# Introduction

f success is measured by victories, the franchise of the Philadelphia Phillies has been a dismal failure.

This, after all, is a team that has reached baseball's mountaintop just once in its history. And it took 97 years to reach that summit.

That 1980 season, when three players with Hall of Fame credentials and a supporting cast that was the envy of baseball took the franchise to its only World Championship, remains a source of pride to long-suffering Phillies fans, who once went 35 years between postseason appearances and 65 seasons between World Series victories.

During the majority of their seasons, though, victories for the Phillies have been far less common than defeats, and heartache has been an affliction that has accompanied the team through many of its summers.

The oldest continuous, one-name, one-city franchise in the major leagues has broken more hearts over more seasons than it ever could mend with that one glorious moment on October 21, 1980, when Tug McGraw struck out Willie Wilson and sent a city into an elongated fit of delirium.

When asked after the game what pitch he threw to Wilson, McGraw replied, "It was the slowest fastball thrown in the history of baseball." When asked to explain how he figured that, McGraw said: "Because it took 97 years to get there."

That it did. The Phillies had left the bitter taste of defeat in countless mouths before Hall of Famer-to-be Mike Schmidt told the City of Brotherly Love to "take this victory and savor it" the day after the 1980 Series had been won.

So many losses . . . so much time. So many bumblers . . . so few superstars. Decrepit ballparks. Terrible managers. Horrendous trades. Owners who gave new meaning to the word *incompetent*.

But sometimes success means more than won-lost records. Sometimes, it is based on intangibles.

In these terms, the Phillies have indeed been successful. In the long and occasionally glorious history of the franchise, no team has been more entertaining, more interesting, more colorful... and less dull.

Or more unpredictable.

The Phillies, after all, once lost 23 games in a row. Who else can say that? They lost more than 100 games five straight seasons. In 1964 they lost a pennant that appeared to be already theirs by blowing a six-and-one-half-game lead with 12 games left to play. Sixteen years later, they won a pennant that they had just about lost by falling six games off the pace in mid-August. They won 13 of 16 games on their way to clinching the flag on the next-to-last day of the season. And capped it by winning the deciding League Championship contest after trailing Nolan Ryan by three runs with six outs to go in the game.

They won a pennant in extra innings on the last day of the 1950 season after nearly blowing all of a nine-and-one-half-game lead. They sent a pitcher (Jim Konstanty) to the mound to start the World Series opener that year, even though he hadn't started a game all season. Three decades later, they entrusted the starting assignment in the opening game of the World Series to a rookie pitcher (Bob Walk) who during his professional career had gone to the mound without a glove and to the plate without a bat.

Both pitchers performed admirably. Who would have expected that?

But then again, Phillies fans had come to demand a lot but expect very little. Still, the Phillies often provided spectacular moments, even in their most unspectacular times

They are a team that once hit five home runs in one inning; that in one season had four outfielders who hit .400 or better; that had three players—Ed Delahanty, Chuck Klein, and Schmidt—hit four home runs in one game, a feat no other team

The Phillies had the game's only long-term left-handed catcher, a pitcher who relied on an undertaker to diagnose his problems on the mound, and two owners who were banned from the league for life.

Billy Sunday, who later became a world-famous evangelist, often beginning his sermons by running across the stage and sliding into the pulpit, played with the Phillies. So did Earle (Greasy) Neale, who went on to a highly successful career as a Hall of Fame coach who led the Philadelphia Eagles to two NFL championships, and Bill Hulen, a left-hander who played more games at shortstop than any other southpaw in major league history.

The Phillies had a pitcher, Stan Baumgartner, who later covered the team for many years for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, often wearing his Phillies cap in the press box. One of the club's pitchers, Lowell Palmer, liked to take the mound wearing sunglasses. Another hurler, Flint Rhem, once refused to pitch a game until groundskeepers built a new mound. Still another moundsman, Russ Meyer, angered about being removed from a game, heaved a resin bag high in the air, only to have it land squarely on his head.

Ty Cobb once tried to buy the Phillies. So, it is alleged, did Bill Veeck, whose plan in 1943 was to stock the club with star players from the Negro Leagues, but who was rebuffed in that attempt by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis. The Carpenter family bought the team in 1943 for \$400,000 and sold it in 1981 for \$30 million.

The Phillies are a team that traded away a rookie pitcher named Ferguson Jenkins because the manager (Gene Mauch) said he couldn't throw hard enough, and a minor league infielder named Ryne Sandberg, who the brass thought wouldn't make it in the big leagues as a regular. One is now in the Hall of Fame; the other doubtless will join it soon

On the other hand, the Phillies are also the club that pirated Steve Carlton away from the St. Louis Cardinals, and that landed both 1950 pennant hero Dick Sisler and 1960s outfield stalwart Johnny Callison in deals for utility infielders.

In 1964 the Phillies acquired Vic Power for a pitcher and player to be named later. A few months afterward, that player turned out to be Vic Power. Another time, the Phils landed catcher Clyde Kluttz in a swap in the morning, and traded him away in the afternoon.

Five Phillies—Howie Schultz, Frankie Baumholtz, Dick Groat, Gene Conley, and Ron Reed—played professional basketball. Outfielder Chuck Essegian played for Stanford in the Rose Bowl, and infielder Al Dark was an All-American halfback at Louisiana State in the same backfield as Steve VanBuren.

Outfielder Sherry Magee, known for his fun-loving spirit and hot temper, once dropped a bag full of water out of a hotel window onto the head of pitcher Eppa Rixey. Real cutup, that Sherry. He and fellow outfielder Dode Paskert had a fist-fight in the dugout after Paskert had hit a home run. It seems that everybody in the park cheered the feat except Magee's two sons, who booed lustily from the stands. When Paskert reached the dugout, he went right for Magee in the contin-

uation of a long-standing family feud. Magee was suspended for part of the 1911 season after punching an umpire. He later became an umpire, one of at least six Phillies who made the big leagues as arbitrators after their playing days ended.

The Phillies' third baseman in the mid-1880s was a player named Joe Mulvey. No defensive wizard, he made 135 errors over a two-year period. In 1921, first baseman Gene Paulette was banned from baseball for associating with gamblers. In 1939 pitcher Hal Kelleher gave up 12 runs in one inning. Nine years later, Charlie Bicknell surrendered four home runs and 18 total bases in one inning.

Five years after that, Tom Qualters, whom the Phillies had chosen instead of Al Kaline, and who was a \$100,000 bonus baby who should have been in the minors, made his only appearance by facing seven batters and allowing six to reach base. They all scored, giving Qualters an earned run average of 162.00 for the season.

In the 1960s the Phillies could have had an outfield of Kaline, Carl Yastrzemski, and Hank Aaron. The Phils could have signed Yastrzemski if they'd given him the \$10,000 more his father wanted. And after giving Aaron a tryout in the early 1950s, they told him, "Don't call us, we'll call you," which, of course, they never did. As a young catcher, Roy Campanella repeatedly asked the Phils (and Athletics) for a tryout, but was always turned away.

The Phillies of old were never very good with minorities. No team in the National League gave Jackie Robinson a harder time when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. And the Phillies were the next-to-last team in the big leagues to sign black players, an exquisite example of bigotry and shortsightedness that for years kept the club from being competitive in a league in which black players were often dominant.

In 1946 the Phillies did hire a 33-year-old ex-Wave and former ladies professional baseball player, Edith Houghton, as baseball's first female scout. Eleven years later, 10 years after Robinson entered the big leagues, the first black player joined the Phillies.

Shortstop Mickey Doolan and manager Doc Prothro were both practicing dentists. In the 1880s first baseman Sid Farrar, more widely noted later in life as the father of prominent opera star Geraldine Farrar, batted ninth throughout his seven-year career. In 1899 outfielder Roy Thomas became the first player in the majors to wear sliding gloves. Another player, Kid Gleason, who later managed the 1919 Black Sox, won 62 games as a pitcher for the Phillies over a two-year period, then returned 12 seasons later and was the club's regular second baseman for four years.

A former Phillies third baseman, Eddie Grant, was the first big league player killed in World War I. Pitcher Hugh Mulcahy was the first big league player inducted into military service in World War II.

Mulcahy's nickname was Losing Pitcher. The Phillies had a magnificent collection of nicknames. One of the best was Death to Flying Things, a name given to the team's first manager, Bob Ferguson, because of his ability as a player to catch nearly every ball in the air that was hit to him.

Ranking just behind that delicious sobriquet were such treasures as Pearce (What's the Use) Chiles, Togie (Horse Face) Pittinger, Benny (Earache) Meyer, John (Tight Pants) Titus, Charles (She) Donahue, Hubert (Shucks) Pruett, Ed (The Only) Nolan, Phil (Fidgety Phil) Collins, Claude

(Weeping Willie) Willoughby, and Norm (The Tabasco Kid) Elberfeld.

Of course, there was also Walter (Boom Boom) Beck, John (Phenomenal) Smith, Bill (Wagon Tongue) Keister, Willie (Puddin' Head) Jones, Dick (Stonehands) Stuart, John (Brewery Jack) Taylor, Bob (Whirlybird) Walk, Mitch (Wild Thing) Williams, and the ever-popular Chester (Squack) Crist.

