



1903

**TAKE ME OUT TO THE
BALLGAME: THE
FORMATION OF MAJOR
LEAGUE BASEBALL**

HAWKMUN III
OCTOBER 5, 2024

LETTER FROM YOUR CRISIS DIRECTOR	3
SENSITIVITY STATEMENT	4
1.0 Introduction.....	5
2.0 Powers of Committee.....	6
2.1 Frontroom.....	6
2.2 Backroom.....	6
3.0 History and Context.....	7
3.1 Origins	7
3.2 The First Teams and Leagues	7
3.3 The National League.....	8
3.4 Enter the Junior Circuit.....	9
3.5 Johnson’s War	10
4.0 Current State of the Leagues.....	11
4.1 League Culture	11
4.2 Player Relations	11
4.3 Team Administration.....	12
4.4 Expanding the Game?	13
4.5 To Merge or not to Merge.....	13
5.0 Character Backgrounds	14
5.1 Ban Johnson – President of the American League (D)	14
5.2 Samuel Angus – Owner of the Detroit Tigers (AL-D).....	14
5.3 Charles Comiskey – Owner of the Chicago White Stockings (AL-D).....	14
5.4 William Devery – Owner of the New York Highlanders (AL-H).....	14
5.5 Henry Killilea – Owner of the Boston Americans (AL-D).....	15
5.6 Robert Hedges – Owner of the St. Louis Browns (AL-H)	15
5.7 Thomas Noyes – Owner of the Washington Senators (AL-D)	15
5.8 Ben Shibe – Owner of the Philadelphia Athletics (AL-NA).....	15
5.9 Charles Somers – Owner of the Cleveland Napoleons (AL-H)	16
5.10 Napoléon Lajoie – Second Baseman for the Cleveland Napoleons, Influential Player in the American League	16
5.11 Harry Pulliam – President of the National League (D)	16
5.12 John Brush – Owner of the New York Giants (NL-H).....	16
5.13 Bernhard Dreyfuss – Owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates (NL-D)	17
5.14 Charles Ebbets – Owner of the Brooklyn Superbas (NL-H)	17
5.15 James Hart – Owner of the Chicago Cubs (NL-D)	17



5.16	Garry Hermann – Owner of the Cincinnati Reds (NL-D).....	17
5.17	James Potter – Owner of the Philadelphia Phillies (NL-D).....	18
5.18	Frank Robison – Owner of the St. Louis Cardinals (NL-D)	18
5.19	Arthur Soden – Owner of the Boston Beaneaters (NL-H)	18
5.20	Christy Matthewson – Pitcher for the New York Giants, Influential Player in the National League	18
6.0	Appendix.....	19
6.1	Team Overviews	19



Letter from your Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to Take Me Out to the Ballgame: The 1903 Formation of the MLB. As your crisis director, I will be honored to supervise this session and see how you all go about your respective characters.

At your disposal are characters fully malleable to your own, unique aims and arcs. While this crisis is obviously centered around a set pathway, what I do want to get across is the absolute freedom of delegates. Creative resolutions and arcs are highly encouraged to tackle the current situation between both the American and National Leagues. Collaboration between the various owners and players will be looked favorably upon, even if it is not for the “common good.” Essentially, the world of this crisis is what you, the delegate, makes of it.

I look forward to what all of you have in store in this ad-hoc committee. Whatever path each league takes in this crisis, I am sure the pathways taken by you all will be memorable and creative.

Best of Luck,

Abraham Frederick, Crisis Director



Sensitivity Statement

The University of Kansas Model United Nations Club is committed to intellectual discourse. HawkMUN conference encourages attending delegates to maintain and consider historical accuracy throughout all committees. However, certain actions are completely unacceptable, even if they may be historically accurate to their committee. The statement above applies to all committees being run during HawkMUN. All delegates are expected to follow 21st century standards of ethics and morality in all aspects during their participation in the HawkMUN conference.

Delegates may not use the guise of "historical accuracy" as an excuse for racist, sexist, homophobic, or other harmful actions. No justification will be allowed for war crimes, ethnic genocide, or implementing slavery during their participation in the conference. These exclusionary and hurtful acts can appear not only in the words of a directive, resolution, or speech, but also in the blocs that form and the people who are included in or prevented from participating. If any of the above behaviors are reported by the Chair, Delegates, Staff, or Advisors to the Secretary General, they will promptly be investigated. Any delegate, advisor, or staff member found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct will be immediately ejected from the committee with no refund.



