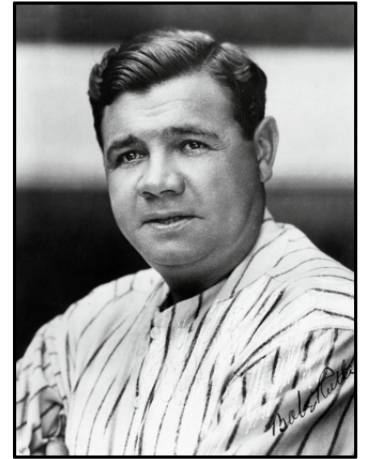




Babe Ruth

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. 14

June 20, 2019

WEEK 12: REDBIRDS RULE THE ROOST

After 12 weeks of play, the **Redbirds** of Tirebiter have reclaimed the roost by cranking out a weekly total of 556.4 points for Week 12, second-best among the Brotherhood, while former pace car driver PAwesome saw his **Wahoos** put up the second-lowest point total for the week with 424.2 points, just ahead of the last-place **Blues** (391.0). By outscoring the **Wahoos** by more than 140 points for the week, the **Redbirds** went from trailing the **Wahoos** by about 70 points to leading them by 72.1 points. There figures to be a lot more bouncing around between 1st and 2nd by these two teams before this season is in the books.

Also in the news, Blow Top's team finally had a breakout week and led all teams with 629.3 points for the 12th week. Clearly this team is getting some help from outside the organization, and some anonymous owners are calling for a full investigation. Rumors abound that there are some for-profit services out there who, for the right price, will provide tips and alerts about such things like upcoming player callups from the minors, and it is just this sort of professional "service" that has long been considered taboo in our league, at least by gentlemen's agreement if not formally.

Be that as it may--for now--the **Chiefs** have used this Week 12 "bounce" to rocket all the way up to 9th place, past the **Bombers** and just behind the **Tribe**, **Tigers** and **Monarchs**.

The **Skipjacks** continue their surge with a Week 12 total of 544.1 points, fourth best in the league, allowing them to creep ever closer to the **Senators**. Whether this Itchie *magic* can prevail over the course of the season, well that remains to be seen.

STANDINGS THROUGH 12 WEEKS

1	Redbirds	5989.2	-
2	Wahoos	5917.1	72.1
3	Bums	5780.7	208.5
4	Senators	5597.7	391.5
5	Skipjacks	5482.2	507.0
6	Monarchs	5365.5	623.7
7	Tigers	5331.6	657.6
8	Tribe	5316.3	672.9
9	Chiefs	5280.9	708.3
10	Bombers	5259.4	729.8
11	Cubs	5074.8	914.4
12	Bears	5070.5	918.7
13	Blues	4594.8	1394.4

POINTS FOR WEEK 12

1	Chiefs	629.3
2	Redbirds	556.4
3	Bombers	545.4
4	Skipjacks	544.1
5	Monarchs	534.6
6	Bums	512.4
7	Tribe	510.0
8	Tigers	474.7
9	Senators	465.1
10	Cubs	462.8
11	Bears	434.5
12	Wahoos	424.2
13	Blues	391.0

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

On the pitching side of the equation, Trevor Bauer of the **Bums** has regained his form and led the league with a blistering total of 67.0 points for Week 12. Chris Sale of the **Chiefs** continued his torrid month of June with 63.0 points in Week 12. The suddenly pitching rich **Bums** also claimed the third-highest individual pitching total for the week--twice--with his iron Mikes (Leake and Minor) both notching an impressive 51.0 points for the week. Add to that Justin Verlander's 33.0 points for the week in a single start, and the **Bums** had four pitchers in the top 17 for the week, and between the four of them they totaled 202.0 points for the week. If this league really is all about pitching, you really do have to like the **Bums'** chances in the balance of the campaign. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Sunny's recent pickup, Nick Margevicius, got beat around badly last week, walking the **Blues** backwards to the hurtful tune of -23 points. Youch. That hurts.

On the hitting side of the ledger, the **Jax'** Charlie Blackmon had a monster point total of 92.1 (best ever?) for the week, and JT's Ketel Marte had the second highest total for the week with 62.7 points. Wow.

TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Justin Verlander	Bums	440.0
2.	Hyun-Jin Ryu	Cubs	398.0
3.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	364.0
4.	Max Scherzer	Wahoos	362.0
5.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	345.0
6.	Gerrit Cole	Senators	343.0
7.	Lucas Giolito	Tribe	341.0
8.	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	320.0
9.	Trevor Bauer	Bums	318.0
10.	José Berríos	Monarchs	313.0
11.	Mike Minor	Bums	312.0
12.	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	310.0
13.	Jake Odorizzi	Bombers	308.0
14.	Matthew Boyd	Wahoos	304.0
15.	Chris Sale	Chiefs	303.0
16.	Frankie Montas	Chiefs	302.0
17.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	301.0
18.	Shane Bieber	Senators	296.0
19.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	278.0
20.	Cole Hamels	Monarchs	274.0

21.	German Márquez	Tribe	272.0
22.	Mike Soroka	Redbirds	269.0
23.	Jacob deGrom	Skipjacks	261.0
24.	Clayton Kershaw	Tigers	258.0
25.	Lance Lynn	Bums	257.0

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Trevor Bauer	Bums	67.0
2.	Chris Sale	Chiefs	63.0
3.	Mike Leake	Bums	51.0
	Mike Minor	Bums	51.0
5.	Aníbal Sánchez	Skipjacks	49.0
	Hyun-Jin Ryu	Cubs	49.0
7.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	47.0
8.	Dakota Hudson	Redbirds	43.0
9.	Yu Darvish	Bombers	42.0
10.	Kyle Gibson	Tribe	41.0
11.	Shane Bieber	Senators	39.0
12.	Merrill Kelly	Tribe	38.0
13.	Max Scherzer	Wahoos	36.0
	Cole Hamels	Monarchs	36.0
	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	36.0
16.	Jordan Yamamoto	Blues	34.0
17.	Justin Verlander	Bums	33.0
18.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	32.0
	Gerrit Cole	Senators	32.0
	Trent Thornton	Bears	32.0
	Sean Newcomb	Monarchs	32.0
22.	Mike Foltyniewicz	Chiefs	31.0
23.	Eduardo Rodriguez	Skipjacks	30.0
	Jakob Junis	Blues	30.0
25.	Framber Valdez	Wahoos	29.0

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Nick Margenivicius	Blues	-23.0
2.	Eric Lauer	Senators	-14.0
	Aaron Sanchez	Skipjacks	-14.0
4.	Matt Strahm	Senators	-11.0
	Mitch Keller	Bears	-11.0
6.	Wade LeBlanc	Bears	-10.0
	David Price	Cubs	-10.0

8.	CC Sabathia	Monarchs	-9.0
9.	Jon Duplantier	Bums	-8.0
10.	Trevor Richards	Tribe	-7.0
	Zack Wheeler	Bears	-7.0
12.	Kyle Hendricks	Tigers	-6.0
	Joe Musgrove	Tigers	-6.0
14.	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	-4.0
	Patrick Corbin	Senators	-4.0
	Freddy Peralta	Blues	-4.0
17.	Erick Fedde	Skipjacks	-2.0
	Miles Mikolas	Bums	-2.0
	Jon Lester	Tigers	-2.0
20.	Mike Soroka	Redbirds	-1.0
	Joe Biagini	Monarchs	-1.0
	Blake Snell	Tigers	-1.0
	Jeff Samardzija	Cubs	-1.0
	Kenta Maeda	Bums	-1.0

TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Christian Yelich	Redbirds	396.9
2.	Cody Bellinger	Bombers	388.5
3.	Josh Bell	Chiefs	356.1
4.	Mike Trout	Monarchs	354.3
5.	Trevor Story	Wahoos	345.4
6.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	343.0
7.	Nolan Arenado	Blues	337.1
8.	Alex Bregman	Bears	322.7
9.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	322.2
10.	Eduardo Escobar	Wahoos	317.7
11.	Ketel Marte	Skipjacks	314.5
12.	Anthony Rendon	Cubs	311.7
13.	Anthony Rizzo	Bears	310.2
14.	Charlie Blackmon	Skipjacks	306.2
15.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Redbirds	299.7
16.	Pete Alonso	Tribe	299.5
17.	Jorge Polanco	Senators	297.2
18.	Kris Bryant	Tigers	296.6
19.	Mike Moustakas	Wahoos	290.4
20.	Rhys Hoskins	Tribe	290.0
21.	Carlos Santana	Blues	287.9
22.	Trey Mancini	Bombers	284.8
23.	Paul DeJong	Tribe	284.0
24.	Rafael Devers	Blues	283.7
25.	Luke Voit	Wahoos	283.6

