

# FROM THE BULLPEN



Bob Gibson

## The Nebraska Hot Stove League



of the Summer of '68,  
"The Year of the Pitcher"



Denny McLain

2018 Campaign

Edition No. 15

October 26, 2018

## THE FALL CLASSIC

Brethren:

It is that bittersweet time of the year that we often colloquially refer to as the Fall Classic. *Sweet* because we get to see the best-of-seven series between the best--or at least the hottest--teams in the National and American Leagues. *Bitter* because when it is over, we are faced with four stark Nebraska months of life without baseball, and this season it will sting even more without a Husker bowl game to look forward to.

At any rate, I love the classic matchup this year between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox, although part of me was cheering for the first *Brew Crew* to make it to the World Series since Harvey's Wallbangers in 1982. It is hard to believe that in 114 years of World Series matchups, there has been but one previous Fall Classic contest between these two organizations, the 1916 Series between the Boston Red Sox and the then-Brooklyn Robins, an earlier iteration of the Los Angeles Dodgers. As you have probably already heard or read, the Red Sox won the '16 Series by a tally of 4 games to 1, including a thrilling Game 2 in which a young Red Sox hurler by the name of George Herman Ruth threw a 14-inning masterpiece, yielding but 6 hits and 1 run in a 2-1 victory over the Robins.

Just for fun, and if you are interested, attached as a separate document are the five complete box scores from the 1916 World Series. Below are the abbreviated boxes.



[Brooklyn Robins](#)

**5**

94-60

RED SOX™

[Boston Red Sox](#)

**6**

91-63

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

Saturday, October 7, 1916

**Attendance:** 36,117



**Venue:** Braves Field

**Game Duration:** 2:16

Day Game, on grass

[View Game Recap](#) from the [SABR Game Project](#)

Logos [via Sports Logos.net](#) / [About logos](#)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
 <a href="#">Brooklyn Robins</a>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	5	10	4
 <a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	X	6	8	1
WP: Ernie Shore (1-0) • LP: Rube Marquard (0-1) • SV: Carl Mays (1)												



[Brooklyn Robins](#)

**1**

94-60

RED SOX™

[Boston Red Sox](#)

**2**

91-63

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

Monday, October 9, 1916

**Attendance:** 47,373



**Venue:** Braves Field

**Game Duration:** 2:32


Day Game, on grass

[View Game Recap](#) from the [SABR Game Project](#)

Logos [via Sports Logos.net](#) / [About logos](#)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	R	H	E
 <a href="#">Brooklyn Robins</a>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	2
 <a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	1
WP: Babe Ruth (1-0) • LP: Sherry Smith (0-1) Winning Run scored with 1 out																	





[Boston Red Sox](#)

[Brooklyn Robins](#)

3

4

91-63

94-60

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

Tuesday, October 10, 1916

**Attendance:** 21,087

**Venue:** Ebbets Field

**Game Duration:** 2:01

Day Game, on grass

Logos [via Sports Logos.net](#) / [About logos](#)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
 <a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	7	1
 <a href="#">Brooklyn Robins</a>	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	X	4	10	0

WP: Jack Coombs (1-0) • LP: Carl Mays (0-1) • SV: Jeff Pfeffer (1)



**Boston Red Sox**

**6**

91-63



**Brooklyn Robins**

**2**

94-60

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

[« Prev Game](#)

[Next Game »](#)

Wednesday, October 11, 1916


**Attendance:** 21,662

**Venue:** Ebbets Field


**Game Duration:** 2:30

Day Game, on grass

Logos [via Sports Logos.net](#) / [About logos](#)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
 <a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	6	10	1
 <a href="#">Brooklyn Robins</a>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	4

WP: Dutch Leonard (1-0) • LP: Rube Marquard (0-2)




[Brooklyn Robins](#)

**1**

94-60

[« Prev Game](#)



[Boston Red Sox](#)

**4**

91-63

[« Prev Game](#)

Thursday, October 12, 1916

**Attendance:** 43,620



**Venue:** Braves Field

**Game Duration:** 1:43

Day Game, on grass

[View Game Recap](#) from the [SABR Game Project](#)

Logos [via Sports Logos.net](#) / [About logos](#)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
 <a href="#">Brooklyn Robins</a>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3
 <a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	X	4	7	2

WP: Ernie Shore (2-0) • LP: Jeff Pfeffer (0-1)

It should be a terrific Series, particularly if the Dodgers can win at home tonight after the Sox took the first two games at Fenway.

