

INTERVIEW WITH RUBE MARQUARD (1965)

R The part where I asked you how you got started. My memory is not that good, so I want to ask again, how you originally got started.

M Well when I started to play ball...when I was a youngster all I wanted to do is play ball. And my father was against playing baseball.

R He was an engineer?

M Yes, ye was chief enginerr of the City of Cleveland. I would go up and play with the kids. Play ball, pitch and everything like that, come home at night and he'd say , where were you, and I'd say, playing ball. So myfather says, now lister, if you have it in your mind that you want to become a professional ball player, get that out, because I want you to grow up and get an education and go to college and when you have an education you can go out and get a job and if you haven't got an education, you're np good. And a ball player, will never be any good, because the way I've seen them train, they go in bars and all that. And I told him, I says, when I grow up I'm going to be a professional and you're going to be proud of me. He says, I'll never be

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proud of you if you're a ballplayer.

R How old were you then.

M Oh, about 12. And as the years went along, why I started to pitch every day. During my vacation, I pitched for two teams, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and I wanted to be a ballplayer. I had a couple of balls in my pocket, you know and I used to go out to see the big kids play and things like that, when I got to be about 15, I was tall for my age and I used to pitch for them. And friends of mine, they played with a team call the Waterloo, Iowa. They were in the Iowa State League. And when the summer's over, in the fall, they'd come back and I used to pitch for their team when they'd barnstorm. So they said to me, Are you going to make a career out of baseball? I said what do you mean a career out of baseball. I'm going to be a ballplayer, and I'm going to be a good one, I hope. He says, Now if you want to go to the town that we're playing in, Waterloo, we'll recommend you to the manager.

R You were only about 16 or 17

M I was 16 then. And I says, if I can go, I will. My dad doesn't want me to play ball. And I says, I don't know whether



I can get the ~~money~~ money to go, because if I ask him, he'd hit me over the head with something and I couldn't go. So they said, we'll recommend you to Charlie Frisby, he's the manager. Well, in the spring of the year, I got a wire from Frisby. He said to me, he says, you've been highly recommended by Wakefield, Howard Wakefield, probably you've heard of him, he caught down there, and he says, within a year or so you may become a great pitcher. And if you come to Waterloo and make good, we'll reimburse you and pay you what you spent and give you a contract and then we'll talk money.

R About 1905?

M ~~Yeah~~. Yes. And I got to thinking it over and I finally wired him and said I received your telegram and you said that if I come to Waterloo to pitch for your team, you'll reimburse me. I said, I Haven't got any money. I says, my dad doesn't want me to play Now, will you send me transportation and then you can take it off my salary. He never answered it. So from Cleveland, Ohio I bummed my way to Waterloo, Ioway, five nights, days and everything, I bummed my way on blind bags (?) and freight trains and everything. So finally, when I got to Waterloo, Ioway, I got off the railway ✓

station and the baggage man....the station master, he says, what are you doing here. Come on, get out of here. I says, no, I says I'm reporting to the Waterloo ballclub. He looked at me. He says, did you ever wash you face? I says, no, I been riding for five days and five nights. I says, I'm anxious to get here. I says where do the ballplayers hang around? He says, the smoke shop down the street about a half a mile. He says, and if you walk down there, whoever you're looking for will be in there. I says I'm looking for Wakefield. He says, Oh, the catcher. I says, yes. So I went down there and I got in the place there and the fellows that owned the ball team owned the smoke shop. Their name was the Strong Bros. So I got in there and one of the brothers was back of the counter and he says, What are you doing in here? Who are you and what do you want? I says, well, I got a....I took out my telegram, I says I got a telegram from Mr. Frisby, the manager of this team to report and if I make good I'dd get a contract. He says, who recommended you. I says, Howard Wakefield. So, he says, Wakefield is in back there, shooting billiards. So I says, I'd like to see him. Don't you go back there, he says, you'll drive everybody out. He says, did you ever take a bath. I says

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I says I did take a bath, but i've bummed my way here. So, he called Wakefield and he looked at me and he says, Holy cripes, where'd you come from. I told him what happened and everything. So, Frisby happened to come in and I was introduced to him. And I said, I received your telegram ~~but~~ but I didn't have any money to come first class or anythig like that, I says, I had to bum my way. And ~~he says~~ if you said if I make you, why you'll reimburse me. He says, Kiocock is here tomorrow and they tell me what a great pitcher you are, left-handed pitcher. Isays, I am great. He says, Kiocock is here tomorrow and we'll pitch you. You don't want me to pitch tomorrow, I says, after what I've gone through! He says tomorrow or never. I says, all right. So Wakefield, standing there listening to it all, he says, Rube,Richard, before they'd nicknamed me Rube...he says, Richard, or Dick, you come down to the place where I'm living and I'll get you a room and you can take a bath and everything like that. So I says to Frisby, I says, I'd like to have \$5 so I can get a clean shirt or somethig. So he says, After the ball game, tomorrow! So the next day, went out to the club, introduced to the players and everything like that and Kiocock team was there and I walked up and oh, I felt terrible! But I had

