

= Dan McGann =

Dennis Lawrence " Dan " McGann ( July 15 , 1871 ? December 13 , 1910 ) , also known as Cap McGann , was a professional baseball player who played first base in Major League Baseball ( MLB ) from 1896 to 1908 . He was a member of the NL pennant @-@ winning Brooklyn Superbas in 1899 and New York Giants in 1904 and 1905 . He was also a member of the 1905 World Series champions .

After beginning his professional career in minor league baseball in 1895 , McGann played in MLB for the Boston Beaneaters ( 1896 ) , Baltimore Orioles ( 1898 ) , Brooklyn Superbas ( 1899 ) , Washington Senators ( 1899 ) , and St. Louis Cardinals ( 1900 ? 1901 ) of the National League ( NL ) before jumping to the rival American League to play for the Baltimore Orioles in 1902 . He returned to the NL , playing for the New York Giants ( 1902 ? 1907 ) and Boston Doves ( 1908 ) . In 1909 ? 10 , he played for the Milwaukee Brewers in the American Association .

McGann had a troubled personal life . He suffered from depression , and several members of his family committed suicide . After the 1910 season , with rumors of McGann signing with another minor league team , McGann committed suicide with a firearm .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career ( 1891 ? 1897 ) = = =

McGann began his professional baseball career in minor league baseball with a team representing his hometown , Shelbyville , Kentucky , in 1891 . He also played for Kentucky teams representing Harrodsburg in 1892 , Lexington in 1893 , and Maysville in 1894 . McGann played for the Norfolk Clams / Crows of the Class @-@ B Virginia State League in 1895 and the Lynchburg Hill Climbers of the Class @-@ B Virginia League in 1896 . He initially played all positions except for pitcher , catcher , and first baseman .

In August 1896 , the Boston Beaneaters of the National League ( NL ) purchased McGann from Lynchburg to fill in for injured second baseman Bobby Lowe . McGann batted .322 with the Beaneaters , hitting for power , but he committed 21 errors in 43 games . The Beaneaters released him following the completion of the season . McGann played the 1897 season with the Toronto Canucks of the Class @-@ A Eastern League . He moved to first base and batted .354 , leading the Eastern League with 20 triples .

= = = Major League Baseball ( 1898 ? 1908 ) = = =

The Washington Senators of the NL purchased McGann , Butts Wagner , Bob McHale and Cooney Snyder from Toronto for \$ 8 @, @ 500 ( \$ 241 @, @ 774 in current dollar terms ) on September 22 , 1897 . The Senators traded McGann with Gene DeMontreville and Doc McJames to the Baltimore Orioles of the NL for Doc Amole , Jack Doyle and Heinie Reitz that December . He played one season with the Orioles , in which he batted .301 with 106 runs batted in ( RBI ) in 1898 , good for fifth place in the NL .

When Orioles manager Ned Hanlon was hired to manage the Brooklyn Superbas during the 1899 season , receiving an ownership stake in the team to do so , he assigned several of his star players , including McGann , Joe McGinnity , Joe Kelley , Hughie Jennings and Willie Keeler to the Superbas . McGann finished second on the team in RBIs with 106 , behind Kelley .

McGann batted .243 for the Superbas through July 14 , 1899 , when they traded him with Aleck Smith to the Senators for Deacon McGuire . For the Senators , McGann batted .343 during the rest of the 1899 season . Short on money , the Senators sold McGann and Gus Weyhing to the St. Louis Cardinals for \$ 5 @, @ 000 ( \$ 142 @, @ 220 in current dollar terms ) on March 9 , 1900 . McGann left the Cardinals before the end of 1901 season , for unknown reasons . The Cardinals replaced McGann with Bill Richardson .

With the formation of the American League ( AL ) as a competitor to the NL , McGann joined many fellow NL players who jumped to the AL . Following Cardinals teammate John McGraw , who became player @-@ manager of the Baltimore Orioles of the AL before the 1901 season , McGann signed with the Orioles .

However , the Orioles struggled with debt . Joe Kelley , star player for the Orioles and son @-@ in @-@ law of part @-@ owner John Mahon , reported that the team owed as much as \$ 12 @,@ 000 ( \$ 328 @,@ 200 in current dollar terms ) . Unable to afford that debt , Mahon purchased shares of the team from Kelley and John McGraw . With this , Mahon became the majority shareholder , owning 201 of the team 's 400 shares . On July 17 , 1902 , Mahon sold his interest in the Orioles to Andrew Freedman , principal owner of the Giants , and John T. Brush , principal owner of the Cincinnati Reds , also of the NL . That day , Freedman released McGann , McGraw , Cy Seymour , Roger Bresnahan , Joe Kelley , Joe McGinnity , and Jack Cronin from their contracts with Orioles . Freedman signed McGann , Bresnahan , McGinnity and Cronin to the Giants , joining McGraw , who had signed with the Giants ten days earlier . Brush signed Seymour and Kelley to the Reds .