## MEMORIES OF JACK

During a recent Super Sports weekend trip to Toronto, Ann Arbor and Detroit with Joe and Will, we saw a game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Tampa Bay Rays at the Rogers Centre in Toronto. This evoked memories of our Hot Stove League visit there in 1992 as part of our Detroit-Toronto-Cleveland [FN 1]-Detroit Hot Stove League Extravaganza. Looking back at the box score from that earlier visit to the Skydome, I was reminded that the grizzled veteran *Jack* Morris outpitched his more heralded righty counterpart, Roger Clemens. Here is the box score from that dazzler of a game, which will likely go down in Hot Stove League Trip annals as the top pitching matchup of all time, involving two future Hall of Famers.

Baseball Almanac Box Scores												
Boston Red Sox 0, Toronto Blue Jays 4												
Game played on Thursday, June 11, 1992 at Skydome												
Boston Red Sox					Toronto Blue Jays							
ab	r	h	rbi		ab	r	h	rbi				
Reed 2b	4	0	2	0	White cf	4	0	0	0			
Rivera ss	3	0	0	0	Kent 2b	4	0	0	0			
Boggs 3b	3	0	0	0	Carter rf	4	1	2	2			
Greenwell lf	4	0	0	0	Winfield dh	3	1	2	1			
Burks cf	3	0	1	0	Gruber 3b	4	0	0	0			
Plantier rf	2	0	0	0	Olerud 1b	3	0	0	0			
Brunansky dh	3	0	1	0	Maldonado lf	3	0	0	0			
Cooper 1b	3	0	0	0	Borders c	3	1	1	1			
Pena c	2	0	0	0	Lee ss	2	1	2	0			
Winningham ph	1	0	0	0	Morris p	0	0	0	0			
Flaherty c	0	0	0	0	Totals	30	4	7	4			
Clemens p	0	0	0	0								
Harris p	0	0	0	0								
Totals	28	0	4	0								
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	4	0
Toronto	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	x	—	4	7
Boston Red Sox					IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		
Clemens L (9-4)					7.1	7	4	4	3	7		
Harris					0.2	0	0	0	0	1		
Totals					8.0	0	0	0	0	1		
Toronto Blue Jays					IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		
Morris W (7-3)					9.0	4	0	0	3	2		
Totals					9.0	4	0	0	3	2		
E—None. DP—Boston 1, Toronto 1. HR—Toronto Carter (12,3rd inning off Clemens 1 on, 2 out); Borders (6,7th inning off Clemens 0 on, 1 out); Winfield (10,8th inning off Clemens 0 on, 1 out). Team LOB—4. Team —5. CS—Plantier (2,2nd base by Morris/Borders). WP—Morris (8). U-HP—Rich Garcia, 1B—Dan Morrison, 2B—Tim Welke, 3B—Dale Scott. T—2:43. A—50,423.												
Game played on Thursday, June 11, 1992 at Skydome												
Baseball Almanac Box Score    Print  PDF												

Less than eight months after throwing a 10-inning shutout in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series--leading the Minnesota Twins to a thrilling 1-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves--we saw John Scott "Jack" Morris [FN 2] blank a loaded Red Sox lineup (including Wade Boggs, Mike Greenwell, Ellis Burks, Phil Plantier, Tom Brunansky and Cecil Cooper) in a complete game shutout, giving up a mere 4 hits, walking 3 and striking out 2. In this same contest, the Rocket yielded 7 hits and 4 earned runs in 7-1/3 frames of work, including a 2-run shot by Joe Carter in the 3rd, a solo dinger by Pat Borders in the 7th, and another solo shot by

Dave Winfield in the 8th inning. Rich Garcia was the head umpire for the game, and 50,423 fans (including us) watched the above events unfold in two hours and 43 minutes.

