

# For the Love of the Game

It's baseball season, and the boys of summer are fully engaged in one of America's favorite sports.

Tyrus Raymond (Ty) Cobb, nicknamed "the Georgia Peach," was a Major League Baseball outfielder. Born in rural Narrows, Georgia, Cobb spent 22 seasons with the Detroit Tigers, the last six as the team's player-manager, and finished his career with the Philadelphia Athletics.

Cobb is credited with setting 90 MLB records during his career, and received the most votes (222 out of a possible 226) of any player on the inaugural Baseball Hall of Fame ballot in 1936.

A story that defines his greatness occurred many years ago, back when Branch Rickey was managing the St. Louis Browns baseball team. The Browns happened to be playing against the Detroit Tigers, and the immortal Ty Cobb came to bat with two outs and the bases empty in the last inning of a tie game.



Cobb drew a base on balls. Once at first, Cobb took a risky lead. His daring, his pure desire to make the most of the moment, rattled the pitcher.

The pickoff throw was wild, and Cobb dashed. He made a perfect turn at second, forcing another wild throw, slid 10 feet into third, and watched as the dazed third baseman muffed the catch. Cobb sprung to his feet and sped to home.

By sheer adventure and skill, he made what amounted to a home run out of a base on balls.

Ty Cobb's Tigers won and the Browns lost as a result. But Branch Rickey, the opposing manager, was thrilled, even in a losing cause. He had the privilege of witnessing Cobb's irrepressible love of the game – a quality that set him apart from most other players.

Rickey later commented, "If a player really loves the game, it'll love him back."

So it is with life. If we really want to love life, we must give it all we have. If we try to live every moment and pay attention to the beauty of our journey at every turn, if we laugh more and worry less, we find more joy – even in the struggles.

(more)

Do you love life? It will show in the encounters we have with our residents, our associates and others. And it will be infectious.

Learn to love life, and let it love you back.

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter