

# BASEBALL HISTORY

by

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## Frazees's Fire Sale

When Harry Frazee purchased the Boston Red Sox in November of 1916, they were the talk of the baseball world having won back to back world titles. In 1917 they settled for second place and then in 1918 once again reached baseball's pinnacle. Then it all fell apart for Harry.

To be fair it was not all Harry's fault. From the get-go he was in hot water with AL President Ban Johnson simply because he wasn't hand-picked by the officious Johnson. There were also fractious relationships with some players - most notably the surly Carl Mays and Babe Ruth - as well as with the previous owners who still retained ownership of Fenway Park. Finally, his theatrical productions, a few of which were highly successful, would sometimes leave him holding the bag. He didn't have much choice so he began to unload his assets.

From December 1918 through August 1923 when he sold the Sox, he was involved in 31 transactions with 11 other teams. In the process he would rid himself of 4 Hall-of-Famers and a number of other star players. His favorite trading partner was Jacob Ruppert of the then moribund New York Yankees with 9 swaps of players and/or cash. Even without the sale of Babe Ruth in 1919, the eight trades yielded a 130.7 WAR for the Bombers and a 27.0 WAR for the Bostonians. And, of course, these activities set the stage for the 1<sup>st</sup> Yankee dynasty as 14 of the 17 players they received would perform in at least one World Series. Overall they represented a whopping 42 WS appearances. The players Frazee received earned 11 October spotlights after he traded for them, all for teams other than the Red Sox.

From 1919 to the end of his tenure, the Red Sox did not finish above 5<sup>th</sup> place. To bookend his ownership his now decimated squad fashioned back-to-back last place finishes. In his last year of ownership, the New Yorkers would win their 1<sup>st</sup> World Series Championship.

Below is a summation of the Yankees-Red Sox transactions from December 1918 through August 1923. The three HOFers involved in these transactions were Babe Ruth, Waite Hoyt and

Herb Pennock. The other HOFer dealt away was Harry Hooper in Frazee's only trade with the Chicago White Sox which occurred on March 4, 1921.

YRS means "years with teams traded to," g is "games," and WAR is "WAR while with new teams."

DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
	Player	Age	YRS	WAR	Player	Age	YRS	WAR
<b>12-18-18</b>	Duffy Lewis	29	2	-0.5	Ray Caldwell	31	18g	-0.5
	Ernie Shore	27	2	-0.9	Frank Gilhooley	27	48g	-0.3
	Dutch Leonard	27			Slim Love	28		
	<i>Sold to Detroit</i>				<i>Traded to Detroit</i>			
					Roxy Walters	26	5	-2.0
					\$15,000			
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>06-13-19</b>	CASH				Bill Lamar	22	48g	-0.2
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>07-29-19</b>	Carl Mays	27	4+	14.4	Bob McGraw	24	10g	-0.9
					Allen Russell	25	3+	7.1
					\$40,000			
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>12-26-19</b>	Babe Ruth (HOF)	25	15	142.7	\$100,000 plus \$300,000 loan			
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>12-15-20</b>	Mike McNally	27	4	0.6	Del Pratt	33	2	6.8
	Wally Schang	31	5	10.7	Muddy Ruel	25	2	1.6
	Waite Hoyt (HOF)	21	9+	35.6	Hank Thormalen	24	1	.08
	Harry Harper	26	8g	1.0	Sammy Vick	26	1	-0.4
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>12-20-21</b>	Sad Sam Jones	29	5	8.7	Rip Collins	26	1	3.9
	Bullet Joe Bush	29	3	13.1	Roger Peckinpaugh	31		
	Everett Scott	29	3+	0.9	<i>Traded to Senators</i>			
					Bill Piercy	26	3	2.5
					Jack Quinn	38	4	15.9
					\$100,000			
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>07-23-22</b>	Joe Dugan	25	6+	7.2	Chick Fewster	26	1+	-0.7
	Elmer Smith	29	1+	1.0	Elmer Miller	31	1	-1.0
					Johnny Mitchell	27	1+	-0.6
					Lefty O'Doul	26	36g	-0.2
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>01-03-23</b>	Harvey Hedrick	25	2	-0.2	Al DeVormer	31	1	0.3
	George Pipgras	23	8+	10.5	Cash			
DATE	TO YANKEES				TO RED SOX			
<b>01-30-23</b>	Herb Pennock (HOF)	29	11	28.4	Norm McMillan	27	1	-0.8
					George Murray	24	2	0.2
					Camp Skinner	26	7g	-0.1
					\$50,000			