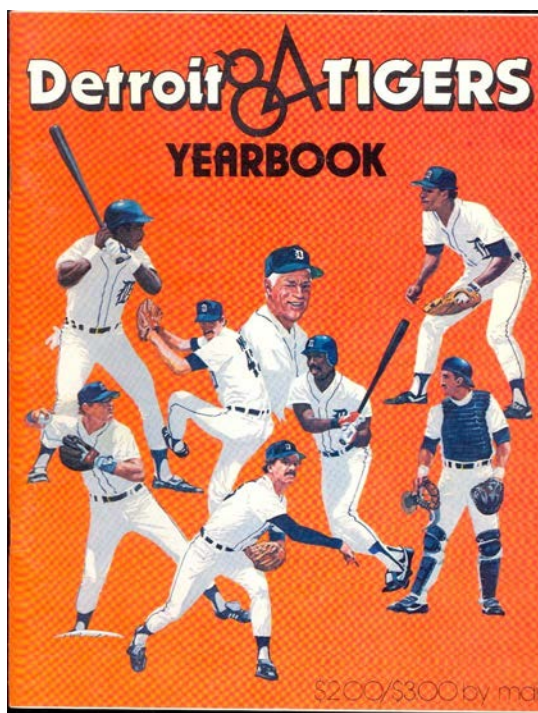
Just think about it. With Morris' induction at Cooperstown this past July, we saw a total of three current (Morris, Boggs and Winfield) Hall of Famers and at least one future (Clemens) member of the club. And with the Blue Jays' lineup sporting numerous players who have been all-stars in their career (Devon White, Jeff Kent, Joe Carter, Dave Winfield, Kelly Gruber, John Olerud, Candy Maldonado and Pat Borders), it would be hard to imagine another game that the Hot Stove Leaguers have seen which featured so many uber-talented players. I will leave it to Big Guy to pull a Topper on this one and point out some other Hot Stove League Trip game that we have witnessed together that was more star-studded.

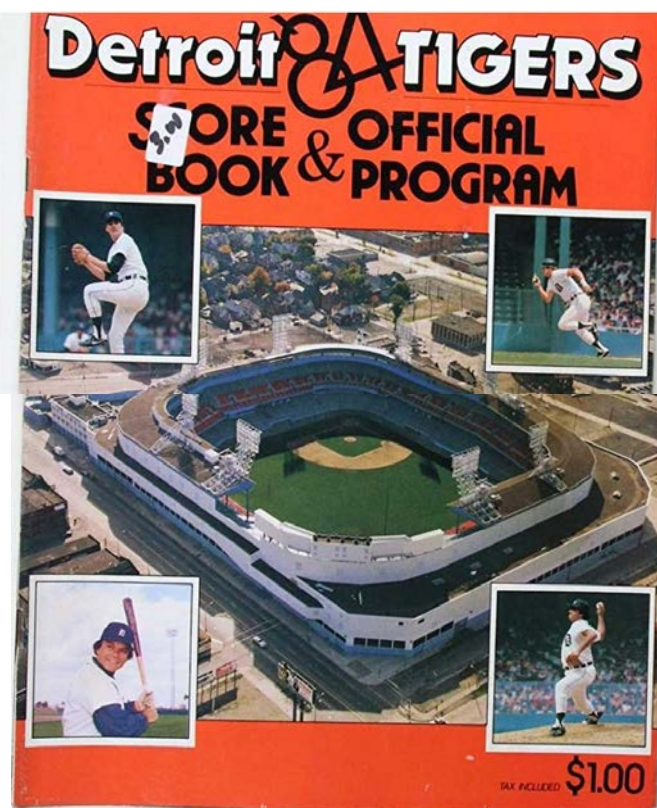
After our September 21 visit to the Rogers Centre, and after witnessing a demoralizing beating in Ann Arbor that needs no further mention here, the lads and I drifted over to Detroit to catch a Sunday afternoon Tigers game against the Kansas City Royals, the final home game of the season for Detroit. This was Joe and Will's first visit to Comerica Park, and they were absolutely blown away by this beautiful baseball cathedral. Indeed, the Tigers' ownership continues to add eye-catching improvements to this gem of a ballpark almost every year, and Comerica is now as colorful and beautiful as any major league ballpark in the land, earning its way into my Top Five.



But I digress. While on this recent junket with the boys, I regaled them with a story of my viewing of my first professional baseball game in Detroit, when my father *Jack Ernst* and I made a driving trip there in April 1984 to see the Henry Ford Museum in nearby Dearborn, one of the "Bucket List" things that Dad wanted to do while he was still physically able.

