

1904 National League Recap

The National League pennant chase was a rather interesting one. Four of the eight teams held first place for at least 3 days. Unfortunately for most of the league, they really didn't have a chance.

Despite that even the lower division teams, even the lowly Braves had something to play for, even if it was to not be worse than the Senators. The season setup information and reasons why are contained in my AL recap, so I won't duplicate them here.

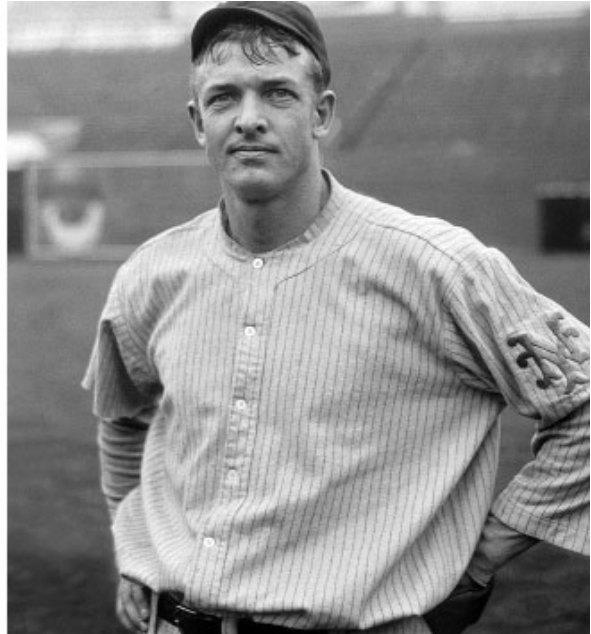
And here are the NL's award winners.

National League MVP



Honus Wagner
Pittsburgh Pirates
.355 AVG 6 HR 91 RBI

National League POY



Christy Mathewson
New York Giants
22-12 2.38 ERA .91 WHIP 6 shutouts

And the final season standings are:

	W	L	Pct.
Reds	88	52	.629
Giants	84	56	.600
Cubs	83	57	.593
Pirates	72	68	.514
Cardinals	68	72	.486
Phillies	62	78	.443
Dodgers	60	79	.432
Braves	47	93	.336

The battle for the pennant was pretty close among the top three teams, with the Phillies initially getting off to a tremendous jump, but fell back hard and fast. Although there isn't a great jump among the group until you get to Boston, who just couldn't do anything right all year.

So, let's discuss the teams:

Cincinnati Reds 88-52

A funny thing happened on the way to the Giants capturing the pennant. The Cincinnati Reds; although I doubt anyone in New York found anything to laugh about.

Like the AL champs in Boston, Cincinnati had a very small roster, and the starters were significantly better than their replacements. They started off at a .500 clip through early May, but then some players that were off to slow starts came alive, the pitching kicked into high gear.

As May turned into June the Red came to Chicago for a 4 game series with the second place Cubs. 4 days later, and a 3-1 result they moved into second place. While the Cubs never truly went away, their hopes were now over and the Reds began their pursuit of the Giants.

Fans in cincy must have been frustrated throughout August as every time the Giants lost, the Reds lost also. Both teams played very well and despite the teams earning a split in a 4 game set on Labor Day, it was clear that the Reds were in the driver's seat. Of the two games New York won, both were high scoring affairs, with the Giants scoring late, while Charles Harper and Tom Walker stunned the dynamic duo of Mathewson and McGinnity with a pair of one run victories.

From that point on, the Giants played good ball, but they only seemed to win whenever Mathewson and McGinnity pitched, meanwhile the Reds continued to roll, and the heart of their lineup, led by Joe Kelley kept pounding opponents. They moved into first on September 21 after beating the Phillies 8-3 and three days later, when the Giants lose a heartbreaker in Pittsburgh by a 2-1 final the Reds punched their ticket to the World Series.

Fritz Odwell (.286 2 HR 50 RBI) Fritz was a solid, consistent hitter all through the season. He also played well defensively and stole 34 bases.

Miller Huggins (.279 2 HR 64 RBI) I haven't seen much of his career yet, but he was most impressive this season. Armed with a card built for the hit and run he consistently frustrated pitchers across the league.

James Seymour (.314 4 HR 86 RBI) Jimmy reminds me a little of Mike Donlin of the Giants. They usually have similar cards, although Donlin usually gets an extra 7 over Seymour.

Seymour was the key to keeping the Reds in the upper division through May. Riding a 15 game hitting streak that seemed to always get extended with runs in scoring position was a major component once the team's lineup gelled and took off.

Joe Kelley (.325 89 RBI 23 SB) Joe was almost unstoppable during the late season stretch drive. Constantly setting the tone for the lineup and driving home runners that Seymour set up for him. Still despite all this he needed a little help from.....

