

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. 9, NO. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY, LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" FEB. 2009

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN: FINALLY, THE BASEBALL CARDS YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

By **John McMurray**
(deadball@sabr.org)

One of the more challenging areas of Deadball Era research is locating high-quality portraits of lesser-known players. The Pictorial History Committee's Player Image Index Project has taken a great leap forward in this regard. Still, while it is relatively easy to locate photos of most star players, finding sharp portraits of, say, Bill Coughlin or Doc Casey, among others, can be a challenge.

SABR member Matt Fulling has been working since 2003 on a baseball card set which may one day make this task easier. Fulling, who joined SABR in 2005 and is a member of both the Deadball Era and Pictorial History Committees, has been collecting mostly head shots of Deadball Era players and compiling player biographical information to be included on the backs of the cards. Since all of the photos that Fulling has located are in black-and-white, he has been colorizing them in the hopes of bringing the Deadball Era to life for a new generation. Many of the players included have never been pictured on cards before. It takes a few hours for Fulling to complete each card, including

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BASEBALL'S FORGOTTEN CHAMPIONS: THE 1919 REDS DESERVE A SECOND LOOK

By **Nick Buglione** (MnMrMst620@aol.com)

Nineteen-nineteen.

To serious baseball fans, the mere mention of the year is enough to start a conversation, if not a heated debate.

Nearly 90 seasons have passed since eight members of the Chicago White Sox—Eddie Cicotte, Oscar Felsch, Arnold Gandil, Joe Jackson, Fred McMullin, Charles Risberg, George Weaver, and Claude Williams—allegedly conspired with gamblers to throw the World Series. Although the scandal's far-reaching impact on baseball has been obscured by time and long since supplanted by new controversies, questions about the story linger to this day.

While there are few definitive answers to what precise transgressions took place on and off the field at the end of that fateful season, one thing is clear: The 1919 Cincinnati Reds are considered by few historians to be that year's legitimate champions. They are all but afterthought—World Series winners with an imaginary asterisk.

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Matt Fulling's card of Frank Harter.
See Chairman's Column.

BOB GROOM REMEMBERED AT WHITEY HERZOG FIELD

by **Joan M. Thomas**
(JTh8751400@aol.com)

On the warm summer evening of June 5, 2008, a choice group of baseball devotees assembled at Belleville Illinois' Whitey Herzog Field to witness the unveiling of a striking black granite marker. Commemorating the accomplishments of the city's own Bob Groom, the monument is the seventh in a national series honoring individual major league players from baseball's "Deadball Era."

The event prefaced a scheduled game hosted by Belleville's American Legion Post 58 Hilgards' Baseball Club. Bob Groom's granddaughter, SABR member Catherine Groom Petroski, delivered brief and informative remarks before revealing the marker inscribed with her granddad's image and a concise history of his life in baseball. Then, the entire Hilgards club, dressed in crisp white uniforms with cool royal blue stockings and trim, lined up to pat the oversized baseball permanently set on the marker's top. Undoubtedly each athlete hoped to absorb some of Groom's success in the national game.

Although his name no longer dwells on the tongues of modern sports fans, Groom pitched in the major leagues for a decade, earning a lifetime ERA of 3.10. In 1916, when he played for the St. Louis Browns, the *St. Louis Star* (one of several St. Louis papers of the day) dubbed him one of the "greatest right handers in the game." Beginning his big league career with the Washington Senators in 1909, he then went to the ephemeral St. Louis Federal League Terriers of 1914 - 1915. His tenure with the Browns lasted from 1916 through 1917, and the following year he ended his major league career with the Cleveland Indians.

Still living in Belleville in 1938, Groom then founded the Hilgards and managed the team for seven years. In its first year, the American Legion bunch captured the state and regional titles. Remarkably, three members of that original club attended the marker dedication in June. Cal Isselhardt, Ed Dahm and Joe Roesch all made a point to be there. Additionally, Catherine Groom Petroski's sister, Mary Ellen Groom Prine, and the Hilgards' most successful and long-term manager (1963-1985), Barney Elser, joined in the celebration.

In 2000, Elser was the first recipient of the Hilgard's Hall of Fame award. Bob Groom received the same honor posthumously on February 23, 2008. The award recognizes individuals who played an integral part in the history and tradition of Belleville Post 58 American Legion Baseball and have "made a positive impact on the success of the program." And there is no doubting the program's success.

During their 69-year history, with only two years blotted because of World War II travel restrictions, the Hilgards have had only *three* losing seasons (none when Elser managed!). Through 2007, the club sported a fantastic record of 1343 wins and only 547 losses. That tradition was evident at that June 5, 2008 contest with the Dupo, Illinois American Legion club.

In the first four innings alone, Belleville's starting hurler Otto Roberts tallied nine strikeouts, leading the Hilgards to an 11- 0 victory. Yet despite the lopsided score, spectators in the roomy blue stadium-style seats maintained a keen interest—demonstrating the ardor of genuine baseball fans. A grand-slam home run and later, at the end of the game, a dramatic collision between the batter and the first-baseman rewarded them for their devotion.

Such a scenario imparts a sense of continuity in a kaleidoscopic world. Otto Roberts' intensity on the mound unquestionably simulates that of a young Bob Groom. Despite the scandals that arise, the actual game of baseball hasn't changed much.

The other markers like Bob Groom's are placed at pertinent locales throughout the country, each paying homage to a Deadball Era major leaguer: Fred Merkle, Davy Jones, Billy Sullivan, Addie Joss, Red Kleinow and Charlie Faust. Building on the keen interest in the Deadball Era among SABR members, David Stalker and Archie Monuments of Watertown, WI spearheaded the effort to place markers of important Deadball Era players at places of significance to their careers and lives. Stalker and Archie have formed partnerships with local Deadball Era fans and

