

Chapter 1 : Dizzy and the Gas House Gang Book Review

The Gashouse Gang was the nickname of the baseball team the St. Louis Cardinals in The team won 95 games, the National League pennant, and the World Series in seven games over the Detroit Tigers.

Join Paulie over the next few weeks to uncover not just a story about baseball, but one about ourselves! -Jay

There have been many memorable teams in the storied history of baseball: All of these teams were powerful; some were awesome; and, many were endearing. But, none of them were as colorful as the St. The Cardinals , a perennial losing team, both in the standings and at the box-office, were owned by Mrs. She was rumored to be looking into selling the club to buyers in another city. A local insurance executive came up with the idea that local merchants would invest in the club by buying stock. Britton agreed to this arrangement. These were called Knot Hole Tickets, and an entire section was set apart for what was to be called the Knot Hole Gang. The head financier of the group was Charles Breaden, a notorious skinflint. He later became President of the Cardinals and worked closely with Rickey. Not only was Ricky the prime mover of the most important social movement in baseball of the century – the integration of the Major Leagues, but he was also the one who was responsible for the greatest administrative innovation – development of the Farm System. Rickey was responsible for other innovations – including digging pits to practice sliding, as well as plays to catch a runner off base. He was also, perhaps, the first baseball manager who saw the value in keeping statistics; Rickey was always writing and recording data in his notebook in the dugout. Later, as General Manager, it was Rickey who was always working behind the scenes with quiet, patient, yet relentless, efficiency in building a contender. Likely there has never been anyone who was a better judge of raw talent. Ironically, it was the pious Rickey who assembled perhaps the rowdiest, most arrogant, irreverent, rebellious, and flamboyant squad since the s. Branch Rickey Slowly Rickey worked his magic. In the Cardinals finished in last place. In they improved slightly, moving up to 6th. In Breaden sold Robison Field and moved into Sportsman Park; with the proceeds from the sale, Rickey was able to fulfill his dream and establish his Farm System. The idea appealed to the frugal Breaden, as it would prevent poaching by other major league clubs. They moved up to third place in and then third place again in Finally, in the Cardinals won their first ever National League Pennant. They won a thrilling seven-game Series over the NY Yankees against overwhelming odds, with an aging, and, perhaps, intoxicated, Grover Cleveland Alexander winning the deciding game in relief. In they again won the NL pennant, but this time were swept in four games by the Yankees. Thus, the Cardinals had won four pennants and two World Series in six years. Grover Cleveland Alexander Through the previous decade, Rickey had slowly been reaping the fruits of his Farm system. In in the midst of a pennant race, he disappeared playing the first game of a crucial series against Brooklyn. He showed up the next day, appearing bleary eyed and disoriented, and came up with, according to Frederick G. This became front page news in the NY tabloids. The story was that this was a plot by gamblers to cripple the Cardinals chances against the Dodgers. Nothing was found of this, and the Cards took the series anyway. When he arrived on the team, his bags were bereft of clothing and filled with Wild West books. The Deans were migrant sharecroppers of cotton, barely making a subsistence living in the depression. He picked lbs of cotton a day, the same amount as a grown man. He enlisted in the Army and soon joined the Ball Team. The manager, Master Sgt. Jimmy Brought, recognized his talent and summoned a scout whom he knew to observe Jerome pitch. Dizzy Dean The next season Dean came to spring training. He had no money and signed off all receipts to the Cards. He bought all manner of items, including cigarettes, pens, sunglasses, key chains, comic books, expensive meals, sodas, cigars, and all sorts of novelties. When Dean told Rickey to take it out of his pay, Branch told him that he had spent almost his entire salary for the season. That year Rhem stated that his poor showing the year before had been due to poor tonsils, not because of his drinking. Sure enough, after examination, he had a tonsillectomy. He then told Dean that after his tonsils had been taken out, his arm got well. Much to his chagrin, Dean was sent back to the Minor Leagues for more schooling in , missing out on the Championship Run. The Cardinals had disappointing seasons in , finishing in 6th and then 5th place. The one encouraging sign was the emergence of Dizzy Dean as a premier pitcher. Diz had already developed his

