three, and was traded to the Red Sox. He finished 3-4 in Boston

[-VERDUN 2's Blog](#)

with an ERA of almost four, then managed only 39 games over 1915 and 1916.

He spent 1917 in the minors (Providence), then played 1918 in Philadelphia for the rebuilding Athletics. He went 9-14 and retired to a ranch in Canada he bought with his baseball salary. He stayed there through 1921. He returned to baseball, joining Pacific Coast League Seattle and had three terrific seasons. In 1925, at age 40, he was sold to Washington where he went 2-2 with a 4.12 ERA in 26 games (only five starts). He missed the 1925 World Series (which Washington lost), then left the Major Leagues for good.

He played minor league baseball off and on through 1931, then retired to run an "Emporium" in Hoquiam, Washington. The business had a lunch counter and sold both sporting goods and cigars. He died in July 1964. He was elected to the Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame, the Washington State Sports Hall of Fame, and in 1969 was chosen by fans the greatest Indians left-hander (which may say more about Cleveland pitching than about Gregg).

For his career, Gregg ended up 92-63 (a .594 winning percentage) over 1393 innings and 239 games (about six innings per game). Struck out 720 batters, walked 552, and gave up 1240 hits (for a WHIP of 1.286). Although three of his teams, the 1915 and 1916 Red Sox and the 1925 Senators went to the World Series, Gregg never appeared in a Series game.

There are a lot of pitchers like Gregg. They are early phenoms who develop arm trouble early and end up with short but flashy careers that end up appearing disappointing. It seems to be especially true of southpaws. Mark Prior, although not a lefty, is a modern version of the type. There are lots of others in the history of the game. With an ERA title in his rookie season, Gregg could easily be a poster child for the type.

SECOND CHANCE STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



As of this writing Birdie Cree (Vinegars) has struck out 230 times, more than any other Second Chance player. Although Hal Chase (Vinegars) will likely pass him before seasons end. Russ Ford's (Terrapins) 13 career shutouts is best in the Second Chance league. Christy Mathewson (Gorillas) at 12 will likely pass him at season's end.



## Teams You Should Know

On April 20, 1912 the ArkLaTex Superbas beat the Wheaton Warbirds by a score of 3-1 to become the 1<sup>st</sup> Second Chance League team to reach 200 wins. The Jersey City Skeeters joined them 4 days later.

The NY/SF Giants have the most wins of any franchise with 10,951.

The NY Yankees have the most wins in the American League with 10,084



# THE LAST WORD

## TINKER TO EVERS ?

-Steve Vittori

For a ballclub to win in the National League  
The infielders need to be versed  
In the skills of sweeping the diamond  
At shortstop and second and first.

Oh, where would Chicago's Bear Cubs have been  
In nineteen hundred and eight  
If the men who patrolled up the middle  
Could only produce at the plate?

If with glove not of gold and hands lined with lead  
Each knocked down balls with knees or with head;  
Then reached down to launch a sub-orbital throw  
To the home team dugout or seventeenth row?

Then Pirates and Giants would score on these terrors  
Four runs on no hits but five or six on errors,  
On Merkle, on Tenney, on Bridwell; and Honus,  
An infield double's your double-hop bonus.

And how would Franklin P. Adams describe  
These choreographers' dance?  
Why, just slap the ball up the middle.  
Tinker to Evers? No Chance!



I know I speak for all the Gms  
in the league when I say that we  
are very disappointed that he  
did not use the word gonfalon in  
his poem.

## **TY COBB-** By Jimmy Keenan    A 6-part Biography

"With a combination of speed, daring  
and brains, Ty Cobb is surely the terror  
of the opposing infield." – 1912 Hassan  
Cigarettes tobacco card.



"Rogers Hornsby could run like anything  
but not like this kid. Ty Cobb was the  
fastest I ever saw for being sensational  
on the bases." – Hall of Fame manager  
Casey Stengel. 1

"The Babe was a great ballplayer, sure, but Ty Cobb was even  
greater. Babe Ruth could knock your brains out, but Cobb  
would drive you crazy." – Hall  
of Fame outfielder Tris Speaker. 2

"The greatness of Ty Cobb was something that had to be seen,  
and to see him was to remember him forever." – Hall of Fame  
first baseman George Sisler. 3



Ty Cobb made his mark in baseball during the first three  
decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To this day, the mere mention of  
his name resonates baseball excellence. Cobb was credited  
with setting 90 individual records during his 24-year major  
league career. He played with the Detroit Tigers from (1905-  
26) and the Philadelphia A's from (1927-28). He was the player-  
manager of the Tigers from 1921-26. Cobb hit over .400 three  
times (1911, 1912, 1922).