1.0 Introduction

Welcome all to Take Me Out to the Ballgame: The 1903 Formation of the MLB. This committee will begin in a time of great popularity for the game of baseball. The central players will be the American and National Leagues respectively. After having formed itself as a direct challenger to the National League, the American League has managed to force the National League to the negotiating table in discussion of a merger. As the various owners of the teams, and even a few players, it will be up to you all to settle these negotiations. Central to a merger are the following issues that are integral to any AL-NL partnership:

- Question of a salary cap in either league
- Possible postseason between respective league winners each year
- Revenue sharing among teams or profits kept within organizations
- Power to set ticket and beverage prices remains with league or switches to teams
- If further expansion teams should be added or leagues kept at 8 respectively
- Solving the labor issue with players, especially with concerns over player gambling and throwing of games
- Healing league culture and game environment, specifically in the NL

Finding solutions to these points will make a merger and partnership between the two leagues a certain possibility. However, doing so has its own challenges due to the differing structure and ideas of each league. The National League is in a cultural crisis with declining attendance thanks to the rival AL, as well as fights and drunkenness among fans and players. In response, three teams in the NL, New York, Brooklyn, and Boston have formed a clique in hopes of preventing a merger and resuming competition with the AL. On the other hand, the AL is experiencing steady attendance rates due to low crowd disturbances and the star power of its rosters (thanks to poaching NL players). Even though a truce exists between the two clubs due to current negotiations, some AL clubs advocate finishing the weakened NL once and for all to make the AL the sole baseball league in the US. Whether a merger succeeds or not remains to be seen.

While the issue of merging is the central point of this crisis, that is not the only thing up to delegates to do. The fact that the bulk of characters are team owners means that taking steps to manage your respective teams will be equally pressing as merger negotiations go on. Though not something too consuming, owners will be expected to take measures to manage the general operations of their team, with the choice of more in-depth decisions being left to the discretion of the delegate.



2.0 Powers of Committee

2.1 Frontroom

The debates, resolutions, and discussions undertaken by the committee will transpire in the frontroom. Central to this crisis is resolving the question of merging and associated issues with it. However, the split nature of the committee makes for some interesting mechanics. When committee begins, the American and National Leagues respectively essentially begin as pre-set blocs. Until a merger happens, the blocs are also free to vote on resolutions within the league. How this mechanic works is that any delegate in a league can draft a resolution which then must be approved by all owners for it to pass. Once done so, it will be submitted to the chair and read aloud. Intraleague resolutions must apply to the rules and operations of the league they were drafted in. If a merger is achieved, the intraleague resolution structure will end. The presence of several delegates with anti-merger ideals means that finding a compromise is essential lest the tenuous peace between the leagues collapse. As a whole, the normal rules of procedure and powers still apply to the committee barring these changes.

2.2 Backroom

It is here in the backroom that some of the most consequential actions in the crisis can take place. Here, delegates can utilize the resources and connections they start out with, make decisions as owners of their team, organize players if a delegate is a player, and other actions to serve a respective agenda. Additionally, JPDs will be looked upon favorably to synthesize character strengths. Given how some characters start out with clear allies, collaborations in the backroom as much as in the frontroom are integral to the crisis running smoothly. With regards to backroom notes, delegates should make their long-term intentions clear in the first note so they can be guided to and assisted, if necessary, in their end goal. Therefore, the backroom allows for the individual delegate to flesh out their personal arcs and agenda over the term of committee.



3.0 History and Context

3.1 Origins

The sport of baseball lies without a clear origin and inventor. A common explanation for its creation is that on one day in 1839 at Cooperstown, New York the future Civil War General Abner Doubleday invented the sport. However, this story was conjured decades after the fact, and was done more so to conjure a sense of “Americanness” to the sport (not only was Doubleday a general but he was celebrated for his performance at Gettysburg). Instead, the story of baseball and its origins is more gradual, evolutionary, and complex.

Baseball can trace its lineage to the sport of rounders. The latter is a game originating from England, having been played since the 1500s and carried over to the New World. Like baseball, the game contains innings, two teams of fielders and hitters that rotate after outs, and runs are scored via making it around the game’s four bases. Additionally, the game is noted for being a recreational game for children. Over the centuries that it was played in the US, the game was subject to variation and change. By the mid 1800s, various rival schools had emerged on how this new form of rounders, now increasingly referred to as “baseball,” should be played.

The nexus points of discussion and tinkering to the old children’s game were New York, Philadelphia, and Massachusetts. Philadelphia had the earliest style of play, originating in the 18th Century, that was often informal, varied by rules, and kept a lot of the characteristics of rounders. Differing from the Philadelphia style, New York and Massachusetts respectively put forth codified rules of playing, which had less rules in common with rounders than the new game of baseball. The New York Game, starting in 1845, was created by the New York Knickerbockers, who have the earliest known rules of baseball that exist. The Knickerbockers themselves were players of the Philadelphia game, yet wishing to make their style of play more exclusive, organized their team around newfound rules. While some of their rules no longer exist in the modern game, they did lay down the foundation for the modern sport and represent the earliest attempts to organize the game. Rules such as three bases, foul balls, three strikes for an out, three outs in an inning, and others, all have their origins here. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts style of play, which emerged in 1858 under an amateur league of Massachusetts teams, had a rival style of play that though differing than rounders, had more in common with it than its New York Counterparts. Four bases were still used, dimensions were extremely wide and open, and there was no foul territory. Despite the Massachusetts game being an organized force, the New York Game, the precursor to modern baseball, would win out.

