Football legend Vince Lombardi was not known to toss around many compliments, so when he signed the back of a 1968 Dapper Dan Club dinner program “To Al Abrams, in high esteem, Vince Lombardi,” it was a huge compliment to the Post-Gazette sportswriter and longtime coordinator of the charity event.¹

Aside from occasional fan mail and Golden Quill awards, sportswriters rarely receive accolades, yet they were and often still are a prime conduit between athletes and fans. During the age when newspapers were the main source for news and opinions about sports, Pittsburgh’s top sportswriters wrote daily columns, sponsored major charities, and became household names. They were routinely elected president of the Baseball Writers Association of America and of the National Football Writers Association.² A few eventually received Hall of Fame recognition for their meritorious service to sports, including playing a leading role in the integration of baseball, and one became famous for creating the Terrible Towel.³ Pittsburgh’s newspaper archives are filled with bylines of sportswriters who wove the stories that helped transform the city’s championship teams and athletes into legends.
Pirates Pitcher
Deacon Phillippe.
Library of Congress.

There is no way of knowing who was Pittsburgh’s first sportswriter, but longtime Pittsburgh Press sports editor Chet Smith, writing in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, gave the honor to bearded John Gruber, a reporter for the Pittsburg Times, the Pittsburgh Post, and the Pittsburgh Leader. Smith based his claim on the questionable story that Gruber, who began his career in Pittsburgh as a reporter in 1882 after briefly working as a printer, invented and handset baseball’s first box score. Gruber may have laid the type for the first box score printed in Pittsburgh, but historians credit journalist and baseball pioneer Henry Chadwick, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1938, for developing the modern box score and introducing statistics to the game in 1859.

Although John Gruber might not have invented the first box score, he did play an interesting role in the history of the famous and rare Honus Wagner baseball card, printed by the American Tobacco Company in 1909 without Wagner’s permission. The company offered Gruber, who was the Pirates’ official scorer at the time, $10 if he could convince Wagner to endorse the promotion. Wagner, who didn’t smoke, turned down the offer, but sent a $10 check to Gruber, who framed it and hung it in his den. Denied Wagner’s signature, the American Tobacco Company stopped printing the Wagner card, but in 2007 one of the few still in circulation set a record by selling for $2.8 million.

Gruber was an unabashed roofer for Barney Dreyfuss’s Pittsburgh ball clubs and didn’t hesitate to “gush” in his description of their successes on the field. In his coverage of the first modern World Series game, played on October 1, 1903 between Pittsburgh and the Boston Americans, he declared, after Pittsburgh handily won the game 7-3, “There is gloom in old Boston town tonight … The work put up by the National League champions simply made the Boston men look like counterfeit money. This is no gush, but the downright truth, and it is this that makes the gloom so thick here. Local fans cannot see how their team is going to win a game let alone the series.”

If John Gruber actually does deserve the title of Pittsburgh’s first sportswriter, it’s because he was likely the first reporter to cover and write about baseball for a Pittsburgh newspaper. He also served as the Pirates official scorer for 40 years. Gruber died in 1932 at age 79. His death followed the passing of Barney Dreyfuss by less than a year.

If John Gruber actually does deserve the title of Pittsburgh’s first sportswriter, it’s because he was likely the first reporter to cover and write about baseball for a Pittsburgh newspaper.
During his long career, Keck was recognized as the leading authority on Pittsburgh’s many boxing champions, including Harry Greb, Fritzi Zivic, and Billy Conn.

John Gruber was the first Pittsburgh sportswriter to attract public notoriety, but it was his more polished contemporary Ralph Davis who gained a national reputation with his writing. The highly respected Davis, regarded during his long and distinguished career as the dean of Pittsburgh sportswriters, became the sports editor for the Pittsburgh Press and the Pittsburgh correspondent for The Sporting News in 1903 when he was only 21 years old.

In his first year as sports editor and correspondent, Ralph Davis, like John Gruber, reported on the 1903 World Series. When Hall of Fame baseball writer Fred Lieb was preparing his book on the Pittsburgh Pirates for the highly regarded Putnam team histories, he relied on Davis’s dispatches to The Sporting News on series games, including Davis’s lament following Pittsburgh’s eventual loss to Boston after winning the first game of the series: “It is a pity that the Pittsburgh pitchers were not right for the Series, for, under the present circumstance, there will always be doubt in the minds of the fans whether Collins’ team could have triumphed had the local [Pirates] been at their best. For myself, I do not think they could.”

