

Brooklyn relief pitcher, in the 1920 series against Cleveland. He came to bat twice in one game and was responsible for five outs, hitting into a double and triple play. Ernie Lombardi, a very good Cincinnati catcher, was the big goat of the 1939 series against the Yankees. Ernie was blamed for "snoozing" at home plate while two Yankee runs scored in quick succession. Lombardi had been dazed in a collision with Charley Keller and, when the ball dribbled out of Ernie's hand, Joe DiMaggio scored. There are many baseball historians who contend big Ernie was unjustly tagged a goat.

OLD GAFFERS as baseball ages go, bench jockeys, and even psychology have played major roles in World Series.

Modern-day fans probably have come to know Casey Stengel only as the guiding genius behind the Yankees. Casey is proud of his many Yankee pennants and World Series titles. But chances are he's no prouder of those feats than he is of his performance in the 1923 series when he played for the Giants against the Yankees.

Nearing 34, Casey was over the hill. In addition, he played despite the torture of a seriously injured heel. But he twice hit home runs, one an inside-the-park job, to help win two games in that series. He had sportswriters writing parodies on "Casey at the Bat" that year.

Good bench jockeys are worth their salt in any series. Take the '34 classic between the Cards and Detroit Tigers. The St. Louis Gashouse Gang did an ear-splitting job on the Tigers. And it was not mere coincidence that the Cards won that series. They seized on every possibility to needle the Tigers. Sample: when baseball clown Al Schacht worked out with the Tigers' infield during a pre-game drill, the Cards chortled from their dugout, "That makes five clowns in one infield."

How did psychology work its magic? It happened in the 1927 series between the Yankees and Pirates. In pre-game batting practice, the hefty-hitting Yanks decided to throw a scare into their opponents with a bombastic display of batting. As the Pittsburgh players watched, one Yankee slugger after another belted the ball out of the park. The Pirates convinced themselves right then they were licked. Result: the Yanks won in four straight.

But wherever baseball people gather, they will never stop talking about the 1941 series between the Yanks and Dodgers. The fourth game—that was the one the Dodgers lost after winning it—well, it seemed that way anyhow.

The Dodgers were leading, 4-3 in the ninth, and Hugh Casey was pitching for Brooklyn. He retired the first two batters. Then he got two strikes on Tommy Henrich, then a third. But Dodger catcher Mickey Owen failed to hold the third strike and Henrich romped safely to first.

Now came the crusher. Joe DiMaggio singled to left, Keller doubled to right, scoring Henrich and DiMaggio. Bill Dickey walked and Joe Gordon doubled, scoring Keller and Dickey. It was the lone flash of concentrated Yankee power in the series, and it took Owen's muff of a third strike to bring it out.

The Brooks never recovered from the shock in that game or during the rest of the series.

It's a baseball axiom that the game's never over until the last man is out. It's also true that you can never tell what will happen in a World Series.



Old-timer "Red" Faber (center) recalls his rock in '17 series for old-timers "Three-Finger" Brown and "Moose" Walsh.

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