3.2 The First Teams and Leagues

After having established their newfound rules, the New York Knickerbockers, the first recorded baseball team, set about to prove their game. In the first recorded baseball game,



the Knickerbockers faced the New York Baseball Club in 1846 at the Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey. The Knickerbockers would lose 23 to 1, but the “New York Game” would catch on. Popular enough, the Knickerbockers’ rules would beat out the Massachusetts Game for legitimacy in the sport. In 1858, the first ever governing body on baseball, the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP), would adopt the Knickerbocker Rules for their member clubs. The outbreak of the Civil War would expedite the popularity of the New York Game. Union soldiers from New York and New Jersey spread their style of play amongst fellow soldiers. Furthermore, the exposure of the game to soldiers in the various Union armies ensured it could be taken home with them, making the sport transcend regional and class boundaries. The New York Game was finally cemented after the war, when various amateur clubs from New York and Brooklyn would handily defeat Massachusetts and other New England clubs in friendlies. Not only had the Civil War and post-war years solidified the rules the Knickerbockers had created in 1845, but also made the game no longer a sport contained to the Northeast but across the country.

With the parameters of the game organized and accepted, the post-war years saw a baseball “craze” of sorts, especially in the New York area. Clubs were seemingly springing up everywhere. Though, per the governing NABBP, the sport was to be amateur rather than professional in nature. While other leagues existed, something of a professional league where players were paid was unheard of that. That would change in 1869, when the Cincinnati Red Stockings (founded as an amateur team three years prior), became the first team to pay its players. The Red Stockings were noted for their on-field success and entertaining play. From 1869 to 1871, the Red Stockings would have one perfect season (57-0), and a winning streak of 81 games before losing to an amateur team from Brooklyn. The success and attention garnered by the Red Stockings soon caused more clubs to ditch amateur status. So much so, by 1871, now professionalized clubs seceded from the NABBP to form the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players (NAPBBP), spelling the end of the NABBP. By 1876, the NAPBBP itself dissolved when clubs left to form the National League: Boston, Hartford, St. Louis, New York, Chicago, Louisville, Philadelphia and Cincinnati.

3.3 The National League

The National League would prove to be the champion of professional baseball for the remainder of the 19th Century. That is not to say the league would be without its challenges. Of the original eight members in the league, only Boston and Chicago (Beaneaters and Cubs respectively of 1903) would survive. The remaining six either folded or were expelled from the league by its dictatorial president: William Hulbert. From its founding up until 1882, the National League was the sole professional league in the US. This lack of competition ensured the league’s legitimacy, as well as achieving popularity for the sport around the regions where teams were located. Additionally, the National League wished to achieve an ethos of respectability and friendliness to fans. Meaning, the league did not play on Sundays nor sell alcohol to fans. Furthermore, the league struggled with gambling among its players, something that would continually test the character of the game in future years. Despite this



struggle, the National League would add further teams through the years: Pittsburgh, Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Cincinnati.

Another thing of note was the reserve clause. With baseball having completed the transition from amateur to professional game, owners wished to keep their finances and players in check. Therefore, the reserve clause essentially made a player the property of their owner. Players were simply signed to one-year contracts, free to be traded away or released as the owners saw fit. The only way a player could enter free agency was if their team refused to offer them another contract at the end of the season, thus allowing them to seek new teams. In the absence of agents and unrestricted free agency, though, salaries to players were and still are capped to preserve the finances of teams. Even now, the relations between players and owners are heavily skewed towards the latter with the reserve clause still in effect.

Despite the National League's early success and place as the sole professional league, challengers would rise. In 1882, the American Association formed as the most serious competitor to the National League. Playing an exciting, scrappier brand of baseball, the AA challenged the National League for baseball dominance. So much so, the AA and NL would play each other in a World Series between 1884 and 1890. Nevertheless, the well-established National League would prove to outlast the AA. Numerous players and even teams were lured away to the more financially stable NL, and the fact the AA only managed to win one of the seven World Series played between them tarnished their legitimacy. By 1891, the AA had folded, and once more, the National League was the sole professional league in the US, maintaining a borderline monopolistic hold on the sport.

3.4 Enter the Junior Circuit

The Western League of Professional Baseball Clubs, a once respectable minor league, had undergone turbulence for the 1880s and 1890s. The league had folded and unfolded multiple times throughout its tenure. When re-establishing itself in 1893, the league appointed former lawyer and sports editor Ban Johnson. Johnson himself was ambitious, ruthless, and wanted nothing less than to establish the struggling Western League as a direct challenger to the National League.

