

= Joe Tinker =

Joseph Bert Tinker (July 27 , 1880 ? July 27 , 1948) was an American professional baseball player and manager . He played from 1902 through 1916 for the Chicago Cubs and Cincinnati Reds of Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Chicago Whales of the Federal League .

Born in Muscotah , Kansas , Tinker began playing semi @-@ professional baseball in Kansas in the late 19th century . He began his professional career in 1900 in minor league baseball and made his MLB debut with the Cubs in 1902 . Tinker was a member of the Chicago Cubs dynasty that won four pennants and two World Series championships between 1906 and 1910 . After playing one season with Cincinnati in 1913 , he became one of the first stars to jump to the upstart Federal League in 1914 . After leading the Whales to the pennant in 1915 , he returned to the Cubs as their player @-@ manager in 1916 , his final season in MLB .

Tinker returned to minor league baseball as a part @-@ owner and manager for the Columbus Senators before moving to Orlando , Florida , to manage the Orlando Tigers . While in Orlando , Tinker developed a real estate firm , which thrived during the Florida land boom of the 1920s . However , the 1926 Miami hurricane and Great Depression cost Tinker most of his fortune , and he returned to professional baseball in the late 1930s .

With the Cubs , Tinker was a part of a great double @-@ play combination with teammates Johnny Evers and Frank Chance that was immortalized as " Tinker @-@ to @-@ Evers @-@ to @-@ Chance " in the poem " Baseball 's Sad Lexicon " . However , Evers and Tinker feuded off the field . Tinker was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946 , the same year as Evers and Chance . He has also been honored by the Florida State League and the city of Orlando .

= = Early life = =

Tinker was born in Muscotah , Kansas . His twin sister died at a young age . When Tinker was two , his family moved to Kansas City , Kansas . There , he began to play baseball for his school 's team when he was 14 years old . He played in semi @-@ professional baseball for Hagen 's Tailors in 1898 , winning the city championship . In 1899 , he played for a team based in Parsons , Kansas , until it disbanded . He then joined a team representing Coffeyville , Kansas , as a third baseman , for the remainder of the year .

Tinker started his professional baseball career in 1900 , at the age of 19 , when Billy Hulen , a teammate of Tinker 's with the Coffeyville squad , recommended him to George Tebeau , the manager of the Denver Grizzlies of the Western League . Playing as a second baseman for Denver , Tinker batted .219 in his first 32 games . Tebeau sold Tinker to the Great Falls Indians of the Montana State League in June . Great Falls sold Tinker to the Helena Senators , also in the Montana State League , for \$ 200 later in the season due to the team 's financial insolvency .

In 1901 , Tinker batted .290 for the Portland Webfoots of the Pacific Northwest League as their third baseman . He led the league with 37 stolen bases . Receiving interest from the Chicago Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds of the National League (NL) , Tinker decided on the Cubs when teammate Jack McCarthy told him that he felt mistreated from his time with the Reds .

= = Major league career = =

= = = Chicago Cubs = = =

When he purchased Tinker 's contract , Cubs manager Frank Selee was seeking a replacement at shortstop for Barry McCormick , who had joined the St. Louis Browns of the rival American League . Tinker won the job during spring training . As a rookie in 1902 , Tinker batted .261 , but also led NL shortstops with 72 errors . Johnny Evers , also a rookie , played second base for the Cubs . With Frank Chance , the team 's first baseman , the trio first played together on September 13 , 1902 , and collaborated on their first double play on September 15 .

In the 1903 season , Tinker 's batting average improved to .291 , and he also contributed 70 RBIs . Tinker led all NL shortstops in the 1906 season with a .944 fielding percentage . On September 14 , 1905 , Tinker and Evers engaged in a fistfight on the field because Evers had taken a cab to the stadium and left his teammates behind in the hotel lobby . They did not speak for years following this event .

Tinker led all shortstops in the NL in double plays turned in the 1905 season . Led by Tinker , Evers and Chance , the Cubs had a 116 ? 36 win @-@ loss record in the 1906 season , a record for victories that only was matched by the Seattle Mariners in the 2001 season , in which the Mariners played ten more games than the 1906 Cubs . Tinker batted .167 in the 1906 World Series as the Chicago White Sox defeated the Cubs in six games . Prior to the 1907 season , Tinker underwent surgery for appendicitis . Tinker batted only .154 in the 1907 World Series , but the Cubs defeated the Detroit Tigers in five games .

In the 1908 season , Tinker played all 157 games on the Cubs ' schedule . In addition to batting .266 , he led the team with 146 hits , six home runs , 14 triples , and a .391 slugging percentage . He also led the league with 570 assists . In the game characterized by Merkle 's Boner , Tinker hit an inside @-@ the @-@ park home run against Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants , prior to Fred Merkle 's baserunning gaffe . In the 1908 NL playoff game , which was a replay of the Merkle game , Tinker hit a leadoff triple off of Mathewson in the third inning , which ignited a four @-@ run rally that helped Chicago to clinch the pennant . Tinker then batted .263 as the Cubs defeated the Tigers in the 1908 World Series in five games . Tinker also hit a home run off of Bill Donovan , the first home run hit in a World Series following the 1905 rules agreement .

