



The Inside Game

"Let's get this lumpy, licorice-stained ball rolling!"

Vol. 1, No. 3 **The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee** January '01

From the Chairman

The Dick Egan Award

by Tom Simon

I've learned a lot about Dick Egan since the last issue. For instance, Steve Constantelos informs me that the player in all of baseball history with the most similar offensive statistics to Eddie Grant (see page 6) is none other than ... Dick Egan! To which I responded: Let's face it, if a shell hadn't landed on his head, Grant never would have made the cut for our bio project, either!

With all of the hullabaloo about Egan, I've decided we should name an award in his honor. The recipient, whose name is at the bottom of this column, was the last player selected for our collection of National League biographies.

Which brings us to the purpose of this special edition of *The Inside Game*. In an amazingly short period of time, we now have volunteers for each of the nearly 140 biographies in our N.L. volume. Many contributors have requested guidance, so I've drafted the Grant bio as a sample. Most bios are 1,000 words in length, but don't worry if you go a little over -- it's easier to trim than add.

Your opening paragraph should be an overview of the player's career, perhaps with a quote about his playing style and a summary of how he was regarded in his era and why he is remembered now. Then I'd suggest a chronological approach. The bulk of your article will address the player's 1901-19 major league career, including a few interesting anecdotes you discover. If you have a player whose career was partly before or after the Deadball Era, you'll want to include a brief summary. Finally, include a paragraph or two about your subject's post-playing career and death.

Now, without further ado, the winner of the first Dick Egan Award is ... Bobby Byrne. When you read the Eddie Grant bio you'll learn that in 1910 he was considered the N.L.'s best-hitting third baseman, barring ... Bobby Byrne! If Egan is the equivalent of Grant, and Grant is almost as good as Byrne, and Byrne is the winner of an award named for Egan ... you have to admit, we have some strange forces at work here.

Personally, I think it's the Dode Paskert effect.

Deadball Honor Roll

On Our Way to the Top 50

by Steve Constantelos

The first round of selecting our Deadball Honor Roll is now complete. I, your loyal tabulator, would like to thank everyone who participated—I feel lucky to have seen all the ballots and received the notes you've sent outlining your opinions on players and your selection methods.

We looked at the careers of these players using their 1901-19 records exclusively, and this made for some tough decisions. Arguments about players who had fewer years in the era, but were dominant, versus players who had long-term, if lesser peak, success in the era were on a lot of people's minds. Not to mention the vagaries of rating baserunning, defense, leadership, attitude, and the value of playing on a winning team. I figured that given a fairly large sample, we'd get a good idea how the committee viewed those issues.

Some voters took interesting approaches to their Top 25. Martin Kohout attempted to outline the biggest stars of the era based on how their contemporaries felt. Many of you used point systems and scoured the record thoroughly, year by year. Bill Robens had a noteworthy system that accounted for defense, offense, and other miscellaneous elements quite admirably. Many balanced their Top 25 by trying to set out their list like a roster of sorts. Paul Wendt went so far as to assign

team roles. Fred Clarke was the "old player-manager," Hornsby was "young short-stop-utility." Some indulged their penchant for second basemen, or whatever position they saw as most crucial in Deadball days. And weren't we all tempted to throw in a few of our favorites, deserving or not? Dave Anderson even picked managers and umpires!

To initiate voting, each participant submitted a list of up to 25 players. Any player mentioned on 33% of the ballots made it through this round and onto the list. There were many borderline players. I left them off because the number of votes and ranking points they received was too low for me to be comfortable in ranking them. They'll be taken care of in the next round

where we can better gauge their support. A perfect example: Johnny Kling and Johnny Evers. While Kling received 17 votes, nearly 33%, he received only 74 ranking points, while Evers received only 9 votes but 85 ranking points!

Most voters (47 of 54) ranked the players to at least ten places, most to twenty-five, so I weighted the votes. Instead of ranking players by gross votes, I did so using "enthusiasm" points. Players received 25 points for a first-place vote, 24 for a second-place vote, etc, which alters the list slightly but seems like the most fair method.

Without further delay (if you haven't already), turn to page 2 for the Top 24 of our Deadball Honor Roll. First-place votes are in parentheses. *(continued on page 2)*



Sherry Magee, aside from Joe Jackson the highest-ranking non-HOFer on our list

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A list of assignments for the Committee's upcoming biography project

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A statistical analysis of Deadball Era stars

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A model for DEC's bio project

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Deadball Names, News and Notes, featuring some real Dick Egan bashing and a few memorable Deadball Era records, **Page 7**

The ballot for the final round of Deadball Honor Roll voting, **Page 8**

Honor Roll, *cont.*

Player, Pos.	Rank 'g	
	Points	Votes
Honus Wagner, SS	1,168	54(18)
Ty Cobb, OF	1,158	53(21)
Walter Johnson, RHP	1,098	54(4)
Christy Mathewson, RHP	1,066	54(3)
Nap Lajoie, 2B	960	54(1)
Tris Speaker, OF	946	54
Grover Alexander, RHP	814	50
Eddie Collins, 2B	790	54
Sam Crawford, OF	606	54
Mordecai Brown, RHP	595	52
Joe Jackson, OF	577	45
Cy Young, RHP	513	45
Ed Walsh, RHP	465	46
Frank Baker, 3B	427	51
Eddie Plank, LHP	407	42
Rube Waddell, LHP	295	40
Addie Joss, RHP	287	41
Sherry Magee, OF	195	26
Roger Bresnahan, C	159	32
Chief Bender, RHP	154	28
Joe McGinnity, RHP	151	24
Frank Chance, 1B	150	20
Fred Clarke, OF	141	22
Bobby Wallace, SS	118	23

As a few of you noted, there are few real "discoveries" here—conventional wisdom, on the whole, has prevailed. The ranking, though, is of greater interest in this round. The most striking benefactor of my ranking method is Ty Cobb, who was omitted from only one ballot. In gross votes he would rank eighth, whereas with enthusiasm points he is second, which I think better reflects the place of a man who was near the top of every list on which he appeared. Never fear, Honus Wagner comes out on top using either system, total votes or enthusiasm points.

