

# So, You Want to Be an Umpire?

David Vincent

Modern umpires like to be invisible on the field and consider it a good day when no one remembers them after a game. There have been days, though, that are memorable ones. Here are some of those days.

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In 1882, National League Umpire Dick Higham, a former player, was expelled from the game for colluding with gamblers. He had been the first umpire to wear a mask on the field. Higham umpired his last game on June 22, 1882 in Buffalo.

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On June 19, 1896, the Chicago Colts (now Cubs) were in Cleveland to play the Spiders. The latter team was well known around the league for acting in a rowdy manner. In the seventh inning, Umpire Tom Lynch fined and ejected Cleveland Captain Patsy Tebeau, who refused to leave. Tebeau instead rushed at Lynch to assault the umpire but the two were separated by other players. Lynch refused to work the rest of that game and left the field. After a long delay, the game resumed with Chicago player Con Daily calling the pitches and Cleveland player Cy Young making the calls on the bases. Tebeau remained in the game and Chicago's Cap Anson protested the game because Tebeau remained in the contest even though he had been ejected. Chicago won the game, 8-3, so the protest was not lodged. After the game, Lynch told a reporter: "I suppose I should not have permitted my indignation to get the better of me, but after all there are things that pass human endurance, and one of them surely is to be called vile names." Lynch refused to work in Cleveland after that and did not until 1898.

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On July 6, 1896, Umpire Tim Keefe grew tired of all the arguing and left in the fifth inning. Players Ed McFarland and Jouette Meekin were chosen to finish the game. The game was called by rain at the end of the eighth inning.

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On May 14, 1897, Louisville fans were unhappy with a few of the decisions by Umpire Jack Sheridan. In the fourth inning, some fans came out of the bleachers and went after the umpire. Police prevented any trouble and escorted Sheridan off the field after the game, which was won by Philadelphia, 7-1.

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Tim Hurst was the umpire for a game in Pittsburgh between the Pirates and Orioles on May 26, 1897. After the game, as Hurst walked to the dressing room, a crowd of fans gathered around the arbiter and yelled at him about calls against the home team that they did not like. One person called Hurst a thief

and threw a rock at the umpire. Hurst retaliated by striking the fan and a group of men rushed at the umpire, who ran towards the clubhouse. A few fans starting hitting Hurst but Pirates players and the trainer intervened, saving Hurst from serious injury. The police showed up and struggled to hold the crowd back.

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On August 4, 1897, the Pirates were in Cincinnati for a double header. The second game was called due to darkness in the sixth inning but finished the day without Umpire Tim Hurst. In the second, Hurst made a call against the home team that riled the fans. One roofer threw a beer glass onto the field. The arbiter picked up the glass and threw it into the stand. The glass struck a patron over the right eye, causing an injury. The police were called and Hurst was arrested and charged with assault and battery. The game was finished with Red Bittmann as umpire. He had played only four major league games in 1889 but had umpired occasionally since then. This was Bittmann's last appearance on the field in any capacity.

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In Boston on August 6, 1897, the Orioles were in town to play the Beaneaters. During the contest, the visitors used abusive language towards their opponents and Umpire Tom Lynch. In the ninth inning, Jack Doyle grounded out and as he left the field, he called Lynch a few names. Lynch ejected Doyle and a few Orioles gathered around the umpire. Doyle continued his tirade and pushed Lynch, who retaliated with a left-handed punch to Doyle's neck. Doyle was escorted back to the bench by his teammates. Lynch did not work the next day due to a black eye. A Minor League Umpire, Bill Carpenter, made his big league debut in Lynch's place. Lynch tendered his resignation after the incident but he rescinded it and returned to the field on August 9.

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On August 23, 1897, Tim Hurst was injured during the second game of a double header in Brooklyn. A foul ball struck him on the head in the fifth inning and he suffered a brain hemorrhage. He recovered and finished the game, which was called after the seventh frame due to rain. Hurst next worked on August 31.

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On September 2, 1897, Washington hosted the Pirates in a game umpired by John "Kick" Kelly, who played in the National League in 1879. In the bottom of the eighth inning, the visitors led, 6-3, but Washington was threatening to tie the score. They had the bases loaded with one out when Kip Selbach hit a grounder that was briefly fumbled by Dick Padden. As Padden threw out Selbach at first, Charlie Reilly scored and Zeke Wrigley rounded third and followed Reilly home. Harry Davis threw the ball over catcher Joe Sugden's head and Wrigley was safe, making the score 6-5 in favor of the visitors. Manager Patsy Donovan ran in from center field and grabbed Kelly by the lapels, claiming that Reilly interfered with Sugden. At this point, Kelly called the game for darkness and many in the crowd hissed at the stoppage of play. A group of fans jumped onto the field and surrounded the umpire, who jumped into

the stands. As Kelly tried to get out of the park, some female fans struck him on the head with their parasols. Police escorted Kelly into a team office where he exchanged his spikes for street shoes. Kelly was escorted out of the park to the trolley and the police boarded the street car with the umpire and escorted Kelly to his hotel.

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In Washington on August 21, 1901, fisticuffs were the play of the day. In the bottom of the fourth inning, the Senators had scored three runs on a bases-loaded triple by Billy Clingman when White Sox Catcher Joe Sugden missed a pitch. The ball struck Home Plate Umpire Jack Haskell and Haskell waved Clingman to score on the play according to the rules of the day. Pitcher Jack Katoll threw the ball at Haskell, which bruised the umpire's leg. Katoll was ejected by Haskell. The next batter was put out to end the inning. As the White Sox came to bat in the top of the fifth, Frank Shugart walked to the plate with Joe Sugden and said a few words to Umpire Haskell. The latter took out his watch, giving Shugart one minute to return to the bench. Shugart grabbed for the watch but Haskell stepped back. Sugden pushed Haskell's shoulder and Shugart punched Haskell on the mouth, drawing blood. Haskell retaliated, getting Shugart in a head lock ready to punch when police separated the two combatants. Shugart was ejected by Haskell. Both Shugart and Katoll were taken away by the police. Shugart was released on \$20 bail, while Katoll's fine was \$10. Both players were suspended by American League President Ban Johnson.