Like their preponderance of nicknames, the Phillies were rarely lost for words, even though they weren't always on target. "Nobody's gonna make a scrapgoat out of me," intoned manager Frank Lucchesi after he was fired in 1972. "Even Napoleon had his Watergate," advised skipper Danny Ozark as the Phillies' ship was sinking late one season.

Dick Allen once said of Astroturf, "If a horse can't eat it, I don't want to play on it." And Mike Schmidt, revealing what it was like to be a professional athlete in his adopted city, declared that "Philadelphia is the only city where you can experience the thrill of victory and the agony of reading about it the next morning."

If you wanted color, the Phillies certainly had it. From their first year in 1883 on up to the present, the Phils have been a team that has seldom strayed far from the bizarre. But often through the lean years, that was what kept the Phillies interesting—and so endearing to their fans.

No one would ever mistake the Phillies for being one of the glamour teams of the big leagues. Throughout most of their existence, in fact, the Phils have been strictly blue-collar, laboring away in the trenches of the National League with a club that was much more often brushed by the agony of defeat than by the thrill of victory.

The team that entered the world in 1883 as outcasts, an odd collection of misfits and rejects who were thrown together by the spastic gyrations of the still-fledging National League, has won just five pennants and one World Series. It has finished either first, second, or third only 34 times.

Conversely, the Phillies have finished in sixth place or below 49 times, including 31 times in the basement, far more than any other team in baseball. From 1918 through 1948, the Phillies were the hallmark of ineptitude, finishing in the first division just once when they placed fourth in 1932. In 24 of those 31 seasons, the team wound up either seventh or eighth, sinking the Phils to a level of futility that is virtually unequaled in professional sports.

There have been times when the franchise dipped to such low levels that one owner had to borrow money just to send the team to spring training. In fact, that beleaguered executive, a hardworking but often penniless unfortunate named Gerry Nugent, occasionally had to sell the office furniture just to make ends meet.

During Nugent's luckless era, mostly in the 1930s, good players arrived regularly in Philadelphia. But they usually didn't stay long, as Nugent, a former underling of previous owner William Baker who had parlayed enough stock to gain control of the club, sired one bad trade after another. Usually, Nugent was fleeced, surrendering an established player for someone of far less standing and the obligatory bundle of cash, some of which went toward hotel bills, players' salaries, or simply the purchase of baseballs.

"We had players coming and going all the time," remembered ex-pitcher Bucky Walters, himself a part of one of Nugent's trades. "Sometimes, you could hardly tell who was on the team. But because the team never had any money, the

owner used to have to scramble to pay the bills. If the bank wanted a payment, the club often had to sell somebody to get the cash."

The Phillies of much of the first part of the 20th century were so woebegone that players, when they were traded, regarded their liberation from the club with the same relief as a prisoner getting out of jail.

Such was the case in 1921 when Casey Stengel was traded by the Phillies to the New York Giants. Stengel got the news in the locker room while the teams waited out a rain delay. Immediately, he raced half-clothed into the deluge and onto the soaked and muddy playing field of Baker Bowl. Once there, the irrepressible Casey circled the bases, sliding into each bag. By the time he reached home plate, Stengel was covered with mud, but grinning from ear to ear. It was his way, he explained, of celebrating his liberation from the awful Phillies.

Through the 2003 season, Baker Bowl was one of the four parks the Phillies have called home. The club began in Recreation Park, but after four years there, moved to what was at the time called Philadelphia Base Ball Park and was the most magnificent stadium in the world. Later named Baker Bowl, it was home to the Phillies for  $51\frac{1}{2}$  years before the club moved into Shibe Park/Connie Mack Stadium, the Phillies' home for another  $32\frac{1}{2}$  years. That residency was followed by a move in 1971 to Veterans Stadium, where the team lived until it moved to the new Citizens Bank Park at the start of the 2004 season.

The Phils never had much luck in their first three ballparks. Once, a part of Baker Bowl collapsed, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuries to 232 more. The Phils were unlucky in many other ways, too. In 1888 their great pitcher Charlie Ferguson died of typhoid fever after winning 99 games in four seasons. Promising young catcher Walter (Peck) Lerian died in 1929 after being hit by a truck, and second baseman Mickey Finn succumbed after undergoing surgery for an ulcer in 1933. The 1949 incident in which first baseman Eddie Waitkus was shot by a deranged fan and the 1991 accident in which center fielder Len Dykstra crashed his car into a couple of trees, seriously injuring both himself and catcher Darren Daulton, didn't enhance Phillies fortunes, either.

The club's lucklessness had been so omnipresent over the years that in a game in 1971 the Phillies' two catchers, Tim McCarver and Mike Ryan, broke their hands in the same inning, leaving the team without a receiver.

Over the years, Phillies' pitchers have had the worst earned run averages in the league (for pitchers with more than 100 innings) 24 times. The club has also had more than its share of sub-.200 hitters and bumbling fielders.

The Phillies, though, have had their share of great players and memorable moments. The franchise has had 35 Hall of Famers associated with it, including seven—Delahanty, Alexander, Klein, Robin Roberts, Richie Ashburn, Schmidt, and Carlton—who earned their credentials primarily as Phillies.

Other players such as Billy Hamilton, Nap Lajoie, Sam Thompson, Elmer Flick, Rixey, Dave Bancroft, and Jim Bunning also enjoyed banner seasons with the Phillies en route to their enshrinements at Cooperstown.

Still other players such as Cy Williams, Gavvy Cravath, Magee, Roy Thomas, Jimmie Wilson, Pinky Whitney, Del Ennis, Granny Hamner, Konstanty, Dick Allen, Callison, Larry Bowa, Garry Maddox, Pete Rose, Bob Boone, McGraw, Greg Luzinski, Juan Samuel, Darren Daulton, Curt Schilling, Scott Rolen, Bobby Abreu, and Jim Thome wore the Phillies uniform with the utmost distinction and certainly belong in the team's small galaxy of stars.

Phillies have won or shared nine batting championships, 24 home run crowns, and 20 RBI titles. Phillies pitchers have led the league in wins 16 times, in ERA eight times, and in strikeouts 19 times. The club has had 36 Gold Glove winners, six Most Valuable Player awards, six Cy Young Award winners, six Rookies of the Year, six Manager of the Year winners, and eight stolen base champs.

The Phillies have had nine no-hitters pitched for them, and 17 thrown against them. The club's first hitless game was pitched in 1885 by Ferguson. The last was in 2003 by Kevin Millwood. In between, Phils no-hitters have been registered by Red Donahue (1898), Chick Fraser (1903), John Lush (1906), Bunning (1964, the only perfect game in Phillies history), Rick Wise (1971), Terry Mulholland (1990), and Tommy Greene (1991).

Although Bunning's perfect game, the first one during the regular season in the major leagues in 42 years, was unquestionably the finest mound performance ever turned in by a Phillies pitcher in a single game, brilliant playing has often been a staple of Phillies games. In addition to the superb work usually turned in by the club's big three of Alexander, Roberts, and Carlton, who combined for 665 Phillies victories and 15 one-hitters, a Phils quartet of Roberts, Ken Johnson, Bubba Church, and Russ Meyer pitched four straight shutout games in 1951, a feat duplicated in 1969 by Wise, Woodie Fryman, Grant Jackson, and Jerry Johnson. In 1965, Chris Short struck out 18 New York Mets in a 15-inning game, and in 1961 Art Mahaffey fanned 17 Chicago Cubs in a nineinning contest. In 1952 and 1953, Roberts hurled 28 straight complete games. Kent Tekulve appeared in 90 games in 1987, and Tully Sparks and Joe Oeschger each pitched 20 innings in games in 1905 and 1919, respectively.

For Phillies pitchers, four seasons stand out above the rest. Alexander's 1916 campaign in which he posted a 33–12 record with a 1.55 ERA, 38 complete games, and 16 shutouts—including four in a row—leading the league in all those categories in addition to strikeouts, innings pitched, and games started, ranks as the finest single season for a Phillies pitcher.

Next come Roberts' 1952 campaign when he compiled a 28–7 record over 330 innings and with 30 complete games; the 1950 season of Jim Konstanty when he won the Most Valuable Player Award with a 16–7 record and 22 saves in a thenrecord 74 games; and Carlton's 1972 Cy Young season when he was 27–10 with a 1.98 ERA while striking out 310 in 3461/s innings for a last place team that won just 59 games all year.

The Phillies also had numerous big hitting performances. Delahanty (1896), Klein (1936), and Schmidt (1976) each hit four home runs in one game. Kitty Bransfield in 1910, Cravath in 1915, Willie Jones in 1958, and Mike Schmidt in 1976 drove in eight runs apiece in single games. In 1953, Connie Ryan lashed six hits in one game to match a feat accomplished in 1893 by Jack Boyle and in 1894 by Delahanty. And in 1900, Harry Wolverton achieved the distinction of hitting three triples in one game, a major league record that still stands.

Probably the greatest individual season for a Phillies batter occurred in 1894 when Hamilton hit .404 with 220 hits

and 87 RBI, and led the league with a record-setting 196 runs, 98 stolen bases, and 361 putouts. Close behind that was the 1895 season of Thompson when he led the league with 165 RBI, 18 home runs, and a .654 slugging average while batting .392 with 211 hits and 131 runs.