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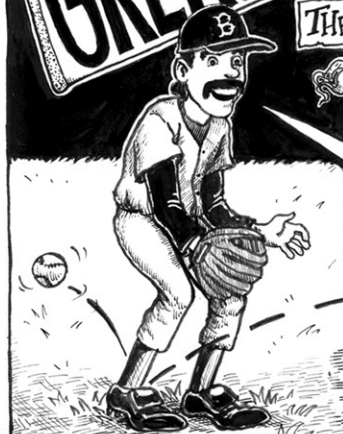
GREAT MOMENTS IN... *Baseball*

by *Molly Lawless*

THE BONER and the MUFF: A Tale of Two Freds

PART TWO: SNOODGRASS'S MUFF

OCTOBER 16, 1912



OH HEY! IT'S ME AGAIN, BILL BUCKNER. JUST STRIKING MY FAMOUS POSE - THE FANS LOVE IT! SEE, I'VE GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR ABOUT MY LEGACY." THEY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME, AND KNOW FULL WELL THAT OUR LITTLE COLLAPSE IN GAME SIX IN '86 COULD REALLY BE BLAMED ON ANY NUMBER OF FACTORS. I WON'T NAME ANY NAMES, OF COURSE - (COUGH! - BOB STANLEY- COUGH!- JOHN McNAMARA) ENOUGH ABOUT ME, THOUGH - BACK TO THE FRED'S. MERKLE'S SUPPOSEDLY COSTING HIS TEAM THE PENNANT WAS A TUGH ENOUGH RAP. IMAGINE A WORLD SERIES LOSS HANGING OVER YOUR HEAD BECAUSE OF ONE SILLY PLAY. NO, NOT ME! I'M TALKING ABOUT FRED #2...

MEET FRED SNOODGRASS, GIANTS CENTERFIELDER.



(SMILE WHILE YOU STILL CAN, MY FRIEND)

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT. ANOTHER FRED, ANOTHER NEW YORK GIANTS SOB STORY...

THE GIANTS WERE FACING THE RED SOX IN THE 1912 WORLD SERIES, AND BOSTON'S BRAND-NEW FENWAY PARK (HA! THAT SOUNDS PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?) HOSTED THE DECIDING GAME.



OH, I SUPPOSE THE NEW BALL-PARK IS ALL RIGHT -- A BIT MODERN FOR MY TASTE

AND WHAT A GAME IT WAS TURNING OUT TO BE! THE GIANTS WERE LEADING 2 TO 1 IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TENTH INNING.

THE RED SOX'S FIRST BATTER, PINCH HITTER CLYDE ENGLE, LOFTED AN EASY FLY TO CENTER.



RATS!

SPORTSWRITER FRED (YES - ANOTHER ONE!) LIEB RECALLED "ANY HIGH SCHOOL CENTER FIELDER COULD HAVE CAUGHT IT WITH EASE."



GOT IT.

OUR MAN SNOODGRASS SPOTTED IT, CALLED IT...



.. AND DROPPED IT.

GRANTED, THIS "MUFF" WAS NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.



MUST... REDEEM... SELF...

LOST TO THE MISTS OF TIME IS THE NEXT PLAY -- AN ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR CATCH BY SNOODGRASS, ROBBING HARRY HOOPER OF A CERTAIN EXTRA-BASE HIT...

.. AS WELL AS THIS PERMUDA TRIANGLE OF FIELDING INERTITUDE ON A TRIS SPEAKER FOUL POP-UP...



CHIEF MEYERS

OH GOD! PLEASE DON'T BLAME ME.

WHAT THE... DIDN'T I HEAR SOMEONE YELL 'I GOT IT'?

CHRISTY MATHEWSON

UM... YEAH, CHRISTY. YOU DID. UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE GIANTS IT WAS SPEAKER - THE BATTER - AS HE RAN TO FIRST. HE DROVE IN THE TYING RUN SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

I THINK YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING. THINGS HAD FALLEN APART FOR THE GIANTS, AND THE BOSTON RED SOX WON THE GAME -- AND THE WORLD SERIES.



SHALL WE, THEN, TO KENMORE SQUARE TO RIOT?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!

WHILE SNOODGRASS'S MUFFING OF THAT EASY FLY DIDN'T HELP THE GIANTS AT ALL, THE LOSS WASN'T ALL HIS FAULT...

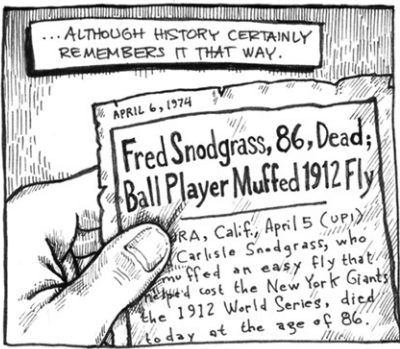


YOU SEE, FRED -- WE'RE JUST THE SAME, YOU AND ME!

No...

SNOODGRASS

MERKLE



... ALTHOUGH HISTORY CERTAINLY REMEMBERS IT THAT WAY.

APRIL 6, 1974
Fred Snodgrass, 86, Dead; Ball Player Muffed 1912 Fly
 (UPI)
 CARLISTO Snodgrass, who muffed an easy fly that helped cost the New York Giants the 1912 World Series, died today at the age of 86.

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WEST SIDE GROUNDS MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY

By **Richard A. Smiley**
(smileyr@georgetown.edu)

On a peaceful sunny September Saturday morning on the West Side of Chicago, over 200 people gathered on a medical school campus to commemorate a marker to the ballpark that had once sat there. From 1893 to 1915, the Chicago Cubs played their home games on the West Side Grounds and on September 6, 2008 those memories were brought back to life through the efforts of The Way Out in Left Field Society. The marker sits on Wood Street, North of Taylor, near the location of the center field flag pole that appears in many old photos of the ball park.

For the unveiling of the marker, Wood Street was blocked off, programs were handed out, straw hats were worn, a brass band played, and appearances were made by people portraying President William Howard Taft (who had spoken at the park) and legendary Cubs public address announcer Pat Piper (who began his career at the park).

The unveiling was preceded by short speeches from those who made the dedication possible: the local alderman; the chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago; a board member of the Illinois State Historical Society; and most especially, Brian Bernardoni and Mike Reischl of The Way Out in Left Field Society. Following the speeches, Ring Lardner's elegant "Elegy Written in a West Side Ball Yard" (*Chicago Tribune*, April 20, 1916) was read (Editor's Note: Reproduced in this issue).

The unveiling itself was handled by none other than "Mr. Cub," Ernie Banks. Ernie praised the efforts of those who had put in the effort to get the marker erected. With the Cubs clearly headed to the playoffs, Ernie invoked the memories of those who had gone before and expressed the opinion that "if the Cubs win the World Series, they'll rise up like Lazarus to celebrate the feat!" ♦

ELEGY WRITTEN IN A WEST SIDE BALL YARD

By **Ring Lardner**

The whistles sound the knell of parting day,
The toilers travel slowly home to tea.
I've got to write a parody on Gray
Though it be painful both to you and me.



