

Cobb, Hailed as Greatest Player in History, Mourned by Baseball World

PASSING OF AN ERA IS NOTED BY FRICK

Cobb Called Link Between Old and New—Mantle, Stengel Pay Tribute

The world of baseball yesterday mourned the death of Ty Cobb, hailed by many as the game's greatest star and acknowledged by all as its fiercest competitor.

From the top officials of baseball, oldtime team-mates and opponents, modern players and fans came the same phrases: "a great player" "the best of all time" "a legend in American sports" "an inspiration to all."

Cobb was called by Commissioner Ford Frick a "great baseball player who was representative of a competitive spirit that must be continued if baseball is to continue."

Frick said the death of Cobb "marks the passage of one of the few remaining links between the old and the new."

"We have many baseball players," said Frick, "but very few Ty Cobbs. He belongs with the Ruths, Mathewsons, Alexanders and Johnsons of a golden era."

George Weiss, the president of the New York Mets, said: "There was no denying that Cobb stood alone as a baseball player, undoubtedly the greatest of all."

"Baseball and the Detroit Tigers owe more to Ty Cobb than either of them ever will be able to repay, regardless of the well-deserved honors heaped upon the greatest of all Detroit players."

Dean Pays Tribute
Dizzy Dean said, "We've lost a lot of great ball players. Now we've lost the greatest."

The former pitcher said he had admired Cobb from the time they met in 1934.

"I was just a young guy then," said Dizzy, "and I remember the first time he saw me pitch. He called me over after the game and said: 'You can be great, kid. If you can win thirty games in a regular season there is no reason why you can't win thirty games every season.'"

Casey Stengel, the former New York Yankee pilot, called Ty Cobb "the most sensational of all the players I have seen in all my life."

"By sensational," Stengel elaborated, "I mean he surprised all his opponents. He would shock them with starting base-running plays and he could always outwit any opponent, even if they were great players."

Cobb recalled once seeing Stengel tag up and score from third on an infield pop-up. "He just waited until the infielder got ready to throw to the pitcher," said Stengel.

George Sisler, the former great first baseman, recalled that Cobb was a fighter on the field, "but to me he went out of his way to be nice." Sisler played against Cobb with the old St. Louis Browns.

"He was a good friend of mine, and I consider him a fine man and gentleman," Sisler said.

Mantle Recalls Visits
Mickey Mantle of the New York Yankees, in Baltimore for a twilight-night double-header against the Orioles, said:

"I'm sorry to hear it. He used to come see me in the dugout when he visited New York and give me some batting tips."

"He would say 'Come here, kid, let me show you what you're doing wrong.'"

"He'd tell me I was standing too close or too far away from the plate. He must have helped me two or three times."

"Sorry to hear about Ty," said Stan Musial, the St. Louis Cardinals' star. "He was a great baseball figure, a great credit to the game. He always followed the game closely, even when he was no longer directly connected with it."

Said Roy Hamey, the general manager of the New York Yankees:

"Ty Cobb, of course, was a legend in American sports. His feats were such that nobody has seriously challenged his immortal records."

Records Cobb Shares
—Most years batting .400 or better—3 (also held by Rogers Hornsby and Jess Burkett).

—Most consecutive years batting .400 or better—2 (also held by Hornsby and Burkett).

—Most years playing 100 or more games—10 (also held by Honus Wagner and Tris Speaker).

—Most times five hits in a game in one season—4 (also held by Willie Keeler and Stan Musial).

—Most home runs in two consecutive games—5 (also held by six others).

Cobb: Daring on the Baselines and Skilled at Bat



Ty Cobb, who was noted for deadly use of his spikes against opposing basemen, was not afraid to risk his own skin. In this play, he braved Jimmy Austin's spikes in a 1909 game.

TY COBB, 74, DIES; HELD 16 RECORDS

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numerous records include the following: Highest career batting average (.367); most batting championships (twelve); most stolen bases (829).

During fourteen of his years in the major leagues, he batted when the old "dead" ball was still in use and when there was virtually no limit on the tricks a pitcher could use.

Cobb started with Detroit on Aug. 30, 1905, at the age of 18. The Tigers had paid between \$700 and \$750 to get him from Augusta in the South Atlantic League. Cobb hit a double off Jack Chesbro in his first time at bat.

His first-year batting average was .240 for forty-one games but from then until he called it quits in 1928 he never fell below .322. Three times, he batted more than .400 in a season. He had 4,191 hits in 11,429 times at bat.

Batting left-handed and throwing right-handed the center field star played in 3,033 games, scored 2,244 runs, hit 297 triples and nine times made more than 200 hits in a season. In 1915 he stole ninety-six bases.