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Charlie Blackmon	Skipjacks	92.1
2.	Ketel Marte	Skipjacks	62.7
3.	Scott Kingery	Bombers	56.0
	Ian Desmond	Cubs	56.0
5.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	53.1
6.	Manny Machado	Monarchs	50.1
7.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Redbirds	48.5
8.	Hunter Renfroe	Bears	46.1
9.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Tribe	46.0
10.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	45.3
11.	Trey Mancini	Bombers	44.7
12.	J.D. Martinez	Bums	44.6
13.	Josh Donaldson	Monarchs	44.3
14.	Brett Gardner	Tribe	43.0
15.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	42.8
16.	Shohei Ohtani (Batter)	Monarchs	42.0
17.	Yordan Alvarez	Bombers	41.0
	Max Kepler	Monarchs	41.0
	Trea Turner	Cubs	41.0
20.	Nick Markakis	Tigers	40.6
	Anthony Rendon	Cubs	40.6
22.	David Dahl	Bears	40.5
23.	Trevor Story	Wahoos	39.6
24.	Tommy Pham	Redbirds	39.1
25.	Eloy Jiménez	Chiefs	38.5

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Joc Pederson	Wahoos	-6.5
2.	Franmil Reyes	Bums	-3.0
3.	Alex Gordon	Monarchs	-0.5
4.	Maikel Franco	Tribe	-0.4

AND THE BEAT GOES ON

There was much lively discourse on this 2019 HSL junket about the memorable¹ van drive on our 1992 junket from Detroit to Toronto to Cleveland and back to Detroit again, wherein B.T. made the executive decision to veer our van onto the *right*² shoulder to pass hundreds if not thousands of vehicles³ in order to get us to a baseball game in time. The debate has been raging, on and off, for the past year or thereabouts. It was reignited during our drive down to Arlington in B.T.'s luxury mobile outhouse, when yours truly reported to Big Guy that he (me) had clear and convincing⁴ evidence that the Van Shoulder Episode occurred during the Toronto to Cleveland leg of the Trip, *and not* while en route from Detroit to Toronto, as postured by the never-say-wrong Big Guy. After an annoying scoff, Big Guy agreed to listen to the evidence from the Proponent of the Toronto-to-Cleveland position, and Skipper then laid out the first two pieces of evidence, indicating that he would reserve the third piece for his rebuttal argument.

Exhibit 1

While acknowledging that the report on the 1992 Trip contained in the June 17, 1992 issue of *From the Bullpen* inexplicably omits any reference to Blow Top's courageous⁵ feat of driving, the first piece of evidence offered by Proponent Skipper is the indelible mention of same in a later edition of *From the Bullpen*, dated June 13, 2000⁶, as follows:

MEMORIES, AH, THE MEMORIES

As mentioned above, as old farts like to do, we spent a fair amount of time on this year's Trip reminiscing about memories from Trips past. A few of the highlights that were mentioned:

✓ *Breakfast at Lenny's in Cleveland after getting all tanked-up at the Flats the night before.*

✓ *B.T.'s bypassing of the interstate system between Buffalo, New York, and Cleveland, to the abject horror of McBlunder and the delight of all others.*

✓ *McBlunder's Willingness to jump fifty feet into the river in Milwaukee on a \$100 dare.*

¹ And for a few of us, *accurately* memorable.

² Not left, Stretch.

³ Including at least one enraged truck driver who tried to force us off the road.

⁴ Not merely a *preponderance*.

⁵ Which in this case is a euphemism for *wildly reckless*.

⁶ Recapping the HSL Trip to Houston and Minute Maid Park.

✓ *The seat-cushion incident in Milwaukee.*

✓ *"Cones" Night in Milwaukee.*

✓ *Itchie's dusting in Cleveland.*

It is assumed that we can all stipulate that memories of 1992 were much better in the year 2000 than they are now. And it is assumed that it can further be stipulated that no member of the Hot Stove League at that time in 2000 (11 of you, as Screech was not in the league at that time) objected in any way to this recounting of the event or offered a correction; not in writing, not verbally, nor otherwise. In the eyes of the law, this is known as *acquiescence* or *tacit assent*.