"Cozy" Pat Dolan (.305 4 HR 84 RBI). Dolan got off to a horrific start. Hitting just .185 through April, his manager benched him for the final game of a series to think about his season. He was hitting in the 4th spot in the lineup.

Upon his return he was switched with Kelley, who was hitting about .275 at the time and BANG! Both players ignited and the team took off like a rocket.

Harry Steinfeldt (.224 1 HR 53 RBI) Harry really failed to hit his numbers this season. Although he missed less games than normal, was again a fairly frequent visitor to the DL. He did manage 19 steals despite the offensive struggles.

Tommy Corcoran (.194 2 HR 53 RBI) Tommy had a very disappointing season, although the 2 homers were a bit of a surprise, he just never seemed to get the hot dice. He was in the lineup due to even weaker hitting Woodruff being the only other shortstop.

George Schlei (.218) It was a tough season for "The Admiral". He never got untracked and was finally benched for the final 3 weeks of the season.

Cincy's bench was small and somewhat limited. Henry Peitz (.130) was actually given a decent J-4 card and given the starting job over the final weeks. Jimmy Sebring (.241) was the favorite pinch hitter, and was unable to crack into the starting outfield spots, which was one of this team's stronger links. Orville Woodruff (.143) played whenever Steinfeldt was on the DL.

Like all other teams of this era, the pitching carried the bulk of the load. Led by a pair of aces Charles Harper (23-11 2.40 ERA .95 WHIP) and Tom Walker (22-13 2.33 ERA .89 WHIP).

Frank Hahn (19-16 2.73 ERA) was solid during the season, but for the final month Win Kellum (4-3 1 SV 3.34 ERA) was moved into his spot in the rotation because Kellum had a Z while Hahn didn't. While Kellum pitched respectably, he just was not as dependable. An example of trying to fix something that wasn't broken.

George Ewing (20-9 3.27) was the most consistent of the rotation. His won loss record was better, but his ERA was higher by a pretty good amount. His wins seemed to come in a 8-5 result.

New York Giants 84-56

Oh, what might have been! For most of the season the Giants were perched at the top of the standings. Even as late as September 15 I was preparing for a Boston-New York showdown before the rug was pulled out from under them.

But cincy basically ignored my dreams of a Cy Young vs. Christy Mathewson matchup and I had even started moving reserve pitching into the rotation to ensure "Big 6" was ready for game 1.

So, with a brief sigh we review the members of "the little engine that couldn't"

Sam Mertes (.292 5 HR 50 RBI) "Sandow" was the deadball version of Rickey Henderson. Finishing in a tie for 5th in homers and fifth in steals as well with 41.

Roger Bresnahan (.270 6 HR 52 RBI) How much money could Bresnahan make in 2020? A gold glove catcher, hits for decent average, good power, and steals 36 bases?

George Browne (.260 4 HR 65 RBI) George was having a solid year, but did slow down a lot in August. That was just in time for Mike Donlin to be put in the lineup.

Art Devlin (.250 1 HR 69 RBI) Devlin struggled through May, but came around later on and put up decent numbers. His biggest asset was speed and defense, marked by his 3B-5 and 28 steals.

Dan McGann (.256 7 HR 76 RBI) As usual McGann provided the thump in the lineup, as well as unusual speed for a first baseman as evidenced by 33 stolen bases. He also got beaned 19 times.

Billy Gilbert (.249 1 HR 56 RBI). Billy's RBI total from this low in the lineup was more of the result of the hitters above him. Struggling late in the year, he was benched in September in favor of John Dunn, who helped carry the team over the final weeks.

"Bad Bill" Dahlen (.233 2 HR 61 RBI) Dahlen had a down year defensively, but still stole 36 bases and played solid shortstop.

Mike Bowerman (.215 4 HR 54 RBI) It was a down year, even by Bowerman's light hitting standards, but the 4 homers were more than I expected. Bowerman was a defense first catcher, but a typical John

McGraw "Get on base at any cost" player. He was hit by 11 pitches and when asked to lay down the bunt was surprisingly good, laying down 15 sacrifices'.

The bench was rarely used. In fact, McGraw didn't even send himself into a game. He didn't need to. Mike Donlin (.300 2 HR 14 RBI 6 SB) in just one month was enough to bench a fairly productive George Browne. John "Handyman" Dunn (.280 6 SB) was indeed just that.

Playing 5 positions, and a former pitcher, initially got his first taste of action as a late game replacement for Billy Gilbert, who was ejected for arguing with an umpire over a failed stolen base try. He was used in extra inning games afterwards, subbing for Dahlen, Gilbert, and Browne also. He was finally put into the everyday lineup for the final 3 weeks.

