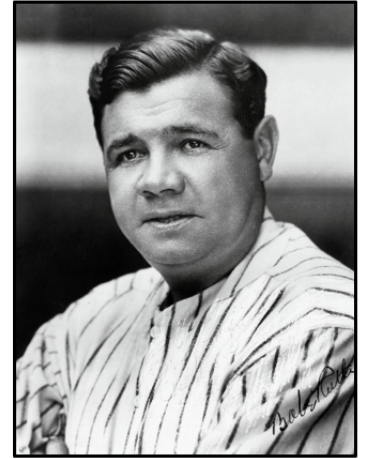




Babe Ruth

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. 10

May 9, 2019

Brethren:

Week 6 of the Hot Stove League found PAwesome's squad still occupying the top spot. However, Tirebiter's **Crimson Chirpers** put together a league-leading total of 579.8 during Week 6 to hopscotch over the **Tribe** and into 2nd place, 30 points behind the leading **Wahoos**.

At the other end of the spectrum, Brother Stretch had the lowest point total for Week 6 at 351.4 points, widening the chasm between 1st and last to a discouraging 731.0 points. Looks like a rough year for our beleaguered Dead Man Walking.

STANDINGS THRU WEEK 6 ENDING MAY 5, 2019

1	Wahoos	2811.5	-
2	Redbirds	2781.5	30.0
3	Bums	2751.8	59.7
4	Tribe	2683.2	128.3
5	Tigers	2621.2	190.3
6	Monarchs	2609.2	202.3

7	Senators	2593.8	217.7
8	Skipjacks	2466.9	344.6
9	Chiefs	2437.5	374.0
10	Bombers	2432.8	378.7
11	Bears	2356.1	455.4
12	Cubs	2287.6	523.9
13	Blues	2080.5	731.0

**POINTS FOR WEEK 6
ENDING MAY 5, 2019**

1	Redbirds	579.8
2	Bums	568.8
3	Tigers	508.5
4	Chiefs	449.8
5	Senators	444.9
6	Bombers	437.7
7	Skipjacks	428.0
8	Wahoos	427.9
9	Monarchs	407.0
10	Bears	372.8
11	Cubs	365.5
12	Tribe	361.0
13	Blues	351.4

SKIPPER SEZ

Jake Odorizzi of the **Bombers** was the hottest pitcher of the week with 69.0 points, followed closely by the **Redbirds'** Mike Soroka with 65.0 points, followed by the **Wahoos'** Rick Porcello with 64.0 points, followed by Spencer Turnbull of the **Tigers** with 55.0 points. Of course, all household names.

On the other hand, Tyson Ross of the **Tribe** was not so hot, moonwalking Underbelly's team back by 16 points, narrowly outpacing Dereck Rodríguez of the **Skipjacks** who moonwalked 14 points backwards.

The hottest hitter of the week was Michael Chavis of the **Chiefs** with 51.3 points, followed by Nolan Arenado of the **Blues** with 46.6 and Alex Bregman of the **Bears** with 45.3. McBlunder had two hitters crack the Top Ten for the week, with Rafael Devers contributing 42.6 points and Adalberto Mondesi chiming in with 41.5.

On the other side of the coin, Starlin Castro of the **Cubs** somehow lost 7.5 points for the week, outpacing his **Cubs** teammate Renato Núñez, who lost 6.9 points. Poor Shamu cannot get a break this season.

Here are the overall and weekly pitching and hitting points:

TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Justin Verlander	Bums	207.0
2.	Tyler Glasnow	Tribe	199.0
3.	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	194.0
4.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	190.0
5.	Trevor Bauer	Bums	181.0
6.	José Berríos	Monarchs	180.0
7.	Mike Minor	Bums	171.0
8.	Matthew Boyd	Wahoos	169.0
9.	Domingo Germán	Wahoos	163.0
10.	Caleb Smith	Redbirds	162.0
11.	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	158.0
	German Márquez	Tribe	158.0
13.	Max Fried	Skipjacks	150.0
14.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	148.0
	Gerrit Cole	Senators	148.0
16.	Patrick Corbin	Senators	147.0
17.	Marco Gonzales	Wahoos	141.0
18.	Jake Arrieta	Tigers	140.0
19.	Hyun-Jin Ryu	Cubs	139.0
20.	Shane Bieber	Senators	133.0
21.	Chris Paddack	Wahoos	131.0
22.	John Gant	Bums	130.0
	Luke Weaver	Monarchs	130.0
24.	José Quintana	Redbirds	129.0
25.	Jake Odorizzi	Bombers	128.0

