New book showcases the high-flying 1920–1950 Detroit Tigers
Including 368 remarkable historical images

The Glory Years of the Detroit Tigers: 1920–1950 combines historical narrative and photographs of these years to bring three decades between 1920 and 1950 in Tigers history to life. In these years the Tigers won four American League pennants, the first world championship in team history in 1935, and a second world crown ten years later. Stars of this era—including Ty Cobb, Harry Heilmann, Charlie Gehringer, Hank Greenberg, Mickey Cochrane, George Kell, and Hal Newhouser—represent the majority of Tigers players inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sports writers followed the team feverishly, and fans packed Navin Field (later Briggs Stadium) to cheer on the high-flying Tigers.

For this lively history, author William M. Anderson has selected over 300 unique images (mostly culled from the remarkable Detroit News archive) that showcase players’ personalities as well as their exploits on the field. As Anderson writes in the preface: “This was a time when players willingly cooperated with photographers as these photographic artists used great imagination in creating and preserving intriguing and interesting moments. . . . Before long lenses and photographers had to get close to the action, sometimes in harms way and in the way.” Anderson also consults Tigers reporting from the three daily Detroit newspapers of the era (the Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, and Detroit Times) and the Sporting News, which was known then as the “Baseball Bible.”

The Glory Years of the Detroit Tigers includes six chapters: “Spring Training: When Dreams are Entertained,” “Franchise Stars,” “The Supporting Cast,” “Moments of Glory and Notable Games,” “The War Years,” and “The Old Ballpark: Where Legends and Memories Were Made.” Anderson presents sketches of many fine players who have been overlooked in other histories and visits characters who often acted in strange ways: Dizzy Trout, Gee Walker, Elwood “Boots” “The Baron” Poffenberger, and Louis “Bobo” “Buck” Newsom. Tigers fans and anyone interested in local sports culture will enjoy this comprehensive and compelling look into the glory years of Tigers history.

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