Exhibit 2

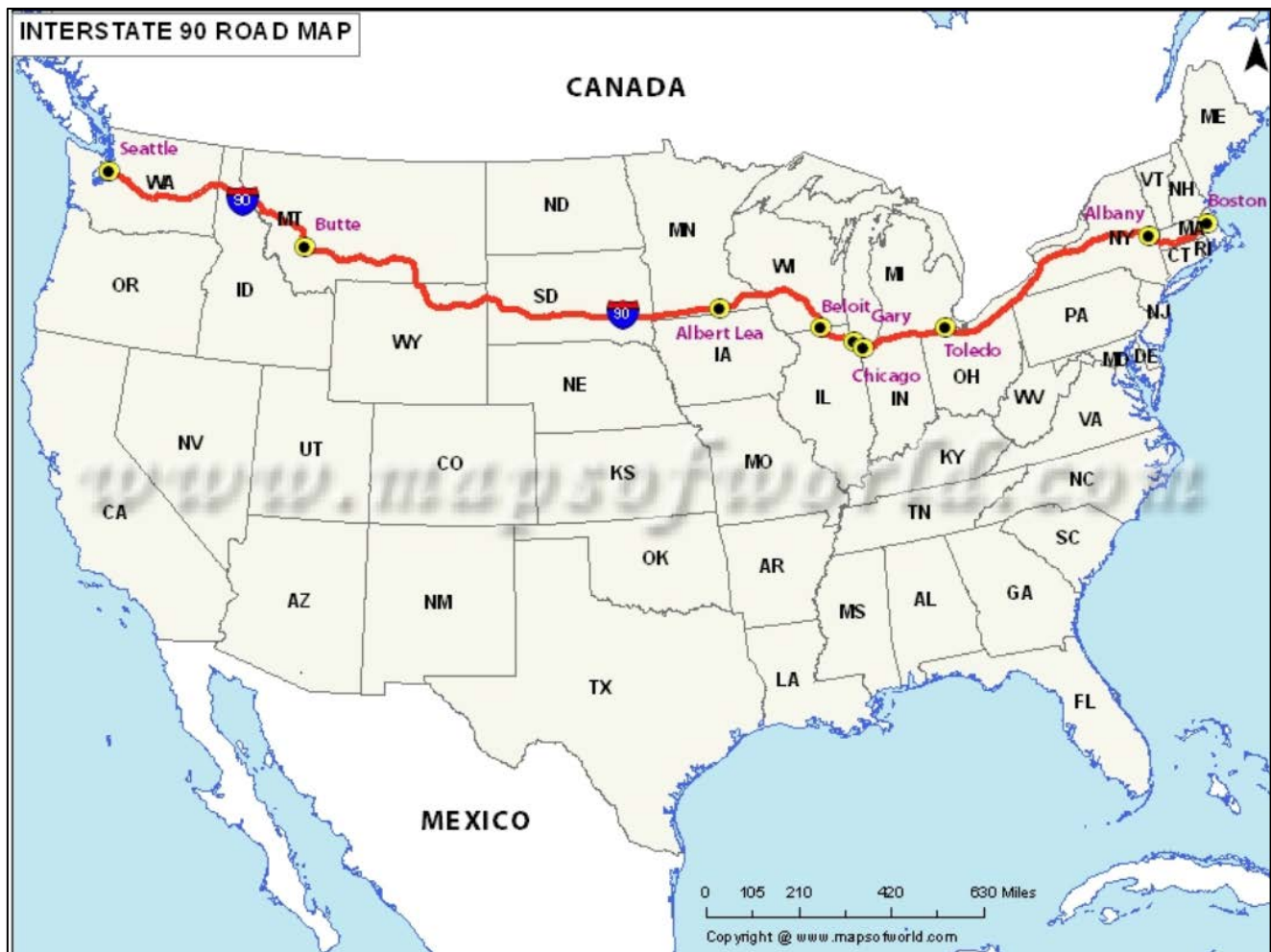
For the 25-year HSL anniversary Trip to New York in 2009, league owners were asked to submit their top memories from Trips past. At that time--long before there was any debate about whether the Van Shoulder Episode was on the Detroit to the Toronto or Toronto to Cleveland leg of the Trip--Curby reported the following as his fourth favorite Trip memory:

Cleveland

- There is no such thing as a "no passing zone" on the shoulder of an interstate highway. Silly people waving and honking at us.
- Feeling the love on **I-90**.

