



The National Pastime in the National Archives



Our National Pastime in Our National Archives

Tools of the Trade

Baseball is for Everyone

World War I

World War II

Breaking Down Barriers

Diamonds and Dollars

For the Love of the Game

7th-Inning Stretch

Equal Access

Saving the Integrity of the Game

Extra Innings



OUR NATIONAL PASTIME IN OUR NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Millions of fans eagerly await the opening of the baseball season in April each year. During the late 19th and 20th centuries, baseball was the most widely played sport in the United States, earning the title “America’s pastime.” As President Clinton said on the eve of the 1995 World Series, “Baseball is part of our common heritage.” The story of baseball and the story of our nation are intertwined. And since the records at the National Archives document our national experience, it only seems natural that stories of both baseball and American history would be discovered among these documents. But among the numerous records created by the three

branches of the Federal Government and preserved at the National Archives, what stories can be found? This book showcases a small slice and tells the story of our national pastime found at the National Archives. The documents that follow provide examples of the role of baseball during the two world wars, fights for mutually agreeable contracts and equal opportunity on and off the playing field, the universal appeal of the game to players and fans (even the “highest-ranking” fans of all—U.S. Presidents), improvements to the sport, and celebrations along the way.

Filed Oct 31 1882
No. 260
524

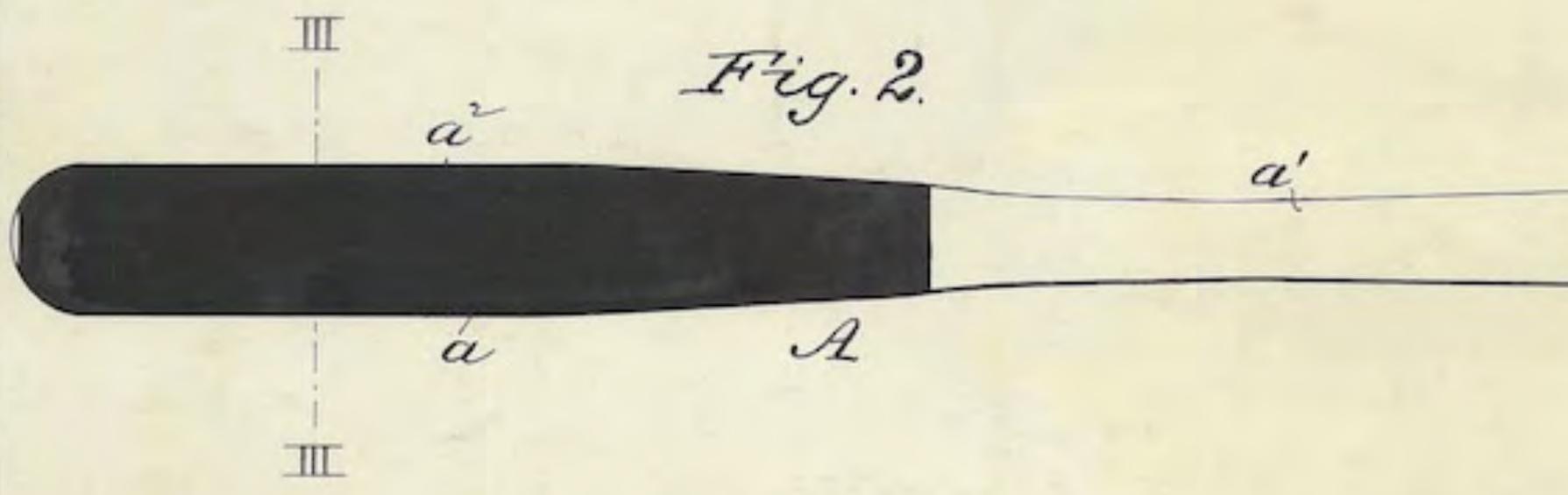
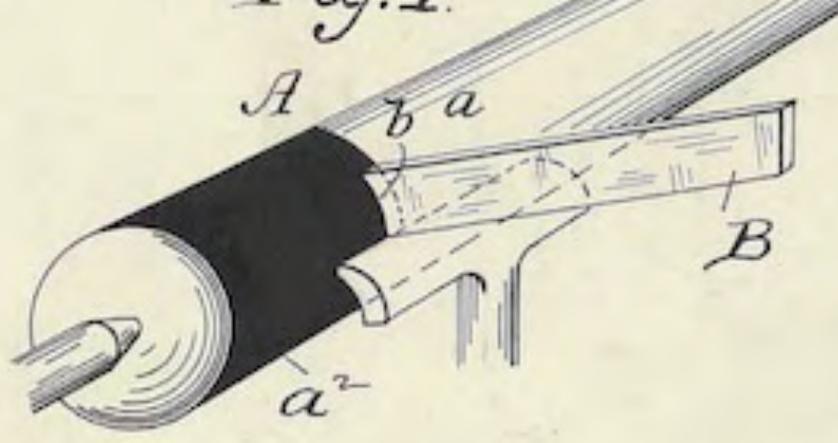
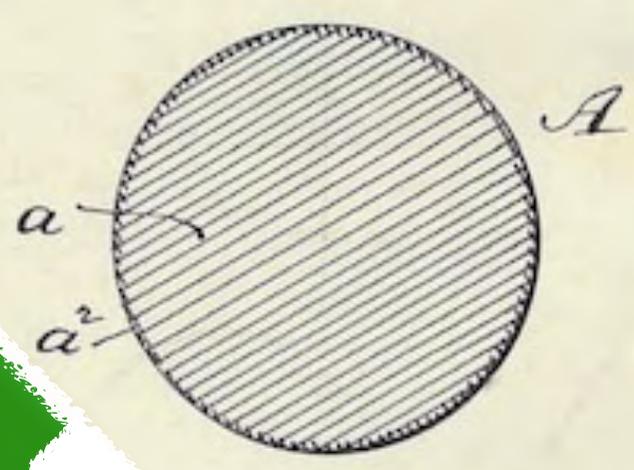


Fig. 3.



John A. Hillerich
But

TOOLS OF THE
TRADE

Witnesses:
E. W. ...
Geo. B. ...

Inventor:
John A. Hillerich
by H. N. Low
attorney.

Bat, Ball, and Glove

Who were George Rawlings, John Hillerich, or Benjamin Shibe? Without these men the game of baseball would not be what it is today. Each devised improvements to baseball and the tools of the trade—the bat, ball, and glove—and was issued a patent.

Benjamin F. Shibe, one of the original owners of the Philadelphia Athletics and for whom Shibe Park in Philadelphia was named, patented a cork-centered baseball on June 15, 1909. Use of this ball in all 1911 games led to powerful hits that went farther and longer. Shibe, as noted in his patent, had simply wanted increased strength and durability for his baseballs.

John A. Hillerich of Louisville, Kentucky, devised a method to harden the surface of a baseball bat and promote its ability to drive the ball. Issued a patent on December 23, 1902, Hillerich's company would later become Hillerich and Bradsby Company, the maker of "Louisville Slugger" bats.

To prevent bruising of ball players' hands, George H. Rawlings, owner of a St. Louis sporting goods store, invented a glove with felt and rubber padding in fingers, thumb, and palm. The illustration with his patent dated September 8, 1885, demonstrates the specific location for padding, in what appears to be a close-fitting glove.

The improvements to the game continue today, and new patent applications often reference the patented work of Rawlings, Hillerich, or Shibe.

B. F. SHIBE.
BASE BALL.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 25, 1908.

924,696.

Patented June 15, 1909.

Fig. 1.

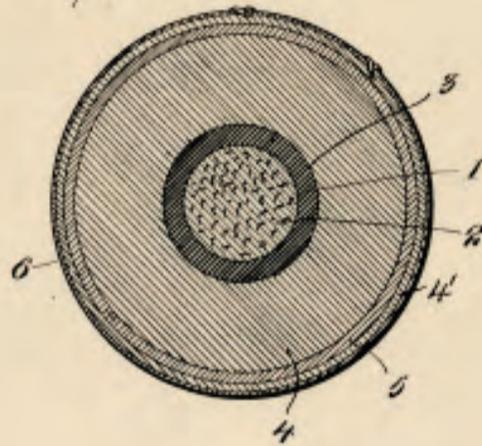
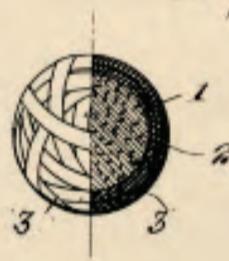


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

W. F. Hoyle
E. R. Ruffant

INVENTOR

Benjamin F. Shibe
BY *Robert H. Young*
Attorney

Referred to as the "Edison of Baseball," Benjamin F. Shibe received many patents related to baseballs. These drawings are part of the patent he received for a cork-centered baseball on June 15, 1909.



129.592

No. 716,541.

Patented Dec. 23, 1902.

J. A. HILLERICH.
BAT.

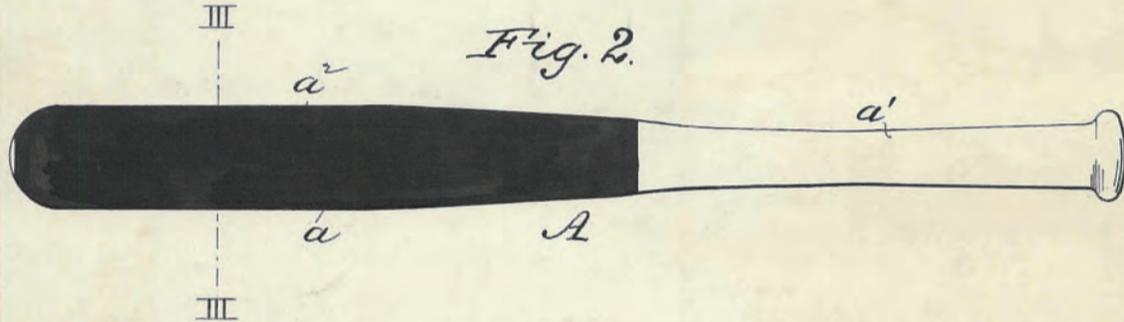
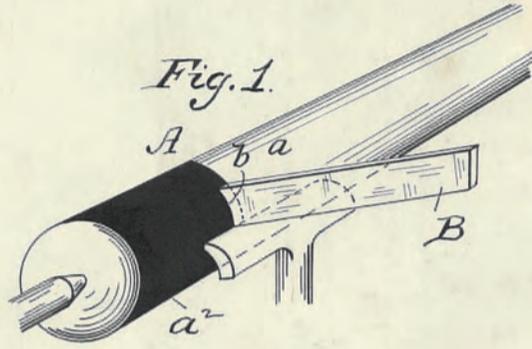
(Application filed Oct. 31, 1902.)

(No Model.)

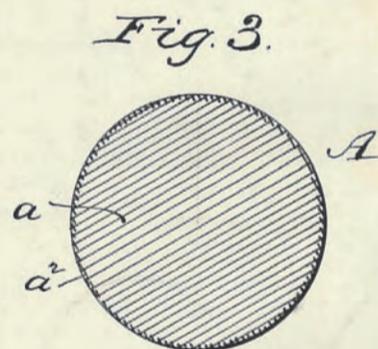
Filed Oct 31 1902
No Model
521

231
5

Div. 7.



Ball
+ Bat



John A. Hillerich
Bat

Filed
100-211

Witnesses:
Ed. Woodruff
Geo. B. Pitts.

Inventor:
John A. Hillerich,
by H. N. Low
attorney.

Passed Nov 20th 1902

These illustrations were part of the patent issued to John A. Hillerich on December 23, 1902, for an improved and hardened surface to the baseball bat.

(No Model.)

G. H. RAWLINGS.
GLOVE.

No. 325,968.

Patented Sept. 8, 1885.

Gloves
Classification Division
(No Model)
968

Fig. 1.

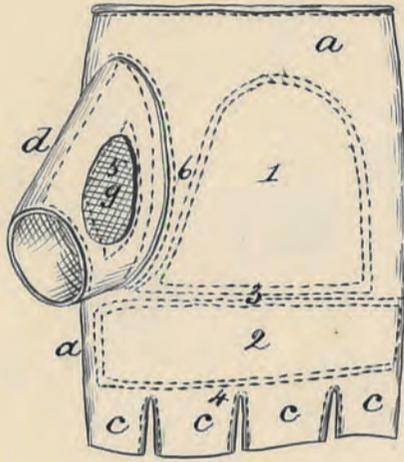


Fig. 3.

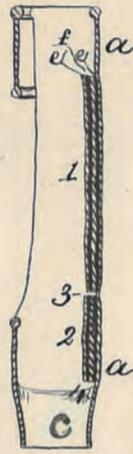


Fig. 2.

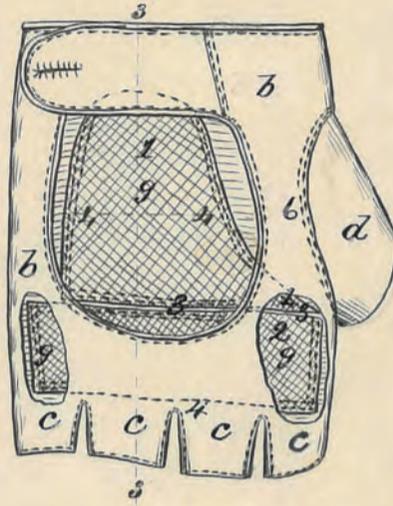


Fig. 4.

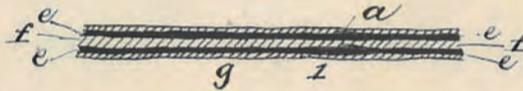
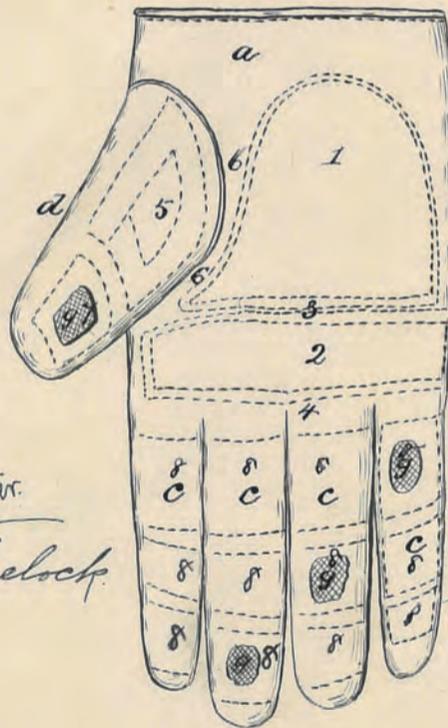
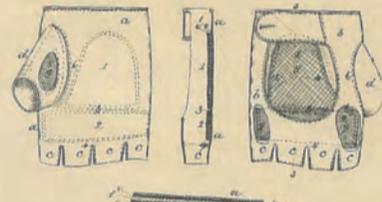


Fig. 5.



325,968. GLOVE. GEORGE H. RAWLINGS, St. Louis, Mo. Filed Mar. 23, 1885. (No model.)



Claim—1. A glove having a pad, 1, in the palm thereof, consisting of two layers of felt having a layer of rubber interposed between them, and a lining of leather, substantially as set forth.
2. A glove having a pad in the palm thereof, consisting of two or more layers of felt, having one or more layers of rubber interposed between them, and a lining of leather, substantially as set forth.

Attest:

Edward Steer
" Godd Wheelock

Inventor:

Geo. H. Rawlings
By Knight Bros.
Atty

Ref May 6 1885.
id July 17 1885.

Examined Aug 6, 1885.

George H. Rawlings submitted these drawings for a baseball glove in a patent approved on September 8, 1885.

Citations

Patent Drawing for Benjamin F. Shibe's Cork-Centered Baseball, 06/15/1909 [Architectural and Engineering Drawings]; Patented Case Files, compiled 1836–1970; Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, Record Group 241; National Archives at College Park.

Patent Drawing for John A. Hillerich's Baseball Bat, 12/23/1902 [Architectural and Engineering Drawings]; Patented Case Files, compiled 1836–1970; Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, Record Group 241; National Archives at College Park.

Patent Drawing for George H. Rawlings' Baseball Glove, 09/08/1885 [Architectural and Engineering Drawings]; Patented Case Files, compiled 1836–1970; Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, Record Group 241; National Archives at College Park.

Book Cover Image:

Photograph of Camp Ross Pitcher, 08/07/1945; 569.6 Publicity IX April–Aug. 1945, Central Subject Files, 1941–1946; Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.

Book Intro Media:

Made Game [Making Sports Equipment], ca. 1919; Motion Picture Films Relating to the Ford Motor Company, the Henry Ford Family, Noted Personalities, Industry, and Numerous Americana and Other Subjects, compiled ca. 1903–ca. 1954; Collection FC: Ford Motor Company Collection, ca. 1903–ca. 1954; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [91349](#))



BASEBALL IS FOR
EVERYONE

A Unifying Game

The game of baseball is woven into the social fabric of the United States just as strongly as the idea of the American dream. Baseball led many to become part of the larger “team” of American society. The common language of hits, runs, strikeouts, and stolen bases solidified membership despite a diversity of backgrounds and trying circumstances.

Many Native American children were sent to boarding schools where they were forced to forget their own traditions and expected to assimilate and adopt the ways of white Americans. They played baseball in addition to other sports. Jim Thorpe, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation from Oklahoma, attended the Carlisle Indian School. After a career in professional baseball and football, he coached an All-Indian baseball team. Yet he had a difficult time collecting his pay, and looked to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes to settle the matter.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 sending thousands of Japanese Americans to internment camps. Without the comforts of home, the detainees managed to find some semblance of normalcy. Baseball was part of this. Many camps, including Tule Lake and Manzanar Relocation Centers in California and Granada Relocation Center in Colorado, had baseball teams. Baseball not only served as a way to keep up morale in the camps, but was also a way for the detainees to assert their Americanism. These Americans were still playing the national game—the game they loved—even under the most dire circumstances.

Since the mid-20th century, the rise in popularity of baseball in Latin American countries has ushered in a new group of baseball-playing immigrants to the United States. Puerto Rican-born Roberto Clemente not only played baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates, but also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. The Pirates management even requested that their star right fielder be released early to join their team at Spring Training in 1959.

During war and peace, United States military members have brought the “American game” to people throughout the world. Baseball truly is for everyone!



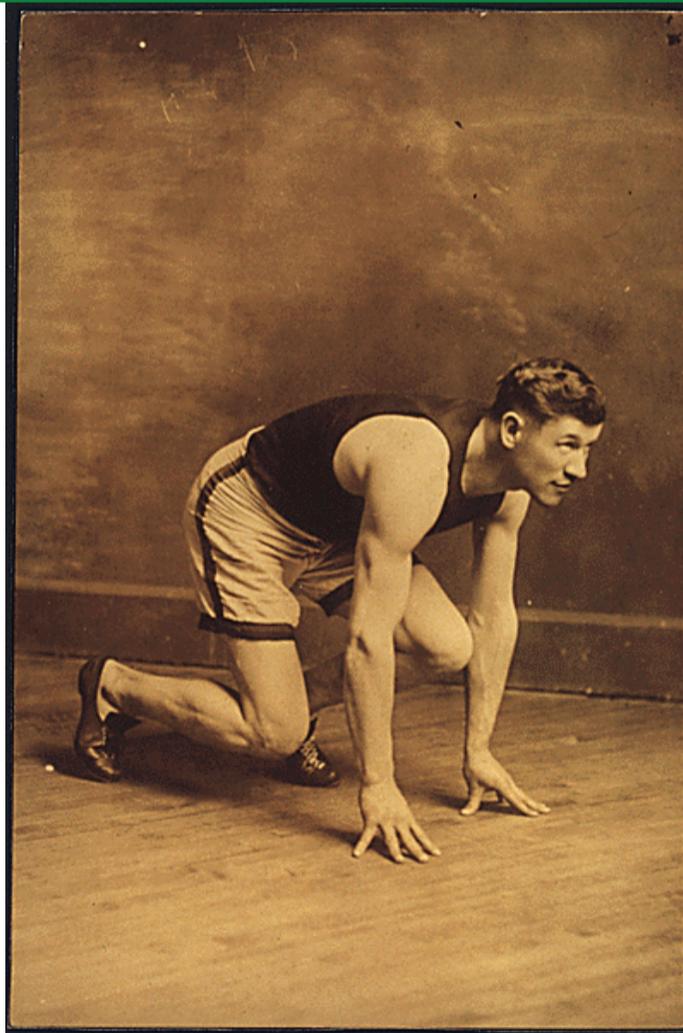
In 1939, the Chemawa Indian School's baseball team wore pinstripes. The school, located in Salem, Oregon, opened in 1880 and continues to educate students today.



Students at the Chilocco Indian School near Newkirk, Oklahoma, played a variety of sports. The varsity baseball team of 1935 had a large roster.



The Albuquerque Indian School, whose baseball team is pictured here in 1911, was established in 1881 to provide off-reservation industrial training to Native Americans in the Southwest. By 1912, the school had eight primary grades and over 300 students.