He currently holds the highest lifetime batting average (.366) of  
any major league player. During his tenure in the bigs, he was  
credited with 12 American League batting titles, nine of them in  
a row. An error regarding Cobb's 1910 hitting statistics was  
discovered in 1978. This correction led to him losing a point on  
his lifetime average as well as the 1910 batting crown.

Cobb compiled the most hits in major league history (4,189), a  
record that stood until Pete Rose surpassed his mark in 1985.  
Nicknamed the "Georgia Peach," Ty compiled six hitting  
streaks of at least 20-games or more, including a 40-game run  
in 1911. A fearless and intimidating base runner, Cobb led the  
American League in steals six times. He stole home 54 times,  
while scoring from first base on bunts on several occasions.  
Defensively, Ty was a fleet and steady outfielder, compiling 410  
assists (6th all time) while starting 112 double plays. Cobb  
finished his major league career with a .961 lifetime fielding  
percentage.

Continued next page-

“ Baseball is a red-blooded sport for red-blooded men. It's no pink tea, and  
mollycoddles had better stay out. It's a struggle for supremacy, a survival of the fittest.  
- Ty Cobb ”  
(Coincidentally, Mollycoddle happens to be my middle name)



Throwing right-handed and batting left-handed, Cobb, 6'1", 175 pounds, had an unusual style of hitting. Crouching out over the plate, he kept his hands about three inches apart, with an equal distance separating his lower hand from the bottom of the handle. Cobb would

then slide his hands

together as he swung to meet the ball. Hitting to all fields, he felt this grip gave him better bat control. A place hitter extraordinaire, he could also lay down a bunt for a base hit at the drop of a hat.

Even with his amazing talent, he was superstitious by nature. A wagon load of barrels crossing his path before a game meant good luck. Finding a hairpin on the street meant extra hits. When he was on a hot streak at the plate, which was most of the time, he wore the same sweatshirt and socks.

There is no way to sugarcoat his demeanor on the ballfield. He was a fierce competitor who took no prisoners on the diamond. Baseball was a war to him and it was his mission to defeat his opponent at all costs. He wasn't out to make friends; he was there to win ballgames. Over the course of his career he fought with umpires, players, various people in the civilian world and even a mouthy fan. For the most part, Cobb was a southern gentleman off the field but not one to be trifled with between the foul lines.

Tyrus Raymond "Ty" Cobb was born in a log cabin in a place called "The Narrows" in Banks County, Georgia on December 18, 1886. His father, William Herschel Cobb, (1863-1905) was a teacher, farmer and politician. His mother, the former Amanda Chitwood (1871-1936) was born into a well-to-do banking family from Augusta, Georgia. The two were married on February 11, 1886. The couple went on to have three children, Ty, John and Florence. The Cobbs moved to nearby Carnesville shortly after Ty was born.

In 1893, they relocated to a 50-acre farm in Royston, Georgia. William was a professor and principal at a local preparatory school. In addition, he served as the mayor of Royston, editor of the Royston Record newspaper, County School Commissioner and Georgia State Senator.

Cobb began playing baseball in his early teens with a local amateur nine called the Royston Rompers. From there, he graduated to faster company with the semi professional Royston Reds. In the spring of 1904, Ty sent letters to numerous professional ballclubs asking for a tryout. Only one team, the Augusta Tourists of the Class C South Atlantic

League expressed any interest. The Tourists gave Ty a trial early in 1904 season. Reportedly, he was told to bunt by Tourists manager Con Strothers but hit a home run instead. In order to retain his control over the team, Strothers released Cobb after his unauthorized clout. From there, he moved on to the Anniston Steelers in the Class D Tennessee-Alabama League,

hitting .370 in 22 games. Strothers realizing his mistake, picked him back up at the end of the season. Ty started out the 1905 campaign with Augusta. He soon ran afoul of Augusta's new player manager Andy Roth after he got a late jump on a fly ball that cost Tourists pitcher Eddie Cicotte a shutout. Roth, without checking with owner William J. Croke sold Cobb to the rival Charleston Sea Gulls for \$25. When Croke found out, he immediately called off the deal. He also raised Cobb's salary from \$90 to \$125 a month. Roth was removed as manager a short time later.