The Court will take judicial notice of the fact that **Interstate 90** runs from Buffalo, New York, past Erie, PA, into Eastern Ohio, and directly into Cleveland. The Court will take further judicial notice that **Interstate 90** is nowhere to be found in the province of Ontario, Canada, nor anywhere⁷ north of the United States border.

⁷ That's right, not *anywhere*.



Opposing Evidence

Called upon to present any evidence that he might have in support of the opposing view (i.e., that the Van Shoulder Episode occurred during the Detroit to Toronto leg of the Trip), Barrister Drews proffered the bawdacious statement that he “remembers” that our flight into Detroit arrived in the afternoon and therefore did not leave us a great deal of time to get to Toronto for that night’s game, and that we had to go directly to the game instead of checking into our hotel because we were delayed by an “accident”⁸. Not unlike the pitch for the Popeil’s Pocket Fisherman--“Wait, there’s more,”--the next article of “evidence” from Barrister Drews was in the form of his comment that on the drive from Toronto to Cleveland, we made a stop at Niagara Falls, and so, therefore, by Big Guy’s

⁸Entirely unsubstantiated, with nary a detail about where the accident occurred, the types of vehicles involved, eyewitness accounts of vehicle wreckage--nothing but a 27-year-old, clearly flawed memory.

logic, we must not have had time to get caught in a traffic jam on the road to Cleveland, and therefore his theory of events must be correct. Of course, the flaw in this logic is that there was no evidence whatsoever proffered by Barrister Drews as to what time our van left Toronto that morning, how far the distance from Toronto to Niagara Falls, how long we stopped in Niagara to gawk at the Falls, or how far it is from Niagara Falls to Cleveland⁹. Wait, there's more. In addition to this unshakeable proof from Barrister Drews, he also offered into evidence his statement that facile his mind recorded a "mental imprint" of the Van Shoulder Episode taking place in Canada and not on the road to Cleveland. Come again? *Mental imprint*? Should we now refer to Big Guy as the second coming of Kreskin?¹⁰ Is Barrister Drews telling us that grits cook faster in Toronto than they do in Cleveland? Are these "magic" grits, counselor?¹¹

And with that, Barrister Drews rested his case. I'm sorry, what? *That* was your evidence? *What* was your evidence, exactly? Your unsubstantiated claim of a vehicular accident in Canada without a single detail or citation to any correlating facts? Your recollection that we stopped at Niagara Falls on the way back from Toronto, without a single substantiating detail to go with it? And your "mental imprint" that the Van Shoulder Episode happened north of the border?

In the words of Jackie Chiles, this is unprecedented. Unsubstantiated. Unbelievable. Nonsensical. Unacceptable. Preposterous.

While Big Guy's so-called evidence would survive neither a *Daubert* motion nor a motion for a directed verdict, let's just suppose, hypothetically, that he could find a sympathetic jurist's ear which would allow him to proceed forward with his house-of-cards case.

⁹ So in other words, this cockamamie theory proves absolutely nothing, and the Toronto-to-Cleveland Proponent stipulates that a brief stop was made in Niagara Falls.

¹⁰ Okay, so it's a little bit different, but Kreskin could bend silverware with *his* mind, and tell you how many coins you had in your pocket, so there's that, and I don't know anyone else with super mental powers who might be able to forge a mental "imprint" except for him.

¹¹ Okay, that's a scene from *My Cousin Vinny*, which doesn't exactly fit, but you get the idea.

REBUTTAL EVIDENCE

In rebuttal, the Proponent of the Toronto-to-Cleveland Position provides you with the following newspaper article from April 1992, which warns motorists of bridge construction and lengthy delays along **Interstate 90 just outside Cleveland**--*the same Interstate 90 which Brother Magpie¹² referenced in his unsolicited, untainted and unimpeachable recollection of his memory of the Van Shoulder Episode penned a full decade ago, and long before this scribe became aware that there was even a controversy about the Toronto to Cleveland position.*

News-Journal (Mansfield, Ohio) · Sun, Apr 5, 1992 · Page 10

Road projects on the road to anywhere

There are plenty of resurfacing and bridge projects on the road to anywhere in Ohio this spring and summer.