West Side Grounds Marker. Photo courtesy of Richard Smiley

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
Save for chattering of the laboring folk
Returning to their hovels for the night.
All's still at Taylor, Lincoln, Wood, and Polk.

Beneath this aged roof, this grandstand's shade,
Where peanut shucks lie in a mold'ring heap,
Where show the stains of pop and lemonade,
The Cub bugs used to cheer and groan and weep.

The adverse guess of Mr. William Klem,
The miscalled strikes of Eason and of Orth,
No more shall rouse the fire of hate in them:
They yield to their successors over north.

Where Anson used to hit 'em on the pick,
Where Lange was wont to grab 'em off the grass,
Where Dahlen used to kick and kick,
Where Danny Friend was worked for many a pass.

Continued on page 5.

Elegy, continued from page 4.

Where games were won by Callahan and Griff.
Where long home runs were knocked by Danny
Green:

Where, later, Bill Maloney used to whiff,
Where Ruelbach used to wound 'em in the bean.

Where Artie Hofman pulled his circus stunts,
Where Sheppard dove and caught 'em on his
brow,
Where "Schlitz" was banished from the field (just
once),
Where Heine started many a healthy row.

Where Joe got courage to go on the stage,
Where Brownie did his own and others' toil,
Where Evers used to brew his boiling rage,
Where Chance cussed John McGraw and Larry
Doyle.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble bleats,
The moles, untroubled, now dig up the turf,
And gnats and roaches occupy the seats
That other bugs once filled, to help out Murf.

"To help out Murf? And who was he?" you say.
I answer with a melancholy sigh:
"Approach and read (if you can read) the lay
Graved on the door we used to enter by:"

THE EPITAFI.

He was the one real Fox of modern time;
He had competitors all licked a mile.
He gave to baseball all he had—a dime
He gained from it ('twas all he wished)—his pile.

No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode.
Let him enjoy his well deserved repose
At 6157 Sheridan Road.

(Editor's Note: This poem originally appeared
in *The Chicago Tribune*, April 20, 1916. It is a
parody of Thomas Gray's "Elegy in a Country
Graveyard.") ♦

Groom, continued from page 2.

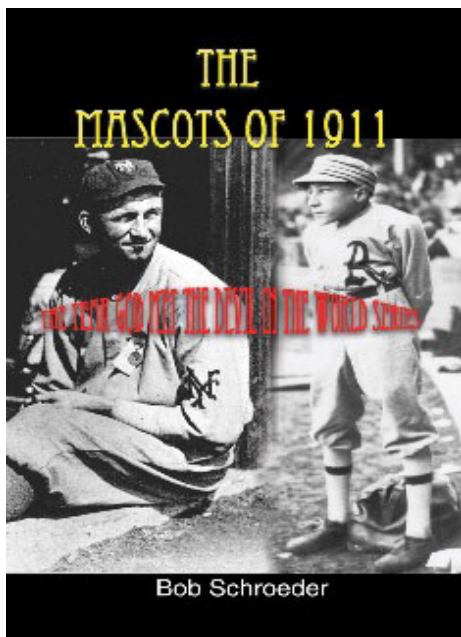
sometimes players' families, creating a distinctive
series of now-familiar markers: black granite with the
player's portrait and lettering in white, topped with a
white granite ball with black stitches.

Deadball Era Committee member Catherine
Groom Petroski no longer lives in Belleville, but she
has many happy memories of her baseball-loving
grandfather. Her parents moved their family into his
home after his wife died. Catherine came into the
world shortly afterward, and she lived in the same
house with him until his death in 1948. Now a writer
and historian, she spends a lot of time researching
more about his early years so that she can pen his
biography. Perhaps in time someone will do the same
for one of today's talented Hilgards. Otto Roberts'
coach tells her that the talented young pitcher
just completed a remarkable high school career at
Belleville West High, earning him a scholarship to
Creighton University. What's more, he was recently
drafted in the 23rd round of the major draft by the
Cleveland Indians. The legacy of Bob Groom lives.
Baseball lives.

*After tallying another winning season, the
Hilgards captured the American Legion State
Championship title for 2008 - their first since
1975. Following elimination in the Regional, their
final record for the year was 41-10. By then, Otto
Roberts had declined the Indians' offer in favor of
Creighton—Bob Gibson's alma mater!♦*



From left to right, Catherine Groom Petroski and
1938 Hilgards players Cal Isselhardt, Ed Dahm,
and Joe Roesch. Photo courtesy of Joan Thomas



THE MASCOTS OF 1911: THE YEAR GOD MET THE DEVIL IN THE WORLD SERIES

By Bob Schroeder

2007. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse-Indigo [ISBN: 978-0595464241. 166 pages. \$15.95, USD, softcover.]

Reviewed by **Fred Schuld**
(fredschuld@windstream.net)

Anyone who has read Larry Ritter's magnificent *The Glory of Their Times* will never forget Chief Meyer's story of Charles Victory Faust, the mascot of the champion New York Giants between 1911 and 1913. Faust was an unusual mascot because he wanted to pitch for the Giants and lead them to a pennant.

Looking at team photos in the first twenty years of the last century, you often see a young fellow sitting in front of the players. Today we would call him the batboy but at that time, he was the player's mascot who would bring them good luck and enliven their play. Dogs were often team mascots, too! Today grown men in costumes such

as Slider in Cleveland are the owner and the fans mascots.

Bob Schroeder's *The Mascots of 1911*, a historical novel, deals with several types of mascots and describes their success in helping teams win games. The novel begins with Connie Mack and John McGraw, their league's manager for the first All Star Game in Chicago in 1933, looking back at their mascots of the 1911 season. The Giants' mascot Faust and the Athletics' Louis Van Zelst, a 15-year old hunchback, made major contributions in bringing success to their teams in 1911. Players of this era were superstitious and thought mascots could overcome jinxes. Schroeder feels the A's and Giants could not have won their pennants in 1911 without Faust and Van Zelst as their good luck charms.

