

# Baseball Historian Caught Ike in a Lie

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Once a cornerstone of the old Three I League, this homespun Midwest port of call claims such baseball notables as Tommy John, Mordecai (Three Finger) Brown, Max Carey and Art Nehf as its own.

None of them, however, has been accorded the title of Mr. Baseball by the hometown folks. That honor was rightfully earned by Paul Frisz, who probably loves the game as much as anyone who's ever played, managed or just plain spectated.

And Paul Frisz has the memorabilia to prove it. Since 1924 or thereabouts, Frisz has been slowly and meticulously amassing a collection of baseball periodicals that would indeed rival any in the land. For starters, there are all 562 issues of the now defunct Baseball Magazine from its origin in 1908 to its demise in the early 1960s. An avid reader of THE SPORTING NEWS since his youth, Frisz also has every issue of TSN from 1922 to date.

BUT FRISZ DOES NOT collect just for the sake of collecting and that's what makes him unique. You see, he is truly a student of the game. Besides being valuable as collectibles, these volumes also serve as reference sources to Frisz.

"I remember getting the first edition of the MacMillan encyclopedia and finding 50 or 60 errors in it right

Hoosier players on those teams. Oh, what an All-Star team that would be . . . Gil Hodges, Billy Herman, Max Carey, Carl Erskine, Mordecai Brown, Art Nehf, Edd Roush and old Sam Thompson."

Now 70, Frisz has not lost any of his collecting zeal. He still combs the collectors' periodicals for items to add to his baseball library. But he's also begun thinking about what eventually will become of his labors.

"I'd like it to go to someplace where it will really be appreciated and used to its fullest," said Frisz. "I read somewhere that Notre Dame had bought a similar collection for \$100,000. Took three truckloads to get it there."

"But when I called them and asked about filling some of my missing links, they couldn't help me. Made me wonder: what did they get? I figure my collection is worth easily \$100,000. I don't want to break it up, though. I'd really like to see our local university here, Indiana State, get it. That way I could put it together for them and see to it that it's

arranged properly so that it can be viewed better by the baseball fans who visit the exhibit."

**Collector's Items:** With so many inquiries about the price of baseball cards, I am most happy to report the arrival of the 1979 Sport Americana Baseball Card Price Guide by Dr. Jim Beckett and Dennis W. Eckes. Even if you're not a collector, but have cards you want to sell, I recommend shelling out the \$6 for this informative guide.

The price guide can be obtained through Den's Collector's Den, P.O. Box 606, Laruel, Md. 20810.

Upcoming conventions: June 1, 2 and 3, New York, at St. Paul's Church Auditorium, Manhattan; June 2, Grafton, Mass., at Flea Market Hall; June 16, Chicopee, Mass., at High Point Motor Inn; June 16-17, Columbus, O., at Ramada Inn South, May 12-23, Cambridge, Md., at the Route 50 American Legion Hall; May 18-20, Atlanta, at 1285 Radisson Inn; May 19, Holyoke, Mass., at the Holiday Inn Ingle-side; May 26-28, Los Angeles, at the Airport Marriott Hotel.

## the sports collector

By BILL MADDEN



off," said Frisz. "I double-checked my reference material here and wrote a letter to the Hall of Fame pointing them out."

Perhaps you can see then why Frisz might have been persistent enough to catch the late President Eisenhower in a lie. This was back in the late '50s when Ike was in office and a story came out about his having played professional baseball under an assumed name at Junction City, Kan.

Eisenhower repeatedly denied the story, even after he retired to Gettysburg, but he was unable to dissuade the dogged Frisz.

"I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED," said Frisz, reaching into a file cabinet, "because I have the picture of that team right here—and there's Ike in it. His name is listed as Wilson, but you can see it's him."

"That was 1911 when Jim Thorpe lost all his medals for playing pro ball and Ike was paid \$50 a month, too—before he entered West Point. He didn't want to spoil his amateur status, and in later years when he was a general and President, I guess he figured it wouldn't look good if he admitted his little wrong."

Obviously, Paul Frisz has an abundance of reference memorabilia to back up his arguments. The old issues of THE SPORTING NEWS and Baseball Magazine only scratch the surface of the Frisz collection.

Frisz owns more than 250 Baseball Guides, a basic reference on the game. Included in this portion of his collection are every Spink, Spalding, Reach and DeWitt Guide, plus all three of the rare Lajoie guides of the early 1900s and the Beadle guides which date back to 1860.

LIKEWISE, FRISZ HAS every one of the Spink Baseball Registers and, for good measure, every issue of Baseball Digest.

"About the only things I'm really missing are some 19 separate World Series programs," said Frisz. "However, I do have photos of every team that ever played in a World Series, and that includes those teams from before the turn of the century . . . the National League-American Association champions and the Temple Trophy games."

Frisz once was a part of pro ball. In 1955 and '56, he ran the Terre Haute Three I League club when it was a Detroit farm team. He'd probably still be running it, too, had television not wiped out the league.

"I made so many friends throughout baseball in those two years," said Frisz. "To this day, Tigers' G. M. Jim Campbell sends me his baseball Blue Book every year when he gets his new one."

"I only wish I could have had some of the great



Right to the finish, its Canadian spirit stands out from the ordinary. What keeps the flavor coming? Super lightness. Superb taste. If that's where you'd like to head, set your course for Lord Calvert Canadian.

The unique spirit of Canada:  
We bottled it.



Eisenhower



Carey