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**BASEBALL**



**IN OLD CHICAGO**





Federal writers' project. Illinois  
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# BASEBALL IN OLD CHICAGO

*Compiled and Written by the*  
**FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT (ILLINOIS)**  
**WORK PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

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## FOREWORD

Members of the Illinois Project of the WPA Federal Writers' Program are engaged in the preparation of a number of individual studies of the social history of the State. Among these one of the most valuable, both in its revelation of the life of the past and its relation to the interests of today, is the present volume, *Baseball in Old Chicago*. Here is presented in compact form, for the host of readers who are interested in the national game, the colorful story of its origin and early development in the Chicago area.

Many persons have assisted in the preparation of this book. I wish to express especial thanks to members of the library staffs of the Chicago Public Library, the Newberry Library, the Crerar Library, and the Harper Memorial Library of the University of Chicago; Charles Spink, of Philadelphia, for permission to use material from *Spink Sport Stories*, written and published by his father, the late Al Spink; the office of Kenesaw M. Landis, national commissioner of baseball; Henry F. Edwards, director of the service bureau of the American League of Baseball Clubs, and Miss Louise Nessel, secretary; Miss Margaret Donahue, secretary of the Chicago Cubs.

Also, I am grateful for the assistance of William E. Golden, deputy clerk of the Cook County Court, Chicago, an old-time player and fan, for enlisting the aid of R. C. Weichbrodt (Skel Roach) now a justice of the peace in Oak Park, Illinois; Charles (Dot) Ebert, minute clerk of the Cook County Court; and Thomas Keegan, bailiff of the Cook County Court, all old-time players.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the work of Edwina Guilfoil of this project, whose research and writing are responsible for the existence of the book, and to Sam Gilbert, Clair Cotterill, W. H. Williamson, and Frank Holland also of the project, who gave valuable assistance.

JOHN T. FREDERICK  
Regional Director  
Federal Writers' Project





## INTRODUCTION

From the first click of the turnstiles to the last crack of the bat, a baseball game is perhaps the most truly American of anything in the United States. A few other games — cricket in England and pelota in the Basque country of Spain — share this characteristic nationalism, but none approaches baseball in the millions of its followers and the warmth of their devotion.

For baseball is a true growth of the American soil, owing little or nothing to foreign games, and it holds a place in the hearts of nearly all Americans. What American has never, in his youthful days, held a bat in his hands and whaled wildly at a ball lobbed over the plate by a tow-headed, freckle-faced youngster? What man of mature years has never rubbed his "ketcher's mitt" with lard purloined from his mother's pantry, or counted a genuine league baseball among his treasures? What man — or woman — has never sat in the stands and yelled, "Sock it, Butch!" or felt a tingling in the spine as Butch obligingly clouted the ball far and wide? Such persons there probably are, but they should be pitied, for they have missed something of their birthright as Americans.

What other game could, in one of its tense moments, inspire dignified judges and bankers to wring their thirty-dollar panamas into pulp, and clerks to smash their ninety-eight-cent straws? What but sheer baseball madness could cause a lady to beat her thousand-dollar parasol to bits over the head of a stranger, as did one famous actress of years gone by? At a baseball game the fan, for an hour or two, lives life in the raw; crude, savage, elemental life, with no law but the law of the jungle: victory to the strongest or craftiest! He shrieks "Kill that umpire!" and for the moment feels he could throttle the unlucky man with his bare hands.

Yet it is only a game, with no actual savagery or brutality in it. If the attendants and officials are vigilant, keeping pop-bottles and other weapons out of reach, no mayhem will be committed. At the end of the game, the real dyed-in-the-wool fan goes home, hoarse, disheveled, limp, but actually purified by his experience. He has blown off his steam, and for another week or another month, depending upon the real gentleness of his nature, he can be a kindly parent and a good citizen. Baseball is an excellent safety-valve.

Some people decry the crudity of baseball, its ungentlemanly attitudes, its frank emphasis on winning, but these are an integral part of the game's Americanism. Baseball has built its own code of sportsmanship, a rough but democratic one: a fair race for all; beyond that, no favors asked or given.

Baseball is just one hundred years old. In 1839, Abner Doubleday, a young civil engineer of Cooperstown, New York, and later a Union general in the Civil War, created the game by laying out a playing field and formulating rules essentially the same as those of today. Since that time our national pastime has gone through numerous changes of rules and organization, but none of these has been fundamental.

The one hundredth anniversary of baseball's beginning is a fitting time to review the early years when the game was reaching those heights of popularity which make it our national game. This brief book is not intended to be a general history of baseball, for that has been written before, but is limited to its formative years in Chicago from the earliest games to 1900.

This year was selected as a stopping point because it marks the beginning of a new era in the game. Before 1900, organized baseball struggled along more or less uncertainly, with the National League the only organization of real strength and permanence. At the turn of the century, the American League came into being, and professional baseball boomed as never before, because of the drive given to it by the rivalry between the two leagues.

Despite its increasing popularity, something went out of baseball, too, around 1900. Having existed primarily as a sport, it was destined to become a business. The old baseball parks were crude and unattractive, but spectators went to see games, not to gaze at the



scenery and trimmings provided. It was not as good a show, perhaps, but it was lit up by its own color and not by decorations. The players of that day were a rough and swaggering crew who played for the glory and a little cash, with no hope of breakfast food endorsements or radio engagements.

Another reason for limiting this book to the baseball of the last century is that the last really important changes came in 1887, when the pitcher was given greater freedom in his delivery. Since that time the rule-makers have done little but clarify the rules and smooth out some of the rough spots. Hence the period from the 1890's onward is considered the era of modern baseball.

But the chief reason for going back into the nineteenth century is that baseball after 1900 is adequately chronicled. The records since then are complete and easily available. Sports writers have no difficulty in looking up baseball facts of the twentieth century, but when they delve into the earlier years they discover a mass of conflicting stories, incomplete records, and fragmentary material. This is especially true when their search has to do with some particular player or team.

This book is further restricted to the teams and players of Chicago. Chicago holds a position in baseball second to none. Its franchise in the National League is counted as the first in honor of William A. Hulbert, the Chicagoan whose efforts made and preserved the league, of which Chicago and Boston are the only surviving charter members.

Chicago teams asserted their supremacy early, and have been strong contenders for national honors in most years. More important than this, however, is the claim for Chicago's leadership advanced by the late Charles A. Comiskey. "Commy" once said that Chicago is the best baseball city in the country, because of the loyalty displayed by Chicago fans, who support their teams enthusiastically, in bad years as well as in good ones.

And so this book is an attempt to re-create for the fan of today the half-forgotten, almost legendary exploits of diamond heroes who wore handle-bar mustaches and caught barehanded behind the bat, scorning mitts and gloves as sissy inventions when they were first introduced. It is not a record book, with dreary pages of tabulations

and massed statistics. Meant to be read and enjoyed, it is an endeavor to bring to life again those heroic players who spread the fame of Chicago on the baseball diamonds of the nation. Here on these printed pages walk the spirits of Cap Anson and Al Spalding; of Kelley, Dalrymple, and Gore, mighty sluggers of their time; of fleet-footed Jimmy Wood and Billy Sunday; of Pfeffer and Williamson, greatest infielders of their day; of Tom Foley, who first brought "big-league" baseball to Chicago; of Pinkham, Clarkson, Goldsmith, and Corcoran, great among the old-time hurlers, and lesser stars who have made Chicago baseball great.

*Chicago 1939*



## THE EARLY YEARS

**When First Played** Just when baseball was first played in Chicago is uncertain. Probably there were games between pick-up teams before the newspapers considered the new game worthy of notice, but as Chicago was only a raw frontier village in 1839 when Abner Doubleday gave the game its present form, it is not likely that the early settlers had much time or inclination for organized sports. Baseball appears to have gained a foothold in Chicago some time in the 1850's, for on July 21, 1858, a convention was held by the Chicago Base Ball Club, at which the rules governing the Association and Congress of Base Ball Clubs of New York were adopted by local teams.

A team called the Unions is said to have played in Chicago in 1856, but the earliest newspaper report of a baseball game is found in the *Chicago Daily Journal* of August 17, 1858, which tells of a match game between the Unions and the Excelsiors to be played on August 19. A few other games were mentioned during the same year.

**Baseball on the Prairies** No account of Chicago baseball would be complete without some notice of the game as played elsewhere in the Middle West. There were well established teams throughout the state of Illinois as early as those of Chicago, if not earlier. Indeed, the *Lockport Telegraph* of August 6, 1851, tells of a game between the Hunkidoris of Joliet and the Sleepers of Lockport, that antedates anything similar for Chicago.

Certainly the prairies of Illinois, Iowa, and other nearby states have produced many fine baseball players, and since pre-Civil War days the game has been a favorite sport of Midwestern youth. The records of these players and their teams are closely related to Chicago baseball. The prairie teams were natural rivals of Chicago teams, and many of their players rose to stardom after coming to play on the Chicago teams. In early days the prairie states were a

reservoir of talent on which Chicago drew to rise to baseball fame.

While the game was looked upon at first as a somewhat effete pastime, largely because the famous Knickerbocker Club of New York tried to make it a "gentlemen's game" like cricket, its wholesome qualities made a strong appeal to the vigorous young men of the Middle West, so that this section was not slow to follow the lead of the East in adopting the game.

***Baseball  
Truly  
American***

In a small book like this there is no room for a long discussion of the origin of baseball, but the national character of the game demands some notice of its beginnings. Beyond all question it is an American game, and owes little or nothing to other countries. While Doubleday, as already noted, made baseball what it is today, the game was played in some form before he drew up his rules. Oliver Wendell Holmes mentioned it as having been played by his college mates in 1829, but what he referred to was probably not baseball as we know it. Still, some similar game was played before Doubleday's time, and his contribution, great as it was, only served to make it a really good game.

The notion that cricket is the ancestor of baseball is not to be accepted. There is only a slight resemblance of the one game to the other, while the differences are too great to admit any close relationship. Baseball appears to owe much more to a game called "town ball," which was played on a square field, with four bases, one at each corner of the square; a home plate on one side of the square, midway between the first and fourth bases, with the pitcher's box in the middle of the square. As town ball was strictly an American invention, it will be seen that baseball is well removed from any suspicion of a foreign origin.

***First  
National  
Organization***

Although the regulations of the Knickerbocker Club served as a guide to other baseball organizations, the rapid growth of the game between 1850 and 1860 made some general organization desirable. In 1858, representatives of many prominent clubs met and organized the National Association of Base Ball Players. This



body not only governed the rules and regulations of its members, but made its influence felt in state and local organizations, which either submitted to its authority, or adopted its rules.

**Baseball  
and the  
Civil War**

Baseball's growth was retarded by the Civil War. Some writers state, however, that the war had a beneficial effect on the game, because the soldiers brought back a taste for the sport, acquired from playing it in army camps. That may be true, but on the other hand, the absence of these young men from their homes during the war years had a dampening influence on the development of the game. Many prominent clubs disbanded during the war years, among them the Excelsiors of Chicago, and baseball, so far as Chicago was concerned, practically ceased to exist as an organized sport. It seems likely that if its progress had not been thus hindered, the game would have reached its peak of development at an earlier date.

Fortunately, the rebound after the war was rapid. In the *Chicago Daily Republican* of August 17, 1865, we read:

“The old Excelsior base ball club, which a few years ago was one of the institutions of our city, has been reorganized, and will hereafter be willing to meet all comers. The club was organized in 1857 and for three years played regularly and became known as one of the best clubs in the west. After the breaking out of the War many of its members enlisted, and the club was thus broken up. With the return of peace the members have once more organized the old club, and now they practice regularly, twice a week, on their new grounds on the corner of May and West Lake streets. The officers are W. W. Kennedy, president; S. S. Budd, vice president; G. C. Smith, treasurer; G. H. Kennedy, secretary. They play according to the rules of the national base ball association in every particular. A game between two nines of the club was played yesterday afternoon, in which they showed that they have not forgotten the exercise of the club, while engaged in the use of the rifle.”

**Other  
Teams of  
the 1860's**

Although the years from 1865 to 1869 brought the revival of other baseball clubs in Chicago, the Excelsiors were the most prominent and defeated other local teams consistently. However, baseball activity

was running so high in the period that there were dozens of similar amateur teams, some newcomers, others bearing names of pre-war clubs. Many were insignificant and short-lived, but several challenged the supremacy of the Excelsiors, among them the Atlantics, the Eurekas, the Ogdens, and the Garden City team; of these, only the Atlantics were serious rivals.

**First  
Baseball  
Tournament**      The first baseball tournament\* in which Chicago teams participated was held in Rockford. This small city holds the honor of having risen to baseball fame and success before Chicago did. Rockford appears to have had a greater proportion of fans among its population than was usual at that time, and already its Forest City team, later to achieve national prominence, was known as a strong outfit. In June of 1866, Rockford citizens decided to hold a tournament to decide the baseball "championship of the Northwest." They offered as first prize a gold baseball of regulation size (weight not given), and as second prize a gold-mounted bat made of rosewood. Not to be outdone in enthusiasm, the ladies of Rockford added two contributions to the prize list: a bouquet for the best batter, and a floral wreath for the one who made the most home runs.

Clubs entered were the Atlantics of Chicago; the Detroit of Detroit; the Bloomingtons of Bloomington, Ill.; the Cream Citys of Milwaukee; the Empires and the Schaffers of Freeport, Ill.; the Excelsiors of Chicago; and the Forest Citys of Rockford. The Excelsiors won and brought home the golden baseball, a silver tea set for the most graceful playing, and the floral wreath, which went to J. W. Stearns for making the most home runs.

**Second  
Tournament**      So successful was the Rockford tournament that Bloomington staged another in the early autumn. An even more impressive entry list included the Union and Empire clubs of St. Louis; the Olympics of Peoria; the Pacifics of Chicago; the Perseverance club of Ottawa; the Louisville and Olympic clubs of Louisville; the Cream Citys of Milwaukee; the Forest City and Empire clubs of Freeport; the Capitol club of

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\*Dubuque appears to have held a tournament in 1865, but there is no record that Chicago had entries.



Springfield; the Hardin club of Jacksonville, Ill.; two Quincy clubs; and the Excelsiors of Chicago. A feature of this tournament was a specially built amphitheatre designed to allow spectators to witness two games at once. Just how this could be done without considerable neck-straining the early chronicler neglected to state. Again the Excelsiors were victorious, taking the series in impressive style.

**National Aspirations Nipped** Followers of the Excelsiors were feeling quite chesty when the season of 1867 opened. As winners of two tournaments the previous year, they felt that their team was ripe for national honors.

Formerly, the haughty clubs of the Eastern states, believing baseball on the prairies to be greatly inferior to the brand played in their section, scarcely deigned to notice the Middle West. But in 1867 the National club of Washington D. C., reputedly the best of the Eastern teams, decided to make a tour of the West. Their visit to Chicago was made the occasion of another tournament. This time the Excelsiors went down to ignominious defeat, losing to the Nationals by a score of 49 to 4, on July 27.

