

J.W.J.

Pete Rose doesn't deserve Hall of Fame

By J.W. JOHNSON

With the World Series, America once again renews its love affair with baseball, a game described by former commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti this way:

"Baseball is counterpoint: stability vying with volatility, tradition with the quest for a new edge, ancient rhythms and every-new blood—an oft told tale, repeated in every game in every season, season after season. Repetition within immutable lines and rules.

"And if this is the tale told, who tells it? Clearly the players who enact it thereby also tell it. But the other true tellers of the narrative are those for whom it is played. If baseball is a narrative, an epic of exile and return (to home plate), a vast, communal poem about separation, loss, and the hope for reunion—if baseball is a Romantic epic—it is finally told by its audience. It is the Romance epic of homecoming America singing to itself."

Would that the singing not now also find itself with the sour notes of unearned million dollar salaries, drugs and gambling, specifically and undoubtedly, a renewed debate over Pete Rose.

Pete Rose, the living baseball legend—who had in excess of 3,000 more at-bats—but who nonetheless broke Ty Cobb's all-time hit record, is now a convicted felon.

A federal district judge sentenced Rose to five months in prison, a year of supervised release—three months of which he spent in a halfway house—1,000 hours of community service with Cincinnati's inner city kids, and a \$50,000 fine.

You may remember 1989 when the city of Cincinnati, and baseball in general, was subjected to almost daily revelations about Rose's gambling while he was manager of the Cincinnati Reds.

Gambling and sports, particularly and historically baseball, are supposed to be like oil and water. This has been true since the 1919 Black Sox scandal, during which eight members of the Black Sox team were found to have thrown the World Series that year in exchange for money from a known gambler. Since then, and to preserve the game's integrity, baseball has had an unrelenting

hatred for gamblers. The rules are simple:

—if you bet on a baseball game in which you have no duty to perform, you are suspended for one year from the game.

—if you bet on a baseball game in which you have a duty to perform, you are banned from the game of life.

Short and sweet. Of course, we'll never know with absolute certainty if Rose bet on baseball, or bet on his own team. Those facts were permanently buried with the settlement reached between Rose and baseball in which he accepted a lifetime ban from the game. He accepted the ban in exchange for sealing of the information which led to the initial gambling investigation.

Cynics would say that Rose accepted the ban so that his place in the Hall of Game would be insured. However, his incarceration wasn't because he bet on baseball—something which he continues to deny—(by the way, I'm really the King of Holland here in the U.S. on extended vacation), but rather because Rose cheated on his income taxes. He did so with the arrogance born of acclaim and, because of his gambling addiction, he was caught.

Beyond feeling empathy for Rose's family, uppermost in the minds of baseball fans is: Should Pete Rose be inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame? Some say no, based on his banishment from baseball and his now being a convicted felon. Rose has denied betting on baseball. However, and aside from lifetime banishment, his incarceration has once again raised the specter of Rose's possible exclusion from the Hall.

And now that the Hall of Fame committee has voted to keep banished members from the ballot, the issue is likely to continue festering.

Members of the Baseball Writers' Association cast the ballots. A casual glance shows that, in addition to statistics, subjective criteria is often used to elect Hall members...or to deny election.

For example, subjectivity is clearly illustrated in the election of the Tinkers to Evers to Chance double play combination. These men were, statistically, average baseball players at best, and

players now in the Hall primarily on the popularity of a poem and song written about them while they played.

So while statistics help, a major media presence is often the deciding factor. It should be stated that, based on Rose's numbers, he obviously belongs in the Hall. However, former Yankee shortstop, Phil Rizzuto also has Hall numbers AND media presence, but he can't get in because sportswriters don't like Yankee's principal owner George Steinbrenner. And Rizzuto's legendary arrogance.