Nine Homers in 1909
A master of the hook and fall-away slide, Cobb raised base stealing to a height it has never regained. The league champions since Cobb's time have averaged under fifty steals a season.

Several times Cobb stole second, third and home in one inning. One manager reportedly asked his catcher:

"What do you do when Cobb breaks for second?"
The catcher replied: "I throw to third."

Cobb was once home-run champion of his league. He hit nine in 1909, helping Detroit win its third straight American League pennant.

It was not only his ability that inspired fear and respect in his foes, but also the temper of his playing. He once said that the reason he was so tough on the diamond was that he had entered baseball in the days when a player had to be tough to survive.

Often called the "stormy petrel" of the game, as well as less printable epithets, he played every game as if it were the deciding contest in the world series.

At the height of his career he was frequently embroiled in fights with other players and with fans. In 1912 the Tigers went on strike because he was suspended for attacking a heckler who happened to be a cripple.

In another famous scrap, Cobb squared off with George Moriarty, an umpire, in a bout under the stands.

In his later years Cobb became a "mellow sort of fellow," in the words of a man who knew him and was impressed with the apparent turn-about in his personality.

Where as a player he had battled with his own team-mates as well as with opposing team members, and had only a few intimates, he seemed in his later years to want to atone for his long period of aggressiveness.

In a soft-spoken way he liked to make jokes about his days as a "difficult player," and it



In 24 years in major leagues, Cobb averaged .367 at bat

How Career of Cobb Compared With Ruth's

Following is a statistical comparison of the careers of Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, generally acknowledged as the greatest baseball players of all time:

	TY COBB	RUTH
Years	24	22
Games	3,033	2,502
Career average	.367	.342
Batting champion—ships	12	1
Highest average	.420	.393
Runs scored	2,244	2,174
Hits	4,191	2,873
Home runs	118	714
Triples	297	136
Doubles	724	536
Total bases	5,563	4,693
Bases batted in, career	1,901	2,209
Most runs batted in, season	144	147
Stolen bases	829	123

was a habit of his to attend many of the old-time affairs and reminisce.

He continued to take long hikes and to go hunting for many years, activities that in his playing years he credited with developing his endurance and quick awareness.

As a manager, as well as a player, Cobb gave the fans repeated thrills and excitement. In the off-season of 1920, he signed to manage the team on which he had starred for so long. He brought the Tigers home second in 1923, but that was his best.

In his last years as player-manager, Cobb drove fans and opposition to distraction by joggling back and forth from center field to talk to his pitcher, shift his infield, or otherwise evolve strategy. But he was still batting .339 when he resigned as manager in 1926.

Accused of 'Fix' Agreement
Soon afterward he figured in a potential scandal that threatened to become another "Black Sox" affair. With Tris Speaker, another of baseball's old-time heroes, he was accused by Dutch Leonard, a former Tiger pitcher, of figuring in an agreement to throw a game in 1919—the year of the crooked series between Cincinnati and Chicago.

But on Jan. 27, 1927, the two stars were exonerated by Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis, and Cobb said at once he felt "honor bound" to put in at least one more "big year."

Connie Mack signed him for the Athletics for a reported \$75,000, and Cobb promptly predicted a pennant. But Mack's line-up of stars—he had signed Eddie Collins and Zach Wheat as well—lost to the Yankees that year. Cobb never had another chance to be on a pennant winner. He played in ninety-five games in 1928, batting .323, or 44 points below his career average.

Waspish as he was on the field, Cobb was a quiet man away from the diamond. Known to have invested his money wisely, he became a millionaire, largely on the investments he had made in a soft-drink stock.

After he left the game as a player he rarely went to a ball park. He insisted that the game that he had played in the era

COBB OFTEN WENT TO BAT FOR COBB

At 17, He Flooded Grantland Rice With Self-Praise

When Ty Cobb was 17 years old, he played for a baseball team in Anniston, Ala. Grantland Rice was the sports columnist of The Atlanta Journal.

Rice began getting a flood of mail from many Southern towns, all with different handwriting and different names but all with the same theme:

"Watch this fellow Ty Cobb. He is going places with his hitting and fielding."

Finally, Rice ran a paragraph in his column about young Ty Cobb. Cobb confessed to Rice years later that he had written all the letters.

"I wanted to get my name in his column," Cobb told the North American Newspaper Alliance. "My father read it regularly, and he would think I was making good."

One spring with the Tigers, Cobb noticed a rookie who was entertaining the players with tremendous broad jumps. The youngster had been a college broad jump star. Cobb challenged the rookie and couldn't come within six inches of him. Two weeks later he challenged the youngster again and beat him.