**Newspapers Accuse Nationals** The surprise of the tournament, what today would be called an upset, was the defeat of the Nationals by the Rockford Forest City club, in a game played July 25, by a score of 29 to 23. As the Excelsiors had beaten the Forest Citys in a game not long before this, the Chicago newspapers considered them the better team. Not content with twitting the Washington club over its defeat at the hands of a backwoods team, as they styled the Forest Citys, some of them went a bit too far, and insinuated that the Rockford team's victory was not strictly on the level. One paper in particular made a direct charge that the contest was thrown, partly for the sake of getting better attendance at the later games of the tournament, and partly for the benefit of gamblers.

This was one of the first times on record, if not the very first, in which suspicion of crooked playing was voiced openly about an important team, and, the charges were absurd. The Rockford club, fast becoming known as the strongest of the Western teams, happened

to catch the Nationals on an off day. It was the only game lost by Washington on its tour. The writer who made the accusation was probably inspired more by enthusiasm for the local teams than by malice, and his paper subsequently apologized to the visitors.

**Rise of  
Profession-  
alism**

The incident of 1867 showed how seriously the fans were beginning to take their baseball. One thrust in the newspaper accusation touched a sore point — the matter of gate receipts. Up to this time baseball was played primarily for the sake of the sport. The clubs were amateur groups that had banded together for the purpose of playing the game. Admission fees were charged merely to defray expenses; but with attendance figures running into the thousands at the more important games it soon became evident that there was money in baseball. Still, this was not the only reason for the advent of paid teams. There is no doubt that during the 1860's local pride had in some instances caused the offering of inducements to promising players. Probably this was done on what we would now call a semi-professional basis — finding jobs for the men and helping them in other indirect ways. Up to 1868, there were no clubs on a frankly professional basis, with a salary list and a definite schedule of payments.

Cincinnati's Red Stockings are generally conceded to have been the first out-and-out professional team. There is evidence that they received money for playing in 1868, and in 1869 they startled the baseball world by coming out in the open and announcing themselves professionals. Commenting on the move, the *National Chronicle* said, "Had the Cincinnati Base Ball Club depended upon home talent it would never have been heard from outside of its own locality, and determined to have the best nine in the country, the club selected the best players to be found in the Eastern clubs, and paid them \$1,000 each to play from April to October." Evidently professional baseball was not as yet a high road to prosperity.

**First  
Chicago  
Professionals**

After the Chicago amateurs had gone through the season of 1868 and 1869 with but little success, it was apparent that Chicago could not compete against the strong teams that had obtained good players by



paying them. In the fall of 1869, a professional organization to be known as the Chicago Base Ball Association was formed. Potter Palmer was the president, and the list of organizers included the names of many other distinguished Chicago men, such as W. F. Wentworth, General Phil Sheridan, N. C. Wentworth, C. B. Farwell, S. J. Medill, J. M. Higgins, W. W. Sprague, D. A. Gage, and others. Twenty thousand dollars was subscribed, and it was planned to offer a flat salary of \$1,200 for the season, which was expected to lure players away from clubs paying less.

As manager and general factotum, they engaged Tom Foley, proprietor of the city's principal billiard hall, whose chief qualification for the post appears to have been that he was in close contact with the sporting element of his day.\* Under such auspices Chicago plunged into organized professional baseball.

### *End of an Era*

With the organization of the Chicago professional club came the formation of professional teams all over the country. Amateur baseball was henceforth to be played only in the schools and colleges, and by sand-lot and juvenile nines. Many chroniclers are inclined to shed a tear over the passing of amateurism, yet on the whole it was a healthy development. Amateur teams could not stand the strain of traveling expenses, problems of management, maintenance of grounds, and at the same time keep themselves free from suspicion like that of 1867.

Among the teams listed as professionals before the opening of the 1870 season there were, in addition to Chicago and the Cincinnati Red Stockings, the Atlantics and Eckfords of Brooklyn, the Athletics of Philadelphia, the Kentuckys of Louisville, the Mutuals of New York, the Marylands of Baltimore, the Nationals of Washington, the Trimountains of Boston, and others of almost equal prominence. Only the Chicagos, the Cincinnati, the Kentuckys, the New York Mutuals, and the Marylands were salaried teams. The others were paid with shares of gate receipts or with political jobs. Rockford's Forest City club is not mentioned as being professional at this time, but there is no doubt that it paid its players in some way as early as 1870 and probably before that.

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\*However, Foley was an amateur player of some repute.

**Baseball  
Enthusiasm** The 1865-1869 era witnessed a phenomenal growth of public enthusiasm for the game. Baseball is admittedly one of the best sports from the spectator's viewpoint, with ample action and thrills and few details of the play that cannot be clearly seen. A match game between two first-class nines was then, as now, sure to attract large crowds, and in the 1860's the baseball fan was already an established institution. Perhaps he had not reached the stage of umpire-baiting and bottle-throwing, but his partisanship was suitably hot and often noisy.

**Beginning of  
Baseball  
Writing** Some one has said that the spirit of baseball depends upon three things; the players, the fans, and the sports writers. The latter have done much to make baseball what it is, by keeping the fans well informed, and creating public interest in the teams. In the early days, the newspapers touched rather lightly on the games, but by the post-Civil War period, many reporters could write in technical fashion. If they did not originate such terms as "muffed the ball" and "hot grounder," they at least helped to bring them into general use. Like the writers of today, also, they were adept at making the other team's victory look like a fluke, and finding consolation in the "superb fielding" or other good points of the losing club.

**"Muffin"  
Games and  
Other  
Oddities** It seems that nearly every man of the period, regardless of age or athletic ability, attempted to play baseball. Chicago had dozens of obscure amateur teams, representing commercial institutions like the Field-Leiter department store, Potter Palmer's, and Farwell's. Some were formed by postoffice and opera house workers. Others were made up of groups like the Telegraphers, for perhaps a game or two, but without permanent organization. One game played between two teams of Chicago Aldermen was described by a newspaper writer as the "basest ball yet."

Even the women of the period were not immune. In Henry Chadwick's *Ball Players' Chronicle*, issue of July 25, 1867, we read:

"The Base Ball Disease has attacked the women, the young ladies



of Pensacola, Fla., having organized a baseball club. One of the rules is that whenever any member gets entangled in her steel wire and falls, she is to be immediately expelled from the club. A young ladies' base ball club has also been organized at Niles, Michigan."

The steel wire referred to is the framework of the hoopskirts worn at the time. Baseball in hoopskirts! It must have been a sight worth going miles to see!

Another whimsical form of baseball was the widely prevalent "muffin" games. In its narrowest sense, "muffin" was simply a match between inexperienced players, sometimes the least skillful members of the big clubs. A "muff" or "muffin" became a bit of baseball jargon denoting a bad play, but the old-time muffin games were something more than mere exhibitions of bungling and inexperience. The players made their lack of skill a feature of the play rather than a drawback, and turned their performance into a burlesque exhibition that was sometimes quite funny. Outfielders would lie down on the grass, and do no more than point a lazy finger in the direction a hit had gone, to help some more energetic member retrieve the ball. Small sums of money were often secreted under the bases, on the understanding that the first runner to reach that base could claim it as a reward, or a keg of beer would be placed at second base as an incentive to the hitters and baserunners. It was even against the rules of some muffin games to catch a fly ball.

***Making the New Chicago Team*** During the winter of 1869-1870, Manager Tom Foley went to work at his task of getting together a group of first-class ball players for Chicago. It was not as easy as had been expected. The plan of offering \$1,200 as against the prevailing rate of \$1,000 a season established by other teams proved to be no strong inducement in luring players, and in several instances it was found necessary to raise the ante. To get William H. Craver, star catcher of the Haymakers of Troy, N. Y., \$2,500 was required. The services of Jimmy Wood, who was to play second base and act as captain, were obtained for \$2,000. Other members of the team, according to the *Lakeside Monthly*, a Chicago periodical of that time, received \$1,500 each. Among the famous Eastern clubs raided by determined Man-

ager Foley were the Athletics of Philadelphia, the Eckfords of New York, and Troy and Lansingburgh teams.

As there were no players' contracts or reserve rules at the time, Foley's action in outbidding other clubs was just as ethical as that of a businessman who offers higher pay to the crack salesman of a rival concern. Nevertheless, Foley's raiding caused great bitterness of feeling, especially among Eastern sports writers, who were possibly a bit jealous of the idea that Chicago was out to challenge the superiority of their vaunted Eastern clubs.

**Unfair Tactics Charged** Eastern writers ridiculed the upstart pretensions of the Chicago Club, calling it "Foley's What-Is-It," and jeering at the notion that a team so organized and directed could prove successful. They also alleged that Foley obtained some of his players by getting drunk with them, and, while they were pleasantly fuddled, advancing them sums of money. At least one player admitted having taken money from Foley, but denied having agreed to play for Chicago.

**"Revolvers" Frowned Upon** The Eastern scribes coined the term "revolver" which, as applied to baseball meant, not a shooting iron, but a player who jumped from one team to another. They cited the case of Fred Treacy, a former Brooklyn player, who in 1870 joined the Chicago Club after having been a member of five other teams in the space of three years. Charles Hodes, another member of the new team, was also tagged as a revolver.

All these bitter words and harsh accusations are but evidence of the chaotic conditions that marked the start of professional ball playing. Several years elapsed before clear-visioned men saw the need of a strong hand to prevent the worst abuses of a commercialized sport.

**Chicago Gets New Ball Park** Up to this time, Chicago baseball clubs had used their own club grounds, or one of the numerous fields about the city, mostly on what is now identified as the near West Side. Two of the better playing fields



were the one at West Lake and May Streets, and Ogden Park, at the foot of Ontario street, home of the Ogden Skating Club. Ogden Park was used later by amateur clubs for many tournaments and exhibition games. But now, with a brand new professional nine, facetiously called the \$15,000 club, the organizers of the Chicago club had to have a suitable park, one that could accommodate the thousands of paying customers that were expected. They chose Dexter Park as the home of their high-priced stars, and improved the field. Not new to baseball, for important games had been played there before — it was the scene of the disastrous tournament with the Washington Nationals in 1867 — Dexter Park was really a race track, with the baseball diamond inside the oval.

### CHICAGO BASEBALL PARKS DOWN TO 1900

1. Ogden Park. At the foot of Ontario street. Used by the Excelsiors and other amateur teams prior to 1870.
2. Dexter Park, 42nd and Halsted streets. Used by amateurs before 1870, and by Chicago's first professional team in 1870.
3. Lake Park. A city-owned tract of land on the Lake front at the foot of Washington and Randolph streets. Used as a baseball field by the professional team of 1871 and amateur teams of 1872-1873.
4. Twenty-third Street Park. State and 23rd streets. Used by the professional teams of 1874-1875, and by the first National League teams of 1876-1877. In the fall of 1877, the city council again leased the Lake Park grounds to the Chicago club, which continued to play there until 1884.
5. Loomis Street Park. Congress and Loomis streets. Home of the White Stockings from 1884 until 1893.
6. West Side Park. In the block bounded by Lincoln, Wood, Polk, and Taylor streets. Used by the Chicago National Leaguers from 1893 until after 1900.
7. Original South Side Park, at 35th street and Wentworth Avenue. Used by the short-lived Chicago Brotherhood League, in 1890, under the management of Charles A. Comiskey.

**No Sun  
Field in  
Those Days** Today ball diamonds are laid out so that the right fielder, first baseman, and second baseman are the only players who face in the general direction of the afternoon sun. But the Chicago promoters arranged Dexter Park so that the catcher and batter looked into the sun, while the fielders had it at their backs. It probably did not occur to them that this was not desirable for the spectators, who were also looking west — they had in mind making it as easy as possible for the fielders. It was as good an arrangement as any from the playing standpoint of that day, for the pitchers had enough difficulty getting the batters out, without having the fielders blinded.

**Seats  
for the  
Ladies** For the accommodation of red-hot fans, a special stand was built inside the track enclosure, curving around the home plate and first and third base lines. The upper tiers of seats were demountable, so that they could be taken down and not obstruct the view when races were held on the track. This seating arrangement provided for 12,000 persons, and in addition, a part of the race track grandstand and the clubhouse balconies could be used. Altogether there was an estimated capacity of 30,000 persons, which must have been more than enough for a city the size of Chicago.

There was even a special stand for the ladies built, and their presence at the game was looked upon as a desirable feature of the patronage. One writer expressed the belief that they would have a refining influence upon the game, and tend to repress the objectionable practices so often displayed by crowds of men. Perhaps he meant swearing at the umpire.

**Location  
of Dexter  
Park** Dexter Park was located about six miles southwest of what is now the loop, in the vicinity of 42nd and Halsted streets, where the International Amphitheatre now stands. Many people considered it entirely too far out. The park was connected with the city by a steam railroad and a street car line, but the street cars of that day were horse cars, and a six-mile ride in a horse car was not a pleasant experience. There was also “a smooth, attractive carriage-way,”



over which the swells went bowling along in their buggies, oblivious of the heat and dust and everything save the fact that they were doing it in style; a good nag could make the distance in a little more than half an hour.

**Players on the New Team**            The roster of the Chicago club of 1870, which underwent some changes during the playing season, was as follows: William H. Craver, catcher; W. Poyne, pitcher;\* Charles Hodes, shortstop; Michael McAtee, first base; James Wood, captain and second base; Edward Pinkham, third base; Edgar Cuthbert, left field; Martin King, center field; Fred Treacy, right field; Levi Meyerle, alternate pitcher; William Flynn, substitute. Pinkham, whose name sometimes appears as Pinkerton, alternated as pitcher, and seems to have borne the brunt of the pitching duties for the season. Ed Duffy was hired later as shortstop.

Officers of the club were David A. Gage, president; W. F. Wentworth, vice president; W. Lowe, secretary; William F. Tucker, treasurer; J. W. Bute, corresponding secretary; and the convivial Tom Foley, manager.

**Origin of the White Stockings**            The uniform adopted consisted of a blue cap, white shirt, blue pants, white stockings, and white buckskin shoes. In imitation of Cincinnati, it was inevitable that sports writers should christen the team White Stockings. The name stuck, was borne by Chicago teams right down to the turn of the century, and after being discarded for a time, was later revived for Comiskey's American League club.

It is true that Cap Anson's team, in the later years of his management (1890's), came to be called the Colts, a name that stuck until they were christened the Cubs. Anson himself was responsible for the change of name, however, because he referred to the green players on his teams as a bunch of colts. There was no good reason for the change, any more than there was for calling the Washington team the Senators, when they were entitled to be called the Nationals.

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\*Mystery surrounds this player. His name also appears as Burnes or Byrnes, and he dropped out of sight soon after the season began.

One point that is often argued in the Hot Stove League can be settled. The present Chicago National League club is the lineal descendant of the first professional Chicago team. On the other hand, the White Sox carry the proudest name in Chicago baseball, rescued from oblivion by the late Charles A. Comiskey.

**Spring Tour of the White Stockings** Spring training camps and training tours did not exist in 1870. Yet it is remarkable to read that the White Stockings, as a sort of overture to the season, went South during the spring of that year.

Apparently there was no idea of training behind the tour, for the Chicago Club had already engaged in several games before leaving for the South late in April, among them a contest with the students of the old University of Chicago.