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

had it in my mind I was going to show them that I could make good. I went out and I beat them 6 - 1 and that night I felt sure that by wining the ball~~xxx~~ game I could get a \$10 advance on my salary. So I asked him, I says, Mr. Frisby, I showed you that I could deliver a pitch. Oh, he says, Kiocock's in last place. Wait 'till Oscolusa comes in. They're in second playe. They're a tough team and if you can beat them, then we'll talk. I says, can't I get any money... advance money on my contract. He says, you haven't got a contract! I says, all right. So, i didn't say anything to any of them. That night, I went out to the railroad station, I got my grip out of the room , went down to the railroad station add same baggage man was there. He says, what are you doing down here? Oh, I says, I'm going back to Cleveland Ohio, I says, I want to know what time a train comes by. He says, how you going. I says, I'm going to try to get back of the engine. Oh, he says, you don't want to do that. He says, aren't you the kid that pitched today. I says, ~~no~~ yes. He says Wherewhy you goig home. Well, I says, I bummed my way from Cleveland. I says, it took me five days and they wouldn't give me advance money of \$10 ~~only~~ on my salary, they says I haven't got any salary...contract and they wouldn't advance me, so I'm going

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back home. He says, Well, that so and so. He says, you're the best pitcher they've got on the ball club. So, he says, now this train comes in at 1 oclock and the engine unhooks. If you go down to the water tower and when that engine comes back and hooks up, the meantime I'll ^{talk} ~~take~~ to the baggage man and when the engine in hooked up you'll get in back and then when it pulls out, about five miles, he'll open the baggage door and let you in.

So, that all happened and when we were 5 miles out of town he opened the door and let me in. He says, Mr. So and so, the baggage master was telling me about you. ^{Well, I} ~~He~~ says, ~~xxxxxx~~ he told you ~~me~~ the truth, whatever it was. I bummed my way here and I said I'm going to do the same thing now. So he says, I tell you, when we get into Chicago, when we get into the yards, the train slows up so that you're able to get off. But don't hesitate when you get off that train, you beat it out of the yard, because if you don't, there's so many detectives they'll just grab you and throw you i n jail. So I did, When we got to the yards, I got out of there and I got on the street, got about a block from where I got off there was a fire engine house and they were all to the fire, and they had a big-bellied iron stove, and it was warm and i sat in there for a little ✓

while and I went to sleep. And when the fire department came back, oh[they shook me and did everything to get me up. You bum you, they said, get out of here and do this and that. I said, I'm no bum, I'm a gallplayer. Then they started saying, you a ballplayer, where'd you ever play. And I told them, Cleveland Ohio on the sand lots. So they said, did you ever head of Two fingered Brown, Johnny Evers, Steinfeldt and all those players. I says, No I don't. I never heard of them. But, I says, I may be with them or I'll be against them, some day, I says, because I'm going to get in the American League or the National League. So they started kidding me about ballplayers. They said, where you going. I says, back to Cleveland. You got ^{any} ~~the~~ money? I says, no. So they got a little pool up of about \$4 or ~~\$~~ \$5 and they says on your way, wherever you can get something to eat, stop and get something to eat. So I did. When I got home to Cleveland, I told them before I left, when I come back in the big league, whether I'm in the American League or the National League, I'm coming out to visit you, whenever I'm in Chicago. So when I got up, it was two years later, I was sold to the New York Giants, for \$11,000. And when I came...when the team got to Chicago, I went out to that firehouse and the only one was there that was there when I first got there, was a frist liutenant.



I walked up to him. I says, lieut., do you remember me? He says, I never saw you before in my whole life. He says, I don't know who you are. Well, I says, remember a couple of years ago, you were out to a fire the Iroquois Hotel was on fire and you caught me sleeping back of that stove there? Oh, he says, you the fellow that's the ballplayer? Yes, I says, remember I said my anme was Marquard, Richard Marquard. Yes, he says, what are you going here? Why, I says, I'm in the big league. I told you that when I get in the big league I was coming out. He says, who are you with. I says, I'm with the New York Giants. And boy, every time after my first trip, when I'd come back again, when the Giants would come to Chicago, he'd have all the kids in the neighborhood, everybody around and I'd come out there and sit and talk to them. I told him, I says, you know, I was the first ballplayer that was ever bought by a major league, and I told them I was coming out. I did that for five years. Every trip we got to Chicago, I'd go out and see them. Yeah. Oh, I tell you it was really wonderful. Everybody was so nice. The families out there, around that firehouse. It was really wonderful. It gave me a thrill. My dad never knew that I bummed my way.

R What did you tell your daddy when you got home?