In 1909 , Tinker , who earned \$ 1 @,@ 500 , demanded a \$ 2 @,@ 500 salary . He accepted a \$ 200 raise . The Cubs reached the 1910 World Series , and though Tinker batted .333 in the series , the Cubs lost to the Philadelphia Athletics in five games . Following the 1910 season , Tinker threatened to quit the Cubs and play baseball in Australia over a salary dispute .

Tinker led the NL with 486 assists in the 1911 season and led all shortstops in putouts with 333 . In August 1911 , Chance suspended Tinker for the remainder of the season for using profanity , though he was reinstated two days later .

Garry Herrmann , the owner of the Reds , identified Tinker as an ideal candidate to become his player @-@ manager for the 1912 season . According to Tinker , shareholders of the Reds approached Tinker about his interest in the job , and he then met with Charles W. Murphy , the Cubs ' owner , and Chance , then serving as the Cubs ' manager . They forbade him from taking the role with Cincinnati , which left Tinker unhappy . Herrmann began to listen to entreaties from his players , who wanted to retain Clark Griffith as manager , but decided to hire Hank O 'Day . In the 1912 season , Tinker had a .282 batting average , and scored 80 runs and recorded 75 RBIs , both career records . He again led the league in putouts by a shortstop , with 354 . Tinker finished in fourth place in the Chalmers Award voting following the season , behind Larry Doyle , Honus Wagner , and Chief Meyers .

= = = Cincinnati Reds = = =

Murphy named Evers the new manager of the Cubs for the 1913 season . Tinker did not want to play for Evers and met with Murphy and Evers to discuss his transfer to the Reds . Murphy was unhappy with Tinker 's high salary demands , which led him to agree to trade Tinker to the Cincinnati Reds in December 1912 . The Reds received Tinker , Harry Chapman and Grover Lowdermilk in exchange for Red Corriden , Bert Humphries , Pete Knisely , Mike Mitchell , and Art Phelan . He signed a contract for an undisclosed salary .

Tinker missed several weeks during the 1913 season when he gave blood for his wife 's blood transfusion . Tinker finished the season with a .317 batting average , .445 slugging percentage , and a .968 fielding percentage , all career highs , in 110 games . However , the Reds as a team struggled , finishing the season with a 64 ? 89 win @-@ loss record . Due to the Reds ' struggles , Herrmann challenged Tinker 's managerial style and sought his resignation . Tinker refused to resign .

= = = Chicago Whales and Cubs = = =

In October 1913 , Tinker and Herrmann conferred , leading to Tinker signing a contract to remain the Reds manager for the 1914 season . However , Herrmann fired Tinker in November , leaving him to seek a contract from another team . Tinker complained that Herrmann did not seek his input on player transactions , while Herrmann charged that Tinker did not accept his authority .

Charles Ebbets , owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers , viewed Tinker as a good replacement for the released Bob Fisher , their shortstop in 1913 . The Cubs , Giants , Pittsburgh Pirates , and Philadelphia Phillies were also interested in acquiring Tinker . Ebbets secured Tinker 's release from the Reds for \$ 15 @,@ 000 , with another \$ 10 @,@ 000 to be paid to Tinker . The teams also agreed to swap players , with Earl Yingling and Herbie Moran going to Cincinnati and Dick Egan joining Brooklyn . Ebbets entered contract negotiations with Tinker .

However , Tinker never received the \$ 10 @,@ 000 promised to him by Ebbets . He insisted on a \$ 10 @,@ 000 salary for the 1914 season , higher than the \$ 5 @,@ 000 Brooklyn was willing to pay . Tinker was willing to accept a three @-@ year contract if it paid \$ 7 @,@ 500 per season . Tinker decided to jump to the Federal League rather than sign with Brooklyn , signing a three @-@ year contract worth \$ 36 @,@ 000 . He was considered the first " star " player to jump to the Federal League , though he signed with the Federal League the same day as Mordecai Brown .

Joining the Chicago Whales in the Federal League , Tinker served as player @-@ manager . In his role , he signed other major league players to the Federal League , though he could not lure American League pitchers Walter Johnson from the Washington Senators or Smoky Joe Wood from the Boston Red Sox . The Whales drew more fans than the Cubs in those two seasons . The Whales finished in second place in 1914 , with Tinker batting .259 despite suffering a broken rib during the season . Tinker tore a muscle in May 1915 , ending his season prematurely . With Tinker managing , the Whales won the pennant in 1915 . However , the league folded after the 1915 season .

Charles Weeghman , the owner of the Whales , purchased the Cubs and consolidated his two Chicago rosters , retaining Tinker as his manager . Due to the high combined salaries of the Cubs and Whales , which included Brown and Roger Bresnahan , Tinker was tasked with releasing extraneous players from their contracts . He served as the player @-@ manager of the Cubs for the 1916 season .