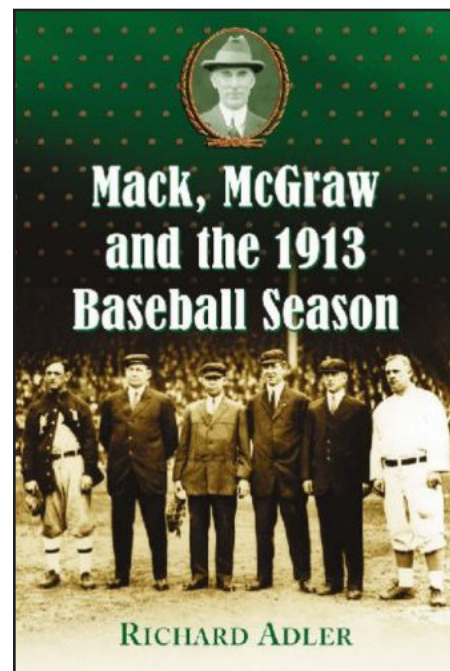
Players often had mascots and the author writes about Ty Cobb's Rastus, a nine-year old black boy who the Detroit star took along on road trips, rubbing his head for good luck. Addie Joss's premature death in 1911 gave the author the opportunity to contend that Van Zelst gave the Cleveland team the idea that an All-Star benefit game should be played for the Joss family. The author is especially interested in Louis Van Zelst and writes of his influence in bringing the idea of an American and National League All Star Game into the thinking of Mack and McGraw.

The author drops in several famous people to enliven his plot including the Marquis of Queensbury, Christy Mathewson, and Slavina, a showgirl.

In his introduction the author writes "... I wanted the baseball details to be accurate." The book is history with a fictional twist. An unusual feature of the book is twelve fine photos of the managers, players and mascots described in the volume.

The Mascots of 1911 gives the reader an interesting and thoughtful portrait of a bygone age when mascots were believed able to overcome jinxes and superstitions of the players and bring them pennants.

Before reading the book, I thought *The Mascots of 1911* would interest juveniles. However, the author's historical rendering of McGraw's profane and crude language definitely makes the book a more adult-oriented one. ♦



MACK, MCGRAW AND THE 1913 BASEBALL SEASON

By Richard Adler

2008. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company [ISBN 918-0-7864-3675-0. 317 pages. \$35 USD, softcover.]

Reviewed by **John Stodola**
(jstodola@piusxi.org)

In a book about arguably the two greatest managers ever, Richard Adler chronicles the 1913 season and the last of the three World Series between Connie Mack and John McGraw. Adler chooses this year because he believes that the Athletics and Giants of that era peaked with the 1913 World Series.

In an excellently researched book, Adler devotes a chapter to each manager, each league race, and each game of the 1913 Series. One not only gets a flavor of that time period, but also how newspaper writers wrote at that time.

My personal favorites are the interesting antidotes. In a game between the Philadelphia Athletics and the St Louis Browns, umpire Charley Ferguson called an Athletic out. Umpire Silk O' Loughlin overruled Ferguson. After the Athletics surrounded O' Loughlin, he reversed his overrule!

Another one is an account of a man who bet on the New York Giants to win the 1912 Series. He tried to sue Snodgrass (for his infamous dropped fly) as the reason he lost several hundred dollars betting on the Series and for the reason his wife left him.

These two antidotes along with several others are written in an entertaining style that engages the reader throughout the book. I felt drawn in to the 1913 season and series.

In the first two chapters of the

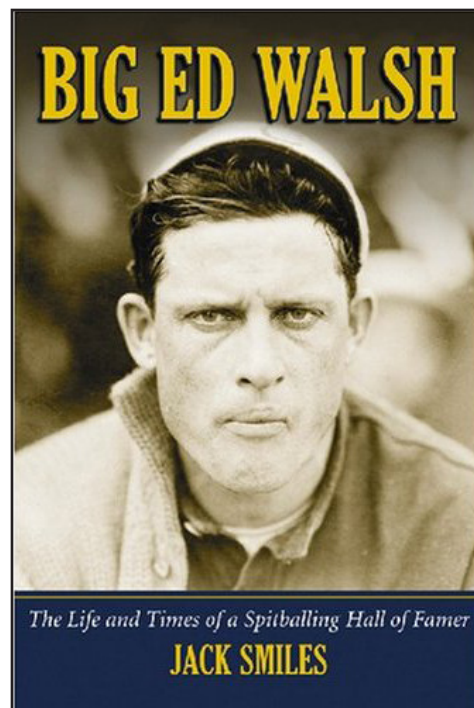
book, Adler does an excellent job of summarizing each manager's life up to the 1913 season. Though other books go into more detail (such as Mack's autobiography), the summary fits well with the purpose of the book.

Chapters 3 and 4 detail the American League and National races respectively. No matter how much we know about the 1913 season, Adler's dedication to detail will enhance anyone's knowledge about that season. The author also humanizes Snodgrass and Merkle.

I read chapter 5 right before the 2008 World Series began. The analysis of the comparison of the Athletics vs. Giants lineups (mostly from Irwin Howe of *The Los Angeles Times* and Hugh Fullerton of *The New York Times*) was much better written than what I read in the 2008 newspaper accounts of the Phillies vs. the Rays.

Chapters 6 through 10 are devoted as a chapter per Series game (guess how many games the Series went?). Though one could argue that the actual Series was not one of baseball's most exciting Series ever, Adler once again writes in an engaging style. It is interesting to read how Germany Schaefer of the Washington Senators was arrested for scalping (called speculating then) his \$1 bleacher ticket for \$1! My only negative comment about the Series (and book) is that I wish more sabermetric statistics were included in the summaries at the end of the Series chapters.

Richard Adler (in the preface) makes no pretensions that this book will break any new ground in the study of the Deadball Era. Few books, though, are written about the 1913 season. Because of the attention to detail and the flavor of the time one gets in reading the book, I highly recommend this as a book to read. As Adler says "the primary importance of the work was that it was fun!"◆



BIG ED WALSH: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SPITBALLING HALL OF FAMER

By Jack Smiles

2007. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company. [ISBN: 978-0-7864-3278-3. 228 pages. \$29.95 (soft cover).]

Reviewed by **Mark Dugo**
(claydad96@aol.com)

Big Ed Walsh is another in the line of great Deadball Era players that got his start in Pennsylvania (along with Christy Mathewson and Miller Huggins among others). Maybe it was all the coal in the air that generated such great skill, or at the very least, the desire not to have to make a living for a few dollars a week risking life and limb that propelled these athletes to such fame and fortune.

Walsh started out as an outfielder until he was coerced by teammates to throw his blazing

Continued on page 8.

