



Swing Time Philately

	<p style="text-align: center;">Swing Time Philately GOLF-BASEBALL-SOFTBALL (founded 21 January 1991) INFORMATION BULLETIN (30th volume, edition 2020-1)</p>	
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Dear club members,

We sincerely hope that you and your loved ones remained unaffected from the Corona virus, that has turned societies worldwide upside down. Initially, all sports facilities in the Netherlands were closed, but from the beginning of June golf is allowed again, albeit with due observance of the applicable health rules.

The baseball and softball players are training again but the competition has not started yet. This bulletin is more than usual filled with golf and baseball background information.

Hopefully interesting enough to take notice of the other sport within Swing Time Philately.

Thanks again to Hendrik-Jan van Telgen for the excellent translations and Ad van Sinttruijen for the total compilation of the bulletin and placement on the website.

Good luck with baseball/softball and golf, both with the stamps as well as actively on the field or in the course.

Sincerely, Rob van Tuyl

NEW YORK METS OVERHAUL NEW YORK YANKEES

The, also controversial in the Netherlands, hedge fund manager Steve Cohen who gambles successfully on the decline of companies, has bought 80% of the shares of the New York Mets. As a result of this transaction the Yankees' arch-enemy NY Mets is now worth \$ 2.6 billion, a baseball record.

According to business magazine Forbes, the personal capital of 63-year-old Cohen is estimated at \$ 13.6 billion. His company has been brought to court eight times for trading with foreknowledge and to prevent imprisonment, he paid a \$ 1.8 billion settlement to the financial watchdog.

With the investments in the club, Cohen hopes that the Mets will be able to gain a World Series title after the last one which was 34 years ago.

Incidentally, it is known that Cohen is also gambling on the bankruptcy of the Dutch biotech company Pharming, which specializes in development of medicines for rare diseases.

RESTART WORLD RANK GOLF

Due to the Corona virus, the entire golf world had come to a complete standstill and only the top players could still have a bit of fun at indoor games.

But on June 11 the American Tour has started again, whereas in Europe and other parts of the world golf tournaments still cannot be played. Dutch top golfer Joost Luiten is not amused, as there is a big inequality when the European Tour will restart on July 22.

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Where in a crisis of this magnitude international solidarity is required, the opposite appears to be the case. The US Tour is entirely going its own way by starting on June 11, whereas the United States is also the country hit hardest by Covid-19. The TV-rights and the restart of the world ranking scoring system have probably played an important role in this.



For example, the first tournament on the agenda is the Charles Schwab Challenge and as the majority of the top 50 players in the world are living in the US, this can further strengthen their position in the world rankings. It was suggested to compensate this by increasing the rating of the European Tour tournaments, but this still reflects the disturbed relations. Dutch golfer Joost Luiten now has scheduled a cycle of six British tournaments, but the postponed USPGA Championship of 6 August falls exactly within this series of six. If Luiten decides to travel to the US, he first has to go into quarantine for 14 days. This would mean he has to skip one or more of the six European tournament, so he is still in doubt.

OLYMPIC GAMES 2020 2021

Many countries have already issued one of more stamps/sheets related with the 2020 Olympic Games and now something unprecedented is happening, i.e. new issues with the Olympic Games postponed to 2021. Curious which country will be the first to issue 2021 Olympic Games stamps.



NEW PHILATELIC DISCOVERIES

NEW BASEBALL DISCOVERY (1)

It is always satisfying when, after a lot of research, an older issue is discovered as is the case with this Guyana sheet.

It was released on September 1, 1994 and has Michel catalogue number BL435.

The sheet was published by Guyana on the occasion of the Soccer World Cup in the United States of America. On June 20 1994, the match Netherlands - Saudi Arabia was played in this stadium in Group Stage F, final result 2-1.

There is more to report about the dual-function Washington DC stadium (opened in 1961), which seats 46,000 spectators and was renamed after Robert F. Kennedy in 1969, seven months after his violent death on the Democratic Convention of 1968.

Originally the stadium was called DC Stadium after the Major League Soccer club DC United. However, from 1962-1971 the stadium was home to the Major League Baseball Washington Senators, whereas the Washington Redskins soccer club also played in this stadium from 1961-1996. The Washington Nationals (Major League Baseball) played their games here from 2005-2007.

In addition to baseball and football, the Tibetan Free Concert was also held there in 1998. However, this concert was stopped after spectators had been hit by lightning. In 2001, the stadium hosted the United We Stand concert to raise money following the 9/11 attack.

It is owned and operated by Events DC (the successor agency to the DC Armory Board), a quasi-public organization affiliated with the city government, under a lease that runs until 2038 from the National Park Service, which owns the land. However, on September 5 2019, the District announced plans to demolish the stadium due to high maintenance costs.



