



**SABR Nineteenth Century Committee**  
**Overlooked Legend Award**  
**2020 Preliminary Election Nominees**

Biographies compiled by Joe Williams and Adam Darowski  
with contributions by Peter Mancuso and Eric Miklich.

# Charlie Bennett

**Born:** November 21, 1854, **Died:** February 24, 1927

**Years:** 1878–93

**Category:** Player (Catcher)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/2aec83f2>

Bennett was one of the greatest catchers of the nineteenth century, starring for Detroit and Boston of the National League. He was a powerful hitter who often ranked among the leaders in homers and slugging percentage while finishing in the top 10 in bases on balls six times. His defense was stellar, and he was a leader on the field. He led NL catchers in fielding percentage seven times, putouts three times, and ranked in the top five in games caught 10 times. He caught Lee Richmond's perfect game on June 12, 1880, the first perfect game in professional baseball history. He was also an innovator in the use of equipment by popularizing the use of a chest protector and the catcher's mitt. During the offseason in 1894, he had an accident trying to catch a train and lost both of his legs, thus ending his career. He retired with the most games caught in history with 954. In 1896, Detroit's new ballpark (Bennett Park) was named after the city's beloved hero. Bennett was an Overlooked Legend finalist from 2015–2019, finishing fourth last year.

# Tommy Bond

**Born:** April 2, 1856, **Died:** January 24, 1941

**Years:** 1874–84

**Category:** Player (Pitcher)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/c0089818>

Bond was the best pitcher of the second half of the 1870s and the last living veteran of the NL's inaugural season. Bond is the only NL pitcher to win 40 games three times. He paced the league in wins, ERA, and strikeouts two times each and is the all-time leader in strikeouts per walk (5.04). Bond won the first pitching Triple Crown in 1877, winning 40 games with a 2.11 ERA and 170 strikeouts. He led Boston to back-to-back pennants in 1877 and 1878. Bond's effectiveness essentially disappeared when the mound was moved back to 50 feet in 1881, winning only 13 more games the rest of his career. Bond was one of the first major league players born in Ireland. Today, the top

pitching honor in the Irish Baseball League is called the Tommy Bond Best Pitcher Award. He finished his career ranked third with 234 wins against 163 losses, a 2.14 ERA, and 972 strikeouts (compared to only 193 walks). Bond was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2018 and 2019, finishing fifth last year.

## Octavius Catto

**Born:** February 22, 1839, **Died:** October 10, 1871

**Years:** 1866–71

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/node/55330>

Octavius Valentine Catto was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1839. He would later move during his youth to Philadelphia, a city he would establish himself as a renaissance man. Catto was an educator and a civil rights activist. He was also the founder, team captain, and a middle infielder for baseball's first great black baseball club. The Pythian Base Ball Club of Philadelphia was founded in 1866, and emerged under Catto's leadership as arguably the top black nine in the country. Catto, an outstanding cricket player, saw baseball as a way for blacks to assimilate into mainstream America, so on October 16, 1867, he sought club membership in the Pennsylvania Association of Amateur Base Ball Players which would have allowed the Pythian Club to play white teams. On that date, one of several of baseball's racial dividing lines were drawn when the club was refused membership. In December of that year, the National Association of Base Ball Players formally banned black players and clubs from the NABBP. Despite these disappointing outcomes, the Pythian Club would play in what has been considered the first widely-publicized interracial game between white and black ballplayers when the club played the Olympic Ball Club of Philadelphia on September 3, 1869. The game paved the way for other clubs of different skin color to play each other. Tragically, on October 10, 1871, Catto, an activist for the right of black citizens to vote, was assassinated on election day. With his death, the Pythians disbanded by 1872. In 2017, a statute of Catto was unveiled at City Hall in Philadelphia.