That same summer a tragic incident occurred that would impact Ty for the rest of his life. Cobb's father William told his wife Amanda that he was going out of town on a business trip for a few days. For some reason, William came back to his house without notifying his wife on the evening on August 8, 1905. Amanda Cobb later told police she heard a noise outside and observed a silhouette of a strange man at the window. Without calling out to the unidentified person or making any effort to ascertain the



identity of the alleged intruder, Mrs. Cobb fired her pistol at the shadowy figure. When authorities arrived, Cobb's father was found lying dead



on the porch. Ty was with the Augusta team at the time of the shooting. The other two Cobb children were staying overnight with friends. Amanda was arrested for manslaughter and later released on a \$7,000 bond. She was eventually acquitted on March 31, 1906, due to lack of evidence. Rumors circulated during the trial that William Cobb suspected his wife of having an affair.

These stories imply that William came home unannounced to catch her with her paramour. Finding the two together, he was shot and killed by Amanda's lover. To be fair, no definitive evidence regarding these salacious accusations has ever been presented to the public. Over time it appears they were nothing more than malicious innuendo.

Continued next Newsletter



With 2 outs in the 1<sup>st</sup>, Tris Speaker singled for the NL. Heinie Zimmerman followed that with a single that moved Speaker to 3<sup>rd</sup>. A passed ball by Chief Meyers led to an unearned run and a 1-0 NL lead.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Clyde Milan led off with a single and continued on to 2<sup>nd</sup> when Max Carey misplayed the ball. A Morrie Rath sacfly made it 2-0 NL.

Chief Wilson singled to start the 5<sup>th</sup> for the AL. He promptly stole 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hans Lobert reached base on a Ty Cobb error. He promptly stole 2<sup>nd</sup> to put runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1 out. An Art Devlin groundout scored Wilson to make it 2-1.

Billy Pierce hit a 2 out double for the NL in the 6<sup>th</sup> to score Tom Downey. The first extra base hit in the game, and just the 3<sup>rd</sup> EBH in 3 All Star games. Back to back doubles by Chief Wilson and Larry Doyle moved the AL to within 1 run, 3-2.

Pete Hill hit the 4<sup>th</sup> double of the game, and later scored on an Alex McCarthy single to put the NL up 4-2.

With 2 outs and 2 runners on in the 9<sup>th</sup>, PHer Nap Lajoie lined a ball ticketed for right center field, but Tris Speaker ran down the liner to end the game and preserve the NL victory.

No clear cut winner for MVP, but the nod goes to Walter Johnson with 3 innings of 3 hit ball and 4 strikeouts.

6/22/1912, AL12-NL12, Forbes Field

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB	DP
1912 AL All Stars	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	5	2	6	1
1912 NL All Stars	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	x	4	13	2	10	1

AL All Stars	AB	R	H	BI	AVG	NL All Stars	AB	R	H	BI	AVG
Collins, E	2b	2	0	0	.000	Cobb	lf	5	0	1	.200
Sterrett	c	1	0	0	.000	Barber	ss	2	0	0	.000
Wagner, Ho	ss	4	0	0	.000	Lloyd	ph	3	0	2	.667
Jackson, J	rf	4	0	0	.000	Speaker	cf	4	1	1	.250
Sallee	p	0	0	0	.000	Zimmerman	3b	2	0	2	1.000
Merkle	lb	3	0	0	.000	Downey	ph	1	1	1	1.000
Hendrix	p	0	0	0	.000	Lapp	c	2	0	0	.000
Wheat	rf	1	0	0	.000	Cotter	c	1	0	0	.000
Carey	lf	2	0	1	.500	Milan	rf	2	1	1	.500
Crawford	ph	2	0	0	.000	Hill	ph	2	1	1	.500
Wilson, C	cf	3	2	2	.667	McAdoo	lb	0	0	0	.000
Meyers	c	2	0	0	.000	Pierce	ph	3	0	1	.333
Doyle	ph	2	0	2	1.000	Rath	2b	1	0	0	.000
Lobert	3b	2	0	0	.000	McCarthy	ph	2	0	2	1.000
Hartzell	ph	1	0	0	.000	Ames	p	1	0	1	1.000
Lajoie	ph	1	0	0	.000	Alexander	p	0	0	0	.000
Coombs	p	0	0	0	.000	Marsans	ph	1	0	0	.000
Titus	ph	0	0	0	.000	Lindsay	p	0	0	0	.000
O'Brien	p	0	0	0	.000	Johnson	p	1	0	0	.000
Devlin	ph	1	0	0	.000	D.Murphy	ph	1	0	0	.000
Lavender	p	0	0	0	.000	Mendez	p	0	0	0	.000
Daubert	lb	1	0	0	.000			34	4	13	3
		32	2	5	2						