As a student at the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Jim Thorpe participated in many sports. This photograph from his school file shows him in track and field.

Hawthorne, Calif.

June 29, 1935.

355 Cedar St

Mr. A. M. Landman,
Sup't U. S. Dept. Of The Interior,
Muskogee, Okla.

RECEIVED

JUL 1 1935

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of June 25th,
in regards to my claim.

As you know, my claim is just and true and I
am entitled to the full amount of the claim. However,
due to the fact I would like to get this settled now,
and also taking everything into consideration, I have
decided to take quite a substantial reduction. Send
me a thousand dollars.as soon as possible.

I think I have given you quite a big reduction.
You know the amount of the claim is \$1465.00 and that
does not include the Compound Interest. So just send
me the \$1,000.00 as I said before and what ever you do
with the difference is O. K. with me.

Thanking you very kindly, and too, an immediate
answer would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully

Jim Thorpe
Jim Thorpe.

P. S.

I've been trying to get this claim settled for the
past two and half years and I think it is about time
it was settled.

In 1933 Thorpe agreed to coach an All-Indian baseball team for Susey Walker and Ben Harjo. Unable to collect the money owed him, Thorpe wrote to A.M. Landman, Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes at the Muskogee Office.

Muskogee, Oklahoma,
December 23, 1937.

RECEIVED From Susey Walker, Seminole 1578, through
the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes,
Official check No. 251255 in the amount of \$400.00.

I hereby accept this check in full and final pay-
ment of any and all sums due me from said Susey
Walker, and/or her husband, Ben Harjo, on account
of services rendered during the 1933 baseball
season, and for any and all further accounts or
services by me rendered.

The signature of this receipt by me constitutes a
full and complete release of any claim of any kind
or character which I have against Susey Walker
and her husband, Ben Harjo.

Witnesses:

Jim Thorpe

B. H. Quinn
J. E. Tidwell

Finally, four years later, Thorpe received payment for his coaching position and signed this contract ending his "lien of claim."



With the swing of the bat, opening day of the 1944 baseball season at the Tule Lake Segregation Center was underway. More than half of the approximately 17,000 detainees at the Newell, California, segregation center attended the game.



At the Granada Relocation Center in Amache, Colorado, a crowd of over 2,000 watched a game between the Amache team and the Prowers County all-stars. The Amache team proved to be comprised of all-stars too as they won the game 20-9.

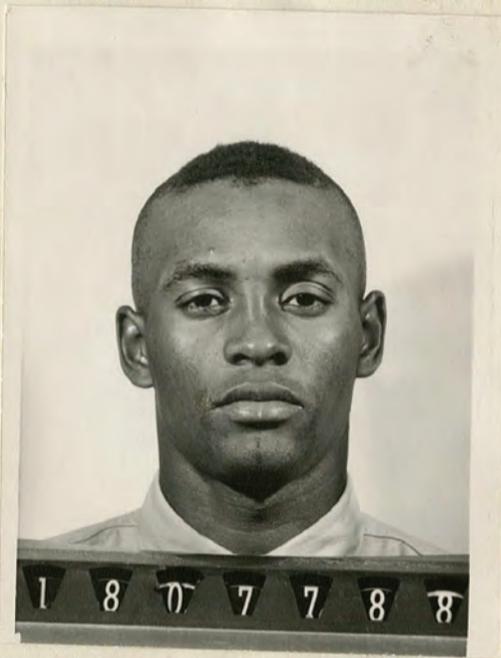


Children played baseball at the Manzanar Relocation Center in Manzanar, California, to pass the time. The blocks of barrack housing can be seen in the distance.



Children at the Manzanar Relocation Center huddled up before their baseball game. They were just one of the 80 baseball teams that were formed at the internment camp.

THIRD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT
PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



NAME: WALKER, Roberto C. SERVICE NO: 1807788
RANK: _____ DATE OF PHOTO: 30Sep58
SIGNATURE OF MARINE: Roberto C. Walker

1807788
30 SEP 58

As a new recruit in the Marine Corps, Roberto Clemente Walker reported to the Third Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island, South Carolina, in September 1958.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES AND EDUCATION

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES				
DATE	PRIMARY MOS	ADDITIONAL MOS	TITLE OF MOS	AUTHORITY

EDUCATION					CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS	
CIVILIAN					JOB TITLE (<i>Main occupation</i>)	
TYPE SCHOOL	MAJOR SUBJECT	NUM-BER YEARS	GRAD. YES NO	YEAR LEFT SCHOOL	DOT NO.	YEARS EXPERIENCE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL		8	x	1950	0-57.01	6
HIGH SCHOOL	Acad	4	x	1954	DUTIES PERFORMED	
COLLEGE—UNIVERSITY					Played baseball in capacity of right fielder.	
TRADE—BUSINESS						
MILITARY					JOB TITLE (<i>Secondary occupation</i>)	
SCHOOL ATTENDED AND COURSE		NUM-BER WKS.	YEAR COMPLETED	INCOMPLETE	DOT NO.	YEARS EXPERIENCE

TESTING AND SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS							
FOREIGN LANGUAGE							
LANGUAGE	FORM	COMPREHENSION			RATING		DATE
		UNDERSTANDS	READS	WRITES	TOTAL SCORE	ADJ. RATING	
Spanish	PRT-1586	24-Fair	11-Flu	17-Fair	52	Fair	80ct58

OPERATES (<i>Name of machine, vehicle, equipment, etc.</i>)						CLASSIFICATION, APTITUDE, AND TRADE TESTS				
TITLE	FORM	DATE	GRADE—SCORE	AUTHENTICATION (<i>Name and rank</i>)						
GCT	3b	/	IV-78	/						
RV	3b	/	IV-85	/						
AC	3b	/	IV-78	/						
AR	3b	/	IV-72	/						
PA	3b	80ct58	IV-89	J. H. LYLES Capt						

PREFERENCE OF DUTY	RECOMMENDED DUTY ASSIGNMENT
ConstEquip&SP	ConstEquip&SP

REMARKS AND MISCELLANEOUS QUALIFICATIONS

NAME	(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	SERVICE NO.
WALKER	Roberto	Clemente	1807788	

NAVMC 118 (8)-PD (REV. 8-55) (SUPERSEDES NAVMC 118-PD (REV. 8-54) WHICH WILL BE USED, AND ALL OTHER EDITIONS OF NAVMC 118 (8)-PD AND NAVMC 118 (10)-PD WHICH WILL NOT BE USED.) ☆ GPO : 1955—O-356166

Located in his military personnel file, Clemente's Military and Civilian Occupational Specialties and Education form reflects his main occupation as a baseball player and his duties performed as "played baseball in capacity of right fielder."

[88]

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY
Pittsburgh 19, Pa.
February 9, 1959

The Honorable Hugh Scott
Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Hugh:

The Pittsburgh Pirate Baseball Team has a slight military problem which they would like to have me present to you for your consideration and advice. Their star right fielder, Roberto Clemente, is in the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. His discharge is set for April 4, 1959. They are wondering if it would be possible for his separation to be accelerated so that he could be released from the Service March 4. This would give him time to join the Squad for Spring training.

I have an impression that those last thirty days are not that important to the Marine Corps but they are really important to the Club. You know, we are bending every effort here in Western Pennsylvania to cooperate with the Club., in the hopes that we will have the World Series in Pittsburgh as part of our Bicentennial Celebration. Clemente is an important figure in the success of the team effort. This would be a ten-strike for you if you can successfully negotiate it.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. WALKER

JMW:mb

C O P Y

FEB 11 1959

Former Pennsylvania State Senator John M. Walker wrote to U.S. Senator Hugh Scott for assistance in getting Roberto Clemente discharged from the Marine Corps Reserves early to join the Pittsburgh Pirates at Spring Training for the 1959 season.

[P.S.]

DMB-1-dms

9 MAR 1959

Honorable Hugh Scott
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Scott:

This is in reply to your letter of 19 February 1959, concerning a possible early release for Private First Class (E-2) Roberto C. WALKER, 1807788, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, who is also known as Roberto Clemente, a former member of the Pittsburgh Pirates' baseball team.

The Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, has been directed to release Private First Class Walker from active duty at the earliest practicable date, for his own convenience, providing he so desires.

It is a pleasure to be of service to you in this matter. Your interest in Private First Class Walker and the Marine Corps is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A. LARSON
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps
Director of Personnel

Encl:
(1) Mr. Walker's ltr of 9 Feb 1959

Copy to:
Naval Liaison Officer

B J

FILED
DMS

Clemente was released to attend Spring Training by Brig. Gen. A. Larson.

~~None 12/15/109~~
MC 870327

Honorable Discharge



FIDELI GERTA MERCES

from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-2) ROBERTO CLEMENTE WALKER 1807788

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Marine Corps

on the 11th *day of* September 1964 *This certificate is awarded*

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

G. W. Smeltzer

G. W. SMELTZER, CAPTAIN, USMC

Roberto Clemente Walker received an Honorable Discharge from the Marine Corps on September 11, 1964.



Villagers gathered at Camp Harriman, in the Orgun Province of Afghanistan, to watch the first-ever Afghani Little League Baseball teams—the Eagles (“Sahein” in Arabic) and The Afghan Club—play, during Operation Enduring Freedom on August 16, 2002.



An Afghani girl played at Camp Harriman, during Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Jay Smith, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, donated the baseball equipment, and this girl was reportedly the first Afghani girl from her area to ever own a ball and glove.



While in Vietnam, members of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), joined the children of Ap Uu Thung hamlet in a game of baseball in 1970.



Even in war-torn Korea, sports were prevalent. Sgt. James W. Black of Chicago, IL, a member of the Fifth Air Force's 49th Fighter Bomber Wing, taught Kim Pak Soon a baseball fundamental in 1951: "get your glove up, and keep the fingers out of the way."

Citations

Chemawa Indian School Baseball Team, 1939; Photographs, compiled ca. 1907–1976, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Seattle. (National Archives Identifier [5585776](#))

Albuquerque Indian School Baseball Team, 1911; General Correspondence File of the Albuquerque Indian School, compiled 1881–1936; Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Denver. (National Archives Identifier [292884](#))

Chilocco Varsity Baseball Team, 1935; Annual Reports, 1918–1952 (E. 75-CH8); Records of the Chilocco School, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Fort Worth. (National Archives Identifier: [7077460](#))

Photograph of Jim Thorpe, ca. 1910; Jim Thorpe Student File, 1904–1915, Student Records of the Carlisle Indian School, compiled 1879–1918, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Washington, DC. (National Archives Identifier: [595347](#))

Letter from Jim Thorpe to A.M. Landman, Superintendent of the Muskogee Office, 08/10/1935; Individual Indian Money (IIM) Case Files, 1908–1949 (E. 552); Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Fort Worth. (National Archives Identifier 7150736)

Contract signed by Jim Thorpe, 12/23/1937; Individual Indian Money (IIM) Case Files, 1908–1949 (E. 552); Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives at Fort Worth. (National Archives Identifier 7150740)

Segregation Center, Newell, California. The 1944 league baseball season got underway..., 04/19/1944; Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, compiled 1942–1945, Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [539548](#))

Granada Relocation Center, Amache, Colorado. Part of the crowd of 2,000 people, evacuees . . . , 09/12/1943; Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, compiled 1942–1945, Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [537324](#))

Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. One of the 80 baseball teams which have been form . . . , 07/03/1942; Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, compiled 1942–1945, Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [538060](#))

Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. Baseball players in a huddle. This game is very . . . , 07/02/1942; Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, compiled 1942–1945, Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [538066](#))

Service Record for Roberto Clemente Walker, 09/30/1958; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

Military and Civilian Occupational Specialties and Education form for Roberto Clemente Walker, 09/30/1958; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

Letter from Brigadier General A. Larson to United States Senator Hugh Scott granting the early release of Roberto Clemente Walker for the 1959 baseball season, 03/03/1959; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

Roberto Clemente Walker's Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps, 09/11/1964; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

Letter from former State Senator John M. Walker to United States Senator Hugh Scott requesting assistance in getting an early release for Roberto Clemente Walker for the 1959 baseball season, 02/09/1959; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

A large crowd of local Afghani villagers gathered at Camp Harriman, located in the Orgun Province of Afghanistan, to watch the first ever Afghani Little League Baseball Teams, consisting of two teams the Eagles ("Sahein" in Arabic) and The Afghan Club, play a game of baseball, during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, 08/16/2002; Combined Military Service Digital Photographic Files, compiled 1982–2007; Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Record Group 330; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [6641194](#))

An Afghani girl plays with her baseball and glove at Camp Harriman, located in the Orgun Province of Afghanistan, during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Mr. Jay Smith, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, donated the baseball equipment and this girl is reportedly the first Afghani girl, from her area, to ever own a ball and glove, 08/16/2002; Combined Military Service Digital Photographic Files, compiled 1982–2007; Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Record Group 330; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [6641193](#))

Vietnam....Members of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), join the children of Ap Uu Thong hamlet in a game of baseball. The troopers are members of a Battalion Action Team involved in pacification operations in Phong Dieu District, north of Hue., 01/15/1970; Signal Corps Photographs of American Military Activity, compiled 1754–1954; Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [531465](#))

A Korean youth, Kim Pak Soon, is taught one of the fundamental lessons of baseball--"get your glove up, and keep the fingers out of the way." His instructor is S/Sgt. James W. Black, Chicago, Ill., member of the Fifth Air Force's 49th Fighter Bomber Wing. As warm weather approaches, members of the 49th plan to expand the sports program, even in war-torn Korea., ca. 03/1951; Black and White Photographs of U.S. Air Force and Predecessors' Activities, Facilities, and Personnel, Domestic and Foreign, compiled 1930–1975; Records of U.S. Air Force Commands, Activities, and Organizations, Record Group 342; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [542323](#))

1 Name in full *George Herman Ruth*
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address *680 Commonwealth Court*
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth *Feb 7 1894*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared intention (specify which)? *natural born*

5 Where were you born? *Baltimore Maryland U.S.*
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Base Ball -*

8 By whom employed? *Brooklyn American*
Where employed? *tenway park*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on support (specify which)? *wife*

10 Married? *married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 Rank *None*; branch

12

I have verified above answers and that they are true

G. H. Ruth
(Signature or mark)



If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

Even
Doughboys
were
Ballplayers

After several years of neutrality, the United States entered the Great War on April 6, 1917. Over 24 million men registered for the draft, including Major League and Negro League players such as Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Casey Stengel, and Andrew Rube Foster. Not all of those who registered for the draft served, but many fulfilled their patriotic duty when they got the call.

Twelve players of the Boston Red Sox served in the Naval Reserves, making the prospect of the team's ability to survive during the 1918 season questionable. Team President Harry H. Frazee requested the temporary detachment of his team captain and manager, John J. Barry, assigned to the Boston Navy Yard and second baseman, George E. Lewis, assigned to the Mare Island Navy Yard, in a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt. Frazee pointed out,

"Although I would like to have the services of several of the other players whom I have lost, I do not feel that in this hour of our country's crisis I ought to ask it, and I am only too happy to know that the Boston club has been able to provide so many good men and stands in the front rank of all the base ball clubs in America as having contributed the largest number of men, twelve in all." The 1918 season was cut short due to the war, and although Frazee's request was ultimately denied, the Red Sox won the World Series.

Pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander was one of the more than 2 million Doughboys who made their way to France to fight in the trenches. He served as a sergeant with Battery F of the 342nd Field Artillery, 89th Division at the Battle of the Argonne Forest. Unlike many of his brothers-in-arms, Alexander made his way back to the United States after the armistice. Battle fatigued and suffering from shell shock, he impressively resumed his baseball career, and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1938.

1 Name in full *George Herman Ruth* (Family name) *Ruth* Age, in years *23*

2 Home address *680 Commonwealth Ave* (No.) (Street) *Boston* (City) *Mass.* (State)

3 Date of birth *Feb* (Month) *7* (Day) *1894* (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *natural born*

5 Where were you born? *Baltimore* (Town) *Maryland* (State) *U.S.* (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Base Ball -*

8 By whom employed? *Boston American*

Where employed? *Fenway Park*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *wife*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *None*; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *No*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

G. H. Ruth
(Signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

George Herman "Babe" Ruth's World War I Draft Registration Card shows his place of employment as "Fenway Park."

10785

20-4-8. A

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? 6' 2" Slender, medium, or stout (which)? medium

2 Color of eyes? Brown Color of hair? dark Bald? _____

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? _____

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

WARD 8

Lewis A. Armstrong
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct 9

City or County Boston

State Mass

June 5 1917
(Date of registration)

1078-5

1207

REGISTRATION CARD

#

9

No.

~~2144~~

1 Name in full *Tyrus R Cobb* Age, in yrs. *30*
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address *2425 Williams Augusta Ga.*
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth *December 18 1886*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural born*

5 Where were you born? *Harrows Ga. U.S.A.*
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? *U.S.A.*

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Ball Player*

8 By whom employed? *Detroit Baseball*

Where employed? *Detroit Mich.*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Wife and three children*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *None*; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Dependents*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Tyrus R. Cobb
(Signature or mark)

1368

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

Tyrus R. "Ty" Cobb registered for the Selective Service in 1917.

10 2-A
REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)?	Tall	Slender, medium, or stout (which)?	Medium		
2	Color of eyes?	Gray	Color of hair?	Light Brown	Bald?	No
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?					
	None					

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

John M. Kearney
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct *6th*
City or County *Augusta*
State *Ga.*

Detroit Mich.
May 23-1917
(Date of registration)

367-4

1 Name in full Joe Jackson (Given name) (Family name) Age, in yrs. 29

2 Home address Warner Hotel, 33rd Cottage Grove, Chicago, Ill. (No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth July 16, 1887. (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural-born

5 Where were you born? Greeneville, Tenn., U.S.A. (Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? -

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Professional Ball Player

8 By whom employed? Chicago American League B.B. Club

Where employed? Chicago, Ill.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Wife and sister under 12.

10 Married or single (which)? Married. Race (specify which)? Caucasian.

11 What military service have you had? Rank None; branch; years; Nation or State

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Sole support wife and sister under 12.

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner



846 Joe Jackson (Signature or mark)

"Shoeless" Joe Jackson listed his employer as "Chicago American League BB Club."

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

39-2-10, A

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Tall. Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Medium.

2 Color of eyes? Brown. Color of hair? Black. Bald? No.

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No.

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

James T. Dgoe.
(Signature of registrar)
City Clerk, Chicago, Ill.
By Henry Edler,
Deputy.

Precinct _____
City or County Greeneville,
State S. Car.

(Date of registration)

1 Name in full Charles D Stengel Age, in yrs. 26
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address Kansas City Missouri
(No.) 4149 (Street) Harrison (City) Kansas City (State) Mo.

3 Date of birth July 30 1895
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural Born.

5 Where were you born? Kansas City Mo., U.S.A.
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? _____

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Ball Player

8 By whom employed? Brkl Base Ball Club,
 Where employed? Brooklyn N.Y.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? no

10 Married or single (which)? single Race (specify which)? white

11 What military service have you had? Rank none; branch none;
 years none; Nation or State none

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? no

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Charles D Stengel
(Signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

Charles D. "Casey" Stengel was employed by Brooklyn "Base Ball Club."

24-4-31A
REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>Medium</u>	Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <u>Medium</u>	
2	Color of eyes? <u>Blue</u>	Color of hair? <u>Blonde</u>	Bald? <u>No</u>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>No</u>		

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. J. Farley
(Signature of registrar)

BROOKLYN BOBO, N. Y. CITY

Precinct 9-Ward 13
City or County Kanawha City
State W. Va.

John J. Cleary

MAY 26 1917

(Date of registration)

June 5-1917

LB#13

1464-5

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER

2321

ORDER NUMBER

190

1 Andrew Rube Foster
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:
3242 Vernon Ave Chicago
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

Age in Years 3 38 Date of Birth 4 Sept 17 1879.
(Month) (Day) (Year)

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	Citizen	Non-citizen
			8	9

U. S. CITIZEN

ALIEN

Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization B. fore Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION

EMPLOYER'S NAME

16 Baseball player 17 own
39th & Princeton

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS:
39th & Princeton
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE Name 19 Mrs. Sarah Foster Address 20 3242 Vernon Ave
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red)

Andrew Rube Foster
(Registrant's signature or mark)

2842

(OVER)

Andrew Rube Foster registered as a "Baseball player."