M I told him I was down there, like Astabula, or someplace. We ~~ixxx~~ lived right there in Ohio. He says, you mean to tell me you were out there playing ball? Oh, I says, it was amateur ball! Did you get any money? I says, no, but I got my expenses. So my grandfather, my father's father, he liked baseball and everything and he told my dad, he says, now listen, when you were a youngster I wanted you to be something. I wanted you to be a stonecutter, same as I did when I came here from the old country. He said, no but you wanted to be an engineer. So you became an engineer. Richard's going to become a ballplayer and he's going to be a great ballplayer. He's so determined that nothing is going to ~~deter~~^{stop} him. I had strong will power. In my mind that I could beat anybody that I pitched against. And it was successful, too, because, I don't know, 7 wherever I went, any team that I pitched against, if I was close to anybody warming up, I'd call th them. Id's say, if I was you, I wouldn't pitch today, because I'm going to pitch. So, in 1908, I went to Indianapolis. ✓

R That was your first...

M My first professional ball, Indianapolis. And, when I was ready to leave, My dad, says, now listen, I told you when you ✓

were a kid 12, 13 years old, I kept preaching to you. I don't want to see you become a professional ballplayer. But you've got your mind made up that you're going to be one. Now I'm going to tell you: when you cross that threshold and go out and become a professional ballplayer, don't come back. I says, you don't mean that/ He says, yes, I do. I says, well, I'm goign , and you're going to be proud of me. So my first year with Indianapolis, in 1908, I broke all world's records, I pitched 48 full games, won 28 of them, and strike out records and the least base on balls during a season the least ~~hits~~ hits add everything like that. So when I was sold to the NY Giants, one of the photographers of the NY newspaper, ~~me~~ wanted to know the address of my dad in Cleveland. I told him. So they went out to Cleveland. Got his picture and everything and asked him a lot of questions and finally they said: did you ever play ball when you were a youngster? Oh, he says, I used to play ball. But, he says, I never became famous like my son Richard. Well, are you proud of him. He says, why shouldn't I be, I mean he s a great ballplayer. So, i never saw my dad until oh about 15 years. That ~~ing~~ long/ "Cause he didn't like baseball and he didn't know the first thing about it. But one day, after I was with the Bklyn

ball club...

R That was about 1916

M Yeah, when I was with the Bklyn ball club, why the bat boy came in and he said to me, he says,

R Many, many years later!

M Yeah, he says...

R Didn't your father try to get in touch with you all this time?

M No, He was stubborn...so was I! So the bat boy come in, he says, Rube, he says, there's an elderly man outside. He wants to see you and says he's your father from Cleveland. I said my father wouldn't go across the street to see me, but you go out and get his autograph book and bring it in and I'll autograph it for him. But instead of bringing the book, he brought my dad. We were both glad to see one another and he said to me, he said, boy, he said , you're certainly hard-headed. He says you know I didn't mean anything I told you. I said you told me when I crossed the threshold to become a professional ballplayer ~~that~~ never to come back. I says, I thought you meant it. He says, no, I didn't. So I kept him in NY for two weeks. I said , why didn't you tell me you were going

to be out for the ball game? I said, when did you come in? He says, before the game started. I says, where were you sitting? He says, I was sitting, you know the man that has that funny thing around his face. I says, you mean the mask? He says, yes, and that thing around his chest and those things around his shins. I says, yes. He says, well, I was half-way down to number one, where the man stands, you know when the fellow hits the ball and he runs down to the number one man. I says, the first baseman? He says, I don't know what they call him. He says, I was sitting right in the middle. I says, why didn't you tell me you were there. He says, I was afraid to make you nervous. I says, there's 35,000 people there and they didn't make me nervous. Well, I kept him there for two weeks and ~~we~~^{he} had a grand time, and he went home. Many a time, while we were sitting on the front porch, when my game in Indianapolis, the first game I pitched against Smokey Joe Wood...

R The first game you pitched in....

M In the American Association. He was with Kansas City. After the ball game, I beat him 2 - 1, that evening, the editor of the Indianapolis Star came out with a headline: He said, the American Association League opened up today, and it was a beautiful

ball game between two great teams: Kansas City and Indianapolis, and there was two great pitchers. One a right-hander and one a left-hander. And the right[hand]er with Kansas City looks like he 's going places, probably before, or after the season, they call him Smokey Joe Wood. (remember him, don't you) He says, but we have a young left-hander with the Indianapolis club that is going places, too, after the season, or probably before, he resembles ~~one~~ one of the great left-hand pitchers: Rube Waddell. And from that night on, they nicknamed me Rube.

So, friends of my ~~dad's~~ Dad's, when they'd see him sitting out on the porch, they'd say, well, fred, his name was Fred, you see what your son Rube did today? He said, who're you talking about, Rube, Rube? They says, your son, Richard. He says, I told him baseball was no good, they've even changed his name! So they...

R How did you get to sign with Indianapolis?

M Well, I used to pitch for Bill ^Dradley, he was the third baseman of the Cleveland Cubs, they called it Bill Bradley's Boo Gang. And when I was a kid, I used to carry bags for Lajoie, Turner, Elmer Flick, Harry Baen, all those fellows around there. So when the....

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R Remember the Delahantys?

M Frankie Delahanty, Willie...I knew them all. Willie Delahanty was with Wakefield in Waterloo, Ioway, second baseman. Yeah, I knew the whole family there, yeah.

R Did you know Tommy Leach, who lived right there?