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In New York on July 7, 1903, the Yankees were entertaining the White Sox. In the seventh inning, Umpire Jack Sheridan called out Danny Green of Chicago at first base to end the frame. Green yelled at the umpire as he left the field. Sheridan ran towards Green and struck the latter on the head with his mask and Green retaliated by punching Sheridan. The two were separated by players and the police. Sheridan was arrested. Green refused to make a complaint against the arbitrator although his head was bleeding from the assault. Sheridan was locked up for about an hour on a charge of disorderly conduct but was released on bail provided by the President of the New York club, Joseph Gordon. Two players, Monte Beville of New York and Patsy Flaherty of Chicago, officiated the remainder of the contest, each making his umpiring debut.

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When fans held glass bottles during the game, those bottles often turned into missiles. On September 15, 1907 in St. Louis, Hall of Fame Umpire Billy Evans, just 23 years old and in his second year in the American League, was involved in one such incident. In the third inning of the first game of the day, Harry Howell of the Browns hit the ball down the left field line which was ruled fair by Evans. Howell scored on an inside-the-park home run. The Tigers claimed the ball was a foul ball so Evans walked down the line to show where the ball landed. A fan threw a pop bottle which struck Evans on the back of the head, knocking him unconscious. Other fans went after the young man who threw the bottle, who was saved by the players. The man was arrested and Evans was taken to a local hospital where he later was deemed out of danger. Bill Dinneen (St. Louis) and Boss Schmidt (Detroit) made the calls for the remainder of the game. Evans returned to the field on October 2 but did not work behind the plate

again that season. Dinneen became an umpire after retiring as a 12-year major league player and worked 28 years behind the mask.

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Hall of Fame Umpire Bill Klem was in Cincinnati on June 23, 1911, to arbitrate a game between the Cardinals and Reds. In the top of the ninth inning, Bobby Keefe threw two strikes to Mike Mowrey. Redbird Manager Roger Bresnahan argued that the second pitch was a balk. The Cardinals had the game-tying run on third at the time. The next pitch was strike three to end the game and Bresnahan ran at Klem, who struck the skipper with a punch to the face. Klem was fined \$50 for the incident.

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On June 30, 1911, Umpire Jim Johnstone reversed a decision on the bases and suffered a shower of bottles. In the top of the eighth inning in a game at St. Louis, Johnstone ruled Honus Wagner of the Pirates out at third but then changed his call to safe. The Cardinals fans delayed the contest for 10 minutes with their demonstration. The Redbirds won the game, 5-3.

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In Brooklyn on July 8, 1911, the Pirates beat Brooklyn, 3-1. During the contest, Home Plate Umpire Ralph Frary made a series of decisions that upset the home crowd. Late in the game, Frary cleared the Brooklyn bench of the reserve players. They marched in formation to the clubhouse while fans showered Frary with bottles. The players were not ejected from the game. After a delay to clear the glass from the field, the game resumed. After the contest, police escorted the arbiter off the field.

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The Pirates were home on August 20, 1912 hosting the Dodgers for two games. The field was wet following heavy rain earlier in the day. During the first contest, both umpires assigned by the National League were seriously injured. In the bottom of the first, Max Carey attempted to steal second. Base Umpire Bill Brennan ran towards the bag but slipped and fell, his right leg twisting under him. Brennan was carried from the field with a broken knee cap and torn ligaments. An ambulance was ordered for Brennan but before it arrived, Home Plate Umpire Brick Owens was incapacitated as well. In the bottom of the second, Dots Miller fouled a pitch that struck Owens on the chest. He collapsed and went to the hospital in the same ambulance as his partner with a broken breast bone. Each team chose a player to umpire. Ed Phelps of the Pirates called balls and strikes while Ham Hyatt of the Dodgers called plays on the bases. This was the only umpiring assignment for both players and they worked the same positions for the second game that day.

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On September 12, 1914, the Federal League Brooklyn team was hosting the squad from St. Louis. The assigned umpires, Monte Cross and Ollie Anderson, did not arrive for the start of the game, which was

an hour earlier than usual. Two players, Bob Groom of St. Louis and Bert Maxwell of Brooklyn, were selected to make the calls. The umpires appeared in time for the third inning and finished the game. In the top of the seventh, St. Louis hurler Henry Keupper was removed from the mound and replaced by Bob Groom, who had started the contest as an umpire. Groom was unsuccessful in his pitching, allowing the winning runs to score for the Tip-Tops.

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Hall of Fame Umpire Bill Klem cleared the Giants bench on October 1, 1914 after the players called him names. This occurred in the seventh inning of the contest after two decisions in the sixth that the Giants did not like. According to the New York Times, the players were calling Klem "Catfish," a nickname that he hated. The players lined up and marched off to the clubhouse in center field, led by Christy Mathewson. They were not ejected from the contest, just cleared from the field to quiet them down.

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On May 1, 1915, Miller Huggins of the Cardinals caught the Reds' Tommy Leach with the hidden ball trick at second base. Manager Buck Herzog objected to Umpire Cy Rigler's call and was ordered off the field. A few minutes later Herzog returned and, according to Rigler, insulted the umpire. Rigler tore off his mask and hit Herzog on the face with it. The two struggled until players and 12 policemen separated them. Herzog suffered a bleeding nose and discolored eye. Rigler was unmarked. Later they each caused the other's arrest on charges of disturbing the peace.

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On September 24, 1921, the Tigers were in Washington to play the Senators. Ty Cobb was unhappy with some of the decisions of Hall of Fame Umpire Billy Evans and told the arbiter so. After the game, the two fought in an area under the stands while players surrounded the two combatants. Most accounts had Cobb winning the battle. The next day, Evans was cheered by the fans when he stepped onto the field while Cobb was booed during his first plate appearance. Cobb was suspended for his role in the fracas and did not play the final two games of the season.