# Cupid Childs

**Born:** August 8, 1867, **Died:** November 8, 1912

**Years:** 1888–1901

**Category:** Player (Second Baseman)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/d373e248>

Cupid Childs was a left-handed hitting second baseman with a penchant for getting on base. Childs was originally signed by Harry Wright's Philadelphia Quakers, but was cut after just two games. Later in the year, he joined the minor league Syracuse Stars. It was with Syracuse that he returned to the majors in 1890, as the club joined the American Association. Childs hit .345 that year with a .434 on-base percentage and a league-leading 33 doubles. In 1891, Childs signed with the Baltimore Orioles. His contract was voided (after a court hearing) when the Association withdrew from the National Agreement. He was free to sign with Cleveland and spent eight seasons with the Spiders, hitting .318 with a .434 on-base percentage. Only Billy Hamilton drew more walks over that span than Childs' 758. In 1899, Childs was transferred to the St. Louis Browns. He contracted malaria and never was the same, hitting .253 during his time in St. Louis and two seasons with Chicago. His career totals include a .306 batting average, .416 on-base percentage (sixth among players with 5,000 or more plate appearances at the time of his retirement), 1,721 hits, 991 walks, and 269 stolen bases.

# Jack Clements

**Born:** July 24, 1864, **Died:** May 23, 1941

**Years:** 1884–1900

**Category:** Player (Catcher)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/3f0be44f>

John J. "Jack" Clements was a power-hitting catcher, who experimented with switch-hitting before settling in as a left-sided batter. He also threw left-handed and holds the record for the most games caught by a southpaw (over 800 more games than second-place Sam Trott). Clements made his debut with Philadelphia in the Union Association in 1884 but moved to Philadelphia's NL club before the season was over. He would stay in Philadelphia through 1897 before finishing his career with St. Louis in 1898, Cleveland in 1899, and finally Boston in 1900. His breakout as a hitter came in 1890,

when he finished in the top six in the NL in batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, and home runs. In 1893, Clements set a record for catchers by hitting 17 home runs. The next season, he hit .351 in a season shorted to 48 games because of injury. In 1895, he reached double-digits in home runs again (13) while batting .394. Only Cal McVey's .431 batting average in 1871 is better among catchers who qualified for the batting title. He followed that up with a third consecutive season over .350, batting .359 in 57 games. In 1898, he surpassed Charlie Bennett's career record for games caught (954) and surpassed 1,000 games caught the following season. Clements retired with a .287 batting average, .348 on-base percentage, .421 slugging percentage, 1,231 hits, and 77 home runs. He held the single-season and career home run records for a catcher, both later surpassed by Gabby Hartnett.

## Lave Cross

**Born:** May 12, 1866, **Died:** September 6, 1927

**Years:** 1887–1907

**Category:** Player (Third Base/Catcher)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/b384b5d3>

Lave Cross was a third baseman (and a catcher in his early days) who played 14 of his 21 Major League seasons in the city of Philadelphia. He split his Philadelphia tenure across four leagues—six seasons in the National League, five in the American League, two in the American Association, and one season in the Players' League. A solid hitter and an excellent defender, Cross enjoyed his best offensive season in 1894, hitting .387 for the Phillies with a .424 on-base percentage, 132 RBIs, 128 runs scored, 210 hits, and only seven strikeouts. Cross finished his long career with 2,651 hits (5th all-time upon his retirement) and 1,378 runs batted in (also fifth). He was also third all-time in games played. He retired with more games, total chances, putouts, and assists than any third baseman up to that point. He even had the best fielding percentage at the position. His obituary published across the country in 1927 stated that he was “one of the greatest third basemen in the history of the game.”

# Bud Fowler

**Born:** March 16, 1858, **Died:** February 26, 1913

**Years:** 1878–1909

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/200e2bbd>

Fowler, who grew up in Cooperstown, was a pioneering black baseball player and promoter. He was primarily known for his play as a catcher, pitcher, and second baseman. He traveled the country for 30 years, playing at all levels of baseball except in the majors—not because he wasn’t talented enough but simply because of the color of his skin. He was the first African American in Organized Baseball when he played with the Lynn Live Oaks in the International Association in 1878. Fowler faced racism from fans, team administrators, and teammates, thus making each stop usually a brief one despite often being the best player on the team. As early as 1883, he tried to form a “colored league” and in 1887 formed the first successful African American barnstorming team, the New York Gorhams. In 1894, he would be the driving force behind the establishment of the famed Page Fence Giants. Fowler was an Overlooked Legend finalist for the first time in 2019, finishing second.

