

= Frank Chance =

Frank Leroy Chance (September 9 , 1876 ? September 15 , 1924) was an American professional baseball player . A first baseman , Chance played in Major League Baseball for the Chicago Cubs (initially named the " Orphans ") and New York Yankees from 1898 through 1914 . He also served as manager of the Cubs , Yankees , and Boston Red Sox .

Discovered by the Cubs as he played semi @-@ professional baseball while attending college , Chance debuted with the Cubs in 1898 , serving as a part @-@ time player . In 1903 , Chance became the Cubs ' regular first baseman , and in 1905 , he succeeded Frank Selee as the team 's manager . Chance led the Cubs to four National League championships in the span of five years (1906 ? 1910) and won the World Series championships in 1907 and 1908 . With Joe Tinker and Johnny Evers , Chance formed a strong double play combination , which was immortalized as " Tinker @-@ to @-@ Evers @-@ to @-@ Chance " in " Baseball 's Sad Lexicon " .

Let go by the Cubs after the 1912 season , Chance signed with the Yankees , serving as a player ? manager for two seasons . He joined the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League as a player ? manager , returning to MLB in 1923 as manager of the Red Sox . Chance was named the manager of the Chicago White Sox in 1924 , but never took control of the team as he became ill . He died later that year .

Noted for his leadership abilities , Chance earned the nickname " Peerless Leader . " He is the all @-@ time leader in managerial winning percentage in Cubs history . Chance was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in the 1946 balloting by the Veterans Committee , along with Tinker and Evers .

= = Early life = =

Chance was born in Salida , California , in Stanislaus County , on September 9 , 1876 . His family was of English and Scottish descent . He was raised in Fresno , California and attended Fresno High School . His father was president of the first national bank in Fresno .

Chance enrolled at the University of California , where he pursued a degree in dentistry . He transferred to Washington College in Irvington , California . While playing baseball for the school 's baseball team , he received an offer to play semi @-@ professional baseball for a team in Sullivan , Illinois , for \$ 40 a month (\$ 1 @,@ 138 in current dollar terms) , which he accepted .

Returning to college the next year , Chance led his team to a third @-@ place finish in an amateur tournament of 50 teams . Bill Lange of the Chicago Cubs discovered Chance and convinced the Cubs to sign him as a backup catcher and outfielder , receiving \$ 1 @,@ 200 a year (\$ 34 @,@ 133 in current dollar terms) . Chance was scouted by other teams , but chose the Cubs as Tim Donohue was the only catcher ahead of him on the Cubs ' depth chart .

= = Career = =

= = = Chicago Cubs = = =

Chance began his career in 1898 with the Chicago Cubs , serving as a reserve catcher and outfielder . He played irregularly through the 1902 season . Due in part to finger injuries suffered while catching , Chance played in no more than 75 games in a season through 1902 . In 1903 , Johnny Kling became the Cubs ' full @-@ time catcher . As Bill Hanlon , the Cubs ' first baseman , left the team , manager Frank Selee moved Chance to first base . Though Chance initially balked at the position change , he agreed when he received a pay raise .

In 125 games during the 1903 season , Chance recorded a .327 batting average , and 67 stolen bases ; the latter mark led the National League (NL) . His .439 on @-@ base percentage was third @-@ best in the league , behind Roy Thomas and Roger Bresnahan , and his 81 runs batted in (RBIs) tied Jake Beckley for sixth @-@ best . Chance had a .310 batting average in 1904 , good for

sixth place in the NL . His .382 on @-@ base percentage was the fourth @-@ best in the league , and his .430 slugging percentage was fifth @-@ best . Chance also hit six home runs , tying him with Dan McGann , Red Dooie , and Cozy Dolan for third place , his 42 stolen bases tied McGann for fourth place , and his 89 runs scored were seventh @-@ best .