Delahanty's 1899 season in which he led the league in hitting with a .410 average, in hits with 238, RBI with 137, and slugging average with .585 also ranks high. So does the 1929 season of Lefty O'Doul with a league-leading and record 254 hits and .398 batting average, plus 122 RBI, 152 runs, and a .622 slugging average; the 1933 triple-crown season of Klein when he led the league in hitting (.368), RBI (120), home runs (28), hits (223), and slugging average (.602); and the 1980 campaign of Schmidt who had league-leading totals in RBI (121), home runs (48), and slugging average (.624) while hitting .286 and scoring 104 runs.

The Phillies played in the first National League game at Ebbets Field, defeating the Brooklyn Dodgers, 1–0, in 1913. In 1919 they played the first legal Sunday game in New York, beating the New York Giants, 4–3. The Phils also participated in the first night game in the major leagues, bowing to the Cincinnati Reds, 2–1, in 1935 at Crosley Field. And in 1965 they participated in the first game at the Astrodome, downing the Houston Astros, 2–0.

Over the years the club won games by scores of 24–0, 29–4, and 26–7 and lost games by scores of 29–1, 28–6, 20–16, and 26–23. One of the most notable wins in Phillies history was the club's 23–22 victory over the Cubs in the "shootout in Chicago" game. In another memorable game, a 20–14 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in 1923, the two teams combined for 10 home runs.

There have been other great moments in Phillies history, including pennant-winning games in 1950, 1983, and 1993. Who can forget the final game of the 1950 season when Dick Sisler's three-run home run in the top of the 10th inning gave the weary Phillies a 4–1 victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field and the club's first National League pennant in 35 years? Or Robin Roberts' gritty 10-inning pitching performance? Or Richie Ashburn's throw that nailed Cal Abrams at the plate in the bottom of the ninth to keep the winning run from scoring?

How ironic that the manager of that Dodger team was Burt Shotton, the only successful Phillies skipper in the club's previous 34 years, and that the coach who made the injudicious decision to send Abrams home was Milt Stock, the Phils' third baseman on the club's last pennant winner in 1915. Both were unceremoniously dumped by the Dodgers after that heartbreaking loss to the Phillies.

Unquestionably, the most memorable moment in Phillies history, though, happened October 21, 1980, when the club, fresh from winning its first pennant in 30 years and only its third flag ever, defeated the Kansas City Royals in six games of the World Series.

To hundreds of thousands of Phillies fans, who for too many years had suffered excruciating frustration and heart-break, the image of McGraw jumping high into the autumn night after the last out will last a lifetime.

McGraw's jubilant leap was to Phillies rooters of all ages at least comparable to the great scenes of World Series past. More than just a World Series victory, though, the pitcher's emotional outburst signified a much deeper dimension that only a Phillies fan could understand. In its boyish simplicity, it represented a celebration that for decades had been forbidden to happen.

McGraw did it on the mound after striking out Wilson for the last out of the Series (on the previous play, first baseman Rose had reached under the mitt of catcher Boone to catch a bobbled foul pop in front of the Phillies' dugout). But what McGraw's joyous leap stood for among Phillies fans was a release of stored emotion that had endured for years, decades, nearly a century of broken dreams, of false hopes, of bitter disappointments. And so it was all right for hundreds of grown men and women, superficially hardened by all the seasons of failure, to stand silently as the fireworks exploded at Veterans Stadium, tears streaming down their cheeks.

Shortstop Bowa put the feeling into as good a perspective as anyone could have. "We had some ghosts to put to sleep," he said. "And tonight we did it."

The Phillies' 1980 World Series triumph did, indeed, put some ghosts to sleep—97 years worth. In the process, it erased some stigmas that had cursed Phillies teams through most of those years.

But in their own way, even though that marvelous 1980 season stood as the zenith of Phillies accomplishments, they had been rich years; years that always began with hope; years that in many ways often provided fans with some measure of satisfaction, despite the unpleasantness of losing.

There is no rich tradition of victory with this team. But it has not always been the loser that its records suggest, either. Instead, it has been a team on which the unusual has been usual, the unpredictable common. And never—but never—has it ever been dull.

Surely, that statement cannot be made about all other professional sports teams.

# **Down Through the Seasons**

The game of baseball was popular in Philadelphia long before the Phillies came into existence in 1883.

As early as the 1830s a version of the game, called base ball or town ball by those who played it, was a widely accepted form of recreation in the city. By the 1850s the city had an abundance of club teams, most of which had their fields in North and West Philadelphia.

One of the leading club teams in Philadelphia was called the Athletics. By the 1860s the Athletics had not only surpassed the levels of the other teams, but in 1865 they signed their first and the sport's first professional player. His name was Al Reach, and later he would play a prominent role in Phillies history.

Reach led the Athletics to a national championship in 1866. By then the team had added more professional players to its ranks, and along with the Brooklyn Atlantics and the Cincinnati Red Stockings ranked among the nation's finest baseball aggregations.

The Athletics claimed another loosely defined national championship in 1870. It followed a late-season victory over the Red Stockings and four out of five wins over the Atlantics, the team that earlier in the season had stopped Cincinnati's miraculous 81-game winning streak under manager Harry Wright, another major contributor to Phillies' history.

A year later the Athletics became a charter member of the new National Association of Professional Baseball Players. Formed officially March 17, 1871, the league also included Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Fort Wayne, New York, Rockford, and two teams from Washington. The admission fee for the league was \$10.

Using a field appropriately called Jefferson Park at 25th and Jefferson Streets as their home grounds, the Athletics won the first league championship with a 22–7 record.

In 1873 another team from Philadelphia joined the league, this one called the Quakers. The team, which also played at 25th and Jefferson, was formed by a group of local politicians. Much of the team was stocked through raids on existing league teams, particularly the Athletics.

The Quakers, considered by some to be ancestors of the Phillies, finished second in their first season. The club might have won the pennant had it not cooled off substantially following a rollicking midsummer vacation in Cape May, New Jersey, that was sponsored by the Quakers' owners.

By 1875 the National Association had expanded to 13 teams. Philadelphia was the backbone of the league, and the hottest baseball city in the country. Since 1872, the Athletics had been led by infielder Cap Anson, one of the early giants of the game and a Hall of Fame inductee in 1939. In addition to the Quakers, a third team from the city, the Centennials, entered the league late in the season.

It was, however, to be the National Association's last season. Thugs, gambling, drinking, and general rowdyism had permeated the league, ultimately causing its demise after the 1875 campaign.

From the ashes of the National Association, a better and stronger league was formed. Absorbing the best of the disbanded league, it took the name National League. The new circuit had eight teams: Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Hartford, New York, Louisville, and Philadelphia.

The Athletics were awarded the Philadelphia franchise. And on April 22, 1876, they played in the first National League game, facing the Boston Red Stockings before 3,000 at Jefferson Park. Boston won, 6–5, behind the pitching of Joe Borden, who one year earlier had become the first major league pitcher to hurl a no-hitter while working for the NA's Athletics.

Although the Athletics had the league's first home run champion—George Hall with five—the club won only 14 of 59 games, and was in seventh place as the end of

the season approached. The Athletics were scheduled for one final western road trip, but having insufficient funds and not wanting to spend any more on a futile season, the club refused to go. The Athletics were immediately expelled from the league.

The Athletics continued in subsequent years as an independent club, but Philadelphia was without a major league franchise until 1882 when the American Association formed as a six-team league. The circuit was established as a rival of the National League, and player raids, Sunday baseball, and ticket prices reduced from 50 to 25 cents made it competitive with the older loop.

Another team called the Athletics was a charter member of the new league, joining other National League castoffs St. Louis, Louisville, and Cincinnati along with Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

The Athletics remained in the American Association until it disbanded after the 1891 season. Meanwhile, in 1883 in the National League, the Brown Stockings of Worcester, Massachusetts, were disbanded and the franchise was moved to Philadelphia.

The new team was called the Phillies. What follows is a year-by-year summary of that team's first 121 seasons.

NOTE: Parentheses around items in the statistical tables indicate the player led the league in that category for the year.

#### 1883

Record: 17–81 Finish: Eighth Games Behind: 46

Managers: Bob Ferguson, Blondie Purcell

At 1:30 P.M., May 1, 1883, at Recreation Park, 24th Street and Columbia Avenue, the Philadelphia Phillies Base Ball Club was born. On that date, the new team opened play in the National League in a game against the Providence Grays.

An estimated 1,200 spectators witnessed the occasion. With John Coleman on the mound pitted against Providence's great hurler Charles (Old Hoss) Radbourne—a future Hall of Famer who would win 48 games in 1883 and 60 the next season—the Phillies led 3–0 after seven innings. But a four-run rally in the top of the eighth inning by Providence propelled the visitors to a 4–3 victory.

Despite the loss, it was a respectable beginning for the new team. Disaster, however, was close at hand.

Having built a team from scratch after obtaining the Worcester, Massachusetts, franchise, owners Al Reach and John Rogers had put together a club made up mostly of exminor leaguers and players they were able to coax away from other National League teams. The first Phillies squad, therefore, was an odd and somewhat disorganized collection of players.

By the time the team had played its 17th game, winning only four of them, manager Bob Ferguson quit the post and took a job in the club's business office. He was replaced by Bill (Blondie) Purcell, a pitcher-outfielder on the team.

Poor Blondie's team could win only 13 of 81 games. And the club finished with a record so bad that most people never expected to see the Phillies again.

The Phillies' winning percentage was .173. During the season, the team was subjected to an assortment of atrocities that no team has ever again encountered.

