

Letter concerning
book review on
*Baseball and Other Matters
in 1941*

In my review of *Baseball and Other Matters in 1941* by Robert Creamer in this journal [27 (Fall 2000): 550] I stated that “Creamer never mentions [Cecil] Travis . . .”, the Washington Senator who finished the 1941 season with a higher batting average than DiMaggio. Mr. Creamer has pointed out my error. I missed a key line in Creamer’s book on page 125, “Travis, one of the best hitters in the American League from 1934 through 1941—his .359 average was second to Williams’ .406 in 1941—missed all or most of four seasons [during World War II], suffered frost-bitten feet in Europe and was no longer effective after the war, his brilliant career ending when he was still in his early thirties.”

With this information, I would write:

Mr. Creamer makes reference to Washington Senator Cecil Travis, the other individual with an outstanding 1941 season, out hitting DiMaggio by two points, .359 to .357. Travis gets little coverage in the history of baseball during the 1941 campaign. Perhaps a study of this great player of the 1930s, and particularly 1941, would add to our depth of knowledge of this period.

I apologize for the error. Mr. Creamer’s sound record of writing in periodicals and books, including this one, is well known and respected. I do not want my error to detract from Mr. Creamer’s record.

—JOHN R. SCHLEPPI