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In Cleveland on May 10, 1929, the contest between the Indians and Athletics was stopped after the eighth inning. In that inning, Third Base Umpire Bick Campbell called out Lew Fonseca on a close play on the bases. First Base Umpire Brick Owens had ruled Fonseca safe but Campbell overruled and called the runner out for interference during the play. Fans threw a shower of bottles onto the field directed at Campbell and the police came onto the field. Indians Business Manager Billy Evans, a former American League Umpire, walked onto to the field to stop the barrage. Ormsby was struck on the head by a bottle but was not seriously injured. Indians players and grounds keepers cleared the bottles from the field and play resumed.

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George L. "Tiny" Parker worked as an umpire for many years in the minor leagues and just three years in the National League (1936 – 1938). On July 21, 1929, Parker was working an International League contest in Rochester, NY. After the double header, police escorted Parker off the field but a fan threw a pop bottle towards the umpire. The broken bottle showered glass on the arbiter and the groundskeeper. Parker suffered an injured eye from the attack.

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On May 30, 1932 in Cleveland, the Indians won both games against the White Sox. After the double header, Umpire George Moriarty, who was behind the plate for both games, was involved in a fight with four White Sox players under the stands. Indians players said the argument started in the bottom of the ninth of the second game when they scored four times to win the contest. Moriarty spent time in a local hospital with a broken hand, cuts and bruises suffered in the fight with Manager Lew Fonseca and players Milt Gaston, Frank Grube and Charlie Berry. The fight was broken up by several Indians players. Berry worked in the American League as an umpire from 1942 through 1962.

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After the conclusion of the 1934 World Series, Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis fined Bill Klem \$50 for what Landis described as "over-ripe words." Klem and Tigers player Goose Goslin argued during the series, won by Cardinals. One evening at the hotel, Klem called Goslin a series of names in front of many people, including reporters. After the series ended, Landis wanted to meet with Goslin and Klem but the latter went home. The \$50 was deducted from Klem's World Series paycheck.

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On October 24, 1935, American League Umpire George Moriarty and four Cubs were fined \$200 each by Commissioner Kenesaw Landis for their argument in the third game of the World Series. Manager Charley Grimm, and players Billy Herman, Billy Jurges and Woody English were involved in the incident. Grimm was fined for not leaving the bench when ordered to do so by Moriarty. The others were fined for "vile and unprintable" language during the dispute. Landis stated that all the fines would be deducted from post-season checks for each man but Grimm paid the fines for his players. When Herman was asked by a reporter how many words he used in the argument, he replied: "I used all of them."

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In the bottom of the eighth inning in Chicago on July 26, 1936, Rip Radcliffe hit a grounder to Lou Gehrig, who tossed the ball to pitcher Pat Malone. First Base Umpire Charles Johnston called Radcliffe out and then turned away from the bag. Malone dropped the ball in a collision with Radcliffe. Johnston consulted with Third Base Umpire Bill Summers, who ruled that Malone dropped the ball because of the collision after the play was over and that Radcliffe was out. Bottles, cans and fruit were thrown at Summers. In the bottom of the ninth, Summers was struck on the groin by a bottle thrown from the

stands and left the game. Commissioner Kenesaw Landis, who was at the game, offered a \$5,000 reward for information about the bottle thrower.

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On August 7, 1936 in Cleveland, George Moriarty was serving as Home Plate Umpire. In the middle of the second inning, Moriarty, bent over to sweep off home plate. He tore his pants and had to leave the field for repairs. Bill McGowan moved from first to home and Lou Kolls from third to first. Moriarty returned to the field in the middle of the fourth and worked at first with Kolls returning to third.

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On August 2, 1938, the Washington Senators beat the home-standing St. Louis Browns, 5-3. The Browns protested the game based on a decision by Home Plate Umpire Harry Geisel. The ruling came on a play in which the arbiter was injured in the top of the second frame. Billy Sullivan tried to score on a single by Oral Hildebrand but Sullivan collided with Geisel near the plate. Sullivan was tagged out and Geisel suffered a broken left wrist. Base Umpire Steve Basil moved behind the plate and two players, Bobo Newsom of St. Louis and Ossie Bluege of Washington, made the calls on the base paths. Browns Manager Gabby Street protested the game because of the out call on Sullivan, saying that Geisel being out of position caused the out.

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The Phillies visited the Polo Grounds in New York on August 21, 1938 to play the Giants. In the top of the sixth inning, Phillie Bill Atwood attempted to advance to second after a foul ball was caught for an out. Dick Bartell of the Giants caught the throw and landed on Atwood. The players turned into combatants as they stood up fighting. Veteran Umpire Beans Reardon jumped between the players but was punched once on the eye and once in the stomach. The next day's New York Times carried a wonderful photo of Atwood's fist in Reardon's stomach. Amazingly, neither player was ejected from the game.

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A fist fight between player and umpire on July 15, 1939 resulted in fines and suspensions for both. In the top of the eighth at the Polo Grounds in New York, Harry Craft of the Reds hit a two-run homer down the left field line. It was judged fair by Home Plate Umpire Lee Ballanfant and the Giants argued the call. Ballanfant ejected Harry Danning during the argument and players went to Umpire Ziggy Sears, who was at second base on the play. Sears did not offer an opinion on the play but did eject Jo-jo Moore. George Magerkurth, who was 6'3" and well over 200 pounds, went to the plate to assist Ballanfant, who stood 5'8". Magerkurth argued with Billy Jurgens and that led to punches between the two. Ballanfant ejected Jurgens and, when order was restored, Giants pitcher Hal Schumacher played center field. Two days later, both Jurgens and Magerkurth were fined \$150 and suspended for 10 days by National League President Ford Frick. Other players were also fined. All punishment was meted out after NL Umpire Supervisor Ernie Quigley reported to Frick. Quigley had attended the contest.