NEW BASEBALL DISCOVERY (2)

Norman Rockwell is a world-famous comic artist and there are a number of drawings from him depicting baseball. His huge collection of drawings is issued on stamps worldwide. You may think that we have all the baseball images complete in the baseball catalogue but nevertheless something new was thanks to our members Annechien Faneyte and Leon Vanverre.

On the large image an enlarged fragment of the First Day Cover to make it look a bit clearer. On the cupboard behind the left boy (see arrow), a baseball glove with baseball can be distinguished.

The small - unfortunately unclear - fragment shows that indeed a stamp was issued by Liberia on September 1, 1979 which is listed under Liberia no 1136 in the Michel catalogue.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER

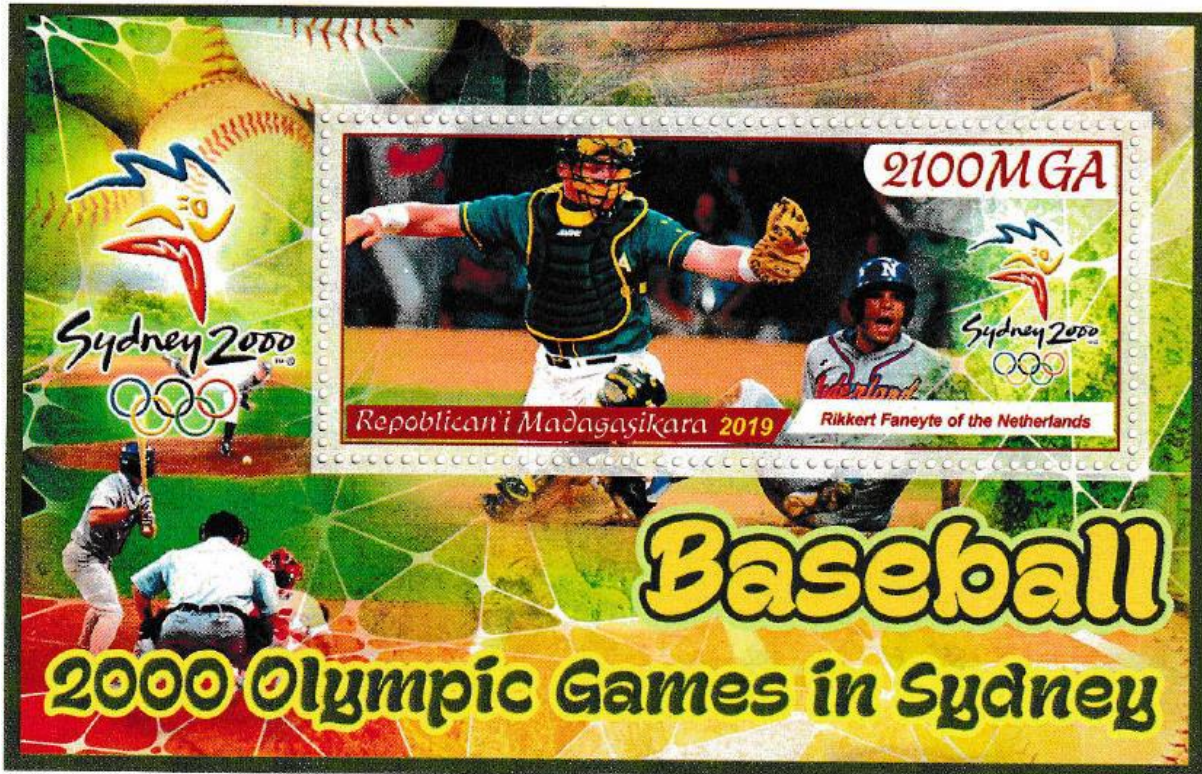


NEW BASEBALL DISCOVERY (3)

It still isn't over with surprising discoveries.

Studying a 2019 souvenir sheet and a sheet with four stamps from Malagasy devoted to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, we see an Australian catcher and Rikkert Faneyte, with Netherlands clearly seen on the chest.

It is not clear whether the batter at bottom left corner of the sheet is also a Dutch player, but the gray uniform and blue helmet match that of Rikkert Faneyte.



NEW DISCOVERY GOLF

On March 17, 2020, England released a beautiful sheet to honor 007 James Bond. It shows 20 film fragments from different Bond films. On the top row, second stamp from the right a still that many of you may remember. It concerns the 1964 Bond film Goldfinger starring Sean Connery.

The picture shows villain Goldfinger and his caddy Oddjob, the man with the black hat with metal brim who was used as a kind of *shuriken* (ninja throwing star).