Ranked by gross vote totals, the list would be: Wagner, Johnson,

Mathewson, Lajoie, Speaker, Collins, Crawford, Cobb, Brown, Baker, Alexander, Walsh, Jackson, Young, Plank, Joss, Waddell, Bresnahan, Bender, Magee, McGinnity, Wallace, Clarke, and Chance.

The players who ranked highest were, obviously, the ones who were top-flight stars and whose careers spanned our time slot best. As we get a little lower on the list, we start to see the debate between players whose careers stretched over most of the era and those whose careers bordered it or were of shorter duration. There is a definite drop off somewhere between 15th and 17th place, with Waddell and Joss the only players with enthusiasm points in the 300's or 200's and only Bresnahan bridging the gap between players receiving vote totals in the 40's and votes in the 20's. Nearly all of these guys played on World Series teams, and at the very least pennant-contending ones -- even poor Bobby Wallace, a member of the second-place 1902 Browns.

Here is a possible starting lineup for the Top 24, if we were averse to changing anyone's position:

Position Leaders	Position Votes
1B Frank Chance	1B 1.35 (top 14: 1)
2B Nap Lajoie	2B 2.33 (2)
3B Frank Baker	3B 1.53 (1)
SS Honus Wagner	SS 2.01 (2)
OF Ty Cobb	OF 6.19 (6)
OF Tris Speaker	C 1.17 (1)
OF Sam Crawford	P 10.38 (11)
C Roger Bresnahan	
P Walter Johnson	

There is also a striking disparity between the two leagues. Most players voted for fell into one of the two

leagues quite easily, the only exception being a few Negro League players.

Average Ballot: AL-15.0, NL-9.6

This actually corresponds well with World Series victories, which were 10 for the AL, 6 for the NL.

I should say a word about the Negro Leaguers. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, Ben Taylor, Jose Mendez de la Caridad, Frank Wickware, and "Smokey Joe" Williams all received votes in this first round. In constructing the ballot for the final round I debated whether to include these players, who, suffering from few statistical records, are difficult to compare to the AL, NL, and FL players of the era. It is difficult for me to know who to include on such a ballot. Given these problems, and the DEC's lack of support (and I conclude lack of knowledge of) of Negro Leaguers, I am making this Honor Roll solely for AL/NL/FL players of 1901-19. I would propose that our committee, either alone or jointly with the Negro League Committee, come up with an Honor Roll for such players, but I don't believe this study was constructed to treat the issue fairly.

Be sure to vote in the second and final round using the enclosed ballot. I hope this stirs some good debate and serves to honor players from this amazing era. Thanks again to all who helped develop this project and to all who voted, especially those I didn't have the chance to thank via email or letter. I believe we achieved a strong sampling of our committee and other interested SABR members. Perhaps Dode Paskert, our committee mascot who drew no votes in the first round, will make the splash his legend demands.

A complete voting breakdown is on page 5 of this issue.

Deadball Committee Dope

LIKE 'SUPERBAS' TO 'DODGERS'...
...our committee is undergoing a monitor adjustment. Due to confusion in *The SABR Bulletin* and previous issues of

The Inside Game, Chairman Simon has officially declared that the name of the committee is the Deadball Era Committee and the official abbreviation is DEC. The official logo remains that of the 1914-15 Baltimore Terrapins, a line drawing of which now graces our masthead on page one courtesy of Marc Okkonen.

changed hands in the aforementioned transactions.

THE INSIDE GAME

We continue to receive a large number of submissions for *The Inside Game*, and have a limited amount of space in each issue. To submit an article, e-mail it to blamberty@msubobcats.com, or mail it to Bill Lamberty at 1336 Cherry Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715. Those looking for past issues of *The Inside Game*, they will soon be posted in PDF format on the SABR web site.

BOOKSIGNING

DEC member Dave Anderson is scheduled for a book signing for *More Than Merkle* on July 28, 2001, the weekend before the induction ceremonies.

LATEBREAKINGTRANSACTIONS

The rights to Dick Egan Award Winner Bobby Byrne's bio were traded by Tom Simon to Irv Goldfarb, and the rights to Hans Lobert are transferred from Norman Macht to Jon Dunkle. James Floto waived John McGraw, who was picked up by Don Jensen. Jensen, in turn, cut loose Joe McGinnity, who was claimed by new member Michael Wells. No lemon bread is believed to have

The Inside Game
Official Newsletter of SABR's
Deadball Era Committee

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Volume 1, Issue 3
Designed and produced by Bill Lamberty
Printed at Kinko's of Bozeman, Mont.