Christy Mathewson (28-8 2.38 ERA .91 WHIP) was his usual dominating self. Combined with Joe McGinnity (22-12 2.27 ERA .93 WHIP) punished most teams through the summer. Even as the team began to fade, they did the job. The only time they failed to defend the flag was a tough Labor Day series against Cincinnati.

Luther Taylor (19-14 3.65 ERA) was a good number three, and on most team's number 2. Of course, with Mathewson and McGinnity on your team almost anyone is relegated to number 3.

Bill Milligan (12-17 4.50 ERA) Was only in the rotation because the other starters were J-4. This was the weak link that Cincinnati and other teams took advantage of.

The bullpen was surprisingly inconsistent. George Wiltse (0-1 7.91 ERA), Claude Elliott (1-0) and Leon Ames (2-4 2.52 ERA) would be lights out one game, then serving BP the next.

Chicago Cubs 83-57

The Cubs were an interesting team. Early in the season they managed to get into first, and stay there for 5 days. The foundations for the dominant teams of the first decade are still in the early stages, but the pitching is already pretty decent. Unfortunately, they came up a little short.

John McCarthy (.294 40 RBI 27 SB) John often set the tone for games. Drawing a walk, laying down a bunt, and stealing second base to set up the formidable heart of the lineup.

James "Doc" Casey (.277 1 HR 70 RBI) In addition to playing a solid third base, he was fleet of foot, stealing 28 bases. Had he not gone into a slump in late August he had a slim chance at .300.

Frank Chance (.314 9 HR 94 RBI) Frank was the heart and soul of this team. Among the lead leaders in many categories, especially the power numbers kind of overshadowed his solid defense, and surprising speed. In addition to his 43 stolen bases he led the team by being hit 16 times.

Johnny Kling (.279 4 HR 97 RBI) Johnny definitely benefited by the consistency of the top of the order, leading the league in RBI, and trailed only Red Sox slugger Buck Freeman (100 RBI) for the most in all of baseball. Although he didn't run frequently managed 9 steals.

Jimmy Slagle (.250 1 HR 65 RBI). Jimmy never really got on track at the plate. Had he done a little more hitting I think they may have caught the Giants for second place when they began their collapse. He did provide solid defense and stole 32 bases as well.

Johnny Evers (.237 1 HR 72 RBI) I am still trying to figure out how Evers managed 70 RBI. He was never a threat at the plate, and if the Cubs had had a significant replacement available, I would have used him.

Shad Barry (.258 72 RBI 21 SB) Shad was another player that lingered on the edge of respectability offensively. Thankfully for the Cubs he played multiple positions, allowing me to make switches during the game when weaker hitters were due up in late inning situations.

Joe Tinker (.208 4 HR 50 RBI) Joe was easily the weakest link in the lineup. He also seemed to come to bat and kill rallies on a constant basis. Like his equally famous teammate Evers, Joe played excellent defense, and stole 30 bases despite his weak stick.

David Jones (.231 1 HR) was the primary pinch hitter and fastest baserunner. I got plenty of good usage from him despite his low batting average.

Otto Williams (.273) played for a spell when Casey got hurt. I probably should have used him more, but Doc was having a good enough year to not risk screwing things up.

I really goofed up by not playing Frank "Wildfire" Schulte more. Because he was a J-4 I put him near the back of the bench and completely forgot about him. When I did put him in, and he had a good card too, he hit .400 at the end of the season, but I didn't play him anywhere near his actual totals.

Chicago was only going to go as far as their pitching could take them, and it took them pretty far.

With a staff anchored by Jake Weimer (27-8 2.21 ERA .98 WHIP) they were in good shape. While Jake was not noted for his bat, the rolls went his way, and he ended up hitting .252 with 14 RBI.

Herb Briggs (17-15 3.34 ERA) was either lights out, or lit up. He had a good year, but just didn't hold the other team off the scoreboard enough.

Mordecai Brown (15-14 3.00 ERA) "Three-Finger" had a tough year. He not only underperformed on the mound; he missed a couple of starts with shoulder stiffness.

Bob Wicker (21-13 3.71 ERA) Wicker had a year similar to Briggs. When he was in top form and pitched more like an A than a B. Unfortunately, he was at times more like a D than an A.

The bullpen was just two men. Carl Lundgren (3-3 3.59 ERA) spot started in Brown's place when he was on the DL. Ernie Groth (0-4 9.45 ERA) was the guy that was put into action during blowouts.

Pittsburgh Pirates 72- 68

It was a less than stellar year for the Pirates. They still however managed a good second half to get back over .500. Unfortunately, it was a combination of the pitching staff going through some changes, as veteran stars went on to other teams and several key players having injuries.

Harry McCormick (.282 1 HR 21 SB) "Moose" was hurt a good portion of the year. While they managed to scrape by without him, his presence at the top of the lineup was missed.