The Southern tour was highly successful, and marked by a number of incidents gratifying to Chicago fans. The Eastern papers, still irked by Chicago's bid for baseball honors, pooh-poohed the string of White Stocking victories, asserting that they had played only inferior clubs.

The New York *Clipper*, however, made amends for the smug attitude of most Eastern papers, by saying that Chicago was "not to be sneezed at" in a review of its first four games. Before leaving for the South, the White Stockings had defeated the Amateur and Garden City clubs of Chicago by scores of 75 to 12 and 48 to 2, respectively; and had opened their tour in St. Louis with victories over the Union and Empire teams by scores of 41 to 1 and 36 to 8.

**Largest Score on Record** The most notable game of the White Stocking's barnstorming tour was played at Memphis, Tenn., where Chicago defeated the Memphis Bluff City club 157 to 1. This is claimed to be the largest score ever made in a game between two regularly organized teams.\* The carnage was featured by a terrific display of batting power by the White Stockings, who made something over 120 safe hits. The actual number (possibly much higher) cannot be given accurately because of the peculiar method used in scoring hits, but the White Stockings made 119 "first base hits," and 181 total bases on hits.

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\*In 1869, two amateur teams of Buffalo, the Niagaras and the Columbias, played a game won by the former, 209 to 10.



Up to the sixth inning the Bluff City nine "held Chicago down to 84 runs." By that time they were so tired chasing the ball that the score was nearly doubled in the last three innings.

**"Get on  
With the  
Rat-Killing"**

Manager Foley seems to have been a grim-humored chap. Before the visit of the White Stockings, the Cincinnati Red Stockings had defeated another Memphis club by a score of 100 to 2. Believing themselves superior to the other locals, the Bluff City boys had made bets that they would score from five to ten runs against the White Stockings, who, they thought, could not possibly be better than the Cincinnati. At the end of the seventh inning they begged the White Stockings to let them score a few more runs and then call the game, for it was growing late. As the *Chicago Tribune* reported the game, "Tom Foley and Jimmy Wood, valuing victory of the club far beyond the pecuniary interest of outsiders, stubbornly refused to let up an atom, and ordered the boys to go on with their 'rat-killing,' which they did most effectually." The time of this merry-go-round performance was three hours and twenty minutes.

**First  
Shut-Out  
Game**

The White Stockings also distinguished themselves by chalking up what is said to be the first shut-out game, whitewashing the Atlantic club of New Orleans, 51 to 0. Beyond question there had been some earlier contest of one sort or another in which one team failed to score. But the game at New Orleans was a scheduled match between two organized teams, and as such was unprecedented in the records. Shut-out games were rare in those days when the pitcher was handicapped by a straight-arm delivery and was compelled to pitch high or low as the batter demanded.

**White Stockings  
Launched  
in Triumph**

After picking up another victory at Ottawa, Ill., on the way home, the White Stockings returned to Chicago in triumph, not having lost a game on the tour. True, the Southern teams they had been shellacking were only amateur nines, and not the best in the country, at that; but what of it? In seven games they had piled up a total of 368 runs to their opponents' 43, and had made baseball

history with two record games. Chicago at last had a ball club which promised to hold its own with the best in the country. Chicago's baseball fever was up to about 108 degrees, a circumstance highly pleasing to the promoters and backers of the club.

**Training  
Methods  
of 1870**

Baseball managers and trainers of today who are troubled by the listless playing of their athletes might do well to study the methods of Tom Foley.

On their arrival in Memphis to play the Bluff City club, reports the *National Chronicle*, "Not all the party was feeling well, the change of water since leaving home having begun to show its effects in producing bowel complaint. However, a few hours' rest, a wholesome dinner, and above all plentiful doses of the brandy and Jamaica ginger, with which Tom Foley . . . was largely provided for such emergencies, sufficed to bring about a better physical condition all around."

We have all seen teams that could use a little ginger, and if it produced results like those at Memphis, it surely would be justified.

**Crowing  
over  
Rockford**

While the Chicago Club wanted to win national prominence, there was also an intense desire to down the famous Forest City club of Rockford. It was humiliating to the people of Chicago that Rockford should have the better team, and the pre-eminence of the Forest City in the Northwest had led, as much as anything, to the attempt to create a first class nine in the Windy City. As the baseball reporter of the *Chicago Times* put it:

"The Forest City club of Rockford has been an eyesore to the base-ball admirers of Chicago for years. Not only have the country lads pounded the existence out of all the Garden City organizations for some time past, but they also gave rattling receptions to most visiting nines from the east. At last the lovers of the game in this city concluded to raise a club that would not only pulverize the Rockford chaps, but moreover be enabled to walk off with every other club in the country, including, if necessary, the redhosed gentlemen who rendezvous at Cincinnati and it's no two to one that they have not succeeded in the entire undertaking."



The occasion of this victory song, which started out: "The Chicago nine warmed them. They warmed them well. They can do it again . . . ," was the defeat, on June 16, 1870, of the Forest Citys by a score of 28 to 14.

**Spaulding  
Attitudinizes**

The game started with King of Chicago facing the "statuesque" star pitcher of the Rockford nine, later to be an important figure in Chicago baseball. The reporter goes on to say:

"The latter gentlemen struck one of his favorite attitudes, and handed in a swift one to the strike. King very cheerfully thumped it plumb in the middle, and while the fielders were busy gathering it in, amused himself by taking his second base. Then Hodes, Ward, [Wood] and Cuthbert kindly went through exactly the same performance, two or three of them chasing each other to the home plate. McAtee followed suit, and then little 'Clipper' Flynn danced up to the ball and pasted it away over into the left field, bringing the two previous strikers home. The Forest City boys gazed at each other in general, and at the attitudinizing Spaulding in particular, in blank dismay, and the two or three thousand delegates from the Fox river\* valley stared in silent amazement at the way the customers in blue and white were taking hold of the 'cannon-ball pitcher's' delivery. Spaulding put himself into the position of the Greek slave and Meyerle immediately made a third base hit, Spaulding assumed the classic *pose* of Zenobia, and Craver and Pinkham batted their way home. Spaulding then got himself up as a figure of Srbona, at which King, Pinkham, Hodes, Cuthbert and Ward [Wood] hammered their way around the bases. McAtee was finally gobbled at first by a neat throw of Addy's. Flynn and Meyerle by safe hits made their runs. Craver was nipped in his endeavor to hop about too lively at second, and Pinkham being taken in handsomely at left by Barstow, the side was at last out. Fifteen runs had been made, every one of which had been secured by the safest of batting...

"The Forest Citys opened play at the bat by being retired in the prettiest one, two, three order imaginable, Hodes cutting off Addy at first, Barnet being nipped in endeavoring to make second, by a fine throw of Craver's and Wood putting Barnes' ball first some little time before that player reached there."

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\*Should be Rock river.

**Record  
for the  
Season**

In spite of this decisive victory over Rockford, and several other important successes, the season's record of the 1870 team was not altogether successful. Although on November 2 the *Chicago Evening Mail* and the *Chicago Evening Post* voiced claims to a national championship for the White Stockings, their assertion was based largely on two victories over the New York Mutuals late in the year. Such is the chaotic condition of the records of that time that it is difficult to name a champion for the year. Newspaper files are incomplete, and the National Association of that time did not concern itself with awarding championships. Games were scheduled on a go-as-you-please basis, and the mythical national title was principally a matter of opinion, based upon such comparisons as could be made from the games played.

Although the Mutuals of New York claimed the national championship in the early fall, having scored wins over some of the best professional teams, including Chicago, they were afterwards beaten by the White Stockings, and their claim seems but little better than that of the Chicago Club. The Atlantics of Brooklyn are sometimes mentioned as the 1870 champions, but they split even with the White Stockings in two games.

**Comparison  
with other  
Teams**

On September 7, 1870, the *Evening Post* published the following review of the White Stockings' record up to that date:

“Twice has been defeated by the Athletics of Philadelphia; twice by the Mutuals of New York; and once each by the Atlantics of Brooklyn, Haymakers of Troy, Harvards of Boston, and Forest Citys of Rockford, making eight games lost. The Chicagos have lost no games with second-class nines they have played, except the Harvards, and have beaten the following clubs that may be called first-class: The Forest Citys of Rockford, twice; the Haymakers of Troy, once; Forest Citys of Cleveland, twice; and the Atlantics of Brooklyn, once.”

However, the above list of games is far from complete, and as the team continued to play until about the first of November, several important victories and defeats are not included. Among these were



two games with their arch-rivals of the Middle West, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, in which the White Stockings were victorious at Cincinnati on September 7 (score, 10 to 6), and also at Chicago on October 13 (score, 16 to 13).

***Walloping  
of the Red  
Stockings***

The double defeat of the Cincinnati's overshadowed everything else in the season, and alone would have made it a successful year in the minds of many fans. The first game, played at Cincinnati, rocketed baseball excitement to a new height in Chicago, and throughout the Middle West.

Both teams were determined to trounce their opponents. The Cincinnati's wanted to put the baseball upstarts from Chicago in their places, while the White Stockings felt that their chief mission in baseball was to prove that Cincinnati no longer ruled the West. Hoping to bolster their pitching staff, the White Stockings tried unsuccessfully to obtain the services of William Arthur Cummings, star pitcher of New York, who is credited with being the first to throw curves. Pinkham, the regular White Hose pitcher, proved adequate, however, and the stellar performances of Catcher King and Shortstop Duffy outshone anything the Reds had to offer.

***Second Verse  
Same as the  
First***

Partisans of the Red team claimed that their first loss was on the fluke order, with bad umpiring more or less responsible. For the return match Robert Ferguson (Cincinnati's own selection) of the Brooklyn Atlantic club was engaged as umpire.

Hundreds of Cincinnati's poured into Chicago on special trains to witness an expected crushing revenge, and by game time Dexter Park was jammed with more than 12,000 spectators. Once more the White Stockings outbatted and outfielded the visitors from Ohio's Rhineland, with Duffy again the bright star for Chicago.

With his accustomed japery, the Chicago *Times* reporter wrote the following lead to his story:

"ENGLEWOOD, OCT. 13, 6 p.m.—A party of about 600 men came down on our suburb from the north a few moments ago. They

act strangely and look hungry. Please inform Superintendent Kennedy of their Helpless situation.

“LATER.—The invaders have departed eastward for Cincinnati. Several of the crowd wear white knee-breeches and red stockings.

“HYDE PARK, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.—A straggling band of roughs, barefooted and coatless, passed through this place a few moments ago toward Calumet. Their conversation indicated some great financial affliction. What’s up?

“CALUMET, Oct. 13, 9:30 p.m.—The people of this metropolis are greatly annoyed by the presence of an unusually large number of dangerous looking characters who appear to have come from your city. However, they are quite harmless, but very reticent. Among themselves such expressions as ‘put-up job,’ ‘d—d umpire,’ ‘dead broke,’ etc., are common. One hungry chap, called ‘Gris’ is discoursing on ‘Indian meal’ to a thoughtful squad.

“MICHIGAN CITY, Oct. 13, 12 p.m.—What in the d—l’s the matter? Just now a scaly-looking crowd of about 600 persons passed through here, and asked the best way to Cincinnati; said they came from Chicago. They only stopped to bathe their feet.”

***Internal  
Troubles  
of the Club***

The White Stockings of 1870 appear to have done as much scrapping off the diamond as on it, and this was no doubt a factor in their slightly spotty record. The mixture of merchant chiefs, war heroes, and sporting characters in the “front office” was just a little too mixed up to jell properly, and, after some heated spats and shake-ups of the officers, the shareholders began to realize that while professional baseball might be a business, it was not quite the same as keeping a store or running a hotel. Like any other new enterprise, it had to go through a period of growing pains before it could get on a smooth-running basis. The difficulties, both in playing and management, were in the nature of a midsummer slump, for, after the internal troubles had been ironed out, the team got back into a winning stride and ended the season as it began, with impressive victories.



**Sports Writers Turn Sour** Some of the local writing fraternity, who had hailed the White Stockings early in the season as the coming baseball wonders of the world, turned sour on them by early fall. There was a general impression in those days that to be really good, a team had to win practically all its games. Several sports writers attacked the club with a savageness not at all warranted by the facts. Here is a sample from the *Chicago Daily Republican*:

“The champion sporting reporter has ciphered out the fact that the White Stockings have traveled 17,973 miles since they started last spring. If they had gone to the place their backers had consigned them they would have gone to — well, how far is it to the place where the balls are red hot?”

A writer in the *Lakeside Monthly* pleaded for the complete rejection of professionalism. Especially bitter over Chicago's effort to make baseball a money-making business, he says:

“This [the financial and playing success of the Cincinnati club] was too much for Chicago to bear. She could not see her commercial rival on the Ohio bearing off the honors of the national game, especially when there was money to be made while beating her. So Chicago went to work; — and you must note that in Chicago the first thing to do toward any achievement is to form a stock company. In Chicago nobody builds a church, pickles a winter's stock of cucumbers, without first forming a joint stock company under the general statute . . . .\* The prospects are that the season will be financially a success. If so, Chicago can lay that satisfying unction to her soul and rest content, for the Dollar question is the chief question which any subject or situation presents to Chicago. If the cash balance is correct, the rest will do.”

**Professional Association Formed** The most important baseball development in 1871 was the formation of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players. The old National Association, weakened by professionalism, had proved itself utterly helpless in dealing with the new situation.

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\*However, the Chicago club of 1870 was not actually incorporated. It appears to have been a subscription affair; each shareholder giving a certain amount to the working capital.

Irregularities of every sort had grown to the stage of anarchy. Gambling was on the increase, and ugly charges like those published by the Chicago papers in 1867 now had too much truth in them to be ignored. Throwing games at the behest of the gamblers was no longer a mere suspicion. It was a fact.

Aside from the gambling and hoodlumism that were taking hold of baseball, other abuses demanded correction. Particularly troublesome were the revolvers, players who jumped from team to team, the great sore spot of 1870. A lesser evil was the complete lack of control over game schedules and playing conditions, a circumstance that made the award of national championships a most difficult problem.

Although its aims were good, the Professional Association accomplished little in the way of reform, and during five years of existence devoted itself principally to the question of settling the championship. It made a few minor changes in the rules, but did little or nothing to correct the abuses that were threatening to kill the national game.

**Chicago Club Incorporated** The White Stockings were first incorporated in January, 1871. Illinois statutes of that time contained no provision for baseball corporations, but the charter was drawn up under the Act of February 24, 1859, entitled: An act for the incorporation of benevolent, educational, literary, musical, scientific, and missionary societies, including societies for mutual improvement, or for the promotion of the arts.

As baseball seems to have little to do with any of the aims mentioned in the act, it soon became the subject of many jocular inquiries, such as "Was it meant for the mutual improvement of the gamblers?", "Was it a benevolent society for the benefit of the stockholders and players?", and "Perhaps it is a missionary league to carry the gospel of base ball to more benighted communities."

**New Grounds Sought** Dexter Park, it was decided, was too far from the heart of the city. Not all the grandiose improvements projected the year before had been made, and its capacity was never anything like the estimated 30,000, in its



early prospectus. Moreover, the canny backers felt that the expense of transportation was a factor in cutting down attendance.