In the Cleveland area, there will be work on some Interstate 71 bridges and on the **Interstate 90 bridge over the Rocky River**. Repaving will take place on I-90 west of Cleveland near Bay Village and east of the downtown from Ohio 283 east to Wickliffe. Most work should be done by the end of June.

A particular headache, according to Michelle Rafferty of the Ohio Department of Transportation, may be bridge work on I-90 at **Babbitt Road, East 260th, East 222nd and Lakewood Boulevard**. Those projects could add incentive to take the Interstate-271 bypass around Cleveland on the way to Buffalo and Canada.

For drivers headed south on I-71, a major repaving project is under way below Columbus between Ohio 56 in Madison County and Ohio 41 in Fayette County. The 10-mile long job won't be done until mid-November.

For the last two summers, Columbus has been a no-man's land for interstate drivers. While conditions will be better this summer, some work is planned, according to Ms. Rafferty.

Work on widening a bridge will reduce I-71 to two lanes of traffic each way between I-270 and Polaris Parkway on the city's far north side.

Traffic on the I-270 bypass will be restricted in early spring east of the High Street exit for bridge painting.

Drivers headed east for Wheeling on Interstate 270 will run into construction between Hamilton Road and Interstate 70 starting in August.

Inside Columbus, I-70 has three construction projects already under way between Third Street and Cleveland Avenue, between Cleveland Avenue and I-71 and between I-71 and Ohio 315. Traffic will be maintained and work should be done by fall.

Drivers going west on I-70 toward Indiana will run into a long resurfacing project in Clark County near Springfield that will narrow the traffic lanes.

Going east on I-70 toward Wheeling, major work on the interstate will begin in July in Zanesville.

CLOSING ARGUMENT

And so, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have all of the evidence that you need to dispense of this trifling matter in a New York minute, because it has been proven not by

¹² Gawd, I love this man.

a preponderance of the evidence, not by clear and convincing evidence, but by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that the Van Shoulder Episode took place not in Hey Hoser Land, but right here in the good old US of A, just outside Cleveland, on the then-under reconstruction of Interstate 90.

Your Proponent rests.