12-1-3-C REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
21 5-9	22	23	24	25	26 ✓	27 brown	28 black

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Hattie Lois Dodd
 (Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration *Sept 12-1918*

LOCAL BOARD FOR
 DIVISION No. 3
 3103 INDIANA AVE.
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

2842

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

AMERICAN LEAGUE
PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL CLUBS
FISHER BUILDING
CHICAGO

Jan. 23, 1918.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Asst. Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Supplementing my talk with you on Monday, and at your kind suggestion, I am writing to ask your favorable consideration of the following request: as the owner of the Boston American League Base Ball Club, I herewith apply for detachment from the Naval Reserve Forces of Yeoman John J. Barry, now assigned to the Navy Yard, Boston, Mass., and Yeoman George E. Lewis, now assigned to the Mare Island Navy Yard. As I stated to you, my club has given more of its men by far to the service of the country than any other club in this country. I have on my roll twelve players who have joined the colors either in the Army or in the Navy, namely Manager and Captain Barry, second base, Lewis, left field, Shore, pitcher, Pennock, pitcher, Jones, pitcher, Bader, pitcher, Janvrin, utility, McNally, third base, Shotten, centre field, Cooney, utility, and Bentley, first base. Most of the boys are in the Navy and all cheerfully responded to the call when the season closed last fall. I do not have to say to you that if I am without the services of all these players during the season of 1918 my club will not only be out of the running professionally but that my business investment will be practically wrecked. I realize the country's need and I have hesitated about making my appeal with reference to Barry and Lewis until I found that it is absolutely

CENTRAL
FILES

Red Sox owner Harry M. Frazee wrote to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt requesting that Red Sox players be taken off active duty at the Boston Navy Yard to play baseball.

Hon. F. D. R. -2- 1/23/18.

impossible for me to fill the place of either of them, and without Barry I might as well close my gates. Since my ownership of the club, Manager Barry has been in full charge of the players on and off the field and has become absolutely indispensable to me. I have tried my level best to fill the place of Lewis, but have been unable to make any headway, and he is, next to Barry, also indispensable.

Since Barry joined the Navy he has been assigned to work in connection with the Navy Welfare League and has really, up to date, done little or nothing in connection with the actual service of the department. Lewis has been driving an automobile at Mare Island as chauffeur for the Commandant. Both boys are married and Barry will be thirty-one years of age April 24th next. Lewis will be thirty-one years old some time next summer and it has occurred to me that I might properly ask for their detachment from the service temporarily in view of the fact that Secretary Baker, of the War Department, has asked Congress for the passage of an act which will exempt men who registered for the selective draft in June last and who have reached the age of thirty-one years without having been drafted.

If the Department is able to grant my request, I shall ask that these two men be detached only until such time as their services are actually needed by our country. Although I would like to have the services of several of the other players whom I have lost, I do not feel that in this hour of our country's crisis I ought to ask it, and I am only too happy to know that the Boston club has been able to provide so many good men and stands in the front

CENTRAL
FILES

AGUE
BASE BALL CLUBS
R BUILDING
CHICAGO

Hon. F. D. R. -3- 1/23/18.

rank of all the base ball clubs in America as having contributed the largest number of men, twelve in all.

Furthermore, may I call your attention to the statement of President Wilson, which was given wide circulation a few months ago, to the effect that it was his earnest hope that professional base ball would not be discontinued during war times as he felt the American people needed the relaxation and wholesome enjoyment provided by our national pastime more at this crucial period than in ordinary times?

In closing, I would like to emphasize the fact that the granting of this request means a great deal to me in many ways, and I want to remind you again that with their detachment my club is still represented by ten of its players, each and all of whom are ready and willing to do their best for the country.

Hoping for an early reply, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

W. D. Craig
President Boston American League
Base Ball Club

Please reply to me at
1457 Broadway
New York City, N.Y.

CENTRAL
FILES

c/s

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

January 24, 1918.

My dear Captain Rush:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Frazee, President of the Boston American League Baseball Club. You will note that twelve of his players have joined either the Army or the Navy, and I think there is no question that he is in real difficulty in regard to keeping his club going during the coming baseball season. In view of the President's statement that he hopes that professional baseball may be continued during the war, I feel that we have a good deal of reason for helping Mr. Frazee.

I understand that his club has been disorganized from the loss of players more than any other, and especially so because of the loss of the Manager, Captain Barry and his second baseman, Lewis. He tells me that these two men are doing clerical work, and I have promised to write you to ask your personal opinion as to whether it would not be possible to place these two men on the inactive list some time early in March so that the club can be properly organized during the spring training season. If it is true that these men are not doing very vital duty, I would be entirely agreeable if you want to place them on the inactive list about that time without asking the Department for its consent or an official ruling. *We can of course call them back to the active list at any time.*

Will you let me know your personal views?

Very sincerely yours,

(Enclosure)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Captain William R. Rush,
Commandant, First Naval District,
Boston, Mass.

CENTRAL
FILES

Roosevelt supported Frazee's request, but asked Commandant of the Boston Navy Yard Capt. William R. Rush for his opinion.

NATIONAL ARMY

ENLISTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT CARD

2845730

Alexander Grover Cleveland
(Surname.) (Christian name.) * } white colored

Assigned to Co. 64.164, Depot Brigade
(Company and regiment or corps or department; if unassigned, so state.)

Residence at date of registration: none
(Street and house number; if none, so state.)

St Paul Howard Neb
(Town or city.) (County.) (State.)

Place of enlistment, i. e., place at which soldier was ordered to report for military duty, as specified in notice from local board: St Paul Neb
(Town or city.) (State.)

Date of enlistment, i. e., date specified in notice: April 29, 1918

Did soldier report in person at the place and on the date specified? Yes If not, state place and date of reporting:
(Yes or no.)

_____ 191

Last service in Regular Army; if none, so state: none
(Company and regiment or corps or department.)

Discharged _____ 191
Last service in National Guard or Organized Militia; if none, so state:

_____ 191
(Company and regiment or corps or department.)

Discharged _____ 191

He has blue eyes, Brown hair, Ruddy complexion, and is 6 feet 1/2 inches in height. He gave the name and address of the person to be notified in case of emergency as

Mrs William Alexander
(Name and degree of relationship; if friend, so state.)

_____ none
(Street and house number; if none, so state.)

St Paul Neb
(Town or city.) (State or country.)

*Strike out word not applicable.

Form No. 22-2, A. G. O.
(For National Army.)
Ed. Aug. 8-17-2,000,000.

3-4779

(11)

DECLARATION OF SOLDIER

Having been enlisted in the National Army of the United States, I declare:

1. I was born in St Paul, Neb.,
(Town or city.) (State or country.)

am now 31 years and 7 months of age, and am by occupation a Baseball Player

2. I have neither wife nor child (see Instruction 3), and no one is dependent upon me for support (see Instruction 3).

Mrs William Alexander

(Signature of soldier): Grover Cleveland Alexander

The information contained in this card is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and it has been entered on the service record of the soldier.

1st Lieut., Inf. U.S.A.
Mustering Officer.
Place: Camp Funston, Kansas.

Date: MAY 3 1918

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. An enlistment and assignment card will be made on this form for each soldier of the National Army, except those rejected at mobilization camps on account of physical disability. It will be prepared as soon as practicable after completion of physical examination and forwarded directly to The Adjutant General of the Army with the initial muster roll of the company or detachment to which the soldier is assigned, or with a letter of transmittal in the case of a soldier who is not present at initial muster or who is unassigned.

2. The correct name of the soldier will be ascertained. The Christian name will not be abbreviated, but if it consists of more than one name only the first will be written and signed in full. Great care will be exercised that the name is correctly written and signed wherever it appears.

3. In case the soldier is a married man, the words "I have neither wife nor child and" in his declaration will be stricken out and a note added above the signature showing his conjugal condition and the number of children, if any. If anyone is dependent upon him for support, the words "and no one is dependent upon me for support" will be stricken out and the names of those dependent upon the soldier will be inserted. 3-4779

Grover Cleveland Alexander's Enlistment and Assignment Card notes his enlistment on April 29, 1918. He reported for duty at St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska.

Citations

World War I Draft Registration Card for George Herman “Babe” Ruth, 06/05/1917; Draft Registration Cards, compiled 1917–1918, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives at Atlanta. (National Archives Identifier: [641780](#))

World War I Draft Registration Card for Tyrus R. “Ty” Cobb, 05/23/1917; Draft Registration Cards, compiled 1917–1918, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives at Atlanta. (National Archives Identifier: [641757](#))

World War I Draft Registration Card for Joe “Shoeless Joe” Jackson, n.d.; Draft Registration Cards, compiled 1917–1918, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives at Atlanta.

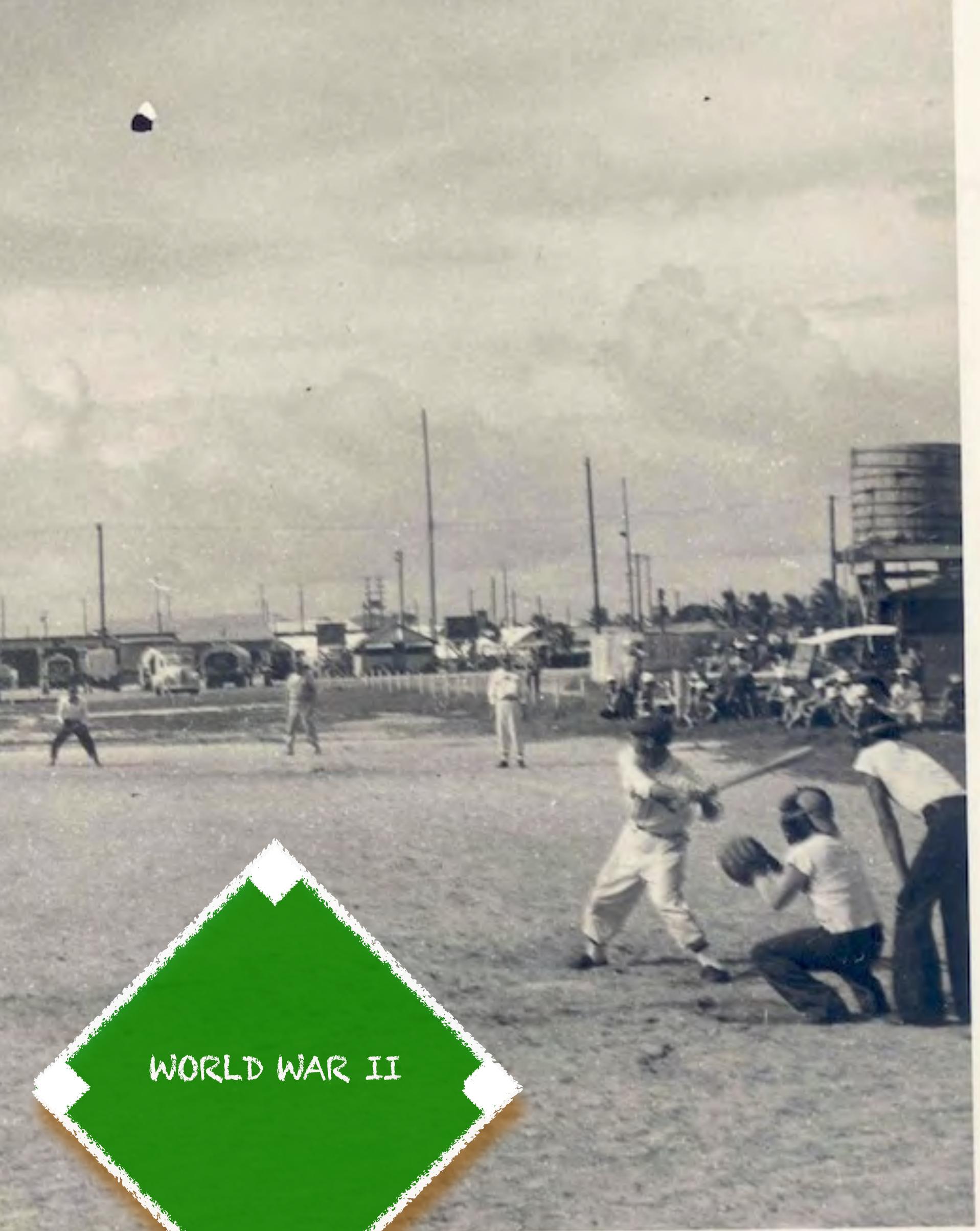
World War I Draft Registration Card for Charles “Casey” Stengel, 05/26/1917; Draft Registration Cards, compiled 1917–1918, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives at Atlanta.

World War I Draft Registration Card for Andrew Rube Foster, 09/12/1918; Draft Registration Cards, compiled 1917–1918, Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives at Atlanta. (National Archives Identifier: [641802](#))

Correspondence Concerning Red Sox Players at the Boston Navy Yard, 12/1917–02/1918; Personnel Officer General 19-41, Jan.–April 1918, 12/1917–04/1918; General Correspondence, compiled 1909–1969, Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments, Record Group 181; National Archives at Boston. (National Archives Identifier [5751792](#))

Enlistment and Assignment Card for Grover Cleveland Alexander, 05/02/1918; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998. Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.

Service Record for Grover Cleveland Alexander, c. 1917–1919; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998. Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis.



WORLD WAR II

Baseball Carried Us Through the War

Five weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II, Commissioner of Baseball Kenesaw Mountain Landis wrote President Franklin D. Roosevelt asking whether major league baseball should be played. President Roosevelt responded affirmatively with personal hope in what is now known as the “green light” letter.

While those on the home front welcomed a reprieve from wartime rationing and production with a day at the ball park, soldiers stationed abroad and at home also enjoyed the game. From locations in the South Pacific to makeshift fields established on the move across Europe, soldiers watched and played baseball wherever they were.

Major league players who enlisted or were drafted into the service carried on military duties and helped entertain troops. Over ninety percent of all major league players were active in the service, helping to comprise talented military teams.

Even with ever changing line-ups, the Great Lakes Naval Training Center’s Bluejackets squads were stellar. Led by the former Detroit Tiger player and manager, Gordon “Mickey” Cochrane, the 1944 team amassed a .960 winning percentage for the season (48 wins and 2 losses) and a 23-game winning streak. At least seven of those wins were against big league teams.

Soldiers viewed highlight clips before feature films in all military motion picture theaters through the news and entertainment shorts of the *Army-Navy Screen Magazine*. The film clip “Dem Bums Warm Up” took the boys to the 1945 Dodgers’ Spring Training with colorful team manager Leo Durocher leading infield practice. When Durocher barked out “You haven’t got a bucket of paint at third base, you got to get the paintbrush out of your hand,” and a narrator coolly commented on Leo’s chatter, the sights and sounds of home were within reach for the troops.

Women’s Army Corps members at Camp Ross in Wilmington, California, played softball when they weren’t providing crucial logistical support for embarking units. Baseball carried us through the Second World War.

BASEBALL

KENESAW M. LANDIS
COMMISSIONER
LESLIE M. O'CONNOR
SECRETARY-TREASURER

333 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

January 14 1942

Dear Mr. President:

The time is approaching when, in ordinary conditions, our teams would be heading for Spring training camps. However, inasmuch as these are not ordinary times, I venture to ask what you have in mind as to whether professional baseball should continue to operate. Of course my inquiry does not relate at all to the virtual members of this organization whose status in this emergency is fixed by law operating upon all citizens.

Normally we have, in addition to the sixteen major teams, approximately three hundred and twenty minor teams - members of leagues playing in the United States and Canada. Health and strength to you - and whatever else it takes to do this job.

With great respect
Very truly yours
Kenesaw M. Landis
The President
Washington, D.C.

In this letter, Baseball Commissioner Landis asked President Roosevelt whether Major League Baseball should be played in these "not ordinary times."

C
O
P
Y

BASEBALL

PPF
227

Kenesaw M. Landis
Commissioner
Leslie M. O'Connor
Secretary-Treasurer

333 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago

Jany. 14, 1942

Dear Mr. President

The time is approaching when, in ordinary conditions, our teams would be heading for Spring training camps. However, inasmuch as these are not ordinary times, I venture to ask what you have in mind as to whether professional baseball should continue to operate. Of course my inquiry does not relate at all to individual members of this organization, whose status, in the emergency, is fixed by law operating upon all citizens.

Normally we have, in addition to the sixteen major teams, approximately three hundred and twenty minor teams - members of leagues playing in the United States and Canada.

Health and strength to you - and whatever else it takes to do this job.

With great respect

Very truly yours,

(Signed) KENESAW M. LANDIS

The President
Washington,
D. C.

This is a typed version of Landis's letter.

P.P.H.
227

January 15, 1942.

My dear Judge:-

Thank you for yours of January fourteenth. As you will, of course, realise the final decision about the baseball season must rest with you and the Baseball Club owners -- so what I am going to say is solely a personal and not an official point of view.

I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed and everybody will work longer hours and harder than ever before. x170

And that means that they ought to have a chance for recreation and for taking their minds off their work even more than before. xPP7468

Baseball provides a recreation which does not last over two hours or two hours and a half, and which can be got for very little cost. And, incidentally, I hope that night games can be extended because it gives an opportunity to the day shift to see a game occasionaly.

As to the players themselves, I know you agree with me that individual players who are of active military or naval age should go, without question, into the services. Even if the actual quality of the teams is lowered by the greater use of older players, this will not dampen the popularity of the sport. Of course, if any individual has some particular aptitude in a trade or profession, he ought to serve the Government. That, however, is a matter which I know you can handle with complete justice.

Here is another way of looking at it -- if 300 teams use 5,000 or 6,000 players, these players are a definite recreational asset to at least 20,000,000 of their fellow citizens -- and that in my judgment is thoroughly worthwhile. x189

With every best wish,

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Kenesaw M. Landis, x4
233 North Michigan Avenue,
Chicago,
Illinois.

President Roosevelt suggested "that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going."



Army Air Force Sergeant Joe DiMaggio and Navy Chief Specialist Harold "Pee Wee" Reese autographed baseballs for commanding officers before the Central Pacific Area Championship, known as the Service World Series, in Honolulu.



Found in a report of the U.S. Pacific fleet, this photograph captures Kwajalein men and men of the USS Saint Paul at play on the island approximately 2,400 miles southeast of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Springfield Beaten, 8-7, By Negro Nine

Sonny Randall Hits 4-Run Homer in 3d; Wright Gets Three Hits for Perfect Day

The Great Lakes Negro team snapped its losing streak at Springfield, Ill., last Sunday by nosing out the Springfield All-Stars, 8 to 7.

Sonny Randall supplied the winning punch with a home run that cleared the bags in the third inning. Ens. Al Pesek's club scored five runs in this frame.

John Wright was the winning hurler. Wright helped his own cause along by smacking three hits in three appearances. One of them was a triple that scored Leroy Clayton, who had singled.

The game was played in terrific heat. On Wright's above-mentioned triple, Clayton wanted to stop at third even though the Springfield outfielder hadn't even caught up with the ball. Ens. Pesek waved Clayton home and the catcher lumbered to the plate.

The Naval Hospital outfit whipped the Negro club last Saturday, 8-7, by making six runs in the seventh inning. By agreement the game went seven innings so the Negro boys could catch their train to Springfield.

The loss to Naval Hospital dropped the Negro nine out of a first-place tie with Glenview in the Midwest Servicemen's League. The Center Negro record reads 4-1 in the loop. The Negro team squared off against Glenview in a twilight affair Thursday night. A week ago the Negro club was beaten by General Electric at Fort Wayne, 6-2.

Ens. Pesek's team has been handicapped because of illness among its hurling corps.

Newberg Sets New Mark for 1.2 Miles

Four records were set this week as Co. 1188 won the 27th Reg. A. Flag, Richard Newberg, Co. 1188, St. James, Minn., ran the one and two-tenths mile in 6:03.2. Co. 1306 made a record 9:22 in the obstacle course relay.

The winning company scored 155 5/8 points, a new mark, and the 48th Batt. made another by ending up with 483 2/5 points.

Other event winners: 60 yards—Paul Perdue (1188), Cedar Rapids, Ia.; 100 yards—Roy Fink (1188), Floral Park, Long Island, N. Y.; running high jump—tie between L. Abraham (1128), Madison, N. J., and John Heber (1128), Seattle; landing broad jump—Thurman Synolds (1319), Bluefield, W. Virginia; running broad jump—Lyle Kooztz (1308), Haven, Kan.; individual rope climb—Ralph Bevin (1358), Wichita, Kan.

More winners: three-tenths mile—Roy Fink (1188); six-tenths mile—Robert Hansen (1188), Seattle; nine-tenths mile—Larry Little (1188), Kanab, Utah; individual pull-ups—Paul McCullum (1118).

Portholes were originally holes for guns.



IT MUST BE FUNNY, the story that Manager Charlie Grimm (left) of the Cubs is telling Jimmie Foxx, Cub, and Lt. Cdr. Mickey Cochran of the Bluejackets. Grimm wasn't so happy later, though, as Great Lakes won, 3-2.

Waling, Skupin In Torrid Draw

Victor Waling, Co. 1223, and Chester Skupin, Co. 1133, both of Detroit, fought a torrid draw in the best bout of the 21st Regiment show held in Bldg. 2111 gym last Saturday.