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Jake Odorizzi	Bombers	69.0
2.	Mike Soroka	Redbirds	65.0
3.	Rick Porcello	Wahoos	64.0
4.	Spencer Turnbull	Tigers	55.0
5.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	52.0

6.	Zach Davies	Senators	49.0
7.	Noah Syndergaard	Redbirds	45.0
8.	Justin Verlander	Bums	42.0
9.	Gerrit Cole	Senators	41.0
10.	Jon Lester	Tigers	40.0
	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	40.0
12.	Kyle Hendricks	Tigers	39.0
	Tyler Glasnow	Tribe	39.0
14.	Julio Teheran	Bums	38.0
	Martin Pérez	Bombers	38.0
16.	Chris Sale	Chiefs	37.0
17.	Luke Weaver	Monarchs	36.0
18.	Dylan Bundy	Redbirds	35.0
	Max Fried	Skipjacks	35.0
20.	Caleb Smith	Redbirds	34.0
21.	Matthew Boyd	Wahoos	33.0
	Eduardo Rodriguez	Skipjacks	33.0
	Zack Wheeler	Bears	33.0
	Yonny Chirinos	Blues	33.0
25.	Yusei Kikuchi	Tribe	32.0

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Tyson Ross	Tribe	-16.0
2.	Dereck Rodríguez	Skipjacks	-14.0
3.	Freddy Peralta	Blues	-13.0
	Brad Peacock	Chiefs	-13.0
	Joe Musgrove	Tigers	-13.0
	Blake Snell	Tigers	-13.0
7.	Marco Gonzales	Wahoos	-12.0
8.	Kyle Freeland	Blues	-9.0
9.	Aaron Sanchez	Skipjacks	-8.0
10.	Marcus Stroman	Senators	-6.0
11.	Julio Uriás	Skipjacks	-4.0
	Reynaldo López	Blues	-4.0
13.	Matt Harvey	Chiefs	-3.0
	Yu Darvish	Bombers	-3.0
15.	Ryne Stanek	Bears	-2.0
16.	Mike Foltyniewicz	Cubs	-1.0

TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Cody Bellinger	Bombers	232.1
2.	Christian Yelich	Redbirds	200.6
3.	Rhys Hoskins	Tribe	168.4
4.	Javier Báez	Bears	165.9

5.	Paul DeJong	Tribe	164.1
6.	Nolan Arenado	Blues	157.3
7.	Trevor Story	Wahoos	156.7
8.	George Springer	Tribe	156.5
9.	Joey Gallo	Tribe	156.4
10.	Matt Chapman	Bums	155.4
11.	Marcell Ozuna	Tribe	155.0
12.	Adalberto Mondesi	Blues	152.9
13.	Hunter Dozier	Redbirds	152.8
14.	Mike Trout	Monarchs	150.3
15.	Pete Alonso	Tribe	149.0
16.	Alex Bregman	Bears	148.7
17.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	145.4
18.	Elvis Andrus	Tigers	145.0
19.	Mitch Haniger	Senators	143.0
20.	Mookie Betts	Chiefs	142.5
	Michael Brantley	Tigers	142.5
22.	Ketel Marte	Skipjacks	142.3
23.	José Abreu	Tigers	142.0
24.	Whit Merrifield	Bums	141.6
25.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	141.1

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Michael Chavis	Chiefs	51.3
2.	Nolan Arenado	Blues	46.6
3.	Alex Bregman	Bears	45.3
4.	Derek Dietrich	Wahoos	44.0
5.	Rafael Devers	Blues	42.6
6.	Adalberto Mondesi	Blues	41.5
7.	Ketel Marte	Skipjacks	41.0
8.	Anthony Rizzo	Bears	38.8
9.	Ryan Braun	Redbirds	38.6
10.	José Abreu	Tigers	37.8
11.	Michael Brantley	Tigers	37.5
12.	Franmil Reyes	Bums	37.0
13.	Mookie Betts	Chiefs	36.5
14.	Jesús Aguilar	Skipjacks	35.3
15.	Jorge Soler	Senators	35.0
16.	Manny Machado	Monarchs	34.6
17.	Andrew Benintendi	Cubs	34.5
18.	Gary Sánchez	Monarchs	33.6
19.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	33.1
20.	Rhys Hoskins	Tribe	33.0
21.	George Springer	Tribe	32.5