Submissions: 1336 Cherry, Bozeman, MT 59715, or by e-mail

NL Deadball Bio Assignments by Player

Adams, Babe-PIT Jeff Hanson
 Alexander, Pete-PHI Jan Finkel
 Ames, Red-NY R.J. Lesch
 Archer, Jimmy-CHI Bill Bishop
 Beaumont, Ginger-PIT Dan Ginsburg
 Beckley, Jake-CIN Sean Lahman
 Benton, Rube-CIN Bill Bishop
 Bergen, Bill-BKL Dittmar, Joe
 Bescher, Bob-CIN Constantelos, S.
 Bransfield, Kitty-PHI Anderson, D.
 Bresnahan, Roger-STL Thomas, Joan
 Britton, Helene R.-STL Thomas, Joan
 Brown, Mordecai-CHI Marshall, Brian
 Brush, John-NY Saccoman, John
 Burns, George--NY Lesch, R.J.
 Byrne, Bobby-PIT Simon, Tom
 Camnitz, Howie-PIT Ulrey, Adam
 Carey, Max-PIT Bennett, John
 Chance, Frank-CHI Ryhal, Greg
 Cheney, Larry-CHI Moyes, Jim
 Clarke, Fred-PIT Louisa, Angelo
 Cooper, Wilbur-PIT Cicotello, David
 Crandall, Doc-NY Lesch, R.J.
 Cravath, Gavy-PHI Swank, Bill
 Cutshaw, George-BKL Gagnon, Cappy
 Dahlen, Bill-BKL Spatz, Lyle
 Daubert, Jake-BKL Jim Sandoval
 Devlin, Art-NY Jan Finkel
 Doak, Bill-STL Steve Steinberg
 Donlin, Mike-NY Bob Allen
 Donovan, Patsy- STL David Jones
 Dooiin, Red-PHI Norman Macht
 Doolan, Mickey-PHI P. Mittermeyer
 Doyle, Larry-NY R.J. Lesch
 Dreyfuss, Barney-PIT Sam Bernstein
 Ebbets, Charles-BKL John Saccomen
 Emslie, Bob-UMP David Cicotello
 Evans, Steve- STL E. & P. Sallee
 Evers, Johnny-CHI Shiner, David
 Ewing, Bob-CIN Lackey, Mike
 Fletcher, Art-NY Ryhal, Greg
 Gibson, George-PIT Bradbury, Adrian
 Gowdy, Hank-BOS Cerise, Frank
 Grant, Eddie-PHI Simon, Tom
 Groh, Heinie-CIN Lahman, Sean
 Hahn, Noodles-CIN Levitt, Dan
 Hanlon, Ned-BKL Triscuit, Zack
 Hendrix, Claude-CHI Dunkle, Jon
 Hermann, Garry-CIN Saccoman, John
 Herzog, Buck-NY Schecter, Gabriel
 Hoblitzell, Dick-CIN Lahman, Sean
 Hofman, Solly-CHI Simon, Tom
 Hornsby, Rogers-STL Antoine, Nic
 Huggins, Miller-STL Ryhal, Greg
 James, Bill-BOS Jones, David
 Kauff, Benny-NY Jones, David
 Killefer, Bill-PHI Morris, Peter
 Klem, Bill-UMP Anderson, Dave
 Kling, Johnny-CHI Anderson, Dave
 Konetchy, Ed-STL P. & E. Sallee
 Leach, Tommy-PIT Armour, Mark
 Leever, Sam-PIT Armour, Mark
 Leifeld, Lefty-PIT Jacobson, Len
 Lobert, Hans-CIN Macht, Norman
 Luderus, Fred-PHI Dittmar, Joe
 Lumley, Harry-BKL Simon, Tom
 Magee, Sherry-PHI Scott Flatow
 Maranville, Rabbit-BOS Dick Leyden
 Marquard, Rube-NY Larry Mansch
 Marsans, Armando-CIN Eric Enders
 Mathewson, C.-NY Brian Marshall
 Mayer, Erskine-PHI Lyle Spatz
 McGann, Dan-NY Don Jensen
 McGinnity, Joe-NY Don Jensen
 McGraw, John-NY James Floto
 McLean, Larry C CIN Mike Lackey

Merkle, Fred-NY Adam Ulrey
 Meyers, Chief-NY James Floto
 Miller, Dots-PIT Tommy Carrella
 Mitchell, Mike-CIN Sean Lahman
 Moran, Pat-PHI Dan Levitt
 Mowrey, Mike-STL P.&E. Sallee
 Murphy, Charles-CHI Jacobson, Len
 Murray, Red-NY Gagnon, Cappy
 Myers, Hy-BKL Macht, Norman
 O'Day, Hank-UMP Anderson, Dave
 Olson, Ivy-BKL Ulrey, Adam
 Overall, Orval-CHI Marshall, Brian
 Paskert, Dode-PHI Jones, David
 Pfeffer, Jeff-BKL Bennett, John
 Pfister, Jack-CHI Constantelos, Steve
 Phillipe, Deacon-PIT Armour, Mark
 Pulliam, Harry-LEA Lamberty, Bill
 Raymond, Bugs-STL Jensen, Don
 Reulbach, Ed-CHI Gagnon, Cappy
 Rigler, Cy-UMP Cicotello, David
 Ritchey, Claude-PIT Louisa, Angelo
 Rixey, Eppa-PHI Finkel, Jan
 Robinson, Wilbert-BKL Semchuck, Alex
 Roush, Edd-CIN Jim Sandoval
 Rucker, Nap-BKL Eric Enders
 Rudolph, Dick-BOS Leyden, Dick
 Saier, Vic-CHI Ryhal, Greg
 Sallee, Slim-STL P. & E. Sallee
 Schulte, Frank- CHI Scott Turner
 Seaton, Tom-PHI De Liso, Gene
 Selee, Frank-CHI Triscuit, Zack

Seymour, Cy- CIN Kirwin, Bill
 Sheppard, Jimmy-BKL Jensen, Don
 Slagle, Jimmy-CHI Ryhal, Greg
 Smoot, Homer-STL Morris, Peter
 Snodgrass, Fred-NY Schecter, Gabriel
 Sparks, Tully-PHI Sparks, Barry
 Stallings, George-BOS Kohout, Martin
 Steinfeldt, Harry-CHI Simon, Tom
 Stengel, Casey-BKL Bishop, Bill
 Sweeney, Bill-BOS Morris, Peter
 Taylor, Jack-CHI Ginsburg, Dan
 Taylor, Luther-NY Lahman, Sean
 Tener, John-LEA Ginsburg, Dan
 Tenney, Fred-BOS Sternman, Mark
 Tesreau, Jeff-NY Lesch, R.J.
 Thomas, Roy-PHI Lamberty, Bill
 Thorpe, Jim-NY Jensen, Don
 Tinker, Joe-CHI Jacobson, Len
 Titus, John-PHI Wood, Allan
 Toney, Fred-CIN Marshall, Brian
 Tyler, Lefty-BOS McElreavy, Wayne
 Vaughn, Hippo-CHI Finkel, Jan
 Wagner, Honus-PIT Finkel, Jan
 Weimer, Jake-CIN Ballow, Jeff
 Wheat, Zack-BKL Enders, Eric
 Williams, Cy-CHI Cappy Gagnon
 Willis, Vic-BOS Dan Levitt
 Wilson, Owen-PIT Mark Armour
 Wiltse, Hooks-NY Gabriel Schecter
 Wingo, Ivy-CIN Jim Sandoval
 Zimmerman, Heinie-CHI David Jones