M Yeah, Tommy Leach played with Pittsburgh, later on. Frankie Kilbane and all those fellows...Johnny Kilbane, the fighter, and all those and Dunn, the manager, oh, I knew them all.

So, I used to pitch for them, so I got a letter, a postcard from the Cleveland club.

R In the American Association?

M No, American League. I used to pitch for, what was it, Telling's Ice Cream in Cleveland. Pitched against all the strong semi-pros and I could beat them all. So I got a postal card from Stomers, the owner of the Cleveland club. And he asked me to come to his office. He says, I'd like to talk baseball with you because his ~~scouts~~ scouts had recommended me to them, said that within a year or two I ~~may~~ ^{may} become a great pitcher

R That was about 1907

M That was 1907. So, I worked out. My dad saw the postcard.

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I'm warning you, don't you ever play professional ball if you want to be anything. I says, I'm going to be a ballplayer. Well, I went down and I saw Somer and we talked and he says to me, you know I'd like to sign you to a contract. I says, well , Mr. Somers, I pitched for Telling's Ice Cream. I says, I get a pretty good salary. He says, How much do you get. I says, aw no, I says, you twll me what you're going to pay me. I says, playing with Bill Bradley, Lajoie and all those fellows, I've heard it a hundred times, if you don't get the money when you're young, you'll never get it when you're old! Now I'm young and you're after me and i never had any idea that I was going to become a big leaguer until you sent me that postal card. He says, how do you know you're going to become a big leaguer. I says I ~~do~~ know it. I'm going to be good. So I left the office and I went over to Charlie Carr, the manager of Indianapolis, and Bill Bradley, they had a sporting goods store on Shearing Road, and in the winter time all the players would come in there and talk about the season they had..the summer they had and everything. So when I walked in the door, Bill Bradley, says, hello, big leaguer. I says, what do you mean, big leaguer. He says, I understand the boss sent you a postal card he want s to sign you up.

I says, oh no, not me. I says, I get more with the ice cream company than he offered me. He offered me \$100 a month the first year and if I made good, he'd raise me to \$200. So Charlie Carr says to me, he says, you know I'm manager of Indianapolis. I says, I know you are. He says, how would you like to sign with me. With my club. I says, your in the minor league. I says, if the big league only offered me \$100 and if that's all they can offer, you're in the minor league, you couldn't offer me what I want.

R You were making more than that with the ice cream co.?

M Well, I'd made \$25 a week -- just about the same.

So I says, no , you can't do it. He says, how much do you want.

Well, I says, I'll tell you what I wat. I want \$200 a month. Phew.

and I though I was sitting on top of the world. He says, you want all the money, don't you. I says , no, but you want a good pitcher.

I says you give me \$200 a month and you'll get a good pitcher.

So I signed up. Aⁿd we went to French L₁ck Springs, for training.

R Indiana?

M Yeah. And after we were there for 3 weeks, I was a young fellow, you know, and it didn't take me long to be in shape. So the first team that came to Indianapolis for an exhibition game

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was the Cleveland club. So the bat boy come running in. He heard about the Cleveland club and he went out to get the bats and everything and carry it back...."The Cleveland Club is here!" The Cleveland Club is here!" So I stood waiting for him there and Lajoie and Bradley and Turner, Stovel and all those come in, says, what are you doing here? Carry bats here? No, I says, No, I'm a pitcher. Said, you, a pitcher. I says, yes. Bill Bradley knows that I'm a pitcher because I signed a contract and he was right there. He says when you going to pitch. I says, today. He says, oh, be careful of the big Frenchman, manaing Lajoie. He says, he's got his eyes sharp and he says he's hitting line drives off everybody. He's almost killed three of our pitchers during spring straining. I says, he's not going to kill me! I says I'm going to pitch... He says, how long you going to pitch, oae or two innings? No, I says, I'm going to pitch nine innings. So he kidded me a little bit. And finally ~~when~~ I was warming up and I went out there and pitched. I beat them 2 - 0. I pitched nine innings. Lajoie got two hits off me and, I think it was Carrie Turner or Stovel, they got three hits off me. So that night, Charlie Carr, they were there for another day, Charlie Carr was called to the Southern Hotel, where the

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Cleveland Club was stopping...no the Cleveland Club was at the Claypool Hotel...and wanted to talk to him to sell me. So the next day, Charlie come out in the clubhouse...

R This was your first season.

M Yeah, first season. So he come out to the clubhouse. You know Rube, he says, a funny thing happened last night. He says, Sommers asked me to come down to his hotel, he wanted to talke to me about you. I says what about me. He says, he offered me \$3500 to give you a release, with the priviledge of you staying here to get more experience, for the season, and you'll join the club next year. I says, if you sell me, Charlie, I'm ~~g^o~~ going back to the ice cream company, I says he had an offer, had the first chance and you were good enough to give me \$200 and what I wanted. If you do that, I'm going to quit. Don't worry, he says, the way you pitched today, you're going places. I'll get a lot of money for you. Well, anyway, the season started and Kansas City was there and I beat Smokey Joe Wood . I pitched 48 full games and won 28 of them and had all those records and he went to the Boston Red Sox and I went to the NY Giants. Ad at that time that was the highest price that ever was paid for a ballplayer.

