

# FOR COLLECTORS ONLY

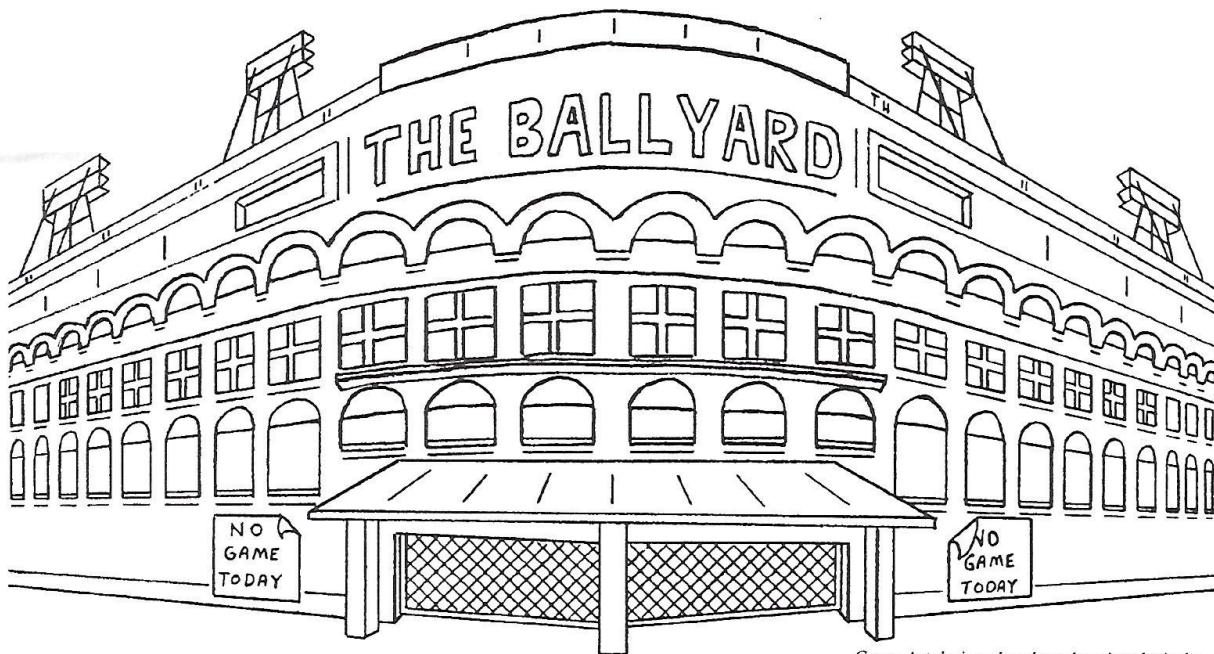
World Series(?) 1994

*a newsletter for those who appreciate the hobby of card collecting*

Volume 2, Number 2

## CALLED STRIKE — WE'RE OUT

Another Work Stoppage Cancels the World Series



*Cover Art designed and produced exclusively  
for FCO by Tony "Papa Nak" Hrenak*

### PLUS...

- *Fan Reactions*
- *Triple Talk*
- *Audio Conlon Cards*
- *Tobacco Cards*
- *Ken Burns' Baseball on PBS  
and more of the usual*

**NEXT TIME in FCO:**

*Hot Stove League Issue*

Will there be a 1995 season? Whether the answer is yes or no, For Collectors Only will be here to talk about the nostalgia and fun of collecting.

— We'll have special Holiday collecting memories to remind us what the hobby is REALLY about. (A hint, it's not money or investments.)

— Dr. Dave's series on tobacco cards continues, talking about other fairly well-known sets such as T-3 Turkey Reds, T-200 Fatima team cards and T-202 Hassan Triple Folders.

— more Triple Talk, another Conlon Corner from Moonlight, more little-known facts from Mr. Trivia, and of course, the esteemed Guru of Card Collecting.

We're always looking for Collector Profiles, questions for Ask the Guru, Reader Feedback, references for our Shop Talk column and anything else. Send comments and contributions to:

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**Contest Update:**

Dear baseball fans,

For Collectors Only regretfully has to cancel the first annual For Collectors Only Tops & Flops Prognostication Contest due to the baseball strike.