The Phillies lost one game to Boston, 29–4. The club dropped another, 28–0, to Providence in the highest scoring

shutout victory in major league history. It was no-hit by Hugh Dailey of Cleveland in a 1–0 loss. And in one other game against Providence, the Phillies made 27 errors, although walks, wild pitches, and passed balls counted as errors in those days.

Pitcher Coleman established a record that may stand forever by losing 48 games (he won 12). Coleman pitched in 65 games and worked 538 innings, third best in the league in each category.

The team had a .240 batting average, the lowest in the league. Only one regular, catcher Emil Gross, hit over .300 with a .307 average.

Art Hagen, the Phillies' number-two pitcher, had a 1–14 record. But the Phils' staff tied for second in the league in complete games with 91.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Alonzo Breitenstein	0	1	1	0	5	8	2	0	9.00
John Coleman	12	(48)	65	59	538	772	48	159	4.87
Bob Ferguson	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	9.00
Art Hagan	1	14	17	15	137	207	33	39	5.45
Hardie Henderson	0	1	1	1	9	26	2	2	19.00
Charlie Hilsey	0	3	3	3	26	36	4	8	5.54
Jack Neagle	1	7	8	6	61	88	21	13	6.93
Blondie Purcell	2	6	11	7	80	110	12	30	4.39
Edgar Smith	0	1	1	0	7	18	3	2	15.43
	17	81	99	91	864	1,267	125	253	5.34

Shutouts: Coleman (3)

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
Art Benedict	3	15	3	4	1	0	0	4	.267
John Coleman	90	354	33	83	12	8	0	32	.234
Conny Doyle	16	68	3	15	3	2	0	3	.221
Sid Farrar (1B)	99	377	41	88	19	8	0	29	.233
Bob Ferguson (2B)	86	329	39	85	19	2	0	27	.258
Bill Gallagher	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Buck Gladman	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Emil Gross (C)	57	231	39	71	25	7	1	25	.307
Bill Harbridge	73	280	32	62	12	3	0	21	.221
Charlie Kelly	2	7	1	1	0	1	0	0	.143
Kick Kelly	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Fred Lewis (CF)	38	160	21	40	7	0	0	15	.250
Jack Manning (RF)	98	420	60	112	31	5	0	37	.267
Joe Mulvey	3	12	2	6	1	0	0	3	.500

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
Bill McClellan (SS)	80	326	42	75	21	4	1	33	.230
Jack Neagle	18	73	6	12	1	0	0	4	.164
Dick Pierre	5	19	1	3	0	0	0	0	.158
Blondie Purcell (LF)	97	425	70	114	20	5	1	32	.268
Frank Ringo	60	221	24	42	10	1	0	12	.190
Charlie Waitt	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	.333
Piggy Ward	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Fred Warner (3B)	39	141	13	32	6	1	0	13	.227
C. B. White	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
	99	3,576	437	859	181	48	3		.240

#### 1884

Record: 39–73 Finish: Sixth Games Behind: 45 Manager: Harry Wright

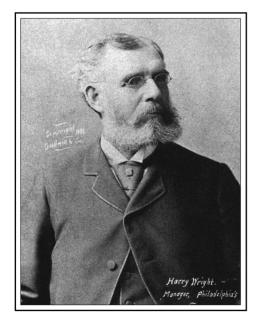
After the disastrous season they had the year before, it was inevitable that the Phillies would make some major changes in 1884.

The biggest change was in the managerial department. English-born Harry Wright, a one-time cricket player, was lured to the Phillies. President Al Reach called Wright the greatest manager in the country.

Reach, of course, was the supreme optimist. Following the 1883 season when some were urging Reach to give up, he had said, "Some day the Philadelphia National League club will be famous—more famous than the Athletics."

With Wright, though, there was good cause for optimism. Harry had been manager of the first professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, and he later won six pennants with two different Boston teams. By the time he came to the Phillies from Providence, he was regarded as the game's premier pilot.

It takes more than a manager, however, to make a team click. But Reach took care of that, too, bringing in a fresh



Harry Wright became manager in 1884 and molded the Phillies into a perennial contender late in the 19th century.

band of talented, young players. Foremost of the group was a 21-year-old Virginian, Charlie Ferguson.

Ferguson became not only the team's best pitcher, but also its best hitter and best base runner. When he wasn't pitching, he played the outfield.

Ferguson had a 21–25 record on the mound in his rookie season. One of his best efforts was a 7–2 victory over Boston, which snapped that club's 21-game winning streak.

There were only four starters back from the previous year's team, first baseman Sid Farrar, one of the few non-pitchers to bat ninth in the order, shortstop Bill McClellan, and outfielders Blondie Purcell and John Manning. Right fielder Manning had the team's highest batting average with .271.

Among the newcomers who would later shine for the Phillies were third baseman Joe Mulvey and center fielder Jim Fogarty. Neither had very impressive rookie seasons, however. Mulvey led National League third basemen with 73 errors. But that wasn't even high for the club. McClellan claimed that honor with 83 miscues. Yet, the Phillies did not lead the league in errors, or even rank lowest in fielding percentage, despite their .888 mark.

In general, the team was vastly improved over the previous year, moving up two notches in the standings and winning 22 more games. The surge gave the Phillies good reason to look ahead with optimism.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
John Coleman	5	15	21	14	154	216	22	37	4.91
Charlie Ferguson	21	25	50	46	417	443	93	194	3.54
Jim Fogarty	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0.00
Joe Knight	2	4	6	6	51	66	21	8	5.47
Cyclone Miller	0	1	1	1	9	17	6	1	10.00
Sparrow Morton	0	2	2	2	17	16	11	5	5.29
Con Murphy	0	3	3	3	26	37	6	10	6.58
Jim McElroy	1	12	13	13	111	115	54	45	4.84
Blondie Purcell	0	0	1	0	4	3	0	1	2.25
Shadow Pyle	0	1	1	1	9	9	6	4	4.00
Bill Vinton	10	10	21	20	182	166	35	105	2.23
	39	73	113	106	981	1,090	254	411	3.93

Shutouts: Ferguson (2), Coleman

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
	_					_			
Hezekiah Allen	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	.667
Ed Andrews (2B)	109	420	74	93	21	2	0	23	.221
Jack Clements	9	30	3	7	0	0	0	0	.233
John Coleman	43	171	16	42	7	2	0	22	.246
Bill Conway	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Paul Cook	3	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	.083
John Crowley (C)	48	168	26	41	7	3	0	19	.244
Tony Cusick	9	29	2	4	0	0	0	1	.138
Mike Dupaugher	4	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	.200
Sid Farrar (1B)	111	428	62	105	16	6	1	45	.245
Charlie Ferguson	52	203	19	50	6	3	0		.246
Jim Fogarty (CF)	97	378	42	80	12	6	1	37	.212
Lew Hardie	3	8	0	3	2	0	0	0	.375
Buster Hoover	10	42	6	8	1	0	1	4	.190
Joe Kappel	4	15	1	1	0	0	0	0	.067
Tom Lynch	13	48	7	15	4	2	0	3	.313
Jack Manning (RF)	104	424	71	115	29	4	5	52	.271
Bill McClellan (SS)	111	450	71	116	13	2	3	33	.258
Joe Mulvey (3B)	100	401	47	92	11	2	2	32	.229
Blondie Purcell (LF)	103	428	67	108	11	7	1	31	.252
Jack Remsen	12	43	9	9	2	0	0	3	.209
Frank Ringo	26	91	4	12	2	0	0	6	.132
Ed Sixsmith	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Gene Vadeboncoeur	4	14	1	3	0	0	0	3	.214
	113	3,998	549	934	149	39	14	-	.234

#### 1885

Record: 56–54 Finish: Third Games Behind: 30 Manager: Harry Wright

**B**y their third season in the National League, the Phillies had not only become respectable, they were downright good.

Only two teams, the Chicago White Stockings and the New York Giants, finished ahead of them as the Phillies vaulted all the way to third place. The Phillies did, however, finish a distant 30 games out of first, a situation directly attributable to Chicago's glittering 87–25 record.

That matter notwithstanding, in 1885 the Phillies arrived as a legitimate first-division club. In fact, the team would not finish out of the first division again until 1896.

The heart of the club was its pitching staff, led by the brilliant Charlie Ferguson. Although only 22, Ferguson was a 20-game winner for the second straight season and was inching his way up the ladder toward the ranks of the elite pitching members of the National League.

During the season Ferguson pitched the first no-hitter in the Phillies' history when he beat the Providence Grays, 1–0.

The achievement was accorded one lone paragraph in the next morning's Philadelphia *Inquirer*. "Ferguson, the pitcher of the Philadelphia Base Ball Club," the account read, "accomplished the feat of retiring the Providence nine without a hit in a full nine inning game at Recreation Park. The visitors retired from the field defeated by the score of 1 to 0."

Charlie posted a 26–20 record in 1885. He and Ed Daily, a youngster the Phillies had purchased from the Harrisburg club, alternated on the mound nearly every game. Daily finished the season with a 26–23 record, which gave the two all but four of the Phillies' wins.

Unusual as that was, it was nothing compared to the Phillies' catcher. Newcomer Jack Clements was left-handed. One of the few southpaw backstops in big league history, Clements was a Philadelphia native who would enjoy an illustrious 13-year career with the Phillies.