Initially, the Western League would be hard-pressed to compete. Its teams were in the Midwest, away from the giant markets occupied by the National League on the East Coast. Therefore, Johnson took a double approach of raiding and changing the culture of the league to make it more marketable to fans. Regarding the former, Johnson and his Western League routinely moved into markets abandoned by folding National League teams. For example, the New York Highlanders, Cleveland Naps, and Washington Senators were all established in response to National League teams either being folded or ejected from the National League in those cities. To fill these Western League rosters, Johnson and his owners were equally aggressive to the National League. Senior Circuit teams were routinely raided for their star players, which would prove detrimental to the National League's style of play. Concerning



culture, Johnsons wished for a more respectable atmosphere in his league. Though the National League had once begun under similar beginnings, by the 1890s, the NL was rife with fights among players and fans, drinking, hooliganism, and gambling. The Western League was to be a tighter ship, with lapses in discipline rigorously punished, with even using foul language enough to get a player or umpire suspended.

Through this combination of moving into abandoned markets by the National League, attritioning NL rosters, and establishing respectable culture, the Western League had transformed itself into a peer competitor by 1900. Up to this point, the Western League was still afforded minor league status, meaning it was legally subordinate to, and had to answer to the authority of the National League within professional baseball. Yet because of the Western League's accumulated teams and prestige, Johnson declared his league was no longer subject to this legal framework in 1900 and renamed the Western League to the American League. Not only was there a second major league on the scene, Johnson and his American League were in open warfare against the Senior Circuit.

3.5 Johnson's War

The conflict between both leagues between 1900 and 1902 was one that the American League was well positioned to win. The league's hospitable culture and youthfulness made it more alluring and energizing to the fans and players. Johnson had shrewdly given the American League an absence of a salary cap (unlike the National League), which lured stars like Cy Young and Napoléon Lajoie from the National League. Although, the reserve clause the National League employed existed here as well. Simply put, American League baseball enjoyed exciting play to the backdrop of full stadiums.

Meanwhile, the National League was reeling from Johnson's challenge. The rowdiness of players and fans, coupled with the exodus of many star players, meant attendance, and by extension team finances, were declining. While the National League was not in its death throes, what was certain was that the toll the American League was taking on it could not be sustained forever. Realizing that they would have to accept a second professional league for the first time in professional baseball, the National League opened negotiations with the American League after the 1902 season to come to an arrangement. Now, a truce between the two leagues is in effect, where the poaching and raiding undertaken by the AL has ceased in the meantime.

At the turn of the century, baseball is now a professionalized game. Soaring in popularity and recovering from a vicious, interleague feud, it seems that the two leagues are destined for a partnership in coming seasons. Even so, the current negotiations between the leagues are not a foregone conclusion. The aggressiveness undertaken by the AL in destabilizing the Senior Circuit has left some owners in the latter bitter. Moreover, some personnel in the AL can sense the weakness of the NL, and rather entering into a compact with them, wish to finish them off and make the American League the sole league in baseball. Whatever happens remains to be seen.



4.0 Current State of the Leagues

4.1 League Culture

The culture of both leagues remains diametrically opposed. On the one hand, there is the rowdy nature of the NL. Viewing a game in the Senior Circuit is rife with player brawls, foul language, and drunkenness from fans. Rumors are also rife of players throwing games at the behest of gamblers and mobsters. Taken together, the National League has let the conduct of fans and players get out of control to the detriment of attendance. Still, NL games are noted for the scrappy, physical style of play. While games are not for the casual and innocent-hearted viewer, those that do brave the crowd can witness exciting games.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is the American League. Viewer experience is largely tame to any spectator. Players and umpires conduct themselves in good order, and alcohol is not to be found sold at any AL stadium. With high attendance, owners can afford fielding teams free of salary caps. Because of this, the style of play in the Junior Circuit is masterful and attractive to the casual fan due to big name talent. While the good pay for players has kept gambling scandals at bay for the most part, the high revenues seen by AL teams has only increased the allure of gamblers and mobsters to subvert the character of the national pastime.

4.2 Player Relations

For the entire history of professional baseball, relations between players and owners have been tenuous. Ever since the reserve clause's establishment, players' labor rights have been suffocated. Players in both leagues are still signed to one-year contracts, and unrestricted free agency does not exist. While the American League has no cap (in the NL, the cap has been set at \$3,000 for 1903), it must be stated that this was done not to give player's their share, but rather shrewdly to poach players from the National League. Owners in the American League view players just as paternalistically as their counterparts in the National League. Baseball is a business, which is why players are not afforded much in the way of rights in order to ensure nothing disrupts that business model. Still, some teams do afford their players decent treatment. While others, like Comiskey's White Stockings, are infamous for opting out of contract bonuses or forcing players to pay for their own uniform cleaning. Treatment like this also adds to an increasingly noticed behavior of players and even managers taking bribes to throw games for gamblers and mobsters. With wider America undergoing pushes for labor reform and change, baseball itself is not immune. Both leagues will have to deal with calls, albeit quiet for now, to afford better rights for their players. Even so, owners in both leagues regard ending the reserve clause as destructive to the game and their finances. Meaning, any players wishing to change the system will need to tread carefully and pragmatically. Still, there are muffled talks in some player circles to unionize.