All of the contest categories, with the exception of the First Manager Fired (Buck Rodgers) and First New Manager Hired (Marcel Lachemann) were created with the assumption that a full season would be played. Considering the number of games cancelled, we feel it would not be fair to even attempt to extrapolate the numbers to simulate a full season.

We are awarding the prizes as promised, and would like to congratulate our grand prize winner...

**Rick Ellison - Fremont, CA**

We'll be contacting Rick to confirm his prize. Thanks to all who entered!



## *Moonlight's* CONLON CORNER

In this issue of FCO, we're doing a little more than just a Conlon "Corner". We're doing a Conlon PAGE. Why? Our friends at Megacards have been busy doing wonderful things over the past few months and we'd like to tell everyone about them, starting with the 1994 Factory Sets.

Baseball history is brought to life with the 1994 factory edition of The Sporting News Conlon Collection, now available from Megacards, Inc. Packaged in a new collector's tin, the '94 Conlons feature many photos of baseball's all time greats, including Charles Conlon's most famous shot of Ty Cobb sliding into third base. Two 1995 promotional cards are also included with each factory set.

The 1994 Conlon set sports fifteen innovative subsets. Several of baseball's greatest players go head-to-head in the "1934 All Star Game." Past stars recall their favorite tales in "Great Stories." The beginnings of a baseball dynasty are documented with the 1929 World Champion Philadelphia Athletics, who ended the reign of the Yankees and their "Murderer's Row."

The black and white, high-gloss Conlon cards are numbered 991-1320, maintaining the consecutive numbering begun in 1991's premier edition.

Conlon's historically famous shot of Ty Cobb sliding into third base (card #1000), and a personal account of how Conlon thought he had missed the photo opportunity, highlight the '94 set. In the photograph, Cobb storms into third with spikes flying in a sea of dust. The catcher's throw sails past Yankee third baseman Jimmy Austin, who is thrown on his face and in the confusion, Conlon believes he has failed to get the shot. Later, when he develops the plates Conlon discovers that, by instinct, he did snap the photo.

All 35 players from the second All-Star Game, played 60 years ago at the Polo Grounds, are also included. The subset's first card shows the Polo Grounds' center field bleachers on the front, and the box score of the game on the back.

The "Great Stories" subset features contributions from some of baseball's finest writers. Donald Honig, Lawrence Ritter, and Daniel Okrent and Steve Wolf

(authors of *Baseball Anecdotes*) provide tales involving many of baseball's most popular players: Pepper Martin, who liked to play pranks whenever possible; Eddie Plank, whose fussing and fiddling on the mound distracted batters; and Sad Sam Jones, a pitcher who did not make a pickoff throw to first base for five years!

Baseball's best arbiters also get their due in "Umpires," including Hall of Famers such as Tommy Connolly, the lone umpire in the first American League game in 1901; Bill Klem, widely acknowledged as the finest arbiter in the game's history; Jocko Conlon, the only umpire of his time to give all signals left-handed; and Billy Evans, "The Boy Umpire."

Other featured subsets include "Nicknames" such as "Old Reliable" Tommy Henrich, "Rabbit" Maranville, "Rubberhead" Cliff Heathcote and "Schnozz" Ernie Lombardi; "Trivia" with 11 new cards to test your wits and knowledge of baseball; "First Card" spotlighting 36 players who have never had a baseball card done on them before; "Brothers" with card fronts showing brothers who played in the major leagues, including the Waners, Ferrells, and Dizzy and Daffy Dean; "Hall of Fame" cards of

continued on Page 8



Megacards, known for The Conlon Collection™ and the Babe Ruth Collection™ baseball card sets, has developed an audio baseball card project that will provide visually impaired people with an opportunity to enjoy one of America's favorite pastimes, baseball card collecting.

Megacards will produce this cassette tape as their "Beating the Odds" genre project for 1994. In 1995, they go back to producing a card subset as our service to people with disabilities.

The audio tape is based on The Sporting News® Conlon Collection, with a special emphasis on our "Beating the Odds" subset.

- Approximate length is 60 minutes, about 30 minutes per side.
- Side one tells the story of photographer, Charles Martin

## AUDIO BASEBALL CARDS BRING CONLONS ALIVE FOR THE BLIND

Conlon and features 8 - 12 cards based on his photos. Most of these cards are from the "Great Stories" subsets seen in earlier Conlon Collection series'.