Anyway, I found the game program that I bought on that visit to old Tiger Stadium, and saw that I had kept score. As fate would have it, *Jack* Morris was also the winning pitcher in that contest, throwing a complete game, 2-run gem against the visiting Cleveland Indians. In that same game, my dad and I also witnessed the “grit and guts” hitter equivalent of Jack Morris, the inimitable Kirk Gibson, smack a double off Cleveland pitcher Rick Behenna. We also saw Chet Lemon and Lou Whitaker go Yard off of Behenna, and newly-inducted Hall of Famer Alan Trammell drive in 2 runs with a double. Other notables in the Tigers' lineup that day were Darrell Evans, manning 1st base, Larry Herndon, in left field, and Bárbaro Garbey [FN 3], at third base. For the Indians, the lineup included Brett Butler in center field, Tony Bernazard at second, Julio Franco at shortstop, Pat Tabler at DH, Mike “the Human Rain Delay” Hargrove at first base, Brook Jacoby at third, and Pete Vuckovich in right. Man, those were some players!





# Detroit Tigers 6, Cleveland Indians 2

[Day](#)

Game Played on Saturday, April 28, 1984 (D) at Tiger Stadium

<a href="#">CLE A</a>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	3	0
<a href="#">DET A</a>	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	x	-	6	10	0

## BATTING

Cleveland Indians	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
<a href="#">Butler</a> cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
<a href="#">Bernazard</a> 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	2
<a href="#">Fischlin</a> 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<a href="#">Franco</a> ss	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	2
<a href="#">Tabler</a> dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<a href="#">Hargrove</a> 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	5	2
<a href="#">Jacoby</a> 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
<a href="#">Willard</a> c	3	0	1	0	0	1	6	1
<a href="#">Vukovich</a> rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
<a href="#">Nixon</a> lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<a href="#">Behenna</a> p	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<a href="#">Jeffcoat</a> p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Aponte</a> p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	28	2	3	1	3	5	24	10

## FIELDING -

DP: 1. Bernazard-Franco-Hargrove.

## BATTING -

HBP: Franco (2,by Morris).

Team LOB: 3.

## BASERUNNING -

SB: Bernazard 2 (11,2nd base off Morris/Lowry,3rd base off Morris/Lowry); Franco (5,2nd base off Morris/Lowry).

CS: Nixon (4,2nd base by Morris/Lowry).

Detroit Tigers	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
<a href="#">Whitaker</a> 2b	4	1	2	2	0	0	1	3
<a href="#">Trammell</a> ss	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
<a href="#">Evans</a> 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	5	0
<a href="#">Brookens</a> 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Gibson</a> rf	3	0	1	0	1	2	6	1
<a href="#">Grubb</a> dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<a href="#">Allen</a> ph,dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<a href="#">Herndon</a> lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
<a href="#">Garbey</a> 3b	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
<a href="#">Bergman</a> 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<a href="#">Lemon</a> cf	3	2	2	1	0	1	5	0
<a href="#">Lowry</a> c	2	1	1	0	0	0	5	1
<a href="#">Morris</a> p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	31	6	10	6	2	6	27	7

## FIELDING -

DP: 1. Gibson-Bergman.

## BATTING -

2B: Gibson (2,off Behenna); Trammell (5,off Behenna).

HR: Lemon (4,4th inning off Behenna 0 on 1 out); Whitaker (3,4th inning off Behenna 1 on 1 out).

SH: Lowry (2,off Behenna).

GDP: Evans (2,off Jeffcoat).

Team LOB: 4.

## BASERUNNING -

SB: Trammell (7,2nd base off Behenna/Willard).

CS: Gibson (1,2nd base by Behenna/Willard).

# PITCHING

Cleveland Indians	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BFP
<a href="#">Behenna</a> L(0-1)	3.1	9	6	6	2	1	2	20
<a href="#">Jeffcoat</a>	2.2	1	0	0	0	2	0	8
<a href="#">Aponte</a>	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	6
Totals	8	10	6	6	2	6	2	34

Inherited Runners - Scored: Jeffcoat 1-0.

.

Detroit Tigers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BFP
<a href="#">Morris</a> W(5-0)	9	3	2	2	3	5	0	32

WP: Morris (3).

HBP: Morris (2,Franco).

