

## AT ARMY

In the collegiate baseball season of 1913, Army hosted Notre Dame at West Point. Cy, now a Chicago Cub, yet still in school for his senior year, was the manager of the Notre Dame team. Army fielded a team which had six players who would become WWII generals. On that Army team was Omar Bradley who would become a 5-star general, and the first ever Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Question: Has any other MLB player coached against six future Army generals?

Question: Has any other MLB player coached a college team while a member of a MLB club? Additionally, while still in college?

Answers: All seem highly unlikely.

Cy the Unique?

*\* Source: John Haeussler*

## **PERSPECTIVE: CY'S WORLD, 1910 - 1919**

Before going on to Cy's years with the Chicago Cubs, let's first gain some perspective on what you would have experienced if you had lived in the '10s. After all, MLB does not exist in a vacuum... nor do the players.

The decade sees the United States emerge as a capable, respected nation. The economy remains dominated by agriculture. Industrialization and patents are expanding, as is the growth of cities. Power is generated largely by coal and steam. Early on, lighting is still by candle and gas lamps. It will not be until the mid-'20s that half of U.S. homes have electricity. Refrigeration is still block-ice and iceboxes.

Long distance land travel is by steam train, and overseas travel is by steamships. Ford's black cars start to transform local travel. The predominant dirt roads slowly start to get paved... "hard roads" they are called. Airplanes are mostly a novelty, and for mail delivery. No radio. Messaging is through Western Union (WU) telegraph offices. You have no telephones, no internet.

Newspapers and magazines flourish, with major cities having at least six to ten dailies being hawked on the corners. "Read all about it!" Besides WU, your choices for communications are U.S. Mail carried by train or ship if distant; local couriers; newspaper ad, personal visit, and barber shop and pub pass-on. The only way for you to talk to another person is face-to-face... you must physically go to where they are. No broadcasting your thoughts over social media or email. No texting the person in the next cubical. Imagine, no cubicals!

Water? Wells and pipelines gradually come on line in the cities giving hotels and homes the rudiments of indoor plumbing. Rural folk still pump water, and if it needs to be heated there is always your coal or wood burning iron stove. For personal hygiene, only a few have bathtubs. You may have to fill it by hand and bucket. Showering is pretty much unheard

of as an option. “Spit baths” at a sink plus a Saturday night tub bath is the norm. On farms, windmills are precious. Big water is essential.

HVAC? None! No air conditioning. No forced air heat. Open a window or close a window. Blankets rule when cool. Coal boilers and steam radiators become your source of warmth in city homes and large buildings. For rural folk, the iron stove in the kitchen is the standard, with a heated rock put under your covers at the foot of your bed for nighttime. Once electricity arrives and you can afford it, you might get a rudimentary fan to cool you.

1912 sees the sinking of the newest and grandest passenger ship, the exotic Titanic. This is Cy’s first year with the Cubs, his senior year yet to go. 1914 ushers in World War I in Europe. The U.S. commits two million military in early 1917, with victory and armistice declared in late 1918. This war and the military draft impacts MLB and players. MLB’s 1918 and 1919 seasons are shortened. Many players sign up to serve in military roles. 1914 also brings you the opening of the huge engineering feat of the Panama Canal, boosting world trade and travel, and U.S. growth. West coast cities flourish.

While WWI takes 17 million lives, the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic takes 50 to 100 million worldwide, 675,000 in the U.S. With the U.S. population at 103 million then, it was less than one-third of what it is today. More troops are lost to the pandemic than to acts of war. This is also Cy’s first year in Philadelphia.

MLB emerges as an ever more popular spectator sport, with heroes such as Mathewson, Johnson, Cravath, Wagner, Traynor, Alexander... and eventually Ruth, Williams, Hornsby. 1919 closes out the decade with a huge scandal. The public learns that numerous White Sox players have taken big money from big time gamblers to “throw” the World Series, the pinnacle event of The Game. This is a sickening time for the nation. Public confidence in The Game is shattered. Greed is trumping sport. Fan trust is lost. MLB faces collapse.

# THE TEAMS OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, 1910s AND 1920s

Throughout Cy's nineteen playing years, there were eight National League teams and eight American League teams. Expansion would come much later, following the growth of population centers in the west and south. St. Louis was the western-most MLB city. Washington, DC and St. Louis were the southern-most. MLB was concentrated in the populace north and east.

Note: This book focuses primarily on Cy's National League so that peer-to-peer comparisons can be made more accurately. There were too many significant variables between the two leagues to elicit justifiable comparisons of performance across leagues. Only very generalized comparisons can be drawn.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE (NL)**

Chicago Cubs

St. Louis Cardinals

Cincinnati Reds

Pittsburgh Pirates

Brooklyn Robbins (Dodgers)