- Side two starts with an audio description of the photo on the front of the card, including details such as uniforms, facial features and expressions, and batting stances. This is followed by a reading of the back of each of the 14 baseball cards that make up the "Beating the Odds" subset from the 1993 Conlon Collection.
- 1000 of these tapes have been produced. The project is scheduled for completion by October 1, 1994.

Distribution to blind and low-vision persons will be done via Dr. Peter Blanck, a senior fellow of The Annenberg

Washington Program and professor of law at the University of Iowa and a nationally recognized expert on the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).

This product will not be sold. Megacards is producing the tapes as a public service, and to demonstrate our continued support for the A.D.A.

The non-profit nature of this project, and our limited resources make it necessary for us to keep production costs as low as possible, but if you know of an individual with sight-impairment who would enjoy the tape, please send us their name and address and we will do our best to get a copy out to them.

If you have not seen the "Beating the Odds" subset from 1993, or if you need more information on those cards, e-mail us at [Megacards2@aol.com](mailto:Megacards2@aol.com) or write us here at FCO.



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# BASEBALL

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## Ken Burns' PBS Documentary Stirs The Hearts and Minds of America

There is no joy in baseball-land; the players have struck (again) and the fans have struck out (again). But wait! An unlikely hero rises from the wasteland known as television to rescue the true baseball aficionado from the deepest baseball withdrawal. That hero is PBS.

In September, during what should have been one of the most riveting season-end climaxes in over 30 years, there was no major league baseball played on the diamond. However, almost as if sent by heaven, PBS broadcast "Baseball", sating the hunger of the true baseball fan.

Produced by Ken Burns and Geoffrey Ward, the same people who brought us "The Civil War" on PBS, "Baseball" is a presentation unlike anything the average fan has ever seen before. Edited into nine parts, or innings, "Baseball" is a more or less chronological look into the great American pastime and its effect on the American mind, heart and soul. In "Baseball," Burns and Ward show how the game of baseball has reflected America as a society and in some cases, actually led American society into a new era. All this history and sociology is presented amid a raging river of nostalgia, including newsreel footage, video, hundreds of quotes from principals involved in all facets of the game and interviews with people who have had some connection, whether active or passive with the game.

Traditionalists take note: This is not an ordinary baseball documentary. It is not merely statistics, photos, and standings. It is not just about the physical manifestation of the game. "Baseball" is a study of the impact of the game on our lives, hearts and minds, expressed through protracted on-camera interviews with many prominent baseball fans, including actor Billy Crystal, writer Roger Angell, columnist Studs Terkel, author George Plimpton and many others.

Sports Editor Michael Baumann of the Milwaukee Journal did not much care for the "talking heads" segments. He did not care for the stories of the effect of the game on the personal and family lives of people like Doris Kearns Goodwin, whose vivid memories of a young Brooklyn Dodger fan brought back the agony for many fans of the late 50's. Her stories were not about baseball per se, they were about her family and how baseball defined her family and familial relationships. Hers were stories of joy, sadness, pain and eventually rebirth - all in the context of baseball. To see her expression change at the thought of being 7 years old again, with her father at Ebbets Field, is to see in retrospect a defining moment in her life. Billy Crystal, Bob Costas, Thomas Okrent, all of these people had their lives defined, at least in part, by baseball.

By far the star of the series was former Negro League star and manager Buck O'Neil, who became the first black coach in major league baseball with the Cubs in the early 60's. Buck is responsible for signing players such as Ernie Banks and Lee Smith for the Cub and is still active as a scout for the Kansas City Royals.

On camera, O'Neil was a gem. He spun stories from his days in the Negro Leagues, not merely stories of baseball legends like Josh Gibson, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson and the immortal Satchel Paige, but legends of other walks of life such as Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie. He spoke of his days in the majors as a coach and scout and his eye for talent. O'Neil told of life as it really was for a black athlete in America at that time, full of hardships, but with some benefits that don't get publicized nearly enough. Buck and his Kansas City Monarch teammates "ate in the best restaurants; they were black-owned restaurants. We stayed in the best hotels; they just happened to be owned by

blacks." They lived like kings within their community because to their community they were kings.

The most telling part of Buck O'Neil's stories was his face. His eyes glowed with every vision he brought back to life, he smiled at the memory of the times and the friends he had known. His face was that of a proud father, knowing that he had taken part in the history of something wonderful. The truly amazing part of the interviews was that Buck showed no regret, gave no indication that the hardships were more than he could bear. They were "part of the game;" the game he loves so much.