The summaries:
115 pounds: Charles Peck (1246) dec. Ernest Beaubien (1223) scored first round TKO over John Harkins (1219).
126: Ernest Beaubien (1223) dec. Louis Knight (1356).
128: Don Eaton (1293) dec. Albin Vine (1219).
135: Raymond Vollmert (1293) dec. Edmund Kreyger (1223).
136: Ernest Beaubien (1223) scored first round TKO over John Harkins (1219).
140: Donald Rustan (1293) dec. George Withworth (1356); Fred Barnard (1356) and Norman Dooley (1353) drew.
145: Clarence Radloff (1223) dec. Eugene Sehl (1293); Richard Anderson (1222) dec. Philip Garrard (1335); Charles Peterson (1356) and James Farley (1222) drew; James Lawless (1356) dec. James McPeak (1293).
150: George Hayden (1246) and Alvin Ewing (1223) drew; Joe Follack (1219) dec. Robert Lamond (1222); Dominic Cusimano (1356) and Stanley Huss (1360) drew.
155: George Simons (1219) dec. James Randall (1306); Dale Taylor (1335) and Glenn Hickey (1219) drew; Kenneth Tuel (1194) dec. H. B. Wright (1219).
160: William Witzel (1222) scored third round TKO over Frank Reeves (1219); Allen Burea (1335) and James Adams (1372) drew.
165: George Ward (1366) dec. James Old (1223).
175: Lawrence Conley (1372) and Miles Dyer (1360) drew; Dominic Berardo dec. Robert Montgomery (1335).
Heavyweight: Joseph Calnan (1133) dec. Wayne Hill (1246).

Green, Veltman Pace Winning Boat Crews

The 8th Regiment cutter men won both the experienced crew and inexperienced crew races this week. The former had Charles Green, Co. 1175, Akron, O., in the driver's seat, while Joe Veltman, Co. 1176, Peoria, Ill., was coxswain of the other.

Members of the experienced crew: Clinton Hammer, 1206, Green Bay, Wis.; Richard Ulm, 1154, East Chicago, Ind.; James Houchers, 1206, Green Bay, Wis.; Burton Foster, 1191, Rock Island, Ill.; Edward Horn, 1191, Mattoon, Ill.; Don Harrier, 1191, Allenton, Ill.; Charles Williams, 1176, Decatur, Ill.; George Hooniges, 1191, Bloomington, Ill.; August Habadank, 1191, Kankakee, Ill., and Gerald Killian, 1206, Milwaukee.

The inexperienced crew members: Leonard Jackson, 1216, Lincoln, Neb.; Al Stanbaugh, 1176, Peoria, Ill.; Wayne Moye, 1216, Holdrege, Neb.; Dale Raasca, 1216, Hadar, Neb.; Milan Holm, 1216, Basin City, Neb.; John Viningre, 1175, Akron, O.; Walter Uebler, 1170, Michigan City, Ind.; Arthur Bell, 1167, Canton, O.; Ralph Waldron, 1216, Calloway, Neb., and Arthur Seman, 1175, Cleveland.

Supply Softball Club Whips Hospital, 16-13

Supply and Administrative each scored their first victory in the Officers' Club Softball league the past week. Supply outslugged Hospital, 16 to 13, while Administrative routed District, 12 to 1.

D. G. Freed and Ens. Savage socked homers for Supply. J. P. Hopkins, L. L. Swan, V. J. Topogna, W. C. Ewbank and K. H. York paced Administrative. Lt. Cdr. J. P. Draney hit a home run for Hospital.

Dental still leads the loop with four victories and no losses.

Osmanski Packs Football as He Reports to Fleet

Lt. (jg) Bill Osmanski, former Chicago Bears fullback, has left the Naval Training Center to report to the Fleet Marines. Osmanski has been at the Center since last October.

"I've got a football packed right in the bottom of my sea bag," said Osmanski. "There'll be a football team no matter where I go."

Green, Veltman Pace Winning Boat Crews

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What, No Bloody Nose?

"Everything happens to me," mused Robert Cochran, Co. 1005, upon taking inventory of his luck since coming to boot camp here. The inventory showed he had lost the gold plate from his watch strap, broken his glasses, twisted his knee, lost his fountain pen—and acquired a case of athlete's foot.

Great Lakes Seeks To Set Win Record

Bluejackets Score 21st Victory Without a Loss As Bill Baker's Single in Ninth Downs Cubs, 3-2; 1942 Center Team Notched 24 Straight Triumphs

Don't look now but the Bluejackets of 1944 aim to smash a record made by another set of Bluejackets — those of 1942. Two years ago the Center team won 24 games in a row, from May 7 through June 16.

The current Bluejackets are within reach of that mark. The story-book 3-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday gave Lt. Cdr. Mickey Cochran's men their 21st victory without a loss. The 1942 team won 63 games and lost 14. Counting the 10 wins with which the 1943 team closed out the season, the Bluejackets have won their last 31 games.

Honolulu Boy Cops 2 Events

Eloy Chinn, who hails all the way from Honolulu, Hawaii, led Co. 1296 to victory in the 25th Reg. A-Flag competition this past week. Chinn won two events: the 60 yard dash and the running broad jump. Co. 1296 scored 116 points. Second went to Co. 1258 with 92 points. The meet director was Ross Clover, CSP.

The summaries (in order of finish):

60 yards: Eloy Chinn (1296), Honolulu; George Barron (1378), Akron, O.; Llewellyn Burchhalter (1238), Aiken, S. C.; John Oldfield (1258), Chicago. Time—37.4.

100 yards: Jack Pierce (1375), Pontiac, Ill.; David Fitts (1258), Harrisburg, Penn.; William Halliburton (1258), Los Angeles; Bill Bonner (1260), Los Angeles. (Tie for second). Time—10.9.

Running high jump: Stan Russell (1296), San Bernardino, Calif.; Lee Hozworth (1258), Portland, Ore.; Philip Moore (1190), College Corner, O.; Howard Dill (1198), Pasadena, Calif. (Tie for third). Time—3.7.

Standing broad jump: Horace Graves (1296), San Antonio, Tex.; Paul Morando (1190), Port Huene, Calif.; Richard Campbell (1296), Mt. Sterling, Ill.; David Piette (1296), St. Paul, Minn. Distance—3'11".

Running broad jump: Eloy Chinn (1296), Honolulu; Gerald Day (1254), Prairie du Chien, Wis.; Jack Shime (1198), El Paso, Tex.; Leo Wrasman (1298), Rockyville Center, N. Y. Distance—19'5".

Individual rope climb: Gerald Stork (1296), Detroit; Erwin Bell (1296), San Diego; Virgil Akers (1296), Franklin, Neb. Time—10.4.

Three-tenths mile: George Cammett (1296), Beverly Farms, Mass.; Jim Davis (1296), Idaho Falls, Ia.; Eloy Chinn (1296), Honolulu.

Six-tenths mile: Emanuel Bitter (1298), New York City; Edward Mars (1296), Anderson, Mo.; William Stein (1249), Marion, O.; James Duncan (1258), Los Angeles. Time—2:45.

Nine-tenths mile: Billy Blackford (1337), Urbana, Ill.; Richard Campbell (1296), Mt. Sterling, Ill.; Harry Bassett (1296), Royal Oak, Mich.; Donald Hoffman (1296), Stanley, Wis. Time—5:14.

Scarecrow, N. Y.; William Halliburton (1296), Los Angeles; Thomas LaValle (1296), Lakeville, Minn.; Edward Hotchkiss (1296), Dearborn, Mich. Time—6:33.9.

Hospital Team Ekes Win from Negro Nine

In a Service League game marked by a storybook finish, the Hospital baseball nine defeated the Great Lakes Negro team last Saturday at Constitution Field. At game time, it was agreed that the contest would be less than nine innings, if necessary, to permit the Negro team to catch a train.

The beginning of the seventh inning found the hospital team trailing, 7-2, and the train conductor ready to cry "all aboard." Hospital hitting began to click and finally outfielder Michael hit a screaming double with three men on, to put the game on ice, 8-7. It was the first time the Negro nine had lost a league game. Marfise was the winning pitcher.

The Hospital nine plays the United Auto Workers of Kenosha, Monday, at Kenosha, and the Douglas Sky-masters, Tuesday, July 4, at Park Ridge.

Last Friday, the Hospital softball team defeated Tantalum, 6-3, with Renwick, the winning pitcher, allowing only one hit. Tuesday, the team lost to McIntire, 4-3, although garnering nine hits to the winners' six. Tonight they play Fansteel at Dugdale Park in the last game of the first round in the Waukegan City League.

In an Officers' League game, Lt. Cdr. J. P. Draney's Hospital nine lost to Supply, 16-13, last Tuesday at Camp Green Bay.

Virgil (Fire) Trucks, the Bluejackets' ace pitcher, got his nickname from his feats on the gridiron in Birmingham, Ala.

To reach the 24 mark, the Bluejackets of 1944 have to whip Hell Co. of Milwaukee on Sunday, Flint, Mich., on Tuesday and the Ford Motor Co. on Wednesday. Then would come the 25th test: Fort Wayne a week from Sunday. The last might be the record-smashing game. All tilts are away from home.

William Pressley Baker is the gent who disposed of the Cubs. The Bluejacket catcher smacked a single with two out in the ninth to score the tying and winning runs.

For eight innings Paul Erickson had given the Bluejackets only three hits. Meanwhile the Cubs had hit Virgil Trucks fairly hard. They had counted a run in the sixth on



A HERO was Bill Baker, Bluejacket catcher. His single in the ninth beat the Cubs.

Bill Nicholson's homer and another in the eighth when Nicholson's fly drove home Cavarretta who had tripled.

Then things happened: Merrill May singled, Billy Herman forced him, Johnny McCarthy doubled down the right field foul line, Herman taking third. McCarthy was trapped between second and third as Woodling smacked a grounder to short. While Herman was scoring and Woodling was reaching first, McCarthy retired to second safely when Stan Hack's throw hit him in the back. Both runners advanced on a passed ball. Dick West was given a walk. Mizell Platt fled. Then up came game-breaker Baker with a sizzling drive through short.

During the past week the Bluejackets won four other games. They whipped the V-12 unit at Lawrence College, Appleton, 9-0; Grand Rapids, 15-0; Indiana State Prison, 21-6, and Michigan City Cubs, 11-6.

Jim Trexler, Great Lakes' only southpaw, struck out 20 against Lawrence College and allowed only two scratch hits. "Most I ever fanned in my life," the veteran laughed after the game. It was Trexler's fifth triumph to make him the winningest Bluejacket hurler.

Bluejacket Batting

	AB	R	H	Per
Gene Woodling	84	24	34	.405
Merrill May	97	31	35	.385
Mizell Platt	82	19	31	.378
Bill Baker	38	11	14	.368
Al Giossep	92	26	32	.348
Johnny McCarthy	97	28	33	.339
Dick West	71	16	22	.310
Clyde McCullough	26	7	11	.306
Billy Herman	84	24	28	.371



THE GANG'S ALL HERE, or part of it anyway, as these Cubs and ex-Cubs get together before Cubs-Bluejackets game. Left to right: Clyde McCullough, Great Lakes; Stan Hack, Cubs; Billy Herman, Great Lakes; Phil Cavarretta, Cubs; Bill Nicholson, Cubs, and Whitey Platt, Great Lakes.

The June 30th "Great Lakes Bulletin" from the Great Lakes Naval Training Center highlighted the Bluejackets' midseason winning streak and their recent dominance over the Chicago Cubs. During the 1944 season, the Bluejackets won at least seven games against Major League teams.

Mac
MCCULLOUGH
CATCHER FOR
LT. COMDR. "MICKEY" COCHRANE'S
GREAT LAKES 'Bluejackets'

ATTACK THE ENEMY, MEN!

NAVY LEADERSHIP...
WHEN HIS CHIEF
WENT TO SEA, MAC
TOOK OVER HIS COMPANY
AND DIRECTED IT THRU
GRADUATION!!

ORIGINALLY A 3RD BASEMAN,
MAC CAUGHT 30 STRAIGHT
GAMES WITH A 98¢ MITT...
THEN DECIDED TO STICK TO
CATCHING!!

IN 1942 WITH CHICAGO CUBS -
FIELDING AVERAGE
WAS 992... HIT 287...
• 87 ASSISTS. HIT
HOME RUNS IN EVERY
PARK IN THE LEAGUE.
-3 CONSECUTIVE
HOME RUNS IN ONE
GAME!!

I WUZ GYPED!

VISUAL AIDS • U.S.N.T.C. • GREAT LAKES. ILL.

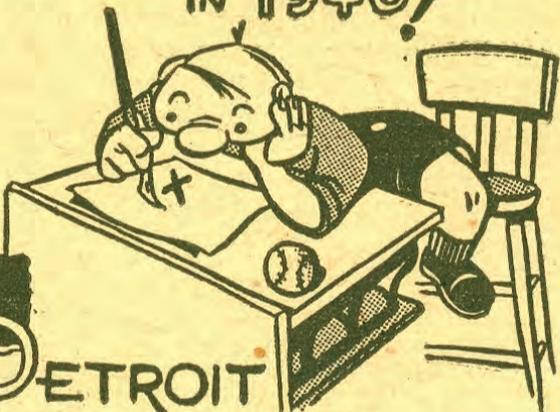
The 1944 Great Lakes Bluejackets included an abundance of Major League talent. Cartoons in the Naval Training Center's weekly newspaper captured the achievements of these players and funny takes on their Navy boot camp training.

Schoolboy ROWE

with
Mickey Cochran's
GREAT LAKES
BLUEJACKETS



HE WAS THE LEADING
AMERICAN LEAGUE PITCHER
IN 1940!



DETROIT
SIGNED HIM WHEN HE WAS
IN THE EIGHTH GRADE
..HENCE THE TAG OF "SCHOOLBOY"



ROWE

SAYS NAVY "BOOT"
TRAINING IS TOPS...
EVERYBODY SHOULD
HAVE SOME OF IT!

ROWE
BOAT!



MERRILL MAY

With
LT. COMDR. "MICKEY" COCHRANE'S
GREAT LAKES
BLUEJACKETS

APPEALING LIFE
... TO SAY THE
LEAST !!



W AS THE MOST SERIOUS BOOT
IN HIS COMPANY... CONSIDERS
NAVY DUTY THE GREATEST
ASSIGNMENT OF HIS LIFE!



WE LEAD THE AMERICAN
LEAGUE IN FIELDING
FOR 2 STRAIGHT YEARS
... PLAYED IN ALL-
STAR GAME IN 1940





Soldiers enjoyed this video clip of Leo Durocher leading Spring Training for the 1945 Brooklyn Dodgers, available on the National Archives YouTube Channel.



Women's Army Corps members at Camp Ross in California played softball.



Citations

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Letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Kenesaw Landis Regarding Baseball, 01/15/1942; PPF 227: Baseball; President's Personal Files, compiled 1933–1945; Papers as President, President's Personal File, 1933–1945; Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier: [6997537](#))

Photograph of Army Air Force Sergeant Joe DiMaggio and Navy Chief Specialist Harold "Pee Wee" Reese; Department of the Navy; National Archives at College Park.

Photograph of "Kwajalein natives vs USS *St. Paul*"; Report of the Inspection of the Caroline Islands by the U.S. Pacific Fleet, compiled 08/1946–10/1946; Federal Loan Agency. Reconstruction Finance Corporation. U.S. Commercial Company. (10/20/1945–1947); Records of the Office of Territories, Record Group 126; National Archives at San Francisco.

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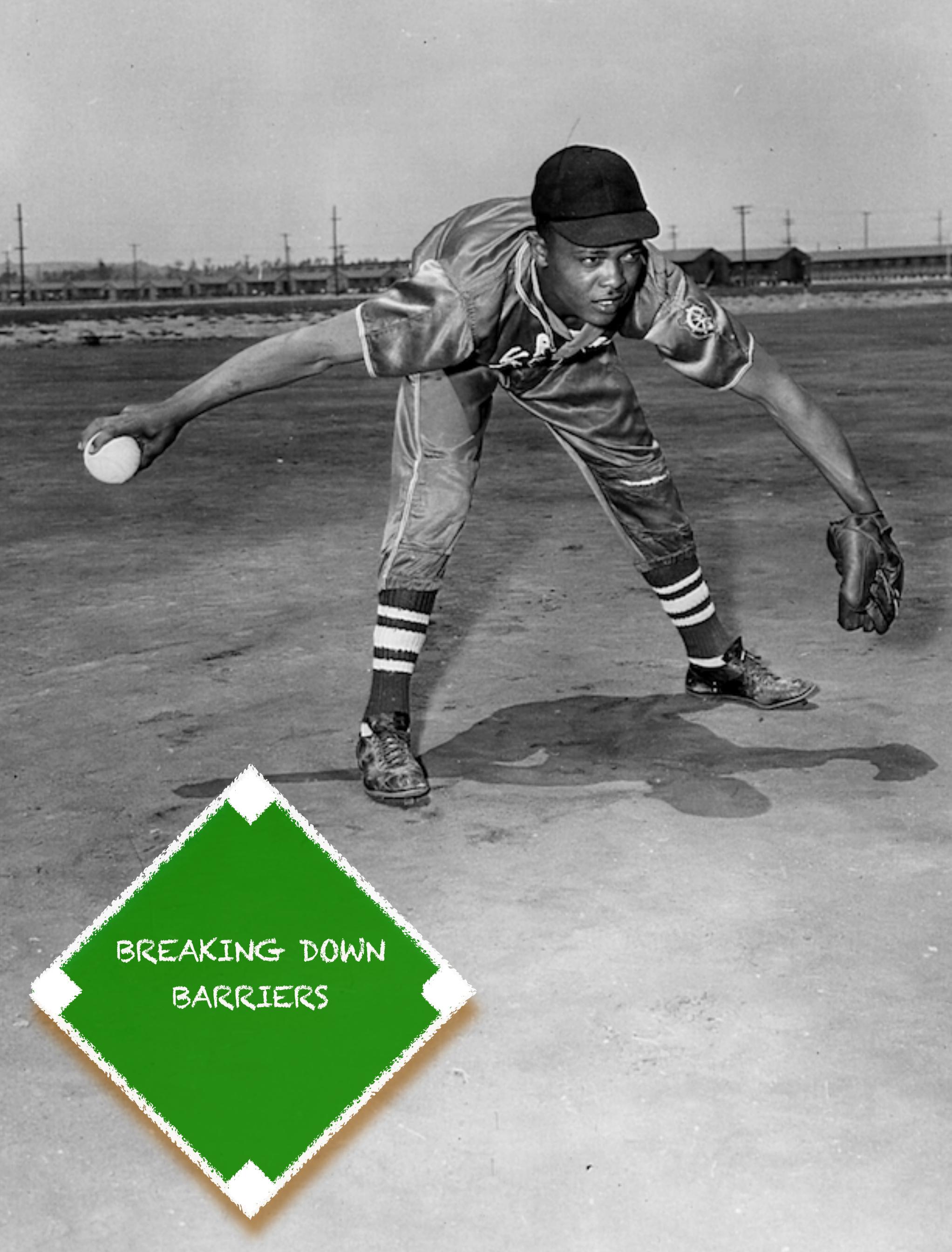
Schoolboy Rowe Cartoon, *Great Lakes Bulletin*, weekly newspaper of the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, 05/05/1944, page 7; Central Subject Files, compiled 1947–1953, documenting the period 1929–1953; Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Lake Bluff, Illinois. Office of the Commandant. (09/19/1947–); Records of the Naval Districts and Shore Establishments, Record Group 181; National Archives at Chicago.

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WAC Softball Team at Camp Ross, Wilmington, CA; 569.6 Publicity III 07–08/1944 [2/2]; Central Subject Files, compiled 1941–1946; War Department. Office of the Chief of Transportation. Los Angeles Port of Embarkation. (06/11/1946–09/18/1947); Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.

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T/Sgt. F. Helms Catcher Softball Team; 569.6 Publicity III 07–08/1944 [1/2]; Central Subject Files, compiled 1941–1946; War Department. Office of the Chief of Transportation. Los Angeles Port of Embarkation. (06/11/1946–09/18/1947); Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.



BREAKING DOWN
BARRIERS

Civil Rights On and Off the Field

The history of American baseball also documents the African American struggle for equality in the United States. Since the late 19th century, when Jim Crow policies took hold of the nation and its pastime, there were separate professional baseball leagues for blacks and whites. Many large cities throughout the country had teams in both the Major Leagues and the Negro Leagues. Black players wanted the opportunity to prove that their skills were just as good as those of white players. During World War II, and prior to integration in baseball and the U.S. military, baseball teams at Camp Ross and Camp Anza at the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation were surprisingly integrated.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson crossed the color line in major league baseball when he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. That decision would not only integrate baseball, but would help the country work to achieve equal rights for all. Civil

Rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., once commented to baseball pitcher Don Newcombe, "Don, you and Jackie will never know how easy you made my job, through what you went through on the baseball field."

Before becoming famous, Lt. Jack R. Robinson was court-martialed at Camp Hood, Texas, because he refused to move to the back of the bus after being told to do so by a bus driver and disobeying an order from a superior officer. Robinson was acquitted of all charges and received an honorable discharge, but this was not the only experience he would have in fighting discrimination.