Ralph Davis also covered the Pirates’ first World Series victory over Ty Cobb and the Detroit Tigers in 1909, their dramatic come-from-behind win against Walter Johnson and the Washington Senators in the 1925 World Series, and their loss in four straight games to Babe Ruth and the New York Yankees in 1927. Unlike his lament for the Pirates in 1903, Davis praised the conquering Yankees’
domination of the Pirates in 1927, writing, "There is no use to try to deprive the Yankees of their laurels. They are a great ball team, and they out played the Pirates in every department throughout the series."

Ralph Davis retired in 1931, but, after the death of Barney Dreyfuss on February 5, 1932, The Sporting News asked him to write a tribute to the Pirates’ longtime owner. Published on February 11, the Davis article includes numerous testimonials to Dreyfuss’ greatness as a Pirates owner, including one from Chet Smith, who had just become sports editor for the Pittsburgh Press. Smith’s words are eloquent, and today serve as a reminder of why baseball waited over 70 years before inducting a well-deserving Dreyfuss into the Baseball Hall of Fame: “Opinionated to a degree, lacking the flair for showmanship which carried other owners to greater heights of popularity, Dreyfuss was not what newspaper men called good copy, but even his bitter enemies were forced to admit that he was baseball’s warmest supporter and wisest counselor.”

One of the first things that Wendel Smith did in his new position as sports editor of the Pittsburgh Courier was to begin a campaign to integrate major league baseball.

It’s all over. The world series of 1927 has passed into baseball history and the New York Yankees are the premier.... They won the honors today in one of the most thrilling contests in all world series history. And yet the finish came in one of the most disappointing anti-climaxes the fans have ever seen.... John Miljus was on the mound for the Pirates.... The ninth inning opened with the scored tied at three runs each.... Jovo opened the last half of the ninth by passing up Combs, then Mark Koenig dumped the ball toward third and was credited with a hit when Traynor failed to scope it. Ruth, the bustling Babe, was intentionally passed up.... That filled the bases with none out.... Pittsburgh hopes were at the zero point. But a mighty cheer went up from the Smoky City contingent in the stands, when Miljus fanned Lou Gehrig....That brought up Bob Meusel and the hopes revived when he also whiffed.... That made it two out.... fans were shouting for Miljus to fan Lazzeri also. After one ball, Miljus let loose a wild pitch.... which ended the game and the series.... It was a terrible moment for Pittsburghers, hundreds of whom saw their Buccaneers go down into oblivion as one of the poorest world series teams in the entire history of the classic.” (Pittsburgh Press, October 9, 1927.)
When Ralph Davis and John Gruber were covering sports in the first decade of the 20th century, there were nine major newspapers in Pittsburgh.15 By 1927, after over a decade of closings and mergers, there were only three: the morning Post-Gazette, the afternoon Sun-Telegraph, and the Press. When Chet Smith became sports editor of the Press in 1932, the sports editor at the Post-Gazette was Havey Boyle. When Boyle died in 1947, Al Abrams took over the position. Smith remained with the Press until his retirement in 1966, while Abrams stayed on with the Post-Gazette until 1974.15

At the beginning of 1927, Harry Keck was the sports editor for the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, but when the paper merged that year with the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, he became the sports editor of the Sun-Telegraph until the paper stopped publication in 1960. An authority on boxing, Keck gained national attention when he became the first sportswriter in the country to predict Gene Tunney’s victory over Jack Dempsey in their 1926 heavyweight championship bout.14

During his long career, Keck was recognized as the leading authority on Pittsburgh’s many boxing champions, including Harry Greb, Fritzi Zivic, and Billy Conn, but he was also admired for his pieces on a number of past Pittsburgh sports figures and personalities. In a March 9, 1955 column, he reported that “Louis Bierbauer, who was responsible for the nickname of Pirates for the Pittsburgh club, lies in an unmarked grave in Erie, Pa.” and hoped that “some of the old-timers around who have fond memories of ‘the Godfather of the Pirates’ … will be glad to contribute … to have his grave marked.”15 Today, a modest headstone marks Bierbauer’s grave.