Burns took baseball and redefined it in terms of our memories, our emotions, ourselves. He showed us how baseball is a part of who we are and how we are a part of it, for good and bad. Perhaps the most poignant and stirring moments of the series had to do with the most powerful of emotions we face as humans; pain, loss, courage and hate. Could anyone not be moved at the stories of young New York baseball fans being torn to pieces by the defection of both of their beloved National League Teams in the same year? Especially the Dodgers, who gave Brooklyn its own identity in the faceless conglomeration of boroughs that make up New York. Was there a dry eye when Jackie Robinson spoke of his contributions and his dreams at the 1971 World Series, just ten days before his death? How about the Babe himself, cancer making him a physical shadow of his legend, barely able to address the fans shortly before his own demise? Powerful, moving emotions that touch us all - uniquely and perhaps universally illustrated by baseball.

Burns' series contains stories of baseball in America; of parents and children sharing the game, even if they share nothing else. This is the story as Burns and Ward chose to tell it - the effect of baseball on America and the way American society and baseball reflect on each other throughout their coexistence. "Baseball" is a tale of the emotional investment that many Americans have made in the game, an investment that is sure to appreciate over time and an investment no one can take from us.



# R DR. DAVE'S X OLD CARD CLINIC

In Part I of this multi-part series, FCO's Doctor of Old Cardboard, Dave Hornish, presents a detailed history of tobacco cards. Look for more in future issues.

Tobacco cards represent the first high point in the history of baseball cards. It is here that the modern baseball card took form. T-206 was the first truly popular set issued and the first to employ color. T-3, T-201 and T-202 set production standards that weren't equaled until the 1950's. Unlike cards of today, tobacco cards, while not entirely born of necessity, had a purpose: they stiffened the cigarette pack and promoted various brands of coffin nails while providing a picture of most of the players in the game. They also present a serious challenge to the type set collector, but thanks to Jefferson Burdick, it is a challenge that can be surmounted.

The tobacco card heading is slightly misleading. Tobacco cards first appeared in the 19th Century, but what Jefferson Burdick designated as "T" in the American Card Catalog consisted solely of cards issued from 1898 on. The thought of all tobacco issues appearing under one heading must have bothered him and because of this distinction between 19th and mostly 20th century issues, even people with limited budgets can assemble a fairly comprehensive tobacco type set. You probably can't afford to spend the money to procure a presentable specimen of Kalamazoo Bats or Four Base Hits, let alone try to track one down.

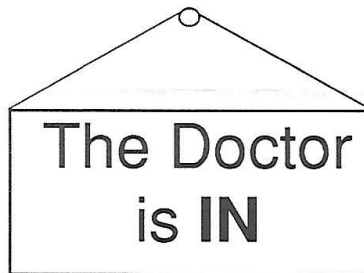
While I am thankful Mr. Burdick made the distinction between the two eras, they aren't far removed from one another. The same manufacturers who distributed cards in the 1880's were essentially responsible for their resurgence almost 20 years later, under the corporate umbrella of the American Tobacco Company. In fact, the man responsible for the demise of tobacco cards in the 1890's was indirectly responsible for their return in 1909.

J.B. "Buck" Duke, owner of W. Duke & Sons Company (purveyor of fine tobacco products) and a robber baron of the highest order, got together with some of his biggest competitors: Allen & Ginter, Goodwin & Company and W.S. Kimball, to form the

## A History of Tobacco Cards - Part I

American Tobacco Company in 1890. This was exactly what the Sherman Anti Trust Act was designed to prevent. The American Tobacco Company (or Trust) controlled a sizable portion of the U.S. tobacco market, thanks to the acquisitions made by Mr. Duke.

With fair trade now a memory in the tobacco business, Mr. Duke soon halted the issuance of insert cards with tobacco products produced by the trust. Some smaller manufacturers persevered, but the first era of baseball cards was over, lasting only four years. Though not active in the insert market any more, Mr. Duke still kept busy: in 1898 he formed the Continental Tobacco Company, which produced cut plug tobacco and brought P.H. Mayo & Brother into the fold. Shortly after the turn of the century he created the American Cigar Company.