In the current negotiations between the leagues, the owners have little to no disagreements on the status of the reserve clause. What is contested, though, is if a salary cap should exist in a merged league or not. This issue is split according to the size of a team's market.

4.3 Team Administration

The administration of a team varies from owner to owner. Some prefer a more hands on approach to operations, while others delegate most responsibilities to their team president and or manager. Some managers, like the Athletics' Connie Mack or Giants' John McGraw, are afforded dictatorial powers to manage and craft their teams as they like. It must be stated that currently, the actual building of a team, such as trades and scouting, fall upon the president or manager depending on their set role by the owner, though the owner still has final say.

The concept of a general manager does not exist yet in baseball, and neither does the farm system. The latter being the differing levels of minor league teams, operated by various major league teams, to assess and develop youth talent for major league service. Currently, young talent that is acquired is sent straight to the majors rather than assessed at a minor league affiliate. Furthermore, players are not subject to set training routines. Practice is archaic and varies by team, with most experience for players happening in game rather than training. Plus, it is not uncommon to see players eating, drinking, and partying on days off and in the off season. Essentially, teams often place emphasis on games rather than practice for developing skills, with practice more so a warm-up for a game than an entire affair.

With the decentralized nature of training and developing talent, scouting is no different. New players are often acquired through the various minor leagues and semi-pro leagues across the nation. The concept of recruiting players out of college is not yet a concept, as college sports are just now in their infancy. Practically every state has its own league of some level, with most towns and cities having their own teams as well. While teams do have scouts, these often operate independently rather than under a centralized head. Furthermore, new talent is sometimes found not via scouting but by word of mouth. The talent that is found is always in the United States, as teams have yet to expand talent prospecting to the reservoirs outside its borders.

Regarding stadiums, these, for now, are funded entirely by ownership rather than the cities that house them. These stadiums have relatively small seating capacity (between 15,000- 20,000) and often allow fans to watch games on the field within the foul lines or outfield! Basically, fan experience at a game is intimate and close to the players that they are watching, which explains the frequent brawls seen in the National League. Still, due to the game's popularity, discussions on constructing newer, grander stadiums are a possibility to cash in on more ticket sales. Speaking of sales, prices of tickets and refreshments (popcorn, peanuts, and hotdogs, as well as beer for the National League) are set by the respective leagues rather than the clubs themselves. Currently, the price of admission is 50 cents, while



refreshments are 25 cents. In the negotiations between the two leagues, the issue of pricing is salient. Specifically, how much fans should be charged, who sets the prices, and if revenue should be shared by clubs or profits kept in respective teams.

4.4 Expanding the Game?

With clubs in Detroit, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Chicago, the national pastime has broadened its market from a purely East Coast game. Still, the game remains a sport of the old Northern US, with untapped markets in the western and southern reaches of the country. While this would prove profitable and increase attention to an already popular sport, any league expanding now in the midst of the current negotiations would be seen as a renewal of hostilities. Therefore, any league wishing to expand would have to do so after a merger is agreed to—or do it now if they wish to terminate collaboration with their competitor. Plus, any expansion team in the first place must be agreed to by unanimity of league owners.

Expanding the game to new cities in the US is an obvious course of action for either league. Expanding the game to new nations, or at the very least sending “baseball missions” there, is an entirely different idea. Previous attempts to showcase the American game in Europe and North Africa have failed miserably to catch on. Though, Asia and the Americas remain untried for their interest in the national pastime. With the founding myth of this sport being that it is uniquely American and thus exceptional, would attempting to introduce it abroad not be the American thing to do? If any league or club did wish to introduce the game abroad, it would be fraught with risks.

4.5 To Merge or not to Merge

The war between the two leagues has seemingly reached its end. Johnson has accomplished his dream of being an equal to the National League, while the latter can now see peace rather than a further battering of its position. Still, there are owners in both camps who do not agree with the mainline position of a merger. From the American League perspective, the National League is clearly reeling from AL attacks. Therefore, the AL should finish them off once and for all and become the sole hegemon of baseball in the US. In the National League camp, some posit that no peace can be made with a naked aggressor. If the AL openly attacked the NL without warning, how can they be trusted to enter a compact in good faith? Therefore, each league is made up of Hawk and Dove owners respectively regarding the current relations with the other. Hawk for a resumption of hostilities and Dove for a merger.