When Harry Keck moved from the Gazette-Times to the Sun-Telegraph in 1927, the colorful Charles “Chilly” Doyle, who first began covering the Pirates in 1915, moved with him. Doyle’s “Chilly Sauce” column was as popular with Pittsburgh readers as Abrams’ “Sidelights on Sports” and Smith’s “The Village Smithy.” Like Abrams and Smith, Doyle also served a term as president of the Baseball Writers Association of America. When the Hall of Fame opened in 1939, Doyle had the honor, just before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, of reading the names of the deceased players and officials who were elected to the Hall of Fame, along with the living legends, including Honus Wagner, who were being inducted that day.16

Never shy of purple prose, Chilly Doyle once compared the seventh game of the 1925 World Series to one of the most dramatic moments in Pittsburgh’s colonial history, writing, “Not since Braddock clashed with the French and Indians back around 1750 has there been such fighting in the relative sectors bordering on the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. No blood was shed in the most
Al Abrams on 1960 World Series victory ("Like Dropping an A-Bomb")

“It just had to happen…. It couldn’t have been any other way…. It just had to be for the victory-starved, emotionally drained Pittsburgh baseball populace and its beloved Pirates…. It was written into the baseball books long ago that the Pirates would go all the way in the year of 1960 and at exactly 3:35 yesterday afternoon by the scoreboard clock at Forbes Field, they had it all the way…. This was when Bill Mazeroski laced into the first pitch served him by Ralph Terry and sent it on a beautiful arch over the left-center field wall for a home run which beat the New York Yankees, 10-9 in the ninth inning of the seventh and deciding game of the World Series…. Thus came to an end one of the most suspenseful and dramatic battles in the series annals. Forgotten was all the bad baseball played by the two clubs in the previous six games. Forgotten, too, for the moment were all the exciting plays and early developments which set the stage for Maz’s wallop and which erupted one of the wildest mob scenes ever seen in sports anywhere.” (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, October 14, 1960.)
“One time it was Bill Mazeroski. Another time it was Roberto Clemente and Steve Blass. This time it was Willie Stargell. Wonderful Willie, 38 years young, carried the Pirates with his bat last night and led the bounce-back Buccos to baseball’s world championship with a dramatic 4-1 win over Baltimore. Stargell, named the Most Valuable Player of the Series, was the only Pirate in the seven games to produce a home run. He hit his third last night against Scott McGregor. It was a two-run blast over the right-field wall, wiping out a 1-0 Baltimore lead. A crowd of 53,733, including President Carter, saw Stargell collect four hits, a single and two doubles to go with his homer. Later, President Carter went to the Pirates’ clubhouse to congratulate the Pirates. Four clubs have come back in the Series after being down three games to one. The Pirates are the only team to do it twice.” (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, October 18, 1979.)
After the Pirates’ World Series victory in 1971, Charles Feeney broke the story that Clemente had intended to retire if the Pirates won the Series, but changed his mind because of his wife, Vera. “She said to me, ‘Roberto, don’t quit baseball now. Please don’t quit now. It’s your life.’”

strenuous fight ever staged in baseball, but in the serious business of war the participants seldom moved with deeper concentration on the main objective.”17 Doyle never had a chance to capture the drama of the seventh game of the 1960 World Series with his colorful writing. He died on November 15, 1959.

The long reign of Chet Smith, Al Abrams, and Harry Keck as sports editors of the major newspapers in Pittsburgh coincided with the emergence of sports as a cultural and social force in American society. It was a time when radio sports broadcasting was still in its early days and television was a fanciful experiment. Whether it was a World Series game, a heavyweight championship bout, a Rose Bowl, or a Kentucky Derby, it was up to the sportswriter to capture the drama of the event for his readers.

When Jerome Holtzman, a Hall of Fame baseball writer for the Chicago Tribune, interviewed 24 of the most famous sportswriters from the era between the two world wars for his book, No Cheering in the Press Box, he included Al Abrams, whom he praised as “Mr. Pittsburgh.”18 Abrams grew up in the Lower Hill District and spent most of his adult life living in the downtown Carlton House. He joined the Post-Gazette in 1926 and became its sports editor in 1947. He covered the boxing scene in Pittsburgh early in his career, but he didn’t gain a celebrity status in the city until he started writing a daily sports column in 1936.19 To attract readers, Al Abrams picked out two of the best-dressed men in Pittsburgh and put their names in the column. “The idea was to see if anyone was reading the column. I thought it would attract attention and help create local interest.”20 As the list of readers grew, some of Abrams’ colleagues and friends, at their regular luncheon across the street from the William Penn Hotel, suggested that he hold a banquet and start a club. Calling it the Dapper Dan Club, Abrams and his friends sold over 400 tickets for the first banquet in 1936, which was attended by such sports luminaries as Art Rooney and Jock Sutherland, and then donated the $800 raised to the DePaul Institute (a school for hearing impaired children) in Brookline.