AL All Stars	L	0-1	INN	H	R	ER	BB	K	PCH	STR	ERA
Coombs			2.0	4	2	0	0	1	33	21	0.00
O'Brien			2.0	1	0	0	1	0	34	23	0.00
Lavender			1.2	3	1	1	0	0	24	17	5.40
Hendrix			1.1	3	0	0	1	1	24	14	0.00
Sallee			1.0	2	1	1	0	1	17	12	9.00
			8.0	13	4	2	2	3	132	87	

NL All Stars		INN	H	R	ER	BB	K	PCH	STR	ERA
Ames		2.0	1	0	0	1	1	29	18	0.00
Alexander	W 1-0	2.0	0	0	0	1	2	25	13	0.00
Lindsay	H 1	1.0	1	1	0	1	20	14	0.00	
Johnson	H 1	3.0	2	1	1	0	4	40	30	3.00
Mendez	S 1	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	24	14	0.00
		9.0	5	2	1	3	9	138	89	

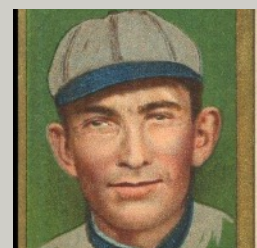
AL : Titus batted for Coombs in the 3rd  
 Devlin batted for O'Brien in the 5th  
 Daubert inserted at lb in the 6th  
 Crawford batted for Carey in the 7th  
 Doyle batted for Meyers in the 7th  
 Hartzell batted for Lobert in the 7th  
 Sterrett inserted at c in the 7th  
 Crawford moved to lf in the 7th  
 Doyle moved to 2b in the 7th  
 Hartzell moved to 3b in the 7th  
 Wheat inserted at rf in the 8th  
 Lajoie batted for Hartzell in the 9th

NL : Pierce batted for McAdoo in the 4th  
 Marsans batted for Alexander in the 4th  
 Pierce moved to lb in the 5th  
 Lloyd batted for Barber in the 5th  
 Lloyd moved to ss in the 6th  
 Downey batted for Zimmerman in the 6th  
 Hill batted for Milan in the 6th  
 McCarthy batted for Rath in the 6th  
 Downey moved to 3b in the 7th  
 Cotter inserted at c in the 7th  
 Hill moved to rf in the 7th  
 McCarthy moved to 2b in the 7th  
 D.Murphy batted for Johnson in the 8th

E-Carey, Hartzell, Cobb, Speaker. 2B-Wilson, C(1), Doyle(1), Pierce(1), Hill(1). RBI-Devlin(1), Doyle(1), Rath(1), Pierce(1), McCarthy(1).  
 SB-Wilson, C(1), Lobert(1). CS-Lloyd. K-Wagner, Ho 2, Jackson, J 2, Merkle 2,  
 Wilson, C, Meyers, Wheat, Cobb, Speaker, Pierce. BB-Collins, E, Wilson, C,  
 Titus, Lapp, Downey. SH-McAdoo. SF-Rath. PB-Meyers.  
 Temperature: 82, Sky: cloudy, Wind: right to left at 21 MPH.



**Pete Alexander picked up the win for the NL with 2 innings of no hit relief.**



**Chief Wilson scored both of the AL's runs**



**Walter Johnson won MVP, pitching 3 innings, and striking out 4**