# John Gaffney

**Born:** June 29, 1855, **Died:** August 8, 1913

**Years as Umpire:** 1884-1900

**Category:** Umpire

John Gaffney was arguably the preeminent umpire of the nineteenth century. He was called Honest John and the King of Umpires. The great Gaffney started out in baseball as a player, but an arm injury during the winter of 1879 ended his playing career. In 1884, he was umpiring collegiate games when Nick Young signed him to umpire in the NL. He quickly became widely respected and perceived to be one of the league’s best umpires, especially when it came to calling balls and strikes. In August 1886, Gaffney took a break from umpiring when he was named manager of the last-place Washington club. The team finished the 1887 season with a 46-76 record, and he was released as manager. He wasn’t out of work long when he was chosen to work in an experimental two-umpire crew with John Kelly during the 1887 “World Series” between Detroit (NL)

and St. Louis (AA). He was awarded the Dauvray medal for his perfect umpiring during the series. In 1888, he became the highest paid umpire in the game (\$2,500 plus road expenses) when the AA hired him. While in the AA, he became the first umpire to make regular practice of calling the game from behind the batter but would move to stand behind the pitcher's box once a runner got on base. Prior umpires would stand in either place but would not go back and forth like Gaffney. Another innovation he introduced was calling a ball fair or foul based on where the ball went over the fence instead of where it landed. He has also been credited as the first umpire to wear a chest protector. Before jumping to the Players' League in 1890, he umpired all the 1888 and 1889 "World Series" games – setting the record of 34 for most postseason games umpired in the century. Gaffney returned to the NL in September 1891. Despite a drinking problem, he umpired in the NL until 1894 and returned for parts of another three seasons from 1898 to 1900. In 1946 he was placed on the Honor Rolls of Baseball by the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

## George Gore

**Born:** May 3, 1854, **Died:** September 16, 1933

**Years:** 1879–92

**Category:** Player (Outfielder)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/6e664ded>

Gore was a speedy center fielder who had a knack for getting on base and scoring runs. In 1,310 games, he scored 1,327 runs, including seven seasons of 100 or more with two other seasons where he scored fewer than 100 runs but still led the league. He was a hard hitter who also took a walk, leading the league in bases on balls three times and finishing in the top seven in on-base percentage 10 times. Gore retired a .301 career hitter with a .386 on-base percentage. He was the table setter for many championship teams. He played on NL championship teams in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1885, and 1886 with Chicago, and world championship teams with the New York Giants in 1888 and 1889, beating the AA pennant winners in the "World Series" while batting .455 and .333, respectively. On June 25, 1881, Gore stole seven bases in a single game, a record he shares with Billy Hamilton. Gore was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2009 and 2011.

# Paul Hines

**Born:** March 1, 1855, **Died:** July 10, 1935

**Years:** 1872–91

**Category:** Player (Outfielder)

Hines, an outstanding defensive center fielder, was among the best all-around players in the game for 20 seasons despite battling significant hearing loss and was most likely baseball's first deaf major league player. He started his career with Washington of the National Association before becoming a member of the Chicago White Stockings in 1874 and playing for the first NL champion in 1876. In 1878, he joined Providence and became baseball's first Triple Crown winner when he led the league with four homers, 50 RBIs and a .358 batting average. He also led the league in total bases, slugging percentage, and on-base plus slugging. He followed his historic season with another batting title in 1879, while also leading the league in games, hits, and total bases as the Grays won their first NL championship. In 1884, along with Old Hoss Radbourn, Hines led the Grays to the NL pennant before defeating the AA's New York club to win the first "World Series." Hines ended his career with 1,217 runs (sixth all-time), 2,133 hits (third), 549 extra-base hits (fifth), 855 RBIs (seventh), and a .302 batting average. Hines was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2009 and 2011–2019, finishing 10th last year.