He didn't hit much in his first year (.191), but neither did most of the Phillies. Only Ferguson reached .300, hitting .306 while seeing action in the outfield when he wasn't on the mound.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Ed Daily	26	23	50	49	440	370	90	140	2.21
Charlie Ferguson	26	20	48	45	405	345	81	197	2.22
Edward Nolan	1	5	7	6	54	55	24	20	4.17
Bill Vinton	3	6	9	8	77	90	23	21	3.04
	56	54	110	108	976	860	218	378	2.39

Shutouts: Ferguson (5), Daily (4)

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
Ed Andrews (LF)	103	421	77	112	15	3	0	23	.266
Charlie Bastian (SS)	103	389	63	65	11	5	4	29	.167
Jack Clements (C)	52	188	14	36	11	3	1	14	.191
Tony Cusick	39	141	12	25	1	0	0	5	.177
Ed Daily	50	184	22	38	8	2	1	13	.207
Sid Farrar (1B)	111	420	49	103	20	3	3	36	.245
Charlie Ferguson	61	235	42	72	8	3	1		.306
Jim Fogarty (CF)	111	427	49	99	13	3	0	39	.232
Charlie Ganzel	34	125	15	21	3	1	0	6	.168
John Hiland	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
Tom Lynch	13	53	7	10	3	0	0	1	.189
Jack Manning (RF)	107	445	61	114	24	4	3	40	.256
Joe Mulvey (3B)	107	443	74	119	25	6	6	64	.269
Al Myers (2B)	93	357	25	73	13	2	1	28	.204
Edward Nolan	7	26	1	2	1	0	0		.077
	110	3,893	513	891	156	35	20		.229

#### 1886

Record: 71–43 Finish: Fourth Games Behind: 14 Manager: Harry Wright

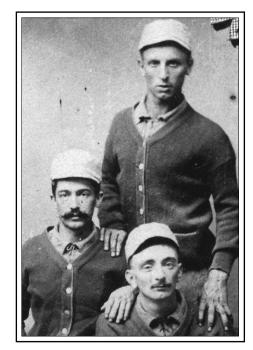
The Phillies in 1886 established a winning percentage of .623, which ranked as the highest mark in club history until tied by the 1976 and 1977 teams.

Yet the 1886 Phillies finished in only fourth place. "Our final position looks rather silly when contrasted to our percentage," manager Harry Wright remarked.

The reason for the imbalance was that the Chicago White Stockings and the Detroit Wolverines were so far ahead of everybody else in the league that it was ridiculous. Chicago won the pennant again, this time with a 90–34 record. Detroit wasn't far behind with an 87–36 log.

Thus, in spite of such a splendid record, the Phillies were mere also-rans. "But I'll tell you one thing, Al," Wright said to president Reach. "We now really have a ball team. It's only a matter of time before I can give you a championship. I make you that promise."

As it turned out, it didn't quite happen that way. But the Phillies had made huge strides since joining the National League in 1883, and they were on the verge of becoming a legitimate contender for the title.



Charlie Ferguson (left) and Cannonball Titcomb (standing) were two of the Phillies' top pitchers in 1886 (third player is unidentified).

By now they had eclipsed the rival Athletics of the American Association as the hometown favorites. The Phillies outdrew the Athletics by a large margin at home, and they were just as popular an attraction on the road.

Several key additions had bolstered the club since the previous season. One new plus was shortstop Art Irwin, who was picked up from the Providence Grays after they folded in 1885. Irwin, the Grays' captain, was the first infielder to wear a glove, an invention he patented and from which he eventually made a great deal of money.

In addition, the Phillies had also obtained pitcher Dan Casey, outfielder George Wood, and catcher David McGuire from Detroit. Wood's .273 average was second only to Jim Fogarty's .293.

Casey was a mediocre pitcher before coming to Philadelphia, but after his arrival he blossomed. His record in 1886 was 24–18, which when combined with those of Charlie Ferguson (30–9) and Ed Daily (16–9), gave the club an outstanding pitching threesome.

By now Ferguson was the darling of Philadelphia fans, as well as one of the premier hurlers in the league. His 1.98 ERA was by far the best in the league. He had even pitched two complete game victories in one day during the season. Along with Daily, he was being used in the outfield nearly every day he didn't pitch.

The Phillies raced to the conclusion of the season with 13 wins in their final 15 decisions. In one of the games against Washington, a string-bean rookie catcher made his league debut for the opponents. He was listed in the lineup as Cornelius McGillicuddy, a name the Phillies would come across again.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	BB	so	ERA
Dan Casey	24	18	44	39	369	326	104	193	2.41
Ed Daily	16	9	27	22	218	211	59	95	3.06
Charlie Ferguson	30	9	48	43	396	317	69	212	(1.98)
Jim Fogarty	0	1	1	0	6	7	0	4	0.00
Tommy McCarthy	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0.00
John Strike	1	1	2	1	15	19	7	11	4.80
Cannonball Titcomb	0	5	5	5	41	43	24	24	3.73
	71	43	119	110	1,046	923	264	540	(2.45)

Shutouts: Ferguson (4), Casey (4), Daily

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Ed Andrews (CF)	107	437	93	109	15	4	2	28	(56)	.249
Charlie Bastian (2B)	105	373	46	81	9	11	2	36	29	.217
Jack Clements	54	185	15	38	5	1	0	11	4	.205
Tony Cusick	29	104	10	23	5	1	0	4	1	.221
Ed Daily	79	309	40	70	17	1	4	50	23	.227
Sid Farrar (1B)	118	439	55	109	19	7	5	50	10	.248
Jack Farrell	17	60	7	11	0	1	0	3	1	.183
Charlie Ferguson	72	261	56	66	9	1	2	25	9	.253
Jim Fogarty (RF)	77	280	54	82	13	5	3	47	30	.293
Charlie Ganzel	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Art Irwin (SS)	101	373	51	87	6	6	0	34	24	.233
Tommy McCarthy	8	27	6	5	2	1	0	3	1	.185
Deacon McGuire (C)	50	167	25	33	7	1	2	18	2	.198
Joe Mulvey (3B)	107	430	71	115	16	10	2	53	27	.267
George Wood (LF)	108	450	81	123	18	15	4	50	9	.273
	119	4,072	621	976	145	66	26		226	.240

## 1887

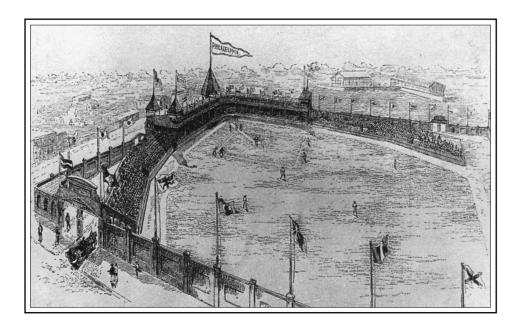
Record: 75–48 Finish: Second Games Behind: 31/2 Manager: Harry Wright

n just the fifth season after they joined the National League, the Phillies arrived as a definite threat to win the pennant.

The 1887 campaign was a banner year in virtually every respect for the Phillies. But the best part of it was the club's season-long seesaw battle with the Detroit Wolverines for the flag. The two moved in and out of the lead in a brutal tussle that captivated the nation's baseball followers.

Along with their pennant race, the Phillies had another landmark event. It was the year they moved out of Recreation Park into a new stadium at Broad Street and Lehigh Avenue.

Originally called the Philadelphia Base Ball Park, the stadium that would later be known as Baker Bowl was a magnificent wooden structure considered to be the finest park of its time. The Phillies opened the 1887 season there before an estimated crowd of 20,000. In a game preceded by a parade and other festivities, the Phillies defeated the New York Giants (or Metropolitans, as they were originally called) 19–10.



When it opened in 1887, Philadelphia Base Ball Park—later called Baker Bowl—was considered a state-of-the-art showplace.

The stadium was a boon to the Phillies' coffers as huge crowds jammed into the park to watch what was far and away Philadelphia's favorite team. Of course, the blistering pennant race helped.

The race might not have been so hot if the Chicago White Stockings, champions in each of the last two years, had not sold their great slugger, King Kelly, to the Boston Beaneaters. The departure of Kelly, the premier player of the era, assured Chicago of not repeating as the pennant winner.

"That will eliminate Chicago," Phillies' manager Harry Wright said upon hearing of the sale. "I know I've got a better team than (Jim) Mutrie in New York. The club we've got to beat now is Detroit. If we can finish ahead of them, we'll celebrate our new park with a pennant."

Wright's prediction was perfect. A four-team race, with Boston not far behind in fifth, raged all season.

The Phillies had some memorable moments. In back-to-back outings, pitcher Charlie Buffinton, a 47-game winner in 1884 who was bought before the season from Boston, pitched one-hitters, beating Indianapolis and Chicago.

The Phillies reeled off 16 wins in a row, although in one game during their season they were destroyed by the New York Giants, 29–1, which tied an 1883 record for most runs scored against the Phillies and equaled the most lopsided defeat in club history.

Buffinton, Dan Casey, and Charlie Ferguson gave the club a superb pitching trio. Casey led the league in earned run average with a 2.86 mark while posting a 28–13 record. Buffinton was 21–17, and Ferguson was 22–10, his fourth straight 20-win season.

With the success enjoyed by the other two, Ferguson was used with increasing frequency at second base. He was the club's top hitter with a .337 average.