Selee fell ill in 1905 , and Chance was selected to succeed him as manager . That year , he also batted .316 with 92 runs scored and 70 RBIs . His batting average was sixth @-@ best in the NL , while he led the league with a .450 on @-@ base percentage , and finished seventh with a .434 slugging percentage . His 38 stolen bases were sixth @-@ best in the league . In 1906 , Chance batted .319 and led the NL in runs scored (103) and stolen bases (57) . His batting average was fifth @-@ best in the league , while his .419 on @-@ base percentage finished in third , and his .430 slugging percentage placed him in fifth . When Chance stole home from second base in a tie game against the Cincinnati Reds , team owner Charles W. Murphy granted him a ten @-@ percent ownership stake in the club to show his gratitude . Chance later sold his share of the franchise for approximately \$ 150 @, @ 000 . Meanwhile , The Cubs won 116 games during the 1906 season , taking the NL pennant . The Chicago White Sox of the American League defeated the Cubs in the 1906 World Series .

Chance batted .293 during the 1907 season , finishing sixth in the NL , while his .395 on @-@ base percentage was third @-@ best . He tied Ed Abbaticchio for seventh with 35 stolen bases . The Cubs returned to the World Series in 1907 . Though Chance only batted .154 in the 1907 World Series , the Cubs defeated the Tigers in four games .

Chance began to decline during the 1908 season . Though he finished third in the NL with 27 doubles , he did not finish among the ten best in the categories of batting average , on @-@ base percentage , or stolen bases in 1908 , 1909 , or 1910 . Chance batted .425 in the 1908 World Series , as the Cubs again defeated the Tigers , this time in five games .

By 1910 , Chance began to groom Fred Luderus as his successor at first base . He rebuilt the team in 1911 after Evers 's nervous breakdown and the departure of Harry Steinfeldt , replacing them with Heinie Zimmerman and Jim Doyle respectively . The Cubs returned to the World Series in 1910 , against the Philadelphia Athletics . Chance batted .353 in the 1910 World Series , though the Athletics won the series in five games . Chance was ejected in game three , becoming the first player ever ejected from a World Series game . Chance continued to transition himself out of the Cubs ' lineup in 1911 , as he played in only 31 games .

== = New York Yankees == =

In 1912 , Chance endured surgeries to correct blood clots in his brain that were caused by being hit by pitches in his head . Meanwhile , Chance argued with Murphy , who had been releasing expensive players from the Cubs in an effort to save the team money . The New York Yankees negotiated for Chance 's release from the Cubs after the 1912 season . The Cubs released Chance while he was hospitalized , and in January 1913 , Chance signed a three @-@ year contract with the Yankees , worth \$ 120 @, @ 000 (\$ 2 @, @ 873 @, @ 131 in current dollar terms) , to serve as the Yankees ' manager . He also played first base for the Yankees and served as field captain , though he played in no more than 12 games in a season . The Yankees sat in last place on the next @-@ to @-@ last day of the 1913 season , but won their final game to finish in seventh place . In 1914 , Chance named Roger Peckinpaugh the Yankees ' new captain .

After struggling during the 1914 season , Chance criticized the talent brought to him by Yankees scout Arthur Irwin . After repeatedly seeking to have Irwin fired , he offered his resignation from the team late in the season on the condition that he still was to receive his 1915 salary . After this was accepted by team owner Frank J. Farrell , Chance resigned with three weeks remaining in the season , and Peckinpaugh served as player ? manager for the remainder of the season .

== = Later career == =

Chance returned to his native California , and was named manager of the Los Angeles Angels of

the Pacific Coast League in 1916 . Chance won the league championship in 1916 . He re @-@ signed with the Angels for the 1917 season and was also granted a part ownership in the Angels from the majority owner , John F. Powers . Powers and Chance remained good friends for the rest of his life . He resigned during the 1917 season due to his declining health . He then served as president of the California Winter League , continuing to instill discipline in players : he fined Ty Cobb for " abusing an umpire " .