Ginger Beaumont (.318 2 HR 37 SB) Nobody missed McCormick in the lineup as much as Ginger did. His 3 31's lay dormant as the reserve outfielders were not as talented and that hurt him a lot. However, another fine season by the speedy Pittsburgh outfielder.

Honus Wagner (.355 6 HR 91 RBI) As great as his season was, I can only wonder if he would have gotten to 100 RBI had not missed just over a week with an injury. It came when he was at his peak, riding an 18-game hitting streak, which narrowly overcame Willie Keeler's 3 16 game hitting streaks for the Yankees for the longest of the season. He absolutely pounding pitching all year long and cruised to his third batting title and MVP in just 5 replays. He had a total of 66 extra base hits and stole 45 bases.

Fred Clarke (.302 3 HR 68 RBI) Although the captain is starting to get up there in age, he is still a very productive player. He still has the speed too, getting 23 stolen bases, and if I remember right being thrown out only 4 times.

Tommy Leach (.217 3 HR 57 RBI). Another season of lost production due to multiple injuries for Tommy. He did manage 20 stolen bases on those moments when he got on base. He also had more walks than strikeouts, it was just a matter of him not getting good rolls.

Claude Ritchey (.255 57 RBI) Claude is in the lineup more for his defense than his hitting, but after a couple of down years at the plate, he had one of his better years after a good September, and I would have to check, but his 10 steals may be a career high for him.

Ed Phelps (.223) got his try at playing every day, and unfortunately for him it didn't go very well. Having the luxury of knowing how my next 4 season replays turned out it may have been his only chance.

Bill Bransfield (.207) Bill had what was easily the worst year of his career this year. Because the other reserves were tied up covering the other players Pittsburgh just had to grind on with his unproductivity.

The Pirates have an enormous bench, but almost all of them were guys that played 2-3 games each, but several got some time. Harry Smith (.087) covered for McCormick during his absences, and as I stated earlier how that affected the team. Fred Carisch (.500) got some time as well when McCormick went down for the final time in September.

Ernie Diehl (.188 3 SB) was more of a double switch option than anything else, and Tommy Stankard (.043) who was so awful that I started writing Stinkard on the lineup card when Wagner was out.

The biggest blow to the Pirates was that most of their veteran pitching from the 1901-1903 seasons moved on to other teams. Given the amount of injuries it was just too much for them to overcome. Pat Flaherty (14-16 2.57 ERA) lost several close games, but otherwise was very solid. Sam Leever (19-12 2.42 ERA .99 WHIP) was one of the few holdovers from last year and was the ace of the staff.

Mike Lynch (17-14 3.86 ERA) had his moments, but was the one pitcher the other teams seemed to beat up a little. Charles "Deacon" Phillippe (17-14 3.36 ERA) had the worst year of his career so far, but the aging vet still had enough to pick up the wins fairly frequently.

Once September came around, and the Pirates clearly were not going to the series, the rest of their staff got to start a bunch of games. I was wanting to see what would happen, kind of like callups. The results were not very promising. Veteran Wyatt Lee (0-2 3.60 ERA) pitched pretty well when given the ball.

John Pfister (0-2 10.80 ERA), Fred Veil (0-2 8.59 ERA), Lewis Moren (0-2 4.95 ERA), and Joe Robitaille (0-3 6.33 ERA) were absolutely horrible, and thankfully were not given many opportunities. Charlie Case (2-1 2.48 ERA) pitched very well in limited work, as did Roscoe Miller (3-0 1.64 ERA).

St. Louis Cardinals 68-72

The Cardinals were not a very strong team, but they did have some players with talent. Their biggest issues were similar to other teams. Weak bottom of order and a thin pitching staff. They also had a pretty high number of injuries as well.

Danny Shay (.275 40 SB) Danny seriously overperformed his card. He missed a significant amount of time during the year, and when he returned went into a deep slump that saw his average drop over 30 points. He still managed to lead the team in steals.

Jake Beckley (.315 2 HR 63 RBI) In addition to being an outstanding hitter, Jake also plays solid defense, and despite being an ordinary base runner stole 17 bases.

Dave Brain (.275 2 HR 61 RBI) I have been waiting on Dave to finally have a season that matched his card, and I finally got it. Traditionally a player who never matches his numbers it all came together for once this year.

Homer Smoot (.255 5 HR 66 RBI) Homer's been pretty consistent in his seasons so far, but this is the first time Homer actually hit some homers. He also stole 35 bases.

Mike Grady (.300 5 HR 67 RBI) Mike had the best year of his short career so far. He got off to a bit of a slow start, but came alive in July and stayed consistent the rest of the season.

William Shannon (.255 23 SB). Bill really never got comfortable at the plate, but with all the injuries there was not much the team could do about trying replacements.

John Farrell (.216) John really struggled this year. He also stole 11 bases.