# Joe Leggett

**Born:** January 14, 1828, **Died:** July 25, 1894

**Years:** 1856-66

**Category:** Pioneer

Leggett was one of baseball's first stars and the first great catcher in baseball history. He was a field general, had a tremendous throwing arm that kept many base runners from attempting to steal, and popularized the catcher's positioning much closer behind the batter than other catchers of his time. Previously, the catcher stood more than 20 feet behind the plate. His positioning enabled the young superstar Jim Creighton, who he recruited after the Excelsior of Brooklyn fell to the Star Club in 1859, to throw swiftly as the two players formed the greatest battery in the game. Leggett, the Excelsiors'



captain, was a powerful hitter who led all National Association of Base Ball Players clubs in runs scored in both 1859 and 1860. In 1858, he was chosen to represent Brooklyn in the Fashion Course Games, the first all-star games. During his career, he never wore a mask or used a glove.

## Bobby Mathews

**Born:** November 21, 1851, **Died:** April 17, 1898

**Years:** 1869–87

**Category:** Player (Pitcher) & Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/e7ad641f>

Mathews, winner of 297 games (first all-time when he retired), was a pioneer pitcher in the development of both the spitball and the curveball. He was the winning pitcher in the NA's first game in 1871. In 1872, he joined Baltimore as their ace, winning 25 games and leading the league in strikeouts. Mathews joined the New York Mutuals in 1873, becoming their workhorse while leading the league in strikeouts in both 1873 and 1874. Despite the Mutuals being a subpar offensive team, Mathews managed to become the third winningest pitcher in the NA's existence. From 1877 to 1882, Mathews bounced around from team to team, which ultimately cost him the three "major league" wins he needed for 300. He won just 39 games in those six seasons, although he was a key contributor as the change pitcher for the champion Providence Grays in 1879. His career was rejuvenated in 1883 when he joined the AA's Athletics and led them to the championship. It was the first of three consecutive seasons of 30 wins for the hurler. Mathews finished his career with a record 4,956 innings pitched and a 2.86 ERA. Mathews was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2009, 2010, and from 2012–2019, finishing third last year.

## Dick McBride

**Born:** June 14, 1847, **Died:** January 20, 1916

**Years:** 1861–76

**Category:** Pioneer

McBride was the star pitcher of the Philadelphia-based Athletics. By combining his numerous “Amateur Era” victories and his 149 professional wins, McBride is considered by some historians to be baseball’s first 300-game winner. The cricket standout and Civil War veteran first made his mark with the team as a shortstop, earning a spot on a Philadelphia all-star team in 1862. When not pitching, McBride was on the base paths scoring lots of runs, leading the National Association of Base Ball Players clubs in runs scored in 1866 with a 160 and finishing second the following year with 265. In the NA and NL, he scored 208 runs and drove in 177 runners in 240 games. McBride’s pitching was the catalyst to the Athletics becoming among the best clubs of the late 1860s. As captain of the Athletics, the team won the 1871 NA championship with him going 18–5 and a league-leading .783 winning percentage. Over the next four seasons, he won 30, 24, 33 and 44 games. Only Al Spalding won more games in the NA than McBride.