"No punk is going to out-jump me," United Press International reported Cobb as saying.

What Cobb didn't say was that he had practiced secretly for two weeks.

In an Old-Timers game at Yankee Stadium in 1947, Cobb expressed concern about swinging a bat. He hadn't touched one since 1928, he complained.

"I'm way out of practice and I sure don't want to hit you when I swing," he said solicitously to the rival catcher, Benny Bengough. "Better move back a bit so you don't get hurt."

Bengough unsuspectingly obliged. Cobb bunted the first pitch and beat it out for a single while the red-faced Bengough huffed and puffed trying to catch up with the ball.

Two years ago an old-time major league player was interviewed by a broadcaster.

"What do you think Ty Cobb would bat today under modern conditions?" the player was asked.

"Oh, about .305 or .310," was the laconic reply.

"Only .305 or .310," exclaimed the astonished announcer. "Do you really think that is all the great Cobb could bat today?"

"Well, replied the old-timer, "you have to remember that he's 72 years old."

WORLD TRACK MARK SET

New Zealand Team Tamed in 16:23.8 for 4-Mile Relay

DUBLIN, July 17 (UPI)—A New Zealand team, including two Olympic champions, broke the world record tonight for the four-mile relay. It won in 16 minutes 23.8 seconds in a track and field meet before 10,000 at Santry Stadium.

Running on the record-breaking quartet were Gary Philpott; the Olympic 5,000-meter champion, Murray Halberg; Barry Magee and the Olympic 800-meter champion, Peter Snell.

The time broke the record of 16:25.2 set by a Hungarian team in 1959. A British team finished second to New Zealand in 16:24.8.

Major League Leaders

By The Associated Press.
BATTERS
(Based on 175 or more times at bat.)

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	PC.
Howard, New York	60	207	30	78	.377
Cash, Detroit	89	295	68	106	.355
Brandt, Baltimore	70	267	48	90	.337
Piersall, Cleveland	74	297	45	99	.333
Killebrew, Minnesota	79	278	58	92	.326
Mantle, New York	85	295	79	96	.325
Bilko, Los Angeles	68	183	29	58	.317
Green, Washington	59	197	29	62	.315
Slevers, Chicago	79	281	49	87	.310
Romano, Cleveland	85	304	51	94	.309

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	PC.
Clemente, Pittsburgh	79	318	57	114	.358
Afton, Chicago	69	255	41	87	.341
Hoak, Pittsburgh	75	255	39	87	.341
Robinson, Cincinnati	67	268	72	104	.338
Moore, Los Angeles	75	252	43	84	.333
Mays, San Francisco	88	334	80	107	.320
Jaron, Milwaukee	81	316	58	101	.320
Pinson, Cincinnati	89	354	54	113	.319
Gonzalez, Phila.	65	206	33	65	.316
Beverly, St. Louis	61	221	65	101	.315
Wills, Los Angeles	82	336	52	105	.313

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	PC.
Maris, New York	84	Cash, Detroit	79		
Gentile, Baltimore	82	Killebrew, Minn.	72		
Mantle, New York	80				

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	PC.
Cepeda, San Fran.	81	Aaron, Milwaukee	66		
Robinson, Cinc.	74	Frees, Cincinnati	60		
Mays, San Fran.	70				

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	PC.
Mays, New York	35	Cash, Detroit	26		
Mantle, New York	33	Colavito, Detroit	24		
	27				

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Mays, San Fran. 27 Aaron, Milwaukee 20
Cepeda, San Fran. 26 Mathews, Milw. 20
Robinson, Cinc. 21
Last night's National League games not included.

Sports of The Times

By JOHN DREBINGER
The Cobb We Knew

IT WAS not by accident or whim of choice that when they held the first poll for baseball's Hall of Fame in 1936, the name of Tyrus Raymond Cobb led all the rest. To be on top had been the only creed by which the Georgia Peach had lived through all the years of his spectacular—and at times turbulent—career.

His one goal was to win by any means the rules allowed. That, of course, got him into no end of fights. On and off the field the Georgia firebrand conducted countless feuds.

Even mild-mannered Eddie Collins, a great second baseman in Ty's heyday as a daring base-stealer, confessed to us once that he had harbored a burning hatred for Cobb. Eddie used to go on hunting trips, but just for the exercise. He hadn't the heart to shoot a sparrow.

"But when that Cobb came sliding into me with those gleaming spikes, I saw red," said Eddie. "Throwing to first for a double play, I must have tried to nail him between the eyes with the ball 100 times. But so agile was that demon in twisting out of reach I never got him once."