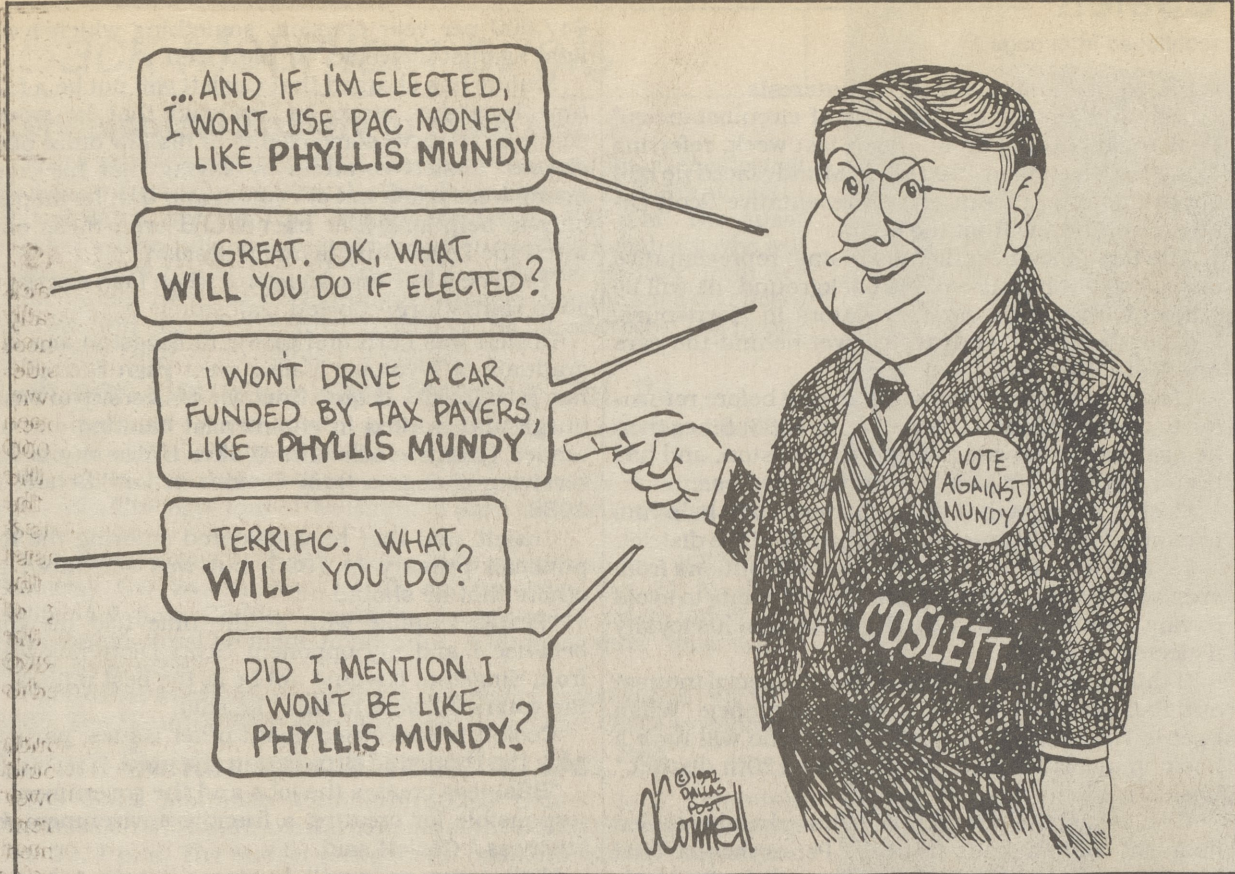
Beyond the obvious statistics, and in part because of the larger-than-life presence bestowed upon anyone who succeeds at something during the novelty of its infancy, it's clear that Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb were also elected despite Ruth being a flagrant womanizer, and Cobb being an avowed racist and admittedly 'dirty' player. Because of the aforementioned larger-than-life presence of these men, in concert with some awesome statistics, those shortcomings were ignored (not to mention acceptable then) and both men were among the first inductees in 1939.

In all of the cited cases, negative or positive subjectivity was part of the thought process which now finds these men in the Hall of Fame. The point is that subjectivity—as opposed to the objectivity of purely statistics—has already been established as the modus operandi for election to the Hall. All of this goes to show that election is a confusing mix of opinion, statistics and subject to what scientists call the pattern of chaos.