## Jim McCormick

**Born:** November 3, 1856, **Died:** March 10, 1918

**Years:** 1878–87

**Category:** Player (Pitcher)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/cfd12aa0>

McCormick was a workhorse pitcher, debuting with Indianapolis of the NL in 1878. He joined Cleveland in 1879 and started 60 of the club’s 82 games, winning 20 and leading the league with 40 losses. His fortunes reversed in 1880, as he went 45–28 and led the league in wins, starts (74), complete games (72), and innings (657.2) while posting a 1.85 ERA. He continued to be Cleveland’s first-choice hurler until jumping to Cincinnati of the Union Association during the 1884 season. With the Outlaw Reds, he would lead the circuit in ERA (1.54), going 21–3. After the UA folded, he returned to the NL, going first to Providence before joining Chicago. With the White Stockings, he would win another 51 games (against just 15 losses) while helping them to back-to-back NL titles before retiring after an unsuccessful season with Pittsburgh. Overall, McCormick went 265–214 in 10 seasons. His 265 wins ranked third all-time when he retired while his 1,704 strikeouts were tops in history. His 2.43 ERA was lower than the two others who had over 4,000 innings pitched at the time (Mathews at 2.86 and Pud Galvin at 2.70). McCormick led the league in multiple categories over his decade of play, leading

in wins, ERA, games, and innings pitched twice each, and complete games three times. McCormick has the highest Wins Above Replacement for pitchers not in the National Baseball Hall of Fame besides current candidates Roger Clemens and Curt Schilling.

## Cal McVey

**Born:** August 30, 1849, **Died:** August 20, 1926

**Years:** 1866–79

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/2d659416>

McVey was a premier batsmen and versatile ballplayer during his playing days. He gained prominence as a member of the legendary Cincinnati Red Stockings in 1869 and 1870. He joined Boston in the NA for the next two seasons as catcher, helping the team win the NA championship in 1872. He played and managed Baltimore in 1873 but returned to Boston for two more seasons and two more NA championships. When the NA ceased operations, McVey was the league's third leading career hitter with a .362 average while being third in hits (476), tied for fifth in homers (8), and first in RBIs (277). In 1876, he joined the NL's White Stockings as their first baseman and change pitcher as the team won the pennant. After a two-year stint with Cincinnati, McVey gave up the majors and headed westward at the age of 29. He continued to play ball sporadically in California for almost another decade. When he left Cincinnati, he was the career leader in hits (869) and RBIs (449), third in runs (555), and fourth in games played (530) and batting average (.346).

## Jim Mutrie

**Born:** June 13, 1851, **Died:** January 24, 1938

**Years:** 1883-91

**Category:** Executive & Manager

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/430838fd>

Mutrie, an amateur and minor league shortstop and pitcher, was a major league manager for nine seasons, compiling a 658-419 record for the third-highest winning

percentage in major league history. His .611 mark trails only Aaron Boone (.627) and Joe McCarthy (.615). Mutrie teamed up with businessman John B. Day to bring major league baseball to New York City. The team emerged in 1880 as an independent team known as the Metropolitans with Mutrie as their manager. Talks with both the AA and NL led Mutrie and Day to establish two teams in New York, the Metropolitans in the AA and a NL team that would later become known as the Giants. Mutrie stayed with the AA team for the 1883 and 1884 seasons. The 1884 team won the AA pennant and played in the first “World Series”, losing to the NL’s Providence team. Mutrie became the manager of the other New York team in 1885 and led them to back-to-back NL pennants and “World Series” victories over the AA’s St. Louis and Brooklyn clubs in 1888 and 1889, respectively.

## Dickey Pearce

**Born:** February 29, 1836, **Died:** September 18, 1908

**Years:** 1856–77

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/db8ea477>

Pearce was the first great shortstop in baseball history and one of the first players to be paid. He revolutionized the game both on the field and at the plate. Prior to Pearce, shortstops were rovers that primarily backed up throws and handled relays from the outfield. Pearce, who had a strong throwing arm, positioned himself on the field according to the hitter at the plate. He would play in against weak hitters and back against stronger batsmen. At the plate, he was a “scientific” hitter who was primarily a leadoff batter. He has been credited with inventing the bunt, the fair-foul hit, and possibly the sacrifice bunt and the squeeze play. Pearce’s greatest seasons were with the legendary Atlantics of Brooklyn teams that dominated the late 1850s and 1860s. From 1857 to 1869, Pearce played in 239 National Association of Base Ball Players games with 876 runs scored, including leading the NABBP in runs scored in 1861. In 1858, he played for Brooklyn in two of the Fashion Race Course games, baseball’s earliest “all-star” games. The 5-foot-3½ pioneer played in the majors until 1877 but continued playing semi-pro and minor league baseball until 1883. He stayed close to the game for many years as an umpire and as a groundskeeper at Polo Grounds IV in