NL Deadball Bio Assignments by Author

Bob Allen: Mike Donlin
Dave Anderson: Bill Klem, Johnny Kling, Hank O'Day, Kitty Bransfield
Nic Antoine: Rogers Hornsby
Mark Armour: Tommy Leach, Sam Leever, Deacon Phillipe, Owen Wilson
Jeff Ballow: Jame Weimer
John Bennett: Max Carey, Jeff Pfeffer
Sam Bernstein: Baryney Dreyfuss
Bill Bishop: Jimmy Archer, Rube Benton, Casey Stengel
Adrian Bradbury: George Gibson
Tom Carrella: Dots Miller
Frank Cerise: Hank Gowdy
David Cicotello: Wilbur Cooper, Bob Emslie, Cy Rigler
Steve Constantelos: Bob Bescher, Jack Pfister
Gene DeLiso: Tom Seaton
Joe Dittmar: Fred Luderus, Bill Bergen
Jon Dunkle: Claude Hendrix
Eric Enders: Armando Marsans, Nap Rucker, Zack Wheat
Jan Finkel: Pete Alexander, Art Devlin, Eppa Rixey, Hippo Vaughn, Honus Wagner
Scott Flatow: Sherry Magee
James Floto: John McGraw, Chief Meyers
Cappy Gagnon: George Cutshaw, Red Murray, Ed Reulbach, Cy Williams
Dan Ginsburg: Ginger Beaumont, Jack Taylor, John Tener
Jeff Hanson: Babe Adams
Len Jacobson: Joe Tinker, Lefty Leifeld, Charles Murphy
Don Jensen: Dan McGann, Joe McGinnity, Bugs Raymond, Jimmy Sheppard, Jim Thorpe
David Jones: Patsy Donovan, Bill James, Benny Kauff, Dode Paskert, Heinie Zimmerman
Bill Kirwin: Cy Seymour
Martin Kohout: George Stallings
Mike Lackey: Bob Ewing, Larry McLean
Sean Lahman: Jake Beckley, Heinie Groh, Dick Hoblitzell, Mike Mitchell, Luther Taylor

Bill Lamberty: Roy Thomas, Harry Pulliam
R.J. Lesch: Red Ames, George Burns, Doc Crandall, Larry Doyle, Jeff Tesreau
Dan Levitt: Noodles Hahn, Pat Moran, Vic Willis
Dick Leyden: Rabbit Maranville, Dick Rudolph
Angelo Louisa: Fred Clarke, Claude Ritchey
Norman Macht: Red Dooiin, Hans Lobert, Hy Myers
Larry Mansch: Rube Marquard
Brian Marshall: Mordecai Brown, Christy Mathewson, Orval Overall, Fred Toney
Wayne McElreavy: Lefty Tyler
Paul Mittermeyer: Mickey Doolan
Peter Morris: Homer Smoot, Bill Sweeney, Bill Killefer
Jim Moyes: Larry Cheney
Greg Ryhal: Frank Chance, Art Fletcher, Miller Huggins, Vic Saier, Jimmy Slagle
John Saccoman: John Brush, Charles Ebbets, Garry Hermann
Eric Sallee/Paul Sallee: Ed Konetchy, Slim Sallee, Steve Evans, Mike Mowrey
Jim Sandoval: Jake Dabuert, Edd Roush, Ivy Wingo
Gabriel Schecter: Buck Herzog, Fred Snodgrass, Hooks Wiltse
Alex Semchuck: Wilbert Robinson
David Shiner: Johnny Evers
Tom Simon: Eddie Grant, Solly Hoffman, Harry Lumley, Harry Steinfeldt, Bobby Byrne
Barry Sparks: Tully Sparks
Lyle Spatz: Bill Dahlen, Erskine Mayer
Steve Steinberg: Bill Doak
Mark Sternman: Fred Tenny
Bill Swank: Gavy Cravath
Joan Thomas: Roger Bresnahan, Helene Britton
Zack Triscuit: Ned Hanlon, Frank Selee, Frank Schlute
Adam Ulrey: Fred Merkle, Howie Camnitz, Ivy Olson
Allan Wood: John Titus

Statistical Ratings of Deadball Stars

by Phil Gawthrop

In a quest to determine the Deadball Era's best players, I hit me: use year-ending records in 48 categories of each Deadball Era season, assign point values, and compile the list of players by points earned.

I gave 5 points to a player who led the league in one of the 24 batting or 24 pitching categories I selected, four points for second place, and so on through five places per category, using only the years 1901-19. The total value, in theory, represents the player's

sum achievement during the Deadball Era.

For batters I used: R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, TB, RBI, RP, BB, AVG, OBP, SLG, PRO, PRO+, BR, BR+, CHI, RC, TA, SB, SBR, FR, TPR, and PWin (number of pennant-winning teams played for). For the pitchers I used: W, WP, G, CG, SH, S, IP, FewHits/G, FewBB/G, SO, SO/G, ERA, ERA+, OAV, OOB, SR, SR+, Ratio, CPI, RR, RR+, RRk, TPI, and PWin (definition given above). This methodology should reward players for their superior years. The results follow.

