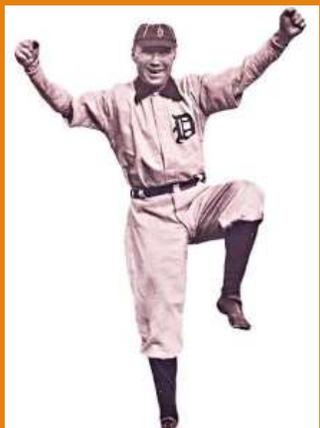


The GIANT & the TIGER

BASEBALL'S ODD COUPLE, JOHN MCGRAW AND HUGHIE JENNINGS

By Kerry Gleason



LOGLINE: One was fiery and brash. The other was funny and saintly. This is the story of Hall of Fame baseball players John McGraw and Hughie Jennings, whose unlikely friendship endured through triumph and tragedy and changed America's pastime.

GENRE: Sports Biography

IT'S LIKE: The Boys of Summer meets I Am Third (the "Brian's Song" movie)

SETTING: Baltimore, New York City and Detroit in the 1890s and early 1900s

ONE WAS THE SAINT OF THE DIAMOND. THE OTHER "ATE GUNPOWDER FOR BREAKFAST AND WASHED IT DOWN WITH WARM BLOOD."



STORYLINE: From impoverished childhoods in the 1870s, John McGraw and Hughie Jennings rose to stardom, led their teams to championships and innovated many facets that impact today's game. McGraw's brash, incendiary demeanor aroused hostile reactions in every visitor's park, while Jennings' humor and charity made him a cherished treasure everywhere he went. Their friendship, however unlikely, lasted a lifetime through triumph and tragedy.

With Jennings playing shortstop better than anyone had played it before, and McGraw holding down the hot corner and wielding a red-hot bat, the Baltimore Orioles became a dynasty, winning three straight National League championships. In their off seasons at St. Bonaventure College McGraw and Jennings created a baseball incubator, inventing baseball staples like the hit-and-run, the drag bunt, the double steal, the cutoff throw and several others which their Baltimore manager, Ned Hanlon, readily put to good use. The Orioles won because of innovation... and because they cheated more effectively than the other turn-of-the-century ballclubs.

McGraw went on to manage the New York Giants for 30 years, tussling with umpires and league officials while racking up one of the most admirable managerial records in history. For two decades, he was the most recognizable face of baseball, until Babe Ruth came to New York. Jennings led the Detroit Tigers to three consecutive World Series and did the unthinkable – he corralled the irascible Ty Cobb. Their popularity could not be contained on the diamond. Each of them starred in successful vaudeville acts in 1912.

From his third-base coaching box, Jennings exhorted his players and entertained fans with whistles and shouts of "Attaboy!" and one of mysterious origin, "Ee-Yah!" McGraw earned the nickname "Little Napoleon" and "Muggsy." Journalist Grantland Rice said of him, "His very walk across the field in a hostile town was a challenge to the multitude."

Award-winning journalist Kerry Gleason has woven a memorable and humorous tale of friendship, loss and jubilation that transcends the world of sports and celebrates the contributions of McGraw and Jennings in a golden era of baseball.

Seeking Author Representation

In 2022, 30 of 32 major league baseball managers descended from McGraw's "managerial tree," which began 120 years ago.

It's more than just a baseball book.

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- ◊ The Heaven Ride trilogy
- ◊ Warriors at the Gate