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R \$11,000

M Yeh, \$11,000. The day that I was sold, we were in Columbus Ohio and Charlie says to me, he says, Rube, you're pitching today. He says, I want to tell you there's going to be a lot of celebrities at the ball park today. I says, what do you mean. He says, well, celebrities. He says, the reason I 'm telling you, I don't want you to get nervous. I says, I haven't been nervous yet. He says, no, he says, I never saw a kid like you. You're afraid of nobody. I says, I can beat anybody. He says, I've heard that a 1,000 times this summer. He says, all the managers, owners, scouts and everyone pertaining to the American League and the National League are going to be at the ball game to watch you.

R What month of the year was this?

M So I says, well. And if you pitch a good ball game, I may be able to sell you. I says, how much do I get? He says, you still get that \$200 a month. Well, anyway, the game started and I beat them 4 - 0. I pitched one of those funny games: no hits, no runs, 27 men faced me, shut them out without a hit. And that night at the Sellin Hotel, they put me up on the

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block and all the big league clubs bidding on me, like a horse being auctioned off. And the Cleveland club went as high as \$10,500. Finall the NY Giants, \$11,000. I was sold to them. Bill Bang, of Cleveland and H.B. Evers, I don't know If you ever heard of those, he was with the Plain Dealer and Willie Keeler, he was with the Leader, and Bill Bang was with the Cleveland News. Every time they had an opportunity, oh, they would give it to Summers and Kilfoil, the two owners of the Cleveland club. They said they had a chance to keep a great pitcher for \$200 a month and they were so cheap they wouldn't do it. So, ...

R Was the season over when you went up to the Giants?

M No, no. When I went up to the Giants, they had about two weeks to go yet.

R Was that 1908?

M That was the fall of 1908.

R Did you get there in time to see the Merkle....

M Oh, yes. Merkle failing to touch that second pase. When I got to NY, why, McGraw said to me, when I reported to the Polo Grounds, he says, now listen to me. He says, all the newspaper men, everybody in NY has got their eyes on you. They figure paying

\$11,000 for a man, they think he can't lose a ball game. Now Cincinatti is ~~EEEE~~ coming here Saturday, ad this is Monday, and they're coming here Saturday, and you're pitching Saturday. I want you to do some running, shagging in the outfield, pitching a little bit. Don't hurt yourself, I want to save you for Saturday. Well, I says, I'll do the best I can. I says, I think I can beat them, too. Of course, I had it in my mind I could beat anybody. So Saturday came and they had about 50,000 people there. I never saw such a crowd in my lief. So when the time came to warm up, Roger Bresnahan was catching me, and warming up. After we got through warming up, he says, Rube, he says, if you got what you showed me warming up here, out there, they'll never get a foul off you. Well, I says, I only hope I can get it over! During the summer months, I says, I could get the ball over a dime. I says, but I've never seen a crowd like this. I says, they've got me a little nervous. Well, anyway, the umpires came out and the battery was announced: Brenahan and Marquard for the Giants! And Pete Snyder and, oh I can't think of the catcher's name . So when I walked out to the rubber, the whole 50,000 fans just let out a roar, all applauding and everything. Believe it or not, I couldn't see

Bresnahan, I was so nervous....shaking, you know. So I threw my five balls of warm up . Miller Huggins was the first batter up. Little short fellow. The first ball I pitched, I hit him. Boom, right in the side. So the next man up, I walked. Ad the next man up I walked! Three men on base and nobody out! And you should have heard the bleachers. The fans sitting in the grand stand and the boxes were all right. So, I called time with the umpire and I walked up to Roger. Roger, I says, I think I've been trying to exert myself. Trying to put too much on the ball. I says, I'm going to let up on the next ball, and If I get the first strike-out on this fellow, I'll be all right. He says, I wasgoing to tell you the same thing. So Hans Lobert, you've heard of him. He was up there, and I let up on the first ball. Remember the car barns? Well, that's where he hit it. Hehit it up in the car barns of the elevated track, for a home run! So mcGraw...I walked up to the bench and he looked at me. He says, what was the matter with you, Rube, I says, nothing at all, no alibi. I was just scared to death. I says, 50,00 people.. I says, I've been accustomed to seeing 7,000 or 8,000 on a Fourth of July double header, but here...50,000! He says, yeah, you had more than 100,000 eyes on you. He says, because

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everybody came out to see you. So finally he says, pay no attention to that, go down to the clubhouse and change your clothes and wait till after the game. So I took my sweater and threw it over my shoulder. I could have gone underneath the stand in a circle, but as I got up to go out, McGraw says, you can go out this way, but I says, no, I faced them this way and I'm going to face them all the way around! So I started walking around till I got to the bleachers. And the bleachers were packed. Twenty deep, laying over to see me, you know. And they called me everything under the sun. So finally when I got to the door to go under the bleachers to the clubhouse, they were talking and everthing. They had no Sunday baseball in NY at that time. So I put up my hand and one big roughneck says, Shut up and let the fella say something...let's hear what he's got to say. So I says, you ~~s~~ fellows coming out here Monday? They says, Yeah, why? I says, I'm going to pitch Monday. You should have heard that. Oh, brother, they game it to me good! Well, anyway, in the clubhouse, McGraw was very nice. He was really a wonderful fellow. He says to me, He says, Rube , you know the day I almost bought you in Columbus Ohio, you pitched a perfect game: no runs no hits, no errors, nothing, 27 men faced you and

