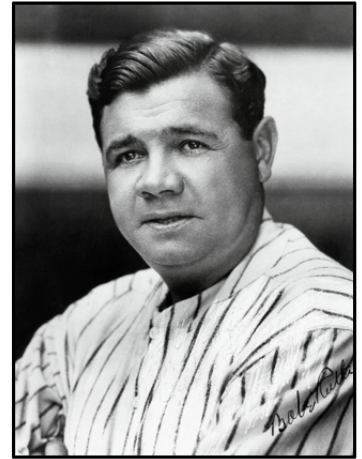




Babe Ruth

7-time World Series Champion
Career Batting Average: .342
Career Home Runs: 714
Career Pitching Record: 94-46
Career ERA: 2.28
1st in All-Time slugging percentage: .690
1st in All-Time OPS: 1.164



2019 Campaign

Edition No. 2

February 1, 2019

Comrades:

Happy 1st day of February to the upstanding men of the Hot Stove League. Now that we have survived the polar vortex and all of the subzero temperatures that it produced, we can look ahead to warmer weather and the Siren Song of Spring baseball. Me personally, I can't wait for the sights, sounds and smells of Spring and Spring Training.

Just a few things to cover in this brief edition of *FTB*:

WINTER MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 6:00 P.M.

I have made a reservation for eleven of us at Johnny's Italian Restaurant in Village Pointe for the rescheduled Screech Fête. It appears that all but Tirebiter and Mouse, both from the class of '93, will be in attendance. See you there and then.

THE DRAFT

Still set for Sunday, March 24, at noon.

THE TRIP: ARLINGTON, TEXAS, JUNE 7-9

Here is the current tally of committed attendees for the Hot Stove League Trip to Arlington, Texas, June 7-9, in celebration of our 35th anniversary of the glorious Hot Stove League:

	In ¹	Out ²	Lame Excuses for Those in Column 2
Stretch	✓		
Shamu	✓		
Big Guy	✓		
Mouse	✓		
Skipper	✓		
PAwesome		✓	Too busy with work Too busy with family Purported trip to Ireland Bunionectomy procedure that week, Tracy says no friggin' way Acolyte duty at church Fear of insecure southern border Clear conflict of interest

So far we have not heard from B.T., Bender, Underbelly, SloPay, Tirebiter, Tricky or Screech. Please get these dates on your calendar and advise Headquarters that you are going on this one-in-a-lifetime trip, come hell or high water.

THE HALL OF FAME VOTE

Just so that we have something to talk about at the Screechfest, the following is a recounting of the recent Hall of Fame vote for enshrinement in Cooperstown:

¹ Paddlers of their own canoes.

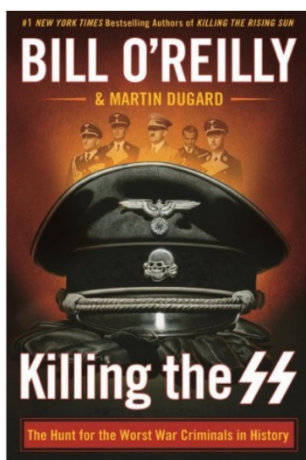
² Non-paddlers.

												Batting Stats													
Rk	Name	YoB	Votes	%vote	HOFm	HOFs	Yrs	WAR	WAR7	JAWS	Jpos	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	
1	Mariano Rivera	1st	425	100.0%	214	30	19	56.2	28.7	42.5	32.7	73	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	.000	.250	.000	.250	-27	
2	Edgar Martinez	10th	363	85.4%	132	50	18	68.4	43.7	56.0	55.7	2055	7213	1219	2247	309	1261	49	1283	.312	.418	.515	.933	147	
3	Roy Halladay	1st	363	85.4%	127	45	16	64.3	50.6	57.5	61.7	115	275	15	34	0	12	0	4	.124	.136	.131	.267	-27	
4	Mike Mussina	6th	326	76.7%	121	54	18	83.0	44.6	63.8	61.7	22	52	3	9	0	5	0	1	.173	.189	.192	.381	1	
5	Curt Schilling	7th	259	60.9%	171	46	20	79.6	48.7	64.1	61.7	402	773	39	117	0	29	1	25	.151	.178	.171	.348	-9	
6	Roger Clemens	7th	253	59.5%	332	73	24	139.6	66.0	102.8	61.7	95	179	5	31	0	12	0	13	.173	.236	.207	.443	17	
7	Barry Bonds	7th	251	59.1%	340	77	22	162.8	72.7	117.8	53.6	2986	9847	2227	2935	762	1996	514	2558	.298	.444	.607	1.051	182	
8	Larry Walker	9th	232	54.6%	148	58	17	72.7	44.7	58.7	56.8	1988	6907	1355	2160	383	1311	230	913	.313	.400	.565	.965	141	
9	Omar Vizquel	2nd	182	42.8%	120	42	24	45.6	26.8	36.2	55.0	2968	10586	1445	2877	80	951	404	1028	.272	.336	.352	.688	82	
10	X-Fred McGriff	10th	169	39.8%	100	48	19	52.6	36.0	44.3	54.7	2460	8757	1349	2490	493	1550	72	1305	.284	.377	.509	.886	134	