With the Giants , McGraw installed McGann at first base , moving Christy Mathewson to pitcher . McGann stole 36 bases in the 1903 season . After the season , McGann and some of his Giants teammates threatened to quit the team due to the treatment of Brush , now the Giants owner , for allegedly going back on a promise to provide the Giants with a monetary bonus for having the Giants finish in the top three of the NL and a share of the gate receipts from exhibition games , in which they were paid \$ 56 @.@ 35 ( \$ 1 @,@ 484 in current dollar terms ) , though Brush allegedly had made over \$ 200 @,@ 000 ( \$ 5 @,@ 267 @,@ 407 in current dollar terms ) . McGann and Jack Warner were rumored to join McGinnity in an outlaw league in California .

McGann stole 42 bases in 1904 , finishing fourth in the NL . He stole five bases on May 27 , 1904 , setting an NL record . McGann 's record stood until Davey Lopes stole five bases in a game in 1974 , and Otis Nixon stole six in a game in 1991 . McGann led the team with a .286 batting average and six home runs that season . Though the Giants won the NL pennant in 1904 , they refused to compete in the 1904 World Series . Brush and McGraw refused to face the AL champion Boston Pilgrims , following their altercations with Johnson .

McGann developed a reputation as a fighter in 1905 . On April 21 , 1905 , in a game against the Philadelphia Phillies , McGann punched catcher Fred Abbott after McGann was thrown out at home plate . Abbott hit McGann in the back with the ball , resulting in both players being ejected from the game . McGann batted .299 with 14 triples in 1905 as the Giants won NL pennant for the second consecutive year . Competing in the 1905 World Series , a series the Giants won over the Philadelphia Athletics in five games , McGann contributed with his bat and glove . Although McGann batted .235 in the series , he recorded four RBIs on three hits in a Game Three victory .

McGann was briefly suspended by NL president Harry Pulliam for fighting on May 16 , 1906 . McGann finished first in the NL fielding percentage at first base from 1903 through 1906 . He also served as Giants ' team captain . Despite this , rumors began to circulate that the Giants were looking to trade McGann , which the team denied .

Before the 1907 season , a report surfaced that the Giants would shift Mike Donlin from the outfield to first base , in order to replace McGann . Donlin denied the claim . McGann suffered a broken wrist when he was hit by a pitch thrown by Andy Coakley of the Cincinnati Reds during spring training in 1907 .

McGann returned to the Giants out of shape midway through the 1907 season , although he did bat .298 that season . That winter , trade rumours began to swirl that the Giants would trade him to the Reds . Instead , the Giants traded McGann to the Boston Doves with Frank Bowerman , George Browne , Bill Dahlen and Cecil Ferguson for Al Bridwell , Tom Needham and Fred Tenney on December 13 , 1907 . Tenney , also a first baseman , was designated as McGann 's replacement at first . When a reporter asked McGraw about McGann and Tenney , pointing out that both first basemen were 36 years old , McGraw replied that Tenney had taken better care of himself .

Despite discussion of appointing McGann player @-@ manager of the Doves , the role was assigned to Kelley . Agreeing to terms with George Dovey , president of the Doves , McGann played 135 games during the 1908 season , but batted only .240 . During an April 1908 game between the

Doves and the Giants , McGraw insulted McGann as slow , referring to him as a " damned ice wagon " , noting " that 's how the Giants lost a lot of games last season " . After the game , McGann went to the Giants ' hotel , waited for McGraw to return from the theatre , and fought him in a billiard room . Dovey released McGann from the Doves after the 1908 season .

= = = Later career ( 1909 ? 1910 ) = = =

McGann signed with the Milwaukee Brewers of the Class @-@ A American Association for the 1909 season . He played for Milwaukee in 1909 and 1910 , batting only .225 in 1910 , his career low . There were reports McGann might sign with the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League or a team in Louisville , Kentucky , near his Shelbyville home in 1911 . McGann 's career was ended , however , by his death in December 1910 .

= = Personal life = =

McGann invested in real estate and financial holdings near his Shelbyville home during his career . At the time of his death , his property was assessed to be worth approximately \$ 40 @, @ 000 ( \$ 1 @, @ 015 @, @ 857 in current dollar terms ) .

= = Family = =

McGann suffered from severe clinical depression , a condition which ran throughout his family . One of McGann 's sisters committed suicide in 1890 after their mother died . On New Year 's Eve in 1907 , one of McGann 's brothers died as a result of an accidental shooting . In 1909 , another of McGann 's brothers committed suicide .

= = Death = =

On December 13 , 1910 , McGann committed suicide by shooting himself in the heart at a Louisville hotel . At the time of his death , he was 39 years old , and reportedly had been " in the best of health and humor " when last seen . McGann was survived by two sisters , who , despite the family history of suicide , believed their brother had been murdered , as a diamond ring valued at \$ 800 ( \$ 20 @, @ 317 in current dollar terms ) McGann had been seen wearing was missing .