Naturally, the government took a dim view of these monopolistic maneuvers and in 1907 sued to dissolve the trust. Three years and several appeals courts later, the government finally won and in an ironic bit of inspiration, appointed Mr. Duke to dismantle his own empire. This time period is when baseball cards reappeared in cigarette packs (amazing what a little competition will do), although I'm not positive that the court decision exactly coincided with this development. I'm also not sure when the name American Tobacco Company was no longer used, it seems as though it lingered on at least until 1919. The company exists today as American Brands and is based in Connecticut. For the next five years tobacco cards were the rage and the first true collecting craze was born.

Like all good things, this had to end. In 1913 Camel cigarettes appeared on the

scene, with the announcement that they did not have inserts or premiums due to the high cost of the tobacco contained therein. Well, you don't need to tell businessmen how to save money when something like this happens and within a year or so the tobacco card era was all but over. There were a few smaller companies that continued to produce cards until 1916, but World War I killed off any hope of a resurgence in the insert card market beyond that. Tobacco issues appeared sporadically after that and it wasn't until 1952, when Red Man issued the first of four sets, that any concerted effort was made to sell tobacco by putting baseball cards in the package. Red Man is still around today, but they haven't issued cards in forty years.

Many tobacco cards were issued, some promoting obscure manufacturers in remote areas. They were produced 3/4 of a century ago, some in very limited quantities for a population much smaller than today's and are sought after avidly by advanced collectors. This means that assembling a complete tobacco type set is almost impossible. Still, a majority of these cards can be found today and they are well worth seeking out.

The American Tobacco Company was responsible for most tobacco card production. My theory is that they produced the fronts at little or no charge and provided them to the manufacturers to be matched with the individual backs, or printed the entire card for those manufacturers who did not have access to printing facilities. It is the backs that present the most serious challenge to the collector. The following breakdown takes the approach of a type collector like myself.

### MAJOR ISSUES

#### T-206

The obvious place to begin is with T-206. First issued in mid-season 1909 they were marketed at least through the early part of the 1911 season. Due to almost two full years of distribution and high consumer interest, they generally exist in greater amounts than other tobacco issues and their popularity ensures some availability. Your best bets for tracking down these cards is to attend a large show or to scour SCD. 16 different brands can be found on

Continued on page 6



## TRIPLE TALK

With Rick "Tripleplay" Ellison

### Close Enough to Perfect For Me

Baseball fans in the Bay Area have a lot for which they can be thankful. Not only do we have a team in each league, but both teams have been tremendous competitors over the years!

Who can forget Willie Mays in Candlestick flagging down everything hit anywhere near him and many that were not, Reggie Jackson hitting home runs at the right time, Rickey Henderson's speed, Jose Canseco's mammoth home runs, Catfish Hunter's perfect game, Rollie Fingers, the original fireman, Vida Blue's competitive spirit, Kevin Mitchell's pure hitting, Will Clark's sweet swing, Mark McGwire's rookie season, Dave Stewart's cold stare and competitive spirit, Dave Dravecky's amazing comeback and tremendous courage? These are but a few baseball memories for which Bay Area fans can and should be thankful.

I was lucky enough to be at the Oakland Coliseum on June 2, 1994, a night that proved Bay Area fans have more baseball excitement to look forward to, if major league baseball is ever played again.

The Kansas City Royals played the A's at the Coliseum in the finale of a three game series. I arrived early with a friend for what proved to be one of the greatest days I have ever spent! The matchup

pitted Bobby Witt against David Cone, one of the top American League pitchers this year with a 10-4 record and a league-leading 2.76 ERA.

Witt, with a 5-7 record with a 5.57 ERA, was the A's most consistent starter in 1993, missing just one start. He led the A's with 14 wins, his second best total. Bobby has had problems with walks throughout his career. Before he joined the A's, he averaged more than six walks per nine innings pitched. In 1993, he averaged 3.7 walks per nine innings. Witt came to the A's in the now-famous Canseco deal on August 31, 1992.

The stage was set for this great showdown! Cone fanned nine batters in the game and allowed one homer, three singles and a double. He hit Rickey Henderson in the 5th, and Rickey scored on a home run hit by the next batter, Stan Javier. Meanwhile, aided by great defense behind him, Bobby Witt was pitching the greatest game of his career, with a career-best 14 strikeouts and no walks! However, a controversial bunt base-hit call by the first base umpire in the 6th inning ruined his perfect game. Witt and manager Tony LaRussa argued with the umpire to no avail—the call stood. Bobby could have been rattled by the blown call, but he wasn't! He proceeded

to set down the next 11 hitters to end the game, which the A's won 4 - 0!