22.	Joey Gallo	Tribe	32.3
23.	Matt Chapman	Bums	32.1
24.	Nick Markakis	Tigers	32.0
	Charlie Blackmon	Skipjacks	32.0

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Starlin Castro	Cubs	-7.5
2.	Renato Núñez	Cubs	-6.9
3.	Brandon Nimmo	Wahoos	-5.5
4.	Domingo Santana	Blues	-3.4
5.	Eddie Rosario	Senators	-3.0
	Odúbel Herrera	Redbirds	-3.0
7.	Carter Kieboom	Monarchs	-2.4
8.	Leonys Martin	Cubs	-1.5
9.	Travis Shaw	Wahoos	-0.2
	Paul Goldschmidt	Tribe	-0.2

SEAWORTHY vs. THE MARLIN MAN

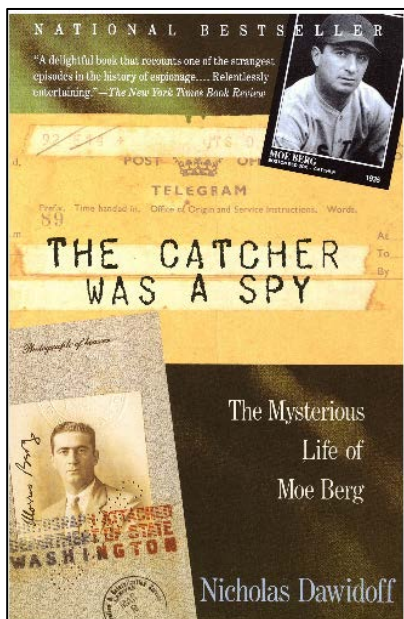
Some of you know that B.T. made his first visit to Wrigley Field in almost two decades this past weekend, and somehow (it's called *having more money than God*) was able to snag sterling ducats right behind home plate. One of our watchful owners happened to catch the same game on TV, and noticed that the Marlin Man was positioned in his usual spot right behind home plate. Lo and behold, B.T. was able to catch a photo with the Marlin Man, as seen below.



If only B.T. was still sporting his heretofore fearsome upper lip growth, we could have had a matchup that would have rivaled Godzilla vs. King Kong. Pity.



BOOK REPORT:
The Catcher Was a Spy
by Nicholas Dawidoff

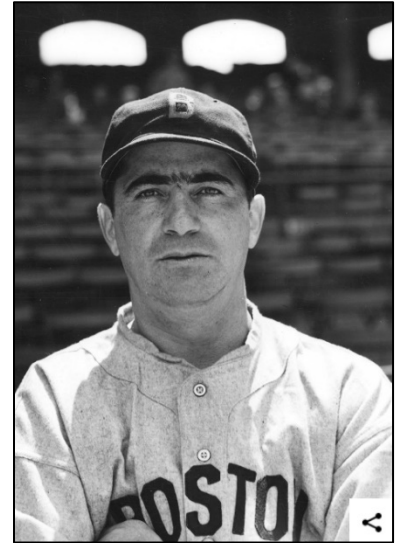


As presaged a few issues ago, I recently finished re-reading the magnificent biography by Nicholas Dawidoff entitled: *The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg*, about the enigmatic former major league catcher, Ivy Leaguer, law student, linguist and World War II spy. It truly is a remarkable story, well told.

I'm not in the habit of re-reading books, but after somebody recently told me that they saw the movie about Moe Berg starring Paul Rudd, I decided to venture through the book again to get up to speed before watching the movie. Still haven't seen the movie, but now I'm ready for it.

There are so many highlights from this book, I don't know where to start. But here goes:

- Morris Berg was born on March 2, 1902, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of a Jewish pharmacist from the Ukraine. He grew up in Newark, New Jersey, where father Bernard Berg owned a pharmacy.
- Berg began playing baseball when he was seven years old for the Roseville Methodist Episcopal Church baseball team under the pseudonym Runt Wolfe, which seemed to be “less Jewish” to him than his given name. He graduated from Barringer High School in 1918 at the age of 16. During his senior year, the *Newark Star-Eagle* published a nine-man “dream team” for 1918 from the city’s best baseball players, and Berg was selected as the team’s third baseman.
- After graduating from Barringer High, Berg enrolled at NYU, where he spent two semesters and played baseball and basketball. In 1919 he transferred to Princeton University, eventually earning his Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* in



Modern Languages. He studied Latin, Greek, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Sanskrit while at Princeton. His senior year, he was captain of the baseball team and had a .337 batting average, and was widely acclaimed to be the best Princeton baseball player of all time.