With the shortcomings of Dexter field in mind, permission to use the tract of land on the lake front, at the foot of Washington and Randolph streets was obtained from the city. Although it was called Lake Park, it seems to have been anything but parklike, for the ground was strewn with broken bottles and rubbish, and required extensive renovation. Early in March the Chicago city council voted to give the use of Lake Park to the Chicago club. Thus the team for the first time, had a playing field in the heart of the city.

**More  
Sour Notes  
Sounded** In spite of the White Stockings' impressive late season record, and their better-than-average season of 1870, some newspapers refused to be enthusiastic over the club. Professionals had not yet won the complete support of the press. On March 29, 1871, the *Illinois State Journal* said:

“The base ball mania has broken out earlier than usual this season. The Chicago White Stockings, who last year were just beginning to redeem an almost ruined reputation when the season closed, have been playing the Lone Stars at New Orleans. They were victorious by a score of nine against six on the part of their opponents. This club has, doubtless, been re-organized on a thorough gambling basis, to be used like a race-horse or a bull terrier on the hands of experienced sportsmen, for the purpose of making money. The respectable public should give no countenance to the game of base ball when it is perverted to such bad ends. It is rare and healthy sport when indulged in only for the pleasure and exercise which it gives to the players. But when degraded to the level of the cock-pit and the scrub-race course, it is no longer worthy or deserving of patronage. Let there be proper discrimination made by the public between gambling base ball and sporting base ball.”

**Greatest  
Hitting  
Rally** What is described as perhaps the greatest ninth-inning rally in the history of baseball occurred in a game with the Olympics of Washington on May 16, 1871. The score stood 7 to 0 against Chicago when they came to bat in the ninth. According to Tom

Foley, Captain Jimmy Wood shouted, "We need a run from every man on the team. See that we get them!"

Batting more than once around before three outs were made, as was required in those days, the Chicagoans scored their nine runs. Fred Treacy drove two terrific home runs to far left field, and other players contributed timely hits.

As the runs piled up, the fans went wild. In the excitement, Lotta Crabtree, the famous actress, hit a stranger over the head with a costly parasol, smashing the gentleman's silk hat and ruining her sunshade. Old-timers swear that there was never anything like it in baseball before or since.

**Newspapers Can't Stand Slumps** The season of 1871 was much like that of 1870. After winning several unimportant early season games, the White Stockings slumped in June, much to the distress of the local scribes, who still clung to the notion that a good team ought to win everything in sight. When a team called the Actives from Clinton, Iowa, defeated the Chicagos on June 27, the writers waxed Biblical. Said the *Evening Mail* of June 28:

"The Actives of Clinton, Iowa, defeated the White Stockings, yesterday afternoon, the score standing 8 to 5. Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon."

And the *Illinois State Journal*:

"Our famous nine in whom we boasted after flaxing everything in the West, went East; were victorious for a while, returned with trailing banners, for rest and recuperation. We beat the Rockford Forest Citys on Saturday last; and on Tuesday — tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon — were scooped 8 to 5 by a rustic club from the wilds of Iowa, called the Actives! And the country boys did the job in first rate style, too — by hard work and superior play."

**Throwing of Games Again Charged** The sports reporter of the *Evening Mail*, who seems to have become particularly disgusted with the efforts of the white-hosed team, vented his spleen again a few days later. On July 1 he said:



“According to previous arrangement, the Chicago base ball club was yesterday beaten again — the Olympics of Washington making 13 to their 8. The horse-racing program was as follows: These two clubs were to play each other for ‘the best three in five games.’ The Olympics had beaten once and the Chicagos twice, and if the latter had made yesterday’s game they would have won the best three out of five, and the two clubs could have played together no more this season. So to secure the gate money of another game it was agreed that yesterday’s contest should result in a tie, and thus another game would be necessary. It is astonishing, that young men will still be found so confiding as to bet on the result of a game between professional ball-players when it is already decided by the managers, and is no more a test of skill than is a horse-race which is previously ‘sold’ by the jockeys.”

Elsewhere the same paper said:

“A morning sporting paper says the cause of the White Stockings’ last ignominious defeat was ‘weak batting’ just so — superinduced by heavy betting.”

**Old-Time Pitchers Fragile?** This reporter of the *Mail* certainly looked at the game with tongue-in-cheek, for he was scornful of the growing art of baseball writing. In the issue of August 22 he states:

“It is horrible to relate, but a morning paper report of a baseball game assures us that Atwater pitched well enough for five or six innings, but after that he ‘went to pieces.’ His awful fate should warn all other pitchers of what fragile clay they are made of.”

Further on he says:

“It takes a column in the papers to tell why the Chicago White Stockings were beaten by the Washington Olympics. It seems that they failed to make a sufficient number of runs.”

**Contend for Championship** Nevertheless, by October 1 the White Stockings were regarded as one of the country’s stronger teams, and had at least an outside chance to win the championship. On that date the Chicago *Republican* had this to say:

“Today the Boston and Chicago clubs will play the fourth game of their series on the Lake front Park grounds. The Chicagos have

won two games and the Bostons one, and the White Stockings are the favorites at very short odds. As regards the relative positions of the two clubs, the Chicagos have won twenty games and lost nine, the Bostons twenty and lost ten; the Chicagos have won four series from the Olympics, Mutuals, Eckfords, and Rockfords, and the Bostons four, from the Athletics, Olympics, Clevelands, and Rockfords. Seats have been sold so rapidly that it is safe to estimate the crowd today at from 12,000 to 15,000. But few pools were sold last evening on the great game this afternoon. The Bostons carry off the odds in betting circles."

Although they were successful in disposing of the Bostonians, the White Stockings later lost to the Philadelphia Athletics in the deciding series of the year, and the championship went to Philadelphia.

**Great Chicago Fire of 1871** In the meantime, baseball in Chicago had been brought to an abrupt end. The last home game was played October 7, with a local amateur team. On the evening of October 8, a fire started in the O'Leary barn at the rear of 137 DeKoven street that was to make even more history than the fiery baseball war of 1871.

Actually, the Chicago fire had no immediate effect on baseball in 1871. The season was nearly over, and the locals played out their eastern tour, finishing the year with a surplus in the treasury. Adrian C. Anson, in his autobiography, *A Ball Player's Career*, gives the impression that the members of the Chicago team were left stranded and destitute by the fire. As Captain Jimmy Wood was voted a bonus of \$500 on November 20, and as the season was virtually over, it is hard to see how the fire could have affected the players, except through possible loss of their personal belongings. However, at the meeting of November 20 "the Chicago Base Ball club was declared to be extinct," indicating that no plans were made for the following year.

**Seasons of 1872 and 1873** Anson is also authority for the statement that the Chicago club dropped out of existence in 1872 and 1873. But, as Anson was playing in the East those years, he was not in close touch with Chicago baseball affairs.



He is correct to the extent that the Chicago club was not entered in the Professional Association race in either year, but it did exist as a semi-professional organization, with Tom Foley still at the helm, and several of the former players on the team.

This semi-professional club found the going tough, Chicago people, busy rebuilding the city, had little time for baseball games. Professional teams, hippodroming around the country, skimmed the cream of exhibition-game attendance. The Chicago clubs of 1872 and 1873 were no better drawing cards than such old, well-established amateur nines as the Actives and the Libertys.

**Seasons  
of 1874  
and 1875**

In 1874, a rejuvenated White Stocking team re-entered the National Association. It was a fair team, but the best of the Midwestern players had gone to Eastern clubs, and available men were not of championship caliber. Although the White Stockings managed to set back some of the powerful Easterners in a few games, the year's record was mediocre, and aroused little interest among local fans. Boston won the National Association pennant for the third straight time.

The season of 1875 was no better, Boston took its fourth pennant, and Chicago was an also-ran. But local fans were encouraged, before the close of the season, by an announcement that Chicago was to have a brand-new ball club, made up of some of the greatest National Association stars. On July 20, the *Chicago Tribune* stated that White Stockings officials, in making plans for 1876, had obtained contracts with the following players: Pitcher, Spalding, of Boston; catcher, White, of Boston; first base, Devlin, of Chicago; second base, Barnes, of Boston; third base, Sutton, of Philadelphia; short-stop, Peters, of Chicago; left field, Glenn, of Chicago; center field, Hines, of Chicago; right field, McVey, of Boston; substitutes, O'Rourke of Boston, and Golden and Warren of Chicago.

Although the team did not have all the players announced in the *Tribune* list, it was gratifying news for the loyal fans who wanted to see Chicago again a strong contender. Who and what were behind

this startling announcement? The forceful personality of that baseball enthusiast extraordinary, William A. Hulbert.

***“The Man Who Saved the Game”*** Hailed by Chadwick and other writers as the man who saved the national game, William A. Hulbert of Chicago is one of the greatest personalities in old-time baseball. Never a professional ball player himself but devoted to the game, he wanted Chicago to have a baseball club equal to any in the country.

Hulbert was disgusted with baseball conditions in the early 1870's. Player-snatching and contract-jumping had become the popular pastime of managers and players. It was considered too great a hazard to back a ball club financially, in view of the difficulties of holding a good team together once it was organized. Gamblers had muscled into the sport, and the fixing of games was an open scandal.

***Enlists Aid of Spalding*** When offered the presidency of the Chicago club in 1875, Hulbert decided to see what could be done to put the game back on the right track. While considering the offer, he met A. G. Spalding, then playing on the Boston team. Although Spalding's team had won the pennant three successive years and could not complain about game-throwing, Spalding felt, like Hulbert, that the time was ripe for more stringent governing rules.

With Spalding's assistance, Hulbert signed up Barnes, McVey, and White of the Boston club, and Anson and Sutton of the Philadelphia Athletics. These, along with Spalding, formed the nucleus of a powerful team, to which it was planned to add outstanding members of the Chicago club of 1875 — Hines, Glenn, and Peters.

***National League Is Formed*** Feeling that something more than a good team was necessary to protect his interests, Hulbert arranged a secret meeting at Louisville with managers from St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Louisville, at which he first disclosed his plan to organize a National League of Professional



Baseball clubs, under rules which would protect both the players and the club management.

At a later meeting (February 2, 1876), attended by managers of leading Eastern clubs, Hulbert dramatically locked the door when the session began. As Spalding relates the incident, in his history of baseball, Hulbert then announced:

“Gentlemen you have no cause for uneasiness. I have locked the door simply to prevent intrusion from without, and incidentally to make it impossible for any of you to go out until I have finished what I have to say to you.”

What he had to say seems to have been plenty. He told the assembled officials that the abuses of the game had to be corrected if professional baseball was to survive. He scored the National Association for its failure to remedy the situation, and wound up by producing the constitution for the new league.

“Hulbert completely dominated the situation,” says Spalding, “Although some of these men were personally guilty of the corruptions of which he spoke, at the end of the interview they were docility itself. They recognized Hulbert as a power.”

**Hulbert** Hulbert’s dominating influence was felt for years.  
**Made the** Although he nominated Morgan G. Bulkeley of  
**League** Hartford, afterwards governor of Connecticut, as first president of the league, he himself succeeded Bulkeley before the year was up, and continued as president until his death on April 10, 1882.

During these critical formative years, Hulbert’s strong hand served to keep baseball on the road he had outlined for it, and made itself felt when evil conditions had to be dealt with. In 1877, four members of the Louisville club were expelled from organized baseball for throwing games, and for forty-four years thereafter no similar action was necessary in big-league baseball.

Hulbert was described by those who knew him as a large man, with a forceful, magnetic personality. He was the good-fellow type in his off hours, but stern and dominating when necessary. A hard

fighter with a level business head, he easily became the great baseball leader of his time.

**First National League Pennant** Fittingly, the first National League pennant was won by the city that cradled the league, Chicago. Hulbert's endeavors were crowned with victory.

The team which carried off the prize entered the new league with the following players: A. G. Spalding, pitcher, captain, and manager; James L. White, catcher; A. C. Anson, third base; Ross Barnes, second base; Cal A. McVey, first base; J. P. Peters, shortstop; J. W. Glenn, left field; Paul A. Hines, center field; Robert Addy, right field; J. F. Cone, Olcar Bielaski, and F. H. Andrus, substitutes.

The new spirit of baseball created in Chicago by this team is shown by a story in the *Chicago Evening Journal* of September 26, 1876, when the White Stockings had clinched the pennant. The *Journal*, in previous years lukewarm toward Chicago baseball, had the following to say:

**“Anson Toed the Plate”** “For a number of years the management of the Chicago Base Ball Association have been working hard to secure the whip pennant, and to that effect they have from year to year engaged players whom they thought would be able to wrest the championship from the Bostons. Before the closing of the base ball season of 1875 it was formally announced that the four players, Barnes, Spaulding, McVey, and White were engaged, with Anson of the Athletics, to play in Chicago for 1876. How well they have done, the admirers of base ball are aware. They have won the coveted flag and Chicago is happy.

“Every man on the club has shown himself to be a gentleman as well as a ball player, and there has never been a breath of suspicion against them . . . They have made friends in and out of the profession, and are a credit to the city of their adoption . . . Yesterday's game with Hartford might or might not have settled the championship for Chicago . . . The game was a very interesting one from first to last, the Chicagos taking the lead in the first three innings. Then matters turned, and the blue-hosed gentlemen went to the front.



When Anson toed the plate in the sixth and struck a long fly to center field for three bases, the excitement was intense. The boys all got in their work and made six runs, earning four of them and winning the game. There was no more runs until the ninth inning, when the Hartfords, by good batting and errors of White, scored four runs. The features of the game were the fine pitching of McVey, the batting of Anson and Hines, and the work done by little Pete at short field." Final score, Chicago, 7; Hartford, 6.

Gratifying as it was to win the pennant, Chicago gained something more from the White Stockings of 1876. The new club brought to this city Spalding and Anson, whose personalities and leadership were to dominate nearly a quarter-century of Chicago baseball, and to leave an indelible stamp on the history of the game.

***Spalding's  
Great  
Career***      With the formation of the National League and the new Chicago White Stockings, there entered into Chicago baseball a figure who was to be its leader for nearly a quarter of a century, Albert G. Spalding.

Spalding was well known to Chicago fans before coming here as captain and manager of the re-organized White Stockings. As the star pitcher of the old Rockford club, his "statuesque" delivery had won him both cheers and jeers of the local devotees. Again, as pitcher for the old Boston club, he was often on the slab against Chicago. But the most important part of his career belongs to Chicago alone.

Player, manager, club owner, and sporting goods tycoon, Spalding had a personal history unmatched in baseball. He not only served in every department of the game, but also did much to make professional baseball a success.

***Spalding —  
a Product of  
the Prairies***      Like so many other great figures of baseball in old Chicago, Spalding was a product of the prairies. He was born September 2, 1850, in the little village of Byron, in northern Illinois. He was only fifteen years old when he joined the Forest City club of Rockford, and was not yet seventeen when he participated in the only beating handed to the Washington Nationals in their western

tour of 1867. He is thus entitled to a place as one of the boy wonders of the mound, although his chief fame does not come from his pitching record.

