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## Louisiana Managers

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Between 1887 and 1977, the Major Leagues employed 11 managers from Louisiana. This includes the American Association, the National League, the American League and the Federal League. The 11 managers accrued a total record of 1,661 and 1,760 for a percentage of .485. Of the 11, only three had winning records while one captured a World's Championship.

The first Louisianian to manage in the show was Charles Mason from New Orleans. Managing the Philadelphia club of the American Association of 1887, Mason went 38-40 in 78 games before getting the pink slip. Mason never managed again.

Ennis "Rebel" Oakes, from a baseball sounding name of Homer, Louisiana, became the second Louisianian to guide a team. Replacing Doc Gessler as Pittsburgh manager of the Federal League team in early 1914, Rebel brought the team to a seventh place finish with a 64-86 mark. The following season, the Pittsburgh team with Rebel at the helm, ended the year with a strong 86-67 for a third place spot. With the demise of the Federal League the next year, Rebel's career as manager died also.

Gretna's Mel Ott was a popular choice to succeed Bill Terry as New York Giants manager the close of the 1941 season. The next year Mel led the Giants to a 85-67 record, good enough for third place, justifying the decision in hiring Mel. Good things would not come to Mel as his teams would finish in the first division twice in the six years. With 78 games in the 1948 season, and the team in fourth, Mel was let go. Ott would later resurface as manager of the Oakland club of the Pacific Coast League. After his stint on the coast, Ottie never managed again.

Ted Lyons, from Lake Charles, was hired in mid-1948 by the Chicago White Sox while the team was in seventh place. Ted led the pale hose to a strong fifth place finish winning 64 and losing 60, improving the team's record to 74-80. Just when the Sox thought things would turn around, the team reversed to it's old ways of losing, landing in sixth place the next year, and last the year after that. Lyons was not invited to return for another year.

Bill Dickey, from Bastrop, replaced Hall of Famer Joe McCarthy during the 1946 season, going 57-48 in 105 games for a .548 clip. Not bad considering he managed for Larry MacPhail, a tough task master. MacPhail, who did not feel Dickey was an adequate replacement, fired him before the season ran out. Dickey would later come back to coach full time for the Yankees. He would be instrumental in tutoring such Yankee greats as Yogi Berra and Elston Howard.

The winningest manager from the Bayou state was Eddie Dyer of Morgan City. As a rookie skipper, Eddie led the St.Louis Cardinals over the Boston Red Sox in the 1946 Fall Classic.

Eddie's tenure as Redbirds manager was a successful one, lasting five years, while compiling an impressive mark of 446-325 for a percentage of .578.

Lou Klein from New Orleans holds the distinction of being one of several managers to lead one team more than twice. As part of the Chicago Cubs' owner, Phil Wrigley's Collage of Coaches experiment of the early 1960's Lou managed, sorry, coached the Cubs on two separate occasions to less than spectacular results. After Wrigley's experiment was scrapped, Lou was recalled in mid 1965 finishing 48-58, bringing the team to eighth place with a 72-90 record.

Another Bastrop resident, Mel McGaha, started the 1962 season as leader of the Cleveland Indians, but did not survive the year, being replaced with two games to go. Mel would resurface with the Kansas City Athletics where he would do no better, finishing out 1964 and managing the first 26 games of 1965 before being shown the door.

New Orleanian George Strickland had a tough task of managing. Called on during spring training of 1964 while Indians' skipper Birdie Tebbets recuperated from a heart attack, Strickland did surprising well, going 33-39 in 72 contests, until Birdie returned. In 1966, George finished out the season replacing Birdie, with 15-24 besting the team's record of 81-81.

Joe Adcock, from Coushatta, replaced Strickland as skipper in 1967. Adcock managed the one year landing in eighth place with a 75 - 87 log. He never managed again.

The last manager on the list from Louisiana is Connie Ryan from New Orleans. Brought in to complete the 1975 season, Ryan guided the Atlanta Braves to fifth place with 8-18 record, and 67-94 overall. In 1977, this time with Texas, Ryan again was brought in to stem the tide, going 2-4 in six games, leaving the team in fourth place, before being replaced.

*Jay Gauthreaux has a son, Blake, who will root for the Yankees if his wife, dare I say, a Braves fan, has any say about it.*