We witnessed one of the greatest performances in 1994, and as one fan put it afterward, "We saw a perfect game plus 1." When I asked him what he meant, he said, "The A's went on to get the fourth out in the 6th inning, so we saw a perfect game plus an extra out!"

According to "Total Baseball," there have been only 14 perfect games in the history of baseball! Bobby Witt could have been in great company. "Catfish" Hunter pitched a perfect game for the A's on May 8, 1968 against the Twins. The last major league perfect game was pitched by Dennis Martinez of the Expos in 1992.

Bobby Witt's game will not be recorded as a perfect game, but the majority of the 23,567 fans who attended that game know they saw perfection! Thank you, Bobby Witt and the entire Oakland A's organization for giving this fan a game I will never forget!

I love the game of baseball and for one beautiful morning and afternoon I witnessed one of the many reasons why this is the greatest game on earth! Baseball is alive and well and I believe it will be for generations to come.

*Drop Rick a line to let him know how you feel on this or any other subject. You can reach Rick at America Online (Tripleplay), Prodigy (USGV17A) or here at FCO.*

#### The Doctor is in... (from page 5)

the backs and, factoring in the factory, color and series designations, there are 33 possible combinations to collect (34 if you count the blank backs, which some people don't). 25 of these can be obtained with some diligence and three others are seen at least occasionally. Blank Backs are probably somewhere in the middle in terms of scarcity. There's also a red backed Hindu variety that is supposedly very scarce, but I feel it is only a variation in the normal brown color pigmentation. That's the good news.

The bad news is -finding the Drum, Lenox, Uzit and one Piedmont variety are like finding a clean bathroom in New York City—forget it! These are really tough. The worse news is that the Ty Cobb back belongs to the rarest card in the T-206 spectrum. If my math is correct, there are

only six known Cobbs with Cobb backs, making it tentimes as scarce as the Wagner, and nice specimens fetch in the mid-five figures. That is an impossible card!

Want to make collecting T-206's easier? Ignore the factory designations. They really are insignificant, but we'll cover that later. Going after the back/series combinations should be enough to drive you crazy. Excluding the blank backs, there are 26 different back/series combinations.

The real meat of T-206 are the brand variations; the series and factory designations are minor. It's a lot cheaper this way too. Whatever approach you take will be hard enough, but the beauty and difficulty of T-206 make it worthwhile.

#### T-205 Gold Borders

In 1911 another major issue was released

by the American Tobacco Company: the Gold Border series. Like T-206, there are many back varieties available, but the three front designs are so different they could almost be viewed as subsets. There are fronts for National (austere portraits), American (crossed bat frame) and Minor Leaguers (arched frame) which are the hardest to find. Minor Leaguers have been found with Hassan and Polar Bear backs.

The 17 different backs (counting factory designations and color variations—there are eleven different brands) present the biggest challenge to the type set collector. Like T-206, the Piedmont and Sweet Caporal backs are easiest, followed by Cycle and American Beauty. Hindu, Broadleaf and Drum backs top the list of toughies. I don't know what it is with Drum, they must have made foul tasting cigarettes or something!

Next Time - More Tobacco Sets!



## ANOTHER STRIKE AND WE'RE OUT AT THE OLD BALLGAME

"They've done it again."

That's the comment most often heard when the players walked out on strike in August and when the owners subsequently decided to cancel the 1994 baseball season.

The media has been quick to analyze the subject to death, and continually stressing the amounts of money lost on both sides.

Unlike the traditional, dollar oriented media, For Collectors Only couldn't care less about the financial side of the dispute. We, like true fans all over the country just want to see baseball played again.

In that vein, rather than spout off with editorials on the strike, we're simply going to let the fans speak out.

**"No, I don't miss MLB** - one of the things that has come out of this strike is the chilling realization that I no longer care who, if anyone, ever wins another World Series. Maybe it's just the aging process, but baseball as I loved it is dead. I watched many great games as a kid, and to me a great game is a 3-2 pitchers duel between Jim Palmer and Bert Blyleven. During the game you might see a 5-4-3 double play, an attempted suicide squeeze, men thrown out from the outfield, or a great play at the plate because someone actually hits a cutoff man.