		Pitching Stats														
Rk	Name	W	L	ERA	ERA+	WHIP	G	GS	SV	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	Pos Summary	
1	Mariano Rivera	82	60	2.21	205	1.000	1115	10	652	1283.2	998	71	286	1173	*1	
2	Edgar Martinez														*D*5/3	
3	Roy Halladay	203	105	3.38	131	1.178	416	390	1	2749.1	2646	236	592	2117	*1	
4	Mike Mussina	270	153	3.68	123	1.192	537	536	0	3562.2	3460	376	785	2813	*1	
5	Curt Schilling	216	146	3.46	127	1.137	569	436	22	3261.0	2998	347	711	3116	*1	
6	Roger Clemens	354	184	3.12	143	1.173	709	707	0	4916.2	4185	363	1580	4672	*1	
7	Barry Bonds														*78D/9	
8	Larry Walker														*9387/D45	
9	Omar Vizquel														*654/D379	
10	X-Fred McGriff														*3D	

Gentlemen: Start your arguments.

BOOK REPORT: *KILLING THE SS* By Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard



I just finished reading the latest offering in the O'Reilly/Dugard "Killing" series entitled *Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History*. Not exactly an uplifting or cheery read, but darkly fascinating. Especially intriguing was the story of the abduction of one of the worst of the Nazi war criminals, Adolf Eichmann, who in May 1960 was snatched by a ten-man Mossad hit team in San Fernando, a suburb of Buenos Aires, after stepping off Bus No. 203 on his way to his house on Garibaldi Street after a full day of work sorting replacement parts at a Mercedes-Benz factory.

After his kidnapping, Eichmann was held in a safe house in Buenos Aires for several weeks before arrangements could be made to smuggle him to Israel on an El Al

Airline flight, so that he could stand trial. It was not until June 1961 that the trial began, and it lasted almost two months, totaling 114 sessions. Some four months later, on December 11, 1961, a panel of three judges rendered their decision, sentencing Eichmann to death. After a five-judge panel of the Israeli Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentence, on May 31, 1962 Eichmann met the fate of a hangman's noose, and was declared dead just after midnight. His body was incinerated and his ashes spread at sea, to prevent any sort of gravesite memorials.

One other fascinating section of the book has to do with the more recent efforts to track down former Nazi war criminals, including a San Francisco woman by the name of Elfriede Huth, who was once a concentration camp guard at the infamous Ravensbrück concentration camp in Northern Germany, where women and babies were terrorized and executed. Huth immigrated to San Francisco in September 1959, some fourteen years after the fall of Germany, and lived there happily and without any of her new American friends (or even her Jewish husband, Fred Rinkel) having any idea of the atrocities that she once committed as a loyal worker for the Third Reich--until Harvard Law School graduate and committed Nazi hunter Eli Rosenbaum tracked her down in October 2004. She was extradited to Germany but never charged with a crime, because officials there stated they could not find proof that she ever committed a crime. As of the date of the writing of this *Killing* book in 2018, Elfriede Rinkel remained alive and free at age 95.

The book also has fascinating chapters on the pursuit of the infamous *Angel of Death*, Josef Mengele; of Martin Bormann, the heir apparent to Adolf Hitler; and of Klaus Barbie, the so-called *Butcher of Lyon*.

This was probably my least favorite of all of the *Killing* books, probably because of the horrific subject matter and the difficulty even now of reading about these worst of all imaginable human behaviors. That said, it is a very informational and enlightening book if one wants to find out what happened to the most evil perpetrators of the Nazi leadership.

SHORT STOPS

- A friend of mine recently provided me with a wonderful article written by former teenage baseball prodigy Pat Jordan, known as *The Journeyman*. A [link](#) to this article is provided. This prompted me to re-read one of my favorite baseball books of all time, *The False Spring*. More in the next issue about that.
- In cleaning up my office the other day, I came across a Tim Kurkjian article from September 2015, celebrating the twenty-year anniversary of Cal Ripken's amazing feat of topping Lou Gehrig's record of 2130 consecutive baseball games. It is a good read. Here is a [link](#) to that article.

- Finally, belated birthday wishes to Screech, who turned Double Nickels (55) last Friday, and prospective congrats to Bender, who at nearly insurmountable odds will celebrate his 61st birthday on February 3, Super Bowl Sunday. A tip of the hat to each of you.

* * * * *

That's it for this issue.

Skipper