

THE GASHOUSE GANG



AND JUST WHAT became of the famous Dean brothers? Paul returned to pitch 19 wins in his 1935 season. Sad thing though, he injured his shoulder the very next year and never quite returned to his full pitching strength. My little brother went ahead and married a Ms. Dorothy Sandusky after a whirlwind two-month romance in 1934. When those press people asked him what his big brother, Ol' Diz, thought of the quicky marriage, Paul just said, "It's none of his business, anyhow." That rascal. And you know what? Together Paul and Dorothy had two sons, two daughters, and 15 grandchildren! They were together 'til the day he died.

And what about Ol' Diz, you say? Well, I made me a pretty fair share of cash in the years after that 1934 World Series, putting my name on just about everything from watches to caps, toothpaste to shavin' cream. Darnit, I learned in those years that having lots of dough could really be trouble! Everyone wanting me to sign my name here and sign my name there! Was quite the hassle. I was 'bout ready to leave it all behind to go fishin' in Novus Scofus! In 1937, I got myself injured, and in 1938 was traded to the Chicago Cubs, where I finished off my playing career.

But everyone knows Dizzy ain't never been down and out! In 1941, I became a **play-by-play broadcaster** for the Cardinals and the St. Louis Browns. Best gig I could of asked for, I'll tell ya, and I was good at it to boot! I became real well known for my particular phrases, like sayin' "slud" instead of "slid" and "the runners are returning to their respectable bases."

I liked to add a little color to my broadcasts, sometimes even giving play-by-plays of special moments, like a hotdog wrapper blowing around the stadium in the breeze.

My bosses said I should stick to the happenings in the ball game, but I had a little more fun than that. When the action was slow, I liked to entertain the crowd with a bit o' whistlin'. My favorite song was "The Wabash Cannonball" and don't ya know I even got to record it!



Once, while in the booth, I let out a great, big belch! Dizzy don't do nothing halfway, don't ya know. "Excuse me, folks," I says. "It's very impolite to belch, especially over the mic, unless you excuse yourself. I done belched and I done excused myself, so let's go, everything is hunky dory."

Crowd liked that quite a bit, I'm sure.

'Course, I was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953 at the age of 44. Me and Pat moved on down to Mississippi, and this sharecropper's son who once spent his days fixing just to pick cotton lived his life as a bonafide millionaire!

Let's remember folks, I played ball in a time when things wasn't so certain. The 1930s were lean times for many, hard times for all. I seen hard times, I'll tell ya. We all has. But when a man's got mettle, when a man's got spunk, he can go right on ahead and make something of himself. I sure did. I was a Cardinal, and I was a champion. Anybody who ever had the privilege of seeing me play knew that I was the greatest pitcher in the whole world. And now you know it, too.

I told ya, it ain't braggin' if you can back it up.

Read more about Dizzy Dean and his fellow players in author Carolyn Mueller's children's book "Dizzy and the Gashouse Gang." She lives in St. Louis, MO. Visit www.carolynelizabethmueller.com.

Illustrator Nick Hayes draws political cartoons for the Guardian and New Statesman newspapers and writes graphic novels. He lives in East London.



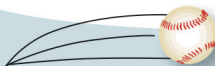
EXTRA INNINGS!

Dean earned money by endorsing products. When he said he used them, other people wanted to buy the product to be like Dean. Can you find ads with celebrity endorsements in the newspaper?

As a broadcaster, Dean wanted to entertain as well as inform. Find examples of newspaper writing to entertain and inform.

Learning Standards: I can identify advertising techniques. I can identify author's purpose.

POP UPS



PLAY-BY-PLAY BROADCASTER: A play-by-play broadcaster is a sports announcer who gives a live broadcast of a game.