Walsh. cont. from page 7.

fastballs past the batters of his day. This skill set eventually is what caught the eyes of scouts and advanced him into the major leagues with the Chicago White Sox, where he would eventually evolve into an all-time great. But it wasn't his repertoire with his fastball that eventually cemented his place among the all-time greats; it was his ability with the spitball.

By 1904 Walsh had advanced enough to be a big league pitcher, having caught the attention of Charles Comiskey. But his early playing days were fraught with below average performances and underwhelming outings. Fate had it that Ed would eventually hook up with Elmer Stricklett. Stricklett is widely recognized as having invented the spitball, and introduced it in previous years to Jack Chesbro, another early Deadball pitcher and Hall of Famer. Both Chesbro and Walsh exhibited inhuman tendencies to be able to throw the pitch over an advanced number of innings throughout the course of a season and with exceedingly effective results.

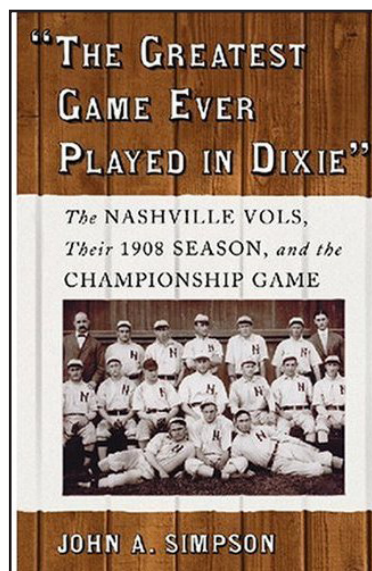
Almost instantaneously after deciding to use the pitch in a major league game, Walsh discovered success. The book then focuses on the years from 1905 through 1911 and the great wins that Walsh found over this time period. Walsh's ability to use the spitball and eliminate or drastically reduce another team's ability to score runs is a major reason why the 1906 "Hitless Wonders" Chicago White Sox trounced the heavily favored cross town rival Chicago Cubs in that year's World Series.

Ed didn't really have prolonged success over a very long time period. When he was good, he was very good; one of the best of his

day and any other, but after rising to the pinnacle of his profession, arm troubles (the result of having thrown the spitball too often?) slowed his career down to the point of being just another pitcher of the last few years of his playing days.

Smiles keeps the anecdotes and factual information interesting, never dwelling too long on any specific game accounts (I have often written during my reviews for *The Inside Game* how I dread player profiles that authors call "biographies" when they are nothing really more than recapped box scores) and perhaps when realizing the biography was finalized over a scant 200 pages, discusses Ed's son's playing days and careers—neither that could ever hope to match that of his fathers'.

Walsh lived long enough to realize induction into Cooperstown and relished his role as a Hall of Fame player who could enjoy old timers' games and remembrances with the press. And like many of us, Ed never really took to the livelier ball and the increased reliance on the home run to win a ball game. I believe he too would have sat down and read Smiles' account of his playing days and the differences between the game today and then, and enjoyed himself immensely. ♦



THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED IN DIXIE: THE NASHVILLE VOLLS, THEIR 1908 SEASON, AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

By John A. Simpson

2007. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company. [ISBN: 978-0-7864-3050-5. 282 pages. \$35.00 USD (soft cover).]

Reviewed by **Mark Dugo**
(claydad96@aol.com)

Nearly forgotten by but a few baseball scholars and historians, Nashville, Tennessee was home to a great Southern Association team that fought valiantly over the course of the 1908 season to win what was to be recognized in the immediate years that followed, as one of, if not, the greatest game ever played in the South.

Simpson introduces us to the players of this fantastic team (it is amazing how often roster changes took effect over the course of a season) and the quirks and abilities that made them survive a season that had a little bit of everything. Through the voice of Grantland Rice, who will eventually go on to far wider and grander reporting, the race from start to finish comes alive with the cheesy yet common dialogue and terms of the day. Can you imagine a modern day reporter using rhymes over the course of his column to generate team spirit or derisiveness? But those indeed were different times.

The Southern Association developed many highly skilled players that filled later day Major League rosters. Jake Daubert was a big star during his day that went on to much fame and fortune over a 15-year career with both Brooklyn and Cincinnati. One of the

Continued on page 9.

Dixie, cont. from page 8.

highlights of the book is the final chapter (Appendix C) where author Simpson makes a case for Daubert to be enshrined into Cooperstown. His arguments are very sound and hold up very well. Are the voters of today paying attention?

Tris Speaker also got his start during this time period. Playing for Little Rock, Spoke is a major thorn in the side of the Nashville hopes in winning it all, and his abilities and skill set are easily evident in the accounts that Simpson provides.

Chapter 10 offers viewpoints on the historic legacy of not only the game itself, but of the Nashville Vols as a team, and the entire 1908 season in general. The accounts of the stadium that hosted the Vols, Sulphur Dell, and its quiriness in design that greatly affected the outcome of numerous games that season, is another fascinating read. When you understand the conditions of the field, and know that it was in use until 1963, you will be astounded that such obstacles as the field presented would be acceptable through to the days that saw the participation of young stars like Pete Rose into professional baseball.

The story started rather slowly for me, and I admit that the first several chapters were a chore to get through while Simpson sets the stage for the eventual excitement that is promised as the season winds down. It has been many a year since Nashville has been able to host a game with anywhere near the significance this one game had on the Deadball Era and early Major League baseball. When it comes down to it, the race really does prove itself to be one that deserves the accolades placed on it one hundred years after it happened, and as such, the pace of the book picks up severely to almost break neck speed as the reader will excitedly read about

the final game of the season, the “Greatest Game Ever Played in Dixie.” ♦

1919 Reds, cont. from page 1.

Because of the White Sox’ notoriety, little has been written about the Reds- 1919’s bridegrooms- their championship notwithstanding—a team that rose to the top not by virtue of their own talent, but because of the unscrupulous behavior of Chicago’s infamous eight.

Some baseball historians, however, maintain that the statistics tell a different story—that, fix or no fix, the Reds were the best team in baseball in 1919.

The Black Sox Scandal has been immortalized in literature and film; perhaps most notably in the 1988 big-screen adaptation of Eliot Asinof’s book *Eight Men Out*. Yet some students of the game’s history believe that film and other works have perpetuated a myth that there was a cohesive plot among the Chicago players to tank in the World Series.

