

THE GASHOUSE GANG



WHEN THE St. Louis Cardinals arrived in Detroit, Mich., for the World Series in 1934, the whole country was gripped in baseball fever! Just two days before our train got in, Babe Ruth had announced his retirement. So, when I stepped out into the streets of the Motor City in my good camel hair coat, I knew I was the biggest name in baseball.

It was time to make history.

When the Cardinals' bus arrived at the hotel to head on over to the Tigers' ballpark, I told Mr. Frisch I'd much prefer to just walk. So, walk I did, and do you know that on that little jaunt I gathered a crowd of no less than 2,000 onlookers, there to catch just a glimpse of the famous Dizzy Dean. I happened upon a few policemen, and I says to them, "You fellers know how to get to the ballpark?" They sure did, and those gentleman kindly escorted me the rest of the way. I arrived like the **majordomo** of a fancy parade, and what great fun it was, yes sir!

Back in my day, it was customary for them press people to gather on the field at the ballpark. There, at the Tigers' stadium, I walked right on up to the Tigers' coach Carl Fischer, and I told him right then and there to lob me a couple balls and I'd do some hittin' for him. Boy, I love to hit. The good man obliged, and I snapped off a few sharp hits before I cracked that bat right in two! Done and broke the thing! Pepper Martin and my brother Paul joined me on the field after that, and the three of us celebrated with an Indian War Dance. We was ready to go.

Ol' Frankie decided to keep the superstitious tradition of not announcing the starting pitcher in the first game of the series. But I knew it'd be me. I told them press people, Frisch ain't foolin' me none. There's only one man to pitch the first game and that's ol' Diz here. Frank, I guess, was tryin' to use **si-kology**. He don't want old Diz nervous on the eve of battle, but he's silly if he thinks he can fool me. I ain't never been no

kleptomaniac or whatever you calls it, what goes around getting nervous. Who won the pennant? Me 'n' Paul. Who was goin' to win the World Series? Me 'n' Paul. Si-kology, my foot!

October 3 was the first game of the series, and 'course I took the mound. We Cards won that matchup 8-3, and I told them Tigers fans, "Shucks, this was nothin'. Wait til you see my brother Paul."

sets his mind to, and right then and there I thought to myself, I can oom-pah-pah better than all these ol' gents. So I grabbed me a tuba and began playing away to the tune "Wagon Wheels." I was real great at it, too.

I then waltzed right on over to that Detroit dugout and told them boys I sure was sorry I pitched so poorly in the first game. I'd be sure to try and show them my real good stuff the next time out.

Turns out though, the Tigers won Game 2, also hard-fought with a score of 3-2 after 12 innings.

I wasn't 'fraid though. 'Cause my kid brother Paul was stepping up to the mound in Game 3, and whattya know, Paul pitched us Redbirds to a 4-1 victory, right sweet.

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.



On the morning of the second game, me and Mrs. Dean were invited to eat breakfast with a certain **Mr. Henry Ford**. Why, even I was honored. I asked the ol' boy for his autograph!

The other Cards and Tiger players were warming up on the field before Game 2, so I took the opportunity to wander on over to the brass band, playing behind home plate. See here, Ol' Diz could do just about anything he


POP UPS


MAJORDOMO: A majordomo is a leader—in Dizzy's case, the leader of a parade.

SI-KOLOGY: Si-kology is "Dizzy speak" for psychology—or the scientific study of brain function and behavior.

HENRY FORD was the founder of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan. He lived from 1863-1947.

EXTRA INNINGS!

 Dizzy Dean said it was "time to make history." What events in your newspaper will make history?

 Dean was honored to receive Henry Ford's autograph. Use the newspaper to find a person whose autograph you would like to have. Who is the person and why would you like his or her autograph?

Learning Standards: I can make inferences. I can state opinion and use supporting details.

