



Mr. Baseball

"Baseball is like church. Many attend, but few understand."
-Wes Westrum

Norm Cash

G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	HR%	R	BB	SO	SB	BA	SA
2089	6705	1820	241	41	377	5.6	1046	1043	1091	43	271	488

At the mention of career years, thoughts turn to either Smokey Joe Wood, Carl Yastrzemski, or Norm Cash. Unlike Wood or Yaz, Norm eluded the World Series spotlight in 1961. He hit .361 to win the title, .075 better than his next best season, with 132 RBI's. He never again approached 100 ribbies. Still quite a few players today would endure weekly UA's for a year like that. He had a good eye, collecting more career walks than Hornsby, Bando, Slaughter, or Kiner. Cash also had good power, with 377 lifetime dingers at a 5.6x, better than DiMaggio, Kaline, or Dale Murphy. In 1968, when all bats went limp, his 263 was 33 points better than the American League average. He would be a franchise player in today's market.

"You wait for a strike. Then you knock the shit out of it."
-Stan Musial

In 1984, Rob Deer was a rookie with the Giants. In a gruesome glimpse of the future, he had 24 at bats and garnered 4 hits. Of these, 3 were home runs. Out of the 24 AB's, 10 were strike-outs, and the 3 homers collected a total of 3 RBI's. Can someone explain this cat to me? Just last year,

He struck out more than 130 times for a mind boggling seventh consecutive year.

On Aug. 23, he had 42 RBI's. 36 from homers, 3 on 2Bs, and two on Ruthian bases loaded walks. That day he crushed his first RBI single.

He hit 32 homers in fewer than 400 AB's, the first AL player since Rudy York in 1937. Mystery--Who was the NL batsman?

He broke his wrist while striking out.

He drove in his own self as many times as his bemused teammates, 32 homers and 64 RBI's, a first for a 30 homer slugger.

He hit two balls off the ceiling of the Metrodome in consecutive AB's.

And--this is the best--at the end of August, he had more home runs than singles, and as of Sept. 22, he had more multi-homer games than multi-single games.

Is this the natural progression of Wally Post to Dick Allen to Dave Kingman to....this? Or is Sparky some dark practitioner of the forbidden Genetic Arts and Deer is the product of a horrible mistake in his vats?

"People ask me what I do in winter when there is no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."
-Rogers Hornsby

Montreal is the hockey capital of the world. Well, it used to be anyway. Perhaps that's why the ill-fated Expos franchise can't seem to grasp the concept of hardball. This year's squad has the talent to capture the National League Least pennant, but so did the Carter/Dawson/Rogers Expos that flailed about for ten years searching for a second baseman.

Which leaves the door open for the Cardinals. The Felix Jose for Gregg Jefferies trade is looking better by the day, and the starting rotation is going to surprise many. After Brian Jordan was convinced the St. Louis outfield was more profitable than the Atlanta backfield, the Cards had a commitment to play him, so they picked up Mark Whiten from the Indians and solidified the 7, 8, and 9 positions with excellent athletes. Pena is hot, Ozzie is ageless, throw in Lee Smith and you've got a contender.

The Braves will trade Ron Gant for a closer by the All-Star break. They have nothing in their organization to fill that need, but they do have a center fielder named Mike Kelly waiting for a chance.

"Baseball is dull only to dull minds."
-Red Smith

Baseball Quiz:

For a single-He hit 12 of 24 in a World Series, with 2 HR, 2 3B, and 8 RBIs. He said, "Cheating is as much a part of the game as scorecards and hot dogs."

Double-In 1951, the Cubs infield was so scatter-armed that a typical Tribune description of an attempted double-play read, rather harshly, "Smalley to Miksis to Addison Street." If the miracle twin killing had occurred, who would have been the fortunate first sacker?

Triple-Who was the first black Major Leaguer?

Another triple-Name the only ML player who weighed less than 125 lbs to hit a home run.