Rk	Name	Years	Points
1.	Ty Cobb	1905-1919	936
2.	Honus Wagner	1901-1917	790
3.	Walter Johnson	1907-1919	660
4.	C. Mathewson	1901-1916	628
5.	Sam Crawford	1901-1917	502
6.	Tris Speaker	1907-1919	471
7.	Eddie Collins	1906-1919	447
8.	Nap Lajoie	1901-1916	439
9.	Pete Alexander	1911-1919	422
10.	Ed Walsh	1904-1917	390
11.	Mordecai Brown	1903-1916	360
12.	Cy Young	1901-1911	328
13.	Sherry MaGee	1904-1919	315
14.	Joe Jackson	1908-1919	313
15.	Gavy Cravath	1908-1919	305
16.	Rube Waddell	1901-1910	268
17.	Zack Wheat	1909-1919	219
18.	Addie Joss	1902-1910	215
19.	Babe Ruth (all stats)	1914-1919	214
20.	Eddie Cicotte	1905-1919	212
21.	Joe McGinnity	1901-1908	205
22.	Elmer Flick	1901-1910	192
23.	Hippo Vaughn	1908-1919	183
24.	Eddie Plank	1901-1917	179
25.	George Burns	1911-1919	177
26.	Heinie Zimmerman	1907-1919	161
27.	Frank Baker	1908-1919	158
28.	Joe Wood	1908-1919	157
29.	Mike Donlin	1901-1914	153
30.	Heine Groh	1912-1919	151
31.	R. Hornsby	1915-1919	137
32.	George Stone	1903-1910	139
33.	Jack Chesbro	1901-1909	133
33.	Larry Doyle	1909-1916	133
35.	Vic Willis	1901-1910	132
36.	Cy Seymour	1901-1913	130
37.	Bobby Veach	1912-1919	127
38.	Jimmy Sheppard	1901-1914	125
38.	Buck Freeman	1901-1907	125
40.	Claude Hendrix	1911-1919	122
41.	Fred Clarke	1901-1915	121
41.	Jeff Tesreau	1912-1918	121
43.	Babe Adams	1906-1919	120
43.	S. Coveleski	1912-1919	120
45.	Ed Delahanty	1901-1903	118
45.	Edd Roush	1913-1919	118
47.	Chief Bender	1903-1917	116
48.	Doc White	1901-1913	115
48.	Harry Davis	1895-1917	115
50.	Frank Chance	1903-1914	113
50.	D. Phillippe	1901-1911	113
50.	George Sisler	1915-1919	113
53.	G. Beaumont	1901-1910	112
—	B.Ruth (pitching stats)	1914-1919	111
54	Orval Overall	1905-1913	110
55	Ed Reulbach	1905-1917	106
—	B.Ruth (batting stats)	1914-1919	103

DEC Tabs Cobb, Johnson As Era's Favorites

by Martin Kohout

Ty Cobb barely edged Walter Johnson and Honus Wagner as the favorite player of the Deadball Era (1901-19) among DEC members.

Sixty one of the committee's membership, which at the time numbered 85, listed their five favorite Deadball Era players. Cobb earned 23 mentions, edging Johnson (22) and Wagner (21). Others receiving significant vote totals who didn't crack the top 10 include Sherry Magee (six mentions); Frank Baker, Hal Chase, Eddie Collins, and Eddie Plank (five each); and Chief Meyers and Cy Young (four each).

Many players garnered single mentions, including Bob Unglaub, Moxie Manuel, Moonlight Graham, Tom Letcher, and Lew Richie. The only fictional character to receive a vote (unless you count Graham, made famous by *Field of Dreams*) was Jack Keefe, protagonist of Ring Lardner's *You Know Me*

Al. The only player mentioned who never played in the majors was Jose Mendez. Tom Letcher, known by some as Old Emergency No. 1, played six games as an outfielder for Milwaukee of the American Association in 1891, hitting .190.

Survey Results (Most Mentions):					
Player (Mentions)	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
1. Ty Cobb (23)	7	7	1	4	4
2. Walter Johnson (22)	3	5	7	4	2.3
3. Honus Wagner (21)	9	6	2	1	3
4. Christy Mathewson (17)	3	3	9	2	0
5. Joe Jackson (10)	2	1	2	2	3
6. Rube Waddell (9)	2	1	0	3	3
6. Joe Wood (9)	2	2	2	3	0
8. Tris Speaker (8)	0	3	4	1	0
9. Mordecai Brown (7)	0	3	1	2	1
9. Sam Crawford (7)	1	3	0	2	1
9. Napoleon Lajoie (7)	1	2	2	1	1

Since many respondents did not necessarily list their favorites in order, the breakdown of firsts, seconds, thirds, etc., should probably be taken with a grain of salt. Nonetheless, the top four overall vote-getters also led in first-place mentions, as follows: Wagner (9), Cobb (7), and Johnson and Mathewson (3 each).

A Deadball Era Committee all-star team, based on number of mentions by playing position, would be: C-Chief Meyers (4), 1B-Hal Chase (5), 2B-Napoleon Lajoie (7), 3B-Frank Baker (5), SS-Honus Wagner (21), OF-Ty Cobb (23), Joe Jackson (10), and Tris Speaker (8), P-Walter Johnson (22), Christy Mathewson (17), Rube Waddell (9), Joe Wood (9), and Mordecai Brown (7). A breakdown of the top 10 is in the box.