Umpires: HP - [Larry Barnett](#), 1B - [Dale Ford](#), 2B - [Ken Kaiser](#), 3B - [Rocky Roe](#)

Time of Game: 2:25 Attendance: 28253

Starting Lineups:

Cleveland Indians		Detroit Tigers	
1. Butler	cf	Whitaker	2b
2. Bernazard	2b	Trammell	ss
3. Franco	ss	Evans	1b
4. Tabler	dh	Gibson	rf
5. Hargrove	1b	Grubb	dh
6. Jacoby	3b	Herndon	lf
7. Willard	c	Garbey	3b
8. Vukovich	rf	Lemon	cf
9. Nixon	lf	Lowry	c
Behenna	p	Morris	p

INDIANS 1ST: Butler flied out to center; Bernazard grounded out (third to first); Franco grounded out (second to first); 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 0.

TIGERS 1ST: Whitaker singled; Trammell forced Whitaker (third to second); Trammell stole second; Evans singled [Trammell scored]; Gibson doubled [Evans to third]; Grubb struck out; Herndon flied out to center; 1 R, 3 H, 0 E, 2 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 1.

INDIANS 2ND: Tabler grounded out (shortstop to first); Hargrove struck out; Jacoby singled; Willard flied out to left; 0 R, 1 H, 0 E, 1 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 1.

TIGERS 2ND: Garbey singled; Lemon singled [Garbey to second]; Lowry out on a sacrifice bunt (first to second) [Garbey to third, Lemon to second]; Whitaker made an out to third; Trammell doubled [Garbey scored, Lemon scored]; Evans flied out to right; 2 R, 3 H, 0 E, 1 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 3.

INDIANS 3RD: Vukovich flied out to center; Nixon flied out to center; Butler flied out to center; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 3.

TIGERS 3RD: Gibson walked; Gibson was caught stealing second (catcher to shortstop); Grubb grounded out (first to pitcher); Herndon flied out to center; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 0, Tigers 3.

INDIANS 4TH: Bernazard walked; Bernazard stole second; Franco walked; Bernazard stole third; Franco stole second; Tabler struck out; Hargrove grounded out (second to first) [Bernazard scored, Franco to third]; Morris threw a wild pitch [Franco scored]; Jacoby made an out to second; 2 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 3.

TIGERS 4TH: Garbey flied out to center; Lemon homered; Lowry singled; Whitaker homered [Lowry scored]; Trammell walked; JEFFCOAT REPLACED BEHENNA (PITCHING); Evans grounded into a double play (second to shortstop to first) [Trammell out at second]; 3 R, 3 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

INDIANS 5TH: Willard singled; Vukovich struck out; Nixon forced Willard (second to shortstop); Nixon was caught stealing second (catcher to shortstop); 0 R, 1 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

TIGERS 5TH: Gibson struck out; ALLEN BATTED FOR GRUBB; Allen grounded out (shortstop to first); Herndon singled; Garbey flied out to right; 0 R, 1 H, 0 E, 1 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

INDIANS 6TH: ALLEN STAYED IN GAME (PLAYING DH); Butler made an out to first; Bernazard flied out to right; Franco was hit by a pitch; Tabler flied out to center; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 1 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

TIGERS 6TH: Lemon struck out; Lowry popped to third in foul territory; Whitaker grounded out (second to first); 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

INDIANS 7TH: Hargrove singled; Jacoby flied out to right; Willard struck out; Vukovich flied to right in foul territory; 0 R, 1 H, 0 E, 1 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

TIGERS 7TH: APONTE REPLACED JEFFCOAT (PITCHING); Trammell struck out; Evans flied out to left; Gibson struck out; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

INDIANS 8TH: BROOKENS REPLACED EVANS (PLAYING 3B); BERGMAN REPLACED GARBEY (PLAYING 1B); Nixon made an out to first; Butler walked; Bernazard lined into a double play (right to first) [Butler out at first]; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

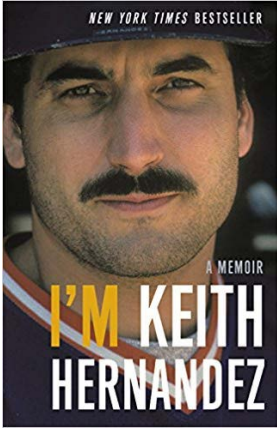
TIGERS 8TH: FISCHLIN REPLACED BERNAZARD (PLAYING 2B); Allen struck out; Herndon grounded out (second to first); Bergman grounded out (third to first); 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

INDIANS 9TH: Franco flied out to right; Tabler flied out to right; Hargrove struck out; 0 R, 0 H, 0 E, 0 LOB. Indians 2, Tigers 6.