famous cockiness. Dean often mocked batters when they came to the plate, made funny faces, and laughed at them when they struck out. But, he loved to experiment, to fool around with the batter. He enjoyed getting a man out pitching to his strength, and he did it many times. But, naturally, the good hitters surprised him now and then. Max Carey, manager of Brooklyn, was going over the strengths and weaknesses of the Cardinal hitters. The batters knew that Diz was not kidding around. That day he shut the Dodgers out. This was a constant source of irritation to the other Cardinal starters and was part of the friction that exacerbated the formation of cliques on the club. Leo Durocher In a sense, there were three different Cardinal Teams that year. There was the Hillbilly Brigade, led by Dizzy. The three cliques struggled for dominance all season. Martin grew up in a sod house and picked cotton like the Dean Brothers. At one point in his life he was, virtually, a hobo; he hitched rides on trains, literally owning the one shirt he had on his back, which he washed in a creek. His hobbies included hunting rattlesnakes, which he would donate to the St. He was a motor head and would often arrive at games all greased up, uniform and all. Rumor had it that he could chase down a rabbit on foot. Pepper Martin came running to the clubhouse late for BP before the game. When asked by Frisch for the reason for his tardiness, he stated that he had made a bet that he could beat a guy in a two mile race and that his racing partner was late in showing up. And I won, too. Previously a member of the Brooklyn Trolley-Dodgers , Vance had been involved in one of the most famous base-running boners of all time. Babe Herman clouted a deep drive and began chugging around the bases. As Herman rounded second, the third base coach screamed for him to go back, since Fewster had not yet passed the 3rd-base bag. Dazzy, having rounded third, thought that the coach was referring to him and headed back to the bag. Fewster arrived at third at the same time as Vance, and Herman, typically ignoring all signals from the coach, joined them several strides later. The third baseman, somewhat baffled by events, tagged all runners; Herman was declared safe according to the rules. Umpire, fellow teammates, and members of the opposition, if you carefully peruse the rules of our national pastime, you will find that there is one, and only one, protagonist in rightful occupancy of this hassock " namely yours truly, Arthur C. Allied with the Cornpone Crowd " none other of whom had more than a second grade education " was utility outfielder Burgess Whitehead. This was perhaps one of the more peculiar friendships in baseball, as Whitehead was the only Phi Beta Kappa scholar in the Major Leagues. Top Sophisticate was Leo Durocher, the shortstop. He was slick, sophisticated, the big spender, an inveterate gambler, dressed to the hilt, always seen in tailor-made suits, a night clubber. He was despised by Ruth, who accused Durocher of cheating at cards after ball games. Ruth also suspected that he stole his jewelry and cash. He once caught him with previously marked bills and proceeded to beat him up. Leo was also known to have passed bad checks on occasion. I, too, used to be a Cardinal. He often ridiculed opponents in a mean-spirited way, unlike Dizzy, whose ribbing was always playful. He and Durocher shared their mutual loathing for the bumpkin brigade.

Chapter 2 : The Gashouse Gang by John Heidenry

The Gashouse Gang wins the World Series. On October 9, , the St. Louis Cardinals defeat the Detroit Tigers in the seventh game of the World Series. No one seems to know exactly who was the.

