

20th Century

Phillies by the Numbers

**You can't tell the players
without a scorecard**



***Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the first
Phillies NL Pennant – 1915
A fan's recollections***

Ted Taylor

Ted Taylor

20th Century Phillies By The Numbers

You can't tell the players without a scorecard

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This is a work of research and recollection. The facts, as near as possible, are accurate, the recollections are only as good as the writer can recall them.

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**Research, Philadelphia Phillies National League baseball club
Recollection, The memories of “The Glenside Kid” (Ted
Taylor)**

Cover adapted by Cynthia M. Taylor

Photos come from the author's extensive baseball card collection, pictures in Public Domain, scrapbooks and other stuff he came across.

***Critic John Shiffert's review of Ted's
"Ultimate Philadelphia Athletics
Reference Book" ...***

To the uninitiated, reviewing a reference book, like reading a reference book, might seem as exciting as either watching paint dry or spectating a long-distance bike race (which typically seems to involve 99 percent of the contestants riding in one huge pack for 99 percent of the race, after which everyone sprints like mad for the finish.) However, that's not the case with Henry R. "Ted" Taylor's most recent reference work on "his" team, the Philadelphia Athletics. Following on the heels of his equally entertaining "The Philadelphia Athletics by the Numbers," this next chapter in Taylor's campaign to keep alive the memory of the City of Brotherly Love's most interesting professional sports franchise, "The Ultimate Philadelphia Athletics Reference Book" (Xlibris Corp., ISBN 978-1-4500-2571-3, 457 pages, \$23.99, www.Xlibris.com) is another example of how yeoman research, combined with a true love of your subject, can produce a compendium as interesting as its namesake.

Briefly recapping Taylor's credentials in terms of his status to both write and subsequently entitle such a book... ***for the past 35 years or so, Taylor has been as important a name in Philadelphia baseball as***

Ted Taylor

Larry Shenk, Bill Giles, Whitey Ashburn, Harry Kalas, Ruly Carpenter, Allen Lewis, Jayson Stark or anyone else you care to list who hasn't officially worn a uniform. A nationally- respected authority on baseball cards and memorabilia, a former college (Ursinus and Spring Garden) baseball coach, a widely-read baseball columnist, an even more widely-read author, the co-founder of the first Philadelphia area baseball card show, the owner of the first Philadelphia area baseball card store, the host of a nationally-syndicated collectibles radio show, an expert witness in the anti-trust lawsuit against Topps, a vice president of two baseball card companies, the founding president of the Philadelphia Athletics Historical Society... well, you get the picture. Ted Taylor has been involved in Philly area baseball in just about every way possible, and that includes as an infielder at Millersville State (as it says on his baseball card), and, prior to that, on the sandlots of Cheltenham Township, where he'd sometimes let a young kid named R. Jackson into the game.

So, yes, Ted Taylor is well-qualified to discuss the subject at hand, the team he rooted passionately for up until the time they left town, when he was 13 years old. That was 56 years ago. And yet, the Philadelphia Athletics still live on, even in the minds of those of us who are too young to remember them directly as a franchise that reached the absolute pinnacle of major league baseball not once, but twice, and that also fielded awful teams featuring the likes of Squiz Pillion, Steve Gerkin, Bruno Haas and Lynn "Line Drive" Nelson.

Books by Ted Taylor

Card Collecting/Food

Baseball Cards – 300 All-Time Stars

The Official Baseball Card Collecting Handbook

100 Years & 100 Recipes

(The Story of Ralph's Italian Restaurant)

The Philadelphia Athletics Trilogy

The Philadelphia Athletics by the Numbers

*The Ultimate Philadelphia Athletics Reference Book,
1901-1954*

*The Duke of Milwaukee, the Life & Times of Al
Simmons*

Autobiographical Novel

The Glenside Kid

Textbooks

Ted Taylor

Introduction to Mass Communications, 4th edition

Introduction to Public Relations, 4th edition

Creative Writing, 4th edition

Checklist Book

*Phillies Baseball Card & Memorabilia Checklist Book
(1979)*

This Book is dedicated to my wife Cindy

***Also to My Mom (Helen)
& Two Dads (Jack & Ernie)...
Who taught me to love baseball***

***Also to Del Ennis and the *Phillies*,
they always tried***

Ted Taylor

Sometimes the Good Guys win..