The organization eventually became so successful that it was able to promote major sporting events, like the National Open golf tournament, and bring them to Pittsburgh. In 1951, Dapper Dan sponsored the PGA tournament held at Oakmont Country Club. A month later, it brought the heavyweight championship fight between Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott to Forbes Field.21 It also became the sponsor for the annual Roundball Classic high-school basketball all-star game and the Wrestling Classic tournament, though its most prestigious and popular function remains its annual banquet and the Sportsman of the Year award. In 1999 the Dapper Dan Club, which started out as a “men only” organization, also added a Sportswoman of the Year award to its banquet.22

“Art Rooney’s decision to sell the Pittsburgh Steelers’ football franchise in the National Professional Football League was not unexpected…. After eight years of trying, you can’t blame the guy for giving up when he finds he can’t make any money and, indeed, is lucky not to lose a considerable amount…. As Art himself says, it isn’t the fault of local fans or due to a lack of newspaper and radio support that his original Pirates and then his Steelers failed to click. There was only one reason for their lack of appeal at the box office, and that was their failure to be in the running and, frequently, to stack up as formidable opposition for the better teams…. One championship season here would have led to big crowds, increased interest, more operating capital – and who knows but it would have made Pittsburgh one of the league’s strongest cities instead of its next to weakest city…. Just what Pittsburgh’s future is to be in professional football is problematical…. Developments will be interesting, but the pro game is coming along.” (Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, December 10, 1940.)
What began as a private sports club evolved into one of the most prestigious and effective charitable organizations in Pittsburgh. By the 1990s the club, re-named the Dapper Dan Charities, directed its major fund raising efforts to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania and the thousands of underprivileged urban youths who participate in its sports programs. When the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named Western Pennsylvania’s top 100 sports figures of the 20th century, Al Abrams, founder of the Dapper Dan Club, was the only sports editor and columnist to appear on the list.23

Jerome Holtzman included one of Al Abrams’ fellow Pittsburgh sports editors in No Cheering in the Press Box, but it wasn’t Harry Keck or Chet Smith. Wendell Smith, an African American sportswriter who started with the Pittsburgh Courier at about the same time Al Abrams was organizing his Dapper Dan Club, became the Courier's sports editor in 1938. One of the first things that he did in his new position as sports editor of one of the most widely circulated African American newspapers in the country was to begin a campaign to integrate major league baseball.24

Denied a baseball writers’ card and not always welcome in the press box at Forbes Field, Smith would hang out at the Schenley Hotel and interview visiting National League players and managers who were staying there. He interviewed 40 players, including Dizzy Dean, Pepper Martin, Carl Hubbell, Gabby Hartnett, and Leo Durocher, and asked them if they would welcome a black player as a teammate. While most of the players were guarded in their comments, 75 percent said that if a black player had the skills they could accept him as a teammate.25

Smith's interviews and subsequent stories in the Courier’s “Sports Beat” column about Robinson’s first visit to Pittsburgh to play against the Pirates. In the column, he expressed his optimism that, in spite of all the obstacles, Robinson would be successful in integrating baseball. After Dodger coach Clyde Sukeforth, who scouted Robinson in the Negro Leagues, told Smith that “Mr. Robinson’s going to do all right,” Smith wrote, “I think he is, too!”26 Smith was also encouraged by the “hospitable and friendly” attitude of the Pirates, writing, “It may be that the Pittsburghers are more understanding and reasonable. It may be that they admire him for the way he carries the tremendous load he has on his shoulders, with ease and grace. Or it may be that it is a club made up fundamentally of high-class players who are too big to hit him below the belt because it happens to be of a darker hue.”27

When Rickey, after moving to the Brooklyn Dodgers, decided to sign Jackie Robinson to a professional contract in 1946, he asked Wendell Smith to live with Robinson during spring training and to be his traveling companion for road games. Though Smith would face the same prejudices that Robinson had to endure, he agreed to Rickey’s request and became Robinson’s chaperone, while sending out daily stories about Robinson’s progress.28