Center fielder Ed Andrews, who had been a regular with the club since 1884, had the best season of his career with a .325 batting mark.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Charlie Buffinton	21	17	40	35	332	352	92	160	3.66
Dan Casey	28	13	45	43	390	377	115	119	(2.86)
Ed Daily	0	4	6	4	41	52	25	7	7.24
Jim Devlin	0	2	2	2	18	20	10	6	6.00
Charlie Ferguson	22	10	37	31	297	297	47	125	3.00
Jim Fogarty	0	0	1	0	3	3	1	0	9.00
Al Maul	4	2	7	4	50	72	15	18	5.58
	75	48	128	119	1,133	1,173	305	435	3.47

Shutouts: Casey (4, led league), Ferguson (2), Buffinton

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Ed Andrews (CF)	104	464	110	151	19	7	4	67	57	.325
Charlie Bastian	60	221	33	47	11	1	1	21	11	.213
Charlie Buffinton	66	269	34	72	12	1	1	46	8	.268
Jack Clements (C)	66	246	48	69	13	7	1	47	7	.280
Tony Cusick	7	24	3	7	1	0	0	5	0	.292
Ed Daily	26	106	18	30	11	1	1	17	8	.283
Sid Farrar (1B)	116	443	83	125	20	9	4	72	24	.282
Charlie Ferguson	72	264	67	89	14	6	3	85	13	.337
Jim Fogarty (RF)	126	495	113	129	26	12	8	50	102	.261
Tom Gunning	28	104	22	27	6	1	1	16	18	.260
Art Irwin (SS)	100	374	65	95	14	8	2	56	19	.254
Harry Lyons	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Tommy McCarthy	18	70	7	13	4	0	0	6	15	.186
Deacon McGuire	41	150	22	46	6	6	2	23	3	.307
Barney McLaughlin (2B)	50	205	26	45	8	3	1	26	2	.220
Joe Mulvey (3B)	111	474	93	136	21	6	2	78	43	.287
George Wood (LF)	113	491	118	142	22	19	14	66	19	.289
	128	4,630	901	1,269	213	89	47		355	.274

#### 1888

Record: 69–61 Finish: Third Games Behind: 14½ Manager: Harry Wright

The 1888 season got under way under a cloud of gloom. During spring training, the Phillies' ace pitcher-hitter Charlie Ferguson was stricken with typhoid fever. Although he was at first expected to recover, Ferguson's condition worsened, and nine days after the season began he died at the age of 25.

It was a tragedy beyond definition. The biggest sports hero in the city had died at the height of his career, a career in which he won 99 games in just four seasons. Not only did the whole city grieve, the entire baseball world did.

Nobody mourned Charlie's loss more than the Phillies, of course. The club tried gamely to overcome its grief, as well as to overcome the loss on the field of its top player.

"We've got to win now, just for poor Charlie's sake," the players told each other.

In an attempt to fill Ferguson's spot on the mound—a virtual impossibility—the Phillies signed a tough little 21-year-old from Camden, New Jersey. His name was Kid Gleason, and he would go on to an outstanding 22-year career, first as a pitcher and then as a second baseman. But the bantam hurler, who would also achieve notoriety as the manager of the 1919 Chicago Black Sox, could post only a 7–16 record in his first year.

Charlie Buffinton (28–17), Dan Casey (14–18), and another new hurler, Ben Sanders (19–10), bought from Canton, handled the pitching chores. But without Ferguson, it was not the same.

To compound the problem, manager Harry Wright had declared at the outset of spring training, "Ferguson will play second base in any game that he doesn't pitch. We're always stronger with Charlie at second; he's the best second baseman in the league."

Neither that statement nor the fact that he had to fill in at second for a hero did much for the confidence of Charlie Bastian, the man who was assigned to play second. Bastian hit below .200 and fielded poorly.

"We've got to get somebody in there for Bastian," Wright said. "He's losing too many games for us."

"There's a fellow playing for Wheeling in the Tri-State league that's going very well," president Al Reach replied. "They tell me he is quite a hitter. His name is Delahanty."

"You better get him quick," Wright said. "We need somebody who can hit."

In July, Reach shelled out an uncommonly high sum for the era, \$1,900, to buy the minor league hotshot. Ed Delahanty was hitting .408 at the time. When he reported to the Phillies, he was immediately inserted into the lineup at second base.

Delahanty didn't hit well his first season, registering only a .228 average. In fact, the whole team hit poorly, ranking next to last in the league in home runs and average.

The New York Giants walked off with the pennant, with the Chicago White Stockings finishing a distant second and the Phillies third. The Phillies had an especially tough time with the Giants, losing 14 of 19 games, including eight of nine at the Polo Grounds. When Reach asked Wright how he accounted for so many losses, the manager had a quick answer. "Those Giants," he said, "always seemed to finish with the most runs."

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	BB	so	ERA
Charlie Buffinton	28	17	46	43	400	324	59	199	1.91
Dan Casey	14	18	33	31	286	298	48	108	3.15
Kid Gleason	7	16	24	23	200	199	53	89	2.84
Ben Sanders	19	10	31	28	275	240	33	121	1.90
Jim Tyng	0	0	1	0	4	8	2	2	4.50
George Wood	0	0	2	0	2	3	1	0	4.50
	69	61	131	125	1.167	1.072	196	519	2.38

Shutouts: Sanders (4), Buffinton (3), Casey, Gleason

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Ed Andrews (CF)	124	528	75	126	14	4	3	44	35	.239
Charlie Bastian (2B)	80	275	30	53	4	1	1	17	12	.193
Cupid Childs	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jack Clements (C)	86	326	26	80	8	4	1	32	3	.245
Ed Delahanty	74	290	40	66	12	2	1	31	38	.228
Sid Farrar (1B)	131	508	53	124	24	7	1	53	21	.244
Jim Fogarty (RF)	121	454	72	107	14	6	1	35	58	.236
Gid Gardner	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	.667
Kid Gleason	24	83	4	17	2	0	0	5	3	.205
John Grim	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Bill Hallman	18	63	5	13	4	1	0	6	1	.206
Art Irwin (SS)	125	448	51	98	12	4	0	28	19	.219
Deacon McGuire	12	51	7	17	4	2	0	11	0	.333
Joe Mulvey (3B)	100	398	37	86	12	3	0	39	18	.216
Ben Sanders	57	236	26	58	11	2	1	25	13	.246
Pop Schriver	40	134	15	26	5	2	1	23	2	.194
Woodie Wagenhorst	2	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125
George Wood (LF)	106	433	67	99	19	6	6	15	20	.229
	131	4,528	535	1,021	151	46	16		246	.225

#### 1889

Record: 63–64 Finish: Fourth Games Behind: 20½ Manager: Harry Wright

or the fifth year in a row the Phillies finished in the first division in 1889. That wasn't bad for a former expansion team.

Despite their fourth-place status, the season was a disappointment for the club, though, its record dipping under .500 for the first time since 1884.

Manager Harry Wright still hadn't figured out how to score more runs than the New York Giants. The Polo Grounders won their second straight pennant, and again handled the Phillies easily, winning 12 out of 18 games, including seven out of eight at Coogan's Bluff.

Probably the most important matter in which the Phillies were involved all year was the acquisition of Sam Thompson from the Detroit Wolverines. Although they had won the pennant in 1887, the Detroits folded after the 1888 season. Before they did, the club's owners sold off their top players.

The Phillies landed Thompson in what was considered a tremendous coup. Big Sam had hit .372 the year Detroit won the title, and was regarded as one of the league's finest hitters.

Although his .296 average was not up to par for him, Thompson maintained his reputation as an excellent power hitter in his first year with the Phillies by leading the league in home runs. Thompson's 20 homers were the most ever hit up to that point in the National League.

The purchase of Thompson meant that the Phillies now had two-thirds of the group that would become known as one of the greatest outfields of all time. Ed Delahanty, the first of the three future Hall of Famers to arrive, was still struggling in 1889, though.

Plagued by injuries, Delahanty played in only 56 games. But at least he was starting to hit more. His average climbed to .293.

Third baseman Joe Mulvey (.289) and left-handed catcher Jack Clements (.284) also had decent years at the plate, and center fielder Jim Fogarty led the National League with an eye-popping 42 assists.

Charlie Buffinton (28–16) and Ben Sanders (19–18) were the only pitchers to perform respectably. In his last season in the National League, Dan Casey would continue his slide, falling to a 6–10 record. And Kid Gleason, still learning the game, had only a 9–15 mark.