Baseball was special
To a little kid like me
I loved the things it taught us
In the land where we are free.

My parents both loved sports,
They passed that to their son
When my English Dad played soccer
The good guys always won.

Our hometown had two baseball teams
The Phils last won in '15 and the A's in '31
As a kid neither one was all that hot -
And good guys seldom won.

And then in Nineteen Fifty
Lightning Struck our town,
Whitey, Del and Robbie saw to it -
That the good guys won the crown.

They won the NL flag that year
And we were keeping score,
But DiMaggio and his pals said "you're done" -
And our good guys won no more.

Ted Taylor

It was 1980, 30 years later
I was there for the last game of ball,
When Pete and Tugger closed the deal -
The good guys won it all.

Baseball is America
We try and try and try
And sometimes it goes our way -
And sometimes we only cry.

But teamwork is what it teaches,
A lesson sound and true
For a longtime little kid like me
I say "Baseball I love you".

- Ted Taylor

Contents

Prologue -	xiii
Chapter 1 – Pick a number, any number	1
Chapter 2 – The Phillies and the A's	11
Chapter 3 – Phillies Hall of Famers	21
Chapter 4 – The “Skippers”	37
Chapter 5 – Phillies in the Post Season.....	51
Chapter 6 – Player Profiles (A-J)	77
Chapter 7 – Player Profiles (K-Z)	123
Chapter 8 – Unlisted Numbers.....	179
Chapter 9 – The Front Office	187
Chapter 10 – About the Phils	205
Chapter 11 – Strictly by the numbers	209
Chapter 12 – The Lineup Evolve.....	229
Chapter 13 – Player Awards	247
Chapter 14 – The Phils Trade That Changed.....	253
Baseball	
Chapter 15 – They Took My Team Away.....	261
Chapter 16 – The Phillies new stadium was almost in the suburbs	267
Chapter 17 – Cy Williams, Dick Allen, Del Ennis, Why the Hall Not?	271
Chapter 18 – Philadelphia's Third Big League Team	277
About the Author	297
Postscript	301

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	H	O	A	E
4	WAITKUS	IF	Yost Base											
1	ASHBURN	of	Center Field											
6	JONES	IF	Third Base											
14	ENNIS	of	Left Field											
8	SISLER	of	Shortstop											
15	MAYOR	of	Shortstop											
2	HAMMER	IF	Shortstop											
21	SEMINICK	c	Shortstop											
22	LOPATKA	c	Shortstop											
9	GOLIAT	IF	Third Base											
19	MILLER	P	Third Base											
18	MEYER	P	Third Base											
16	CONWAY	P	Third Base											
23	ASHBURN	K. P	Third Base											
25	KONSTANTY	P	Third Base											
2	CABALLERO	IF	Third Base											
17	ROBERTS	P	Third Base											
11	BRINGOLD	IF	Third Base											
12	ROBERTSON	IF	Third Base											
13	BRINGOLD	IF	Third Base											
24	SIMMONS	P	Third Base											
21	PERKINS	IF	Third Base											
22	COOPER	IF	Third Base											
40	MCINNIS	IF	Third Base											
46	ROBERTS	P	Third Base											
38	MAHARAY	IF	Third Base											
40	MCINNIS	IF	Third Base											

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Center Lineup Page from 1950 Phils Scorecard

Vs. Brooklyn Dodgers

Prologue

This book, it took almost four years of writing and research, is being released in 2015 in homage to and in celebration of the first pennant won by the Philadelphia Phillies – exactly 100 years ago. And it's not like they've won a lot of them. The other four of the five won in the 20th Century came in my lifetime (1950, 1980, 1983, 1993). I write this book in the persona of “The Glenside Kid” and my reflections of growing up in the mid-20th Century. In my 2011 autobiographical novel I looked at the world through my own eyes – I reflect on the Phillies and baseball, in this book, with those very same eyes.

