

For release, April 2010

THE T206 COLLECTION

THE PLAYERS & THEIR STORIES

~ 100th Anniversary Commemorative Edition ~

By Tom Zappala & Ellen Zappala
with Lou Blasi
Foreword and Contributions by Joe Orlando

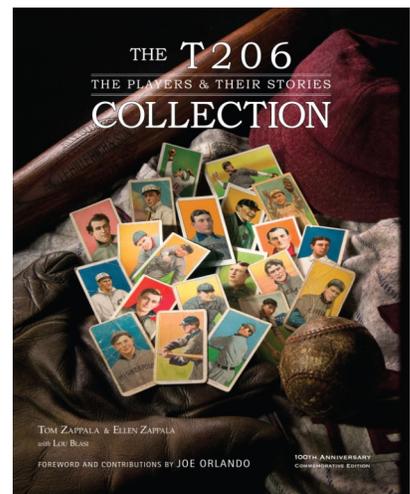
- Complete listing of all 393 players featured in the T206 baseball card series.
- Biographies of all T206 players for the first time.
- Full size, full color images of all 500+ T206 cards.
- Player anecdotes uncover details of the birth of our National Pastime.
- Special chapter on card grading and valuation, with images, from national expert.
- Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) Medal Winner, Sports Category, 2010.

ATS Communications
Merrimac, MA

Peter E. Randall Publisher
Portsmouth, NH

Publication date: June 30, 2010
\$38, 224 pgs, cloth, 4/c, 9"x 11.5"
ISBN 13 #978-1-931807-94-4

Website: www.t206players.com
Facebook: T206 Players



The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories is a tribute to the men featured in the greatest baseball card collection that has ever existed. **This book is for baseball fans, hobbyists, and history buffs.** The brief biographical narratives along with the personal and professional statistics of each player offer you a peek into the developing world of baseball during the early part of the 20th century.

The last chapter, written by Joe Orlando of Professional Sports Authenticators, discusses the value and grading system of this storied collection and brings the reader full circle. This commemorative edition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the very special T206 collection. Along with the 38 Hall of Famers that make up this set, there are another 353 players who contributed to the evolution of the game of baseball.

Take a look into their lives and see for yourself that ballplayers like Lena Blackburne and Gabby Street made contributions to the game in many ways that could never be measured in batting averages or won-lost records. They did, however, help shape our greatest American sport.

Visit our website: <http://www.t206players.com> for our online media kit, print quality images and a rotating podcast of "T206 Moments" featuring player anecdotes.

This book is a great read for anyone who loves baseball, not just the collector.

Media inquiries please contact:
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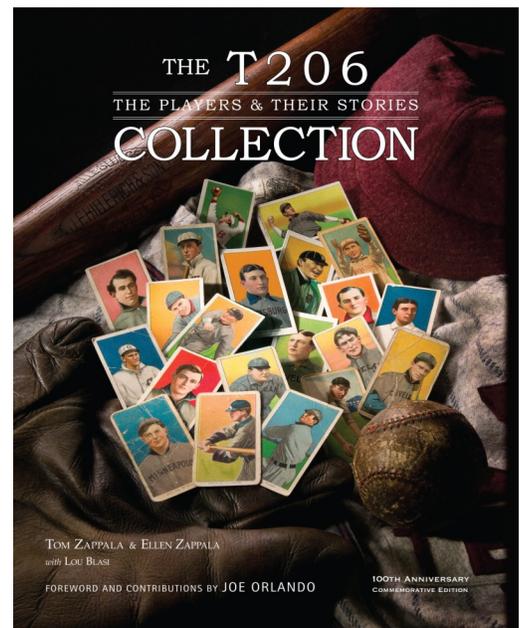
A little piece of baseball history can be found in the narratives of each player in the T206 Collection.