Boston Braves

New York Giants

Philadelphia Phillies

## **AMERICAN LEAGUE (AL)**

Boston Red Sox

Cleveland Indians

Philadelphia Athletics

Washington Nationals

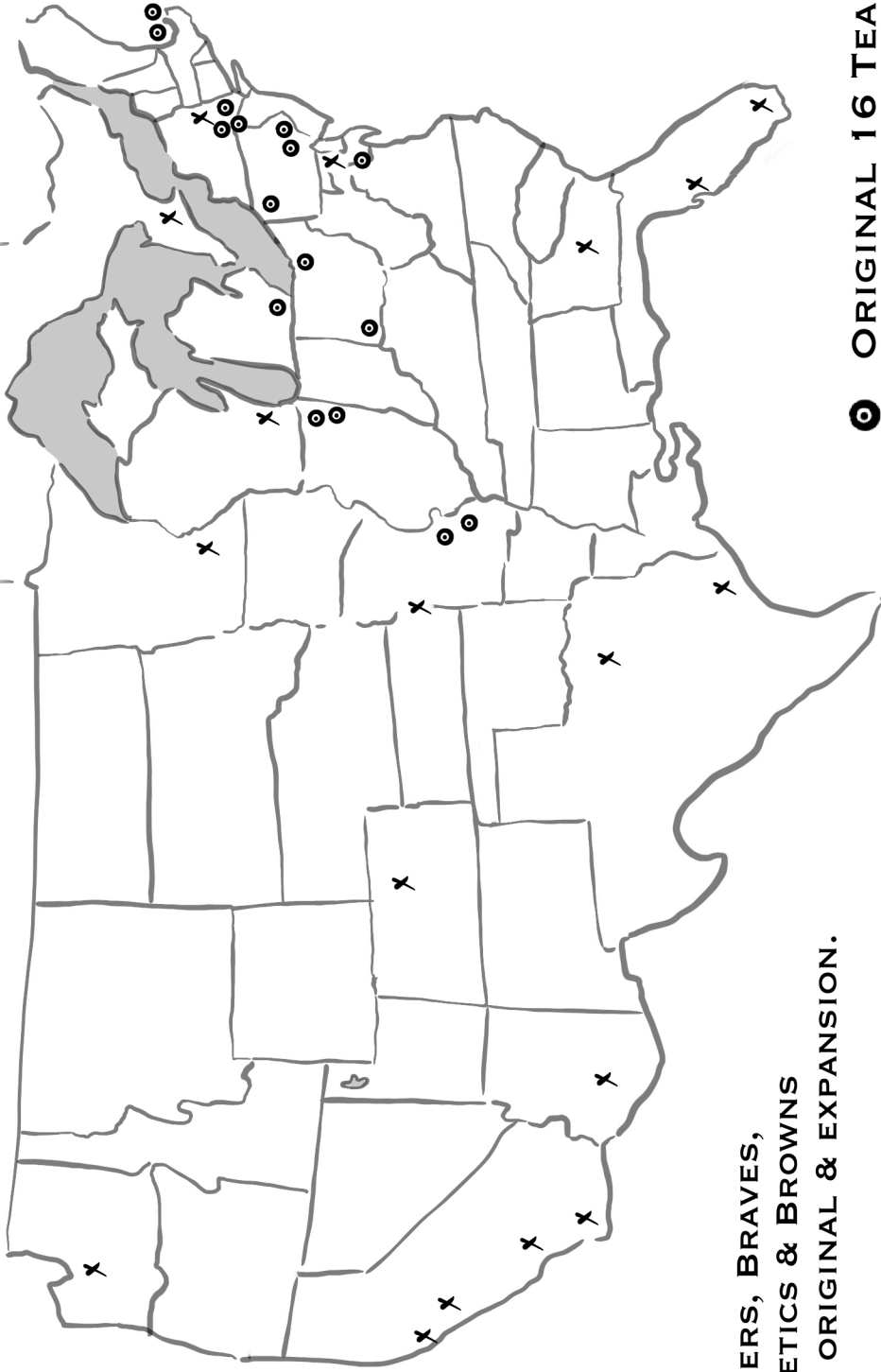
Detroit Tigers

Chicago White Sox

St. Louis Browns

New York Yankees

# MLB: TODAY'S EXPANDED LOOK



**DODGERS, BRAVES,  
ATHLETICS & BROWNS  
WERE ORIGINAL & EXPANSION.**

**OF THE ORIGINAL 16 MLB TEAMS,  
12 REMAIN IN THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION.**

**○ ORIGINAL 16 TEAMS**

**✕ EXPANDED TEAMS**

## **GEOGRAPHICAL EXTREMES OF TODAY'S TEAMS:**

### **The teams furthest *east* by longitude:**

1. Boston Red Sox (AL)
2. New York Mets (NL)
3. New York Yankees (AL)

### **The teams furthest *west* by longitude:**

1. San Francisco Giants (NL)
2. Seattle Mariners (AL)
3. Los Angeles Dodgers (NL)

### **The teams furthest *north* by latitude:**

1. Seattle Mariners (AL)
2. MSP Twins (AL)
3. Toronto Blue Jays (AL)

### **The teams furthest *south* by latitude:**

1. Miami Marlins (NL)
2. Tampa Rays (AL)
3. Houston Astros (AL)

MLB teams remained at 16 through the 1960 season. Then expansion came in dribbles through 1998. Now 30 MLB teams grace the landscape. Player talent is worldwide.

We changed as a nation.  
ML baseball as a business has followed.  
Demographics rule where and when opportunity shall thrive.