

= Joe Kelley =

Joseph James Kelley (December 9 , 1871 ? August 14 , 1943) was an American left fielder in Major League Baseball (MLB) who starred in the outfield of the Baltimore Orioles teams of the 1890s . Making up the nucleus of the Orioles along with John McGraw , Willie Keeler , and Hughie Jennings , Kelley received the nickname " Kingpin of the Orioles " .

In his MLB career , Kelley played in the National League (NL) for the Boston Beaneaters (1891) , Pittsburgh Pirates (1892) , Baltimore Orioles (1892 ? 1898) , and Brooklyn Superbas (1899 ? 1901) , before he jumped to the upstart American League to play for the Baltimore Orioles (1902) . He returned to the NL with Cincinnati Reds (1902 ? 1906) and Boston Doves (1908) . Kelley served as player @-@ manager of the Reds (1902 ? 1905) and Doves (1908) . After extending his career in the minor leagues , he coached the Brooklyn Robins (1926) , and scouted for the New York Yankees (1915 ? 1916) .

Kelley was regarded as an excellent batter , a good base runner , and a great leader . Over his seventeen season MLB career , Kelley had a .317 batting average , and batted over .300 in eleven consecutive seasons . Kelley stole a career @-@ high 87 bases in the 1896 season , which led MLB . He finished in the league 's top ten in categories such as batting average , home runs , runs batted in (RBI) , and stolen bases numerous times . He served as team captain of the Orioles and the Superbas . In recognition of his career achievements , Kelley was elected a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in 1971 .

= = Early life = =

Kelley was born to Patrick Kelly and Ann Kelly (née Carney) in Cambridge , Massachusetts on December 9 , 1871 . Kelley 's parents emigrated to the United States from Ireland , and he had five siblings . According to the 1880 United States Census , Patrick worked as a marble cutter .

As a child , Kelley was educated at a parochial grammar school and St. Thomas Aquinas College in Cambridge , where he starred for the school 's baseball team as a pitcher . He worked for a local piano manufacturer and the John P. Lowell Arms Company . He practiced with the Harvard Crimson , the college baseball team of Harvard University , and played semi @-@ professional baseball for the Lowell Arms Company .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career : Minor leagues and Boston Beaneaters (1891) = = =

Kelley made his professional debut with the Lowell Indians of the New England League (NEL) in 1891 , at age 19 . During games he did not pitch , Lowell 's manager put him in the lineup as an infielder . Kelley had a 10 ? 3 win ? loss record and a NEL @-@ leading .323 batting average with Lowell .

Lowell folded in July . Three days later , Kelley signed with the Boston Beaneaters of the National League (NL) . Kelley made his major league debut in August 1891 with the Beaneaters . After batting .244 in twelve games played , the Beaneaters released Kelley after the season . Kelley began the 1892 season with the Omaha Omahogs of the Class ? A Western League , turning down a \$ 1 @, @ 200 salary (\$ 31 @, @ 604 in current dollar terms) from the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League . With Omaha , Kelley batted .316 with 19 stolen bases in 58 games .

= = = Pittsburgh Pirates and NL 's Baltimore Orioles (1892 ? 1898) = = =

The Pittsburgh Pirates of the NL purchased Kelley 's contract from Omaha for \$ 500 (\$ 13 @, @ 169 in current dollar terms) on July 2 , 1892 . Ned Hanlon , new manager of the Baltimore Orioles , traded George Van Haltren to the Pirates for Kelley and \$ 2 @, @ 000 (\$ 52 @, @ 674 in current

dollar terms) in September 1892 . Hanlon had succeeded Van Haltren as Orioles ' manager during the season ; remaining with the Orioles as a player , Van Haltren openly criticized Hanlon . Hanlon mentioned that he " had [his] eye on Kelley for a long time . "

Hanlon taught Kelley how to play center field . During the 1893 season , Kelley batted .305 , with 120 runs scored , and stole 33 bases . He finished ninth in the NL with a .476 slugging percentage (SLG) , and tied Eddie Burke for ninth in home runs with 9 . The Orioles won the NL pennant in 1894 , 1895 , and 1896 . Kelley moved to left field in 1894 with the acquisition of Steve Brodie , who played center . That year , he batted .393 with 111 runs batted in (RBI) , 199 hits , and 165 runs scored , tying teammate Willie Keeler for second in runs and finishing sixth in batting average and eighth in hits . Combined with 107 walks , which were tied for second most in the NL with Cupid Childs and behind only Billy Hamilton , Kelley posted a .502 on @-@ base percentage (OBP) , finishing second in the NL to Hamilton , and hit 48 doubles , good for second in the NL , behind only Hugh Duffy . His .602 SLG was the fourth best in the NL .