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you looked like you were going to be great today, in your warm-up as Roger Bresnahan says, you got plenty. I says, well I probably have, but Monday, I'm going....I'd like to pitch. He says, Philadelphia is coming Monday and they're a better hitting team than Cincinatti. I says, well, I can beat them. I says, I have it in my mind all summer long and I had it in my mind Saturday that I could beat Cincinatti, but the crowd scared me. I says, if the same crowd is there Monday, I'll redeem myself. I show them whether I can pitch! Well, he says, when Monday comes, and you still think you want to pitch against them, you let me know when you come out for morning practice...when the team comes out for morning practice. All year round, he says, there's no let-up. He says, we practice every morning. And if you think you want to pitch Monday, let me know. I says, all right.

So Monday morning, we get out there at the practice and everything and I didn't do anything. He told me, just run around a little bit and don't do any throwing. I knew that, when he told me that, that I was going to pitch. So after practice, he says, Rube, come into my office, I want to see you. So I went into his office, he says, do you still want to pitch? I says, Yes I do. I says,



I want to prove to you that you didn't make a mistake paying \$11,000. I says, I'm going to show you that I can pitch. Oh, he says, from what I've seen, you...since you've been here..I think you'll be able to pitch. So I pitched against Phila. I beat them 2-0 . George Chalmers pitched against them. I beat them 2 - 0, so I got \$11, they got three hits off me, and as the game was over, down in the clubhouse, both bleachers from Saturday, I says, didn't I tell you! They says, we knew you could do it! So, in the clubhouse, McGraw came over to me. He says, well Rube, I want to tell you. You told me to pitch you and your were going to redeem yourself and show that I didn't make a mistake ~~paying~~ paying \$11,000 for you. And, I says, well, I'm all right now. That was that!

R Did you like Mr. McGraw?

M The finest and the ^{grandest} ~~greatest~~ man in the world to work for! He loved his players; the players loved him. He was wonderful. Although, the newspaper men, you know he was a little fighter. He was an Irishman and they called him Muggsy. That was the only thing he despised! Anybody, he didn't care who it was, called him Muggsy, he'd take a pop at them. And he couldn't likk a stamp! But outside of that he was really a grand man. Wonderful.



R That always surprises me, because he had trouble with some of his players, didn't he?

M Well, I'll tell you. Some of his players.. he had a rule out on the ball club, that you had to do...you had to live up to the rules and regulations of the NY Giants and when he laid a law down, you'd got to abide by it, you'd got to live up to it! ~~But~~ ~~that~~ while ~~you~~ ~~know~~ ~~that~~ Players you know, they'd....~~well~~ we were on the road, when we were on the road we'd have a whole floor for the ballplayers, two in a room. Bed, two beds. And the door would be wide open at 11 o'clock, and the trainer would come by with a board with all the names on it. Matty and I used to room together, and he'd come into the room: Mathewson, Marquard, check. Lock the door. Next room, Lock the door. And the players that weren't back yet, he would and take the key ~~make a list~~ and take it up to McGarw's room and they could not get into their room by passkey or anything, 'cause McGaw left orders downstairs that a player that came in after 11 o'clock looking for a key or a passkey or somebody to take him up and put him in their room...nothing doing. They've got to come to his room to get the key. And those were the kind of fellows that he'd have a little trouble with. Fellows like Bugs Raymond, drinker and everything...although

Bugs raymond was a great pitcher. The drunker he was the better he could pitch! He was a marvel/ And Larry McKeen, after a while he became catcher of the Giants, he was the same way.

R But you really liked Mr. mcgraw?

M Oh, he was loved by everybody.

R Was fun to play baseball for him, wasn't it.

M Yes it was. And there's a fellow, he forgot more and he took more baseball ability to the grave than any of these managers you may know. He knew, by seeing what the opposing club was doing, the signs, he could get the hit and run, the steal and all this and that, and I want to tell you he was really remarkable.

R Rube, did he leave you...did he leave his ballplayers on their own or did he direct every move they made?

M No, after oh, say six or seven years, when the younger fellows had come in, you know, he'd give me a poke, like If he'd tell you, Ritter, you're the pitcher today. And he handed you a program and on the program you'd get up before all the players and you'd go down the line-up from the lead-off man down to the pitcher and tell how you were going to pitch to every individual. And then, when the game would start, every opponent that came to bat, the outfielders

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knew how you were going to pitch and they would play accordingly. But the younger fellows come in and, you know, they forgot, from the time that they left the bench to the pitchers box, they forgot all about it. And that's how we'd start.