The season was also marked by an internal dispute. Art Irwin, the shortstop and captain, feuded with Wright. Irwin's discontent with his manager resulted first in his being benched, and then in his being sold to Washington.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Dave Anderson	0	1	5	1	23	30	14	8	7.43
Charlie Buffinton	28	16	47	37	380	390	121	153	3.24
Dan Casey	6	10	20	15	153	170	72	65	3.76
Bill Day	0	3	4	2	19	16	23	20	5.21
Jim Fogarty	0	0	4	0	4	4	2	0	9.00
Kid Gleason	9	15	29	15	205	242	97	64	5.58
Ben Sanders	19	18	44	34	350	406	96	123	3.55
George Wood	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	18.00
Pete Wood	1	1	3	2	19	28	3	8	5.21
	63	64	130	106	1,153	1,288	428	443	4.00

Shutouts: Buffinton (2), Casey, Sanders

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Ed Andrews	10	39	10	11	1	0	0	7	7	.282
Jack Clements (C)	78	310	51	88	17	1	4	35	3	.284
Harry Decker	11	30	4	3	0	0	0	2	1	.100
Ed Delahanty	56	246	37	72	13	3	0	27	19	.293
Sid Farrar (1B)	130	477	70	128	22	2	3	58	28	.268
Jim Fogarty (CF)	128	499	107	129	15	17	3	54	(99)	.259
Bill Hallman (SS)	119	462	67	117	21	8	2	60	20	.253
Art Irwin	18	73	9	16	5	0	0	10	6	.219
Joe Mulvey (3B)	129	544	77	157	21	9	6	77	23	.289
Al Myers (2B)	75	305	52	82	14	2	0	28	8	.269
Pop Schriver	55	211	24	58	10	0	1	19	5	.265
Sam Thompson (RF)	128	533	103	158	36	4	(20)	111	24	.296
Piggy Ward	7	25	0	4	1	0	0	4	3	.160
George Wood (LF)	97	422	77	106	21	4	5	53	17	.251
	130	4,695	742	1,248	215	52	44		353	.266

#### 1890

Record: 78–54 Finish: Third Games Behind: 9½

Managers: Harry Wright, Jack Clements, Al Reach, Bob Allen

There have been other years of turmoil in the major leagues, but 1890 ranks at the top of the list, right up there with 1919, 1981, and 1994. It was the year of the first substantial players' revolt, and it had a lasting effect on the Phillies as well as the entire National League.

A long-simmering feud between players and owners involving salaries finally broke out in 1890. The players had formed a union called the National Brotherhood of Profes-

sional Baseball Players. With substantial financial backing, the union had formed its own league, the Players League, and signed many of the men from the National League.

The Players League awarded itself franchises in most of the existing National League cities. Naturally, Philadelphia got a team. With the Athletics in the American Association still hanging on, the city had three professional ball clubs.

Although the Phillies lost a number of key players to the union league, they didn't lose as many as some teams. Nevertheless, the jumpers included Charlie Buffinton, the players' team representative who was actually awarded the new franchise, Jim Fogarty, one of the leaders in the union revolt, Sid Farrar, George Wood, Ben Sanders, Billy Hallman, Joe Mulvey, and Ed Delahanty. The last two became known as triple jumpers, infuriating Phillies' owners Al Reach and John Rogers by going to the Players League, being lured back to the Phillies with bigger contracts, then upping the ante and going back to the Players League.

The Phillies would have lost more players, but a few such as Sam Thompson, Jack Clements, and Al Myers were persuaded to return to the club with higher salaries after originally signing with the rebel league.

Kid Gleason was one of the few players who remained loyal to the Phillies. "Harry Wright gave me my chance two years ago when I was just a fresh kid playing coal towns, and I'm not running out on him now," Gleason said.

It was a good thing for the Phillies that he didn't. As virtually the only experienced pitcher on the team, Gleason came of age with a 38–17 record, working 60 games and 506 innings, and hurling 54 complete games. To Gleason's record, newcomer Tom Vickery added a 24–22 mark.

Even without the players' rebellion, it would still have been a season of torment. Teams were coming and going in the National League, and in 1890 the Brooklyn Dodgers and Cincinnati Red Stockings left the dying American Association to join the Nationals. In this year of depleted rosters, Brooklyn won the pennant after having won the flag the year before in the AA.

Compounding the Phillies' problems was the fact that Wright missed a large part of the season because of a serious eye problem. Harry piloted the team at the beginning and at the end of the season, but in between the Phillies used three other managers, including owner Al Reach and players Jack Clements and Bob Allen, who managed for a combined total of 65 games.

The Phillies, as did all teams, had patched together a lineup, but they had a 16-game winning streak, and stayed in the race until nearly the end of the season.

One of the team's key reserves, purchased at midseason from the financially troubled Pittsburgh club, was outfielder Billy Sunday. An eight-year veteran who hit .261 in a Phillies uniform, Sunday left baseball at the end of the season and embarked on a career that would earn him international acclaim as an evangelist.

Another newcomer to the Phillies was a blazing-fast outfielder picked up from the American Association's Kansas City team. His name was Billy Hamilton, and he would become the third of the Phillies Hall of Fame outfield.

Hamilton, later to be rated as one of the finest base stealers ever to play the game, swiped 102 bases and led the Phillies with a .325 average. Clements (.315) and Thompson (.313) were right behind.

Despite their difficulties, the Phillies had an exciting squad, one that fans flocked to see, even with competition from the other two Philadelphia teams. The Phillies franchise was considered the strongest organization in the league in 1890, and many credited the club with holding up the rest of the league in the face of numerous faltering franchises and poor attendance in most other cities.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	BB	SO	ERA
Dave Anderson	1	1	3	1	19	31	11	7	7.58
Sumner Bowman	0	0	1	0	8	11	2	2	7.88
John Coleman	0	1	1	0	2	4	3	2	27.00
Bill Day	1	1	4	2	24	26	12	9	3.00
Duke Esper	5	0	5	4	41	40	17	15	3.07
Kid Gleason	38	17	60	54	506	479	167	222	2.63
John McFetridge	1	0	1	1	9	5	2	4	1.00
Phenomenal Smith	8	12	24	19	204	209	89	81	4.28
Billy Sunday	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	$\infty$
Tom Vickery	24	22	46	41	382	405	184	162	3.44
	78	54	133	122	1,195	1,210	486	507	3.32

Shutouts: Gleason (6), Smith, Vickery

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Bob Allen (SS)	133	456	69	103	15	11	1	57	13	.226
Eddie Burke (CF)	100	430	85	113	16	11	4	50	38	.263
Jack Clements (C)	97	381	64	120	23	8	7	74	10	.315
Harry Decker	5	19	5	7	1	0	0	2	4	.368
Bill Grey	34	128	20	31	8	4	0	21	5	.242
Billy Hamilton (LF)	123	496	133	161	13	9	2	49	(102)	.325
Ed Mayer (3B)	117	484	49	117	25	5	1	70	20	.242
Al McCauley (1B)	112	418	63	102	25	7	1	42	8	.244
Frank Motz	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	.000
Al Myers (2B)	117	487	95	135	29	7	2	81	44	.277
Pop Schriver	57	223	37	61	9	6	0	35	9	.274
Billy Sunday	31	119	26	31	3	1	0	18	26	.261
Sam Thompson (RF)	132	549	116	(172)	(41)	9	4	102	25	.313
	133	4,707	823	1,267	(220)	78	23		335	(.269)

#### 1891

Record: 68–69 Finish: Fourth Games Behind: 18½ Manager: Harry Wright

With baseball returning to normal, the Players League having folded after one season, the Phillies figured that 1891 would be their year.

One of the reasons was that for the first time the club would be able to put its brilliant outfield on the field together. In the previous year, Billy Hamilton had staked a claim as one of the superior outfielders in the league. Sam Thompson had long been established, and Ed Delahanty had come back to the team.

After a year in the Players League, Delahanty and Jim Fogarty were the only two players taken back by the Phillies. The team's management refused to allow the others back into the fold, which proved to be their downfall.

"Fogarty stays on the payroll," co-owner John Rogers said. "But I don't want any of the others, Buffinton, Wood, Farrar—above all, not Buffinton."

Fogarty was ill and was re-signed for sentimental reasons. But he died of tuberculosis at age 27 before he was able to suit up again for the Phillies.

In Delahanty's case, Big Ed had finally begun to hit well and was simply too promising for the Phillies to let slip away. While playing in 1890 at Cleveland, he had been used mostly at shortstop. But when he returned to Philadelphia, he was shifted to center field, and Hamilton was moved to left.

Hamilton hit .340, which was good enough to lead the league in batting. It was the first batting championship for a Phillies player. In addition to his hitting exploits, Sliding Billy stole 111 bases.

The Phillies got good pitching from Kid Gleason (24–22) and Duke Esper (20–15), but they didn't have much after that. Manager Harry Wright used 11 pitchers during the season, an unheard of number for that era. The Phillies even tried the once-great hurler Tim Keefe, purchased from the New York Giants, but he was a flop with a 3–6 mark.

Because of their weak pitching, the Phillies pulled in a distant fourth while the Boston Beaneaters ran off with the pennant. The Phillies' finish launched a streak of four straight times in fourth place.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	BB	so	ERA
Ed Cassian	1	3	6	3	38	40	16	10	2.84
Duke Esper	20	15	39	25	296	302	121	108	3.56
Kid Gleason	24	22	53	40	418	431	165	100	3.51
Ed Gormley	0	1	1	1	8	10	5	2	5.63
Timothy Keefe	3	6	11	9	78	84	28	35	3.92
Mike Kilroy	0	2	3	0	10	15	4	3	9.90
Bill Kling	4	2	12	4	75	90	32	26	4.32
Lefty Saylor	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	6.00
John Schultze	0	1	6	0	15	18	11	4	6.60
Phenomenal Smith	1	1	3	0	19	20	8	3	4.26
John Thornton	15	16	37	23	269	268	115	52	3.68
	68	69	138	105	1,229	1,280	505	343	3.73

Shutouts: Esper, Gleason, Thornton

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Bob Allen (SS)	118	438	46	97	7	4	1	51	12	.221
Charlie Bastian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Willard Brown (1B)	115	441	62	107	20	4	0	50	7	.243
Jack Clements (C)	107	423	58	131	29	4	4	75	3	.310
Ed Delahanty (CF)	128	543	92	132	19	9	5	86	25	.243
Jerry Denny	19	73	5	21	1	1	0	11	1	.288
Joe Donohue	6	22	2	7	1	0	0	2	0	.318
Jocko Fields	8	30	4	7	2	1	0	5	0	.233
Lew Graulich	7	26	2	8	0	0	0	3	0	.308
Bill Grey	23	75	11	18	0	0	0	7	3	.240
Billy Hamilton (LF)	133	527	(141)	(179)	23	7	2	60	(111)	(.340)
Ed Mayer	68	268	24	50	2	4	0	31	7	.187
Harry Morelock	4	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.071
Al Myers (2B)	135	514	67	118	27	2	2	69	8	.230
Walt Plock	2	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	.400
Bill Shindle (3B)	103	415	68	87	13	1	0	38	17	.210
Sam Thompson (RF)	133	554	108	163	23	10	7	90	29	.294
	138	4,929	756	1,244	180	51	21		232	.252

#### 1892

Record: 87–66 Finish: Fourth Games Behind: 16½ Manager: Harry Wright

Ust as the Players League had folded the year before, the American Association ended its 10-year existence in 1892 and merged with the National League.