These Orioles teams , led by John McGraw , were known to break the rules in order to win , including tampering with their bats and the playing field . Kelley hid baseballs in the outfield , using the closest hidden ball instead of finding the ball batted into the outfield . Kelley hit ten home runs in 1895 , a then @-@ franchise record , tying him for fifth in the NL with five other players . He also tied Brodie for second with 134 RBI , finished fourth with 54 stolen bases , fifth with a .546 SLG , and sixth with a .456 OBP . In 1896 , Kelley finished seventh in the NL in batting average (.364) , fourth in runs scored (148) , fourth in SLG (.543) , fifth in OBP (.469) , ninth in hits (189) , and tied Gene DeMontreville for eighth in home runs (8) .

In 1897 , Kelley agreed to serve as the coach of the Georgetown Hoyas , the college baseball team of Georgetown University . That year , he finished fifth in the NL in batting average (.362) and RBI (118) , seventh in OBP (.447) , and eighth in SLG (.489) .

By 1898 , Kelley earned an annual salary of \$ 2 @,@ 500 (\$ 71 @,@ 110 in current dollar terms) , plus a \$ 200 (\$ 5 @,@ 689 in current dollar terms) bonus for serving as team captain . He finished third in the league with 110 RBI and ninth with a .438 SLG . Due to insolvency , the Brooklyn Superbas purchased the Orioles after the 1898 season and transferred Kelley , Hanlon , Keeler , Joe McGinnity , and Hughie Jennings to Brooklyn . Wanting an opportunity to manage , and to remain near Baltimore , Kelley requested a transfer to the Washington Senators , but Washington did not have enough talent to send to Brooklyn to make a trade .

= = = Brooklyn Superbas and AL 's Baltimore Orioles (1899 ? 1902) = = =

With McGraw remaining in Baltimore , Hanlon named Kelley team captain . The Superbas won the NL pennant in 1899 and 1900 , as Kelley finished tenth in RBI (93) , OBP (.410) , and tied several players for tenth in home runs (6) in 1899 and led the team with a .319 batting average in 1900 , while finishing fourth in the league in SLG (.485) , tying Hickman for seventh in RBI (91) , and tying Jimmy Collins and Buck Freeman for tenth in home runs (6) .

Kelley moved back to the infield , becoming the regular first baseman in 1901 . After the 1901 season , Kelley denied reports that he would jump from the Superbas to the Detroit Tigers of the American League (AL) , the former Western League which had decided to compete with the NL by creating franchises in east coast cities that housed NL franchises . However , the opportunity to return to Baltimore proved irresistible to Kelley , and after the AL 's successful 1901 season , he jumped from the Superbas to the Baltimore Orioles AL . Kelley 's father @-@ in @-@ law , John Mahon , was president and principal share holder of the AL 's Orioles .

Kelley was named Orioles ' captain and received some stock in the team . McGraw , player @-@ manager of the Orioles , resigned from the team to take over as manager of the New York Giants on July 7 , 1902 . In his absence , Kelley and Wilbert Robinson took over in the interim . Under indefinite suspension by Ban Johnson by July 1902 for fighting with umpires , Kelley entertained the idea of leaving the Orioles with McGraw , who was becoming frustrated with Johnson , and had begun negotiating to join the New York Giants of the NL . With the team in financial straits , Kelley sold his shares of the Orioles to Mahon , who had purchased McGraw 's shares when he left for

New York , becoming principal shareholder of the Orioles . Mahon then sold controlling interest in the Orioles to Andrew Freedman , principal owner of the Giants , and John T. Brush , principal owner of the Cincinnati Reds , on July 17 . On the day they owned the franchise , they released the best players on the Orioles from their contracts so that they could be signed by National League teams : Kelley and Cy Seymour signed with the Reds , while McGinnity , Roger Bresnahan , Dan McGann , and Jack Cronin signed with the Giants . Johnson , along with Orioles minority owners , took control of the Orioles franchise , which had to forfeit their game that day as they did not have enough players . Kelley stated that the Orioles owed \$ 12 @, @ 000 (\$ 328 @, @ 200 in current dollar terms) , and that selling his shares was the only way Mahon could pay the team 's debts .

