

THE GASHOUSE GANG



YES, INDEED, the World Series of 1934 ranks among the most momentous occasions in sports history, a season to be remembered for as long as there might be remembering. Turns out though that our motley crew of Gashouse players didn't quite return for a repeat performance. We played together for a 'nother year or so, but pretty soon the innings began to pass us all by, and before we knew it, life had moved on in other ways.

Branch Rickey stayed with the Cardinals club until the early 1940s. In 1942, he decided to take a job as general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. He went out with a bang, though, 'cause that 1942 Cards team won the pennant and then the World Series in five games against the New York Yankees. Rickey was, of course, remembered for signing a real swell ballplayer named Jackie Robinson. This act broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, opening the door for many talented African-American ballplayers to come. Robinson helped put the Dodgers in the World Series that year, to boot. Branch Rickey returned to the Cardinals to work on production and development in 1962.

As for Mr. Frankie Frisch, well, that ol' boy finished his playing career with the Cardinals in 1937. Our manager was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1947 and even went on to do commentary on radio and television.

Then there's Leo Durocher. Leo stayed with us Cards until 1937 when he was traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers. He became player/manager for the Dodgers in 1939, eventually ending his playing career in 1945. Like Mr. Rickey, with the Dodgers, Leo helped to erase the color line in baseball. When Rickey signed Jackie Robinson, Durocher told the men, "I do not care if the guy is yellow or black, or if he has stripes like a zebra. I'm the manager of this team, and I say he plays." Durocher eventually moved on to manage the New York

Giants—winning the 1951 pennant and 1954 World Series, before finishing his career with the Chicago Cubs and the Houston Astros.

Joe "Ducky" Medwick stayed with the Cards until 1940, when he was traded to the Dodgers. In his 1937 season, he won the **National League Triple Crown** and was voted **Most Valuable Player**. I heard that Medwick joined

he had to be moved to an isolated wing! Pepper finished his career with the Cardinals, returning to baseball in 1944 at the age of 40 'cause the War that year brought on a player shortage. After his career on the field ended, Pepper managed a few Minor League teams and became the athletic director for the Oklahoma State Penitentiary! Was good

of him to return to his roots. Once, when them press people asked how our "Wild Horse" became such a fast runner, Pepper answered, "I grew up in Oklahoma, and once you start runnin' out there, there ain't nothin' to stop you."




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.



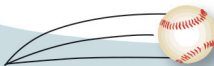
EXTRA INNINGS!

 In this chapter, "cardinal" has more than one meaning. Use the newspaper to find examples of multiple meaning words.

 Use the sports section to find examples of diversity in sports. Find examples of gender, race, age, etc.

Learning Standards: I can use the newspaper to locate information. I can evaluate multiple meaning words.

POP UPS



LEAGUE TRIPLE CROWN: A player can win his League's Triple Crown by coming in first in three statistical categories—batting average, home runs and runs batted in (RBIs).

THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER award is given to one exceptional player in the American League and one in the National League each year.

THE UNITED STATES SERVICE ORGANIZATION (USO) provides services and entertainment to American military troops, particularly when they are deployed. Medwick's USO tour occurred during World War II.