I was pitching a game against Chicago. I had them beat 2 - 0 in the ninth inning. Two out and three men on base. And Joe Tinker was up at the bat. I pitched...for a left-hander I always had perfect control...I pitched five straight curve balls to him and he fouled them. So, the sixth ball, Myers, the Chief, asked me for a curve, but I shook him off, ~~ixsay~~ change-of-pace, I shook him off, fast ball, kept shaking him off and finally he come back with the fast ball. And I said, shook my head, yes. I pitched it to Tinker and he hit a line drive to Larry Doyle and he backed him up a foot, it was so high, for the third out.

So, down in the clubhouse, Doyle says, what are you trying to do kille me....get me killed out there. He says, that ball was hit so hard, just like out of a cannon. So, McGraw says to me, he says, Rube, tell me something, you pitched five straight curve balls at Tinker. I says, yes, He says, you had perfect control. What was the idea of pitching him a fast ball? I says, well, I'll tell you.

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I pitched him five straight curve balls and I shook the Chief off three times and I came back with a fine fast ball. I thought I'd cross him up. Before I crossed him up, I thought! He says, what did you think with? I says, well, I thought I could cross him up/ He says you almost killed your captain! Yeah, oh he really was marvelous. And we had a pitcher called Dummy Taylor. Every player on the team could speak the alphabet, you know, the deaf-and-dumb language. And he used to give the signs out there on third base...

R McGraw did?

M Oh yes, deaf-and-dumb. Oh, yeah. yes.

R But McGraw wouldn't run every aspect of the game?

M No, no. You ~~take~~ take today...I'll never forget, we were playing Pittsburgh one day and there's a man on second base with one out and the score was 1 - 1. It was in the 9th inning. So Jack Murray was up to bat. He goes to McGraw and he says, what do you want me to do Mac. and McGraw, I was sitting right next to him, McGraw looked up and says, what do I want you to do, he says, what are you doing in the National League? He says, there's the winning run on second base. What would you do if you were the manager? He says, well, I'd sacrifice for the man over at third

and make the third baseman recover the ball. He says, well, that's what I want you to do. make that third baseman field the ball and he may overrun and throw back to first base, and if he does, we score the run. He says, but be sure and make that third baseman field the ball! So he walked up to the pitchers box and he backed out again and he looked over to McGraw and says, look at that so-and-so, he told me what he was going to do and I told him what he should do and he's undecided! I'll bet he forgot, from the bench to the plate! And Cadmus was pitching and in our day, when we knew a man was going to bunt, we'd pitch high, 'stead of low where they could get it on the ground, get it down low. And Jack was a high ball hitter. So Jack gets in the pitchers box and Cadmus winds up and he pitches him a ball right shoulder high. Murray takes a cut at it and he gets a home run and wins the ball game. So after the ball game was over, Jack Murray had a wonderful Irish tenor voice, and he was singing, taking off his shoes and everything..."My Wild Irish ~~Warr~~ Rose" McGraw came out, going to the shower and walked over to Murray and tapped him on the shoulder. He says, Muray, what did I tell you to do? He says, Mac, you told me to bunt to the third baseman. But, you know, Cadmus put one right in my gut, right in my groove ✓

and I cowtailed it. He says, where did he put it? He says, put it right in my gut. He says, I'm fining you \$10 0 and put that in your gut.

R Was he a fair man?

M He was fair! Anythig, like if a player...now we had a fellow on the ~~base~~ team, this Bugs Raymond. He'd go out and pitch and he'd be paralyzed drunk and he'd win the ball game. And if he was sober he couldn't pitch enough to knock them out. McGraw had fined him \$500 or \$1,000 and he'd take that money and send it to his wife in Chicago...

R Mrs. Raymond/

M Yeah. Unbeknownst to Bugs. Because, if Bugs knew that his wife was getting that money, why he'd h ve toSo he would fine him \$500, \$1,000 and mail the check. And he used to, when we traveled on the train. every pair had a load. We had two sleepers, we put our clothes up on the upper and the grip and everything and Bugs Raymond he'd wake up in the middle of the night and go around feeling your coat pocket and take pennies here, a nickel, quarter there and get enough to get a drink. If he didn't have enough, he'd wait till we got th the hotel where we were going to stop and get somebody to walk

him over to the dining room and on the side they'd have all these different sauces , you know, he'd look for this...well, anyway, I can't think of it..he'd take a shot about that big...

R Liquor?

M No, no...hot stuff!

R ~~Chili~~ Chili sauce?

M No, something else, It'll come to me. Anyway, he used to drink that and anything that was like that. So different places...he' d stand around ~~xxx~~ looking in the door and watch. He could ~~xxxxxxx~~ kind of, like Matty and the fellows would be sitting and eating, he knew that the waiter'd get about a dollar from all thefellows sitting around, there were about five or six of them. And he'd wait until the fellows would all get up and then the waiter would ~~xxxx~~ start going out and he'd say, listen, give me a cup of coffee, hurry up, I'm in a hurry now. And go out and get it, I'll wait right here. The poor devil would go out and get a cup of coffee and while he was out Raymond would take all the dimes and quarters and everything left .