After retiring from baseball, Robinson turned much of his attention to civil rights issues. He wrote to several Presidents about the cause, and even attended the March on Washington.



During World War II, Camp Ross was used by the Army as a cantonment area for U.S. troops at the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation. In 1945, the baseball team was integrated.



The softball team at Camp Anza was known as the "Zips." In 1944, there were two African American players on the team.



Camp Anza, a World War II military camp was located in Riverside, California. Sgt. Neely was one of the African American players on the Camp Anza softball team.



Jackie Robinson in his Brooklyn Dodgers uniform.

HEADQUARTERS XXIII CORPS

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL)

ORDERS NUMBER 130)

APO 103
Brownwood, Texas
23 August 1944

Before a general court-martial which convened at Camp Hood, Texas, pursuant to paragraph 6, Special Orders Number 120, this headquarters, 10 June 1944, as amended by paragraph 1, Special Order Number 123, this headquarters, 14 June 1944, and paragraph 8, Special Order Number 164, this headquarters, 29 July 1944, was arraigned and tried:

Second Lieutenant Jack R. Robinson, O-1031586, Cavalry, Company "C", 758th Tank Battalion.

CHARGE I: Violation of the 63rd Article of War.

Specification: In that Second Lieutenant Jack R. Robinson, Cavalry, Company "C", 758th Tank Battalion, did, at Camp Hood, Texas, on or about 6 July 1944, behave himself with disrespect toward Captain Gerald M. Bear, Corps Military Police, 1848th Unit, Eighth Service Command, Army Service Forces, his superior officer, by contemptuously bowing to him and giving him several sloppy salutes, repeating several times "OK Sir", "OK Sir" or words to that effect, and by acting in an insolent, impertinent and rude manner toward the said Captain Gerald M. Bear.

W.T.C.

CHARGE II: Violation of the 64th Article of War.

Specification: In that Second Lieutenant Jack R. Robinson, Cavalry, Company "C", 758th Tank Battalion, having received a lawful command from Captain Gerald M. Bear, Corps Military Police, 1848th Unit, Eighth Service Command, Army Service Forces, his superior officer to remain in a receiving room and be seated on a chair on the far side of the receiving room, did, at Camp Hood, Texas, on or about 6 July 1944, wilfully disobey the same.

PLEAS

To the Specification of Charge I: Not Guilty
To Charge I: Not Guilty

To the Specification of Charge II: Not Guilty
To Charge II: Not Guilty

MILITARY JUSTICE DIVISION, JAGO.

FINDINGS

TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Of all Specifications and Charges:
~~The record of trial in this case has been examined by this office and found legally sufficient to support the sentence.~~

Not Guilty

FILE
MISCL. ACT. OF. BR.
2194
9 Sep 44

262976

For the Adjutant General: - 1 -

E. G. Whitener
Chief Executive

SEP 9 1944
SEP 4 1944

Lt. Jack R. Robinson was court-martialed for being disrespectful to and disobeying the command of an officer. He pleaded not guilty to both charges and was acquitted for both on August 23, 1944.

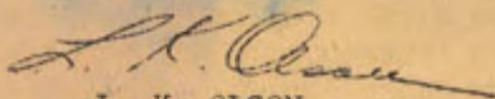
GCMO #130, XXIII Corps, 23 Aug 44 (Contd)

The court thereupon acquitted the accused on 2 August 1944.

By command of Major General WOGAN:

WALTER D. SUIE,
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:



L. K. OLSON
1st Lt. AGD
Asst AG

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Washington

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FRED MORROW

THE WHITE HOUSE

AM OPPOSED TO CIVIL RIGHTS BILL IN ITS PRESENT FORM
HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF MY FRIENDS WE
DISAGREE THAT HALF LOAF BETTER THAN ONE HAVE WAITED
THIS LONG FOR BILL WITH MEANING CAN WAIT A LITTLE
LONGER UNLESS HOUSE AMENDS BILL HOPE THE PRESIDENT WILL
VETO IT WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE MANY TRUE AMERICANS

WHO INSIST ON EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

JACKIE ROBINSON.

In this telegram to E. Frederick Morrow, Presidential Assistant to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jackie Robinson urged the President to veto the 1957 Civil Rights bill because it was—in his opinion—too weak.

3

Telephone
Murray Hill 2-0500

Chock Full o' Nuts

425 LEXINGTON AVENUE
New York 17, N. Y.

May 13, 1958

THE WHITE HOUSE
MAY 14 11 36 AM '58
RECEIVED

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I was sitting in the audience at the Summit Meeting of Negro Leaders yesterday when you said we must have patience. On hearing you say this, I felt like standing up and saying, "Oh no! Not again."

I respectfully remind you sir, that we have been the most patient of all people. When you said we must have self-respect, I wondered how we could have self-respect and remain patient considering the treatment accorded us through the years.

17 million Negroes cannot do as you suggest and wait for the hearts of men to change. We want to enjoy now the rights that we feel we are entitled to as Americans. This we cannot do unless we pursue aggressively goals which all other Americans achieved over 150 years ago.

As the chief executive of our nation, I respectfully suggest that you unwittingly crush the spirit of freedom in Negroes by constantly urging forbearance and give hope to those pro-segregation leaders like Governor Faubus who would take from us even those freedoms we now enjoy. Your own experience with Governor Faubus is proof enough that forbearance and not eventual integration is the goal the pro-segregation leaders seek.

In my view, an unequivocal statement backed up by action such as you demonstrated you could take last fall in deal-

MAY 26 1958

Jackie Robinson made a personal plea to President Dwight D. Eisenhower to show support and take action for black Americans.

The President

Page 2

May 13, 1958

ing with Governor Faubus if it became necessary, would let it be known that America is determined to provide -- in the near future -- for Negroes -- the freedoms we are entitled to under the constitution.

Respectfully yours,

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson

JR:cc

6
Telephone
MUrray Hill 2-0500

Chock full o' Nuts

425 LEXINGTON AVENUE
New York 17, N. Y.

Al Robison
THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 13 4 52 PM '61

RECEIVED

February 9, 1961

The President
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

I believe I now understand and appreciate better your role in the continuing struggle to fulfill the American promise of equal opportunity for all.

While I am very happy over your obviously fine start as our President, my concern over Civil Rights and my vigorous opposition to your election is one of sincerity. The direction you seem to be going indicates America is in for great leadership, and I will be most happy if my fears continue to be proven wrong. We are naturally keeping a wondering eye on what will happen, and while any opposition or criticism may not be the most popular thing when you are leading so well, you must know that as an individual I am interested because what you do or do not do in the next 4 years could have a serious effect upon my children's future.

In your letter to me of July 1, 1960, you indicated you would use the influence of the White House in cases where moral issues are involved. You have reiterated your stand, and we are very happy. Still, we are going to use whatever voice we have to awaken our people. With the new emerging African nations, Negro Americans must assert themselves more, not for what we can get as individuals, but for the good of the Negro masses.

I thank you for what you have done so far, but it is not how much has been done but how much more there is to do. I would like to be patient Mr. President, but patience has caused us years in our struggle for human dignity. I will continue to hope and pray for your aggressive leadership but will not refuse to criticize if the feeling persists that Civil Rights is not on the agenda for months to come.

Robison commended President John F. Kennedy on a "fine start" since his election, but pointed out his leisurely attitude towards civil rights.

Telephone
MUrray Hill 2-0500

Chock Full o' Nuts

425 LEXINGTON AVENUE
New York 17, N. Y.

The President

Page 2

February 9, 1961

May God give you strength and the energy to accomplish your most difficult task.

Respectfully yours,



Jackie Robinson

JR:cbc

The White House
Washington

*no
ans
File*

1963 JUN 15 AM 7 26

WA043 NL PD

TDN BROOKLYN NY 14

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

IT MIGHT SEEM FANTASTIC TO IMAGINE THAT EVEN IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ANYONE WOULD SEEK TO DO INJURY TO A NON-VIOLENT LEADER LIKE DR MARTIN KING AS HE GOES THERE THIS MORNING ON A MISSION OF SORROW. YET IT WAS FANTASTIC BUT TRUE THAT SOME DEPRAVED ASSASSIN GUNNED DOWN ANOTHER MAN OF NON-VIOLENCE THE LATE MEDGAR EVERS WHOSE FUNERAL DR KING AND HIS ASSOCIATES

In this telegram to President Kennedy, Robinson implored him to protect Martin Luther King, Jr., and others in the struggle for civil rights.

WILL BE ATTENDING TODAY IN JACKSON. SHOULD HARM COME TO DR KING TO ADD TO THE MISERY WHICH DECENT AMERICANS OF BOTH RACES EXPERIENCED WITH THE MURDER OF MR EVERS THE RESTRAINT OF MANY PEOPLE ALL OVER THIS NATION MIGHT BURST ITS BONDS AND BRING ABOUT A BRUTAL BLOODY HOLOCAUST THE LIKE OF WHICH THIS COUNTRY HAS NOT SEEN. I THEREFORE IMPORE YOU IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR RECENT MAGNIFICENT APPEAL FOR JUSTICE TO UTILIZE EVERY FEDERAL FACILITY TO PROTECT A MAN SORELY NEEDED FOR THIS ERA. FOR TO MILLIONS MARTIN KING SYMBOLIZES THE BEARING FORWARD OF THE TORCH FOR FREEDOM SO SAVAGELY WRESTED FROM THE DYING GRIP OF

MEDGAR EVERS AMERICA NEEDS AND THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO
LOSE HIM TO THE WHIMS OF MURDEROUS MANIACS

JACKIE ROBINSON.



Jackie Robinson and his son attended the March on Washington on August 28, 1963.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

PLEASE REPLY TO
22 W. 55TH STREET
NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK

April 18, 1967

Dear Mr. President:

First, let me thank you for pursuing a course towards Civil Rights that no President in our history has pursued. I am confident your dedication will not only continue, but will be accelerated dependent on the needs of all Americans.

While I am certain your faith has been shaken by demonstrations against the Viet Nam war, I hope the actions of any one individual does not make you feel as Vice President Humphrey does, that Dr. King's stand will hurt the Civil Rights movement. It would not be fair to the thousands of our Negro fighting men who are giving their lives because they believe, in most instances, that our Viet Nam stand is just. There are hundreds of thousands of us at home who are not certain why we are in the war. We feel, however, that you and your staff know what is best and we are willing to support your efforts for a honorable solution to the war.

I do feel you must make it infinitely clear, that regardless of who demonstrates, that your position will not change toward the rights of all people; that you will continue to press for justice for all Americans and that a strong stand now will have great effect upon young Negro Americans who could resort to violence unless they are reassured. Recent riots in Tennessee

continued.

Robinson strongly encouraged President Lyndon B. Johnson to continue on his path of promoting civil rights despite protests against the Vietnam War and riots in Tennessee and Ohio.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

PLEASE REPLY TO:
22 W. 85TH STREET
NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK

- 2 -

and Cleveland Ohio is warning enough. Your concern based on causes and not on whether it will hurt the Civil Rights effort, could have a wholesale effect on our youth.

I appreciate the difficult role any President has. I believe, also, yours is perhaps the most difficult any President has had. I hope God gives you the wisdom and strength to come through this crisis at home, and that an end to the war in Viet Nam is achieved very soon.

Again Sir, let me thank you for your domestic stand on Civil Rights. We need an even firmer stand as the issues become more personal and the gap between black and white Americans get wider.

Sincerely yours,

Jackie Robinson
Jackie Robinson

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington 25, D.C.

cc: Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey
Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller



JACKIE ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION CORP.

566 SYLVAN AVENUE • ENGLEWOOD, CLIFFS, N.J. 07632
TELEPHONE: 201-871-4216

April 20, 1972

The Honorable Roland L. Elliott
Deputy Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

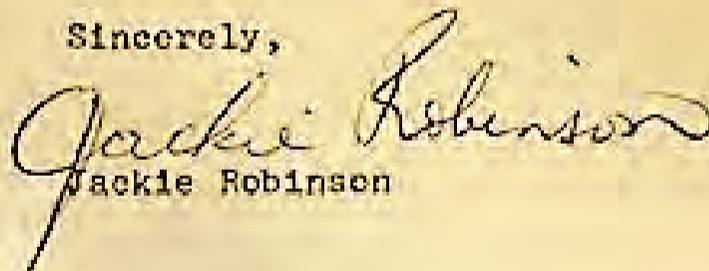
Dear Mr. Elliott:

Thanks for your letter of the 14th. I am sorry the President does not understand my concern. Black America, it seems, comes up short as Presidents study or give time to fashion standards that are designed to help all Americans when in reality it is a smoke screen.

Black America has asked so little, but if you can't see the anger that comes from rejection, you are treading a dangerous course. We older blacks, unfortunately, were willing to wait. Today's young blacks are ready to explode! We had better take some definitive action or I am afraid the consequences could be nation shattering.

I hope you will listen to the cries of the black youth. We cannot afford additional conflict.

Sincerely,


Jackie Robinson

In his cautionary letter to Ronald L. Elliott, Deputy Special Assistant to President Richard Nixon, Robinson warned of conflict between the races if no definitive action were taken.

Citations

Photograph of Camp Anza Softball Team, 06/07/1944; 569.6 General III Mar.-June 1944, Central Subject Files, 1941–1946; Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.

Photograph of Sgt. Neely, player on Camp Anza Softball Team, 07/06/1945; 569.6 Publicity IX April–Aug. 1945, Central Subject Files, 1941–1946; Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.

Photograph of Camp Ross Baseball Team, 07/14/1945; 569.6 Publicity IX April–Aug. 1945, Central Subject Files, 1941–1946; Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.

Jackie Robinson in his Brooklyn Dodgers Uniform, 1950; Master File Photographs of U.S. and Foreign Personalities, World Events, and American Economic, Social, and Cultural Life, compiled ca. 1953–ca. 1994; Records of the U.S. Information Agency, Record Group 306; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [6802718](#))

General Court Martial Orders Number 130, Headquarters XXII Corps, 08/23/1944; Official Military Personnel Files, compiled 1912–1998; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; National Archives at St. Louis. (National Archives Identifier [2641509](#))

Telegram to E. Frederick Morrow, Presidential Assistant to President Dwight D. Eisenhower from Jackie Robinson, 08/13/1957; White House Central Files (Eisenhower Administration), 1953–1961; Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library.

Letter to Jackie Robinson to President Eisenhower, 05/13/1958. Negro Matters - Colored Question (6), 1957–1958 ; Official Files, compiled 1953–1961, White House Central Files (Eisenhower Administration), 1953–1961; Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [186627](#))

Letter to President John F. Kennedy from Jackie Robinson, 02/09/1961; White House Staff Files of Harris Wofford, compiled 1961–1963; White House Staff Records (Kennedy Administration), 1960–1963; John Fitzgerald Kennedy Presidential Library.

Telegram from Jackie Robinson to President John F. Kennedy, 06/15/1963. White House Central Files, compiled 1961–1963; Presidential Papers of John F. Kennedy, 1961–1963; John Fitzgerald Kennedy Presidential Library.

Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. [Former National Baseball League player, Jackie Robinson with his son.], 08/28/1963; Miscellaneous Subjects, Staff and Stringer Photographs, compiled 1961–1974; Records of the U.S. Information Agency, Record Group 306; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier [542024](#))

Letter from Jackie Robinson to President Lyndon B. Johnson, 04/18/1967; White House Subject Files on Human Rights, compiled 11/22/1963–01/20/1969; White House Central Files (Johnson Administration), 11/22/1963–01/20/1969; Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library.

Letter to Roland L. Elliott, Deputy Special Assistant to President Richard Nixon from Jackie Robinson, 04/20/1972; White House Alpha (Alphabetical) Name Files, (Nixon Administration), 1969–1974, Richard Nixon Presidential Library.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

EASTERN DIVISION.

THE FEDERAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)
Plaintiff,)

vs.)

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)
THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)
AUGUST HERMANN, BANCROFT B. JOHNSON,)
JOHN K. TENER, et al.)
Defendants.)

In Equity.

ST. ^{Ohio} INDIANA)
Hilton (SS.)
COUNTY OF MASON)

DIAMONDS AND
DOLLARS

JOSEPH B. TINKER, being first duly sworn,
says that he is a professional
resides in the City of Chicago,
Illinois; that he plays the position in baseball known as
shortstop; that he began to play professional baseball
in the year 1890, with the Denver team of the Western
League; that he finished the season of 1900 with the Hel-
ena Team of the Montana State League; that in the year

Conflicts over Contracts

“After twelve years in the Major League, I do not feel that I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes.”

Curt Flood penned those words in a letter to Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn in October 1969 after being traded from the St. Louis Cardinals to the Philadelphia Phillies. Nearly 56 years earlier, Joseph Tinker joined the upstart Federal League, a third league attempting to enter organized baseball, after he was traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers despite his expressed wishes to play in the Midwest.

As highlighted in both of these examples, baseball owners were able to exert great control over players and their careers. They did so primarily through the contract reserve clause. Dating back to the 1880s, the reserve clause guaranteed the team that first signed a player “the rights” to that player until he was traded or retired. Initially created to stabilize and professionalize the game, the reserve clause had kept players’ salaries in check and ensured owners a sense of financial stability in the game. Several players, including Flood, filed lawsuits challenging the reserve clause on antitrust grounds and looked to the courts for justice without success.

Eventually in 1975, the reserve clause was struck down and free agency was established. The economic structure of the game changed, and players’ salaries skyrocketed in the ensuing years. By 1994, the owners claimed they were experiencing severe financial distress and demanded a salary cap during negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. Players would not accept this, and the preceding years of mistrust led to an early end to the season when owners locked out players on August 12, 1994. President Clinton tried to save the 1995 season with the encouragement of consistent and fruitful negotiation to work out differences. In the end, current Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayer, who served as a federal judge in New York City at that time, issued an injunction against the baseball team owners for alleged violations of the National Labor Relations Act. That ended the 232-day strike, but it would take more to cleanse and refurbish baseball’s image for the fans.



CURT FLOOD & ASSOC., INC.

CURT FLOOD STUB:CS

8007 Clayton Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63117
Parkview 5-3550

December 24, 1969

Mr. Bowie K. Kuhn
Commissioner of Baseball
680 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Kuhn:

After twelve years in the Major Leagues, I do not feel that I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes. I believe that any system which produces that result violates my basic rights as a citizen and is inconsistent with the laws of the United States and of the several States.

It is my desire to play baseball in 1970, and I am capable of playing. I have received a contract offer from the Philadelphia Club, but I believe I have the right to consider offers from other clubs before making any decisions. I, therefore, request that you make known to all the Major League Clubs my feelings in this matter, and advise them of my availability for the 1970 season.

Sincerely yours,

Curt Flood

CF/j

CC - Mr. Marvin J. Miller ✓

- Mr. John Quinn



EXHIBIT D

Curt Flood sent this letter, later used as an exhibit in his court case, to Commissioner of Baseball Kuhn requesting that he be allowed to entertain offers from other clubs.

BASEBALL
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
660 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019

BOWIE K. KUHN
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE 212-265-6200

December 30, 1969

Dear Curt:

This will acknowledge your letter of December 24, 1969, which I found on returning to my office yesterday.

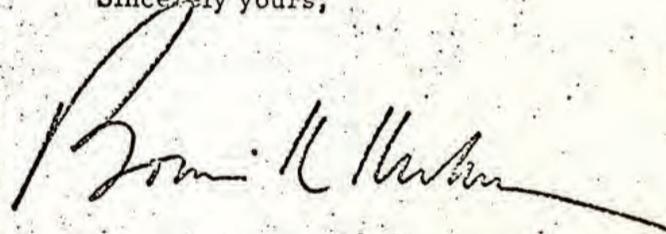
I certainly agree with you that you, as a human being, are not a piece of property to be bought and sold. That is fundamental in our society and I think obvious. However, I cannot see its applicability to the situation at hand.

You have entered into a current playing contract with the St. Louis club which has the same assignment provision as those in your annual Major League contracts since 1956. Your present contract has been assigned in accordance with its provisions by the St. Louis club to the Philadelphia club. The provisions of the playing contract have been negotiated over the years between the clubs and the players, most recently when the present Basic Agreement was negotiated two years ago between the clubs and the Players Association.

If you have any specific objection to the propriety of the assignment, I would appreciate your specifying the objection. Under the circumstances, and pending any further information from you, I do not see what action I can take and cannot comply with the request contained in the second paragraph of your letter.

I am pleased to see your statement that you desire to play baseball in 1970. I take it this puts to rest any thought, as reported earlier in the press, that you were considering retirement.

Sincerely yours,



BKK/ms

Mr. Curt Flood
Curt Flood & Assoc., Inc.
8007 Clayton Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63117

cc: ✓ Mr. Marvin J. Miller
cc: Mr. Vaughan P. (Bing) Devine
cc: Mr. John J. Quinn

EXHIBIT E

After receiving this response, Flood continued with his plans and initiated a lawsuit against Major League Baseball.



St. Louis National Baseball Club, Inc.

