

This Date in Philadelphia Phillies History

A Day-By-Day Listing of Events

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Introduction

Baseball was a popular game in Philadelphia long before there were any organized leagues. In 1866, the Philadelphia Athletics won their first national championship; by 1869, the city boasted three outstanding teams, and in 1871, both the Athletics and Quakers were Philadelphia teams in baseball's first professional league, the National Association.

The Quakers are generally regarded as the forerunner of the Phillies, but it was the Athletics who were awarded the Philadelphia franchise when the National League was organized on February 2, 1876.

But the Athletics, along with the New York Mutuals, refused to make the season's last Western trip in 1876, and both were expelled. It wasn't until 1883 that the city again had a National League franchise, the Phillies who have been members ever since.

In 1901, the Philadelphia Athletics joined the newly formed American League and for more than 30 years were one of the most successful teams in baseball. But the Phillies became the more popular and successful team after World War II and the Athletics moved to Kansas City after the 1954 season.

The Phillies have captured two World Series championships, seven National League pennants and 11 Eastern Division titles.

The Phillies have also endured their fair share of lean seasons en route to becoming the first professional sports franchise to lose 10,000 games.

Interest in the club has been at record highs recently thanks to the two most golden eras in franchise history.

The Phillies were a few plays away from dynasty status during the halcyon days of Mike Schmidt, Steve Carlton and Co. from 1975 to 1983. The club recorded nine consecutive winning seasons, twice posted record-setting 101 win seasons and finally ended a 97-year championship drought in 1980 when Tug McGraw struck out Willie Wilson of Kansas City and leaped off the mound into Schmidt's arms to set off wild celebrations among their large and loyal fan base around the country.

The current team is basking in a glorious run that has seen the Phillies challenge for supremacy on an annual basis since moving into Citizens Bank Park in 2004.

The nucleus of Jimmy Rollins, Ryan Howard, Chase Utley and a pitching staff for the ages brought the Phillies the 2008 World Series crown, a 2009 date with the mighty New York Yankees in the Fall Classic and revived hopes that this could be their year once again.

The fans have rewarded the Phillies with unparalleled passion during a baseball renaissance of staggering proportions.

Baseball is a game that really is never out of season. Something happens on a daily basis, whether it be a trade in December that could alter the club's fortunes for years to come, a quirky off-season injury, a key free agent signing or a retirement of a beloved hero.

As former Phillies second baseman Danny Murtaugh once mused while managing the rival Pittsburgh Pirates, "I don't know why my pitchers can't find the plate; it's been in the same place for over 100 years."

How true. One of the lasting allures of the game is that it has remained basically unchanged year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation ... There is a seamless connection from what transpired when players sported baggy flannels and handlebar moustaches while cavorting only in day games—but never on Sunday until 1934—to the deeds of the modern star decked out in sleek designer threads as he romps about the state of the art playpens that truly remind us all that, as Roy Campanella observed, "You gotta be a man to play baseball for a living, but you gotta have a lot of little boy in you. Too."

Baseball is a game for everyman, served up in healthy doses on a daily basis. There are always hopes and dreams that today's game will turn something ordinary into the extraordinary like the four homer games by Ed Delahanty, Chuck Klein and Michael Jack Schmidt or the perfect games crafted by Jim Bunning and Roy Halladay.

What follows is a detailed look at the day-by-day trials, tribulations, and triumphs of one of baseball's most storied franchises.

What follows is a mini, chronological history of the Phillies. There are enchanted moments to be remembered for the ages and those discouraging days that left wounds that will never heal. There are also a number of listings and tables about the team and its players.

It is our hope and desire that this book will become a trusted companion for Phillies fans of all ages, a resource material that will enhance your enjoyment on a daily basis.

In the chronological listings, a B after a player's name indicates he was born on this date. Then come the year or years in which he played or managed the Phillies, his positions, and the total number of games he played for the Phillies.

At the end of the chronological listing, information is shown about Phillies players for whom complete birth dates are unavailable.

PART 1

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

JANUARY 1

1856 Tim Keefe	B / 1891-93 / P / G-72
1874 Ned Garvin	B / 1896 / P / G-2
1884 Tom Downey	B / 1912 / 3B / SS / G-54
1888 Benny Meyer	B / 1925 / 2B / G-1
1904 Ethan Allen	B / 1934-36 / LF / CF / RF / G-331
1924 Earl Torgeson	B / 1953-55 / 1B / G-293

JANUARY 2

1858 Jack Neagle	B / 1883 / P / LF / CF / G-18
1871 Phil Saylor	B / 1891 / P / G-1
1905 Pinky Whitney	B / 1928-33, 36-39 / 1B / 2B / 3B / G-1,157
1919 Bill Harman	B / 1941 / P / C / G-15
1926 Stan Hollmig	B / 1949-51 / LF / RF / G-94
1933 Kid Gleason died in Philadelphia.	
1951 Jim Essian	B / 1973-75 / C / 1B / 3B / G-21
1972 Garrett Stephenson	B / 1997-98 / P / G-26