

# Unwritten Letters

*Big League Correspondence That Might Have Been  
But Never Was*

By R. W. HOEFER

MR. ULRIC UMPIRE,  
*Baseballville.*

My Dear Mr. Umpire: I feel I must write you regarding your splendid officiating in our series with the Cerise Sox. In the first game you called it correctly when you waved me out at the plate. I missed the pan by six inches although my slide beat the throw. Again, in the second, I was out at second base, failing to touch the bag. In the final game you also called the turn on me when you announced a third strike with two gone and the bases full. Although close, the ball just caught the corner of the plate and was a strike.

Respectfully yours,  
A. PLAYER.

MR. B. PLAYER,  
*Bear Cat Ball Club,  
Somewhere in the Second Division.*

My Dear Mr. Player: I must write and apologize for my hasty decision in today's game when I called your hit into the bleachers foul. I realized the moment I made the decision that it was an injustice to you, inasmuch as the ball struck a seat a foot fair. Trusting you will pardon my terrible error, I am,

Very truly yours,  
A. N. UMP.

O. U. SLUGGER, ESQ.,  
*Home Club,  
City.*

My Dear Mr. Slugger: Permit me to compliment you on your noble batting effort in the tenth inning of today's game, when you came up in the pinch with two gone and the bases full. True, you struck out, but your earnest efforts were commendable and I realize that you wanted to hit a home run just as much as we fans wanted you to. Pay no attention to disgusting rough neck fans who insisted that you were a bum, a busher and were trying to throw the game.

Admiringly yours,  
A. TYPICAL PHAN.

WM. JONES, ESQ.,  
*Whoozis Baseball Club,  
Rivalburg.*

Dear Bill: I take great pleasure in advising you that I am taking the matter of your being put out of the game today to the National Commission. You had a perfect right to kick on the decision at third, wherein the umpire called me safe. You had me out by four parasangs and if the big stiff wasn't blind he'd have known it. Of course, I benefited by the decision, but right is right and I cannot stand for injustice so I have wired the National Commission to reinstate you and also to have the game replayed as the decision was grossly incorrect.

Yours truly,  
JACK BROWN.

MR. CHAS. HERZOG.

Dear Charley: Accept my most sincere apologies for my spiking you in the recent game. It was thoughtless of me *and I am sorry I did it.*

Sincerely,  
T. R. COBB.

MR. T. R. COBB,  
*Detroit Baseball Club.*

Dear Ty: Please forget the spiking incident. I know that you would rather lose twenty stolen bases than accidentally spike a baseman who is careless enough to try to block you off, and knowing how you feel in matters of this kind I feel that I must apologize to you for carelessly getting in your way. The Giants all send their best regards and hope you are enjoying the best of health.

Very sincerely yours,  
C. LINCOLN HERZOG.

MR. CHAS. EBBETTS,  
*Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Dear Mr. Ebbetts: Kindly accept the enclosed check which I have deducted from my monthly pay. I feel I am being overpaid and cannot permit you to pay me so large an amount.

Z. WHEAT.

MR. ZACHARY WHEAT.

My Dear Mr. Wheat: I am returning herewith the check you sent and, in addition, the amount of \$441.72, which I feel you have fairly earned by your recent work. I realize that other clubs would be willing to pay this amount for your services and cannot allow any club to outdo me.

Most cordially yours,  
C. HOLIDAY EBBETTS.

MR. A. SCRIBE,  
*Sportsheetville,  
City.*

Dear Mr. Scribe: Allow me to thank you for your fine article in which you select Mike Biffum for first base on your All-American club. It is simple justice. While it is true that Herman Soakum, of our club hit a little higher, and is a warm favorite of mine, I realize that your selection was unbiased and the correct one.

Cordially yours,  
A. READER.

MR. CORNELIUS MCGILLCUDY,  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

My Dear Mr. Mack: I cannot refrain from complimenting you upon your excellent judgment in changing pitchers in the last inning of today's game. While you lost out, it was merely through a break of the game. It is true that in my opinion the first pitcher should have been kept in the box, but I realize that being merely a sport writer, my baseball knowledge is not so great as yours and I am always ready to bow to the judgment of a practical baseball man who has won as many baseball honors as you have.

Sincerely yours,  
A. N. EXPERT-SCRIBE.

MR. FRANK BAKER.

Dear Frank: Please accept our congratulations for the two wonderful home runs you made off us in the world's series games. They were beauties. And while they caused us to lose our games, we have none but the kindest feelings for you and your bat.

C. MATHEWSON AND R. MARGUARD.