Jimmy Burke (.225 11 SB) "Sunset Jimmy" had another year like his previous 3. Very weak hitting and a little speed.

The bench was not very strong, and when the regulars went down any hope at an upper division season ended. James Byers (.152), Simeon Murch (.203) and John Dunleavy (.200), who really underperformed were instant outs.

The pitching staff had some talent, but they also had some bums too. Charles "Kid" Nichols (18-14 2.70 ERA) was the ace of the staff. He was the one pitcher that the other team did not want to face. John Taylor (14-18 3.96 ERA) was effective, but struggled at times to keep runners off the bases. Mike O'Neill (13-19 2.93) had an interesting card. He was given an awesome hitters card, but only hit .118, and as a B starter pitched more like an A, well an A without any run support anyway.

It was a much better year than I expected from him. Charles McFarland (18-15 4.70) "Chappie" (I had a slightly different nickname for him) was absolutely horrible. The 18 wins were mostly in high scoring affairs, or extra innings where the home field advantage paid off. In addition to a high ERA, his WHIP was 1.36 and he allowed 306 hits for the season.

The bullpen was actually not as bad as you would expect. Warren Sanders (2-3 3.05), Jim McGinley (2-1 2.70 ERA) were extremely effective for D pitchers. Joe Corbett (1-2 4.50 ERA) was unfortunately so lucky.

Philadelphia Phillies 62-78

The real world Phillies finished in last place, and apparently tried everyone and everyone, as they have the most players of any team in the game. Many of these were 1 game XC cards. Thankfully for Philly fans, the rolls I had for them far exceeded what actually happened. They actually got off to a red hot start, and got into first place by May. They somehow kept winning far more than they should have and held onto first place until about mid July. Then they slowly began to get a dose of reality, and all those lucky rolls stopped coming and they dropped position by position until they settled into 6th place.

Sherry Magee (.276 4 HR 26 SB) Sherry bounced around the lineup a lot. He had an interesting card in where he had 2 first column 3's and he hit them a lot. His 22 triples led the league.

Roy Thomas (.282 2 HR 43 SB) Roy is one of the peskiest hitters around. They say he is the man they targeted when foul balls were not considered a ball or strike when the rule changed. In the real 1904 he hit 13 straight foul balls, and the opposing pitcher got so frustrated and he went down to the batter's box and popped him in the mouth. Roy is also a master of the strike zone, routinely leading the league in walks drawn, which he did again this year with 98. Unfortunately for Roy, he also is one of the weakest power hitters in history. His two dingers are a career high, and his slugging percentage of .351 was actually lower than his OBP.

John Titus (.269 5 HR 68 RBI) John actually had a disappointing season. He was one of the few that underperformed his card. John usually hits about .300, and he was on his way, but a September slump did him in.

Johnny Lush (.246 2 HR 55 RBI) Johnny played multiple positions, and was also graded for 12 starts as a pitcher, but I never got him into the rotation. Johnny got ice cold through July, and dropped from nearly .300 to his final average of .246.

Charles "Red" Dooin (.219 12 HR 58 RBI) Red's card would have been right at home in the 2019 season. He had a double column card with first column 6's at 11 and 33 with a majority of the second column being 1's. Too bad for him that getting to the second column was harder than he expected.

Billy Gleason (.214 15 SB) Billy underperformed badly on his card. He was supposed to be the leadoff hitter, but he couldn't get on base, so I had to move him to the bottom of the order. There were no better replacements.

"Fightin' Harry" Wolverton (.199) Harry is another that really fell apart in the second half. He had survived the first half hitting about .235, which would have been ok for him. Unfortunately, Harry then had his usual run of injuries, wiping out most of the second half for him, and when he returned, he couldn't buy a good roll.

Rudy Hulswitt (.213 1 HR 37 RBI) Rudy got off to a slow start, and saw a slight improvement every month, and finally over the last two weeks hit like he should have.

The bench had what felt like 50 players, but I only used a small portion of them. Frank Roth (.241) and "Dirty Jack" Doyle (.262 1 HR) were the most effective. Hugh Duffy (.167) struggled, and Willis Rementer hit .500 very limited use.

The pitching carried the team through June, but unfortunately could not keep up the pace. Led by Frank Corridon (19-11 2.79 ERA), who led the team with just 102 strikeouts, and unfortunately the one thing all the starters had in common was to give up singles. Lots, and lots, and lots of singles. Every pitcher on the staff gave up at least 230 hits, and Tully Sparks (12-16 4.22 ERA) led the team at 256. John Sutthoff (10-20 3.89 ERA) was the one who tended to lose the high scoring games, usually because of an error that led to a lot of unearned runs. Chick Fraser (13-17 3.42 ERA) was not bad for a number 4 on a really bad team.