Deadball Honor Roll Top 24

First Round Breakdown by Position

First Base

Name	Pts
Chance, F.	150
Chase, H.	54
Konetchy, E.	51
Daubert, J.	30
Sisler, G.	24
Tenney, F.	21
Davis, H.	19
Taylor, B.	12
McInnis, S.	4

Second Base

Lajoie, N. (1)	960
Collins, E.	790
Evers, J.	85
Doyle, L.	5
Pratt, D.	2
Cutshaw, G.	0

Shortstop

Wagner, H. (18)	1,168
Wallace, B.	118
Lloyd, J.H.	36
Tinker, J.	28
Davis, G.	26
Bush, D.	22
Dahlen, B.	18
Fletcher, A.	14
Chapman, R.	13
McBride, G.	5
Maranville, R.	2
Hornsby, R.	0

Third Base

Baker, F.	427
Collins, J.	51
Groh, H.	35
Zimmerman, H.	11
Gardner, L.	2
Weaver, B.	2
Devlin, A.	1

Catcher

Bresnahan, R.	159
Kling, J.	74
Meyers, C.	7
Schalk, R.	5
Schang, W.	3
Gibson, G.	1
Schreck., O.	1

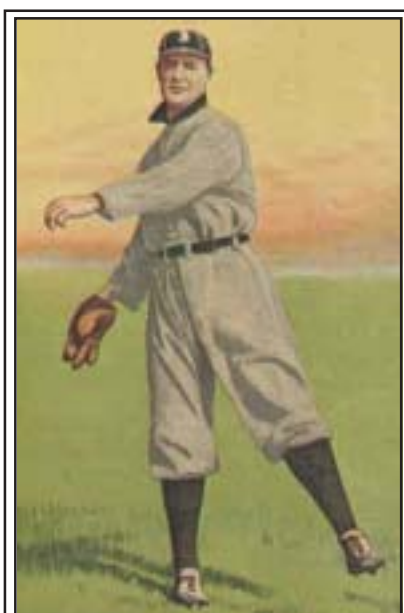
Outfield

Cobb, T. (21)	1,158
Speaker, T.	946
Crawford, S.	606
Jackson, J.	577
Magee, S.	165
Clarke, F.	141
Hooper, H.	52
Cravath, G.	47
Leach, T.	43
Wheat, Z.	36
Flick, E.	36
Lewis, D.	25
Milan, C.	16
Donlin, M.	15
Carey, M.	14
Thomas, R.	14
Schulte, W.	9
Jones, F.	8

Keeler, W.	8
Roush, E.	6
Delahanty, E.	1
Beaumont, G.	1
Burns, G.	1
Bescher, B.	1
Murray, R.	1

Pitcher

Johnson, W. (4)	1,098
Mathewson, C. (3)	1,066
Alexander, G.	814
Brown, M.	595
Young, C.	513
Walsh, E.	465
Plank, E.	407
Waddell, R.	295
Joss, A.	287
Bender, C.	154
McGinnity, J.	151
Wood, J.	57
Chesbro, J.	53
Ruth, B.	48
Reulbach, E.	36
Cicotte, E.	33
Vaughn, H.	30
Williams, J.	23
White, D.	17
Willis, V.	14
Mullin, G.	14
Ames, R.	9
Leever, S.	8
Wickware, F.	8
Marquard, R.	7
Phillippe, D.	7
Adams, B.	5
Tesreau, J.	5
Hahn, N.	3
Mendez, J.	3
Wiltse, H.	3
Rucker, N.	2
Coombs, J.	1
Dauss, H.	1
Orth, A.	1



Wahoo Sam Crawford, Deadball honoree

(First place votes is in parentheses)

Eddie Grant

Philadelphia Third Baseman, 1907-10

Eddie Grant was a typical Deadball Era third baseman: mediocre offensively (as attested by his lifetime .249 batting average and .295 slugging percentage) but defensively reliable against the bunt. "As a batter [Grant] was noted for his ability to sacrifice," remembered Mike Donlin, "and he could lay back near third base and still throw out the fastest runners after they had bunted." In his playing days "Harvard Eddie" was best known for his Ivy League diplomas. In an era when most of his teammates played poker while traveling by train, the intellectual Grant generally could be found smoking his pipe and reading a book. Today, however, he is remembered as the only major leaguer killed in combat during World War I.

Edward Leslie Grant was born on May 21, 1883, in Franklin, Massachusetts, 30 miles south of Boston. After graduating from the public high school in 1901, Eddie spent a post-graduate year at Dean Academy in Franklin before matriculating at Harvard College in the fall of 1902. That year he distinguished himself as the freshman basketball team's top scorer and, according to the *Harvard Crimson*, "a valuable team man and excellent left-handed batter" for the freshman baseball team. As a sophomore Eddie played varsity basketball and tried out for varsity baseball, but before the first game he was declared ineligible for having received money playing in an independent league the previous summer. With intercollegiate competition no longer an option, he joined his class team and spent the summer with St. Albans of Vermont's outlaw Northern League.

Returning to Cambridge in the fall of 1904, Grant carried a heavy course load with the intention of graduating a year early and enrolling in law school. Though ambitious, Eddie was a mediocre student at Harvard, earning an average grade of slightly above C. Classmates described him as quiet, thoughtful, unassuming, and serious. In athletics, however, he stood out a bit more. Again he played class baseball — earning a spot on the 1905 All-Leiter Team, Harvard's intramural all-star team — and joined the semi-pro Milford club in Lynn, Mass., as soon as school ended.

That summer, in addition to fulfilling his degree requirements, Eddie got his first taste of organized baseball — at the major league level, no less. In early August the Cleveland Naps were in Boston, but Napoleon Lajoie was laid up with an infected leg. The best local substitute the Naps could find was Eddie Grant, who filled in at second base and collected three hits in his big league

debut.

For the next three years Grant attended Harvard Law School during offseasons and played professional baseball during summers. While with Jersey City in 1906, his first full season in organized ball, Eddie led the Eastern League with a .322 average. That mark earned him a shot with the Philadelphia Phillies, for whom he split time with Ernie Courtney in 1907 before taking over as the regular third baseman in 1908. During the offseason of 1908-09 Grant received his law degree and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar, and for the rest of his baseball career he practiced law in Boston during the winter months.