5.0 Character Backgrounds

5.1 Ban Johnson – President of the American League (D)

Tall, ruthless, and stern, Ban Johnson has lifted his American League from instability some nine years ago to peer adversary with the National League. Johnson does not wish to see the National League destroyed but rather humbled. Their monopoly on baseball must end, and there is no better outcome than for the NL to enter upon a merger with the AL as equals. To Johnson, this is a sign of mercy and begrudging respect. He will only break negotiations with the National League if they initiate it. With his dictatorial, domineering roles as American League President, he hopes to keep the AL owners in line so they support a merger. His friend Charles Comiskey of Chicago can assist in enforcing his will.

5.2 Samuel Angus – Owner of the Detroit Tigers (AL-D)

An experienced businessman, Angus is a competent steward of his franchise. He sees further confrontation with the National League as dangerous to the stability of his team and profits. With Detroit being a charter member of the Western League, the Tigers are afforded a deal of prestige and respect in the Junior Circuit. Angus himself respects the hard-nosed Johnson due to his success as AL President. In the meantime, Angus is privately interested in expanding the game to the American South, specifically in regard to talent prospecting.

5.3 Charles Comiskey – Owner of the Chicago White Stockings (AL-D)

Charles Comiskey remains one of the most notable figures in all of baseball. Comiskey began his career as a manager of the Cincinnati Reds of the National League in the 1890s. During this tenure, he met and befriended Ban Johnson. Jumping ship from the NL and acquiring ownership of a Western League Team in Sioux City, Comiskey pushed for Johnson to be elected as the league's president. In the meantime, Comiskey relocated his team to St. Paul, then to Chicago to become the White Stockings—a direct challenge to the National League Cubs for revenue. A staunch ally and friend of Johnson, Comiskey supports a merger with the National League. As an owner, Comiskey is notorious for his penny-pinching with players. He often forces players to wash their own uniforms, keeps salaries low despite no salary cap in the AL, and is ruthless in stamping out any talks of unionizing.

5.4 William Devery – Owner of the New York Highlanders (AL-H)

William Devery stands out compared to other owners in the political capital he carries with him. Once the police chief of the NYPD, Devery has numerous political contacts across New York, especially within Tammany Hall. While the Highlanders themselves are in their first year of existence (played as the Baltimore Orioles prior), Devery hopes his political contacts will insulate his franchise from any National League attacks. So much so, Devery believes the American League should resume hostilities with the National League. Sharing a market with two National League teams is seen as an existential threat by Devery, so to him this threat must be destroyed.



5.5 Henry Killilea – Owner of the Boston Americans (AL-D)

Founded in 1901, the Boston Americans are a young presence in the American League. At their helm is Henry Killilea, a strong-headed Irish-American who was one of the key architects of the American League alongside Ban Johnson. Because of this, Killilea finds himself aligned with Johnson and Comiskey in terms of league policies. Unlike Devery who sees sharing a market with the National League as a threat, Killilea views sharing Boston with the Beaneaters of the Senior Circuit as an opportunity of peaceful coexistence. However, Killilea still wishes to prove the worth of his team in the baseball world given it is only in its third season of operation.

5.6 Robert Hedges – Owner of the St. Louis Browns (AL-H)

Like Boston, Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia, Hedges has to have his Browns share their city with a National League franchise. Although in their third season of existence, the Browns have managed to become the most popular of the two franchises in St. Louis. Due to his team's success and the overall beleaguered state of the NL, Hedges supports a resumption of American League competition with its competitor. To him, this is the surefire way to finish off the rival Cardinals and secure the Browns as the preeminent team in the West. Additionally, due to the positioning of both St. Louis teams, they are in contention for the talent and attention of the American South.

5.7 Thomas Noyes – Owner of the Washington Senators (AL-D)

Operating in DC, Noyes and his Senators can have the distinction of playing the national pastime in the nation's capital. Though this seems to be the only thing of note for them, as in their past two seasons of existence, the Senators have never won more than 61 games out of the 140-game season. A team currently struggling to find its footing, Noyes supports merging with the National League more than ever as he views future conflict as disruptive to his club's stability. Noyes himself has grand ambitions of making his team the nexus point of baseball excellence, as it is the nation's capital after all. How he plans to transform his team into a powerhouse is unknown.

5.8 Ben Shibe – Owner of the Philadelphia Athletics (AL-NA)

Ben Shibe is in an interesting position as owner of the Philadelphia Athletics. While he owns the team and profits from it, real executive power lies in the team's manager: the unassuming yet shrewd Connie Mack. Moreover, Mack wields considerable influence among the team's staff and players. Whether Shibe respects this or not remains to be seen. Coming off a pennant win in 1902, Shibe's athletics are positioned as one of the best teams in the American League. Though, Shibe's position on merging with the National League is unknown. While Mack supports merging due to his longtime friendship with Johnson, Shibe has remained ambivalent on the issue. His team's success might make him content with the status quo, or his sharing a city with the Phillies could motivate Shibe to push for renewed hostilities.