As a young boy I had two teams to root for (until I was 14). The American League Athletics, the National League Phillies. There was always a ball game in town – 154 of them. When going to Shibe Park the first thing most fans did upon entering the stadium was to buy a scorecard – after all, you couldn't tell who the players were without one. I would diligently score each game – as if that really meant anything – and it was important to me to get it right. Ball player's numbers always fascinated me. Why was Richie Ashburn, an outfielder, #1 on the Phillies while Eddie Joost, a shortstop, wore that number for the A's? At some point I must have realized that numbers were more of a personal preference thing than what they were originally

Ted Taylor

intended to be, the positions in the batting order (it's why Babe Ruth wore #3 and Lou Gehrig #4).

As founding President of the Philadelphia Athletics Historical Society (in 1995) I took my lifelong fascination with uniform numbers to the next level and began researching all the numbers worn by the A's players between 1931 and 1954. It was a task that would take me many years to complete (though I must admit I did it "off and on" and got a lot of help from my friends).

But in 2009 the time had come and I published *The Philadelphia Athletics by the numbers – Let's give Skeeter #2*. The book was a success and led to the seminal work of my research career (up to that time), the 457-page *Ultimate Philadelphia Athletics Research Book – 1901-1954*.

While doing book signings (at such places at Citizen's Bank Park, Barnes & Noble, numerous book shops and sports-collectibles events) the same question kept popping up "when are you going to do a 'Phillies by the numbers' book? And my answer was, always, "The Phillies are a work in progress, the A's were finished". But, soon, even I didn't believe that.

After much soul-searching I decided to do a definitive Phillies by the numbers book, but limit it to the 20th Century, actually the period from 1932, when they first wore numbers, to 1999 the last year of the 100-year-window. The players that I'll focus on in this work will mostly be the ones that wore a numbered jersey – the

20th Century Phillies by the Numbers

group from 1900-to-1932 will get some space, but no in-depth, individual mention. It was a monster-sized task and one that, at times, I thought I'd never finish. The A's numbers book spanned 1931-54, the Phillies covered 1932 to 1999 – almost three times as many years, and a like number more players.

That's a lot of research – and much of it quite daunting. As with the Athletics, players came and went, that happens to bad teams and the Phillies had their share of clunkers. Some of the players came and went so fast that no one ever bothered recording their uniform digits. One pinch-running appearance, one at-bat, one-third of an inning on the mound and the player qualifies. There are, indeed, players from the era of numbers that won't have a number in this book.

Another thing we noticed was that - especially between 1932 and 1950 - players didn't seem all that focused on what number they would wear. Maybe, like when I played for the Glenside Midgets back in the 1950's, it was more about what uniform jersey fit best rather than what the number was on the back.

Hall of Famer Chuck Klein wore so many different numbers that when it came time to retire his number they had no idea of which one to retire. I got a call, many years ago; from Phillies PR Director, Larry Shenk (and fellow Millersville U. alumnus) asking if I knew what number Klein wore. My research turned up the fact that the Hall of Famer wore a lot of different numbers, six to be exact – and they couldn't come up with one he was really identified with, so they didn't

Ted Taylor

retire any of his, they just put his name up as being a “retired” number. Oddly enough during his career he wore two numbers that were retired for someone else (#1, #36). (I guess that means no one named Chuck Klein can ever play for them again. They did the same for Grover Cleveland Alexander, but he played in the era before numbers were even worn.)

Another Hall of Famer, Robin Roberts, ended up with #36 because, when he was recalled in mid-season 1948, the guy who was released to make room for the Michigan Stater wore that number and, when they met in the locker room, one coming, one going, the departing hurler (Nick Strincevich) tossed him the jersey and said “I hope you have more luck with this than I did.”

And that’s pretty much what we found. No rhyme, no reason for numbers. In this book, you’ll find all the players from 1932 to 1999 in rough alpha/year order and what number(s) they wore. And lots of them wore several. There’s even a well-used, often published, photo of Richie Ashburn wearing, what appears to be, number 9 on his back (taken in 1948 at Spring Training) – yet no record exists that he ever wore that number in a real (or even exhibition) game. Best guess is that a photographer needed a photo of the rookie outfielder, grabbed a jersey, tossed it to Whitey, and took the shot. Infielder Emil Verban wore #9 in 1948. I wish I’d have asked Rich that on one of the several occasions I was with him.

20th Century Phillies by the Numbers

A book just about numbers, while valuable as a research piece, lacks a certain amount of soul. Parts of this book will be from the perspective of “The Glenside Kid” (me) who, as a fan, hobbyist, sportswriter/columnist (*Daily News*, *Sports Collector’s Digest*, *Montgomery Media*), show promoter, radio sportscaster and card company executive, was lucky enough to meet and spend time with many of my idols.