As a pitcher with a good straight arm fast ball, Spalding was well above the average of his day. In 1908, Henry Chadwick ranked him as the greatest pitcher up to that time. This rating is certainly debatable, however, for William Arthur Cummings, Amos Rusie, Cy Young, and the peerless Mathewson all belonged to the same period. To say that Spalding outranked any or all of these is going a bit too far.

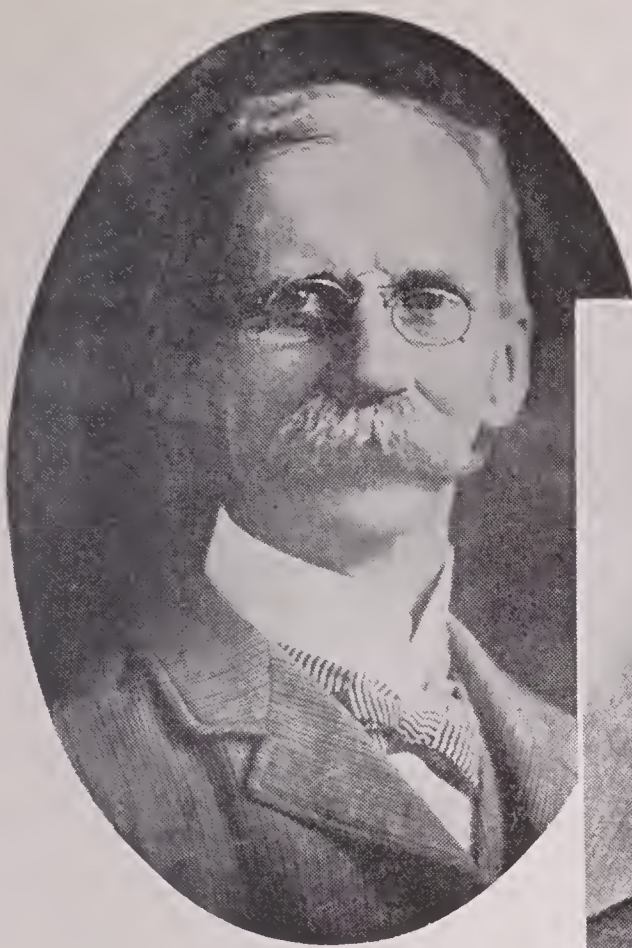
***Spalding's Influence on the Game*** Along with William A. Hulbert, Spalding was not only a prime mover in the organization of the National League, but also strove to put professional baseball on a sound business basis. These two men realized that the game could not survive if it remained in the hands of gamblers. Their work prospered and endured, and has made possible a clean, wholesome sport with no direct gambling connections.

As a manufacturer and purveyor of baseball equipment, Spalding and his business associates helped to standardize the game, by making it possible for all baseball teams to use the same kind of playing equipment.

***Business Career Notable*** When he came to Chicago in 1876, A. G. Spalding, with his brother, James Walter Spalding, engaged in the sporting goods business, in addition to his baseball activity. In 1878, he gave up his managerial and playing duties with the White Stockings to give more time to the firm. He retained an interest in the club, however, and in 1882 became its president, succeeding Hulbert. He continued as president until 1891, and thereafter was the principal stockholder for some time.

Under Spalding's direction, with the assistance of his brother and a brother-in-law, William T. Brown, the firm of A. G. Spalding & Bros. became one of the greatest concerns in the world making and

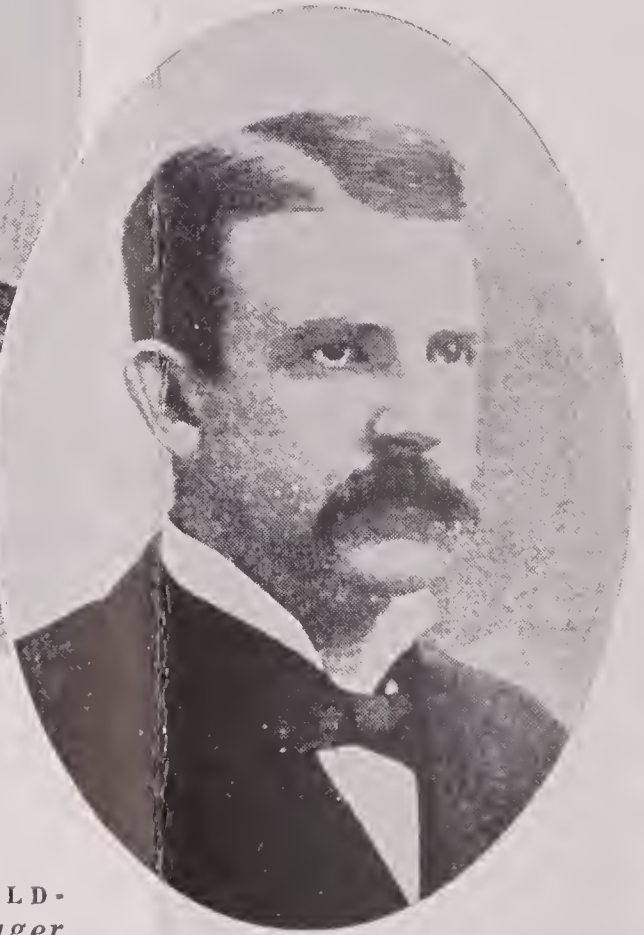




**TOM FOLEY**, *Manager of Chicago's first professional team.*



**WILLIAM A. HULBERT**, *Founder of National League.*



**A. G. SPALDING**, *Manager and Captain of Chicago's first National League team, pennant winners of 1876.*



**AETNA NINE OF 1869.** *Strong team of the early days.*



**JIMMY WOOD**, *First captain of the Chicago White Stockings.*



ANSON'S PENNANT WINNERS OF 1885 AND 1886. Billy Sunday is at extreme right of first row.



CHICAGO WHITE STOCKINGS OF 1880, 1881, AND 1882. First National League club to win pennant three times in a row.



ADRIAN C. ANSON, Chicago's Baseball Immortal.



WHITE STOCKINGS OF 1882. Left to right, top row: E. N. Williamson, 3b.; M. J. Kelly, rf.; Frank S. Flint, c.; Thomas Burns, ss.; A. C. Anson, Capt. and 1b.; A. Dalrymple, lf.; George F. Gore, cf.; bottom row: Hugh Nicol, rf.; L. Corcoran, p. (See page 40).



selling sporting goods, with branches all over the United States and in foreign countries. Spalding died at Point Loma, California, September 9, 1915.

**Anson,  
Chicago's  
Baseball  
Immortal** Adrian Constantine Anson, familiarly known as "Pop" to players and fans alike, was the baseball hero of Chicago from 1876, when he joined the champion White Stockings, until 1897. No other man, with the exceptions of John McGraw and Connie Mack had so long and notable a career as player and manager. His managerial record is not quite so impressive as McGraw's or Mack's, but he was certainly the greatest of his day, and topped baseball's hall of fame in the first poll of old-timers.

There is no question that Anson was one of the greatest playing stars of all time, and can rightly be called the most brilliant first-baseman of the old era. He was not only a fine mechanical player, but a heady one, and devised many tricks of infield play that are still in use.

Perhaps what hurt his record as a manager in the last eleven years with the White Stockings was his persistence in playing long after most men would have retired to the bench. He played up to the very end, and only at the last did he ease up by alternating with another player at first base. It is true that he did not have good material in all of those later years, but he might have done more in the development of his colts, as he called them, if he had stood on the side-lines to study their weaknesses. However, it was Anson's theory that a manager should be on the field, taking an active part in directing the play.

**Anson Dons  
False  
Whiskers** In the early 1890's when Anson repeatedly drew the fire of Chicago sports writers for continuing to play, the constant reiteration of the term "old man" got under his skin, and he decided to get back at his critics through ridicule.

One day while the team was dressing, Anson opened a bundle containing a white wig and a false set of long white whiskers.

Fred Pfeffer, himself a veteran of long standing, gasped, "For God's sake, what's that for?"

"Never mind," said Anson. "Wait and see."

The old hero, who was really not old, fitted the wig and beard to his head, and thus arrayed, took the field. The crowd was struck dumb. With the long white locks and whiskers floating about his shoulders, Anson played the entire game with his usual effortless skill, and thus turned the guns of ridicule upon his detractors.

**Anson  
Renowned  
for Hitting** Pop Anson led National League batters four times: in 1879, with an average of .407; in 1881, with .399; in 1887, with .421; in 1888, with .343. He was second or third several other years, and only twice in his twenty-two seasons in the National League did he finish with a percentage below .300. Dan Brouthers, who led the National League four times and the old American Association once, was the only hitter before 1900 to challenge his record.

Strictly speaking, Anson was not a slugger. He did not try to kill the ball or knock it out of the lot every time he swung. Instead he was the Willie Keeler type, although years were to elapse after Anson's heyday before Keeler came along with his famous principle of "hitting 'em where they ain't."

**Another  
Prairie  
Product** Anson was born in 1852, in Marshalltown, a community in central Iowa founded by his father. His first baseball experience was with the Marshalltown team, a nine which his father helped to organize and on which the elder Anson played, advanced years then being considered no great handicap to a ball player. Young Anson was not a regular member of the team until 1870, when he starred in a game played with the Rockford Forest Citys at Marshalltown.

In this game Anson's father and his brother, Sturgis Anson also played. Although they gave the Forest Citys a good a run for their money, they lost by a score of 18 to 3, which was considered quite an accomplishment against one of the strongest teams in the country. Anson's playing was so impressive that it won him a place on the



Rockford team for the following year. According to his own statement, the salary was \$66 a month. A second game was arranged for the following day, as the Forest Citys were chagrined by this showing against a team of green amateurs. Also they wanted to recoup, as there had been some heavy betting that they would defeat Marshalltown by a much wider margin. The second game ended more satisfactorily for the Forest Citys, as they took the long end of a 35 to 5 score.

**Dead Ball  
Versus  
Live Ball** Most fans of today who discuss the respective merits of American League and National League baseballs imagine that the live ball-dead ball controversy is something new. It may surprise them to know that in 1870 the fans were already arguing just as learnedly on the same subject, whether hitting ought to be helped by using a lively ball, or the pitchers and fielders aided by a deader one.

In fact, in one Marshalltown-Forest City game Anson's father, who was disgusted by the outcome of the second game, alleged that the latter team pulled a fast one in the matter of the ball. They agreed to furnish it (only one was provided in those days), and the elder Anson accused them of taking a lively "Bounding Rock" ball, skinning it, and then sewing it up again in the cover of a "Ryan" dead ball.

**Anson's  
Playing  
Career** Anson served but one year in Rockford (1871) for the Rockford club backers decided that they could no longer stand the strain of increasing salaries. Accordingly, the team was disbanded, and Anson as a free agent was signed by the Philadelphia Athletics.

He played four years at Philadelphia, with constantly growing fame as a top-notch fielder and dangerous hitter, but his development as a star was retarded by his being shifted from one position to another. From 1871 through 1878, he served variously at third base, shortstop, right field, and left field. It was not until 1879, when he became manager of the Chicago club, that he began to play the position at which he grew most famous, first base.

**Record  
as a  
Manager**

Cap Anson, or Pop Anson, as he was latterly called, led the Chicago team to five National League pennants. This gives him a tie with Frank G. Selee, of Boston and later of Chicago, for the greatest number of pennants won by a manager before 1900. The White Stockings, under his direction, took three straight championships in 1880, 1881, and 1882; then two more in 1885 and 1886.

In the years following, down to the end of his career in 1897, Anson's team did not particularly distinguish itself. It was second in 1887 and 1888; third in 1889; second in 1890; second in 1891; but from then on the best they could do was fourth place in 1895. However, in the twelve years from 1880 through 1891, the Chicago club never finished lower than fourth, was on the top five times, and second five times, a record that indelibly places Anson among the great managers in baseball.

**End of  
Anson's  
Career**

It would be pleasant to record that Anson stepped aside at the height of his fame, with the plaudits of the fans still ringing in his ears. Unfortunately that was not the way it was. The disastrous seasons of 1892 through 1897 were evidence, in the opinion of many, that he had seen his best days as a manager, although his batting average was still above .300 and his fielding nearly as good as ever. But Anson refused to quit.

The darkest shadow of his last years was his difficulty with Spalding. It was really too bad that these two men, who had served Chicago baseball so many years, could not have ended their association in a pleasanter fashion.

Anson charges that Spalding sought to undermine his influence with the players, and that the enmity of James A. Hart, who succeeded Spalding as president of the club, had much to do with his ousting at the close of the 1897 season. It may be that Spalding, believing Anson's usefulness at an end, sought to ease the pain of his retirement by trying to induce him to resign. If so, Anson refused. He was a stockholder in the club, and could not bear to give up all active association with the team. In a move to get control, he received from Spalding a curious document which purported to be an option to



buy the club for \$150,000. Anson felt that this option was not made in good faith, but even if it had been, he could not have raised the money to take it up. The end came with his abrupt dismissal from the managership early in 1898.

**Anson's  
Later  
Career**

Pop Anson's fame will always be the touchstone by which the success of Chicago baseball managers is judged. During his twenty-two years' service, baseball in Chicago was Pop Anson, and Pop Anson was Chicago baseball. No Chicago manager since his time has finished the season at the top or nearly there so many times. He was temperate in his habits in a day when drinking, hard-living ball players were the rule rather than the exception. Honest beyond all reproach, he was scrupulously fair, and no ball player was ever known to complain of the way he was handled by Anson. His contribution to the national game at a time when it was trying to shed the disgrace of its early years is a monument to decent and honest sportsmanship.

After leaving baseball, Anson operated a billiard hall in Chicago. Although he took a lively interest in baseball, he was never again actively connected with it. He died April 14, 1922, and the following year the National League erected a monument to him in Oakwood cemetery, Chicago.

**Three  
Lean  
Years**

With virtually the same club that won the pennant in 1876, the White Stockings failed to repeat in 1877. The championship went to Boston. Louisville looked like a sure winner until the close of the season, when the Kentuckians lost enough games to the Beaneaters to make the latter the winners. As a result of charges that these games were thrown, four Louisville players were expelled from organized baseball.

The 1878 season saw many changes in the Chicago club, with Anson the only star left from the 1876 team. Spalding had resigned to devote his time to business, and Robert Ferguson, the new manager, could not drive his second-rate players higher than fourth place in a six-club race. In 1879, Anson became manager, and the

team, although strengthened by stars obtained from the defunct Indianapolis and Milwaukee clubs, again missed the flag.

Perhaps the White Stockings of these years had not learned to choose their drinks well. An advertisement in the *Evening Journal* of April 30, 1877, says "The Chicago Base Ball Club delight in drinking mead at Gunther's." The dictionary defines mead as a fermented drink made of honey, but it should be explained that the beverage referred to was moxie mead, a soft drink of the time.

***Pennant Flies Again in Chicago*** The sun shone again for Chicago fans in 1880, when a strong team, ably piloted by Anson, took the National League flag for the second time. Larry Corcoran and Fred Goldsmith, pitchers, and Mike Kelly and Frank Flint, catchers, eliminated the battery weaknesses of the lean years; while Ed Williamson, Tommy Burns, Abner Dalrymple, and George Gore added their strength at the bat and in the field to make up a winning combination.