I truly do not care for the game of today, the pitching is not only diluted, but they don't know how to pitch.

Most of our greatest baseball memories are things we can personalize, like meeting a nice player. My girlfriend and I help a local promoter with his shows, and he had as an autograph guest Leo Gomez, who at the time was not playing much. Gomez was arrogant, self centered, and rude. He has the right to be on his time, but he was being paid a fee (and a BIG fee at that) to represent the promoter and the Orioles.

A few weeks later an old-time ballplayer, Gene Hermanski, was the guest at a fraction of the cost. He was cordial, kind, polite, and stayed at the show awhile. He even walked around to talk to people! Maybe there are current players like that, but I doubt it.

Lastly, we have gotten out and played ball again. Next year, the money my company spent on season tickets to Camden Yards will sponsor a softball team for me, and a little league team for my neighborhood."

- **Eric Valtuzis, Rockville, MD**

"They picked the wrong year to kill baseball. As a long time Indians fan, most seasons could have ended in August. I would have been disappointed and angry, but would have gotten over it. The strike of 81 took me from avid fan and collector to part-time both for 6-7 years, but I still paid attention.

What the collective boneheads (There's more than enough blame to thoroughly coat everyone involved here) have done to this year is unforgivable, and probably has ended my real interest in baseball. I may relent in a few (dozen) years, but the way I feel now, I have watched my last game (TV or in person), and any collecting I do will be with an eye to not rewarding the current owners or players.

I will never buy a new card or set again, and I will look carefully at anything I buy, so that I don't indirectly feed the marketing wing of the baseball machine. No paid autographs of any currently player; no MLB merchandise. I will keep my cable channel, even though it shows the Red Sox, but I would watch the station even without them. I have written to tell them not to count me as a "Red Sox subscriber" when they estimate viewership. I want to do my part to make sure that the money coming into baseball is less, because things sure don't work when there's a lot of money coming into baseball.

- **Dave Andrews, MA**

Like many baseball fans recently, I've been mulling over the effects of the strike and I see the predominant emotions of the victims (fans and non-players employed by MLB) to be anger and loss, but just what kind of loss?

First, let's look at the records of the last season tainted by a strike - 1981.

- How many games would Tom Seaver have won had there not been a strike?

- Who might've won the World Series, since the team with the best record in the National League didn't make the playoffs?

Let's play "what if," taking scenarios that didn't happen, but could or could have.....

- It's August, 1995. Cal Ripken Jr. has played in 2,116 consecutive games. He would have broken Gehrig's record weeks ago but for the strike. He's on first and running on a ground ball hit sharply to short. He slides to break up the double play and his spikes catch on the turf, severely injuring his knee, ending The Streak, his season, and possibly his career.

- Would Matt Williams have been chasing The Babe instead of Maris had there been a strike in 1961?

- If the World Series were not held because of a strike in 1956, would anyone know or care about Don Larsen?

- Had the strike of 1972 been a prolonged one, how many homers would Hank Aaron have lost? Would Nolan Ryan ever have had the chance to pitch regularly since 1972 was his breakthrough season?

- What about playoff and World Series heroes of the past? Larsen, Thomson, Weis, Dent, Gionfriddo, Brian Doyle, Hartnett, Fisk, Hank Gowdy, Nippy Jones, Lew Burdette, Bill Mazerowski and other likewise previously unsung heroes and unforgettable events. Would they be mere footnotes in history?

This is the biggest loss suffered in a strike. That loss is something of which we can only dream. That loss is immortality. Who might not achieve immortality because of this action? What player or players will not be remembered forever because of this action?

The sad part is, we'll never know. The sadder part is that the players are sacrificing their chance at immortality on the advice of representatives who are supposed to be looking out for their best interests who never played or cared about the game or the fans.