**NEXT TRIAL:
THE CASE OF THE TRESPASSING HSL DRAFTERS¹³**

A LIFE WELL LIVED

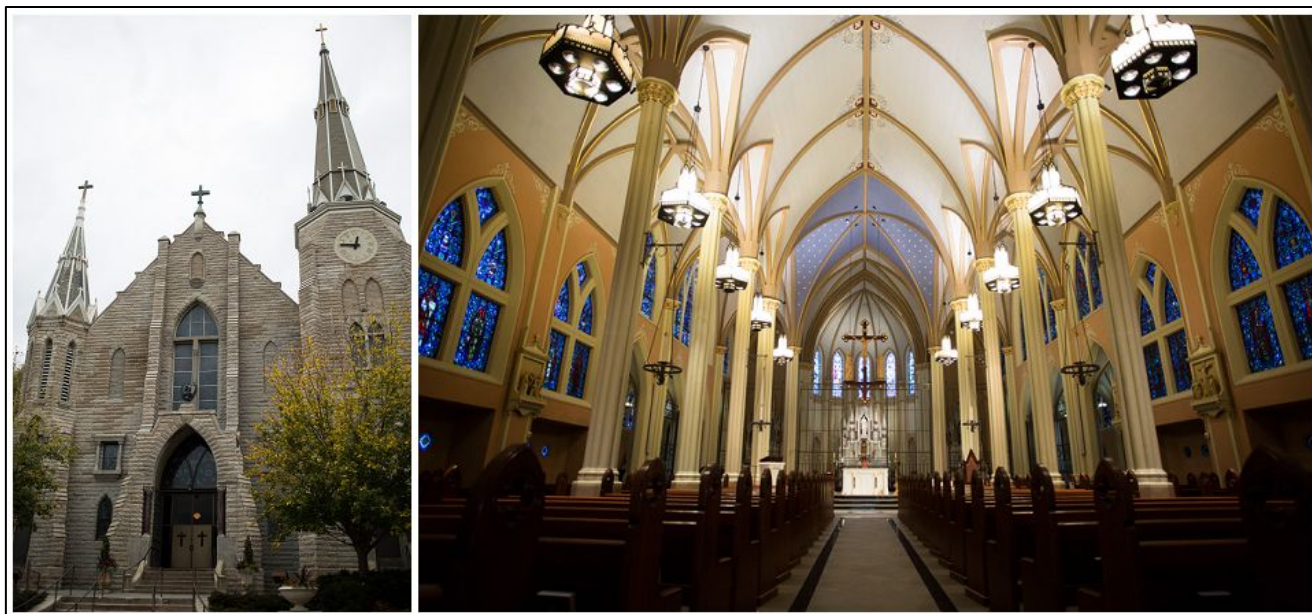


Dr. Henry Thompson Lynch
January 4, 1928 - June 2, 2019

On Monday last I went to the memorial service for Dr. Henry Thompson Lynch, whose passing was mentioned in a recent issue of *From the Bullpen*. The memorial celebration was held at St. John's Cathedral on the Creighton campus, where Henry was reportedly a frequent visitor.

¹³ The ongoing debate (really? Is there one?) about whether the original Hot Stove League Draft in 1985 happened in Skipper's then-current apartment on North 109th Plaza (where he was living at that time) or whether the three original draftsmen decided to trespass onto the property where he previously resided, months earlier, and hold the Draft there, as per the magical, mystical, perhaps soon-to-be mythical mental imprinting ability of Brother Faux Kreskin, er, Drews.





The beautiful and immense cathedral was packed with family, friends, patients, colleagues, collaborators and caregivers, a staggering number of attendees given Henry's age of 91 when he passed.

A proud Irishman, the service began and ended with the singing of "Oh Danny Boy," which perfectly set the tone for the service. Tears. Between the words of the chief celebrant, Father James Clifton, S.J., who knew Henry for almost thirty years, and the primary non-clerical eulogist, the Dean of the Creighton University Medical School, Dr. Robert W. Dunlay, who knew Henry very well for a long number of years, a few of the stories and comments worth passing along are as follows:

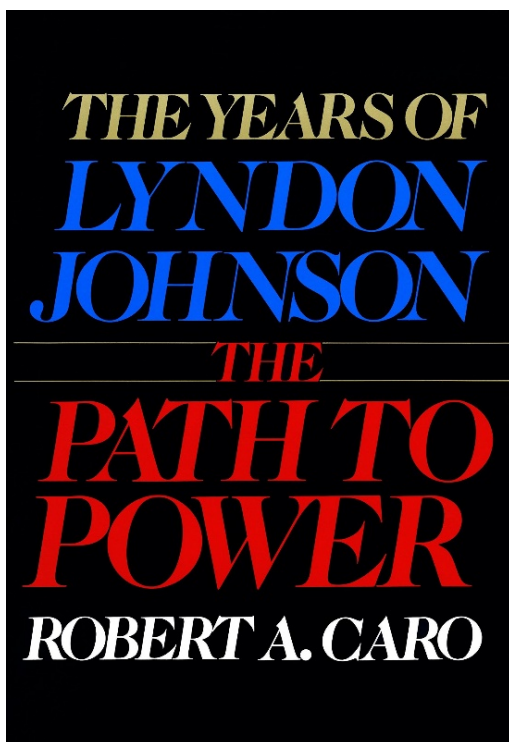
- Dr. Lynch was the chairman of Creighton University's Department of Preventive Medicine for *more than fifty years*, the chair of the department for more than half a century. Try to wrap your head around that.
- After his beloved wife Jane, the mother of their three children and his chief research collaborator for the lion's share of their 60+ year-old marriage, passed away seven years ago, Dr. Lynch was in personal despair. After a series of significant medical issues reduced him to being on a kidney machine to stay alive for a prolonged period of time, his personal physician and good friend told him that his God, his family, and his friends would all understand if he decided that it was time to stop

the “extraordinary measure” of remaining on a kidney machine, and that if he wanted to be removed from it so that he could peacefully pass on and join his wife Jane in the hereafter, Dr. Dunlay would gladly write the medical order for it. Henry’s response, according to Dr. Dunlay, was, “Don’t even think about it, Bob. I’ve got way too much work yet to do.” Amazing. And indeed, he worked for three or four more years after that episode, publishing several new articles on hereditary cancer and lecturing at several different symposiums.