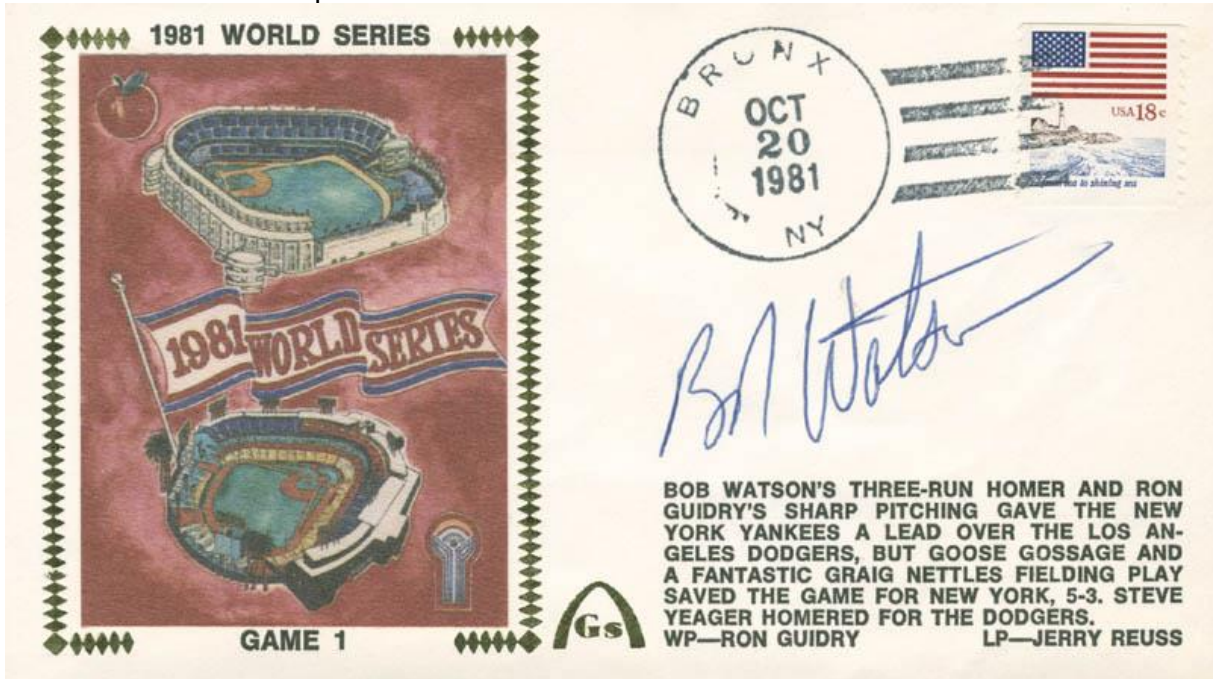
Many film critics consider Goldfinger to be the best Bond film and many aspects of this film have been incorporated in later Bond films.



DECEASED BASEBALL PLAYERS

1. BOB WATSON (74)

Two-time MLB All Star Bob Watson, who in 1996 became the first black technical manager to win the World Series with New York Yankees, died of kidney disease at the age of 74. Nicknamed 'The Bull', Watson played for Houston Astros, Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves. In two seasons, he batted in more than 100 runs and in four seasons, he had a batting average over 0.300. On May 4, 1975, playing for the Astros against San Francisco Giants in Candlestick Park, he brought home the millionth MLB run. After his career as a player, Watson was active as a coach and later as vice-president of the union.



2. DON LARSEN

American baseball legend Don Larsen died of cancer at the age of ninety. Larsen wrote history in 1956 as a pitcher in the World Series with a so-called "perfect game", not allowing a single hit or walk. To date, it has been the only 'perfect game' in the World Series. Larsen played his legendary game on October 8, 1956 for the New York Yankees in the city derby against Brooklyn Dodgers. The Yankees won the game 2-0 and later also won the

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World Series. Larsen was also named best player that year.



"The perfect game from Don is one of the most compelling moments in our history, created in a legendary period of our club," the Yankees said in a statement. "Perhaps Don had the best performance ever in the Major League in that game. It is without a doubt unforgettable what he has done."

Larsen played a total of fifteen years in the Major League (MLB) and played for seven teams. Between 1955 and 1959, he played for the Yankees, winning the World Series twice (in 1956 and 1958).

3. DOUGLAS MORTON (70)

RICHARDSON - Douglas Morton, who dominated the Dutch baseball major league as a pitcher in the seventies and eighties, died unexpectedly at the age of 70.

The American played for the successful team of Haarlem Nicols in 1975-1981, with whom he won the Dutch championship (1975-1977) three seasons in a row and also the European Cup (1975). Morton married a Dutch woman, and played from 1982-1984 for UVV in Utrecht before returning to the US with his family.