= = = Cincinnati Reds , Toronto Maple Leafs , and Boston Doves (1902 ? 1908) = = =

The Superbas lodged a complaint against the Reds , claiming that Kelley was still under their control , seeking compensation from the Reds . However , the other NL owners saw the situation as a coup for their league , and compelled Hanlon to drop his complaint . Kelley did not immediately report to Cincinnati , instead traveling to Boston to attempt to convince members of the Boston Americans to join him in the NL . Kelley joined the Reds on July 31 .

With rumors that Kelley was negotiating to become the Reds ' manager , incumbent manager Bid McPhee resigned , and Kelley succeeded him . Kelley served as manager of the Reds from 1902 until 1905 . In 1903 , Kelley finished ninth in the NL in OBP (.402) . He was dismissed as manager after the 1905 season , and replaced by Hanlon . He remained as a Reds player for the 1906 season . He batted .228 during the 1906 season , and the Reds released him .

Kelley signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Class ? AA International League (IL) in 1907 , receiving a \$ 5 @, @ 000 salary (\$ 126 @, @ 982 in current dollar terms) , the highest for a minor league player to date . Kelley batted .322 for the Maple Leafs as a part @-@ time player , spending time in left field and first base . The Maple Leafs won the IL pennant that season .

With Fred Tenney set to leave the Boston Doves of the NL for the Giants , the Doves claimed Kelley from the Maple Leafs , signing Kelley to a two @-@ year contract with an annual salary of \$ 5 @, @ 500 (\$ 144 @, @ 854 in current dollar terms) . Kelley announced that he would play left field . Kelley feuded with Doves ' owner George Dovey , as Dovey wanted George Browne fined for " indifferent play " , which Kelley refused to do . Dovey fired Kelley in December 1908 . Kelley threatened legal action against Dovey , stating in the press that Dovey was releasing him to cut salary . Kelley and Dovey settled their case , freeing Kelley from the second year of his Doves contract .

= = = Later career (1909 ? 1926) = = =

Maple Leafs president James McCafferey secured Kelley 's return to the club in 1909 . He played with the Maple Leafs through 1910 , managing the Maple Leafs from 1912 to 1914 , winning a second pennant in 1912 .

After the 1914 season , the Maple Leafs released Kelley . The New York Yankees considered hiring Kelley as their manager after the 1914 season . Kelley scouted for the Yankees in 1915 and 1916 . Former teammate Wilbert Robinson , then manager of the Brooklyn Robins , hired Kelley and McGinnity to join his coaching staff for the 1926 MLB season . Kelley and McGinnity were not retained after the season .

= = Legacy = =

As a player , Kelley had 11 consecutive .300 @-@ plus seasons during his MLB career . Kelley was also known as a good base runner and stole a career @-@ high 87 bases in 1896 . He retired with a career .317 batting , .402 OBP , 65 home runs , 1 @, @ 421 runs , 1 @, @ 194 RBI and 443 stolen bases in 1 @, @ 853 career games . His 194 triples ranks him ninth all @-@ time . Kelley tied Fred Carroll 's MLB record with nine hits in a doubleheader , which he presently shares with eight other

players .

Additionally , he was known as a great leader . He compiled a 338 ? 321 win ? loss record as a MLB manager .

Kelley was considered by the Veterans Committee for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1964 , but was not selected . He was voted into the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in 1971 .

= = Personal life = =

Kelley married Margaret Mahon on October 26 , 1897 . Keeler served as Kelley 's best man , and McGraw and Jennings served as groomsmen .