The bullpen was REALLY awful. Bill Duggleby (2-2 3.20 ERA) was respectable as the swing man, but John McPherson (1-2 5.82 ERA), John Brackenridge (1-3 5.91 ERA), Ralph Caldwell (2-2 6.32 ERA) and Tom Barry (2-4 8.20) were like gas on a fire when they came in.

Brooklyn Dodgers 60-79

Another disappointing season for Brooklyn. This may be the worst hitting Dodgers team I have had yet.

Henry Gessler (.289 3 HR 53 RBI) Henry played solid defense, and stole 33 bases. He initially started the season down the lineup, but he proved to be one of the most dependable players on the team.

Charlie Babb (.249) Charlie struggled most of the year, but from about August 15th through September 23rd he was on a tear. The Dodgers as a team ran like crazy, and stole 206 bags as a team, and Charlie had the most at 34. He also led the team by being hit 17 times.

Harry Lumley (.258 6 HR 81 RBI) Harry had a card that was very much like a Kris Bryant card. He had good speed, great power, and struck out a LOT.

He had a total of 46 extra bases, and easily led the team with 17 triples. He stole 28 bases, struck out 86 times, or 15% of his at bats, which was the highest amount for any deadball hitter in my replays. He also managed to lay down 14 sacrifices, so he had value almost every way possible.

Sammy Strang (.229 4 HR 45 RBI) Sammy had a pretty disappointing season. However, like all his teammates, once on base second base was going to be taken. He had 29 steals for the season.

Frank Dillon (.287 20 SB) was on pace for a season similar to Strang's, minus the power. Once I started moving all the deadweight around Frank's card seemed perfectly suited for this place and he went on a tear. After a pair of 10 game hit streaks through July and August, Frank was the one that drove in the few runners from the bottom of the order that were on for him.

Jimmy Sheckard (.218 1 HR 52 RBI) I was really let down by Jimmy. While never a superstar, he was pretty consistent in his season finishes. He was inserted in the leadoff spot to start the season, and he was not getting on base at all. The only real value he had was for speed and defense, which unfortunately is what most of the roster seemed to be after July 1st.

Lew Ritter (.192) Was absolutely terrible. Unfortunately, the backup was not any better.

Mike McCormack (.185) Mike spent a lot of time on the DL, and maybe that was a good thing, since he couldn't hit to save his life.

The bench got used plenty due to the inability of the starters. John Dobbs (.265) and Emil Batch (.260) led the charge. Batch himself got hurt while covering for the injured McCormack.

Bill Bergen (.143) and Adolf Jordan (.154) were almost no help.

The pitching staff turned out to be pretty decent late in the season. The big problem was almost all their graded starters were J-4's.

John Cronin (18-13 2.90 ERA) was the leader of the staff, and tossed 5 shutouts. Oscar Jones (14-18 3.33 ERA), and Ed Poole (13-18 3.48 ERA) were bitten by hard luck a lot.

Bill Reidy (5-20 6.41 ERA) was one of the worst pitchers in all of baseball. Ulysses Thatcher (0-0 1 SV 4.70) was the team's closer, and a rarity in that he was a deadball era pitcher who was given a straight reliever's grade.

The bullpen was really more like a bunch of J-4's that each got some time in the rotation when I could use them without going over limits and get Reidy out of the rotation.

John Doscher (2-0 6.00) I am still trying to figure out how a guy could pitch this bad and still win games.

Frank Reisling (3-1 3.00) also threw a shutout in just 4 starts. Bill Scanlan (2-1 3.81), Joe Koukalik (0-2 3.60), Louis Durham (0-3 3.60) and Fred Mitchell (3-4 3.52) were pretty good in limited work.

Boston Braves 47-93

If the Braves were to have a team motto, it would probably be "Thank God for the Senators!"

This was a collection of players that were either nearing the end of their careers, or just starting them.

Ed Abbaticchio (.254 3 HR 34 SB) Ed had the best year of his brief career. Setting career highs in homers, steals, and triples with 15 three baggers, while playing great defense.

Duff Cooley (.263 2 HR 41 SB) another decent year for Duff. Although he was nearing the end of his career, he was a valuable player on a team badly needing some.

Fred Tenney (.272 1 HR 64 RBI) In addition to playing great defense at first, stealing 32 bases, and being the team's manager, he had plenty of things to do, and except for the managing part he did them all well.

Jim Delahanty (.246 3 HR 65 RBI) As you can tell from the teams very low RBI totals, runs came at a premium for this bunch. I didn't count them, but I would bet they led the NL in being fed the goose eggs.

Tom Needham (.237 6 HR 55 RBI) Starting the season on fire by hitting 3 homers in April, he really had trouble when the rolls stopped coming. Eventually he was moved into more of a protection role and he did ok there. Despite his (S) rating, he hit 6 triples and stole 2 bases.

