

**GUIDE to the
CHICAGO CITY SERIES**

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Claudette Scrafford
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Collection Number

BA MSS 245
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Title

Chicago City Series

Inclusive Dates

1903 – 1943

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Abstract

A collection of correspondence, schedules, and bulletins relating to the Chicago City Series.

Preferred Citation

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Access

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History

After Boston had won the American League championship in 1903 and Pittsburgh had prevailed in the National circuit, the presidents of these clubs, Matt Killilea (Boston) and Barney Dreyfuss (Pittsburgh) agreed to a post-season meeting of their clubs. A nine game series was scheduled; the first team to win five to be declared the winner.

With the example set by the champions of their leagues, other clubs quickly followed their lead. Post season confrontations were arranged between the two Philadelphia clubs; the two in St. Louis; the Chicago rivals; and even a series between Cincinnati of the NL and Cleveland of the AL for the championship of Ohio.

In subsequent years meetings for a city or state championship were repeated sporadically but only the Chicago series persisted with some degree of regularity.

Through 1942 a total of 26 City Series were contested in Chicago from that 1903 inaugural. The dominance of the White Sox in these autumn affairs defies logic; the Chicago Americans triumphed 19 times while the Nationals could claim Chicago championships on only six occasions; the first series ended in a tie. In the years between 1903 and 1942 a total of 161 games were played with the White Sox winning 95 times and the Cubs taking 62 games. Four of the games ended in deadlocks.

Source: <http://research.sabr.org/journals/history-of-chicago-city-series>

Scope and Content

The Commissioner's bulletins gives the details of the series, such as dates, start time, eligible players, price of admission, official photographer and scorer, and conduct on the field. The correspondence is to the umpires selected for the games, telling them when and who to report to. There is financial data such as receipts, attendance, shares to the Commissioner, clubs, and each player.

Controlled Access Terms

These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame's Library catalog.

Corporate Names

- Chicago Cubs
- Chicago White Sox
- American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
- National League of Professional Baseball Clubs
- Chicago City Series

Personal Names

- Landis, Kenesaw Mountain 1866-1944
- Harridge, William 1883-1971
- Johnson, Ban 1865-1931
- Heydler, John 1869-1956

Subject Headings

- Correspondence
- Economics
- Scoresheets
- Newspaper clippings
- Boxscores
- Baseball umpires

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