R Like you said your father didn't want you to be a ball player. Were the ball players really pretty rough in those days?

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M Well, I don't know. I couldn't tell you that. I couldn't tell you. They were rough, all right, but not the way he...they would, naturally, you know go into a saloon and drink beer or something like that, but not really rough.

R Was there a lot of drinking there?

M I couldn't tell you. I never saw any.

R You didn't drink?

M I never did. Never did.

R Who was your roommate most of the time?

M Matty on the road.

R He wasn't a drinker either?

M No, he just ~~wasn't~~ just a great, grand fellow. He was a wonderful fella. Wonderful. Wonderful. He's a man, he could sit in here, and four people, playing bridge, I could take a checker board out in the next room with the numbers on it and tell the numbers how I moved and ~~you~~ everything, and he'd be playing bridge and say move number so and so, so and so, and then ~~wasn't~~ you'd tell him you moved so and so, and he'd think for a minute and then jump so and so and so and so, and king so and so, move so and so. He'd tie you up any time at all, and he'd be here and you'd be in the room with

with the board.

R He was a great checker player

M We would go to Chicago, a place call White's City.

You've seen this fellow with probably 15 or 20 checkerboards, and when they'd see Matty coming they'd put their shill in the seat and say, sorry Matty, all filled up tonight. He'd tie them in a ~~knew~~ knot! He was really a wonderful fellow. And he loved to gamble. If you had a dollar in your pocket, he would never be satisfied till he got that dollar from you. He always carried \$1,000 dollars with him. He ...you could win that \$1,000 if you were lucky, with that one dollar. He didn't care. Sundays he would ~~a~~ never ~~xxxxxx~~ come out to a ball park. He would stand downstairs in the lobby of the hotel, wait for the ballplayers fater they got through breakfast and time to go out to the ball park and he'd have a pair of dice in one hadn and a deck of cards in his pocket. He'd say, let's go up for a little while . You know, 8:30, it was time to go into the dining room and 9:30, you must be out. Well after 9:30, he'd be down with the ~~bagsx~~ dice or the deck of cards. He'd want to ~~pay~~ take a couple of them on beforeh going. I've seen him loose \$7 -800 in one night. Never wimper a thing. Next day, he'd have fresh money.

R Were the ball players of those days more phisically durable than they are today, do you think?

M Yes, years ago the ballplayers would play a double header and they 'd go and do everything. Today, tae players, I don't know..it's too commercial with them. They've commercialized everyting. Money. And they don't care. You see, they're getting so much money that if they, I can't explain it...the manager can't tell them anything, because they have so much money that they don't care, they'd just a s leave quit, you see. like a fellow signs a contract for a bonus, they give him 50, 60 \$70,000, you know.

R In those days, do you think they had tougher men, in the sense that if they were hurt they wouldn't drop out of the game, and so on?

M Well, we were playing Pittsburgh. Honus Wagner was playing and he slid into second base. And ~~of~~ all the bases had a strap under them to ~~make them skid~~ which it was stapled. And he slid in and hit that solid and as he did it slid along about two feet and the staple ...broke...the top was off of there...and that's the way it was, that deep, from his knee up to here. That's how deep that was. Cut him right through his sliding pants. Players got all around him and he

lowered his pants and everybody that was chewing tobacco, took a chew out of it....I even gave him my chew for it...put it on, pulled up his pants and finished the ball game. We had a doctor. A club doctor, Dr. Leisher. He was notified about what happened. He was in the clubhouse and he put in 26 stiches from here to there. Four days later, he was playing. You take today, none of those fellows would do anything like that! Even a lot of fellows have sprained their ankle, they ~~take~~ tape it up and put these rubber elastic things on there, you know. I was pitching a game on a Ladies Day in Chicago and it was about 10,000 women out there. They were sitting right in back of the catcher. All with white dresses on and everything. And Hank Miller was up at the bat. I pitched a ball and he fouled it into the grandstand. Bill Klem was back of the plate and he threw out a ball and I was going to ~~spit~~ spit on it right away, but he says, if you do, it'll cost you \$10.

R Why was that?

M Well, you see, I used to chew tobacco and put a little licorise in there to make it ~~black~~ black. One side white and the other one's black! You see, we used to run it like that. So he

says, if you do, it'll cost you \$10. All I remember was pŕtching that ball. He threw it right back at me, caught me right here... funny it didn't break my collarbone. It hit me on the chin and ~~knocked me cold~~ knocked me cold. I was laying there in the pitchin box for about , oh five minutes. And my nose started to bleed. So the trainer, when I came to, he had an instrument and stuck it up my nose to see if my nose was broken. I hardly could breathe and I took my handkerchief and I blew and both eyes come out, popped you know. So, he took me up to the office and I looked, you've seen these Banshee, with the big lips, you know, well that's the way I looked for four days. All I could do was just stick a straw in there and have ^{liquid} ~~liquid~~. Four days later I was pitching in St. Louis and had a big chew in my mouth with those big lips, damnest thing you ever say! The players of today arethe trainers, they spoil them. You go into any clubhouse, whatsoever, they've got every free medical

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