Grant enjoyed his finest big league season in 1909, batting .269 as Philadelphia's leadoff hitter and finishing second in the National League with 170 hits. Before a doubleheader against the New York Giants that year, he supposedly found a domino with seven white spots. As the story goes, after joking with teammates that the domino was an omen that he would have seven hits that day, Eddie went five-for-five against Christy Mathewson in the first game, then batted safely in his first two at-bats against Rube Marquard in the nightcap. The seven consecutive hits were believed to be an N.L. record, but Eddie remained modest. "I didn't get another hit off Matty all season," he recalled. Grant put up similar numbers for Philadelphia in 1910, when one commentator called him "perhaps the best-hitting third baseman in the National League, barring Bobby Byrne of the Pittsburgs."

The 1910 season proved to be the apex of Grant's career. In February 1911 he was sent to Cincinnati in the trade that brought Hans Lobert and Dode Paskert to the Phillies. For the Reds, Eddie slumped to a .223 average in his final season as a regular and improved only slightly to .239 as a part-timer in 1912. Many attributed his sudden decline to a tragedy in his personal life. Eddie had married Irene Soest in Philadelphia in 1911, but she died of heart trouble less than nine months after the wedding.

The Giants purchased Grant in the midst of the 1913 season. Eddie played sparingly as New York captured its third consecutive pennant, and that fall he participated in his only World Series, appearing as a pinch-hitter and pinch-runner. He held on for two more seasons as John McGraw's bench coach and seldom-used utilityman. Before spring training in 1916 Eddie announced his retirement, intending to devote himself to his Boston law practice. He was

32 years old.

Grant's career as a full-time lawyer lasted barely one year. When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, he became the first major leaguer to enlist (Hank Gowdy was the first active major leaguer). After four months of officer training in Plattsburg, New York, Grant was commissioned as captain of Company H of the 307th Infantry Regiment and sent to Camp Upton on Long Island for several months of training with the troops he would lead. Arriving in France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces, Grant's division saw some combat before being assigned to the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the final great American drive of the war.

On October 2, 1918, the 307th Regiment launched an attack in the Argonne Forest, a rugged, heavily wooded area with thick underbrush, deep ravines, and marshes. By the morning of the third day, October 5, Eddie Grant was exhausted. He hadn't slept since the beginning of the offensive, and some fellow officers noticed him sitting on a stump with a cup of coffee in front of him, too weak to lift the cup. One of his troops, a former policeman at the Polo Grounds, remembered: "Eddie was dog-tired but he stepped off at the head of his outfit with no more concern than if he were walking to his old place at third base after his side had finished its turn at the bat. He staggered from weakness when he first started off, but pretty soon he was marching briskly with his head up."

Later that day the 307th was moving forward when Major Jay, as he was carried past on a litter, ordered Captain Grant, the highest-ranking officer left in his battalion, to assume command. The major had hardly spoken when a shell came through the trees, wounding two of Grant's lieutenants. Eddie was waving his hands and calling out for more stretcher bearers when a shell struck him. It was a direct hit, killing him instantly.

Eddie Grant was buried in the Argonne Forest, only a few yards from where he fell. Later his remains were moved to the Romagne Cemetery. A monument in Grant's honor was unveiled at the Polo Grounds on Memorial Day 1921, and a highway in the Bronx, a baseball field at Dean Academy (now Dean Junior College), and two American Legion posts still bear his name.

Photo caption: The Grant memorial at the Polo Grounds. After the Giants' last game there on September 29, 1957, fans ripped the plaque from the monument. Its present whereabouts is unknown.

Deadball Names, News and Notes

Literal Dick Egan Bashing

The following is from *Low and Inside: A Book of Baseball Anecdotes, Oddities, and Curiosities* by H. Allen Smith & Ira L. Smith, copyright 1949, republished April 2000 (Breakaway Books).

Second baseman Egan of Cincinnati got real furious one afternoon when Joe Tinker of the Cubs executed a vicious slide into second. The two men had words, and Egan challenged Tinker. "You dirty blank-blank-blank obscenity," said Mr. Egan, "soon as this game's over I'm gonna knock your blank-blank-blank head off!"

Tinker out-blanked him and accepted the challenge. But the Cub shortstop, while being a man of hot temper, usually cooled off rapidly, and by the time the game ended he had forgotten about the dispute. Not so Egan. He waited outside the dressing room and finally invaded the room, only to find that Tinker had just departed.

"He's yella!" cried Egan. "He's run out on me!" Up spoke Frank Chance, the Cub manager. "Joe Tinker never ran away from a fight in his life. I'll get him for you." Chance ran out onto the field and saw Tinker just passing second base, headed for the exit.

"Hey, Joe!" yelled Chance, and Joe turned around just in time to see the bellicose Egan racing toward him, fists clenched. Tinker calmly removed his coat and in a moment the battle was on inside a circle of ballplayers. It lasted perhaps five minutes and witnesses said few men ever took such a beating in that length of time as Egan got from Tinker. And when it was over, Tinker's hair wasn't even ruffled, though unbiased witnesses said he did have to straighten his tie a little. (submitted by Eric Sallee)

Jimmy Barrett's 162 games and Other Oddball Records from the Deadball Era

Some single-season records set in the Deadball Era are likely to stand forever:

Jack Chesbro's 41 wins in 1904; Chief Wilson's 36 triples in 1912; Dutch Leonard's 1.00 ERA in 1914; and Grover Cleveland Alexander's 16 shutouts in 1916. Others barely survived the Era: 1920 saw the shattering of Ty Cobb's hit record (248 in 1911), Jimmy Sheppard's walk record (147 set that same season), and Babe Ruth's home run record (29 in 1919).

Still other single-season records set in the Deadball Era managed to hold on for decades. Some are well-known, such as Rube Waddell's 349 strikeouts in 1904 (broken by Sandy Koufax in 1965) and Ty Cobb's 96 stolen bases in 1915 (broken by Maury Wills in 1962), but a few were set by players whose names are familiar only to DEC members.