“There was definitely bribery and plotting before and maybe during the Series,” says Gene Carney, author of the 2006 book *Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball’s Cover-Up of the 1919 World Series Almost Succeeded*. “But my view is that Jackson and Weaver played every game to win. If Felsch and Gandil didn’t, they were not big factors. Who knows about Risberg? Anyway, it seems the fix fizzled very early.”

Carney isn’t alone in contending that the Series might not have been as crooked as perceived through the years. Dr. Susan Dellinger is an author as well as a granddaughter of one of the stars of the Reds that season, Hall of Fame outfielder

Edd Roush. Dellinger insists that her grandfather, who went to his grave defending the honor of the championship team, never got the impression that the Sox were intentionally trying to lose the Series—with the exception of Game One.

“Granddad would say, ‘OK, so maybe Cicotte tried to throw the first game, but after that everything was on the up and up,’” recalls Dellinger, who wrote *Red Legs and Black Sox: Edd Roush and the Untold Story of the 1919 World Series* in 2006.

Dellinger’s book, and another by Cincinnati native William A. Cook (*The 1919 World Series: What Really Happened*), are perhaps the only ones that tell the story from the Reds’ perspective. “I’ve never denied there was a scandal,” Cook says, “[but] I’m convinced some of that series was played on the up.”

In fact, Cook believes the Reds would have won the Series even if there had been no fix. “It didn’t make any difference,” he says of the Sox real or imagined efforts to give games away. “I’ve gone game by game, pitch by pitch, and I’ve found that the Reds would have won anyway.”

Statistics seem to support Cook’s argument. The Reds finished the 1919 regular season 96-44, outpacing two perennial powerhouses—the New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs—to take the National League pennant. The White Sox won eight fewer games in the American League that year.

Incidentally, the Reds .686 win percentage that year was second best of the decade, behind only the 1912 Boston Red Sox (.691). And it took eight seasons for a team to finally best the win percentage the Reds sported in 1919 (New York Yankees, .714).

Continued on page 10.

1919 Reds, cont. from page 9.

While the Sox featured two of the top pitchers in baseball—Cicotte and Williams—the Reds clearly had a deeper staff: Hod Eller, Ray Fisher, Jimmy Ring, Dutch Ruether, and Slim Sallee all had solid seasons on the mound, and the Reds had a league-leading combined ERA of 2.23. White Sox hurlers posted a 3.04 ERA.

“Joe Jackson said that Jimmy Ring had more smoke than Walter Johnson,” says Cook. “The Reds pitching shut down the White Sox incredibly.”

The White Sox didn’t score an earned run for the first 22 2/3 innings of the Series. Aside from Jackson, Weaver, and catcher Ray Schalk, no one did much at the plate, Cook says. Cincinnati was also the better-fielding team, having committed a league-low 152 errors and posted a .974 fielding percentage, also the best in the National League.

“The Reds were by no means a pushover team,” said Erik Varon, who has managed the Web site www.1919BlackSox.com since 2002. “Whereas the 1919 White Sox possessed numerous star and Hall of Fame players, the 1919 Reds team was mostly non-star players [who played] well together.”

Having won the World Series two years earlier, the Sox certainly appeared to have a more formidable lineup than the Reds. Chicago hit .287 as a team, compared with Cincinnati’s .263, and boasted perhaps the best hitter in baseball—Jackson. Still, the Reds had more than enough offense, paced by Roush, who won the NL batting title that year with a .321 average.

“The Reds also don’t get enough credit for having Pat Moran,” Cook says. “At the time he was considered one of the greatest managers ever.”

So why were the Reds the underdogs going into the Series? As it happened, not everyone thought they were. *The Collyer’s Eye*, a gambling publication, had the Reds at even money to win—if they won the coin toss determining where the Series would begin and hosted the first game, which they did, according to Carney.

Giant’s manager John McGraw picked the Reds to win based on the strength and depth of their pitching, Carney says. And after watching Cincinnati win the first two games 9-1 and 4-2, respectively, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who would later become baseball’s first commissioner, declared the Reds “the most formidable machine I have ever seen.”

“They way you hear it now, it sounds like it would be unanimous predicting a Sox win,” says Jim Sandoval, a teacher and amateur baseball historian who knows the 1919 Reds inside and out. “Lots of writers picked the Reds. I definitely think the Reds had a legitimate chance to win.”

Dellinger and Cook maintain that only after respected sportswriter Hugh Fullerton, of the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*, picked the White Sox to win the Series did other journalists do the same. “Once he came out in favor of the Sox, all the other sportswriters picked it up,” Dellinger says.

As it turned out, the Reds were no less the victims of the Black Sox Scandal than were millions of disappointed baseball fans. And the Reds deserved better. The antithesis of the constantly feuding Sox, Cincinnati was a close-knit club, and the players remained friends long after their careers were over. “What I think was the difference was the spirit of the team,” says Dellinger, who remembers many teammates visiting her grandfather through the years. “That team, they loved each other.” ♦



Chairman's Column, cont. from page 1.

the colorization and computer enhancement of the original photos.

“What I intend to do with the cards is to introduce many of these players, even the more popular ones, as if you stepped back in time and saw them in their day. Seeing a colorized portrait—I avoid profile images if I can—is to me the best way possible, if done right.”

Fulling's interest in Deadball Era players was inspired several years ago by a computer game called “Earl Weaver Baseball,” which contained great players from all periods. Reading *The Ballplayers* by Mike Shatzkin and *The Glory of Their Times* by Lawrence S. Ritter deepened Fulling's interest in the Deadball Era. Playing another game, called OldTime Baseball, which allowed users to import images of vintage players ultimately motivated Fulling to begin this ambitious project: “I spent my time gathering images for the game, and when the game got tiring, I decided that creating a card set of my own would be something that would outlast the computer games.”

Part of Fulling's motivation in creating the cards is to appeal to generations with little connection to the Deadball Era. He believes that younger fans of the game would be more likely to gravitate towards a card set of Deadball Era players than they would be to a book. He also tries to include the story of the player on the back of each card so that readers may answer the question: “Who was this guy, other than the numbers he posted?”

Fulling, who works in Information Systems for UPS as a project coordinator, has been collaborating with some SABR members as a part of creating these cards. Steve Steinberg has provided feedback and Hall of Fame bio clips for a number of the cards and has helped Fulling to obtain photos from the Detroit Public Library and private collectors, while Mark Fimoff has been helping with the player identifications. Fulling also had relied on Marc Okkonen's *Baseball Uniforms of the 20th Century* in order to ensure that he has the uniform colors correct. Player identification can be a real challenge, as Fulling found when the *Spalding Guide* happened to have confused the photos of Cy Morgan and Benny Bowcock, an error which Fulling was able to correct with the help of Fimoff as well as Bill Hickman of the Pictorial History Committee.