That gave the Phillies undisputed possession of Philadelphia. The rival Athletics of the old AA were merged with the Washington club.

The merger of the two leagues also resulted in some strange player transfers, one of which sent ace pitcher Kid Gleason to the St. Louis Browns, one of the new entries from the old AA. The Phillies, however, picked up several players

from the Athletics, including their former triple-jumping third baseman Joe Mulvey, pitcher Gus Weyhing, and catcher-infielder-outfielder Lave Cross, who had the distinction during his 21-year career of playing for four Philadelphia professional teams—the Athletics of the AA, the Quakers of the Players League, the Phillies, and the Athletics of the American League.

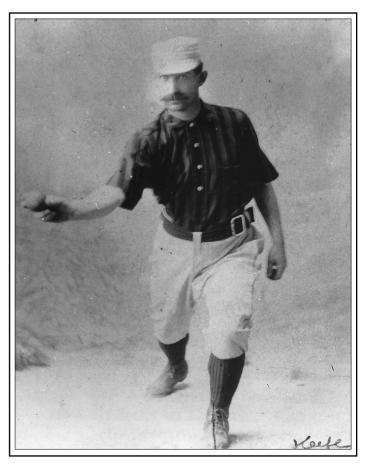
The Phillies also grabbed pitcher Wilfred (Kid) Carsey from Washington. Carsey would have several fine seasons with the Phillies, and 1892 was one of them. He posted a 19–16 record.

The main hurler was Weyhing, whose 32–21 record gave him four straight 30-win seasons. To go along with that, Tim Keefe, who had once won 19 games in a row for the Giants, made a comeback with a 19–16 mark.

The most prominent development, though, was that for the first time all three outfield stars hit over .300. Billy Hamilton's .330 was second in the league to Dan Brouthers's .335, Sam Thompson was second in the circuit in RBI (104) and hits (186) to Brouthers in each category while batting .305, and Ed Delahanty led the loop in slugging average (.495) and triples (21) while hitting .306.

Roger Connor, a veteran first baseman bought from the Giants, hit .294 and led the club with 12 home runs, and second baseman Bill Hallman added a .292 average. All the hitting helped to give the Phillies a tie for first place in team batting average and undisputed possession of first place in slugging average.

Yet in spite of all their big bats, good pitching, a recordtying 16-game winning streak, and the presence of five future



Future 300-game winner Tim Keefe made a big comeback in 1892 with 19 wins.

16

Hall of Famers—Connor, Keefe, Delahanty, Hamilton, and Thompson—the Phillies managed to finish only fourth again in the overall standings, trailing the Boston Beaneaters, Cleveland Spiders, and Brooklyn Dodgers. The club was especially weak on the road, even losing five out of seven to the 11th-place St. Louis Browns, a point which irked co-owner John Rogers.

"Why are we so terrible on the road?" Rogers quizzed manager Harry Wright. "Once the team gets away from Broad and Huntington, it acts like a bunch of stray, befuddled cats."

"The home team," answered the ever-patient Wright, "always has the edge."

	w	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Kid Carsey	19	16	43	30	318	320	104	76	3.11
Duke Esper	11	6	21	14	160	171	58	45	3.43
Timothy Keefe	19	16	39	31	313	264	100	127	2.36
Phil Knell	5	5	11	7	80	87	35	43	4.05
Jack Taylor	1	0	1	1	8	4	3	3	1.13
John Thornton	0	2	3	1	12	16	17	2	12.75
Gus Weyhing	32	21	59	46	470	411	168	202	2.66
	87	66	155	131	1,379	1,297	492	502	2.93

Shutouts: Weyhing (6), Keefe (3), Carsey

	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Bob Allen (SS)	152	563	77	128	20	14	2	64	15	.227
Jack Clements (C)	109	402	50	106	25	6	8	76	7	.264
Roger Connor (1B)	155	564	123	166	(37)	11	12	73	22	.294
Jerry Connors	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Lave Cross	140	541	84	149	15	10	4	69	18	.275
Ed Delahanty (CF)	123	477	79	146	30	(21)	6	91	29	.306
Tom Dowse	16	54	3	10	0	0	0	6	1	.185
Bill Hallman (2B)	138	586	106	171	27	10	2	84	19	.292
Billy Hamilton (LF)	139	554	132	183	21	7	3	53	57	.330
Harry Morelock	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Joe Mulvey	25	98	9	14	1	1	0	4	2	.143
Charlie Reilly (3B)	91	331	42	65	7	3	1	24	13	.196
Dummy Stephenson	8	37	4	10	3	0	0	5	0	.270
Sam Thompson (RF)	153	609	109	186	28	11	9	104	28	.305
	155	5,413	860	1,420	(225)	95	(50)		216	(.262)

### 1893

Record: 72–57 Finish: Fourth Games Behind: 14 Manager: Harry Wright

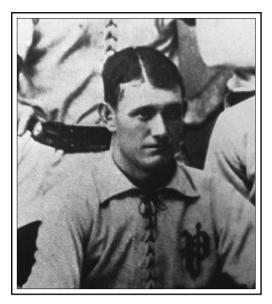
**B** efore 1893 the distance between home plate and the pitcher's mound was 50 feet. Between that and the so-called dead ball, pitchers had a decided edge on hitters.

But the low-scoring, low-hitting games that often resulted had a way of boring even the fans of the Gay Nineties. Baseball, they complained, had become so dominated by the pitchers and so devoid of offense that it was dull.

As questionable as that attitude might be considered today, the National League leaders took it seriously enough that they moved the mound back to 60 feet, 6 inches, with the start of the 1893 season.

The immediate effect was to liberate the hitters to the point that the advantage swung to them. Nowhere was that more evident than in Philadelphia.

The fearsome outfield trio hit like it never had before. With Billy Hamilton, shifted back to center field, again leading the league in hitting, the Phillies captured the top three spots in the National League batting race. Hamilton hit .380, Sam Thompson hit .370, and Ed Delahanty hit .368.



Ed Delahanty just missed the Phillies' first Triple Crown in 1893 when he hit .368 and led the league in home runs and RBI.

Delahanty led the league for the first time in home runs (19), RBI (146), total bases (347), and slugging average (.583). Thompson finished first in hits (222) and doubles (37).

Altogether, Phillie players won each of the seven main hitting categories, and placed second in five of the seven.

And there was more to the offense than that provided by the three outfielders. Catcher Jack Clements hit 17 home runs, second in the league, second baseman Bill Hallman had a .307 average, reserve outfielder Tuck Turner hit .323, and a new first baseman, Honest John Boyle, obtained in a trade with the New York Giants for Roger Connor, added a .286 average which included six hits in six at-bats in an 11-inning game with the Chicago White Stockings.

It was an awesome attack. The Phillies as a team led the league in home runs (80), batting average (.301), slugging average (.430), runs (1,011), and doubles (246). The team also had the fewest errors and paced the circuit in fielding percentage.

Yet it was still stuck in a rut in fourth place. The Boston Beaneaters won their third consecutive pennant, and the Pittsburgh Pirates vaulted into second place, with the Cleveland Spiders finishing third.

The Phillies finished only one and one-half games out of third. Perhaps with a stronger number-three pitcher, they could have finished higher. As it was, though, only Gus Weyhing (23–16) and Kid Carsey (20–15) gave the club consistent winning efforts. The aging Tim Keefe and a youngster, Jack Taylor, won 10 apiece.

	W	L	G	CG	IP	Н	ВВ	SO	ERA
Kid Carsey	20	15	39	30	318	375	124	50	4.81
Timothy Keefe	10	7	22	17	178	202	79	53	4.40
Gus McGinnis	1	3	5	4	37	39	17	12	4.38
Frank O'Connor	0	0	3	0	4	2	9	0	11.25
John Sharrott	4	2	12	2	56	53	33	11	4.50
Jack Taylor	10	9	25	14	170	189	77	41	4.24
Tom Vickery	4	5	13	7	80	100	37	15	5.40
Gus Weyhing	23	16	42	33	345	399	145	101	4.75
	72	57	133	107	1,189	1,359	521	283	4.68

Shutouts: Weyhing (2), Carsey, McGinnis