Someone please have Don Larsen, Bill Mazerowski and other immortals talk to the parties involved about what they're really sacrificing. Perhaps from such a perspective, things might be a little clearer. - **Uncle Phil, Milwaukee, WI**

**Dave Hornish**  
Lindenhurst, New York

**D.O.B.** November 22, 1961

**Occupation:** Average Adjuster  
(no foolin'!)

**What I Collect:** Baseball and Topps type cards, late 60's and early 70's Topps baseball sets and inserts.

**Profile:** I started collecting when I was a kid in 1969 and pretty much stopped when I entered high school in 1975. I got into the hobby again in 1981 after picking up the first issue of Baseball Cards magazine and spent years assembling a sizeable collection of 50's Topps cards and newer issues. In 1989, I got together with a friend and we set up at shows for two years before the economy turned sour. Around that time I got interested in collecting type cards, which led to what has become a rather large assemblage

# FCO COLLECTOR PROFILE

of research. I'm currently compiling a list of everything Topps has put out from 1948 to 1980 (it's a big list!) in all product lines and continuing work on my checklist of baseball card sets issued from 1887 to 1980 (another whopper of a list).

About two years ago I wandered into the Old Baseball Cards bulletin board on Prodigy and started putting together the sets I collected in my youth. I'm currently trading on America Online and having a blast! I also contribute to this fine publication and am working on a book of Topps insert, test and supplemental baseball sets.

**Favorite Cards:**

- 1953 Bowman Pee Wee Reese
- 1952 Topps Duke Snider
- 1956 Topps Carl Erskine
- 1957 Topps Dodgers Sluggers
- 1970 Topps Tom Seaver.

**Biggest Thrill:** Meeting Carl Erskine at a show about ten years ago. I don't collect autographs, but Erskine is a class act and I enjoyed meeting him immensely.

**Musings:** Things became a lot more enjoyable when I decided to abandon any thoughts of investing and concentrated on collecting. I lost my aversion to non-mint cards when I started trading online and that's helped me put together sets I never dreamed of completing. Plus, I've met some great people online.

*Want to be profiled in For Collectors Only? Send us your name, age, a little personal information and something special about your collection. Send your information to:*

*Collector Profile*  
**Scott & Company, Dept. FCO**  
P.O. Box 340546  
Milwaukee, WI 53234

## TOPIC TEAMS - The "Naturals"

- |     |               |      |               |
|-----|---------------|------|---------------|
| C-  | Steve Lake    | OF-  | Louie Meadows |
| 1B- | Cecil FIELDer | OF-  | Mickey Rivers |
| 2B- | Pumpsie Green | OF-  | Gary Woods    |
| 3B- | Cliff Cook    | RHP- | Ken Hill      |
| SS- | Rocky Bridges | LHP- | Don Mossi     |

## MR. TRIVIA'S BASEBALL CHALLENGE

*Test your wits against the exalted and mystifying Mr. Trivia, who will amaze and astound baseball fans with the depth and breadth of his knowledge of baseball, it's players and feats.*

Since there's no World Series to keep us occupied this year, let's look back at the All-Star game with a little All-Star Trivia

1. What National League team had at least six players on the All-Star team each year from '49 through '54?
2. Who broke Dizzy Dean's toe (and really his career) in the '37 All-Star game?
3. Who was the Padres first ever All-Star and what position did he play?
4. Who hit the first home run for the National League in an All-Star game?
5. How many All-Star games did Babe Ruth play in?
6. What was the first year fans used computer cards to pick All-Star teams?
7. Who started All-Star games at a record 5 different positions?

- Answers**
1. Brooklyn Dodgers 2. Earl Averill 3. Chris Cannizzaro, catcher  
4. Frankie Firsch 5. Two 6. 1970 7. Pete Rose

## Conlons (continued from Page 4)

11 players such as Addie Joss, Wee Willie Keeler, and Rube Marquard; and 24 cards on the 1919 "Black Sox Scandal" featuring players, box scores, and statistics from the infamous Cincinnati-Chicago matchup.

Two 1995 promotional cards, distributed only in the collectible tins, are also included in the complete set. Card #1596 tells the story of Charles Comiskey, a remarkable player/owner/manager whose baseball career spanned more than fifty years. Yankee great Babe Ruth is pictured on promotional card #1571. In 1923 the Babe garnered the only MVP of his career, and the story and stats are included on the card back.

The 1994 collector's tin itself features clear and sharp reproductions of the cards inside. Lou Gehrig, Honus Wagner, Hack Wilson, Christy Mathewson, Carl Hubbell, the Dean brothers, and Ty Cobb's slide into third base highlight the attractive packaging. A limited edition of only 36,000 tins has been produced.

*Moonlight*

*Want to know more about Conlons & old-time ballplayers? Send questions to Moonlight's Conlon Corner, Dept. FCO, P. O. Box 340546, Milwaukee, WI 53234.*