This book, therefore, will be unlike most research books because when I have a story to tell or a recollection to share of something I’ve heard or known about a player, I will weave it in to the body of this work. Since many liked the way “The Glenside Kid” approached growing up, hopefully you’ll like the way he enjoyed baseball growing up (and as a grown up), too.

I have also included a chapter (18) on the Negro League Philadelphia Stars. I regret that I never saw them, knowing that I missed seeing some of the great players of the sport. As many as I could, I have listed players and brief bios of many of them, 1934-52.

Sit back, grab a bag of popcorn and a coke or, maybe, a beer, and let’s go to the ballgame – remember, you can’t tell the players without a scorecard.

The Glenside Kid....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bayler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chapter 1

Pick a Number, any number

The Phillies first wore uniform numbers (along with the rest of the National League) sometime in June, 1932. The American League teams had been alternately using, then not using, numbers for a few years but started requiring them in 1931. In Philadelphia Connie Mack's American League team would only wear them on the road until 1937 – when they wore them at home, too. In his own bizarre way of thinking Mr. Mack (always thrifty) felt that numbers would eliminate the need for a scorecard and, hence, reduce revenue. Clearly it was the other way around.

It is reported that the 1883 Cincinnati Red Stockings were the first team to wear numbers and wore them on their sleeves to help fans identify the players. The idea didn't take hold and they soon abandoned the practice. In 1911 the Cleveland Indians used letters to designate players, i.e., "Now batting #A Nap Lajoie" (a one-time Phillie, pictured, left in his T-206 card from that era.). This idea was so confusing that they quickly dropped it. In 1916 the Indians tried numbers on their sleeves, starting in mid-July, but only on their



Lajoie Cleveland

Ted Taylor

home uniforms. It is said they also tried the idea again in 1917, though no real evidence of that exists.

The popular baseball publication of the early part of the 20th Century *Sporting Life* wrote an editorial in 1916 advocating the use of uniform numbers. They pointed out that football teams were wearing them and their use would be helpful to the fans.

The 1923 St. Louis Cardinals wore numbers on their home uniforms only (on the sleeves) and also did so in 1924, again just on their home whites. This apparently lasted another season or two but was deemed a failure when none of the fans seemed to take notice.

The 1929 Yankees wore numbers on both their home and away jerseys, as did the Cleveland Indians and on May 13, 1929 when the Yankees visited Cleveland it marked the first time that both teams took the field wearing uniform numbers.

By 1930 the Washington Senators were also wearing numbers but, inexplicably, the Indians gave up on the idea, after beginning the season with numbers.

In 1931 American League President Ernest S. Barnard decreed that all teams in his loop should wear numbers. He suggested the numbering be as follows: The “regulars”, i.e., the starting fielders wear numbers 1 thru 7. Catchers should wear 8-11, pitchers 12-24 and the utility players wear the rest. The use of #13,

20th Century Phillies by the Numbers

Barnard suggested, be left to the discretion of each team.

When the '32 National League season began, only the Boston Braves wore digits on their jerseys. It wasn't until June until all the teams wore them following a special owners meeting. (As a result of that, some players seeing action that season pre-June, never had a number.)

Trying to come up with Phillies numbers, especially in the early days, was a challenge. First you'd get the season-end stats, then you'd try to find numbers to match against those players in the usual spots and, failing that, you got creative. Some few, mostly obscure, players defied the odds and will appear, later, in the "unlisted numbers" section.



Only 20 men ever wore #1 for the Phils, now retired in honor of Richie Ashburn. The first to wear it was an outfielder named

Kiddo Davis (1932), the last, another outfielder, Jose Cardenal (1978-79) right before it was retired. One man, Mitch Williams, wore #99 (1993), another, Omar

Ted Taylor

Olivares, wore #00 (1995). Every number between 1 and 62 was worn at least once. No one ever wore #63, but pitcher Gary Wagner wore #64 in 1965.