Morton was one of the American players to enter the Dutch league in the mid-1970s, along with Craig Montvidas, Steve Matthew and Craig McGinnis, among others. All these players left their mark on the game, added value to their team and played in the highest division for a long time.



Montvidas, Matthew and McGinnis also remained in the Netherlands and later also became active as coaches.

The highly-respected Morton reigned as a pitcher, setting a record in 1976 and 1977 by remaining unbeaten for two consecutive seasons (27 wins). In both seasons, he was elected best pitcher.

In the ten seasons that Morton played for Nicols and UVV, he won 104 games. He struck out 1286 batters, making him the record holder for right-handed foreign pitchers in the big league.

Morton was also part of the Dutch American All Stars, a team composed of American players from the Dutch leagues. The team

played regular exhibition games against the Dutch National Team, but also participated in 1979 in the Haarlem Baseball Six Days, a mini-version of the Haarlem Baseball Week.

During that event, Morton was elected the best pitcher.

ONE-ARMED AMATEUR GOLFER HITS HOLE-IN-ONE



A Canadian golfer with one arm showed that he can hit a nice ball despite his physical limitations. During the opening round of the The American Express golf tournament in California, he hit a hole-in-one.

JONATHAN SCHOOP CONTINUES CAREER WITH DETROIT TIGERS

Baseball player Jonathan Schoop continues his career with Detroit Tigers in the Major League (MLB), the highest American baseball league. The second baseman signs a one-year contract worth \$ 6.1 million (5.5 million euros).

Twenty-eight-years old Schoop played last year for Minnesota Twins and had an excellent season. With his team, he reached the playoffs in which ultimately the New York Yankees were too strong. For the Twins, he played 121 games, hitting 23 homeruns. Earlier, the Orange-international played long for the Baltimore Orioles and shortly for Milwaukee Brewers.

With the Tigers, Schoop will join the team with the worst result of the 2019 season. The team managed to win only 47 times in 162 games. With attracting young talents, the team hopes to find its way up again in the coming years.



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MLB Spycgate

Carlos Beltrán is no longer a manager with the New York Mets because of his part in the 'spycgate' scandal.

In 2017, his last season, Puerto Rican Beltrán played for Houston Astros, when the MLB club engaged in stealing cues from opponents using cameras.

Beltrán was the only player named in the investigation report. Earlier, head coach A.J. Hinch and director Jeff Luhnow were suspended by the MLB and fired by the Astros. Alex Cora, who was involved in espionage practices in 2017 as coach of the Boston Red Sox, was also fired.



Huge penalties for baseball club Houston Astros after cheating

The Major League Baseball (MLB) organization has handed out hefty penalties to Houston Astros baseball club for stealing clues from opponents of the club by technical means. Head coach A.J. Hinch and director Jeff Luhnow have been suspended for a year and the club will also be fined \$ 5 million.

The Astros also lose their right to participate in the first two rounds of the draft pick in 2020 and 2021, where clubs can choose talents. Hinch and Luhnow will not receive any salary during their suspension.

Not long after the MLB ruling, Houston Astros owner Jim Crane announced that he had fired both Hinch and Luhnow.

Cheating

A few months ago, former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers told sports website *The Athletic* that his club found out what signs opponents gave by installing additional cameras around the field. The Astros players thus knew which balls the pitchers intended to throw, which was a big advantage. This all happened in 2017, the year in which the Astros won the World Series for the first time in history. After Fiers' statement, more testimonials followed about the Houston club's cheating.

Following the allegations, the MLB began an extensive investigation. Where until recently, in very similar cases penalties were mild, the baseball federation is now very hard. In a statement, the MLB states, among other reasons, that the Astros have seriously damaged the game of baseball.

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Boston Red Sox fires coach Cora over Astros scandal

American baseball club Boston Red Sox fired manager Alex Cora for his involvement in the 'spygate' affair around Houston Astros. Cora coached the Astros in 2017 when the club was found guilty of stealing cues from opponents using cameras.

In the report on the scandal, Cora is mentioned as a key figure in the organization and implementation of the fraud. It is expected that he will receive a severe penalty for that, but the American baseball federation MLB is awaiting further investigation.

For the Red Sox, the report was reason enough to send their manager off. "It's been a sad day for us, Alex was a beloved employee," the club said. With Cora, the Red Sox won the World Series final in 2018 by beating Los Angeles Dodgers.

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(thanks to David Schulz)

The June 2020 issue of the American monthly magazine The American Philatelist contains two interesting articles about baseball stamps. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the USA, the APS offers collectors the opportunity to temporarily register and use their services free of charge. In this way it is possible to download the entire June issue as a PDF file.