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In Brooklyn on September 16, 1940, a fan attacked Third Base Umpire George Magerkurth. In the top of the tenth inning, Pete Coscarart had muffed a throw at second on an attempted force play. First Base Umpire Bill Stewart called Ival Goodman out on the play. After the Pirates argued the call, the umpires huddled and Magerkurth overruled Stewart, saying that it was a muffed catch not a drop on an attempted throw to first. Dodgers Manager Leo Durocher was ejected arguing the reversed decision. After the game ended in a Pittsburgh victory, a fan attacked Magerkurth as the arbiters left the field. The two exchanged blows and they fell to the ground with the fan on top of the umpire. The fan continued to punch Magerkurth until Stewart put the fan in a head lock and pulled him off Magerkurth. The fan was charged with assault.

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On June 28, 1941, the umpires failed to show up at Braves Field in Boston for the 2:00 PM start of the game between the Braves and the Dodgers. A telegram was sent to the Braves from Babe Pinelli stating that the arbiters were delayed by fog on the night boat from New York to Boston. The Braves Johnny Cooney called balls and strikes from behind the mound while the Dodgers Freddie Fitzsimmons called the plays on the bases for the first inning. The umpire crew, consisting of Pinelli, Lee Ballanfant and Al Barlick, took the field to start the second frame.

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On May 12, 1946, Home Plate Umpire Art Passarella was experimenting with a new mask. In the first inning, a foul ball off the bat of Mickey Vernon struck Passarella on the jaw. He left with a dislocated jaw and was out a week.

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On May 12, 1947, the Braves were in Brooklyn to play the Dodgers with second place in the National League on the line. In the second inning, the Dodgers players were upset with ball and strike decisions by Home Plate Umpire George Magerkurth, no stranger to confrontations with players. After a bit of this jockeying, Magerkurth cleared the bench of everyone except Manager Burt Shotten, Coach Jake Pitler and player Cookie Lavagetto. Other players were still eligible to play but could not sit on the bench during the game. Dodgers Coach Clyde Sukeforth was ejected by Magerkurth as part of the incident. The Dodgers beat the Braves, 8-3, to move ahead of the Boston team in the standings.

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On June 29, 1948 in Salisbury, MD, the Salisbury Cardinals were hosting the Dover Phils in an Eastern Shore League (Class D) game. When a Salisbury player was called out on a close play at home plate, the 13-year-old batboy, Paul Murrell, yelled at Home Plate Umpire Marty Vogel, "Get in the game and keep your eyes open." Salisbury Manager Gene Corbell yelled and both the skipper and the batboy were ejected. After the game, Murrell told a reporter, "It won't happen again. I'll just grin at those umpires



from now on.” The league levied an automatic \$5.00 fine for an ejection. There is no word on who paid Murrell’s fine.

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American League President William Harridge suspended veteran Umpire Bill McGowan indefinitely on July 20, 1948, for a series of actions against the Washington Senators. On July 15, McGowan threw his ball/strike indicator towards the mound when pitcher Ray Scarborough shook his head at several calls in the ninth inning. On July, 19 McGowan, umpiring at first base, yelled at Scarborough in the dugout, calling him names. McGowan cursed Bud Stewart, who had been ejected by Home Plate Umpire Joe Paparella in the tenth inning. The suspension was changed to 10 days without pay on July 28. McGowan returned to work on July 30.

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The Reds were at Wrigley Field to play the Cubs on August 22, 1948. In the top of the first inning, the Reds had runners on first and second who attempted a double steal. Andy Pafko threw the ball towards second and the ball struck Umpire Artie Gore on the back of the head. Gore was knocked unconscious and revived after being carried off the field. He was taken to a local hospital where x-rays determined that he had not suffered a fracture. He returned to the field on September 3.

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On the evening of August 6, 1952 in St. Louis, Home Plate Umpire Bill McGowan ejected Billy Hoefft from the Tigers bench for bench jockeying after a called third strike to Cliff Mapes. When the press asked who was ejected, McGowan refused to tell the writers. After the game, the Sports Editor of the Globe-Democrat, Bob Burns, sent a telegram to American League President Will Harridge about the incident, including the fact that McGowan also made offensive gestures towards the press box. The next day, Harridge replied to Burns, telling him that McGowan had been suspended. The umpire next worked on August 15.

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At the end of the 1952 season, the Braves and Dodgers played the last game of their year in Brooklyn on September 28. Home Plate Umpire Al Barlick left the game after the tenth inning to catch a train home to Illinois. First Base Umpire Tom Gorman moved behind the plate and Second Base Umpire Augie Donatelli moved to first. Gorman imitated Barlick’s “stee-ri-ke” call and gesture, entertaining the fans. The game was called a tie after twelve innings.

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On September 3, 1955 in the Western League, relief pitcher Jim Mertlick of Pueblo walked two consecutive batters in the first game of a double header. Manager Gordie Holt removed Mertlick from the game and the pitcher, on the way off the field, angrily confronted Home Plate Umpire Estie Wells

about his strike zone. After the confrontation, Wells had the imprint of teeth on his forehead. Mertlick was fined \$50 and suspended for the remaining three days of the season. For Wells, it was his fifth and last season in Minor League Baseball.

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On April 24, 1956 in Kansas City, American League Umpire Frank Umont wore glasses while working the ballgame. Umont worked at second base for the contest when the Tigers beat the Athletics, 7-4. Umont is credited as the first umpire to wear glasses while working a game. Previous to umpiring, Umont had played in the NFL with the New York Giants as a tackle from 1943 through 1947. He umpired in the majors from 1954 through 1973. A couple of days later, Umpire Ed Rommel claimed he had worn glasses during the night game at Yankee Stadium on April 18. Rommel worked third base that night but no one saw or commented on him wearing glasses.

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In Kansas City on July 19, 1960, Home Plate Umpire Bob Stewart was attacked by a fan. In the 10<sup>th</sup> inning, a fan came onto the field behind Stewart and tapped him on the shoulder. When Stewart turned around, the fan punched the arbiter, knocking him to the ground. This came after a pitch had struck Oriole Walt Dropo, filling the bases. The fan was charged with resisting arrest, creating a disturbance, starting a riot and entering the playing field illegally. During the time it took multiple umpires, ushers and police to subdue the fan, Umpire Ed Hurley suffered three spike wounds on his right forearm. Both umpires remained in the game after the melee.