October 8, 1969

Mr. Curtis C. Flood
4466 West Pine
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Dear Curt:

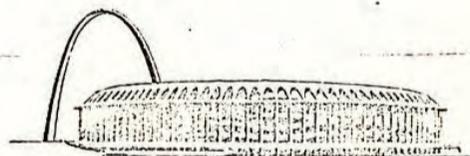
Enclosed herewith is Player Report Notice #614 covering the
OUTRIGHT assignment of your contract to the Philadelphia Club
of the National League, October 8, 1969.

Best of luck.

Sincerely yours,


Bing Devine
General Manager

BD:maq
enc.



AUGUST A. BUSCH, JR., PRESIDENT / BUSCH MEMORIAL STADIUM / ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102 / 314-421-3060

EXHIBIT C

Flood received this notice that he was traded to the Phillies after playing with the St. Louis Cardinals for 11 years.

NOTICE TO PLAYER

No. 614

NOTICE TO PLAYER OF RELEASE OR TRANSFER
NATIONAL LEAGUE

To Mr. Curtis Charles Flood Catcher, 1969

You are hereby notified as follows:

- ~~1. That you are unconditionally released.~~
- 2. That your contract has been assigned to the Philadelphia
Club of National League. ~~(a) Without right of recall.~~
~~(b) With right of recall.~~

(Cross out parts not applicable. In case of optional agreement, specify all conditions affecting player.)

ST. LOUIS NATIONAL BASEBALL CLUB, INC.

Samuel W. Brown Corporate Name of Club.

President
C. F. M. R.

Copy must be delivered to player; also forwarded to President of League of which Club is a member, and to the Commissioner.

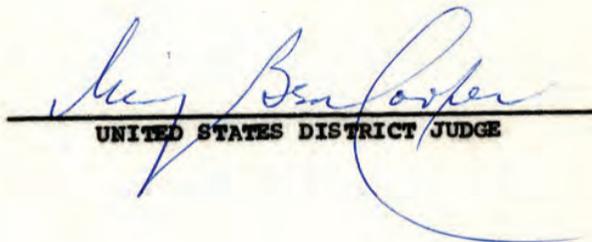
Although a resolution of the merits of the reserve system would be inappropriate at this time, it is nevertheless our hope that by obtaining a complete record covering not only the threshold question of whether plaintiff states a cause of action, but the merits of his claims as well, we may have obviated the possibility of piecemeal determinations and consequent delay.

The foregoing opinion constitutes this Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Rule 52(a), F.R.Civ.P.

For the reasons already set forth, the Clerk is directed to enter judgment in favor of defendants and against plaintiff on each cause of action herein.

SO ORDERED:

New York, N.Y.
August 12, 1970


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

The U.S. District Court judge ruled against Flood and agreed with existing legal precedent in his opinion, while still recognizing the contentious nature of the reserve clause.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

EASTERN DIVISION.

THE FEDERAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL)
BASEBALL CLUBS,)

AUGUST HERMANN, BANCROFT B. JOHNSON,)
JOHN K. TENER, et al.)

Defendants.)

In Equity.

Ohio
STATE OF INDIANA)
Hamilton (SS.)
COUNTY OF MARION)

JOSEPH B. TINKER, being first duly sworn,
on his oath, deposes and says that he is a professional
baseball player; that he resides in the City of Chicago,
Illinois; that he plays the position in baseball known as
shortstop; that he began to play professional baseball
in the year 1900, with the Denver team of the Western
League; that he finished the season of 1900 with the Hel-
ena Team of the Montana State League; that in the year

In his court deposition, Joe Tinker shared his frustration with the multiple trades, contract clauses, and the overall lack of opportunity to control his baseball career.

1901 he played with the Portland Team, of the Pacific Northwest League; that the three leagues above mentioned were and are members of so-called "organized baseball;" that for the years 1902 to 1912, inclusive, he played the position of shortstop on the Chicago Club of the National League, likewise in "organized baseball"; that said team won the League championship for the years 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1910, and the World's championship for the years 1907 and 1908; that for the year 1913 he played the position of shortstop for the Cincinnati Club of said National League and was manager for said Club; that for the year 1914 he played the position of shortstop for the Chicago Club of the Federal League, and was manager for said Club; that the Federal League is not a member of so-called "organized baseball".

Affiant further states that by "organized baseball" is meant The National League, The American League, The American Association and all other minor leagues of baseball throughout America; that the only league in America not included in the said term "organized baseball" is the Federal League.

Affiant says that during the years which he played in so-called "organized baseball", he was sold on three separate occasions, without at any time being consulted with regard to his sale or his wishes in regard to his place of abode, or the team to which he would be sold; that the said sales were as follows, to-wit:

In the season of 1900 he was sold by the Great Falls, Montana, Ball Club to the Helena, Montana, Ball Club of the Pacific Northwest League; that in the fall of 1901 he was sold from the Portland Club of the Pacific Northwest League to the Chicago National League Ball Club; that in the fall of 1913 he was sold by the Cincinnati Exhibition Company, owner of the Cincinnati Club, to the Brooklyn Ball Club of said National League.

He further states in this connection that he does not know by what right ^{if any} he was sold in any or either of the instances above mentioned, but he understands and believes, and so states the fact to be, that he was sold in accordance with the ^{alleged} right of "organized baseball", and pursuant to its practice and custom in such matters, and that he ^{at the time of such sales} ~~believed~~ ^{he} had no right or power in any manner to prevent ^{the same} ~~such sales~~.

Affiant further says that his sale to Brooklyn was contrary to his express wish which he had communicated by letter to Wilbert Robinson, Manager for said Brooklyn Club, and was made despite his efforts to prevent it.

Affiant further says that for each and every season that he played in "organized baseball" he signed a contract after the close of the playing season for the succeeding season, excepting for the seasons 1909, 1910 and 1911, and that for said seasons, after the close of the season of 1908, he signed one contract; that said contracts were each and every of them in the regular form prescribed by the National Commission, and used by the Chicago National

League Club; that affiant understood that he was not free to negotiate with any club other than the Chicago National League Club for his services, and that no other club had a right to negotiate with him, without the consent of said Chicago National League Club; that whether his rights in this respect and the rights of the clubs of organized baseball were limited by the reservation ~~clause~~ ^{provision in the National Agreement or} *the alleged option to renew* in his contract or not, affiant does not know, but he is informed and believes that it was pursuant to such reservation *provision.*

He further states in this connection that it is not the practice in organized baseball that players whose services are reserved under the alleged contract rights of reservation are given any notice of the fact of such reservation, other than by the forwarding to such players after the close of the playing season of a contract for the succeeding season.

Affiant further states that since he has played professional ball he has protested against contracts with the "ten day release clause", so-called, submitted to him by the said clubs because said contracts permitted the club to release the player at any time on ten days notice without any justifiable cause, and whereas there is no reciprocal provision in the contract, whereby the player may leave the service of the club on ten days notice; that notwithstanding his protest, he has always been informed by the managers of the clubs that the forms of contract

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 26, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

America has been living without baseball for far too long. Now, as the strike drags on, it threatens the start of the 1995 season. It could well damage the economies of the spring training states. It is imperiling the livelihoods of tens of thousands of workers whose jobs depend on baseball. And it is trying the patience and depressing the spirits of millions of baseball fans--including me. It is time for this strike to end.

It has always been my belief--and it continues to be--that the baseball strike, like any labor dispute, should be settled through good-faith bargaining between the parties. It was with this principle in mind that I endorsed the Secretary of Labor's proposal to appoint the best mediator around--former Labor Secretary Bill Uery--to help the parties sort out their differences.

Over the last two days, I have spoken with Secretary Reich and with former Secretary Uery about the status of the strike negotiations. We discussed all of the alternatives. I remain convinced that the best way to get baseball back for America is for the parties to reach their own settlement. But we cannot wait indefinitely.

This morning, I asked Bill Uery to bring the owners and the players back to the table, and to step up the pace and intensity of his mediation efforts.

I have asked him to report back to me by February 6 with the progress they have made. If the parties have not reached an agreement by then--or are not on track towards a speedy settlement--I have asked Mr. Uery, if he believes it appropriate, to put forth his own recommendations for a proposed settlement between the parties.

I hope it doesn't come to that. I urge the owners and the players to give their full support to this mediation effort, and to settle this unfortunate dispute themselves. It is time to put behind us the rancor and cynicism that are shadowing the American ideal of baseball. It is time to let all the excitement that the 1995 season can offer sweep away that tarnished image. It's time to "play ball."

-30-30-30-

With this statement, President Clinton informed the public that he asked former Secretary of Labor Bill Uery to bring both sides back to the negotiating table and report progress by February 6.



On February 7, President Clinton held a press conference, shown in a video available on the Clinton Presidential Library's YouTube Channel, to share the disappointing news that, with Spring Training nine days away, owners and players had not worked out their differences.

A transcript of the press conference reads:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 7, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER MEETING WITH BASEBALL REPRESENTATIVES

The Briefing Room

10:51 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Sorry to keep you here so long tonight. I had hoped that tonight I'd be coming out to tell you that baseball was coming back in 1995; and for a good while this evening, I thought that that might well be the case. Unfortunately, the parties have not reached agreement.

The American people are the real losers -- the major league cities; the spring training communities; the families of thousands of Americans who won't have work unless there's a baseball season; and of course, the millions of fans who have waited now for six long months for the owners and the players to give us back our national pastime.

I have done all I could to change this situation. At my request, Bill Uery, the highly respected former Secretary of Labor, has been working very hard in mediating this dispute. He has certainly gone the extra mile, and we all owe him our thanks. But the players and owners still remain apart on their differences. Clearly they are not capable of settling this strike without an umpire. So I have now concluded, since I have no legal authority in this situation, as all of you know and have known for some time, that I should send to the Congress legislation seeking binding arbitration of the baseball dispute.

This is not a request for a congressionally imposed solution. It is a request for the only process we have left to us to find a solution through neutral parties. And the only way to do this appears to be for Congress to step up to the plate and pass the legislation. Unless they do, we may not have baseball in 1995.

I know that the people in Congress say they have other pressing business, and they certainly do have other pressing business. I regret very much having to send this legislation there, but spring training is just nine days away, and I think many Americans consider this pressing. At least when the bill goes to the Congress, the American people can make themselves heard one way or the other on the legislation, and Congress can consider it.

Clearly, the best solution is still one that is voluntary. I still call again on both sides to work with Mr. Uery to narrow their differences. Hopefully, they can reach agreement. If not, then Mr. Uery's recommendations as to where the parties are at the time can be made available to the arbitrators.

I urge the parties to embrace this course themselves. And, as I said, I had hoped for a while tonight that they would. We have done the best we can. The American people have been frustrated by the strike. I think all the parties who were here tonight have now been frustrated by the strike.

There is something the American people can do. They can tell their senator or representative whether they feel this is a proper case for binding arbitration. Last fall, for the first time in 90 years, there was no World Series. If something goes on for that long without interruption, seeing our nations through wars and dramatic social changes, it becomes more than a game, more than simply a way to pass time. It becomes part of who we are. And we've all got to work to preserve that part.

So again I say, I call on the players and the owners to go back, to keep talking, to work through this. There is still time. I will send the legislation to Congress with the full expectation that Congress will consider it in light of what they believe their constituents want, which their constituents will have the opportunity to tell them.

Q Mr. President, you've met now with the players and the owners. In your opinion, who is more to blame for this impasse? And why won't they simply accept voluntarily binding arbitration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think both sides have their share of blame, and I think it would be wrong for me to characterize it at this time. I don't think that would help to settle the suit. You should ask them why they won't accept what they won't accept. They will both have different explanations for that, and I will leave it for them to put it out there. I did urge that course strongly.

Q Mr. President, what gave rise to the optimism you felt during the course of the evening that a settlement might be possible?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't want to do anything to weaken either side's position or characterize it in a way they might later think is unfair. Let me just say, I thought that we were about to get agreement on a process which would permit the next season to be played, that would permit spring training to occur, and that would lead to the resolution of these issues. I thought that we had worked our way through -- there were some new ideas presented tonight as we discussed, as we talked.

That's why, you know, when they didn't reach agreement, when they came over here at 4:30 p.m., I thought I was going to come out and make the statement I just made to you. But then, I said we ought to try one more time. And the Vice President sat with Mr. Uesery and both sides, and then about 7:00 p.m. I began to meet with them. Now, we've worked hard for more than three hours now, and we could not agree on a process that both sides thought was fair to their interest which would immediately permit me to announce that baseball would be played this season. But we did have some new ideas offered that had not been on the table before that I thought would lead to that. Unfortunately, it did not, at least it has not tonight.

Q Mr. President when will you send up your legislation? And are you asking Congress to make this their top priority, putting aside their other business until they complete action on this?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to send it up tomorrow, and I would like to have it considered expeditiously, yes. I haven't looked at the congressional calendar; I don't even know what their options are for that. But I think it should be considered expeditiously. I think, obviously it can't be done in a day or two, anyway, so the Congress will have time to hear from the American people, pro and con. This is an unusual request. I realize that. There is no baseball commissioner, we'd lost the World Series, millions upon millions of dollars in lost income is at stake, and a lot more as well. So I hope they will consider it expeditiously. I think that's the only way it could lead to a season in '95.

Q How do you compare this, Mr. President, to say President Kennedy, acting on steel prices and former uses of the office and the Oval Office for labor dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's a little different in the sense that the steel price issue could have sent inflation through the economy and the steel price issue could have sent inflation through the economy and shut the economy down. I've tried to explain that if it weren't for the unusual nature of this case, I would not be intervening in the baseball case because the economy of the country won't go down as a result of it. The inflation rate of the country won't go up as a result of something that could or couldn't happen.

This is far more in the nature of a unique set of circumstances where there isn't a commissioner and there should have been to resolve this, and where there is immediate substantial threat to a large number of communities affected by spring training and the communities that have baseball teams, and where I think the country would be well served by resolving this. So it is different in that sense.

I was looking at the history of presidential action in these areas, going back to the first one, which I believe was under President Theodore Roosevelt, which, unfortunately, was also unsuccessful. Just three years before he settled the Russo-Japanese War and won the Nobel Peace Prize he found difficulty in settling a labor dispute here in the United States.

I still think this can be settled. The parties are just going to have to decide whether they want to have a baseball season in '95 and what the long-term damage to baseball will be and, therefore, the economics of both sides if it doesn't happen.

Q Mr. President, if the season begins with replacement players, would you throw out the first ball?

THE PRESIDENT: I am encouraging these parties to go back and work out their differences. Until I am convinced that they have exhausted all opportunities to do that, the less I say about all other issues, the better we're going to be. I do not want to be yet another force undermining the possibility of an agreement. I want to be a force to create an increased likelihood of an agreement, and that's what I've done so far. I'm sorry I don't have a success to report tonight, I'm not sorry I tried, and we'll keep working at it.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 11:00 P.M. EST

Citations

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Remarks by the President After Meeting with Baseball Representatives, 02/07/1995, [<http://clinton6.nara.gov/1995/02/1995-02-07-remarks-by-president-on-meeting-with-baseball-reps.html>] Clinton Presidential Materials Project, National Archives and Records Administration.



FOR THE LOVE OF
THE GAME

Presidents and First Ladies as Fans

Fan. It is short for aficionado, which means ardent devotee or enthusiast. If you have ever been to a baseball game you can see how easy it is to become a fan of the game and the experience. Entering a ballpark, whether it is for Little League, the minor leagues, or the colossal stadiums of the Majors, creates a feeling of excitement. The smell of popcorn, singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” watching the acrobatic skill of a shortstop turn a double play, or witnessing a homerun are all part of the experience that keeps fans returning year after year. Opening Day provides hope for fans that maybe their team will win the pennant and play into October.

The now-archived 2007 White House website included a “Presidents and Baseball” page with an image of President Taft, captioned “President William Howard Taft was the first President to throw out the first ball of the baseball season on

April 14, 1910. He threw a pitch to the Washington Senators’ Opening Day pitcher, Walter Johnson. The next day, Taft’s image dominated the sports pages.”

Most people are familiar with U.S. Presidents throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, but some of our Presidents have been and are true fans of the game. George H.W. Bush was captain and first baseman of the baseball team at Yale, and he carried his love of the game to the Oval Office. He kept his first baseman’s mitt from his Yale days in his desk drawer while President.

William Jefferson Clinton was President during the 1994 baseball strike, one of the lowest points in baseball history, but he did his best to help bring about a resolution between players and owners. In a heartfelt address on the eve of the 1995 World Series, Clinton spoke of his love for the game and how important it is to America. Listeners connected with this fan of the game—who just so happened to be the President of the United States.

First Ladies have also enjoyed the national game. Bess Truman was seen casting her vote, not for the Presidential election, but for the All-Star Game of 1953. Barbara Bush even threw out the first pitch at a Texas Rangers baseball game donning heels and pearls!



This screen grab from the 2007 White House website of President George W. Bush shows President Taft throwing the first pitch. The site was “frozen in time” at noon on January 20, 2009, as President Barack Obama took the oath of office. It is archived on servers with National Archives-affiliated archives at the University of North Texas.



In front of an enthusiastic crowd, President Franklin D. Roosevelt threw out the first pitch at a game between the Washington Senators and the Boston Red Sox at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., on April 24, 1934.



President John F. Kennedy threw out the first pitch on Opening Day in 1962 at a game between the Washington Senators and the Detroit Tigers at D.C. Stadium on April 9.



A great fan and former radio announcer for the Chicago Cubs, President Ronald Reagan threw out the first pitch at a Cubs vs. Pirates game at Chicago's Wrigley Field on September 30, 1988.



In 1948, Babe Ruth donated the manuscript of his autobiography to Yale University. George H.W. Bush, the captain of the Yale baseball team, received it.



On Opening Day of the 1947 baseball season, President Harry S. Truman attended the game between the Washington Senators and the New York Yankees at Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC. Before the game Truman shook hands with members of the teams.



Homerun King Hank Aaron received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, from President George W. Bush in June 2002.



First Lady Bess Truman and her daughter, Margaret, cast their ballots for the 1953 All-Star Game at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C.



Atop the mound in Arlington Stadium, First Lady Barbara Bush threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Texas Rangers vs. Boston Red Sox game in Arlington, Texas, on May 5, 1989.



A [radio address delivered by President Bill Clinton on October 21, 1995, available online from the Clinton Presidential Library](#), revealed a personal side of the President as a thankful fan for the return of baseball.

A transcript of the address reads:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

(Des Moines, Iowa)

For Immediate Release

October 21, 1995

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

Savery Hotel

Des Moines, Iowa

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I want to talk to you today about American renewal. Not economic renewal, though our economy is certainly on the move. Not the renewal of peace, though the United States is leading hopeful efforts towards peace from the Middle East to Northern Ireland to Bosnia. Not even the renewal of the American spirit, though there is a tide of optimism rising over our country as we harness technology and other changes to increase opportunities for all our people and strengthen our families and communities. No, the American renewal I want to talk to you about today is the renewal of our National Pastime, the renewal of baseball.

A year ago, for the first time in 90 years, we found ourselves without a World Series. And, boy, did we miss it. We missed those nail-biting extra-inning nights. We missed a game that for so many of us is so much more than a game. Well, tonight, with the start of the World Series, baseball is back. And we couldn't be happier.

Baseball is a part of our common heritage. Its simple virtues -- teamwork, playing by the rules, dedication and optimism -- demonstrate basic American values. We can look out at the green grass of the outfield, or feel the worn leather of an old glove, or watch a Latino shortstop scoop the ball to a black second-baseman, who then throws it to a white first-baseman in a perfect double play, and say, yes, this sure is America. This is who we are.

At its best, baseball is more than just a field of dreams. Every season brings our children and many adults face to face with heroes to look up to and goals to work toward. This year was no different. Greg Maddux's 1.63 ERA; Albert Belle's 50 homeruns and 50 doubles; and of course, most important, Cal Ripken's 2,131st consecutive game. All these inspire countless young people to play the game, and those of us who are older to make the most of the talents God has given us, no matter what kind of work we do.

While baseball provides role models, it also helps us recognize these American values in everyday life. Just before Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record I saw a story about other dedicated workers, featuring a bus driver who hadn't missed a day's work in 18 years.

This man said he didn't see anything unusual about himself; after all, his father had told him we're all supposed to work hard and show up every day. But had it not been for Cal Ripken, we would never have had the opportunity to meet this wonderful

man or to appreciate the hard work that he and millions and millions of other Americans do every day just by showing up for work like Cal Ripken did.

Baseball does something more. It helps to hold us together; it helps us to come together. I've been fortunate enough to see a lot of our great country. Just about everywhere I've ever been I've come across a baseball diamond. No matter where you go in America, sooner or later there will be a patch of green, a path of dirt, and a home plate.

When I was growing up in Arkansas, baseball connected me to the rest of America. My team was the St. Louis Cardinals, the closest team to my home state. They were the ones we got on the radio. And I spent a lot of hot summer nights listening to the heroics of Stan Musial come over my transistor, like thousands of other young kids all over America.