- Berg made his major league debut on June 27, 1923, for the Brooklyn Robins, signing a \$5,000 contract. He spent the next 15 to 16 years playing for several different major league teams, including the White Sox, Indians, Senators and Red Sox. He made a career out of being a backup catcher.

- Throughout the early part of his major league career, Berg attended Columbia Law School, graduating with his law degree in 1930. He worked as a corporate lawyer in the Wall Street law firm of Satterlee & Canfield for a very short period of time, preferring the life of a second-string major league baseball player.



- Berg's career hitting marks included 431 base hits in 1,813 ABs, for a lifetime batting average of .243; 150 runs scored; 6 home runs; 206 RBIs; 12 stolen bases; a lifetime on-base percentage of .278; lifetime slugging percentage of .299; and a lifetime OPS of .577. Pretty anemic figures for somebody who lasted so long in the majors. Perhaps apocryphal, perhaps not, his former Senators teammate Dave Harris supposedly remarked after being told that Berg spoke seven different languages: "*Yeah, I know, and he can't hit in any of them.*"
- Berg's best year at the plate was 1929, when he was 27 years of age and sporting the tools of ignorance for the Chicago White Sox. He had 352 official at-bats that year (his only year with more than 225 ABs), batted .287, had an on-base percentage of .323, and knocked in 47 runs. It is hard to imagine that this was anyone's best year with that many years of service.
- Berg regularly read ten newspapers a day, and was a prolific reader of books of all kinds, science, mathematics, history, languages, the law. His reputation for braininess was enhanced by a radio quiz show known as *Information, Please*, on which he appeared several times and successfully answered questions about historical world events, the origins of words and names from Greek and Latin, and other intellectual inquiries.
- When Berg was playing for the minor league Toledo Mudhens in 1924, major league scout Mike Gonzales reportedly sent a telegram to the Brooklyn Dodgers in which he assessed Berg with the well-known "good field, no hit" label. However, the following year while playing with the Reading Keystones of the International League, Berg elevated his hitting to a .311 batting average with 124 RBIs, and the

White Sox exercised their option with Reading, promoting Berg back up to the major leagues the following year.

- In 1932, Berg went with Lefty O'Doul and Ted Lyons to conduct baseball seminars at Japanese universities, teaching at several different schools in the Tokyo Big Six baseball league. The other two Americans returned to the United States after finishing their coaching, but Berg stayed behind to explore Japan, and also visited Manchuria, Shanghai, Peking, Indochina, Siam, India, Egypt and Berlin. On a second trip to Japan in 1934 with Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx and Lefty Gomez to play exhibition baseball against a Japanese all-pro team, Berg took a movie camera with him and did some secretive filming of the Tokyo city and harbor, providing American intelligence with rare and helpful photos of the city, which Berg later in life implied helped Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle plan his famous Doolittle raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942.



- After the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941, Berg accepted a position with Nelson Rockefeller's Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs on January 5, 1942, and took an assignment in the Caribbean and to South America. In August of 1943, Berg accepted a position with the Office of Strategic Services Special Operations Branch and was sent to the Balkans desk. In this role, he assisted Slavic-Americans who were recruited by the OSS to go on dangerous parachute drop missions into Yugoslav.
- Berg's most well-known spying work was in 1944, when he traveled around Europe interviewing physicists and trying to convince a number of them to leave Europe and take work in America. Much of his work was spent trying to determine how close the Germans were to having an atomic bomb.
- After resigning from the OSS in January of 1946, Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom Citation, but inexplicably turned it down. His sister later accepted on his behalf after his death.



In sum, if you want to read a fantastic book about a fascinating man (Casey Stengel once described Berg as “the strangest man ever to play baseball,” which may be the quintessential example of the pot calling the kettle black), I highly recommend *The Catcher Was a Spy* to you.

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That’s it for this issue.

Skipper