Did you know, for instance, that until Ron Hunt came along in 1971, the all-time single-season leader in times hit by pitched balls was St. Louis Cardinals right fielder Steve Evans (31 in 1910)? Or how about this one: Until 1938, the all-time leader in times struck out in a single season was St. Louis Browns right fielder Gus Williams (120 in 1914).

Finally, and perhaps most perplexing of all these records, before the schedule was expanded to 162 games in 1961, the all-time leader in games played in a single-season was Detroit Tigers center fielder Jimmy Barrett — who somehow managed to appear in 162 games in 1904! (by Tom Simon)

Bill Bergen's Record

A few years ago the Baseball Records Committee was trying to find the non-pitcher with the longest consecutive streak of hitless at-bats. We had a tie at 44 between Luis Aparicio and Tony Bernazard before Joe Dittmar discovered



Bill Bergen, who had a long dry spell

that the record belonged to Superbas catcher Bill Bergen. (Actually, there may be someone who has a longer streak still waiting to be found.) Bergen's streak started after he singled in his first at bat

against the Giants on June 29, 1909. It ended in the second game of a double-header against Chicago on July 17, 1909, when, after sitting out the first game, Bergen had a fourth inning infield single against Ed Reulbach. (by Lyle Spatz)

One-season Wonder

Henry Schmidt was a right-handed pitcher who burst onto the major league scene with the Brooklyn Superbas in 1903. A 30-year old rookie, Schmidt beat Christy Mathewson of the Giants in his first start, and rolled up a 21-win season. It remains one of the best seasons ever logged by a rookie twirler.

It also remains the only season in Schmidt's major league career, for when he received his 1904 contract he returned it to Brooklyn unsigned with a note that read: "I do not like living in the East and will not report." Although Schmidt didn't like playing in the East, he would eventually name one of his three sons Ned Hanlon Schmidt after his Brooklyn manager.

Schmidt was discovered by Ned Hanlon in the Coast League in 1902, and signed with Brooklyn for the 1903 season. At one point he pitched three straight shutouts, and was one of nine pitchers in the NL to post a winning record (10-9) against first division clubs that season. Schmidt pitched for Oakland in 1904, registering a 26-28 record. He was 18-17 in 41 games the next season for Oakland when he was released in late October. Club President Clay Hawbacker issued the notice to Schmidt following a particularly disappointing loss to Seattle, and a scene ensued when Schmidt's wife "objected to the vigorous language" used by Hawbacker, who eventually apologized.

Schmidt's minor league career is believed to have ended after an 0-6 run with Los Angeles in 1905. There is a paper trail of a Henry Schmidt who was signed and released by various clubs throughout the Midwest up until about 1915, but it has not been verified that it is the Henry Schmidt of Superba fame.

Schmidt would work as a pipe fitter for the railroad until dying in Nashville in 1926 at the age of 52. (by Bill Lamberty, with thanks to David Jones)

Please, we beg you: no dimpled chads!

Deadball Honor Roll Ballot, Round 2

Below is the ballot for the second and final round of Deadball Honor Roll voting. We will be filling in the next 26 slots for the 50-player list. Any major league player receiving at least two votes in the first round of voting is included on this ballot, as well as a few other players chosen by a selection panel. Players should be evaluated on their careers from 1901 to 1919 and at all of the positions played, not just the primary position. Vote for up to 26 players, ranking up to five from the list, indicating your 1-5 ranking with a number by the player's name. Unlike the first round of voting, these rankings will serve to break ties, not to weigh votes. Creating any ballot is a subjective process, but I have tried to be as inclusive as possible. Write-in votes (up to three) are accepted, and if you would like to lobby for someone who did not make the ballot, the group listserve would be an excellent place for it. Please have your votes postmarked by 3/30/01, and mail to Steve Constantelos at 2651 Redcoat Drive, Alexandria, VA 22303. Only this filled-out paper ballot will be accepted. If you have any questions please get in touch with me (sconstantelos@reedsmith.com, 703/329-6355). Happy voting!

First Basemen

- CHASE, Hal
- DAUBERT, Jake
- DAVIS, Harry
- KONETCHY, Ed
- McINNIS, Stuffy
- SISLER, George
- TENNEY, Fred

Second Basemen

- DOYLE, Larry
- EVERS, Johnny
- HUGGINS, Miller
- PRATT, Del

Third Basemen

- COLLINS, Jimmy
- DEVLIN, Art
- GARDNER, Larry
- GROH, Heinie
- ZIMMERMAN, Heinie

Write-In Candidates

Shortstops

- BUSH, Donie
- CHAPMAN, Ray
- DAHLEN, Bill
- DAVIS, George
- FLETCHER, Art
- MARANVILLE, Rabbit
- TINKER, Joe
- WEAVER, Buck

Outfielders

-
- CAREY, Max
- CRAVATH, Gavy
- DONLIN, Mike
- FLICK, Elmer
- HOOPER, Harry
- LEACH, Tommy
- LEWIS, Duffy
- MILAN, Clyde
- ROUSH, Edd
- SCHULTE, Wildfire
- SEYMOUR, Cy
- SHECKARD, Jimmy
- THOMAS, Roy
- VEACH, Bobby
- WHEAT, Zach

Catchers

- MEYERS, Chief
- KLING, Johnny
- SCHANG, Wally
- SCHALK, Ray

Pitchers

- CHESBRO, Jack
- CICOTTE, Eddie
- LEEVER, Sam
- MARQUARD, Rube
- MULLIN, George
- PHILLIPPE, Deacon
- REULBACH, Ed
- RUCKER, Nap
- RUTH, Babe
- VAUGHN, Hippo
- WHITE, Doc
- WILLIS, Vic
- WOOD, Joe