Baseball also teaches us tolerance. It teaches us to play as hard as we can and still be friends when the game's over; to respect our differences, and to be able to lose with dignity as well as win with joy -- but real tolerance for differences. I mean, after all, my wife was raised in Chicago as a Cubs fan, and she married me even though I'd grown up rooting for the Cardinals. And everybody in the Midwest knows that when Cubs fans and Cardinal fans can sit down together, that's real tolerance.

If you watch one of the 178,000 Little League teams in this country, you also will see real community in America. Two and a half million of our children get together to play this sport, boys and girls. And that's not counting everyone who supports the teams and shows up for the games and practices and bake sales. Communities large and small grow up around baseball -- kids playing a pick-up game until it's too dark to see; folks getting together for softball after work; families walking together to see a home game at their local ball park.

This has been a wonderful baseball season. When it's over, and the owners and players sit down to resolve their labor dispute, I hope they'll remember the spirit of the season, the spirit we all feel right now, and use it to come together to build a lasting agreement. America doesn't need to lose baseball in a squabble. America needs to keep baseball.

During World War II, there was a debate about whether baseball should continue while so many of our young Americans were fighting for freedom around the world. President Roosevelt knew we should play ball. He wrote, "It would be best for the country to keep baseball going. Everybody will work longer hours and harder than ever before. And that means they ought to have a chance for taking their minds off their work even more than before."

Well, we still need baseball. We know we have many important challenges facing us as a nation, as we prepare for the 21st century. We know that we're having important debates in Washington and real differences. But tonight, I just hope Americans will be able to take their minds off all that and their own work for a moment. I hope they'll be able to wonder instead at the arc of a homerun, a catch at the wall, the snap of the ball in the back of a mitt. Soon these sights and sounds will become a new part of our shared national memory of baseball.

Tonight, fans of the Cleveland Indians and the Atlanta Braves will watch with special interest. But all of us Americans have reason to smile, for baseball is back.

Thanks for listening, and play ball.

END

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President Franklin D. Roosevelt Throwing a Baseball at Griffith Stadium, Washington, DC, 04/24/1934. Photographs of Franklin D. Roosevelt, compiled 1882–1945; Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Photographs, 1870–2004; Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [6728515](#))

President John F. Kennedy Throws the First Pitch of the 1962 Baseball Season, 04/09/1962; Abbie Rowe White House Photographs, compiled 12/06/1960–03/11/1964; White House Photographs, 12/19/1960–03/11/1964; John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [6817167](#))

President Reagan Throwing out the First Pitch at a Baseball Game between the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois, 09/30/198; Reagan White House Photographs, compiled 01/20/1981–01/20/1989; White House Photographic Collection, 01/20/1981–01/20/1989; Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [6728673](#))

George Bush, captain of the Yale baseball team, receives Babe Ruth's manuscript of his autobiography which he was donating to Yale, 1948; George H.W. Bush Presidential Photographs, compiled 01/20/1989–01/20/1993; Records of the White House Photograph Office, 01/20/1989–01/20/1993; George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [186375](#))

Photograph of President Truman shaking hands with Washington manager Ossie Bluege and New York Yankees manager Bucky Harris at Washington's Griffith Stadium, on opening day of the baseball season., 04/18/1947; Photographs Relating to the Administration, Family and Personal Life of Harry S. Truman, compiled 1957-2004; Audiovisual Collection, 1957-2006; Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [199579](#))

President Bush Presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award to Baseball Legend Henry Aaron, 07/09/2002; Photographs Related to the George W. Bush Administration, compiled 01/20/2001–01/20/2009; Records of the White House Photo Office (George W. Bush Administration), 01/20/2001–01/20/2009; George W. Bush Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [6734115](#))

Photograph of Bess Truman and Margaret Truman casting their votes for players to appear in Major League Baseball's All-Star Game, probably at Griffith Stadium in Washington., 06/24/1953; Photographs Relating to the Administration, Family, and Personal Life of Harry S. Truman, compiled 1957–2004; Audiovisual Collection, 1957–2006; Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [200441](#))

First Lady Barbara Bush Throws the Ceremonial First Pitch of a Texas Rangers Baseball Game, Dallas, TX, 05/05/1989; George H.W. Bush Presidential Photographs, compiled 01/20/1989–01/20/1993; Records of the White House Photograph Office, 01/20/1989–01/20/1993. George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. (National Archives Identifier [6728214](#))

Digital Audio Recording Containing a Recording of a Weekly Radio Address made by President William Jefferson Clinton, 10/21/1995; Audio Recordings Relating to William J. Clinton, Audio Recordings of the White House Communications Agency (Clinton Administration), 01/20/1993–01/20/2001, William J. Clinton Presidential Library.

William J. Clinton: "The President's Radio Address," 10/21/1995. Online from the Government Printing Office, [<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/WCPD-1995-10-30/html/WCPD-1995-10-30-Pg1900.htm>]



7TH-INNING STRETCH

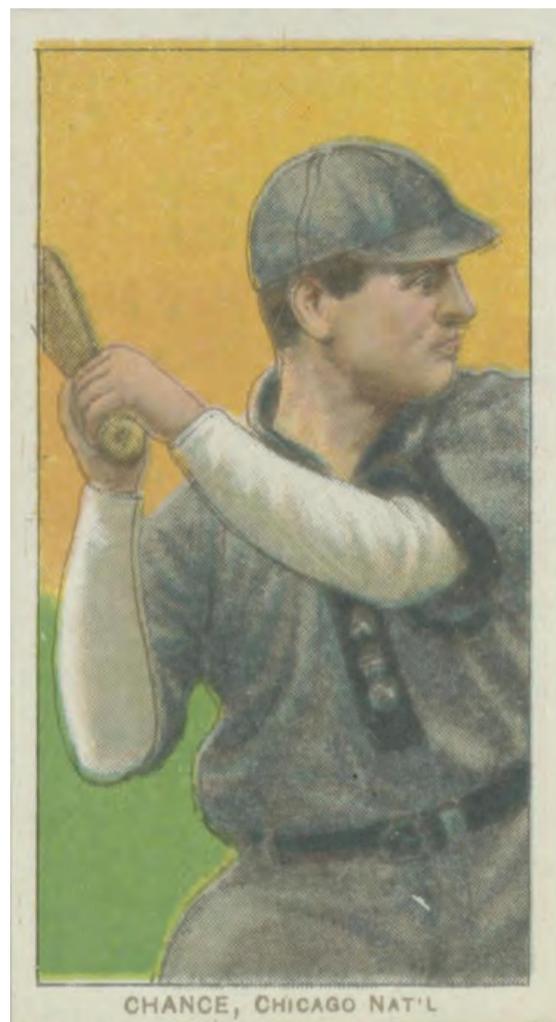
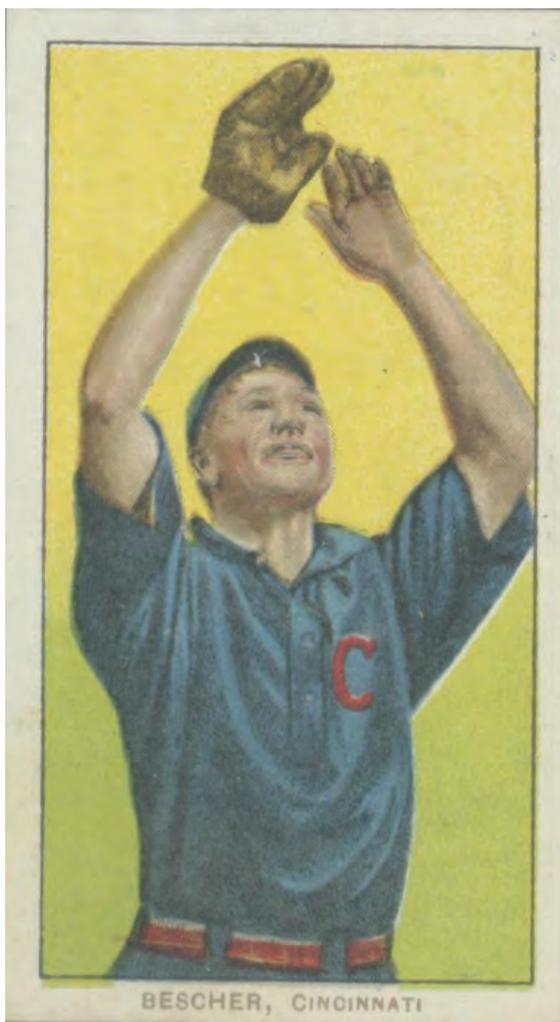
Cardboard Collections

Baseball cards originated as advertisements for tobacco companies in the 1880s, and were included with the purchase of packs of cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and cigars.

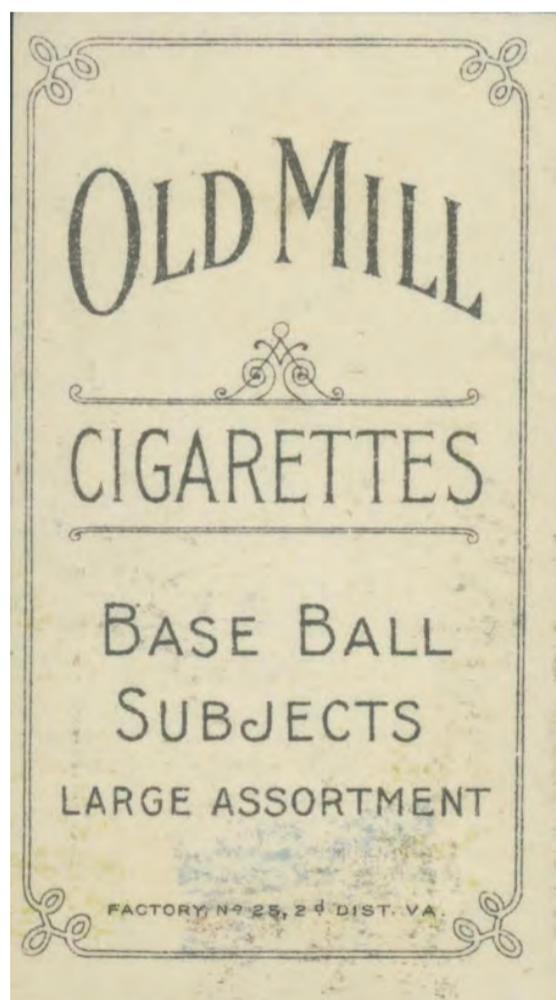
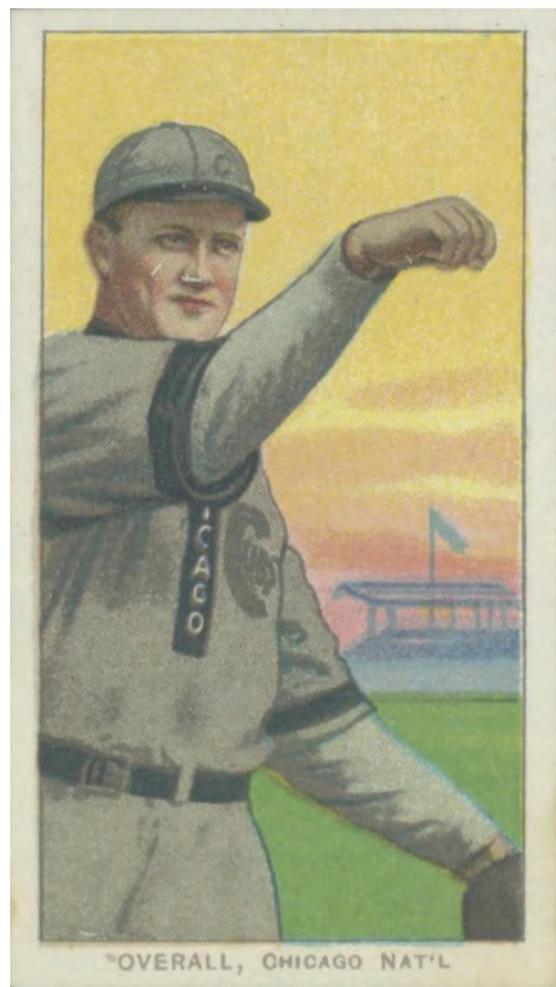
Soon after World War I, tobacco companies stopped baseball card production, and candy companies started. They packed baseball cards with bubble gum and caramel candy, which attracted kids.

By 1989 cards contained holograms to prevent counterfeiting, and the candy disappeared, while a multi-million dollar industry remained.

Through all these changes, collecting baseball cards still allows youngsters and the “kid in all of us” to indulge in a love for the game and the players who make it happen.



These baseball cards were produced by the American Tobacco Company between 1909 and 1911. They are for Bob Bescher of the Cincinnati Reds and Frank Chance of the Chicago Cubs, National League, and Wid Conroy of the Washington Senators and Russ Ford of the New York Yankees, American League.



The cards are classified as "white borders." The actual size is 2.625 inches by 1.4375 inches. These are for John McGraw of the New York Giants, National League, Orval Overall of the Chicago Cubs, National League, and Orval Overall of the Chicago Cubs, National League. Advertisements for cigarette brands, such as Old Mill, appeared on the back of these cards.



Russian children display baseball cards, a gift from visiting American sailors, as they pose on September 21, 1992, in Revolution Square, Vladivostok.

Citations

Bob Bescher, Cincinnati Reds, National League Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Frank Chance, Chicago Cubs, National League, Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Wid Conroy, Washington Senators, American League Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Russ Ford, New York Yankees, American League Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

John McGraw, New York Giants, National League Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Orval Overall, Chicago Cubs, National League Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Back of Baseball Card; Records of the U.S. Attorneys, Record Group 118; National Archives at Seattle.

Russian children display baseball cards, a gift from visiting American sailors, as they pose for a photograph in Revolution Square. Crew members from the high endurance cutter USCGC CHASE (WHEC-718) and the guided missile frigate USS MCCLUSKY (FFG-41) are visiting Vladivostok, 09/21/1992; Combined Military Service Digital Photographic Files, compiled 1982–2007, documenting the period ca. 1786–2007; Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Record Group 330; National Archives at College Park. (National Archives Identifier: [6483271](#)).



EQUAL ACCESS

The Fight to Open the Locker Room Door and Play on the Diamond

Carolyn King, a twelve-year-old girl, could play baseball better than neighborhood boys. After receiving permission from the Ypsilanti Michigan American League Little League president to try out, Carolyn beat 15 boys and a couple of girls for a spot on the Orioles team in 1973. The national Little League Baseball organization prohibited girls at that time, and issued a warning that unless Carolyn stopped playing, the Ypsilanti American League would lose its charter. But Carolyn wanted to play baseball.

Melissa Ludtke was an avid baseball fan and rising reporter at *Sports Illustrated*. She was assigned the 1977 baseball playoffs in New York and Philadelphia and the ensuing World Series. During the first two American League playoff games in New York, the Yankees refused to provide her the same access to the locker room as her male colleagues.

Before the World Series started, Dodger players voted to let Ludtke into the clubhouse after games in Los Angeles. But Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn stepped in and reversed this decision. Ludtke missed capturing the ballplayers' locker-room stories and interviews.

Both women with supporters brought their desire for equal opportunity to Federal court invoking violation of the 14th Amendment.

And while Ludtke's case opened baseball locker-room doors, joining professional basketball and hockey, with an equal access policy for accredited reporters, Ludtke herself left sports journalism and began reporting on social issues.

Judge Ralph Freeman dismissed King's case for lack of jurisdiction, a decision upheld by the Appellate Court. Between 1972 and 1974, 22 cases, including King's, were filed against Little League Baseball, Inc. and its boys-only policy. Yet the national Little League organization did not petition Congress to amend its Federal charter and eliminate the boys-only rule until it lost the New Jersey State case *National Organization for Women vs. Little League Baseball, Inc.* in spring 1974. On December 26, 1974, President Ford signed into law a bill that formally opened Little League Baseball to girls. By this time, King was 13 and too old, yet thousands of other girls would play.

May 17, 1973

Mr. Creighton J. Hale
Executive Vice President
Chairman, Charter Committee
Little League Baseball, Inc.
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Hale:

I have your letter of May 14, 1973, in front of me. I hereby request a clarification of your letter. Does the action taken by your committee mean we are suspended? Or, does it mean that our charter is revoked? I am concerned about the question of the insurance that we have taken out with Little League, as well as the questions of inter-league play, All-Star selection and tournament play. If not suspended or revoked, what does your letter mean?

In accordance with item number two on the reverse of the Certificate of Charter, I hereby request a review by the Executive Committee of the Charter Committee's action. I do this in light of the apparent discrimination toward girls, which is in violation of the U.S. Constitution and Amendments thereto, particularly in light of the fact that Little League is chartered by Congress and enjoys tax exempt benefits; and, further, in light of the recent Court decisions concerning discrimination toward girls in athletics. I request that a delegation from the Ypsilanti American Little League be allowed to present its position before the Executive Committee of the National Little League.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am,

Very cordially,

William F. Anhut, President
Ypsilanti American Little
League

In this letter, an exhibit in the King case, the president of the Ypsilanti league asked the executive vice president of Little League Baseball: "does it mean that our charter is revoked?"

The second thing is that reaction time and movement time are very important, not only in eluding a ball that is pitched, but also in trying to field a bad hop, trying to change direction to avoid collisions.

Now, we have cited that ten percent of our injuries in Little League are from collisions. Most of the injuries are due to a pitched ball, a large number of our injuries are due to batted balls, and all these, in all of these, reaction time and movement time are vitally important.

Now, to thrust girls as a group into a program which has been set up for boys with certain physiological limitations such as reaction time and movement time, creates a hazard which girls should not have to bear. We should say to use the same approach and make the game as safe for girls as it is presently for boys.

In the equipment -- I hold three inventions of baseball equipment and I have one now patent applied for, the helmet that is presently being used in baseball, youth baseball, and this year was adopted as a mandatory piece of equipment by the

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488-0161

During the King case, the president of Little League Baseball testified in court about the need to modify the chest protector if girls were allowed to play, an argument made repeatedly by Little League.

National High School Federation. This went through a series of scientific tests in which we shot baseballs from an air-compressed canon to determine exactly what the helmet must be after trying to determine human tolerance of the head. I then invented a catcher's helmet which is now mandatory in Little League baseball, throughout Little League baseball.

I invented a change, modification in the chest protector which is used throughout Little League baseball and into the Majors and has been used by Johnny Bench for the last three years and other Major League catchers use it.

I am in the process of development, and the patent has been applied for, for a new fence. Many of our injuries happen when boys run into the fence. It happens in the Major Leagues, and the new fence will be of nylon construction and you will be able to hit it as hard as you want without being hurt because it is going to be spring-suspended on one side and turnbuckled on the other.

It is vitally important that we look into the equipment for girls. We can protect their head with the helmet, but the chest protector worn

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by boys is not the chest protector worn by girls, should not be worn by the girl catchers, for example.

A new piece of equipment should be designed and can be designed for them.

Q You have alluded to the chest protector as being one piece of equipment that the girls would have to wear a different version of. Have you any professional opinion regarding the damage, if any, to female breasts were they to receive a violent impact in a Little League baseball game?

A Yes. The female breast can be injured both in either contact or non-contact sports. It would be greatly, a good possibility in baseball where people do get hit.

Q Is it your professional opinion that traumatic cancer might result from such an impact?

MR. BARR: Well, we would stipulate that almost anything is possible, your Honor. I don't think this witness has been qualified as an expert in that field.

THE COURT: I will sustain the objection.

MR. BRONSON: At any rate, it would be a great consolation --

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1 A Twentyfour to eight.

2 Q And did some of the sons play in little league ball?

3 A I just had one.

4 Q And did you become familiar with the game and the
5 way it is played and the equipment, and what is
6 necessary and so on?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And when was that that you became familiar with it?

9 A That was about 1960.

10 Q Okay. And based on your acquaintanceship with the
11 game and your treatment of the patients that you have
12 mentioned and your training and so on Doctor, would
13 you have an opinion as to whether or not it would be
14 dangerous or more dangerous for girls to play little
15 league baseball then it would be for boys to play
16 little league baseball, assuming there ages to be
17 between ten and twelve?

18 A I think that I would say it would make no difference
19 what sex they are. It makes a difference in how
20 strong they are, what kind of child they are.

21 Q Can you say, as a generality, that one sex would be
22 stronger or weaker than another sex at this age?

23 A I think there would be very little difference.

24 Q Do you have an opinion as the children grow older

25 -9-

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761-5328

In his court deposition, an orthopedic surgeon stated that there was little difference developmentally between girls and boys between the ages of 10 to 12 in regards to Little League Baseball.

1 Q In your opinion at that age range would there be any
2 significant difference in the muscle development of
3 most boys as to most girls?

4 A I think most boys will demonstrate more muscle mass
5 to look at them. I do think that this is partly
6 because they have been encouraged to be more active
7 and to participate formally in sports like little
8 league and girls have been rather discouraged from
9 participating, and perhaps we might see some changes
10 if we change the level of girls activities.