Fred Raymer (.186) Fred was absolutely the weakest hitting regular in the NL. There were times I thought about "going Maddon" and batting him 9th. I eventually benched him in September, but that didn't go any better for his replacement, whom I will get to in a moment.

Phil Geier (.219 1 HR) Phill is another player who was in the lineup for defense only.

George Barclay (.230 1 HR) George started well, but went down for the season late in the year.

The bench was used frequently but often to not much help. Wirt Cannell (.211), who had been effective as a 4th outfielder in other seasons didn't do so well this year.

Bill Lauterborn (.200), who had a good card, but couldn't hit a lick over the final three weeks when I finally put him in the lineup.

Pat Moran (.142) the backup catcher was the backup for a reason. Pat Carney (.091) was probably the worst pinch hitter in history.

For a terrible team, their starting pitching was actually pretty good. Vic Willis (12-22 3.40 ERA) had 4 shutouts and led the team in strikeouts.

Charlie Pittinger (12-20 3.82) and Irvin Wilhelm (9-23 3.79) pitched much better than their records would indicate. Tom Fisher (9-24 5.00 ERA) however was not so lucky. He got hit hard and gave up 316 hits. Oddly enough he was probably better as a hitter, tying for second on the team in homers with 3.

Ed McNichol (4-3 5.53) and Joe Stewart (1-1 8.97) were probably worse than their records would indicate.

Here are the National League's best players.

1904 NL Batting Leaders

Batting Average		
Player	Team	AVG
Honus Wagner	Pirates	.355
Joe Kelley	Reds	.325
Ginger Beaumont	Pirates	.318
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	.315
Frank Chance	Cubs	.314
James Seymour	Reds	.314
Pat Dolan	Reds	.305
Fred Clarke	Pirates	.302
Mike Grady	Cardinals	.300
John McCarthy	Cubs	.294

OBP		
Player	Team	OBP
Honus Wagner	Pirates	.410
Roy Thomas	Phillies	.395
Frank Chance	Cubs	.388
Joe Kelley	Reds	.381
Fred Clarke	Pirates	.369
Miller Huggins	Reds	.365
Mike Grady	Cardinals	.360
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	.355
James Seymour	Reds	.353
Pat Dolan	Reds	.352

Slugging Percentage		
Player	Team	SLG
Honus Wagner	Pirates	.532
Joe Kelley	Reds	.433
Frank Chance	Cubs	.432
James Seymour	Reds	.432
Mike Grady	Cardinals	.423
Pat Dolan	Reds	.423
Sherry Magee	Phillies	.423
Fred Clarke	Pirates	.420
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	.415
Fritz Odwell	Reds	.405

OPS		
Player	Team	OPS
Honus Wagner	Pirates	.942
Frank Chance	Cubs	.820
Joe Kelley	Reds	.814
Fred Clarke	Pirates	.788
James Seymour	Reds	.785
Mike Grady	Cardinals	.783
Pat Dolan	Reds	.775
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	.769
Roger Breshahan	Giants	.748
Fritz Odwell	Reds	.747

Runs Scored		
Player	Team	Runs
Fritz Odwell	Reds	104
Frank Chance	Cubs	98
Roger Breshahan	Giants	92
John McCarthy	Cubs	92
Miller Huggins	Reds	88
Harry McCormick	Pirates	87
Ginger Beaumont	Pirates	85
James Casey	Cubs	84
Roy Thomas	Phillies	83
Honus Wagner	Pirates	83

Hits		
Player	Team	Hits
Honus Wagner	Pirates	176
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	173
Joe Kelley	Reds	169
John McCarthy	Cubs	167
Frank Chance	Cubs	166
Ginger Beaumont	Pirates	166
James Seymour	Reds	163
Sam Mertes	Giants	162
James Casey	Cubs	158
Pat Dolan	Reds	158

Doubles		
Player	Team	2B
Honus Wagner	Pirates	50
James Casey	Cubs	41
Dan McGann	Giants	39
Fritz Odwell	Reds	36
Roger Breshahan	Giants	34
Jake Beckley	Cardinals	33
John Titus	Phillies	32
Duff Cooley	Braves	32
Homer Smoot	Cardinals	32
Mike Grady	Cardinals	32

Triples		
Player	Team	3B
Sherry Magee	Phillies	22
Harry Lumley	Dodgers	17
Fred Clarke	Pirates	17
Ed Abbaticchio	Braves	15
Johnny Evers	Cubs	14
Joe Kelley	Reds	14
Jimmy Slagle	Cubs	12
Fritz Odwell	Reds	11
Pat Dolan	Reds	11
Ginger Beaumont	Pirates	10