Practically unchanged in its line-up, the same crew repeated in 1881 and 1882, thus becoming the first National League club to win the pennant three times in a row.

Anson credits the winning of three straight championships to the superb teamwork of the White Stockings in those years. Perhaps as much praise is due Anson's field generalship, then at the height of its power.

***Fourteen Innings to Victory*** In the longest game played on the Chicago grounds up to that time, the White Stockings scored a memorable triumph over the Troy club on July 4, 1882. The contest went fourteen innings, with Chicago on the long end of a 9 to 5 score.

The locals made one run in the first inning and one in the second. Troy tied the score in their half of the second (they were batting last, as was generally the custom for visiting teams then). The White Stockings scored again in the sixth, and Troy tied it up in the eighth. Both teams went scoreless until the eleventh. In that inning Dalrymple of Chicago started off with a single. He was followed



by Gore, who drove a three-base hit into the crowd behind center field, scoring Dalrymple. Troy's center fielder, Conner, retrieved the ball, but held it too long, allowing Gore to come home on the error.

At this point, many Chicago fans, satisfied that these two runs would win, started to leave the park, but the police, refusing to under-rate the Troy club, managed to keep most of them in their places.

The judgment of the police was vindicated. In the second half of the inning, Keefe and Harbige of the Troys both hit two-baggers, Keefe scoring. Harbige came home from second on a long fly tying the score.

For two more innings Troy staved off the White Stockings' attack. The big fourteenth inning was thus described by a reporter for the *Chicago Times*:

“Williamson took his base on balls and stole second; Burns made a triple bagger, Williamson coming in. Corcoran went out at first; Flint made a two-baser and Burns came in. Flint following on a passed ball; Nicol was hit by a wild pitch; Dalrymple took first on a dropped fly by Roseman, Nicol coming home on the error; Gore and Kelly went out at first. The lead was too much for the visitors, and they failed to do anything, though Connor got a hit and stole second, being left on, the three following out in rotation.”

Score by innings:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chicago	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4—9
Troy	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0—5

**One-Armed Flinger Drubs Chicago** While in the fans' opinion some pitchers, past and present, could do about as well without any arms, the performance of a one-armed man on the mound would scarcely be expected to be of stellar rank.

Yet on at least one occasion a pitcher with only one arm humbled the proud White Stockings. He was “One-Arm” Dailey, who hurled for the Buffalo club in the early 1880's, and, in spite of his disability, he pitched and fielded as well as most slabmen of his time.

Charles Ebert, known as Dot Ebert in his own days as semi-professional and professional ball player, and now an employee of the Cook County Court in Chicago, witnessed Dailey's triumph from a tree growing just outside the ball park. A small boy at the time, Ebert managed to elude the police, who were trying to discourage Chicago youths from seeing games without paying, and clung Tarzan-like to his perch throughout the contest.

Ebert attests to Dailey's fine form on that July day of 1882. He allowed only five hits and four runs. Even more remarkable, he hit a two bagger in the ninth, and scored the winning run. The final score was Buffalo, 5; Chicago, 4.

**Rookies** A story is told about one of Anson's colts, a young  
**Were Ribbed** pitcher named Sullivan, who had broken into the  
**in Old Days** league with the Washington team. In his first trip  
with the Senators, Sullivan was the victim of a  
ribbing by Hank O'Day, the veteran umpire who was then a player.

Sullivan had been assigned a lower berth. Being unused to Pullman travel, he was puzzled by the little hammock near the window and asked what it was for. With a perfectly serious face, O'Day replied: "That is a pitcher's berth; the man who is going to pitch the following day always gets that berth. The Pullman company provides that hammock for the pitcher to rest his arm in." Then, after showing Sullivan how to use it, he left the rookie with his arm swung high above his head.

The next morning Sullivan's arm and shoulder were so stiff and lame that he was unable to pitch, and since then the gag has often been repeated with other rookie pitchers as the victims.

In 1882 the National League attempted to add color to the game by prescribing that each player was to be outfitted with a shirt and cap of a certain color to indicate the position he played. The colors were: catcher, scarlet; pitcher, light blue; first base, scarlet and white; second base, orange and black; third base, gray and white; shortstop, maroon; right field, gray; center field, red and black; left field, white; substitutes, green or brown. The idea met with no favor, and was discarded after a year's trial.



**Fans Go Wild over Team** No longer indifferent to the fortunes of Chicago ball players, the newspapers in 1880 joined the fresh upsurge of local pride. Here is what the *Chicago Times* of the day had to say of that year's final game:

—  
“AFTER THE BALL  
—

“The Bunged-Up White Stockings End  
the Year with a Victory Over  
the Buffalos  
—

“And Win the Pennant by the Largest  
Majority Known Unto the  
National League  
—

“The Chicago team on yesterday afternoon played its eighty-fourth and last game of the season. . . .The Buffalo team opposed it, and, notwithstanding the fearfully crippled condition in which the home nine is, it won. The season now stands: Victories, sixty-seven; defeats, seventeen. . . .The championship has never been won by as large a number of victories since the organization of the league in 1876. In that year Chicago won with fifty-two victories and fourteen defeats.

“Owing to the crippled condition of both Corcoran and Goldsmith, the Chicagos on yesterday secured the services of Charles Guth, pitcher of the Lake Views, and an amateur of more than ordinary skill. He has variations in pace, out and in curves, etc., perfectly at command, and the evidence of it is that, in the first seven innings, the Buffalos made but two hits off him, and seven of them struck out.”

Chicago won, 10 to 8. At the end of the story is an announcement that in the next game, an exhibition contest, the team would experiment with an invention of Harry Wright, a square bat.

**Two More Years of Failure** It is hard to get on top, and harder still to stay. Although Anson's team was but little changed it finished second in 1883 and fourth in 1884.

The players' list retained the best of the outfit that was three times winner, with some notable additions. John

Clarkson, a brilliant pitcher, joined the club in 1884, and the previous year the White Stockings had acquired a young outfielder who was to win fame on the diamond, and much more fame off it. His name was William A. Sunday. Discovered by Anson in Marshalltown, Iowa, Billy Sunday developed into a daring baserunner and a capable outfielder, but he was always a weak batter.

## TINKER TO EVERS TO CHANCE

By Franklin P. Adams

These are the saddest of possible words—  
Tinker to Evers to Chance;  
Trio of beartraps and fleeter than birds,  
Tinker to Evers to Chance.  
Thoughtlessly pricking our gonfalon bubble—  
Making a Giant hit into a double—  
Words that are weighty with nothing but trouble—  
Tinker to Evers to Chance.

*New York World*, 1908

Franklin P. Adams, of “The Conning Tower” fame, was one of the most famous of New York columnists in the days when Frank Chance, the “Peerless Leader” of the Chicago Cubs, was holding down first base and inspiring his team to pennant after pennant, both in National League and world championships.

Joe Tinker, at shortstop, and Johnny Evers, at second base, formed the other members of this infield wrecking crew, which so often broke up rallies of opposing teams with their lightning fast double plays.

Although Joe Tinker, shortstop and Johnny Evers, second baseman, belong to the period since 1900, Frank Chance joined the Chicago club as a catcher in 1898, and thereby qualifies as one of the old-timers. This verse helped to make “Tinker to Evers to Chance” synonymous with fast and accurate team work, and it is here reprinted as a tribute to the Chicago baseball leader who carried on the tradition of Pop Anson’s best days.



**Champions  
of 1885  
and 1886**

With due regard for such mighty teams as the Cubs under Frank Chance, the Giants under McGraw, and, of late years, the slugging Yankees, the White Stockings of 1885 and 1886 were one

of the best collections of ball players that ever won a championship.

Their "stone-wall infield" was the terror of opposing batters. Tom Burns, at third base; Ed Williamson, at short; Fred Pfeffer, at second; and A. C. Anson, himself, at first base, made up this redoubtable quartet. They gobbled up grounders and speared line drives with almost superhuman accuracy.

In the outfield they had Abner Dalrymple, a real slugger; George Gore, another heavy hitter; and Billy Sunday, whose speed on the bases made up for his light hitting. They were all first-rate fielders and cool-headed ball players, particularly when the chips were down.

**Clarkson  
and  
Kelly**

Written large among the names of famous battery mates are those of Clarkson and Kelly of the champion White Stockings. John Clarkson was a clever pitcher, with a puzzling drop and a fast overhand delivery. Mike Kelly, on the receiving end of Clarkson's pitches, was the most famous player of his day. A fine catcher, unusually good at throwing men out on the bases, he also starred as an outfielder. Kelly's other battery mate was James McCormick, who was also a great pitcher.

Clarkson and Kelly were also distinguished by the high money value set on them. Kelly, after leaving the Chicago club, was referred to as the "\$10,000 beauty," because he was sold to Boston for that amount in 1887, the highest price received for a ball player up to that time. Clarkson followed him to Boston the next year, with the same \$10,000 price tag attached. From this it will be seen that the 1880 market for baseball "ivory" was not high. It is a long stretch from Clarkson at \$10,000 to Dizzy Dean at \$185,000.

**Kelly —  
the \$10,000  
Beauty**

Mike Kelly — King Kelly, as he was called — is said to have inspired "Casey at the Bat"; certainly his personality and exploits rivaled those of the legendary Casey.

Enough stories are told of him to fill a book. Quick-witted, big-hearted, happy-go-lucky, his Irish temperament made him a favorite, even when his humor took a boastful turn. After his sale to Boston, he would yell to the crowd, "Oh, I'm a beaut—you can bank on that. A regular ten-thousand dollar beauty. I come high, but they have to have me."

Kelly's tricks were often resourceful, if not honest. Once, while playing in the outfield for the White Stockings, in an extra-inning game at Boston, darkness threatened to halt the contest. In the twelfth inning Chicago went ahead by one run, but in their half the Easterners managed to fill the bases with two out.

It was growing very dark. In this crucial spot, the Boston batter hit a long, hard drive out in Kelly's direction. Mike could not see the ball at all, but realized that the umpire was probably in the same fix. He ran back, posed alertly, waited a moment, leaped into the air with a wild whoop, and pantomimed a catch. He then ran for the clubhouse as if the game were over, and the umpire, completely fooled, yelled, "Out."

***How a Run Was Made to Order***      On another occasion, Kelly and Ed Williamson conspired to manufacture a run out of nothing. In a game with the Detroit club, the score stood 2 to 2 in the ninth inning. When Chicago came to bat, Kelly got on first base, and Williamson drew a pass, sending Kelly to second. The pair then pulled off a neat double-steal, but as Kelly slid into third he howled with pain and asked for time.

Williamson came over from second to see what was the matter. "Ed," wailed Kelly, "it's me arm. Faith, I think it's out of joint. Pull it for me, will you?"

As Williamson leaned over to pull his arm, Kelly whispered hurriedly, "Say, Ed, as soon as Weidman [the pitcher] raises his arm, I'm going to make a break for home, and you sneak along behind me. They'll play for me, sure, and forget about you; but when I'm close I'll straddle me legs, and you slide under."

When Kelly dashed for the home plate, the Detroit pitcher was so astonished he almost forgot to throw the ball. Williamson, who



as he afterwards confessed, had cut third base by fifteen feet, came tearing in behind. The Detroit catcher had the ball, and was waiting for Kelly. Mike stood still, with legs spread, and Williamson slid under, touching the plate without being tagged by the surprised catcher.

**Sports Writing at Low Ebb** Baseball writing suffered a relapse in the 1880's. The exuberance of previous years gave way to a sober style. Reports of games usually consisted of a stereotyped summary in a few hundred words, followed by a box score similar to those used today.

On rare occasions some anonymous reporter cut loose with a bit of vivid writing, such as was to enliven the sports pages in the twentieth century. On July 7, 1885, the *Chicago Tribune* had this to say of a game with New York:

“O'Rourke was the first man at bat, and went out from third to first. Connor followed him with two men out. He made a base hit, stole second, and got to third on a passed ball by Flint. Gillespie had meanwhile come to bat, and after three balls had been called, sent the ball over Burns' head to left field. Gore had run up from center, but this wild reach for the ball was ineffectual, and Dalrymple having failed to back up Gore in his effort, the ball went bounding off toward the carriages. Dal finally secured it, however, and threw to Pfeffer at second. The latter made a wild pass at the ball as it flew by his ear, and before Anson could capture it, both Ward and Gillespie had crossed the home plate amidst the plaudits of the spectators. Esterbrook followed with a base hit, and Dorgan's safe hit advanced the 'dude' to second. The latter then stole third, and Deasley hit a grounder to Pfeffer which got up that player's sleeve and before he could get it down Deasley had reached first, and Esterbrook and Dorgan had crossed the home plate. The Chicagos closed the inning by flying out in one, two, three order, and neither scoring in the last inning, the game was given to the visitors. The fielding was by far the most brilliant seen upon the home ground, Burns' and Ward's running catches of hits by Esterbrook and Clarkson respectively being such as to win them a hearty round of applause. Dorgan, in right field, also made a great catch of Pfeffer's fly, as did Dalrymple of Connor's sky-scraper to left. . . .”

That is picturesque enough, but a practiced eye can detect at least three factual mistakes. Evidently the age of specialism in sports writing had not yet arrived. Of particular interest, however, is the writer's use of the term "sky-scraper" to denote a high fly. This was some years before the first skyscraper building was erected and the term came to have its present meaning.

**Advise** Occasionally a column of sport comment dealt  
**Players to be** with etiquette. "Players should lift their caps  
**Gentlemen** when they receive hearty applause. It is a grace-  
ful acknowledgment of the compliment," was one  
such instance. In another, the commentator admonished players not  
to "act like schoolboys," when the umpire rendered a decision  
against them, but to receive the arbiter's rulings in soldierly  
obedience.

Despite their preoccupation with ethics, the sports writers had already learned the trick of passing sharp remarks on the value of players. Shortly after Chicago acquired Pitcher McCormick, the *Tribune* printed comments from other newspapers, adding its own:

"The Providence *Star* says that Chicago paid Providence \$2600 for McCormick's release. The *Star* types are very careless about making outs in figures. We violate no confidence when we say \$26 was the price paid for the goods. — *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Not so fast, our young friend, \$800 is the sum the Chicagos gave for McCormick, and he is worth it. — *Enquirer*. Venerable but ever verdant chump, we must differ from you. McCormick isn't worth \$2.60 if his failings go with his beauties."

**Spalding** During the 1880's, when the White Stockings were  
**Scouts** shellacking their opponents with great regularity,  
**Players** A. G. Spalding was worried by the fact that most  
**Off Diamond** members of his club were addicted to the extra-  
curricular sport of bending the elbow.

He lectured the players on their bibulous habits, but to no avail. As he tells the story in his book on baseball,\* the players laughed it off with such remarks as, "Do you expect us to win everything," and "Show us the team we can't beat."

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\* *America's National Game*, American Sports Publishing Co., New York, 1911.



Finally Spalding hired a Pinkerton detective to trail the men and see exactly what they were doing. The sleuth took the players one by one and followed them everywhere, up and down Clark street, out of one saloon and into another, into barrelhouses and joints of every description. At last Spalding had a detailed report of every player's movement.