In keeping with this already established subjectivity, election to the Hall of Fame should continue to be based on more than just statistics. What an athlete does outside of the game, and as that provides an example for American youth and protects the game, should also be figured into the mix.

As such, and just as, subjectively, Tinker, Evers and Chance were elected to the Hall, (and statistically superb Shoeless Joe Jackson of the 1919 Black Sox was subjectively denied election), perhaps Rose should also be subjectively denied election.

And to show my subjectivity, Rose's numbers clearly say he should be in the Hall of Fame. His character says no.



Old photos featured in "The Dallas Post"

The Dallas Post will be sharing with readers some of the old photos in our files. There was a wide response to the last old photo published and it ended up in a historical museum of the United Methodist Church.

This photo appears to be a school photo, what school and the location we don't know, do you? Tell us! We do have names that many families may identify with and we also think it was taken in 1904-05. If you can tell us more, we'll share it with everyone.

Pictured, from left 1st row, Russell Ide, Grace Meeker, Rita Doty, Mona Brundle, Azora Whitesell, Anna Doran, Lida Rogers, Milton Shaver.

2nd row, Arthur Meeker, George Neely.

3rd row, Roy Rogers, Ruth Elston, Mary Butler, Mattie Johnson, Clifford Frantz, Bessie Butler, Ralph Mekeel, Edna Nulton.

4th row, Inez Hadsal, Louise Major, Glenn Miller, Ruth Parks, Ethel Hadsal, Raymond Searfoss, Mary Ferguson, Helen Butler, Oliver Mekeel.

5th row, Evelyn Johnson, Lulu Whitesell, Kathleen Major, Lena Major, Maude Gregory, Kate Doran, Mamie Johnson, Harry Croop, Lloyd Elston.

6th row, Sadie Shaver, A.E. Lewis, teacher; Mame Henrich.

Animal rights group will get legislative update

Johnna L. Seeton, of the Pennsylvania Legislative Animal Network (P.L.A.N.) will be the special guest speaker at the Justice For Animals, Inc. bimonthly meeting, October 27, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the C.W. Schultz & Son meeting room, 185 North Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Wilkes-Barre. The film Animal Rights: The Issues will be shown.

There will be a question/answer period following the presentation. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information call 696-2954 or 693-6134.

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES PHYLLIS MUNDY

Clean air. Clean water. A safe environment for your family and all the other living things on the planet.

Protecting these things requires that we win a constant stream of large and small battles - many of them fought in the Pennsylvania General Assembly where the laws that prevent - or permit - environmental degradation are made.

In 1990 the Sierra Club endorsed Phyllis Mundy because we believed that she would support a clean environment for the citizens of Pennsylvania and the 120th District. She has done exactly that. That's why the Sierra Club supports Rep. Phyllis Mundy's 1992 reelection effort and hopes that you'll return this pro-environment legislator to office.

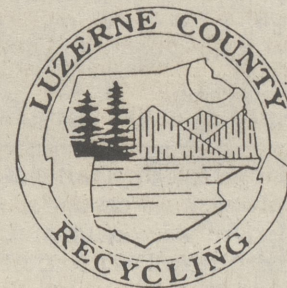
Clean air. Clean water. Keep Phyllis Mundy as your representative in Harrisburg.

Remember: To keep Rep. Mundy in office, you have to vote for her on Election Day, November 3, 1992.



Sierra Club

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PLEASE HELP RECYCLING WORK
October Is 'Recycling Month'
In Pennsylvania

During this time, we are asking you to take an active part in recycling and purchasing goods made with recycled products.

A few steps to ensure proper recycling techniques are as easy as A-B-C

- A - AVOID CONTAMINATION - Please ensure that the items you recycle are recyclable. This helps to eliminate contamination and allows for a smoother flow to the recycling process.
- B - BUY RECYCLED - Please buy products made with recycled or post consumer content. This helps to complete the recycling process.
- C - CARE for your environment and help preserve it. Do your part - RECYCLE and BUY RECYCLED.

For Additional Information, call:

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