1890. Pearce was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2011 and 2017–2019, finishing 11th last year.

## Lipman Pike

**Born:** May 25, 1845, **Died:** October 10, 1893

**Years:** 1865–87

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/7a6a0655>

Pike has been referred to as the first great Jewish baseball player and one of the first known paid players. Pike bounced around from team-to-team during his entire career despite being one of the game's most powerful hitters. In 1866, he slugged six homers in one game while a member of the Athletics of Philadelphia. In 1871, he joined Troy of the NA and led the new league in homers with four. He played the next two seasons with Baltimore, again leading the league in homers both seasons. He would lead the NL in homers in 1877 as well. His 16 homers in the NA are ranked first in the league's five-year existence and his 244 RBIs rank third. Other than a brief appearance for New York of the AA in 1887, Pike's major league career ended in 1881, leaving with the second highest career slugging percentage (.469, minimum 1000 plate appearances), third most homers (21), and sixth highest batting average (.323). Pike was elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

## Al Reach

**Born:** May 25, 1840, **Died:** January 14, 1928

**Years:** 1857–1903

**Category:** Executive & Pioneer

Reach spent over 40 years in baseball. He was one of the best players of his era and one of the first to be paid. Reach began playing in 1857 with the Union Star Club of Brooklyn and continued with the Brooklyn Jacks from 1858 through 1860. He played for the Eckford Club of Brooklyn from 1861–1864, participating on championship teams in 1862 and 1863. During 1864 he played for both Eckford and the Athletic Club of Philadelphia. Reach became the Athletics regular second baseman

in 1865 through the team's 1871 season when they won the NA championship. Reach got into the sporting goods business around 1866, and in 1874 opened a sporting goods store which led to him forming the A.J. Reach Company. His company would go on to merge with Albert Spalding's sporting goods empire in 1892, but both companies retained their own identities. Reach balls, which was the official baseball of the AA from 1883–1891, became the official baseball of the American League and Reach's Official Base Ball Guide was published from 1883 to 1939. Reach became a founder and owner of the NL's Philadelphia franchise, now the Phillies, in 1883 until he sold his interest in the team in 1903. During his tenure, he built two ballparks, the first one burning down and replaced with what would be called the Baker Bowl, the first modern ballpark made from brick and steel. Reach was an Overlooked Legend finalist from 2013–2019, finishing seventh last year. He was also a finalist on the Hall of Fame's Pre-Integration ballot in 2013.

## Hardy Richardson

**Born:** April 21, 1855, **Died:** January 14, 1931

**Years:** 1879–92

**Category:** Player (Second Base/Outfield)

Richardson was an outstanding offensive and defensive second baseman who also spent a considerable amount of time in the outfield over a 14-season major league career. Richardson joined the Buffalo Bisons of the NL in 1879 and performed well right away, batting .283 and finishing second among third basemen in fielding percentage. He was part of Buffalo's "Big Four", along with Dan Brouthers, Deacon White, and Jack Rowe. The quartet played together from 1881 through 1888, when their Detroit club disbanded (the Detroit Wolverines had purchased the Buffalo franchise after the 1885 season). Richardson enjoyed what was likely his finest season in 1886, batting .351 while leading the NL in hits (189) and home runs (11, tied with Brouthers). The following season, he batted .328 as Detroit won the "World Series" against the St. Louis Browns. In 1890 with the Boston Reds of the Players' League, Richardson batted .328 and led the league in runs batted in (152) and home runs (16) and placed fifth in hits (187). He hit .299 for his career and ranked among the top dozen all-time in hits (11th), triples (eighth), home runs (tied for sixth), runs scored (12th), and RBIs (ninth) at the time of his retirement.