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On April 16, 1961, feisty Dodgers Coach Leo Durocher and equally feisty Umpire Jocko Conlan, both Hall of Famers, engaged in a kicking match. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Norm Larker hit a popup in the infield which Pirates catcher Hal Smith ran under but failed to catch. The ball fell untouched, bounced into foul territory and was ruled foul by Conlan. The Dodgers claimed that Smith touched the ball and it should be fair. Larker reached second on the play. After a brief on-field argument, Conlan pointed into the Dodgers' dugout and ejected Leo the Lip for throwing a towel out of the dugout. After the game, Durocher said the thrown towel did not leave the dugout. After being ejected, Durocher threw a towel and a batting helmet onto the field. Durocher followed the equipment onto the field to find out why he had been tossed. During that discussion, Durocher kicked dirt at Conlan, who retaliated by kicking Durocher on the right shin. The other umpires separated the two kickers after Durocher got one more kick in. Durocher was suspended for three games.

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On June 16, 1964, a Carolina League game in Raleigh, NC, between Greensboro and Raleigh saw a series of arguments between the Raleigh Manager, Ken Deal, and the Base Umpire, John Toone. It was Toone's fourth season as a professional umpire. The arguments exploded in the ninth inning when a Greensboro player was called safe at first. Manager Deal ran onto the field for the third time in the game to argue with Toone. Raleigh players shoved the umpire and Deal ignored requests by Toone to

control his players. Deal was ejected by Toone after an extended argument. As the umpires left the field accompanied by police after the game, a fan attacked Toone, striking him on the head. Toone later sued the fan, the Raleigh team and Manager Ken Deal. The court granted damages to Toone from the fan but did not allow damages from the team or the manager. This was John Toone's last season as a professional umpire.

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Most of the stories here are on-field adventures. However, this one deserves inclusion. Larry Michael Smith was a minor league umpire from California. He worked in the Pioneer League in 1965 and the California League in 1966-67. He was drafted into the Army in early 1968 and sent to Vietnam in March as a Private First Class in the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade. On August 23, 1968, Smith was killed in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, from hostile fire. He suffered multiple fragmentation wounds. His name is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on Panel 47W, Line 55.

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On July 5, 1970, the Pirates were playing the Cubs at Wrigley Field. In the bottom of the first, Paul Popovich grounded out to First Baseman Al Oliver. The players collided near the bag and Oliver was knocked into First Base Umpire Tom Gorman. Gorman left with a broken right ankle. He did not work again until September 1.

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On August 23, 1975, Second Base Umpire John Kibler was struck by a relay throw on a double play attempt at Wrigley Field. It came on Bill Madlock's at bat in the bottom of the second inning. Kibler was taken to the hospital, received five stitches on the right side of his forehead and returned to the field for the top of the seventh inning.

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On Friday, May 21, 1976, stadium vendors in Pittsburgh were on strike and picketed Three Rivers Stadium. The umpires, Lee Weyer, Nick Colosi, Ed Montague and Paul Runge, honored the picket line and refused to work the game. The Pirates hired four local amateur umpires to call the game: Alfred Cohen, Ralph Betcher, Joe Chratz and Elmer Guckert. The group was brought into the stadium about 15 minutes before game time. Both teams lauded their work after the game. The league umpires were not the only group to stay out of the park that night, as the picket lines were honored by the ground crew, electricians, ticket sellers and ushers. On Saturday, according to Pirates General Manager Joe L. Brown, the umpires were served with copies of a Federal judge's order to return to work at 1:25PM and arrived at the stadium at 1:30. However, they did not agree to work until 2:06, nine minutes before game time. A different group of amateurs worked that game.

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Veteran Umpire Lou DiMuro, father of two future umpires, was run into near home plate by Cliff Johnson on May 30, 1979 during a game in Milwaukee. The collision occurred in the eleventh inning. Johnson suffered minor injuries but DiMuro was carried off on a stretcher and taken to a local hospital for treatment. The umpire suffered a contusion of the spine and later some leg pain. He spent three nights in the hospital before being sent home to recuperate. DiMuro returned to work five games at the end of July but then was off the field for the remainder of the 1979 season. Lou's son Ray umpired 99 major league games as a vacation substitute and his son Mike has worked many years as an umpire. After a game on June 6, 1982 in Arlington, TX, Lou DiMuro went for a late-night walk to exercise his arthritic hip. He was run over and killed by a car while crossing a street during his walk.

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On May 1, 1980, the Expos were in Pittsburgh. In the bottom of the fifth inning, Bill Madlock was called out on strikes to end the frame. Madlock collected his glove and ran back onto the field and was ejected by Home Plate Umpire Jerry Crawford. Crawford accused Madlock of striking him on the nose.

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On June 8, 1980, the Red Sox defeated the Athletics in Oakland. In the second inning, Home Plate Umpire Dale Ford called Tony Armas out on strikes. Oakland Manager Billy Martin ran onto the field and started yelling at Ford in a nose-to-nose confrontation. Martin later claimed that Ford pushed him during the argument, which was denied by the umpire. Martin also claimed that Ford challenged him to fight, but Ford's account of the incident was that Martin issued the challenge. Third Base Umpire Ken Kaiser, listed as 6'3" 288 pounds and a former professional wrestler, separated the two. Martin and Ford got together after the game and Ford challenged Martin to fight then. American League President Lee MacPhail later fined Martin for "overaggressive dissent."

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On September 7, 1981 in Kansas City, Umpire Second Base Al Clark was struck by a batted ball off the bat of Dan Ford of the Angels. Clark suffered a fractured right cheek bone but was on the field the next day.