A little more than a year later, Smith wrote a May 24, 1947 story in his “Sports Beat” column about Robinson’s first visit to Pittsburgh to play against the Pirates. In the column, he expressed his optimism that, in spite of all the obstacles, Robinson would be successful in integrating baseball. After Dodger coach Clyde Sukeforth, who scouted Robinson in the Negro Leagues, told Smith that “Mr. Robinson’s going to do all right,” Smith wrote, “I think he is, too!”26 Smith was also encouraged by the “hospitable and friendly” attitude of the Pirates, writing, “It may be that the Pittsburghers are more understanding and reasonable. It may be that they admire him for the way he carries the tremendous load he has on his shoulders, with ease and grace. Or it may be that it is a club made up fundamentally of high-class players who are too big to hit him below the belt because it happens to be of a darker hue.”27

A year after Jackie Robinson crossed baseball’s color line, Wendell Smith finally won his own campaign against racial discrimination. In 1948, after Smith pointed out that even Lester Rodney, the sports editor of the Communist Party newspaper, the Daily Worker, had a membership card, the Baseball Writers’ Association of America finally integrated its organization by accepting Smith as a member. In 1993, 21 years after Smith’s death, he brought down another racial barrier in baseball when he received the J. G. Taylor Spink Award for “meritorious contributions for baseball writing” and posthumously entered the writers’ wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame.30
An embittered Ernie Stautner, charging he has wasted his career playing football before empty stands, has characterized Pittsburgh as a ‘lousy’ sports town…. Irged by the booing of his teammate and pal, Bobby Layne, in last Sunday’s victory over the St. Louis Cardinals, Stautner exploded…. ‘I’m not happy playing in Pittsburgh, I never have been happy here, and I wouldn’t have been here in the first place if I had any choice about it,’ said Stautner. ‘This is a lousy sports town and if Art Rooney had any sense he’d get out of it’…. Stautner, a veteran of 12 pro campaigns who has been to the All-Pro team six times, said he lost his patience at a baseball game last summer, long before the football season started…. ‘I went to a baseball game and what did I hear?’ he asked. ‘They booed Elroy Face. Of all people, Elroy Face! The guy gives you great baseball for six years, wins a pennant for this town and they boo him…. What’s wrong with these people? Do they have an inferiority complex or something?’"

(Pittsburgh Press, November 29, 1961.)
With the closing of the *Sun-Telegraph* in 1960, there were only two major newspapers in Pittsburgh, the *Press* and the *Post-Gazette*, but the city’s sports fans still could read the stories and columns of writers who had been covering sports for decades. Al Abrams remained as sports editor for the *Post-Gazette*, while Chet Smith continued as the sports editor of the *Pittsburgh Press*, until he retired in 1966.

Born in Springdale, Pennsylvania and the son of a newspaper editor, Smith began his newspaper career in 1920 with the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*. During his more than 30 years with the *Press*, he won numerous awards and honors including selection to the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to football. He also was elected president of the National Football Writers Association and the Baseball Writers Association of America. At Chet Smith’s induction into the Football Foundation Hall of Fame, Grantland Rice declared Smith the “best sportswriter of them all.”

When *Sports Illustrated* put together an anthology of 50 years of great writing, the editors selected one of Myron Cope’s essays for inclusion. “Would You Let This Man Interview You?” was a perfect choice because Cope had written about Howard Cosell, who in many ways resembled Cope himself. But that didn’t prevent Cope from having some fun with Cosell: “Cosell fondles a martini at the...”
Myron Cope and Art Rooney.
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette photo archives.
"This, folks, is a stadium to mourn, a stadium that brought us a lifetime of thrills and memories. It's an oft-ridiculed ballpark that we never took to our hearts, but should have. It was too hard to get to and harder still to leave. And it housed baseball and football and so wasn't really right for either. But, oh, the memories, oh, the thrills.... It hasn’t stood for three decades, but it has given us remembrances we can pass on to the grandkids, stories we’ll tell as long as we live.... Franco Harris took a bow at the groundbreaking ceremonies. Nothing more need be said to bring to mind the most famous play in NFL history – the Immaculate Reception. It will be talked about as long as they play the game and it happened at Three Rivers.... Think about it: Four Super Bowl Champions, arguably the greatest teams in NFL history, played on this turf. So did two World Series winners.... This is the place that enabled Pittsburgh to be called the City of Champions in the 1970s. This is the place that Joe Greene and Roberto Clemente graced." (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 20, 1999.)
Born in Pittsburgh, a graduate of Peabody High School and the University of Pittsburgh, Smizik also represents the continuation of a long line of distinguished sportswriters who were born in the Pittsburgh area, went to Pittsburgh schools, and spent their entire careers writing for Pittsburgh newspapers.

