

# Baseball and the real world collide more often than we think

**BY TED ANTHONY**  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

PITTSBURGH — The legends of pastoral fields. The detailed history and meticulous attention to continuity. The sight of kids playing ball. The hush that descends when you walk into the Hall of Fame. Each implicitly casts the universe of baseball as a magical land that touches, but maybe isn't precisely part of, the "real" world in which we live. "The whole history of baseball," the writer Bernard Malamud once said, "has the quality of mythology."

Since the game's early days, that mythology has been constructed — often deliberately — to set itself apart. But sometimes things happen that demonstrate otherwise, and reality pokes through.

One of those things unfolded this week when Commissioner Rob Manfred decided that permanent bans from baseball expire upon the death of the banned player. In a single moment, he changed the possible

posthumous career trajectory of two preposterously talented ballplayers — Pete Rose and "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, one banned for decades for gambling on baseball, the other for more than a century for abetting gamblers. Each is now eligible for the Hall of Fame.

Some welcomed it. "A great day for baseball," said Rose's Philadelphia Phillies teammate, Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt. Others chose the online equivalent of spitting disgustedly on the ground. "A very dark day for baseball," said Marcus Giamatti, son of the late baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti, who banned Rose in 1989. On social media, many wondered whether Manfred had responded to President Donald Trump's stated desire that Rose be reinstated.

The reality, though, is this: No matter what you think of Manfred's decision, baseball and the larger world around it collide far more often than the purists might wish — and have since

the game's early decades.

**THE REAL WORLD INFUSED THE GAME FROM ITS ORIGINS**

A national pastime can hardly avoid reflecting the values of the culture it serves. That means two things.

— First, American society is built on stories. Where other civilizations have hundreds or thousands of years of common culture behind their nationhood, Americans willed their republic into existence on stories like the "shining city upon a hill," "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," "all men are created equal." Then they built it out with tales of the frontier and erected industrial story factories like Hollywood and Madison Avenue. Isn't it natural, then,

that the game many think helped define America would be built on some tall tales, too?

— But second, this is a land of messy politics and jockeying for power and money and — let's face it — the silencing of less powerful groups. Who could expect a national pastime, however mythic its public-facing ambitions, not to interact with — and be affected by — the society in which it operates?

That meant sharp-elbowed business machinations in the late 19th century that saw the rise and fall of an entirely new league in the course of a single season — and play-

er-contract actions in its wake that led to criticism of the Pittsburgh Alleghenies as "piratical," inspiring a team nickname that has endured to this day.

It meant the mob-backed, gambling-fueled "throwing" of the 1919 World Series by several Chicago White Sox players — a group henceforth known as the "Black Sox" — that led to the appointment of the first baseball

commissioner, a man with the unlikely name of Kenesaw Mountain Landis. He almost immediately banned those accused of involvement from the game, including


SEE **BASEBALL/PAGE B5**



## LEGAL NOTICE

**Public Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown has filed an application with the Energy & Environment Cabinet to convert tennis courts into basketball courts and parking spaces within a portion of the Shaw Creek floodplain. The property is located at 1527 University Drive approximately 1000 feet south of the St. John Road / University Drive intersection. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed in writing to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov or Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd, 3rd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.



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All bids will be accepted until 2:00 P.M. on Monday May the 19th. All bids can be submitted at Bank of Clarkson, 101 East Main St., Clarkson, Ky 42726. Bank of Clarkson reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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Shelby McClain, David Romans, Bryan Davis, Tommy Howard, Angela Horton, KaLawn Bunch, Margy Sanders, April Alexander

Units will be shown and sealed bids will be accepted at 11:00 a.m. at Heartland Self Storage #4, immediately following to Heartland Self Storage #1 on Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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**NOTICE OF SALE OF FRANCHISE**

By virtue of an ordinance heretofore passed by the Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, directing the advertisement for bids and selling of a franchise to use certain streets, alleys, and public grounds of the City of West Point, Kentucky for the purpose of owning, operating, equipping, and maintaining a system for the transmission and distribution of electric energy and natural gas. The city clerk of West Point will on May 12, 2025, at or about 7:00 pm, sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the City Hall of West Point, a franchise for the purpose set out. Said franchise is more particularly described and fully defined in a proposed ordinance granting and creating the same and said proposed ordinance defines the terms and conditions upon which said sale shall be made, the full text of which is available for inspection in the office of the West Point City Clerk, 509 Elm Street, West Point, Kentucky. The ordinance by title and summary is as follows: ORDINANCE # 2025-02. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY, AND THE PROVISION OF RETAIL ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICE IN AREAS HERETOFORE SERVED BY LOUISVILLE GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY.


*/s/ Ashely Gates,*  
West Point City Clerk  
Published: \_\_\_\_\_

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