Two run homer-The 1941 Giants had four Jewish players on their roster. Name them.

For a bunt single-Who pitched the most innings past the age of 50?

R.I.P. - Steve Olin. The Portland State baseball team has announced it is dedicating the '93 season to his memory, and a contribution of canned goods to be used to feed those in need will get you into the yard. If you're in town with an empty afternoon, take in a game, and do the right thing. It'll be good for you. Thanks.

Thanks also to Bill James and Bill Mazerowski for background material and ripped off quotes.

12 UPPER LEFT EDGE MAY 1993

Letters from Chicago
by Marsha Morgan

Spring? You've got to be kidding. It's still winter here. It's always cooler near the lake, and while the suburbs of Chicago enjoy a sunny day from time to time here lately, we who hover within sight of the tallest buildings in the world, shiver and look longingly at the dark, unyielding ground. Our beleaguered weather reporters call it, "The Lake Effect." We call it rain, sleet, snow and ice.

Well, at least some Chicagoans are enjoying mild weather. The Cubs and the Sox romp in the sunshine at spring training. Bo Jackson is recovering from hip replacement surgery, and has made the cut. Harry Carry also seems to be benefiting from the warm weather. His voice is strong and clear. Later in the season it'll begin to sound like he's reporting from the bottom of a fish tank, but for now there is a certain hardness there. Hope is in the air.

After living near Wrigley field for years on Chicago's near north side, I moved to the near south side, close to the newly built Sox park. My brother, Mike Morgan (not the pitcher) is coming to Chicago this summer and he wants to go to a Sox game to see the new stadium. He kept asking me last year if I'd seen it yet, and I kept saying Cubs fans don't go to Sox games. But really, the Cubs were having such a horrible year that watching any baseball game was a painful experience. Watching a Sox game was just out of the question. But now I'm living within five miles of Comiskey park, and I began to wonder if I could make the switch. "Go Sox," I said tentatively, the words felt strange. I compared the uniforms. Sox colors are macho black with white, Cubs are Little League red, white and blue with a cute cubby bear face on the sleeve. Oh, stop the debate, I could at least give it a try. I especially liked the rude chant Sox fans sing when an adversary is having a difficult time: "Na-na-na-na. Na-na-na-na. Na-na-na-na. Good-bye."

Just as my resolve was hardening, quite by accident I turned on Channel 9. The Cubs were winning and Mike Morgan (not my brother) was pitching. A feeling of hope and sudden joy suffused my being. I settled onto the couch, but almost immediately drifted off to sleep. Harry Cary's voice awoke me. The Cubs had loaded the bases, couldn't score and were down by two. I could feel my heart constrict involuntarily, and I began the March Mantra: It's only spring training. It's only spring-training. It's only spring training.

I got up from the couch, wrapped myself in several layers and went outside to shovel snow. The sky was mole grey, and the brittle tree limbs clacked against one another. The street was deserted, and I noticed how very quiet it is here in this neighborhood away from the

high rises and the madding crowds of young careerists. I realized then that it was too late for me to abandon the Cubs. How could I dismiss all those years of waiting and hoping for the Cubs to win? -- all those prayerful March's and despairing October's in that little ancient ivy covered jewel of a park where time--and usually the Cubs--stands still. How would I feel if I start rooting for the Sox and the Cubs have a great year? What if this is the year we put it all together and win another pennant. No, I'm sorry, Bo. I wish you and your team all the best. I even hope we have a subway series soon, and I'll plan on attending a game or two with Mike and my new south side friends. But I just can't leave the Cubs. They need me. Besides, this could be "The Year We Go All The Way!" Hope springs eternal. Go Cubbies!

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2) Call back and during the opening message punch in 22, .. wait a sec .., then 5. Now wait till the tape rewinds. (We get up to 30-50 calls a week so be patient. You will hear many ba-beep, ba-beep, ba-beeps.) If you get bored hit 2 to skip through message to the next one.

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