# Jimmy Ryan

**Born:** February 11, 1863, **Died:** October 29, 1923

**Years:** 1885–1903

**Category:** Player (Outfielder)

Ryan was an outstanding outfielder and leadoff man who spent almost his entire career in Chicago. He joined the White Stockings in 1885, playing for a team that won back-to-back NL pennants. The rest of his career he mostly played on mediocre to poor teams. Ryan was a leading power hitter in his day, leading the NL in 1888 with 16 homers while finishing in the top 10 seven times. He hit 22 lead-off homers in his career, a record until Eddie Yost passed him in 1959. He twice hit for the cycle (1888 and 1891) and once scored six runs in a game (in 1894). Ryan had one of the great arms in history and still ranks third all-time in outfield assists behind only Tris Speaker and Ty Cobb with 375. Ryan retired with 2,014 games (third all-time), 1,643 runs (fifth), 2,513 hits (sixth), 451 doubles (fifth), 118 homers (fourth), 1,093 RBIs (12th), 726 extra-base hits (fifth), and 3,632 total bases (fourth) while batting .308 with a .375 OBP. Ryan was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2015 and 2017.

# Joe Start

**Born:** October 14, 1842, **Died:** March 27, 1927

**Years:** 1859–86

**Category:** Player (First Baseman) & Pioneer

Start had one of the longest playing careers in baseball history. His size and athletic ability made him one of the most powerful hitters of the 1860s and the game's finest defensive first baseman throughout his playing days. In the 1860s, he scored 824 runs in 194 NABBP games, leading the NABBP in runs in 1865 with 82 and in hits with 233 in 1868. From 1868 to 1870, he had 824 hits and 893 total bases in 154 games. In 1878, as a member of the Chicago White Stockings, Start hit .351 and led the NL in hits and total bases. "Old Reliable" has often been credited as being the first to play off the bag at first base and was known as being a sure-handed receiver of balls.

thrown to him. He played on several championship teams, including the 1864–1866 and 1869 Atlantics of Brooklyn teams, the NL-pennant winning Providence Grays in 1879, and in 1884, as the team's captain, the Grays won the first "World Series." He batted .300 in eleven NL seasons and led his league in fielding percentage at first base six times between 1872 and 1884. He retired ranked sixth in games (1,070), runs (852), hits (1,417) and total bases (1,744) while ranking seventh in RBIs (544). Start was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2012 and 2019, finishing 12th last year.

## George Stovey

**Born:** May 1866, **Died:** March 22, 1936

**Years:** 1886–97

**Category:** Pioneer

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/8ff10f5c>

Stovey is considered by many to be the greatest African American pitcher of the 19th Century. The left-hander never pitched in the majors due to the color of his skin. He started out his career with a semi-pro team in the Williamsport, Pennsylvania area, his hometown, in 1884 and ended it there in 1897 with the city's Central Pennsylvania League team. In between, he was a star in the top minor leagues and with black baseball's greatest clubs of the time. The curveballer, who had a tremendous pick-off move to first base, emerged with the Jersey City club of the Eastern League in 1886. He started 31 games and completed them all, going 16–15 with a 1.13 ERA and 203 strikeouts in 270 1/3 innings while walking just 43 batters. In 1887, he joined Newark of the International Association where he teamed up with catcher Fleet Walker to form the first black battery in integrated organized baseball. He led the league with 33 wins and had a 2.46 ERA in 424 innings. As baseball's color line was being drawn, Stovey moved around between top black teams, including the Cuban Giants and New York Gorhams, and integrated-league teams. He went 60–40 with a 2.17 ERA in 102 games in the top minor leagues. He became an umpire in the minors and around Williamsport when his playing days were over. Stovey was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2018 and 2019, finishing eighth last year.