= = = Career summary = = =

Tinker was the starting shortstop for the Chicago Cubs from 1902 to 1912 . He was a speedy runner , stealing an average of 28 bases a season and even stealing home twice in one game on July 28 , 1910 . He also excelled at fielding , often leading the National League in a number of statistical categories (including four times in fielding percentage) . During his decade with the Cubs , they went to the World Series four times , winning in 1907 and 1908 .

Despite being just an average hitter , batting .268 for his career in an era of high batting averages , Tinker had a good amount of success against fellow Hall of Famer Christy Mathewson , batting .350 against the Hall of Fame pitcher over his career . In Mathewson 's 1912 book , Pitching in a Pinch , he referred to Tinker as " the worst man I have to face in the National League . "

Tinker is perhaps best known for the " Tinker to Evers to Chance " double play combination in the poem " Baseball 's Sad Lexicon " , written by the New York Evening Mail newspaper columnist Franklin Pierce Adams in July 1910 . The poem was written as a lamentation from the perspective of a New York Giants fan on how the team is consistently defeated by the Chicago Cubs .

Tinker was also noted as a fighter . In addition to fighting Evers , Tinker defeated Egan in a fight after a game and fought Rabbit Maranville during a game . In 1908 , he was arrested for assault when he got into a fight with a fan at a saloon he owned . He was acquitted of the charge .

= = Later life = =

In December 1916 , Tinker became part @-@ owner of the Columbus Senators of the American Association , with Thomas E. Wilson serving as the principal owner . The duo paid \$ 65 @,@ 000 for 75 % ownership of the team . Tinker also served as the team 's manager . He allowed Grover Hartley to succeed him as manager in 1919 and chose Bill Clymer to manage the team for the 1920 season , leading Hartley to request a trade .

Tinker 's wife continued to suffer through poor health , so Tinker sold his interest in the Columbus team after the 1920 season and moved to Orlando , Florida . Tinker became owner and manager of the Orlando Tigers of the Florida State League . The team became known as the " Tinker Tigers " and won the league 's championship . Tinker also scouted for the Reds .

Tinker 's wife committed suicide on Christmas Day , 1923 , with a revolver during an apparent nervous breakdown . He remarried in 1926 , to Mary Ross Eddington of Orlando . Jack Hendricks of the Reds served as Tinker 's best man . He married his third wife , Susanna Margaret Chabot , in 1942 .

Tinker ended his involvement in professional baseball , focusing instead on his real estate ventures during the Florida land boom of the 1920s . He developed a successful real estate firm , buying and selling land in Orange County and Seminole County . He purchased the Longwood Hotel , now listed on the National Register of Historic Places , in 1926 . Tinker convinced Reds owner Garry Herrmann to use his stadium in Orlando for their spring training site in 1923 .

Tinker made up to \$ 250 @,@ 000 in his real estate business . However , his fortunes began to change in 1926 , when the stock market receded and the 1926 Miami hurricane damaged significant areas of South Florida . During the Great Depression , he was forced to liquidate most of his real estate holdings . Tinker owned a billiard parlor during the Depression . He opened one of Orlando 's first bars after the end of Prohibition . He also returned to baseball . Tinker scouted the Philadelphia Athletics ' hitters for the Cubs prior to the 1929 World Series .

During the 1930 season , Tinker returned to baseball as a coach for the Buffalo Bisons of the International League , who were managed by Clymer . Tinker became the manager of the Jersey City Skeeters of the International League after the dismissal of Nick Allen in August . The owner of the Springfield Ponies of the Eastern League attempted to convince Tinker to manage his team in 1931 . Tinker assumed managerial duties of the Orlando Gulls in mid @-@ May 1937 , succeeding Nelson Leach . However , he resigned the position in July of that year , as the team was unable to pay his salary . During World War II , Tinker worked at Orlando Air Force Base as a boiler inspector .

According to some tellings , Tinker and Evers did not speak to one another again following their fight for 33 years , until they were asked to participate in the radio broadcast of the 1938 World Series , played between the Cubs and the New York Yankees . Neither Tinker nor Evers knew the other had been invited . However , in 1929 , Tinker joined with Evers in signing a 10 @-@ week contract to perform a theatrical skit on baseball in different cities across the United States .

Tinker had serious health problems in his later life . Complications of diabetes mellitus and Bright 's disease left Tinker near death in 1936 , when his physician believed he had 24 hours to live , and 1944 , when he was placed in an oxygen tent . However , he returned to health and scouted minor league players for the Boston Braves in 1946 . Tinker developed an infection relating to diabetes that in 1947 required the amputation of a toe and persisted until his left leg above the knee was amputated as well . Tinker died at Orange Memorial Hospital in Orlando on July 27 , 1948 , his 68th birthday , of complications from diabetes . He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery and survived by his four children .

= = Honors = =

Tinker was elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946 . Evers and Chance were inducted that same year . Local leaders in Orlando held a testimonial dinner in his honor in 1947 .

Tinker Field , a stadium in the shadow of the Citrus Bowl , and the Tinker Building , Tinker 's office in Orlando , are on the National Register of Historic Places . Tinker was posthumously inducted into

the Florida State League Hall of Fame in 2009 , in its inaugural class .