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In the American League Championship Series Game Three, played at Yankee Stadium on October 9, 1981, Brewers first baseman Cecil Cooper singled to start the top of the seventh inning. A fan jumped out of the stands and tackled Third Base Umpire Mike Reilly before Yankee third baseman Graig Nettles pulled the man off Reilly. Home Plate Umpire Ken Kaiser, a former professional wrestler, also came to Reilly's aid. The fan was arrested by the New York City Police. This was Reilly's first post-season series.

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At Yankee Stadium on April 23, 1982, Larry Herndon of the Tigers was on third base in the top of the third inning. John Wockenfuss hit a grounder on which the play was made at home. Herndon collided with Home Plate Umpire Bill Haller, who required seven stitches to close a cut over his left eye. He missed three days due to the injury.

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On May 9, 1984, two cameramen for New York's Sports Channel, Al Friedman and Doug Zimmer, were ejected by Home Plate Umpire Joe West for allowing the Mets to watch a replay of a close call in the dugout during the game.

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On June 29, 1987 in San Francisco, the Giants tried a squeeze play with Joel Youngblood on third and Matt Williams batting. Braves pitcher Zane Smith fielded the bunt and ran to the plate to tag Youngblood. Smith fell over the runner and collided with Home Plate Umpire Bill Williams. Williams suffered a broken right leg (four inches above the ankle) and was knocked out in the collision. Williams had planned this to be his last season in the majors. However, the effects of the collision prevented him from returning to the field after this date, so his career ended early.

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In Cincinnati on April 30, 1988, there was a brawl in the seventh inning between the Mets and Reds which resulted in two ejections. In the top of the ninth, Mookie Wilson hit a grounder to shortstop. Barry Larkin's throw to first base was wide, pulling Nick Esasky off the bag. First Base Umpire Dave Pallone did not make a call until after Wilson had crossed the bag, which is a proper mechanic on that type of play. Howard Johnson scored from second while Esasky argued with Pallone. Reds Manager Pete Rose ran out to join the argument. When Rose stuck his finger near Pallone's face, the umpire mimicked the gesture. Rose pushed Pallone, who ejected the manager and then walked away. Rose shoved Pallone from the back and the other umpires ran to help. Fans threw trash on the field and the game was delayed 14 minutes. When Pallone returned to the field, more trash was thrown in his direction. The decision was made by the umpires for Pallone to leave the field for the remainder of the contest. Rose was suspended 30 days and fined \$10,000.

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On August 9, 1990, the Phillies and Mets participated in a bench-clearing brawl in the fifth inning. Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden had hit Dickie Thon and Tom Herr with pitches earlier in the game when he came to the plate in the fifth. The first pitch of the at bat struck Gooden on the knee and he charged the mound. Catcher Darren Daulton tackled and punched Gooden and the benches cleared. Umpire Joe West pulled pitcher Dennis Cook out of the scrum and threw him to the ground. It took 20 minutes to restore order and restart the game and six players and one coach were ejected from the contest.

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In a Texas League game in El Paso on May 25, 1992, the public address announcer was ejected from the contest. When Jackson Manager Rick Sweet argued about a fly ball that was ruled foul instead of a home run, the announcer played *We Can Work It Out*, followed by the *Jeopardy! Theme*. Later, during a discussion over balls and strikes by El Paso first baseman Bo Dodson, the fans listened to *The Twilight Zone*. Then Home Plate Umpire George Ulrich called the press box and told the announcer to stop playing all music. When El Paso Manager Chris Bando was ejected soon after that arguing about a hit batsman, the fans heard the famous circus march, *Barnum & Bailey's Favorite*. Base Umpire Ted Barrett ejected the announcer at that point. Barrett was promoted to the major leagues in 1999 and to crew chief in 2013.

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On Opening Day in Cincinnati, April 1, 1996, the game was seven pitches old when Home Plate Umpire John McSherry walked away from the plate, saying, "Hold on. Time out for a second." McSherry collapsed on the warning track behind the plate. After attempts to revive him on the field, McSherry was taken to a local hospital, where he was declared dead from sudden cardiac death. Third Base Umpire Tom Hallion rode in the ambulance while Jerry Crawford and Steve Rippley stayed on the field. After a 75-minute delay, the latter two arbiters decided to continue the game but were convinced by Reds players to call the game off. McSherry had been scheduled to be treated his arrhythmia the previous week but had postponed the appointment to the day after he died so that he could work on Opening Day. McSherry was third in seniority in the National League and had been a crew chief since 1988.

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On September 27, 1996, Roberto Alomar was called out on strikes in the top of the fourth in Toronto. The Orioles second baseman argued with Home Plate Umpire John Hirschbeck and Hirschbeck yelled at Alomar. As the argument escalated, Alomar spit at the umpire. The player was suspended for five games but the punishment was held until the start of the next season. The umpires were upset that American League President Gene Budig allowed Alomar to play out the season and play in the post-season with his team. The arbiters threatened to boycott post-season games to protest Budig's ruling. Interim Commissioner Bud Selig promised to formulate a code of conduct for on-field personnel and the umpires worked the 1996 post-season.

\*\*\*

On May 31, 1999, the Cardinals were playing the Marlins in Florida. In the bottom of the fifth inning, a fly ball by Cliff Floyd struck on or above the left field scoreboard and was first ruled a double by Second Base Umpire Greg Gibson. Floyd and the Marlins argued the ball hit the facade behind the scoreboard and should be a homer. The umpires huddled and Crew Chief Frank Pulli changed the call to a home run. The Cardinals then argued and Pulli, who later said he was confused by the ground rules, decided to look at replays shown on a TV camera in the dugout. He overturned the call back to a double. The Marlins protested the game, but it was denied. Pulli was admonished by National League President Len

Coleman, and a specific directive was issued barring future replays. The play would have been eligible for review under the replay rules adopted in 2008.

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In San Diego on June 26, 1999, Rockies pitcher Mike DeJean was removed from the game in the seventh inning. DeJean yelled at Home Plate Umpire Tom Hallion while leaving the field and Hallion ran towards the pitcher but the two were kept apart. Rockies Manager Jim Leyland and Hallion argued before Hallion ejected Leyland. The umpire was suspended for three games as a result of the incident.