5.9 Charles Somers – Owner of the Cleveland Napoleons (AL-H)

Save for Johnson, Somers might be one of the most influential men in the American League. Once the owner of multiple mines and department stores, Somers possesses numerous business connections and cash flows. At one point, Somers was the principal owner of multiple teams in the American League. While he is now just the owner of the Cleveland Napoleons, Somers routinely invests capital into other league teams that struggle in order to keep the league stable and afloat. Because of this practice, Somers is known as the bankroller of the league and wields considerable influence among owners. Despite having worked with Johnson for some time, he supports “finishing off” the National League rather than merging with them. Furthermore, sharing the state of Ohio with the National League Reds adds to his ire. Due to his backing in capital, he is well-positioned to make himself a leader of the Hawk faction.

5.10 Napoléon Lajoie – Second Baseman for the Cleveland Napoleons, Influential Player in the American League

Napoléon Lajoie is one of the most talented and respected players in all of baseball. Known for his reserved and humble demeanor when playing, Lajoie is so loved among fans that upon being traded to Cleveland in 1902, fans had the team change their name from Broncos to Napoleons (though referred to as “Naps” for short). Lajoie has a particular prowess for hitting, setting the American League record for single season batting average in 1901 at .426. With his popularity and talent, Lajoie is regarded as an influential player in the American League. While it remains to be seen if he leans towards collaboration or agitation with ownership, it must be stated that he has considerable pull among players.

5.11 Harry Pulliam – President of the National League (D)

The years of conflict with the American League have bent but not broken Pulliam’s National League. Pulliam carries a legal background in his profession. Unlike Johnson, who relies on sheer will and force to keep the owners behind him, Pulliam prefers a more diplomatic and conciliatory approach. While this gives owners more leeway and freedom from their president, it does give Pulliam more respect rather than the fear Johnson has. Knowing that the National League will be hard pressed if hostilities were to resume with the Junior Circuit, he supports a merger with the AL. It is all a question over whether he can get his owners behind him.

5.12 John Brush – Owner of the New York Giants (NL-H)

The New York Giants, though not the oldest team in baseball, certainly act like they are. Brush’s Giants claim a lineage from the old New York Knickerbockers of decades ago, as well as stewards of the birthplace of baseball in New York. To Brush, the presence of an American League team in New York is an affront to the baseball tradition the Giants claim to descend from. Leading Brush’s team as manager is the calculating, competent, and ruthless John McGraw. McGraw once worked in the American League for the Orioles (now Highlanders



of New York) but jumped ship and has a seething hatred for the AL. Brush himself aligns with his manager's aims of total warfare with the American League.

Brush wishes for there to be no merger with the AL, and due to the Giants' position in New York, his team is afforded considerable resources and name-recognition for team operations. Additionally, Brush is the leader of the "East Coast Clique" within NL ownership: New York, Brooklyn and Boston—all teams that are against peace and merging with the AL. Still, it must be stated that this is a circumstantial alliance, as New York and Brooklyn compete amongst each other for fan attention and talent in New York.

5.13 Bernhard Dreyfuss – Owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates (NL-D)

Bernhard Dreyfuss is a German immigrant, having moved to the US when he was a teenager. Since the late 1800s, Dreyfuss had quietly moved up in the ranks of the baseball world via acquiring stakes in various teams and amassing wealth. Becoming the owner in 1899, Dreyfuss stocked his team full of stars, including the great Honus Wagner (himself of German descent). As of now, the Pirates are the hegemon of the National League, with pennants in 1901 and 1902. Because of his team's success and lack of crosstown rival, Dreyfuss favors a merger so as to not ruin his team's stability. Additionally, Dreyfuss is noted for his deep involvement in baseball operations, specifically scouting and player development.

5.14 Charles Ebbets – Owner of the Brooklyn Superbas (NL-H)

A second member of the "East Coast Clique," Charles Ebbets emerged as owner of the Superbas through a steady climb in its front office ranks. Like their counterparts in New York, the Superbas are well-positioned in resources and baseball tradition. Interestingly though, their close partnership with the Giants is circumstantial at best in response to the presence of the Highlanders. The Giants and Superbas compete vigorously between revenues and attention in New York City, as well as nearby talent. Therefore, their Clique could unravel if not careful. Ebbets himself is a competent businessman with a knack for turning a profit. He enjoys many connections across New York and favors all-out war with the American League.

5.15 James Hart – Owner of the Chicago Cubs (NL-D)

Formerly the Chicago Orphans, Hart's Cubs are a franchise struggling to field a winning team. Complicating matters is sharing the city with the AL White Stockings, which means less revenue for the Cubs. Because of these factors, Hart favors entering a partnership with the American League. Succeeding the renowned Albert Spalding as owner, James Hart will enter his first season as team owner. Hart has spent most of his career climbing up the ranks of the Cubs, meaning he is well known and regarded among staff in the organization. He hopes the support behind him can help him in his efforts to propel the Cubs to more winning ways.