**Kelly  
Cries  
"Foul!"** Calling the men into his office, he read the reports to them. As was expected, Anson and Billy Sunday were given a clean bill, but nearly all the rest had black records.

Mike Kelly, as usual, had a word to put in. The "King" raised his voice in the dead silence which followed the reading:

"I want to amend the record. It says there that I was seen drinking a lemonade at 3 A. M. It was a straight whiskey. I never drink a lemonade at that hour of the morning."

Asked to fix their own punishment, the players decided to pay the detective's bill.

**McCormick  
and Kelly  
Boot One** Spalding goes on to tell the following aftermath: "The White Stockings were about to leave for a series of games at Detroit. The train was ready to start. Standing on the platform was a great, green gawk of a fellow, staring with wide-mouthed interest at the departing players. Kelly caught sight of him and whispered something to McCormick. The 'King' stepped up to the countryman and, after denouncing him in the most violent terms as a Pinkerton detective, hauled off and smote him with all his might, while McCormick, coming up behind the bewildered 'Rube,' kicked the poor fellow's pants clear up to his shoulders. Then the bell rang and the belligerent ball players sprang to the platform of the rear car and went whirling eastward."

**Flint —  
a Real  
Iron Man** Frank Flint, affectionately called "Old Silver" by his team-mates, had a record that stands comparison with the greatest catching performances of all time. In thirteen years of baseball, most of them spent with the White Stockings, he caught 935 games, and earned a

reputation for durability rivaling that of Ray Schalk and Gabby Hartnett. Flint worked without a mask or chest protector throughout most of his career. Upon retiring, he said that every joint in every one of his fingers had been broken at least once, his nose broken frequently and his teeth smashed.

Although overshadowed by the more spectacular and colorful Mike Kelly, the record shows that Flint was unquestionably the better catcher of the two.

***Seasons  
of 1887  
and 1888***

The loss of Kelly in 1887 and Clarkson in 1888 was looked upon as a death blow to Chicago's championship aspirations, but there were still plenty of good players in the club. Anson's team finished third in 1887, close behind Detroit and Philadelphia. In 1888, they were nosed out of first place by New York.

These seasons were highly successful from a financial standpoint, both for the White Stockings and other league members. Attendance figures ran high, and the fans were rabid in their enthusiasm. This financial success of the club owners was brewing discontent among the players, however, many of whom felt that their earnings were too small a share of the returns, and rumblings of revolt were beginning to be heard.

***Chicago's  
Winning  
Streak Ended***

From 1887 down to 1900, the Chicago club had but indifferent success. Not until 1906, when Frank Chance restored the former glory, were Windy City fans to see a Chicago team end the season on top of the heap. After kicking around in second or third place for several years, the White Stockings really hit the toboggan slide in 1892, and from then on were lucky to keep out of the second division.

Anson had great faith in his ability to climb the heights again, and relinquished the managership still protesting that his colts would yet fly the pennant. But Spalding and Hart could see nothing but poor seasons ahead, and wanted new blood to win for them. Burns was not the manager to do it, however, and neither was the famous



Frank Selee, who was past his prime and in poor health when he came to Chicago.

**Delehanty Hits for Four Four Times** Many Chicago fans are old enough to remember the one-man field day staged by Ed Delehanty at the old West Side park in 1897, when the Philadelphia player made four "grand" tours of the bases out of five times at bat, and for good measure got a single the other time.

The first time up Delehanty drove a home run into the left field bleachers. The second time he belted a long drive to right field for another round trip. The third time he hit a sizzling line drive that was good for a single. The fourth time he drove another homer to deep center.

On Delehanty's last trip to the plate Bill Lange, the Chicago center fielder, took a stand between the two club-houses back of center field, and dared him to send another that way. Delehanty obligingly cut loose with a drive that hit the roof of one clubhouse and bounded off the other, getting his fourth homer of the day.

In spite of this remarkable exhibition of batting, Delehanty failed to win the game, for Philadelphia lost to the White Stockings, 8 to 6.

**The Brotherhood Baseball Wars** This period in the late nineties was a particularly dismal one for local fans, but was enlivened somewhat by the players' revolt in the Brotherhood war.

The National Brotherhood of Base Ball Players was an organization to protect the rights and interests of its members. Led by John Montgomery Ward, star player of the New York club, its influence was first felt in 1887, when it forced the league to adopt a new form of players' contract. Discontent had been growing in the ranks for some time. The principal grievances were: first, the reserve rule, under which a player's contract gave the club an option on his services for the following year, thus enabling the club owner to "sell" him at the end of the season; second, the failure of players to share in the profits from such sales; and third, a feeling that salaries were

not as high as gate receipts warranted. During the next two years the Brotherhood vigorously campaigned to free the players from a condition which they regarded as equivalent to slavery.

**“Are Baseball Players Chattels?”** Under the provocative title, “Is the Base Ball Player a Chattel?”, an article by John M. Ward appeared in Lippincott’s magazine in 1887. It was chiefly an attack on the reserve rule. Among other things, Ward said:

“The clubs claim that the right to retain the services of a valuable player was necessary for the conservation of the game, and with that understanding the players tacitly acquiesced in the seizure. They never received any consideration for the concession, and when the Chicago club sells Kelly for \$10,000, it simply makes that sum out of Kelly. . . . Kelly received his salary from Chicago and earned every dollar of it several times over, and yet the Chicago club takes ten thousand dollars for releasing Kelly from a claim for which it never paid a dollar. . . .

“Even were we to admit, for the sake of argument, that the reserve-rule does give a right to sell, we naturally ask, ‘What consideration did the club ever advance to the player for this right? What did the Chicago club ever give Kelly in return for the right to control his future services? . . .’ ”

**New League Is Formed** In November 1889, the Brotherhood issued a public statement, announcing that it intended to start its own baseball league, operated by and for ball players. The sharpest paragraph in this manifesto was the following:

“Players have been bought, sold and exchanged, as though they were sheep, instead of American citizens. Reservation became another name for property rights in the player. By a combination among themselves, stronger than the strongest trusts, they were able to enforce the most arbitrary measures, and the player had either to submit or get out of the profession, in which he spent years in attaining proficiency. Even the disbandment and retirement of a club did not free the players from the octopus clutch, for they were then peddled around to the highest bidder.”

The Brotherhood entered the season of 1890 with an eight-club



league: Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Pittsburg, and Cleveland.

Thus for one year there were three major leagues, the Player's League, the National League, and the old American Association. None of them prospered. The Players' League, although it had high ideals, was lacking in efficient business management, and the National League throttled the upstarts by scheduling games on conflicting dates in cities where each had a competing team. At the end of the season the Players sold out to the National League, and the war was over.

The Brotherhood League, though short-lived, was important to Chicago, not so much because this city was represented in it, but because it introduced for the first time in the role of league manager a native Chicagoan, Charles A. Comiskey.

**Comiskey —** Of all the great playing managers who have made  
**a Native** history on the baseball diamonds of Chicago,  
**Chicagoan** Comiskey is the only native of the Windy City.  
He was born on the West Side in 1859, the son  
of John Comiskey, a prominent citizen and member of the city  
council.

Comiskey first broke into baseball in 1876 as a volunteer pitcher for the Libertys, a local amateur team. He also played at St. Mary's college in Kansas, for the Alerts in Milwaukee, for Dubuque in the Northwestern League, and finally became a member of the famous St. Louis Browns of the old American Association.

After joining the Browns in 1882 (he had in the meantime become a first-baseman), Comiskey entered his real period of fame as a player, manager, and club owner.

**Comiskey's** Opinions are divided as to Comiskey's value as  
**Brilliant** a player. He was not the equal of Anson, either  
**Record** in fielding or hitting. But he had a cool head, a  
lightning fast brain, and was a daring base-runner.

As manager of the Browns from 1884 to 1889 his greatest triumph was scored over the Chicago White Stockings. In the 1880's, the American Association was counted as a major league, and its

pennant winners met the champions of the National League, in a post-season series for the world's championship. In 1885, Comiskey's Browns tangled with Anson's White Stockings as the winners of their respective leagues. The series ended in a draw, each team winning three games and tying one. The following year they met again, and this time the Browns were victorious, four games to two. During the seven years that Comiskey managed them, the Browns never finished lower than second place.

**Comiskey's  
First Chicago  
Team** Comiskey would scarcely figure at all in the history of Chicago baseball before 1900 if it had not been for the Brotherhood war. He came here in 1890 to manage the Chicago club of the ill-fated Players' League, in a new park at 35th street and Wentworth Avenue, a neighborhood later made famous by another white-stockinged team.

In 1891, Commy was approached by A. G. Spalding with the proposition to start a rival team in Chicago, using the south side park. It was Spalding's idea that Chicago could support two first-class clubs. But with the American Association tottering on its last legs, and Spalding failing to offer any financial assistance, Comiskey gave up the plan, although it was his cherished dream to have a permanent baseball team in his native city. He went back to St. Louis to manage the old Browns for the final year of their existence and that of the old American Association.

**Catching  
Them on  
the Wing** Old-timers like to tell the story of the most sensational catch ever made at the old West Side park. As related by the late Al Spink, veteran baseball writer, the performer was one Elmer Foster, center fielder for an Eastern team.

In those days because of the ball parks' layout, fielders had to contend with shadows cast by the grandstand, and sometimes had considerable difficulty in seeing fly balls.

In this instance, a Chicago player took a terrific swing, and at the crack of the bat Foster began running toward deep center. Actually, although it sounded like a hard-hit ball, it was an easy grounder, which the shortstop fielded and threw to first for the out.



But Foster kept running back like mad toward the fence. "Look at Foster," yelled the bleacherites. "What does he think he is after?"

Foster ran almost to the fence, jumped into the air, and came down—with an English sparrow in his grasp.

**The Closing Years** The last years of the century saw no upswing in the fortunes of the Chicago National Leaguers. Under the management of Burns, they finished fourth in 1898, and eighth in 1899 in a twelve-club league. The next year they finished fifth in an eight-club league.

The most important development in the baseball world during the closing years of the 1890's was the birth of a new minor league that soon challenged the baseball monopoly of the National League. This was the old Western League, founded in 1893 by Byron Bancroft Johnson, Charles A. Comiskey, and Matt Killilea.

In December, 1891, the old American Association was killed through a deal whereby the National League bought out the Boston, Milwaukee, Columbus, Washington, and Chicago,\* franchises of the Association, and admitted Baltimore, Louisville, St. Louis, and another Washington team to membership in the National League.

**American League Established** The twelve-club circuit created by this deal was unwieldy. Ban Johnson realized that there was an opening for another major league to replace the old American Association. He moved slowly, however, for the experiences of the short-lived Union and Players' Leagues had shown the danger of direct attack upon the National League. Accordingly, he tried first to build up a strong minor league. In laying the ground work for the new league, he had the support and assistance of Comiskey, then managing the Cincinnati Nationals, and of Killilea, a Milwaukee sportsman.

Johnson's forceful personality drove the Western League through early troubles to success. In 1900 he decided to convert his league into one of national scope to be called the American League and

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\*Permission was given to locate an American Association team in Chicago in 1892, under the management of Fred Pfeffer, but the association broke up before the franchise could be used.

demanded permission of the National League to locate a team in Chicago. This was bitterly opposed by the old league, but the elder organization was passing through stormy times, and finally had to give in. Accordingly, the National League was reduced to eight clubs, and the American also played an eight-club circuit.

The twentieth century found Chicago, key city of major league baseball, with a new club headed by Comiskey. However, the new organization did not reach major league status until 1901.

## RULES—OLD AND NEW

**First Code of Rules** While General Abner Doubleday is credited with the invention of baseball, his greatest contribution was that of a playing field or diamond which has retained the same dimensions ever since. Doubleday does not appear to have offered much in the way of rules.

The first code of rules on record was prepared by the Knickerbocker Club of New York in 1845 comprising only fourteen brief sections. One of the most interesting was the method of scoring. Games continued, regardless of the number of innings, until one team made 21 aces, or runs, provided that both teams had played the same number of innings.

Under the first rules, and for many years thereafter, the pitcher was required to pitch, not throw, the ball. This meant that an underhand motion had to be used. The Knickerbocker rules also provided that a batted ball caught either on the fly or on the first bounce was an out.

Except for these provisions, the original baseball rules were essentially the same as those of today. However, the rules were too simple to cover every possible play, and changes were soon necessary.

**Early Changes in Rules** In 1857, the nine-inning plan was adopted, with the provision that, if necessary, five innings would constitute a legal game.

There was no called-ball penalty in the early rules, and the pitcher was allowed to waste as many pitches as he



wished. Conversely, the batter had the privilege of swinging only at pitches that were to his liking, but was not allowed to delay the game or help a baserunner by failing to offer at good balls, a stipulation that must have worked many heated arguments.

### **Rules of 1863**

At the National Association of Base Ball Players convention in 1863, a general revision of the rules was made. Among other changes, the pitcher's "base point" and home base were required to be marked with iron plates. The "out on the first bound" rule was retained, but a year later another revision eliminated the bound catch on fair flies, retaining it on fouls.

Up to this time the pitcher had been allowed to take a short run in delivering the ball, so long as he did not overstep a line 45 feet from the home plate. The rules of 1863 required him to stand still and keep inside his box.

The most important change was the introduction of called balls and strikes, but the rule on balls was not clear. It stated that if the pitcher failed to get the ball over the plate in a reasonable number of tries the umpire was to warn him, and then begin to call balls on the wide pitches, three of which entitled the batter to take his base. From this it would appear that the batter might have to take four or five wild pitches before getting a pass.

### **Further Changes in Rules**

In 1867, the batter was given the privilege of calling for either a high or a low pitch. This rule was kept in the code for twenty years, in spite of its great disadvantage to pitchers.

The most curious provision of the rules adopted by the National Association in 1872 had to do with called balls. If the umpire called a pitch a ball, and the batter struck at it and hit it, he could not be put out. In other words, if the batter reached for a wide one and tapped out a pop fly to a fielder, he was not out, if, in the umpire's judgment, the pitch was a ball. No wonder batting averages grew fat in the 1870's!

**Bases on Balls** From the time the base on balls was introduced, the question of how many called balls should entitle the batter to a walk seems to have vexed the rulemakers. For several years three balls was deemed a sufficient number. In 1878, the number was fixed at nine, giving the pitcher an edge on the batter, which he certainly needed.

Gradually the number of called balls was reduced. In 1880, it was pared down to eight, and in 1881 to seven. In 1884 it was cut to six; in 1885 raised again to seven; and back to six in 1886. For the season of 1887 it was reduced to five, and finally, in 1889, the number was fixed at four, where it has remained ever since.

**Rules on Strikes** From the very beginning the familiar "three strikes and out" has been the rule of baseball — with one exception. In 1887, the number was increased to four, only to be promptly put back to three again the next year.