The project potentially includes more than the Deadball Era. Fulling would like ultimately to create colorized cards of all players from the 1880s through the 1940s. “I don't know what a full set would entail,” Fulling says. “It is an ongoing project with no end in sight.” Fulling has completed more than 500 colorized card to this point.

In obtaining images, Fulling has relied on the Hall of Fame Library, the Bain collection at the Library of Congress, the Detroit Public Library, and private collectors. He has recently focused on Paul Thompson photographs, which were used for the classic T205 tobacco cards that were issued between 1909 and 1911. Sometimes, he uses his software to isolate photos of particularly obscure players from team photographs, as no other images may be available.

Currently, the cards are not available anywhere, but Matt hopes they can be available one day as part of a SABR offering. Doing so would require securing licensing from Major League Baseball and from other copyright holders before they can be offered to SABR members.

As the set expands and evolves, Fulling would welcome additional help on identifying players and providing information for the card backs. He believes the set could serve a valuable role in providing the stories of players who were not including in the two *Deadball Stars* volumes previously published by the Committee. Anyone who would like to help with the project can contact Fulling at mfulling@optonline.net.

Out of what originally a project created for himself and his son, Fulling now has the start of a card set which may one day become a valuable resource for Deadball Era researchers. “It's been my dream for more than 15 years to get these cards out there,” says Fulling. “For some time, I've wondered what it was like to watch a game 100 years ago and see the players. Using computerized technology, I am able to achieve it as closely as possible.” ♦

Height: 5 Ft. 11 In.
Weight: 165 lb.
Bats: Right Throws: Right
Debut: 08/31/1912
Born: 09/19/1886 - Keyesport, IL Died: 04/14/1959 - Brees, IL
Original Image: Mike Mumby Collection Derivative Image: Matt Fulling

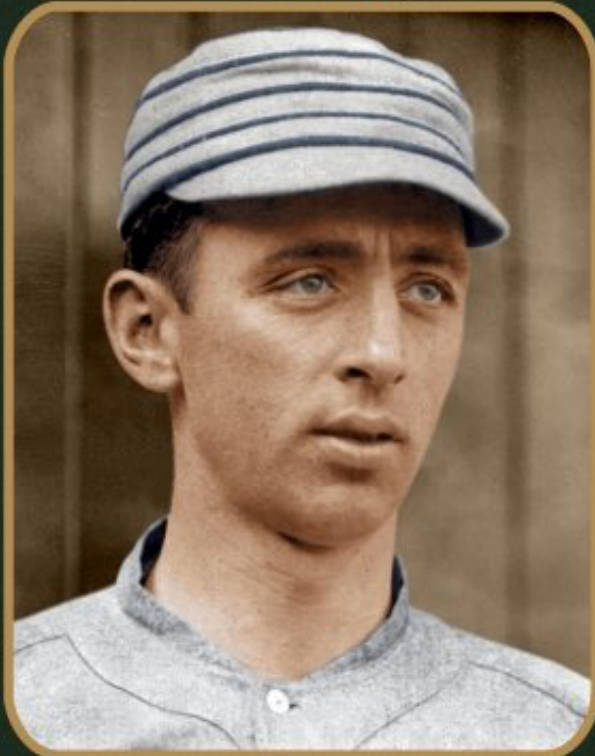
| YEAR | TEAM | W | L | ERA | G | GS | CG | SHO | SV | IP | H | R | ER | HR | BB | SO |
|----------------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1912 | Cincinnati(NL) | 1 | 2 | 3.07 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 29.1 | 25 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| 1913 | Cincinnati(NL) | 1 | 1 | 3.86 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46.2 | 47 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 19 | 10 |
| 1914 | Indianapolis(FL) | 1 | 2 | 4.01 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24.2 | 33 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| Career Totals | | 3 | 5 | 3.67 | 29 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 100.2 | 105 | 51 | 41 | 4 | 37 | 30 |

Biographical Information: Proquest Historical Newspapers
Harter played for Portsmouth of the Ohio State League before signing a contract to play for the Cincinnati Reds, and debuted in August of 1912. He appeared in a few games that year, pitching well enough to earn a spot on the staff in 1913. Used primarily in relief, Harter gave up 3.23 runs per 9 innings. He was sent to Kansas City of the American Association during the season, and was released in August. He was playing in the Three-I-League when the Indianapolis Hoosiers of the Federal League signed him to a contract. He appeared in a few games, pitching with average effectiveness, before concluding his ML career.

Back In Time Baseball Collection

Back of Frank Harter Card, by Matt Fulling.

Jack Barry



Philadelphia - American League
1908-1915

SS

Height: 5 Ft. 9 In.
Weight: 158 lb.

Bats: Right Throws: Right
Debut: 07/13/1908

JOHN JOSEPH BARRY



Born: 04/26/1887 - Meriden, CT Died: 04/23/1961 - Shrewsbury, MA

Original Image: Mike Mumby Collection Derivative Image: Matt Fulling

| YEAR | TEAM | G | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB | OBP | SLG | AVG |
|----------------------|------------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| 1908 | Philadelphia(AL) | 40 | 135 | 13 | 30 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | --- | 5 | .207 | .296 | .222 |
| 1909 | Philadelphia(AL) | 124 | 409 | 56 | 88 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 44 | --- | 17 | .289 | .259 | .215 |
| 1910 | Philadelphia(AL) | 145 | 487 | 64 | 126 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 60 | 52 | --- | 14 | .323 | .337 | .259 |
| 1911 | Philadelphia(AL) | 127 | 412 | 73 | 117 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 63 | 30 | --- | 30 | .315 | .344 | .265 |
| 1912 | Philadelphia(AL) | 140 | 403 | 75 | 126 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 55 | 47 | --- | 22 | .320 | .337 | .261 |
| 1913 | Philadelphia(AL) | 134 | 455 | 82 | 125 | 20 | 6 | 3 | 65 | 44 | 32 | 15 | .331 | .365 | .275 |
| 1914 | Philadelphia(AL) | 140 | 467 | 57 | 113 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 53 | 34 | 22 | .306 | .268 | .249 |
| 1915 | Philadelphia(AL) | 51 | 194 | 16 | 43 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 8 | 6 | .276 | .273 | .222 |
| 1915 | Boston(AL) | 78 | 248 | 30 | 65 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 24 | 11 | 0 | .315 | .331 | .262 |
| 1916 | Boston(AL) | 94 | 330 | 28 | 67 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 17 | 24 | 8 | .258 | .227 | .203 |
| 1917 | Boston(AL) | 116 | 388 | 46 | 83 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 47 | 27 | 12 | .272 | .253 | .214 |
| 1919 | Boston(AL) | 31 | 108 | 13 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | .272 | .306 | .241 |
| Career Totals | | 1223 | 4146 | 532 | 1009 | 142 | 38 | 10 | 429 | 386 | 42 | 153 | .302 | .303 | .243 |