Chance managed the Boston Red Sox in 1923 . The Red Sox did not retain Chance after the season . But some sources noted that Chance had only agreed to a one @-@ year contract and was not necessarily interested in returning to the Red Sox , a team described by one sportswriter as no better than a minor league club . After his relationship with the Red Sox was severed , he was named the Chicago White Sox manager for the 1924 season but developed severe influenza before he could take the helm . He soon developed other respiratory complications , including asthma . Chance submitted his resignation to owner Charles Comiskey , but Comiskey refused to accept it , giving him the opportunity to return to the team when his health improved . He returned to Chicago briefly in April , but was unable to take charge of the team . Chance returned to Los Angeles where he underwent emergency surgery in April 1924 . Evers was named the White Sox acting manager for the 1924 season .

== = Career summary = = =

== = Overview = = =

Chance was part of the trio of infielders remembered for their double @-@ play ability , with Joe Tinker and Johnny Evers . The trio were immortalized as " Tinker @-@ to @-@ Evers @-@ to @-@ Chance " , also known as " Baseball 's Sad Lexicon " , written by the 28 @-@ year @-@ old New York Evening Mail newspaper columnist Franklin Pierce Adams in July 1910 . Chance helped Evers develop an underhanded throw .

Chance took over as Chicago 's manager in 1905 . His playing time decreased towards the end of the decade . The Cubs won the NL pennant in 1906 , 1907 , 1908 and 1910 , and won the World Series in 1907 and 1908 , to date , the Cubs ' last World Series victory . He became the highest paid player in baseball , earning as much as \$ 25 @,@ 000 (\$ 634 @,@ 911 in current dollar terms) in 1910 .

Chance 's lifetime record as a manager was 946 ? 648 (.593 winning percentage) ; his .667 winning percentage as manager of the Cubs is the highest in franchise history . As a player , Chance is the Cubs ' all @-@ time career leader in stolen bases , with 400 . He led the Cubs in batting average in 1903 , 1904 , 1905 and 1907 . In World Series play , Chance batted .310 , recording 22 hits , scoring 11 runs , and stealing 10 bases .

Chance was a disciplinarian . He preached moderation in socializing , including avoiding alcohol , to his players . Chance fined his players for shaking hands with members of the opposing team and forced Solly Hofman to delay his wedding until after the baseball season , lest marriage impair his abilities on the playing field . In August 1911 , Chance suspended Tinker for the remainder of the season for using profanity , though he reinstated Tinker two days later .

== = Managerial record = = =

= = Personal = =

During the baseball offseasons , Chance worked as a prizefighter . James J. Corbett and John L. Sullivan , among the best fighters of the era , both considered Chance " the greatest amateur brawler of all time . " Chance owned a ranch in Glendora , California , which he sold prior to becoming manager of the Red Sox .

Chance married Edythe Pancake on October 3 , 1903 . Edythe became an advocate for baseball , imploring women to attend baseball games .

Chance died at age 48 . Some sources simply said that he died of a " long illness " , while others attributed it to heart disease brought on by severe spasms of bronchial asthma . He was survived by his wife , mother , sister , and three brothers . Chance was interred in the Angelus @-@ Rosedale Cemetery , Los Angeles . His death was greatly mourned , and his funeral received widespread publicity in Los Angeles and Chicago . Among his pallbearers were Powers and race car driver Barney Oldfield . His estate was valued at \$ 170 @,@ 000 .

= = Honors = =

After falling short of induction in the Hall of Fame by seven votes in 1945 , Chance was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1946 . Tinker and Evers were elected the same year . Chance was also elected to the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame .

A baseball field in Fresno named after Chance operated from 1935 to 1941 . Joe DiMaggio played in the first @-@ ever game at Frank Chance Field . Retired players participated in an exhibition game in Chance 's honor in 1937 . John McGraw , a contemporary and rival of Chance , considered Chance one of the greatest players he ever saw .

The City of Hope National Medical Center created the Frank L. Chance Research Fellowship Foundation in his memory .