Multiple numbers were common. Hall of Famer Chuck Klein wore the following – 1, 3, 8, 26, 29 and 36. Ironically two of the numbers would be retired but not for him. Other multiple wearers included Bobby Wine (1, 7, 13, 42); John Boozar, a pitcher (19, 21, 28, 29, 42), Benny Culp, a catcher (2, 20, 23, 25, 29, 31); Bob Dernier, outfielder (22, 24, 29, 30); Frank Hoerst, pitcher (8, 11, 14, 22, 34); Andy Karl, pitcher (3, 6, 11, 23, 28, 33, 44); Hans Lobert, coach and manager (1, 2, 25, 50); Danny Litwhiler, outfielder (4, 7, 11, 28, 31); Hal Marnie, infielder (7, 9, 15, 18, 24); Brad Moore, pitcher (37, 38, 46, 48); Ron Northey, outfielder (4, 14, 26, 30, 33); Lou Possehl, pitcher (12, 16, 29, 37, 39, 41); Steve Ridzik, pitcher (20, 27, 37, 42); Andy Seminick, catcher and coach (2, 15, 21, 24, 48); Rick Wise, pitcher (18, 28, 38, 62) and the two men who wore more numbers, seven, than any other Phillie were Granny Hamner, Whiz Kids era infielder and onetime pitcher (1, 2, 6, 17, 21, 33, 37); and the beloved John Vuckovich, infielder and coach (3, 7, 18, 22, 26, 28, 30).

Retired Numbers

The Phillies have retired five numbers, yet honored seven players. The numbers, 1, 14, 20, 32 and 36 – plus Chuck Klein (who wore many) and Grover Cleveland Alexander (who never wore any). They also (along with the rest of baseball) retired Jackie

20th Century Phillies by the Numbers

Robinson's #42. I get then symbolism, but don't particularly like the idea because no one who ever wore #42 for the Phillies deserved to have the uniform retired. Hugh "Losing Pitcher" Mulcahy wore it in 1937, Pitchers Ron Reed (eight seasons), Jack Meyer and Don Carman (seven each) wore it the longest.

But before we go any further let me state that I take issue with their retirement of #14. Not that the number shouldn't be retired but that they did so to honor Jim Bunning – and not Del Ennis, the man who owned the number for a lot of productive seasons. This is not new, my unhappiness with this retirement has been voiced in my *Philadelphia Daily News* columns, my internet blog at *TedSilary.com* and in letters and e-mails (mostly ignored) to the Phillies.

Jim Bunning was in my opinion not a great pitcher – he was a better-than-average, really pretty good, pitcher. He pitched for the Phillies 1964-67 and then, again, in the twilight of his career 1970-71. In his first tour he won 19 games three times, 17 once. In his second tour he won 15 more. That's 89 wins. Who retires a number a pitcher wore and then won just 89 games? Other Phillies pitchers have done more than that – Chris Short won 132, Curt Simmons won 115 for example. Bunning's career numbers with the Tigers, Phillies and Pirates show just 224 wins (pretty low for the Hall), against 184 losses, a no-hitter in each league, and a 3.27 ERA. Go figure.

What did the Phillies win while Bunning was the acknowledged ace of their staff? Nothing, that's what.

Ted Taylor

They got close in 1964, but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades. Is it possible that they retired his number because he pitched a perfect game on Father's Day in 1964? That being the case, it's only a matter of time (now that he's retired) that Roy Halladay's number gets retired (and he's a better pitcher by any standard). I personally have doubts they'll do it.



If they had a burning desire to retire #14, then they should have done it for homegrown star Del Ennis. **(Pictured left on his 1951 Bowman Baseball Card, #4)** Born and raised in the Olney section of the city, Del was the power in the Phillies lineup for over a decade (1946-56). The Whiz Kids don't win the 1950 pennant without Del's .311 batting average, his 31 homers and league leading 126 RBI's. His

career stats are pretty good too. In 14 seasons (Cards, Reds, White Sox) he batted .286 with 288 homeruns and 1,284 RBI's. There are players in the Hall of Fame that wish they had those numbers.

Perhaps if Pete Rose, the catalyst for the 1980 World's Championship, hadn't shot himself in the foot with his arrogance and gambling forays he, too, could be considered (though he wore Phils #14 only 1979-83) for number retirement. In fact how innovative would it

20th Century Phillies by the Numbers

be to retire #14 for all three of them? (The Yankees did it with #8, retired it for both Bill Dickey and Yogi Berra.)