Home Runs		
Player	Team	HR
Charles Doin	Phillies	12
Frank Chance	Cubs	9
Dan McGann	Giants	7
Roger Breshahan	Giants	6
Harry Lumley	Dodgers	6
Tom Needham	Braves	6
Honus Wagner	Pirates	6
John Titus	Phillies	5
Sam Mertes	Giants	5
Homer Smoot	Cardinals	5

Runs Batted In		
Player	Team	RBI
John Kling	Cubs	97
Frank Chance	Cubs	94
Honus Wagner	Pirates	91
Joe Kelley	Reds	89
James Seymour	Reds	86
Pat Dolan	Reds	84
Harry Lumley	Dodgers	81
Dan McGann	Giants	76
Johnny Evers	Cubs	72
James Casey	Cubs	70

Walks Drawn		
Player	Team	BB
Roy Thomas	Phillies	98
Roger Breshahan	Giants	70
Miller Huggins	Reds	67
Jimmy Sheppard	Dodgers	63
Sammy Strang	Dodgers	58
Henry Gessler	Dodgers	57
Art Devlin	Giants	55
Fred Clarke	Pirates	55
Frank Chance	Cubs	53
Sam Mertes	Giants	52

Stolen Bases		
Player	Team	SB
Honus Wagner	Pirates	45
Roy Thomas	Phillies	43
Frank Chance	Cubs	43
Sam Mertes	Giants	41
Duff Cooley	Braves	41
Danny Shay	Cardinals	40
Ginger Beaumont	Pirates	37
Roger Breshahan	Giants	36
Bill Dahlen	Giants	36
Homer Smoot	Cardinals	35

1904 NL Pitching Leaders

Victories		
Player	Team	W
Christy Mathewson	Giants	28
Jake Weimer	Cubs	27
Charles Harper	Reds	23
Tom W. Walker	Reds	22
Joe McGinnity	Giants	22
Bob Wicker	Cubs	21
George Ewing	Reds	20
John Leever	Pirates	19
Frank Hahn	Reds	19
Frank Corridon	Phillies	19

Saves		
Player	Team	SV
Win Kellum	Reds	1
Ulysses Thatcher	Dodgers	1

Earned Run Average		
Player	Team	ERA
Jake Weimer	Cubs	2.21
Joe McGinnity	Giants	2.27
Tom W. Walker	Reds	2.33
Christy Mathewson	Giants	2.38
Charles Harper	Reds	2.40
John Leever	Pirates	2.42
Pat Flaherty	Pirates	2.57
Charles Nichols	Cardinals	2.70
Frank Hahn	Reds	2.73
Frank Corridon	Phillies	2.79

WHIP		
Player	Team	WHIP
Tom W. Walker	Reds	0.89
Christy Mathewson	Giants	0.91
Joe McGinnity	Giants	0.93
Charles Harper	Reds	0.95
Jake Weimer	Cubs	0.98
John Liever	Pirates	0.99
Pat Flaherty	Pirates	1.01
Charles Nichols	Cardinals	1.07
Mike O'Neill	Cardinals	1.07
Frank Corridon	Phillies	1.10

Complete Games		
Player	Team	CG
Jake Weimer	Cubs	35
Tom W. Walker	Reds	35
Frank Hahn	Reds	35
Christy Mathewson	Giants	35
Joe McGinnity	Giants	34
Bob Wicker	Cubs	33
Charles Harper	Reds	33
Mike O'Neill	Cardinals	32
Vic Willis	Braves	32
Luther Taylor	Giants	32

Innings Pitched		
Player	Team	IP
Christy Mathewson	Giants	325.0
Frank Hahn	Reds	316.1
Bob Wicker	Cubs	315.0
Jake Weimer	Cubs	314.2
Charles Harper	Reds	311.0
Joe McGinnity	Giants	309.2
Tom W. Walker	Reds	309.0
Vic Willis	Braves	304.0
Charles McFarland	Cardinals	291.0
Luther Taylor	Giants	288.1

Strikeouts		
Player	Team	K
Christy Mathewson	Giants	184
Jake Weimer	Cubs	168
Charles McFarland	Cardinals	132
Bob Wicker	Cubs	129
Luther Taylor	Giants	127
Vic Willis	Braves	125
Charles Phillippe	Pirates	123
Joe McGinnity	Giants	120
Frank Hahn	Reds	118
Charles Pittinger	Braves	116

K Per 9 Innings		
Player	Team	K/9
Christy Mathewson	Giants	5.10
Jake Weimer	Cubs	4.81
Charles Phillippe	Pirates	4.13
George Ewing	Reds	4.11
Charles McFarland	Cardinals	4.08
Luther Taylor	Giants	3.97
Mike Lynch	Pirates	3.79
Vic Willis	Braves	3.70
Bob Wicker	Cubs	3.69
Charles Pittinger	Braves	3.66