However, what is a strike? The umpire is often unjustly accused of not knowing, but for many years the framers of rules were not quite sure themselves. As has already been seen, in 1863, the umpire was given the power to call strikes. But, as batting grew more scientific, the hitters learned to foul off pitches that might otherwise have been called against them. No attempt to curb this practice was made until 1887, at which time an obviously planned foul was penalized as a strike, but this rule caused such violent arguments that it was soon discarded. In 1894, bunted fouls and foul tips that were caught were counted as strike. Not until 1901 was the present rule adopted, making any foul a strike, until the batter has two strikes on him, after which he may foul off as long as he is able.

**Pitching Rules a Problem** No other department of the game has undergone so much change as pitching. Where and how the pitcher should stand — or move — and what sort of arm motion he should use in delivering the ball were knotty problems until the present-day regulations came into effect.

The earliest rules placed only two restrictions on the pitcher; to use an underhand motion, and not to overstep a boundary line forty-five feet from the plate.



In 1858, the pitcher stood behind a twelve-foot line, forty-five feet from home plate, but, within those limits, could move about as he pleased. By 1863, he had to stand still inside a box twelve feet long and four feet wide. In 1872, the box was a six-foot square, with its front line forty-five feet from home plate. The square was marked by iron corners, and the center line marked by iron plates, or quoits, called pitcher's "points." From the founding of the National League in 1876 until 1881, the pitcher's box was six feet by four.

**Throw** Gradually, with the introduction of the curve ball,  
**Finally** pitchers began to get away from the underhand  
**Legalized** motion, but not until 1883 was this fully legalized.  
In that year the pitcher was allowed, for the first time, to use a sidearm throw, provided he did not raise his arm above the shoulder.

Pitchers were inclined to deliver their throws with a skip or jump that carried them out of their box. To prevent this, a large marble slab was placed in front of the box. Many players were injured from slipping on the marble, however, others craftily took to wearing rubber-soled shoes, and finally the slab was abandoned in favor of the more sensible plan of penalizing the pitcher for overstepping.

In 1884, all restrictions on arm motion were removed, but the pitcher could take only one step in making the throw. In 1887, he was no longer required to pitch high or low as the batter demanded, and thus the rules governing pitching became practically the same as those of today.

**How Pitchers** Baseball writers sometimes refer to pitchers as  
**Became** "slab artists" and "moundsmen." In 1893, a  
**"Slabmen"** small marble slab was adopted, against which the pitcher had to keep one foot while delivering the ball. (This slab should not be confused with the tombstone sized slab of 1883.) The pitcher's plate was first a small rectangle, twelve by six inches,\* later increased to its present size of twenty-four by six inches.

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\*The pitcher's plate is now made of rubber.

The expression "on the mound" is derived from the fact that for many years it has been customary to elevate the pitcher's position slightly above the rest of the infield, although this was not provided for in the official rules until a rather late date.

***Pitching Distance Changes***            The distance from the pitcher's box to home plate remained at forty-five feet until 1881, when it was lengthened to fifty feet. This was again changed with the adoption of a pitcher's plate in place of the box, and permanently fixed at sixty feet six inches.

***Some Miscellaneous Developments***        Nine men on a side has been so constant a feature that the custom of calling a baseball team a nine is about as old as the game itself.

In 1874, a few teams experimented with a tenth player on the field, in a position designated as right short-stop. He played where the second baseman usually does, making the second baseman a sort of roving short-center fielder. The Chicago White Stockings played a game with the Atlantics on July 29, 1874, using a tenth man, and the experiment was termed a success, but the idea failed to win general favor.

The changes in size and composition of the official baseball have been many, but of no great interest. It has always been a hard, leather-covered sphere, and size variations have not been great. As noted elsewhere in this book, livelier baseballs were used more in some years than in others; the modern ball is slightly more resilient than any of the old ones.

Until 1872, a bat could be any length, but since that time forty-two inches has been the limit. Its greatest thickness was then fixed at two and one-half inches, and later increased a quarter of an inch. An effort was once made to popularize a square bat, and at one time it was permissible to have one side flattened for bunting, but with these exceptions the bat has always been round and tapering.

***What the Rules Have Done***            To give a complete account of all the rule changes and developments would be far beyond the scope of this work. Nearly every year saw the adoption



of new rules or revisions. Yet the majority of these changes did not touch the fundamental playing conditions of baseball. They were directed rather toward the refinement and perfection of the existing sport.

With some blunders along the way, this aim has been accomplished. Few games have as complicated a system of rules as baseball, yet its intrinsic elements are easily understood by anyone. No important rule changes have been made in the past thirty years, and none seems desirable — a high tribute to the men who devoted their lives toward perfecting the national game.

# PENNANT WINNERS IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

1876 - 1900

YEAR	TEAMS REPRESENTED	WINNER	CHICAGO'S PLACE
1876	Philadelphia, Boston, Hartford, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, New York, Cincinnati.	Chicago	First
1877	Boston, Hartford, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati. (Cincinnati was expelled for non-payment of dues during the season.)	Boston	Fifth
1878	Boston, Cincinnati, Providence, Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee.	Boston	Fourth
1879	Boston, Cincinnati, Providence, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Syracuse, Troy.	Providence	Third
1880	Boston, Buffalo, Providence, Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland, Syracuse, Troy.	Chicago	First
1881	Boston, Detroit, Providence, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Worcester, Troy.	Chicago	First
1882	Boston, Detroit, Providence, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Worcester, Troy.	Chicago	First
1883	Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Providence, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, Philadelphia.	Boston	Second
1884	Chicago, Boston, Providence, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, Philadelphia.	Providence	Fourth
1885	Chicago, Boston, Providence, Detroit, St. Louis, Buffalo, New York, Philadelphia.	Chicago	First
1886	Chicago, Boston, Washington, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, New York, Philadelphia.	Chicago	First
1887	Chicago, Boston, Pittsburg, Detroit, Washington, Indianapolis, New York, Philadelphia.	Detroit	Third
1888	Chicago, Boston, Pittsburg, Detroit, Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Indianapolis.	New York	Second



YEAR	TEAMS REPRESENTED	WINNER	CHICAGO'S PLACE
1889	Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Washington, Indianapolis, New York.	New York	Third
1890	Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, New York, Cleveland, Pittsburg.	Brooklyn	Second
1891	Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, New York.	Boston	Second
1892	Chicago, Boston, Louisville, Brooklyn, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore.	Boston	Seventh
1893	Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Washington, New York, St. Louis.	Boston	Ninth
1894	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore.	Baltimore	Eight
1895	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Washington, Baltimore.	Baltimore	Fourth
1896	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore.	Baltimore	Fifth
1897	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore.	Boston	Ninth
1898	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore.	Boston	Fourth
1899	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore.	Brooklyn	Eighth
1900	Chicago, Boston, Brooklyn, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, New York.	Brooklyn	Fifth

## SOME UNUSUAL CHICAGO RECORDS BEFORE 1900

The first shut-out score by a professional team was made in 1870 when the Chicago club defeated the Atlantics of New Orleans, 51 to 0. Chicago also registered the first shut-out in the National League when it defeated St. Louis 1 to 0 in 1876. Either of these victories may have started the custom of calling shut-outs "Chicago scores," which persisted down through the 1890's.

The most one-sided contest in professional baseball occurred on June 18, 1874 when Chicago was defeated 38 to 1, by the Brooklyn Mutuals.

The largest number of runs in a single inning was made by the White Stockings in a game with Detroit, September 6, 1883. In the seventh inning Chicago made 18 hits and 18 runs.

The White Stockings, on June 29, 1897, defeated Louisville, by a score of 36 to 7, a record for baseball played under modern conditions.

In 1896, Lange of Chicago led the National League in base stealing with 100 stolen bases. He led the league again in 1897, with 83 thefts.

John Luby, White Stockings pitcher, won seventeen consecutive victories in 1890.

James McCormick of Chicago won sixteen straight in 1886. As the pitcher was then required to throw high or low as the batter demanded, this record merits comparison with longer strings of consecutive victories. Luby's record was made after this restriction was abolished. (Luby was generally credited with winning 20 straight games until the publication of Richter's *History and Records of Baseball* in 1914. The best record under modern conditions was made by Rube Marquard of the New York Giants, who won 19 straight in 1912. The best record under the high or low ball rule was made by Charles Radbourn of the Providence National League club in 1884, who won 18 in a row.)

John Clarkson, greatest of old-time Chicago pitchers, made his best record after leaving the Chicago club. In 1889, he pitched 72 games for Boston, winning 46. The most remarkable thing about such old-time records is that until the 1890's there were usually not more than two, at most three, pitchers on a team, and the best pitcher worked more than half the games. Today a ball-tosser feels overworked if asked to pitch more than twice a week.

Although he was not a Chicago player when he performed his feat, Paul Hines deserves mention as the first player to make a triple play unassisted. He made this sensational put-out of three men in 1879, while playing with the Providence, R. I., club. Hines was a fielder with the Chicago White Stockings from 1874 to 1877. For the benefit of fans who have never seen any sort of triple play, here is how Hines did it: With runners on second and third, a short fly was hit to center. Believing the fly could not be caught, the man on base began to run for third and home. Hines, playing center field, came in on a dead run, making a remarkable catch as he came. Then, without pausing, he tagged second base, and ran on to third and tagged there before either runner could get back.



## CASEY AT THE BAT

By Ernest Lawrence Thayer

[De Wolfe Hopper is said to have given immortality to this baseball lyric by his many and matchless recitations of it. However, "Casey at the Bat" has a life of its own, and if Hopper had not made it his by hundreds of public recitations, it would still be worth preserving. It has all the emotions experienced by the fan as he watches his favorites rise and fall: the gloom of impending disaster, the spark of hope which rises from a few safe hits, the fire of renewed belief, and — as so often happens — the final crushing blow. It has the spirit that was born in old-time baseball, the spirit that today moves every real fan and player.]

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;  
The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play;  
And so, when Cooney died at first, and Burrows did the same;  
A sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A struggling few got up to go in deep despair, the rest  
Clung to the hope which springs eternal in the human breast;  
They thought, if only Casey could but get a whack, at that,  
They'd put up even money now — with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,  
And the former was a pudding and the latter was a cake;  
So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,  
For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,  
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;  
And when the dust had lifted, and they saw what had occurred,  
There was Jimmy safe on second, and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell,  
It bounded from the mountain-top, and rattled in the dell;  
It struck upon the hillside, and recoiled upon the flat;  
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;  
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face;  
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,  
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt,  
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt;  
Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,  
Defiance gleamed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather covered sphere came hurtling through the air,  
And Casey stood a-watching it, in haughty grandeur there;  
Close by the sturdy batsmen the ball unheeded sped,  
“That ain’t my style,” said Casey; “STRIKE ONE,” the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,  
Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;  
“Kill him: KILL THE UMPIRE!” shouted some one in the stand,  
And it’s likely they’d have killed him, had not Casey raised his hand.

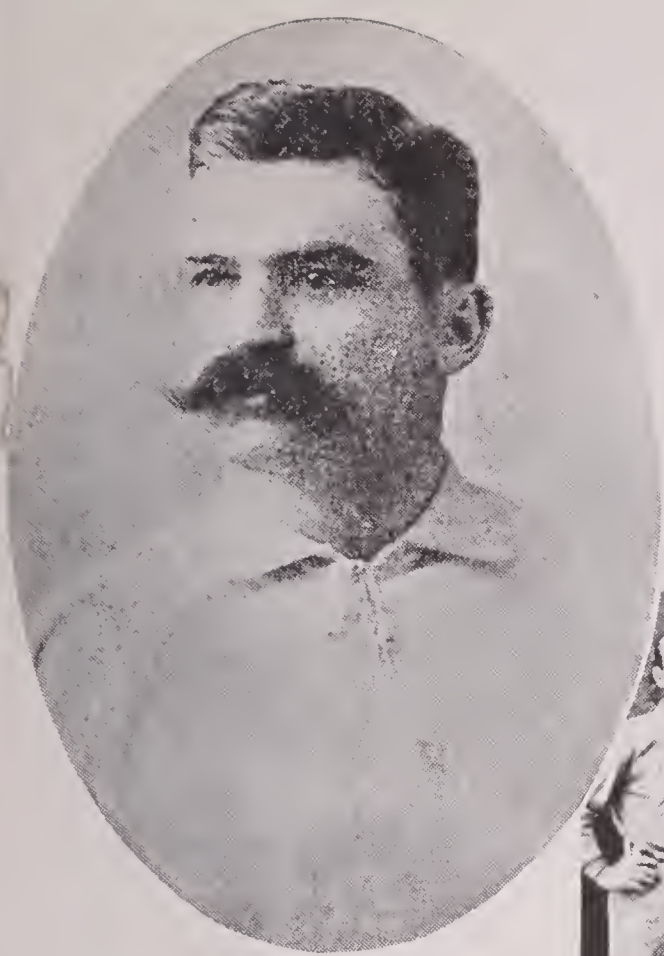
With a smile of Christian charity great Casey’s visage shone;  
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;  
He signalled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew,  
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said “STRIKE TWO.”

“Fraud!” cried the maddened thousands, and the echo answered “fraud!”  
But a scornful look from Casey, and the audience was awed;  
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain.  
And they knew that Casey wouldn’t let the ball go by again.

The sneer is gone from Casey’s lips, his teeth are clenched in hate,  
He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate;  
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,  
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey’s blow.

Oh! somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,  
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;  
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;  
But there is no joy in Mudville — mighty Casey has struck out.





MIKE KELLY, "The ten thousand dollar beauty."

ANSON and his "Colts" of the late 1890's.



COMISKEY'S BROTHERHOOD TEAM OF 1890. One of the greatest combinations of stars that ever played in Chicago.

CHARLES A. COMISKEY, Chicago's great playing manager.







OFFICIALS OF THE FOREST PARK BASEBALL MUSEUM. *Left to right: Lloyd W. Lehman, vice-president; Claude A. Walker, secretary-treasurer; Emery A. Parichy, president and founder of the museum.*



## THE FOREST PARK BASEBALL MUSEUM

Fans who would like to know more about old-time baseball may do so without journeying far if they live in Chicago or the immediate vicinity. In Forest Park, a Chicago suburb, is located the Forest Park Baseball Museum, a shrine of worship for the more ardent devotees of the game.

Founded in 1933 by Emery A. Parichy, a business man who makes a hobby of baseball, this museum contains an extensive collection of baseball literature, pictures, and mementoes. There are rare prints of teams dating back to the earliest years, books not found elsewhere, balls with the autographs of nearly all the big leaguers of recent years, and curiosities such as masks, bats, gloves and other playing equipment used by famous players. Much of the material contained in the museum was of great value in the preparation of this book.

Associated with Mr. Parichy in the operation of the museum as a non-profit organization are Claude A. Walker, secretary-treasurer, and Lloyd W. Lehman, vice-president. They have been aided in building up their collection by donations from club and league officials, players, fans, and baseball writers.

So far as can be learned, there is only one other baseball museum in the country, the one at Cooperstown, New York. But to Chicago, the cradle of the National League, a city that has been represented in organized baseball continuously since the beginning, belongs the honor of having such a museum no less than to Cooperstown. For the preservation of its records and relics, baseball needs more such institutions. All too soon the old-timers will be but a faded memory, with none to say, "I knew them when—," and in years to come, the immortals of today will likewise need such memorials.



















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