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Second Base Umpire Larry Young suffered a broken nose when he was struck by a throw from Jay Bell in the sixth inning. This occurred on April 16, 2001 between the Diamondbacks and Cardinals in St. Louis. Young next worked on May 1.

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On April 15, 2003, a fan jumped onto the field during a game between the Royals and White Sox in Chicago. In the bottom of the eighth inning, the man ran towards First Base Umpire Laz Diaz as the umpire watched a foul fly ball down the right field line. The fan grabbed Diaz around the waist but the arbiter got the fan on the ground. Diaz, who had served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, was aided by players and security personnel and the fan was arrested by Chicago Police. Fans had run onto the field three times earlier in the contest.

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An umpire crew was late arriving at a game in Philadelphia due to a cancelled airline flight from Cleveland. On July 23, 2004, Joe West, Paul Emmel and Mike DiMuro took a different flight to Baltimore and then rode to Philadelphia. Darren Spagnardi, a Minor League Umpire scheduled to fill in for Terry Craft, had taken an earlier flight to Philadelphia and was scheduled to work at third base. Instead, Spagnardi worked behind home plate while three college umpires (Scott Graham, Frank Sylvester and John McArdle) worked on the bases. The regulars walked onto the field in the middle of the second inning and finished the game.

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In Toronto on August 6, 2005, the Yankees were in town to play the Blue Jays. In the top of the second inning, Jason Giambi's bat broke and the heavy part struck Home Plate Umpire Marty Foster on the right knee. There was a 15-minute delay while he was attended to and eventually taken off the field on a cart. Foster suffered a bad bruise but no broken bones. Second Base Umpire Laz Diaz moved behind the plate. Diaz had been scheduled for an off-day the next day and Minor League Umpire Chad Fairchild had flown to Toronto to work in Diaz' place. He received a call once he arrived at the airport and went to the

ballpark. Fairchild entered the field in the middle of the third inning and worked the rest of the contest at second base.

\*\*\*

On August 16, 2006 in Boston, Major League Baseball celebrated Bruce Froemming's 5,000<sup>th</sup> Major League Game as an umpire. A ceremony was held on the field before the game between the Tigers and Red Sox, with many supervisors and retired umpires in attendance. Froemming spoke briefly to the crowd then donned his mask and worked behind the plate. Only Hall of Fame Umpire Bill Klem worked more major league games than Froemming.

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On September 30, 2006, the White Sox were in Minneapolis to play the Twins. Home Plate Umpire Jerry Crawford was suffering with back problems, so after the first inning, First Base Umpire Brian O'Nora left to change into his plate gear. When O'Nora was ready to take over after three batters in the top of the third, Crawford left the contest. In the middle of the third, Crawford returned to the field at third base.

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One of the most unusual events of 2007 occurred on April 28 in Cleveland. Ed Montague's crew worked that series with the Orioles and Indians. In the top of the third inning, Ramon Hernandez flew out and Miguel Tejada was doubled off first. Home Plate Umpire Marvin Hudson ruled that no run scored on the play but by the bottom of the sixth inning, the crew had decided that Hudson had made an error on the ruling since it was a timing play and not a force out. Montague called the official scorer from the dugout to tell him that the run counted. The Indians protested the game but this was not something that could be appealed since it was a correction of a misapplication of the rules.

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Tampa Bay Devil Rays Manager Joe Maddon was ejected on June 17, 2007 in the seventh inning of an interleague game in Denver. Maddon spoke with Home Plate Umpire Ted Barrett, who had recently been ordained a minister, saying that he needed to get tossed from the game. Barrett's reaction was: "Why are you picking on me?" Maddon responded "Because I love you." Maddon wanted to get ejected to fire up his team and Barrett granted his wish. Maddon became the first person ejected from a Major League game by a minister.

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On August 20, 2007, Rick Reed's crew was returning from a week's vacation to work the Royals series with the White Sox in Chicago. Alfonso Marquez, flying from Los Angeles, was very late due to airline problems. Derryl Cousins, who had worked first base for the Cubs game in the afternoon at Wrigley Field, went to the South Side of town to fill in until Marquez arrived. Cousins worked at third base from



the middle of the first inning through the middle of the fifth when Marquez arrived. Cousins then worked at Shea Stadium, New York, the next day with his own crew.

\*\*\*

A highly-publicized incident took place on September 23, 2007 in San Diego. Milton Bradley of the Padres and First Base Umpire Mike Winters had a shouting match at first base during which Bradley was wrestled to the ground by his Manager, Buddy Black. Bradley tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during the wrestling match with his skipper, which required surgery to repair. A few days later, Major League Baseball suspended Winters for the remainder of the season because of profanity aimed at Bradley during the altercation. It was the first umpire suspension in the majors since 2003.

\*\*\*

A lineup snafu occurred at a Rays game on May 17, 2009. In the middle of the first inning, Indians Manager Eric Wedge showed Home Plate Umpire Ted Barrett the lineup card that showed both Ben Zobrist and Evan Longoria playing third base. The latter player was supposed to be the designated hitter that day. Zobrist played third in the top of the frame, so he was the correct player for the position. According to the rules, the Rays lost the use of the designated hitter for the contest and starting pitcher Andy Sonnanstine was inserted into the lineup in the third spot where Longoria had been listed. Since Longoria had not batted and not been on the field, the umpires decided that he was available to enter the game later, which he did. After the game, Major League Baseball announced that Longoria was not eligible to play after his name was removed from the starting lineup.

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On July 31, 2009, Home Plate Umpire and Crew Chief Charlie Reliford tore his right calf muscle in the second inning. Reliford continued to work until the end of the sixth frame, when he left the game. This was Reliford's last game as an umpire.

