



Cleveland Indians Baseball Team

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The Cleveland Indians is a major league baseball franchise that originally started as the Cleveland Bluebirds (Blues) in 1901 in the newly formed American League. In 1903, the team changed their name to the "Naps" to honor their star player, Napoleon Lajoie. Lajoie left the team in 1914, and the team was re-named the "Indians" in 1915, and the name stuck. The Indians have only won 2 World Series titles in their existence (1920, 1948). The Cleveland Indians are still in operation today, breaking the hearts of fans everywhere on a yearly basis.

Important Dates

- 1902: The players unofficially changed the team name from "Bluebirds" to "Broncos." It never catches on.
- October 2, 1908: Hall of Famer Addie Joss throws the first perfect game for the Naps, beating the White Sox 1-0.
- August 16, 1920: Ray Chapman is hit by a pitch in the head and dies. He is the only major league player to have been killed in a game.
- October 10, 1920: Three "firsts" by Indians players in the World Series: first (and currently, only) unassisted triple play, first grand slam, and first home run hit by a pitcher.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search): baseball, Cleveland, Blues, Naps, Indians, World Series, team, League Park.
- Search for famous Cleveland players and managers: Napoleon Lajoie, Adrian "Addie" Joss, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Denton "Cy" Young, Ray Chapman, Tris Speaker.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.
- Cleveland had other baseball teams prior to 1901 (1900 is considered to be the "modern era" for baseball). For information about the earlier teams, search for the Cleveland Forest Citys or the Cleveland Spiders.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Cy Young Wins His First Game](#)" *Los Angeles Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), May 29, 1907, Image 8, col. 4.
- "[Fans By Thousands Attend Joss Game](#)" *Marion Daily Mirror* (Marion, OH), July 25, 1911, Image 3, col. 4.
- "[Indians Win First Series Game, 3 to 1](#)" *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), October 6, 1920, Image 12, col. 7.
- "[Two World Series Records Are Made As Indians Swamp Dodgers In Fifth Game Of Series](#)" *Washington Herald* (Washington, D.C.), October 11, 1920, Image 6, col. 1-3.
- "[Jubilant Cleveland Fans Celebrate Series Victory](#)" *El Paso Herald* (El Paso, TX), October 13, 1920, Image 10, col. 4-5.