11 Q In your opinion would boys, as a whole, at this age
12 be stronger than girls, as a rule?

13 A Again I think at this age one should concentrate on the
14 individual without regard to its sex. The individual
15 differences among girls and the individual differences
16 among boys may be larger than the difference between
17 sex's.

18 Q Would it be true then that some girls would be stronger
19 than some boys at this age?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q What would be the determining factor?

22 A Individuality.

23 Q Such as?

24 A Inherited characteristics.

25

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

77 CIV. 6301

MELISSA LUDTKE and TIME, INCORPORATED,
Plaintiffs,

-against-

BOWIE KUHN, Commissioner of Baseball,
LELAND MacPHAIL, President of the
American League of Professional
Baseball Clubs, THE NEW YORK YANKEES
PARTNERSHIP, ABRAHAM BEAME, Mayor of
the City of New York, JOSEPH
DAVIDSON, Commissioner of Parks and
Recreation for the City of New York,
and DENNIS ALLEE, Director of the
Economic Development Administration
of the City of New York,

Defendants.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT
FILED
DEC 29 1977
12:01
S. D. N. Y.

COMPLAINT
JUDGE MOTLEY

Jurisdiction

1. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1343, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the United States Constitution, and by reason of the doctrine of pendent jurisdiction.

2. The amount in controversy exceeds \$10,000, exclusive of interests and costs.

Parties

3. Plaintiff Melissa Ludtke is a woman employed

①

Melissa Ludtke and her employer Time, Inc. (owner of *Sports Illustrated*) alleged in this complaint that Major League Baseball discriminated against female reporters, despite their increasing number, and the policies of professional hockey and basketball.

time high of 40,781,061.

18. Time publications reflect the great public interest in baseball by devoting substantial editorial resources and news coverage to baseball.

19. The public interest in professional baseball extends far beyond the results or play-by-play descriptions of the games. For example, sports fans want to know how the players think they played in a particular game, how the players relate to one another and to their owners, coaches and manager and, in general, what the players are like as human beings.

20. In response to that public interest and to increase fan interest and attendance, defendants Kuhn, MacPhail and the New York Yankees encourage and, together with the City, profit from news coverage going beyond the mere results of the games. Accordingly, they have permitted reporters access to players in the clubhouses of major league baseball teams immediately after professional baseball games.

21. Access to the clubhouses of major league baseball teams immediately after games, however, has been and continues to be limited to male reporters. Accredited female reporters, including plaintiff Ludtke, have been and continue to be barred from such access solely because of their sex.

22. The policy of excluding accredited female reporters has been approved by the Commissioner of Baseball, and the President of the American League has stated to Time that he will follow the position taken by the Commissioner. The exclusionary policy has been reported in the national press.

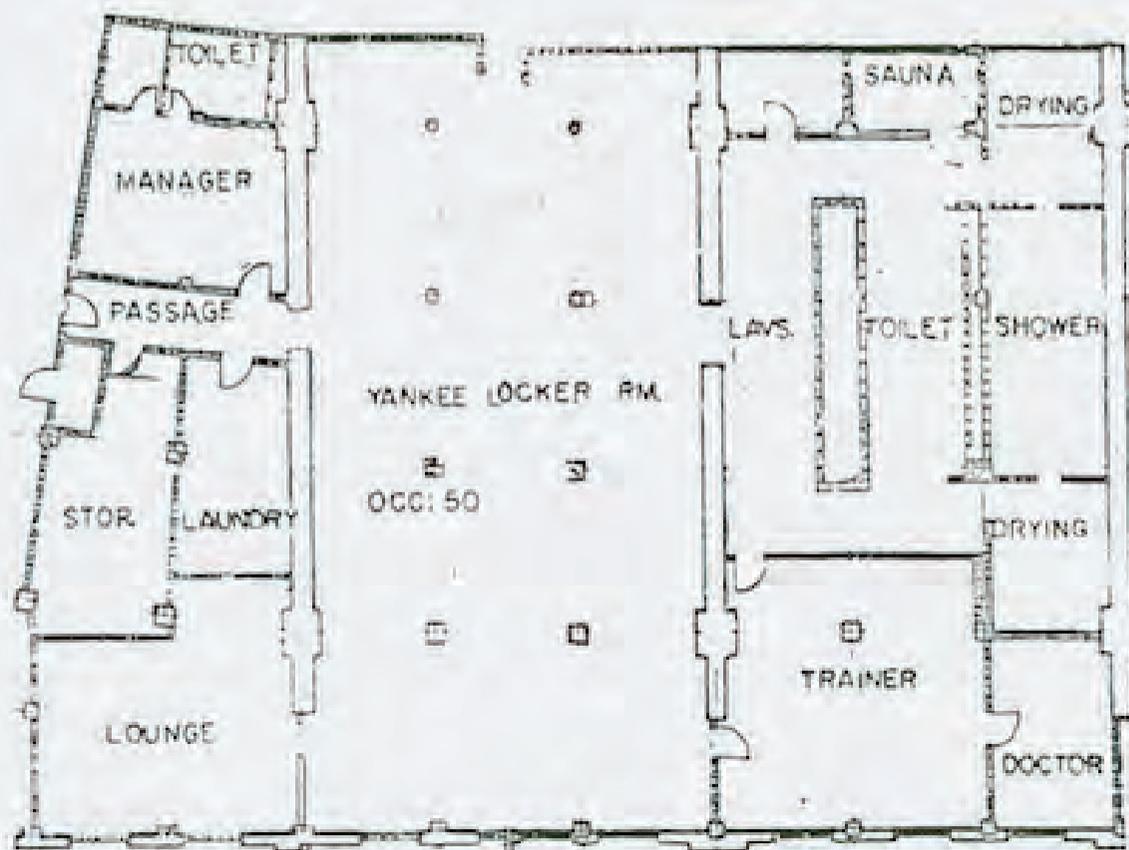
23. In other professional team sports, such as basketball and hockey, accredited reporters have access to the clubhouses immediately after games to gather news without regard to their sex. For example, for the past two years, accredited female reporters have consistently had access to the clubhouses of the New York Knickerbockers and the New York Rangers.

24. Approximately half of major journalism school graduates today are women, and newspapers, magazines and TV and radio stations have ever-growing numbers of female reporters on their staffs.

25. Sports reporting is a desirable position for young journalists both in and of itself and as a training ground for other fields of journalism and writing. In sports journalism, baseball reporting is one of the most prestigious and important positions for a reporter.



The photograph and illustration, used as exhibits during the case, show the New York Yankees locker room that Ludtke wished to enter.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

58

MELISSA LUTKKE and TIME, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

BOWIE KUHN, Commissioner of
Baseball, LELAND MacPHAIL,
President of the American League
of Professional Baseball Clubs,
the NEW YORK YANKEES PARTNERSHIP,
The Mayor of the City of New York;
The Commissioner of Parks and
Recreation for the City of New York;
and the Director of the Economic
Development Administration of the
City of New York,

Defendants.



77 CIV. 6301

MICROFILM
SEP 26 1978

O R D E R + *Judgment*

In accordance with its opinion of this date, the court now ORDERS that plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment be and is hereby GRANTED, and defendants' motion for summary judgment is hereby DENIED.

It is further ORDERED:

1) That defendants, their officers, agents, representatives, servants, employees, and all persons acting in concert and participation with them, be and they hereby are permanently enjoined from refusing to admit plaintiff Melissa Ludtke to the locker rooms of the clubhouses at Yankee Stadium solely on the ground of her sex;

2) That defendants shall adopt one of the alternative methods referred to in the court's opinion of this date to protect the privacy of ballplayers within the locker room while granting access to all accredited sports reporters to the locker room without regard to

MICROFILM
SEP 26 1978

58

The court ordered the New York Yankees to allow Ludtke and all female accredited sports reporters access to the clubhouse locker rooms.

their sex; and

3) That a copy of this injunctive order shall be served on the "city defendants", dismissed from this action by order of the court dated April 14, 1978, forthwith.

Dated: New York, New York

September 25, 1978

SO ORDERED

Constance Baker Motley
CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY
U. S. D. J.

JUDGMENT ENTERED - 9/26/78

Raymond F. Berghardt
CLERK

APPROVED
DEC 26 1974

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Last Day: December 30

December 23, 1974

*Posted in
Colombo
12/26*

*To Archie
12/30*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM: KEN COLE
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill H.R. 8864
Little League Baseball

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 8864, sponsored by Representative Griffiths, which amends the Federal charter of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, to allow girls to participate in its activities on the same basis as boys.

OMB recommends approval and provides additional background information in its enrolled bill report (Tab A).

Max Friedersdorf and Phil Areeda both recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 8864 (Tab B).



Located in President Ford's legislation case files is a recommendation to approve the bill H.R. 8864 and amend the Federal charter of Little League Baseball.

APPROVED
DEC 26 1974

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 20 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 8864 - Little League Baseball
Sponsor - Rep. Griffiths (D) Michigan

Last Day for Action

December 30, 1974 - Monday

Purpose

Amends the Federal charter of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, to allow girls to participate in its activities on the same basis as boys.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Civil Rights Commission
Department of Justice

Approval
No objection

Discussion

From its founding as a summer baseball program in 1939, the Little League has served young boys exclusively. In 1964 the organization requested and was granted a Federal charter (Public Law 88-378) which specifies that the League is an organization for young boys.

This year, twenty-two class action suits were filed across the country seeking equal opportunity for young girls to participate in Little League activities. While many of these lawsuits were pending the League organization petitioned Congress to amend its charter to include girls. In addition, the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Supreme Court handed down a decision affirming the right of girls to play Little League baseball.



H.R. 8864 would amend the League's charter by deleting the word "boy" each time it appears and replacing it with the word "young people." In addition, the word "manhood" would be dropped from a section in the charter which states that the purposes of the League are to instill "citizenship, sportsmanship and manhood." The Committee reports stress the intent of the Congress that girls should be treated equally with boys and that it would not tolerate separate but equal programs.

The Executive Branch was not asked to comment on this legislation during the course of congressional deliberations.

Alfred H. Rommel

Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



Citations

Letter from William F. Anhut, President Ypsilanti American Little League to Creighton J. Hale, Executive Vice President and Chairman Charter Committee of Little League Baseball, Inc. 05/17/1973; *Carolyn King, by Gerald King, her Next Friend, Ypsilanti Community American Little League, and the City of Ypsilanti vs. Little League Baseball, Inc.*, Case 40304; Civil Case Files, compiled 1938–1993; U.S. District Court for the Southern (Detroit) Division of the Eastern District of Michigan. (04/30/1894–); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives at Chicago.

Portion of Court Transcript, including testimony of Dr. Creighton J. Hale, 07/02/1973; *Carolyn King, by Gerald King, her Next Friend, Ypsilanti Community American Little League, and the City of Ypsilanti vs. Little League Baseball, Inc.*, Case 40304; Civil Case Files, compiled 1938–1993; U.S. District Court for the Southern (Detroit) Division of the Eastern District of Michigan. (04/30/1894–); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives at Chicago.

Portion of Deposition of Dr. Louis P. Kivin, 6/27/1973; *Carolyn King, by Gerald King, her Next Friend, Ypsilanti Community American Little League, and the City of Ypsilanti vs. Little League Baseball, Inc.*, Case 40304; Civil Case Files, compiled 1938–1993; U.S. District Court for the Southern (Detroit) Division of the Eastern District of Michigan. (04/30/1894–); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives at Chicago.

Portion of Complaint; *Melissa Ludtke and Time, Incorporated vs. Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball, et al.*, Case 77C6301; Civil Case Files, compiled 1930–1968; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives at New York.

Order and Judgement; *Melissa Ludtke and Time, Incorporated vs. Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball, et al.*, Case 77C6301; Civil Case Files, compiled 1930–1968; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives at New York.

Memo to the President from Ken Cole Regarding Enrolled Bill H.R. 8864, Little League Baseball, 12/26/1974; H.R. 8864 Little League Baseball, 12/1974–12/1974; Legislation Case Files, compiled 08/09/1974–01/20/1977; President (1974–1977: Ford). White House Records Office. (1974–1977); Collection GRF-0055: White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files, 08/09/1974–01/20/1977; Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Ann Arbor.

RESTORING FAITH IN AMERICA'S PASTIME: EVALUATING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S EFFORTS TO ERADICATE STEROID USE

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON

GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARCH 17, 2005

Serial No. 109-8

Committee on Government Reform

**SAVING THE
INTEGRITY OF
THE GAME**



The Steroid Era

The names Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron evoke a memory of balls flying into the stands and beyond. The homerun record is one of the most coveted records in all of sports. So much so, that many baseball traditionalists hated seeing Hammerin' Hank surpass "The Babe." After the 1994 strike, baseball struggled to regain its place in the hearts of the fans. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa lured baseball enthusiasts back to the game with their exciting homerun race during the summer of 1998.

But soon a dark cloud loomed over the game. Although the possession or selling of anabolic steroids without a prescription was made illegal by Federal law in 1991, rumors began to spread of major league players using steroids. Was the increase in offensive output related to the use of performance-enhancing drugs? Studies and reports showed an increase in the use of these drugs among college and high school students. Congress was disturbed by this trend and Major League Baseball's lackadaisical attitude in addressing the issue.

On March 17, 2005, Congress held the "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use" hearing and subpoenaed several stars to testify. During the hearing, Tom Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, stated, "Our specific purpose today is to consider Major League Baseball's recently negotiated drug policy, how the testing policy will be implemented, how it will effectively address the use of prohibitive drugs by players and most importantly, the larger societal and public health ramifications of steroid use." Hall of Fame pitcher and U.S. Senator from Kentucky Jim Bunning spoke with conviction at the hearing.

Only time will tell of the impact of steroids on baseball, but the highest legislative body in the land thought the issue and integrity of the game were important enough to consider in 2005.

RESTORING FAITH IN AMERICA'S PASTIME: EVALUATING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S EFFORTS TO ERADICATE STEROID USE

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

MARCH 17, 2005

Serial No. 109-8

Printed for the use of the Committee on Government Reform



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/congress/index.html>
<http://www.house.gov/reform>

The Committee on Government Reform opened the transcript of the March 17, 2005, steroid use hearing to the public. Related records, however, remain closed. Although the House and Senate regularly transfer records to the National Archives and Records Administration, these records are closed to researchers for designated periods of time: 30 years for most House records, with investigative records and records involving personal privacy closed for 50 years.

Chairman TOM DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Cummings. Because we have four panels and many witnesses to hear from today, we are going to limit further opening statements to where we are and we are ready to move with our first panel. But before we get there, I want to ask unanimous consent that Mr. Osborne from Nebraska, former coach at the University of Nebraska, Mr. Sweeney, who has been active on this issue, and Mr. Serrano, be allowed to sit with the panel.

And hearing no objection, so ordered. Our first witness is the Honorable Jim Bunning, U.S. Senator from Kentucky, and a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. As a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies, Senator Bunning was the only second pitcher to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 wins in both the American and National Leagues. Senator Bunning has served in public office since 1977. After winning a seat in the Fort Thomas, Kentucky City Council, he was elected to a second term in the U.S. Senate this past November, and he is a former Member of this body. And thank you, Jim, for being here.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JIM BUNNING, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF KENTUCKY**

Senator BUNNING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and all other members, Ranking Member Waxman and all my good friends from the House of Representatives. I appreciate the opportunity to come here today to testify on this very important issue. As a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame and someone who helped found the current Player Association, our union, and as a lifelong fan, protecting the integrity of our national pastime is a matter that is near and dear to my heart.

Since the beginning of this scandal, I have said that baseball should get the chance to clean up its own mess and government should stay out of the way. With the new steroid testing policy, it looks like baseball has taken a first baby step toward restoring honesty to the game. But if they backslide or don't follow through, then the owners and players need to know that we can and will act. Mr. Chairman, thank goodness that I don't have any personal experience with steroids. They weren't around during my 17 years in the Major Leagues. But when players broke the rules or cheated for sharpening spikes or corking bats or something worse, they were suspended. Since 1991, it has been illegal under Federal law to possess or sell anabolic steroids without a prescription. Many steroid dietary supplements like Android, were regulated as controlled substances by legislation that Congress passed last year. These substances have no place in baseball and players who use them illegally are cheating.

Like I said before, I think the new policy that suspends players for steroid use is a baby step forward. Personally, I think the penalties are really puny. I would like to see much stronger ones. One-month suspension for a first offense and from what I have read today, that isn't really what happens. A year for a second. And then 1-month suspension for a first offense is what it should be, a year for a second and then the third strike and you are out, out of the game. Football has a much stronger penalty and everyone agrees its program has worked. Players who break the law and

Hall of Fame pitcher and U.S. Senator from Kentucky Jim Bunning testified at the "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use" hearing.

cheat should be severely punished and their records and statistics from when they used steroids should be wiped out.

If baseball fails to fix this scandal, then there are a lot of things we can do to get their attention, by amending the labor laws, repealing the outdated anti-trust exemption that baseball alone enjoys and shining the spotlight of public scrutiny. The last thing I want for the national pastime to be the subject of a witch hunt. All of the players should be considered innocent until proven guilty, but we can't let anything get swept under the rug either. It is important we hear from the players themselves about the steroid use in baseball. We need to hear the truth and I think hearings like this one the committee is holding today can be helpful in bringing the truth forward. The players and Major League Baseball must be held accountable for the integrity of the game. After all, it's not their game. It's ours, they're just enjoying the privilege of playing it for a short time.

What I may think many of today's players don't understand is that many others came before them and even more will come after them. And all of us have an obligation to protect the integrity of the greatest game ever invented. Now the game of baseball has been tarnished by some players because they didn't follow the rules and thought they were bigger than the game. It is disturbing to see trends continuing today. Baseball has to follow the rules just like everyone else. If a player thinks they are above the law of the land and can defy a congressional subpoena, they are sadly mistaken. They are not bigger than the game and they are certainly not bigger than the law of the land.

The same goes for owners. For over a decade, they have turned their heads when it came to steroids. They have helped put the game at risk. Not only did they turn a blind eye, they built smaller parks making it easier to hit home runs. The balls started flying farther. We have to ask why all of these things happened. Some in the press have talked about this hearing like it's a lark. It isn't. Congress is dead serious. We have every right to be concerned that the national pastime and all that it represents has been threatened by the selfish actions of a few.

Baseball is part of our culture, our history. It's a multi-billion dollar business that affects our economy and most of our largest communities. There's no doubt that Congress has a direct and important interest in what happens in baseball. Finally, players can't forget that like it or not, they are role models. By using steroids, they have sent the wrong message to the kids and to the public. As has been quoted by many in opening statements, too many, almost a half a million kids or more have tried steroids. 40 percent of 12th graders in a recent University of Michigan study said that steroids are easy to get.

So it's important for the American public to understand just how harmful steroids can be to someone's health. Side effects of steroid use include fatal conditions like liver cysts, liver cancer, blood clotting, hypertension and can even lead to heart attack and stroke and many other bad things. Baseball has helped to open a Pandora's box and now there's a chance to fix that damage and educate the public on the terrible health effects of steroids.

Baseball needs to know that we are watching and even more importantly, the fans are watching. Mr. Chairman, maybe I'm old fashioned. I remembered players didn't get any better as they got older. We all got worse. When I played with Henry Aaron and Willie Mays and Ted Williams, they didn't put on 40 pounds and bulk up in their careers and they didn't hit more home runs in their late 30's than they did in their late 20's. What's happening in baseball now is not natural and it isn't right. Baseball has to get its act together or else. So let's see how they do. And now I'll follow the proverb President Reagan always quoted, trust but verify. I'm willing to trust baseball, but players and owners have a special responsibility to protect the game and they owe it to all of us to prove that they are fixing this terrible problem. If not, we will have to do it for them. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to speak before your committee today and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

[The prepared statement of Senator Jim Bunning follows:]

Citation

Transcript of "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use" Hearing, 03/17/2005. Records of the United States House of Representatives, Record Group 233; Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

"Extra Innings" Image:

Photograph of Camp Anza Softball Player, 07/06/1945; 569.6 Publicity IX April–Aug. 1945, Central Subject Files, 1941–1946; Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, Record Group 336; National Archives at Riverside.



EXTRA INNINGS

Baseball evokes a sense of nostalgic euphoria for fans of the game. Many remember their first visit to a major league ballpark with the pristine emerald field, the smell of popcorn and peanuts wafting through the air, and the sound of the crack of the bat. But, as seen in the documents in this book, baseball is more than these memories. For our nation, this pastime is truly a mirror of American society.

The records highlighted in this book come from numerous repositories in the National Archives system. Locations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, College Park, Denver, Fort Worth, Kansas City, New York, Riverside,

San Francisco, Seattle, and St. Louis, as well as the Center for Legislative Archives, the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton, and George W. Bush Presidential Libraries contributed documents. The baseball stories included in this book only scratch the surface of what can be found in the stacks of the National Archives. To learn more about the records at the National Archives please visit www.archives.gov.