The golden age of Pittsburgh sportswriting that began in the first decade of the 20th century and continued for several generations is still reflected, despite the decline in newspaper audience and influence, in the work of current writers like Bob Smizik, who began his career with the Press in 1969 and moved to the Post-Gazette after the 1992 newspaper strike. Born in Pittsburgh, a graduate of Peabody High School and the University of Pittsburgh, Smizik also represents the continuation of a long line of distinguished sportswriters who were born in the Pittsburgh area, went to Pittsburgh schools, and spent their entire careers writing for Pittsburgh newspapers.

For sportswriters ranging from Gruber to Smizik, the recognition and celebration of so many sports history makers during the commemoration of Pittsburgh’s 250th anniversary is, of course, a tribute in itself to their success, but their ability to transform teams and players into the stuff of dreams and legends is only part of their contribution to Pittsburgh sports. Understanding the importance of Pittsburgh’s sports teams to the character of the city, they have also written stories that reach beyond the playing field and into the heart and soul of the Pittsburgh sports fan.

In his “The Village Smithy” column written the day after Bill Mazeroski’s history-making home run won the 1960 World Series, Chet Smith related the story of an “elderly man” who, after the game, took his grandson to a nursery to buy a tree, writing, “Together they brought it home and planted it.” He explained to his grandson that he had planted a tree “back in 1925, when the Pirates won their last one.” He had never forgotten the act and wanted to duplicate it “when the occasion arose.”

It’s a wonderful story and a perfect illustration of the value of sports in binding generations together, though Chet Smith couldn’t resist adding a punch line about the need for patience and endurance for Pittsburgh sports fans, especially those who root, root, root for the hometown Pirates. Smith ended...
For sportswriters ranging from Gruber to Smizik, their ability to transform teams and players into the stuff of dreams and legends is only part of their contribution to Pittsburgh sports. Understanding the importance of Pittsburgh’s sports teams to the character of the city, they have also written stories that reach beyond the playing field and into the heart and soul of the Pittsburgh sports fan.

Richard “Pete” Peterson is Professor Emeritus of English at Southern Illinois University. He is the editor of The Pirates Reader and the author of Growing Up with Clemente and Extra Innings: Writing on Baseball. His essays have appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Chicago Tribune.


2 All three of Pittsburgh’s major papers, the Press, Post-Gazette, and Sun-Telegraph, had a sports editor or lead columnist serve as president of the BWAA or FFWA.

3 In a telephone conversation with this writer, Myron Cope said that he regarded himself as a writer more than a broadcaster or personality because that was how he first made his living.


8 Ibid., pp. 100-109.


10 The Sporting News, February 11, 1932, p.5. The article also includes testimonials from Honus Wagner, who praised Dreyfuss for his generosity and from Heyve Boyles, sports editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

11 Ibid., p. 5.

12 See Marc Okkonen, Baseball Memories: 1900-1909 (New York: Sterling, 1992) for a list of Pittsburgh newspapers and their baseball writers.

13 Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, p. 134.

14 See Bill Burgess, “Baseball Fever: Meet the Sportswriters” (baseball-fever.com) for a collection of news items, including obituaries, for prominent Pittsburgh sportswriters.


19 Ibid., p. 297.

20 Ibid., p. 297.

21 Ibid., pp. 297-298.

22 Sixty years after Billy Conn was named the Dapper Dan Sportsman of the Year for 1939, Suzie McConnell Serio was named the Dapper Dan Sportswoman of the Year for 1999. See “Previous Dapper Dan Sportsmen and Sportswomen of the Year” in the April 8, 2007 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (post-gazette.com).

23 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 2, 2000, p.1. For information on Dapper Dan Charities see Pittsburgh NOW – About PG – PG Charities (post-gazette.com).

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