Final Totals	R	H	E	LOB
Indians	2	3	0	3
Tigers	6	10	0	4

So there you have it. A recent weekend junket with the Ernst lads which awakened two great memories of the warrior Jack Morris, and a wonderful, wistful memory of my trip to Michigan 34-1/2 years ago with my dad, Jack Ernst, and the last professional baseball game I attended with him.

## I'M KEITH HERNANDEZ



Well, *I'm* not. *I'm* the *Skipper*, but of course you all know that. But I did read a book bearing that title recently, and having now read it, I wonder if anyone else actually took the time to read this self-aggrandizing autobiography of an extraordinarily self-centered former player.

First of all, since he retired in 1990 and has been hardly heard from since, I'm not sure of the catalyst or of any hue and cry for him to pen this work about his baseball career and life now, some 28 years later. Secondly, while the guy had a solid career, he certainly wasn't Hall of Fame material, and so it's at least somewhat surprising to me that someone at the publishing house saw this as a big sales, big profits opportunity.

I always marvel at how obvious it is when someone who is decidedly immodest tries to paint a portrait of themselves as a humble person. It never works. Keith's false modesty comes through in his book, loud and clear. I'm not sure I had much of an opinion about Hernandez as a person prior to reading this "memoir," but I now do. He comes across as highly insecure, thin-skinned, and thoroughly unlikeable. Here are a couple of examples:

- You will recall that in 1979, he and Willie Stargell shared the National League MVP honors [FN 4]. In his book, Hernandez expresses his feeling that he should not have had to share the award with Pops, and that there may have been some anti-Hispanic sentiment involved. Hogwash.
- Keith seems to have a lifetime grudge against George Brett, all because at a winter banquet after his co-MVP year, he overheard Brett comment that he (Hernandez) was a "Punch and Judy" hitter.
- Hernandez makes virtually no mention of his three daughters in the book, but he generously admits--but does not apologize--that he "cheated" on his pregnant wife while he was on the banquet tour during the winter of 1979-80.
- Hernandez completely downplays his widely-reported cocaine use, barely giving mention to it at all.
- He openly admits that he treated fans very poorly at autograph shows, and then tries to make excuses for it.
- He takes no ownership at all of his two failed marriages, but proudly professes to be a loving owner of three cats. Fascinating.

Bottom line on this book: Don't waste your time.

## NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

At a recent deposition of an expert witness in Los Angeles, I had a chance to interrogate Screech's California doppelgänger:



When I first met this ER physician at the start of his deposition, I was almost ready to ask him to peel off his ER smock to check for tattoos, just to make sure that this wasn't Jeff in the flesh pulling one of the greatest Hot Stove League pranks of all-time.

## WINTER MEETING

And speaking of our 2018 Hot Stove League champion, the one, the only, the unstoppable, the unflappable, the extraordinary Jeff "Screech" Bechtolt, unless he was the anonymous purchaser of the 1.6 billion-dollar Powerball ticket in South Carolina, I am assuming that we will not be going back to Fleming's for our Winter Meeting this year. As an alternative, I am offering to host our annual celebratory shindig at the House of Ernst, and I will throw out Friday January 11 or Saturday January 12 as possible dates. Screech, let me know if this works for you, or if you would rather make different plans. As for the rest of you, please block these dates off your calendar until you hear back from Screech or me.

\* \* \* \* \*

That's it for this issue.

Skipper

---

**FN 1** Including the infamous ShoulderGate drive between Toronto and Cleveland **[FN A]** when B.T. made short work of an epic interstate traffic jam by yanking the steering wheel hard right and taking to the asphalt shoulder to pass what is estimated to be at least 500 vehicles.

**FN A** Although not all participants in this joyride agree on the sequence of activities. Two particularly stubborn members of the league who were on that trip, both of whom apparently are experiencing early onset senility of some sort, swear that ShoulderGate happened during the driving leg from Detroit to Toronto instead of the actual location somewhere north of Cleveland and south of Buffalo. In the spirit of league harmony in these troubling times of political and cultural dissent and disharmony, the identities of these two dunderheads will remain anonymous.

**FN 2** Born May 16, 1955 in St. Paul, Minnesota, fittingly.

**FN 3** Or as Sparky Anderson liked to call him, "the next Mickey Mantle."

**FN 4** Hernandez batted .344 that year and hit 48 doubles, both of which were career-high numbers for Hernandez by a long shot, and at the time he was only 26 years old.