5.16 Garry Hermann – Owner of the Cincinnati Reds (NL-D)

The Cincinnati Reds claim to be the first professional team in baseball. Although bearing the same name as the famous 1869 team, that team became defunct in the 1870s.



Still, Hermann's team and the city pride itself on its baseball history and culture. Situated along the Ohio River, Hermann hopes his team's location can position itself to greener markets and talent in the South. Moreover, the team's recent struggles have convinced Hermann that further AL attacks are not sustainable for his Reds' long-term prospects. Hopefully the birthplace of professional baseball can weather its recent storms.

5.17 James Potter – Owner of the Philadelphia Phillies (NL-D)

Potter's Phillies are one of the oldest teams in the National League. Now having to share Philadelphia with the more successful Athletics, the Phillies have fallen on hard times in terms of finances and success. Considering a merger essential to his team's survival, Potter desperately supports current negotiations between the leagues. In the meantime, Potter wishes to find new ways to change his club's fortunes. Once active in newspaper work nationwide, he possesses connections in the press. Additionally, the man's southern heritage makes him well positioned to broaden his team's reach and talent pools to other corners of the country.

5.18 Frank Robison – Owner of the St. Louis Cardinals (NL-D)

Ever since the St. Louis Browns have moved to town, Frank Robison has watched helplessly as his club's finances have declined. The tarnished reputation of the NL, as well as the star power of the AL, have mixed to harm Robison's fortunes. Now more than ever he favors a merger with the American League to stop the bleeding. Being the inheritor of a lucrative family fortune from the steamboat business, Robison does have sufficient coffers to weather this setback. Plus, Robison might see fit to invest this in a new ballpark, talent acquisitions, or other initiatives to beat back his crosstown rival for control of St. Louis.

5.19 Arthur Soden – Owner of the Boston Beaneaters (NL-H)

Arthur Soden has the distinction of owning the oldest team in all of baseball. An old and proud franchise, Soden's Beaneaters have found their league fortunes shuddered by the more successful Pirates and New York teams. The presence of the AL Americans have added to the team's woes, specifically sapping away fan support and attention from Boston. Unlike most owners in a similar position who favor merging in hopes of ridding of difficulties, Soden has joined the East Coast Clique in hopes of fighting the AL to the death. Making his fortune on alcohol before acquiring ownership, Soden has contacts across the border in Canada and even in Mexico.

5.20 Christy Matthewson – Pitcher for the New York Giants, Influential Player in the National League

Like Lajoie in the American League, Christy Matthewson is a player who commands respect and likability among fans and players. Noted for his respectable and well-mannered demeanor, Matthewson is an outlier in a rowdy National League. A favorite of John McGraw, Matthewson is primed to be one of the great pitchers of the game. Due to his reputation, Matthewson has become an influential player in the Senior Circuit. While



not a radical who prefers open agitation against the owners, Matthewson is sympathetic to hushed calls by players to unionize.

6.0 Appendix

6.1 Team Overviews

<div>American League</div> <div></div>			
Team	1901 Season (Wins-Losses)	1902 Season (Wins-Losses)	Ballpark
Boston Americans	79-57 (2 nd)	77-60 (3 rd)	Huntington Avenue Grounds (11,500)
Chicago White Stockings	83-53 (1 st)	74-60 (4 th)	South Side Park (15,000)
Cleveland Napoleons	54-82 (7 th)	69-67 (5 th)	League Park (9,000)
Detroit Tigers	74-61 (3 rd)	52-83 (7 th)	Benett Park (8,500)
New York Highlanders	68-65 (5 th)	50-88 (8 th)	Hilltop Park (16,000)
Philadelphia Athletics	74-62 (4 th)	83-54 (1 st)	Columbia Park (9,500)
St. Louis Browns	48-89 (8 th)	78-58 (2 nd)	Sportsman Park (8,000)
Washington Senators	61-72 (6 th)	61-75 (6 th)	American League Park (7,500)



National League



Team	1901 Season (Wins-Losses)	1902 Season (Wins-Losses)	Ballpark
Boston Beaneaters	69-69 (5 th)	73-64 (3 rd)	South End Grounds (2,300)
Brooklyn Superbas	79-57 (3 rd)	75-63 (2 nd)	Washington Park (19,000)
Chicago Cubs	53-86 (6 th)	68-69 (5 th)	West Side Park (16,000)
Cincinnati Reds	52-87 (8 th)	70-70 (4 th)	Palace of the Fans (6,000)
New York Giants	52-85 (7 th)	48-88 (8 th)	Polo Grounds (16,000)
Philadelphia Phillies	83-57 (2 nd)	56-81 (7 th)	National League Park (18,000)
Pittsburgh Pirates	90-49 (1 st)	103-36 (1 st)	Exposition Park (16,000)
St. Louis Cardinals	76-64 (4 th)	56-78(6 th)	Exposition Park (15,000)