Support Baseball Book Review: Louis Cardinals personified Depression-era America. The players were underpaid, wore uniforms that were almost always torn and dirty, and had wandered into professional baseball from small towns in the Midwest where other jobs were scarce. The book chronicles that championship team which came to be known in baseball lore as the famous "Gas House Gang. The era, the team, the season, and the Series are all fully covered. This book stretches beyond the diamond to describing American society itself and the continuing emergence of baseball as the true American game. As America emerged from the depression, baseball emerged into its golden age. The period of recovery, both economically and socially was spurred by such drama and entertainment as teams like the Gas House Gang provided. Feldman recounts this period of "Crash and Recovery, - " to set the stage for the advent of the colorful Cardinals. Each has his own story and distinctive personality. Manager Frisch outdid even the legendary John McGraw in tongue-lashing his players when the situation warranted it. For these men, "baseball was not a way of life," it was "life. Pepper Martin, the harmonica-playing shortstop was said to be so fast because "he spent his boyhood chasing down rabbits" in his native Oklahoma. The battling Leo Durocher went on to gain notoriety as a combative manager. Dizzy was "Dizzy" - "The Great Dean" as he called himself. His 30 - 7 record led the league as did his strikeouts, most gained by his speedy fastball, his "fogger. Clutch pitching by the Deans narrowed the Giant lead. A week later after a doubleheader loss to Dizzy and Daffy who pitched a no-hitter, Dodger manager Casey Stengel lamented: In the midst of the celebrations at St. Go ahead and feel it. It was in the fourth game that Dizzy took off from the bench when Frisch sought a pinch runner for Virgil "Spud" Davis. On a ball to the shortstop Billy Rogell, Dizzy roared into second base but did not slide. But Diz revived and left the field. Feldman reports that it is mythical that newspaper headlines the next day read: When he visited the Tiger bullpen prior to the game, Dizzy said to Auker: Medwick smacked a liner into center field and barreled into third base with spikes high as Owen held up his glove as if a play were going to be made. Medwick kicked back and the fight was on. When tempers cooled, Medwick offered his hand to Owen who refused to shake it. Rip Collins next drove Medwick in to make the score When Medwick returned to left field, 17, fans in the bleachers began to pelt him with debris, faces filled with rage and fists clenched. Attempts to subdue the crowd failed. Commissioner Landis ended the incident by ordering Medwick removed from the game for his own safety as well as that of the fans. The game was delayed for seventeen minutes. In the seventh inning, the Cardinals increased their lead to with Dizzy going the distance to win the game. The Gashouse Gang were World Champions. The shrewd Rickey knew that Dizzy with his then sore-arm was nearing the end of his effectiveness. On July 17, , Dizzy died in Bond, Mississippi where he loved to live life by telling stories and sharing laughs among "the most wonderful folks in the world.

Chapter 3 : Gas House Gang (quartet) - Wikipedia

The preface to The Gashouse Gang seems to indicate that the rest of the book will be maudlin and nostalgic, but that is thankfully not the case. This is an entertaining account of the St. Louis Cardinals of that focuses on the personalities of the players more than it does on particular plays.

Chapter 4 : Gas House Gang - BR Bullpen

With The Gashouse Gang, John Heidenry delivers the definitive account of one the greatest and most colorful baseball teams of all times, the St. Louis Cardinals, filled with larger-than-life baseball personalities like Branch Rickey, Leo Durocher, Pepper Martin, Casey Stengel, Satchel Paige, Frankie Frisch, and "especially " the eccentric good ol' boy and great pitcher Dizzy Dean and his brother Paul.

Chapter 5 : Gashouse Gang - Wikipedia

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Chapter 6 : The Gas House Gang, Baseball History

In the St. Louis Cardinals, known as the Gashouse Gang for their disreputable appearance, came from behind to win the National League pennant, and took the World Series from the Detroit Tigers.

Chapter 7 : Gas House Kids () - IMDb

Doug Feldmann: Dizzy and the Gas House Gang: The St. Louis Cardinals and Depression-Era Baseball, McFarland, Jefferson, NC, ISBN G.H. Fleming: The Dizziest Season: The Gashouse Gang Chases the Pennant, William Morrow & Co, New York, NY,

Chapter 8 : The Gashouse Gang wins the World Series - HISTORY

The perfect heroes for America in a time of Depression, the Gashouse Gang was "a squad of quarreling, slovenly brilliant misfits," Heidenry writes, "the unique product of a particular time and.

Chapter 9 : St. Louis Cardinals Statistics | theinnatdunvilla.com

The Gas House Gang toured the United States extensively and performed around the world, singing with many musical groups, including The Chordettes, the King's Singers, and Chanticleer. Members. Rob Henry, the quartet's baritone, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer on May 30, , and died shortly thereafter on September 4,