They Paid Back

But Cobb didn't do all the spiking. He was sitting in a hotel room a few years after he had hung up his spikes for good when the talk got around to some of his more reckless exploits on the base paths.

"Yes," he admitted, "I guess I may have been a trifle rough. But take a look at this."

With that he rolled up his trousers and revealed a pair of shins criss-crossed with myriads of scars from ankles to knees.

"I didn't get those playing tiddlywinks," said Ty. "They gave it to me as hard as I gave it to them. The only difference was I never gave them the satisfaction of hearing me squawk. I'd sooner let them cut my tongue than let them know I was hurt."

It was when the opposition was at its roughest and hostile crowds rode him hardest that he rose to his greatest heights as a player. Such was one memorable day at the Polo Grounds in 1920.

A few days before, the Yankees, who then made their home in the Polo Grounds, were playing the Indians. Carl Mays, a pitcher with a deceptive underhand or "submarine ball" delivery, was on the mound for the Yankees. A stray pitch struck Ray Chapman, a Cleveland infielder, in the head. He died without regaining consciousness.

The next day, Cobb, whose Tigers were playing elsewhere, was quoted as saying Mays had done it deliberately and should be driven from baseball. The New York fans and press rallied to Mays' support.

One of His Biggest Thrills

Cobb and his Tigers followed the Indians into New York and for the first game a capacity crowd packed the Polo Grounds. For more than an hour before game time they waited for Cobb. But throughout the pregame practice there was no Cobb.

Then, just as the umpires were getting



Ty Cobb
He played it to the hilt

ready to start the game, the clubhouse door in center field opened. Down the steps trotted the Georgia Peach. Up the middle of the field he marched, jauntily slapping his thigh with his glove, while the crowd jeered and boomed with deafening noise. Unmindful of it all, Cobb strode to the press box, then in the front of the lower stands directly behind home plate. He doffed his cap with a mock bow. Then he walked to his dugout where he gave the outraged gathering a final salute of utter disdain.

This done, the game started and the great Ty all but tore it apart with bat and glove. On his final hit the crowd gave him a standing ovation. You simply had to admire the guy.

"Yes," he said years later, "I guess you could say that was one of my biggest thrills."

A Severe Taskmaster

There was, however, another side of Cobb's play that, perhaps, was not so well known and certainly not as much publicized. It was a side to which modern players could well pay close heed.

He was perhaps one of baseball's keenest students and at all times his own severest critic and taskmaster. He studied every type of batting form and mastered them all.

If any pitcher bothered him with a certain pitch, Cobb would be out early the next day wearing out his own batting-practice pitcher as he worked on that pitch over and over again. It was the same with his fielding. He had, of course, a wealth of natural talent, but he insisted on attaining perfection in all phases of the game.

"If I have any criticism of the modern player," he once said, "and I guess that could apply to my day as well, it is that so few will practice what they can't do. If a fellow can hit a long ball, that's all he tries for. He won't have any part of learning how to bunt or stroke a ball to the opposite field. My advice to young players is, work at what doesn't come easy to you."

It was a formula that kept him on top for close to a quarter of a century with an incredible lifetime batting average of .367.

Arthur Daley, who regularly writes Sports of the Times, is on vacation.

Records Held by Cobb

Highest batting percentage, ten or more seasons—.367.
Most years leading league in batting—12.
Most consecutive years leading in batting—9.
Most years batting .300 or better—23.
Most games played in major leagues—3,033.
Most times at bat—11,429.
Most runs scored—2,244.
Most hits—4,191.
Most singles—3,052.
Most years leading league in hits—8.
Most years 200 or more hits—9.
Most times five or more hits in one game—14.
Most stolen bases—829.
Most stolen bases in one season—96.
Most total bases—5,563.
Most triples—297.

SWIM RECORD BROKEN

Jastremski Tamed in 1:09.8 in 100-Meter Breast-Stroke
EVANSVILLE, Ind., July 17 (AP)—Chet Jastremski of Toledo bettered the listed world record for the 100-meter breast-stroke twice yesterday in the Evansville Jaycees swimming meet.
Jastremski, who will be junior at Indiana University next fall, was timed in 1 minute 10 seconds in the morning trials and 1:09.8 in last night's final. The record of 1:11.5 was set by William Minashkin of the Soviet Union in 1957.
The 20-year-old Jastremski also set a world record on Saturday, swimming the 200-meter breast-stroke in 2:35.3.

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Cobb's Career Batting Figures

Year	G.	AB.	R.	H.	SB.	Pct.
1903	41	150	19	36	2	.240
1904	350	44	112	22	322	.350
1905	150	605				