

Baseball: The

[Actually, I'm not sure it is the national pastime anymore, but, for the purposes of this article, we'll just stick with tradition and say it is.]

June is baseball month! And, Sports covers, of course, have their enthusiastic fans within the hobby. I have to confess, however, I lost my interest in baseball, and Sports in general, long ago. Like most boys my age, I used to follow the baseball season, collect and trade baseball cards, keep track of my favorite team, and the like, but then came free-agency (you couldn't follow your favorite players from year to year because they kept going to other teams), steroids, scandals...Baseball wasn't a sport anymore; it was just another business. *[Did I ever tell you my Pete Rose story? Even if I did, it's worth repeating—I took my two sons to a baseball card show in Sacramento in the 1980s. I paid an exorbitant fee to get in; I paid an exorbitant fee to buy my sons photos of Pete Rose for him to sign; I paid an exorbitant fee to have my sons stand in line for 40 minutes and have him sign the photos; and when he signed them, he was watching a football game on a little side TV, ignored the boys as he signed the photos, and I think he mumbled 'Thanks' as the boys moved on.]*

Be that as it may, you can still revisit and relive those 'purer' days through *most* Baseball covers, since most Baseball covers come from those 'Golden Age' years—say from Babe Ruth through Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio. You might think the pickings would be fairly slim, compared to other areas, but you might be surprised.

Indeed, although you'll find an occasional isolated Baseball cover here and there, especially conjunctive-types issued by a collector or a club, there are three main sources for these covers: Group I, Sports Jewelites, and some sets and part of sets from financial institutions, RMS Conventions, etc.



National Pastime!

From the 1930's Group I covers by Diamond, we have the following sets available to draw on: First Baseball—c. 1934, some 800 different covers; Second Baseball—24 covers issued in 1935; Third Baseball (I)—100+ (all issues not known), 1935; Third Baseball (II)—c. 1935, 138 covers in two sets; Fourth Baseball—42 covers?, c. 1935. Of course, Group I covers are notoriously difficult to come by with any frequency, so just how many you actually end up with remains to be seen.

Sports Jewelites offers those attractive Jewelites for most, if not all of the major baseball teams, from the 1970s-1980s, so these are issued for the teams rather than the individual players. Here, you have covers from the team, by year, and by advertiser. So, for example, you could have 25 different 1984 Red Sox covers, each from a different advertiser. Thus, with multiple teams, years, and advertisers, we're talking hundreds of possible covers here. Plus, compared to the Group I offerings, the Jewelites are much more readily available—and certainly not as costly.

Finally, we have the miscellaneous sets and parts of sets. For example, there is a Santa Ana Savings and Loan Association Set of 8? Angels players, and there are parts of others, such as the 1962 Great Lakes Matchcover Club Spring Swapfest Set, of which one of the 20 strikes was about baseball. Or, take the Badger State Matchcover Club set for the 1955 RMS Convention, of which one of the covers featured baseball.

Aside from these three main sources, you'll run across a few in the VIP realm—Mickey Mantle's Holiday Inn, various diamond stars' restaurants, and so forth. Other than that, I think, anything else you're able to find is going to be pretty much of a surprise.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
1958 Baseball Schedule
(Home)

Apr. 18, 19, 20—San Fran.
Apr. 22n, 23n, 24—Chicago
Apr. 25n, 26, 27—St. Louis
Apr. 29n, 30n—Pittsburgh
May 1n, 2n, 3—Pittsburgh
May 4-4, 5n, 6n, 7—Phila.
May 12n, 13—San Francisco
June 3n, 4n, 5—Cincinnati
June 6n, 7n, 8—Milwaukee
June 10n, 11n, 12—Philadel.
June 13n, 14n, 15—Pitts.
July 3-3n—St. Louis
July 5n, 6—Chicago
July 9n, 10n, 11—Milwaukee
July 12, 13-13, 14—Cincinnati
July 15n, 16n, 17n—Pitts.
July 18n, 19n, 20—Philadel.
Aug. 8n, 9n, 10—San Fran.
Aug. 12n, 13n, 14—Chicago
Aug. 15-15n, 17-17—St. Louis
Aug. 19-19n, 20n, 21n, 23—
Milwaukee
Aug. 24, 25n, 26n, 27—
Cincinnati
Sept. 2n, 3n, 4—San Fran.
Sept. 23n, 24n—St. Louis
Sept. 26-26n, 27—Chicago
n—Nights.
Double dates—Double-headers.

1970 OAKLAND HOME GAMES

APRIL
13*, 14* Milwaukee Brewers
15, 16 White Sox
17*, 18, 19 Twins
20*, 21*, 22* Royals

MAY
5*, 6*, 7* Yankees
8*, 9, 10 Red Sox
12*, 13* Senators
15*, 16, 17(2) Angels
29*, 30, 31 Indians

JUNE
2*, 3*, 4* Orioles
5*, 6, 7 Tigers
19*, 20, 21(2) White Sox
22*, 23*, 24* Royals

JULY
6*, 7*, 8* Twins
10*, 11, 12(2) Milwaukee Brewers
28*, 29*, 30* Senators
28*, 29*, 30* Red Sox
31* Senators

AUGUST
1, 2(2) Senators
3*, 4* Angels
11*, 12*, 13* Indians
14*, 15, 16 Orioles
17(T), 18*, 19* Tigers

SEPTEMBER
1*, 2*, 3* White Sox
4*, 5, 6 Royals
18*, 19, 20 Angels
21*, 22*, 23* Twins
29*, 30* Milwaukee Brewers

OCTOBER
1 Milwaukee Brewers

(*) Night Game
(2) Double-header
(T) Twilight Game

THE DIAMOND MATCH CO.
NEW YORK

Catcher. Throws and bats right handed. Age 28, height 6 ft., weight 215 lbs. Came up to the big show with Boston in 1926, traded to Giants in 1928 and came back to Boston in 1933. "Shanty" is the biggest catcher in the League and one of the most popular. Has a nine year bat-ting average of .301. "Shanty" has never played in a world series.

J. FRANCIS HOGAN
Boston "Braves"



THE DIAMOND MATCH CO.
NEW YORK

Catcher. Born in Whitwell, Tenn., December 3, 1901. Height 5 ft. 8 in., weight 155 lbs. Bats left, throws right. First played ball at school in 1926. Has been with Tulsa as St. Louis Brown farmhand and later transferred to Rock Is-land with Washington from 1923 until 1930 then White Sox; 1932 to Red Sox; Mon-treal in 1933. Injured during 1933 but played 118 games behind the bat.

BENNY TATE
Chicago "Cubs"