- When he first began writing and lecturing about his work on hereditary cancer thirty or forty years ago, espousing the concept that some cancers may be inherited and therefore potentially preventable, his views were considered *heretical*. He was reportedly scorned and ridiculed by many of his colleagues who were so-called experts in the field. Only through his tenacity while researching familial cancers by painstakingly and methodically constructing family pedigrees and tirelessly researching the subject was he able to eventually change minds. One speaker said that “*Good Scientists Expand Our Knowledge,*” but that “*Great Scientists Change the Way We Look at Things.*”
- Dr. Dunlay remarked that Henry had the unique ability to connect with and communicate to his patients some very complicated medical information and concepts, which he said was “a gift not possessed by many *brilliant* scientists.”
- Father Clifton talked about the Henry Lynch Symposium that was hosted by Creighton University in 2015, in which many esteemed scientists came to Omaha from all around the globe *at their own expense*, likening the event to a *Beatles Reunion*.
- Dr. Dunlay said that recently he sat down with Dr. Lynch and they agreed that because Dr. Lynch was not “immortal,” they would need to lay the groundwork for a succession plan, to which Henry readily agreed. However, even as part of the transition, just last year Dr. Lynch laid out his own “ten-year plan” of research, so it is clear that he did not intend to be rushed into the transition of retirement.

- Father Clifton told us that in all of his interactions with Dr. Lynch, Henry was unbelievably referential to him and to the other priests at Creighton University, and that possibly he was one of the most self-effacing and humble men that he had ever met. He called him a “man of great faith, piety and humility,” who saw no conflict between his science and his faith. Beautiful words about a beautiful human being. A true hero.

BOOK REPORT:
PATH TO POWER
By Robert A. Caro
Random House 1981

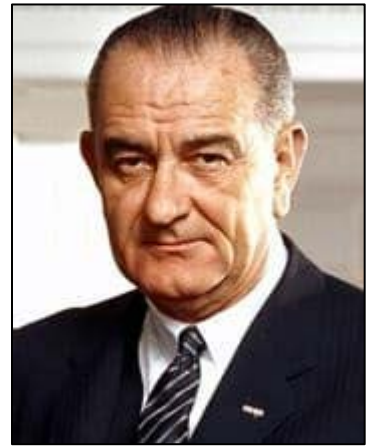


I recently finished the first volume of Robert Caro's eventual four tome masterpiece on the life of Lyndon Baines Johnson, our 36th president. The first volume, entitled *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power*, is probably the most meticulously researched book I have ever read. Caro and his wife--both New Yorkers--moved to the hill country of Texas (west of Austin) for three years so that they could gain the trust of and get to know the poor, plain folk who lived in the town (Johnson City) and area where LBJ lived his formative years. They then moved to Washington, D.C. for four years for research on LBJ's early experiences there, first as a congressman's secretary, and then as a young congressman.

The book details in mesmerizing fashion the rags-to-riches-to-rags lives of LBJ's forebearers, including his grandfather Samuel Ealy Johnson Sr. and his father Samuel Jr., and how the failures of his father and grandfather fueled LBJ's fierce ambition and drive to succeed. From a very young age, LBJ set his sights on nothing less than the highest office of the United States, and worked tirelessly and ruthlessly to ascend the treacherous climb to the presidency.



In a very detailed and factual way--without an ounce of salaciousness, and without sounding judgmental or inclined toward criticism--Caro makes a very convincing case that Johnson was a frequent, almost pathological liar, unlike any president we have seen since Richard Milhous Nixon.¹⁴ In addition, he was calculating, scheming, manipu-



lative and mendacious. As a husband to Lady Bird, he was demanding and dominant, as well as disloyal. In spite of his ungainly features (huge ears and nose) and his oft-displayed vulgarity, women were drawn to his power, and he was a well-known womanizer throughout his marriage to Bird.



¹⁴ Present White House occupant excluded.





At 762 pages, the book is a commitment and somewhat intimidating to start, but once one is through the introduction, it is a highly readable page-turner that does an amazing job of holding the reader's attention.



Caro previously won the Pulitzer Prize for his treasured biography about Robert Moses, *The Power Broker*. I haven't read that book yet, but if it's anything like *The Path to Power*, it is a must-read, along with the remaining tomes about LBJ: *The Means of Ascent* (1990); *The Master of the Senate* (2002); and *The Passage of Power* (2012).

As I mentioned to a couple of you on the Trip, *The Path to Power* may be the best book I've ever read. If any of you want to borrow my copy, let me know and I would be happy to oblige.

* * * * *

That will cover it for this issue, except to say Happy Trails to all.

Skipper