# George Van Haltren

**Born:** March 30, 1866, **Died:** October 1, 1945

**Years:** 1887–1903

**Category:** Player (Outfielder)

**SABR Bio:** <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/15954c4c>

A pitcher in his early years with a 40–31 record, Van Haltren became a premier center fielder and leadoff hitter with the New York Giants after earlier productive stops in Chicago (NL), Baltimore (AA and NL), Brooklyn (PL) and Pittsburgh (NL). When his major league career was over, he had accumulated 2,544 hits (fifth all-time), 1,642 runs (sixth), 161 triples (10th), 1,015 RBIs (17th), and 583 stolen bases (fifth) with a .316 batting average and a .386 on-base percentage. He scored over 100 runs 11 times and batted .300 or more 12 times. The mustached Van Haltren, an outstanding defensive stalwart with a tremendous throwing arm (three times led the NL in assists from the outfield), finished in the top 10 in hits, triples, runs, batting average, stolen bases, total bases, and on-base percentage a grand total of 42 times. Van Haltren was an Overlooked Legend finalist in 2010 and from 2014–2019, finishing ninth last year.

# Chris Von der Ahe

**Born:** October 7, 1851, **Died:** June 5, 1913

**Years:** 1881–99

**Category:** Executive

Von der Ahe was the owner and the “Boss President” of the St. Louis Browns from 1881 to 1899. A German immigrant, Von der Ahe started out in the grocery and saloon business before becoming a baseball entrepreneur. In 1881, he purchased the St. Louis Brown Stockings, who would join the AA in 1882. Von der Ahe was a powerful force in the AA and has been credited with bringing baseball back to St. Louis after the Brown Stockings dropped out of the NL in 1877. He fully supported the AA’s three main differences from the NL, a cheaper admission fee that was affordable for the “common man” (25 cents), Sunday games, and the sale of alcohol at the ballpark. During his

tenure, he introduced a beer garden, a stadium club, a water ride, and a racetrack among his many gimmicks to attract people to the park. Eventually, many of these ideas failed and contributed to his financial downfall, but he planted the seed for future innovators like Bill Veeck. Before the AA merged with the NL in 1891, the Browns would win four straight pennants (1885–1888) and the “World Series” in 1885 and 1886. He also helped keep the AA afloat financially during their battles with the Players’ League and the NL in 1890 and 1891. Von der Ahe was a finalist on the Hall of Fame’s Pre-Integration ballot in 2016. Von der Ahe was an Overlooked Legend finalist from 2016–2019, finishing sixth last year.

## Gus Weyhing

**Born:** September 29, 1866, **Died:** September 4, 1955

**Years:** 1887–1901

**Category:** Player (Pitcher)

August “Gus” Weyhing was a dependable workhorse in the late 1880s and 1890s. His first six seasons were exceptionally consistent, with 25 or more wins and 390 or more innings pitched each year. In 1887 as a rookie, his record was slightly below .500 (26–28) and his ERA (4.27) was slightly below average, but he was solidly above average in both categories for the next five seasons. After three seasons in the AA with Philadelphia (where he won 30 games in his final season), the 145-pound hurler jumped to the Players’ League with John Montgomery Ward’s Brooklyn club. In the Players’ League, he won 30 games for the second time but was returned to Philadelphia after the league folded. There, he won 30 games for the third time. After the AA folded, Weyhing moved to the NL (also with Philadelphia) and didn’t miss a beat, winning 30 for the fourth straight season while becoming the only pitcher to have 30-win seasons in three different leagues. When the mound was moved back in 1893, Weyhing got off to a 13-4 start, but struggled the second half (going 10-12) while dealing with a messy marriage and divorce. He still managed to win 23 games with an ERA around the league average (4.74). From there, he steadily declined despite adding 64 wins to his career win tally of 264 (against 232 losses). Weyhing ranks 40th in wins and was 11th at the time of his retirement. He finished in the top five in wins five times and strikeouts seven times. His career rankings also included eighth in games pitched, 10th in innings pitched, and 11th in both complete games and strikeouts. Despite his success he was

notably wild, still ranking first all-time in hit batsmen, fifth in wild pitches, and 10th in walks. His single best game may have been on July 31, 1888 when he no-hit Kansas City, facing the minimum 27 batters due to the opposing base runners being thrown out stealing.