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The Rays were in Toronto for a game against the Blue Jays on August 26, 2009. In the bottom of the first inning, Home Plate Umpire Jerry Crawford was struck on the mask by a foul ball off the bat of Aaron Hill. In the middle of the second inning, Second Base Umpire Tom Hallion left the field to change into his plate gear, returning after the bottom of the second, as Crawford left with back spasms. The last pitch in the bottom of the sixth was a fast ball on the inside part of the plate. Travis Snider swung and missed the pitch. Rays catcher Gregg Zaun was set up on the outside corner and lost the ball in the lights above the restaurant in center field. The ball struck Home Plate Umpire Tom Hallion on the chest, knocking him to the ground. After a 21-minute delay while Hallion was examined by the medical staff, he returned to the field at third base. Brian O'Nora, who had been umpiring at first, moved behind the plate. He was the third Home Plate Umpire in the game.

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In Pittsburgh on May 20, 2010, Home Plate Umpire John Hirschbeck got behind catcher Gregg Zaun to watch a few warmup pitches by the Brewers starter, Chris Narveson. Both the umpire and the catcher lost sight of a pitch in the background above the batter's eye and the ball struck Hirschbeck on the mask. He fell to the ground but remained in the game for a half inning. Hirschbeck left with concussion-like symptoms after the first inning.

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On June 2, 2010, Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga had a perfect game with two outs in the ninth inning. Indians shortstop Jason Donald hit a ground ball to first, which Miguel Cabrera fielded to his right and made a careful toss to Galarraga covering first. Galarraga's foot hit the bag just before Donald's foot, but Donald was called safe by First Base Umpire Jim Joyce. Replays showed that Donald was out to complete a perfect game but Galarraga ended with a one-hitter. After the game Joyce went to see Galarraga, hugged him and apologized for getting the call wrong. This was four years before replay became part of the game.

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On August 24, 2010, the Astros were in Philadelphia and beat the Phillies, 4-2, in 16 innings. In the bottom of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Third Base Umpire Scott Barry ruled that Ryan Howard did not check his swing for the second strike. Howard glared at Barry, who put his hands on his hips and glared back. The third strike was another check swing that Barry also ruled as a swing. Howard threw his bat and yelled at Barry and was ejected by Barry as he tossed his helmet away. Howard then charged toward Barry while Home Plate Umpire Greg Gibson tried to stop him. Howard told Gibson "Don't you talk to me" as he moved down the third base line. He had to be restrained by teammates and Second Base Umpire Sam Holbrook. Ross Gload was yelling from the bench. He was on the disabled list and not allowed to interact as he was doing, so he was ejected by Gibson.

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The Astros were in Philadelphia for the last game of a series on May 15, 2012. In the top of the eighth inning, a third strike got away from catcher Brian Schneider. The ball bounced to the backstop and it took Schneider a second to find it. When he started to run, he ran into Home Plate Umpire Bob Davidson. Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel yelled at Davidson about being in the way and the umpire responded by asking if Manuel thought Davidson tried to get in the way. When Manuel kept yelling, he was ejected by Davidson. Manuel came onto the field and the two had a cap to cap shouting match. Both of them were suspended one game for the incident.

\*\*\*

On May 15, 2012 in Toronto, Brett Lawrie argued about a called second strike in the ninth inning. He thought the next pitch was ball four and started to walk towards first base. When Home Plate Umpire Bill Miller called the pitch strike three, Lawrie turned and yelled at Miller, who ejected Lawrie.

then slammed his helmet down. It bounced and struck Miller on the hip. Blue Jays Manager John Farrell came out and eventually was ejected by Miller. As the umpires left the field at the end of the game, someone threw a wadded-up paper cup at Miller, which missed. Someone else threw a cup of beer which struck Miller on the shoulder. Security chased the person, who got away in the crowd.

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In Anaheim on August 15, 2012, Torii Hunter tried to dive around Indians catcher Carlos Santana to avoid a tag in the bottom of the fifth inning. As Hunter reached to touch the plate, his feet swung around and the cleat on the heel of his left shoe struck Home Plate Umpire Greg Gibson near the left eye. Gibson received stitches but suffered no more serious injuries. He left the contest and returned to the field on August 28.

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On August 20, 2012, Umpire Crew Chief Jim Joyce was walking into the Arizona Diamondbacks stadium to go to the umpire room. He saw a female food service employee collapse and started CPR. A D-Backs employee appeared with an automatic external defibrillator. Paramedics arrived and took the woman to a local hospital, where Joyce and his wife visited her the next day. Doctors later said that the situation would have been much worse without Joyce's actions, as she had suffered a seizure and was not breathing.

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In a Spring Training game in Phoenix on March 19, 2013, Home Plate Umpire Seth Buckminster suffered a broken bone in his left hand with two out in the top of the first inning when a pitch caromed off batter Albert Pujols. He left under the care of a Brewers trainer and Adrian Johnson left the field to don the equipment to work behind the plate. In the meantime, veteran Umpires Tim McClelland and Jim Joyce made all the calls on the field. The unusual part of this was that McClelland stood behind the pitcher's mound to call balls and strikes. The umpires wanted to keep the game moving and the managers agreed to the situation. Johnson returned to the field after two batters in the bottom of the first.

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In Houston on May 9, 2013, an umpire crew allowed first-year Manager Bo Porter to make an illegal pitching change. In the top of the seventh inning, Porter brought Wesley Wright into the game. Angels Manager Mike Scioscia sent up a pinch hitter, Luis Jimenez, following the pitching change. Then Porter went to change pitchers and told the umpires that the rules allowed him to do so. However, the rules say the pitcher has to be injured to be replaced without facing a batter. Crew chief Fieldin Culbreth was suspended for two games and the rest of the crew (Brian O'Nora, Bill Welke and Adrian Johnson) were fined undisclosed amounts for their role in the incorrect ruling. Scioscia protested the game but that was rescinded when the Angels won the contest.

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On May 23, 2016, Pirate Francisco Cervelli tried to score on an infield grounder. As he slid into the plate, dirt flew up and struck Home Plate Umpire Jeff Nelson on the eye. Nelson made the out call but left the game to be treated.

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