The official Phillies party-line (heard ad nauseum) is that only Hall of Famers get their numbers retired. To me, that's just nonsense and disrespects the fans that supported the Phillies throughout Del Ennis's long run here.

No argument on Ashburn's #1, though it says here that doesn't happen unless he becomes a longtime Phillies sportscaster and part of the baseball landscape in town for over five decades. Ashburn had the misfortune to be a centerfielder in the era of Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle and Duke Snider, all playing the same position at the same time – and with the added benefit of the New York media to promote them. (Ashburn, though, accumulated more hits than any of that trio during the 50's decade.) Hobbyist Jim Donahue (from Upper Darby) deserves a lot of credit for Ashburn's induction. In fact Jim's "Why the Hall Not?" campaign mobilized fans and sportswriters to get the Veteran's Committee in Cooperstown to acknowledge that Ashburn had a darn fine career. I was privileged to be part of that effort and broke the story about Donahue's campaign first in my *Daily News* and also *Sports Collector's Digest* columns.

Retiring Mike Schmidt's #20 was a no-brainer. Many would argue that Dayton, Ohio native Mike was the best third baseman ever. Few remember that in Mike's rookie year (1963) he batted just .196 with 18 homers in 132 games. But his long 18-year stint with the Phils

Ted Taylor



produced 548 homeruns, a lifetime .267 batting average and 1,595 RBI's, not to mention numerous Gold Gloves.

Just the name “Lefty” is all most Phillies fans need to hear to recall the marvelous Steve Carlton, whose number 32 is also retired. The man could flat out pitch and his years with the Phils (1972-86) he won 20-or-more games four times (27 in 1972) and he was a complete game machine finishing 254 of the 709 games he started in his career (1965-88). Lifetime he is 329-244 with a 3.22 ERA.

Then there's Robin Roberts who inherited #36 in mid-season 1948 from journeyman Nick Strincevich and held on to it until 1961. Robbie was the ace of the staff when they won the 1950 NL pennant (in fact he was on the mound for that game) – and many other years too. He won 20 or more games six times and completed more than half the games he started (305 against 609 starts). Career totals show 286 wins, 245 losses and a 3.41 ERA (sadly hanging on much too long trying to get to 300 wins, he was pitching at Double-A Reading when he finally hung up his spikes).

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Chapter 2

The Phillies and the A's

The Phillies were transplanted to the Quaker City from Worcester, Massachusetts and began their first season in town on May 1, 1883 when they hosted the Providence Grays. A crowd of just 1,200 was on hand at Recreation Park, 24th and Columbia Avenues. The team lost their opener 4-3 and it was all downhill from there. They ended up 17-81, dead last, and 46 games out of first place. Bob Ferguson and Blondie Purcell were the managers. Ferguson quit after winning four of the first 17 games, Purcell managed just 13 wins out of the remaining contests. (The City Series program pictured at left was from 1947, the Phillies won 7-3. (They played four games and split them that season.) Bill McCahan started for the A's, newly signed rookie Curt Simmons was on the mound for the Phillies.)

The Phillies were such a disaster after that one season that a lot of people never expected to see them again. But they returned in 1884 and guided by Hall of Famer Harry Wright they went 39-73 and finished sixth. In 1885, under Wright, they topped .500, winning 56 of 100 contests and finishing third.

The 1889 Phillies, pictured below, went 63-64 but finished fourth, it was manager Harry Wright's sixth

Ted Taylor

season (he was skipper for 12). Ed Delahanty batted .293, Sam Thompson .296 and Charlie Buffinton won 28 games.



When the American League was formed in 1901 Philadelphia was seen as prime territory and the first thing the new A's skipper, Connie Mack, did was raid the Phillies roster and sign future Hall of Famer Nap Lajoie (he'd hit .422, 14 homers and have 125 RBI's for the A's) and pitchers Chick Fraser (who would win 20 games for Mr. Mack), Bill Bernhart (would win 17) and Whitey Platt (who'd also win 17).

On opening day 1901 the A's drew 15,000 fans to Columbia Park, while the Phils managed just 779 to Baker Bowl. The A's would outdraw the Phillies annually until 1915 when the Phils won their first NL pennant.