Biographical Information: "The Ballplayers", book by Mike Sharikin

Barry spent most of his career with pennant-winning teams and was the shortstop in the Athletics' famous "\$100,000 infield." A key component of Connie Mack's first dynasty, Barry was signed off the campus of Holy Cross and helped the Athletics to World Championships in 1910-11 and '13. Although not a great fielder, Barry was reliable. Ty Cobb's spiking of Barry in the heat of the 1909 pennant race, depriving Philadelphia of his services, is often cited as the reason Detroit won the flag, even though Barry hit only .215 that season. Sold to the Red Sox during the 1915 season, Barry helped the team win two straight World Series. Named manager in 1917, he guided the team to just one less victory than the 1916 season, but it was not enough to capture the pennant. Barry spent 1918 in the military, and returned to Boston for the 1919 season. In June, Barry was traded back to Philadelphia, but instead chose to retire.

Back In Time Baseball Collection

Height: 5 Ft. 8 In.
Weight: 165 lb.

Bats: Right Throws: Right
Debut: 05/08/1906

Born: 08/23/1883 - Ambler, PA Died: 08/15/1936 - South Mountain, PA

Original Image: Mike Mumby Collection Derivative Image: Matt Fulling

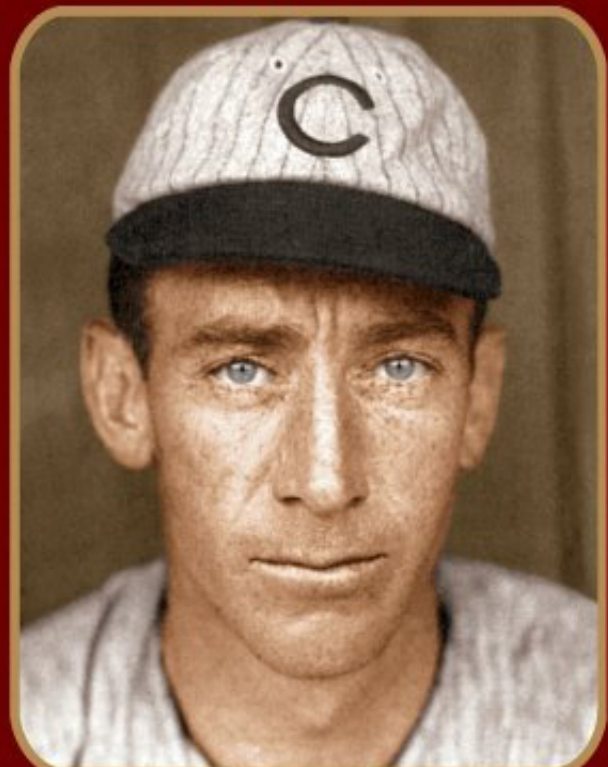
| YEAR | TEAM | W | L | ERA | G | GS | CG | SHO | SV | IP | H | R | ER | HR | BB | SO |
|----------------------|------------------|----|----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|--------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 1906 | Philadelphia(NL) | 9 | 11 | 2.41 | 33 | 22 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 205.7 | 170 | 86 | 55 | 3 | 79 | 85 |
| 1907 | Philadelphia(NL) | 6 | 6 | 1.77 | 25 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 117.0 | 88 | 37 | 23 | 0 | 38 | 40 |
| 1908 | Philadelphia(NL) | 7 | 10 | 1.83 | 25 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 157.7 | 125 | 50 | 32 | 1 | 49 | 58 |
| 1909 | Philadelphia(NL) | 1 | 1 | 2.00 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 45.0 | 40 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 18 | 11 |
| 1909 | Boston(NL) | 7 | 7 | 2.32 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 131.7 | 118 | 56 | 34 | 2 | 44 | 42 |
| 1910 | Boston(NL) | 0 | 3 | 2.76 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.3 | 20 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 1910 | Chicago(NL) | 11 | 4 | 2.70 | 30 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 130.0 | 117 | 45 | 39 | 1 | 51 | 53 |
| 1911 | Chicago(NL) | 15 | 11 | 2.31 | 36 | 28 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 253.0 | 213 | 88 | 65 | 6 | 103 | 78 |
| 1912 | Chicago(NL) | 16 | 9 | 2.45 | 39 | 27 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 238.0 | 222 | 102 | 78 | 5 | 74 | 69 |
| 1913 | Chicago(NL) | 2 | 4 | 5.82 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65.0 | 77 | 53 | 42 | 3 | 30 | 15 |
| Career Totals | | 74 | 68 | 2.54 | 241 | 136 | 86 | 20 | 9 | 1358.3 | 1190 | 544 | 303 | 21 | 495 | 438 |

Biographical Information: Proquest Historical Newspapers

Richie, who began his career in the majors in 1906, never had a winning season for the Phillies, despite ERAs of 1.77 in 1907 and 1.83 in 1908. Traded to the Boston, he continued his losing streak until being sent to the Chicago Cubs in 1910. That year, he completed the season with a record of 11-4, helping Chicago capture the pennant. With Chicago, he went on to have two more successful seasons. While he was not overly talented, Richie was a tough pitcher who earned the nickname of "Giant Killer" for beating New York very often. But Richie was more than a good pitcher. When he was with Chicago, emerging humorist Ring Lardner traveled with the team and filed some hilarious stories with The Sporting News. Richie was a gifted pantomimist, joining in with Lardner's pranks to pass the time on long train trips. What immortality clings to Richie results from his being the source of many of Lardner's comic inspirations.

Back In Time Baseball Collection

Lew Richie



Chicago - National League
1910-1913

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