- What player had the distinction of hitting the first home run in the 20th century?
- Coaching boxes were introduced because of the antics of this third-base coach.
- This player is the only shortstop in MLB history to convert two unassisted double plays in the same game.
- What player became successful in silent films?
- This pitcher's eyesight was so bad that his catchers painted their gloves white.
- Who was the very first batter in the history of the American League?
- This player was the inspiration for Bump Bailey, the player who died crashing through the fence in the film *The Natural*.
- This player/manager gave George Herman Ruth the nickname "Babe."

The player stories included in this book give a glimpse into the realities of life in the early 20th century, providing a journey through one of the most exciting eras in baseball history.

This book is a great read for anyone who loves baseball, not just the collector.

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Praise For THE T206 COLLECTION...

“Stunningly beautiful and informative...I can't recommend this book more highly.”

- Books on Baseball

“Baseball history nuts will devour Tom Zappala's *The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories*.

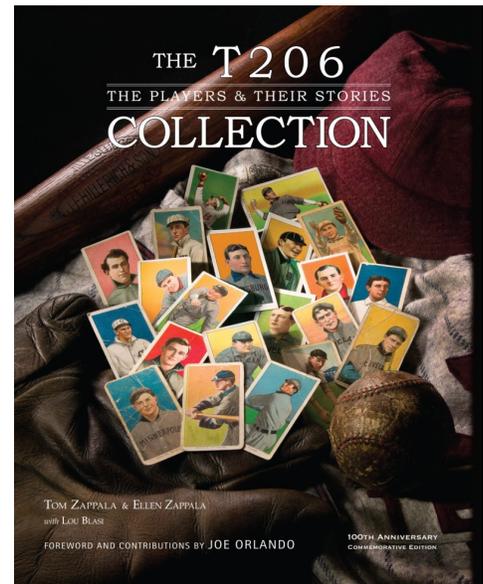
- The Boston Herald

“Nothing less than a must-have book...”

- The New England Baseball Journal

“An especially valued and valuable addition to both academic and community library collections - and an absolute “must” for all dedicated baseball card enthusiasts.”

- Midwest Book Review



“Baseball fans will spend hours absorbed in this book, appreciating the artistry of the cards as well as poring over the history of each player. **The book is a grand slam.** Long live Dolly Stark, Jack Bastian and all of the other long forgotten Texas Leaguers you are bringing back to life.”

- Tom Kayser, president, Texas AA League

“**The legendary T206 set comes to life in this brilliant book.** The stories of these men, especially those who toiled in obscurity in the minors are especially compelling and achieve a measure of immortality in these pages.”

- Richard Johnson, Curator, The Sports Museum, Boston, MA

“*The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories* neatly recounts the human stories—often triumphant and sometimes tragic—of the ballplayers immortalized in the Tobacco Trust's famous “white border” set. In so doing, it enriches the experience of the card collector and entertains the sports fan.”

- Scot Reader, Author, *Inside T206: A Collector's Guide to the Classic Baseball Card Set*

“You had the passion to see this this book through, and now it's a reality. **I personally learned a great deal about that era of baseball.** This book makes that same information available to all fans of the game. It was enjoyable.”

- Rico Petrocelli, member Red Sox Hall of Fame and All-Star shortstop

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Tom Zappala is a businessman in the Greater Boston area who is passionate about maintaining the traditions and historical significance of our National Pastime. He is co-author of the award-winning book *The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories*, and the latest book in the series, *The Cracker Jack Collection: Baseball's Prized Players*. He co-hosts a popular talk radio show broadcast in northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. As co-owner of ATS Communications, a multimedia and consulting company, he handles publicity and personal appearances for several authors and a variety of artists in the entertainment field. He also enjoys collecting vintage baseball and boxing memorabilia, using the simple philosophy of collecting for the love of the sport. He loves spending time with his children and grandchildren, and enjoys a Grey Goose martini with two baseball-sized olives.

Ellen Zappala is president of ATS Communications, a multimedia marketing and consulting company. Co-author of the award-winning book *The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories*, *The Cracker Jack Collection: Baseball's Prized Players*, and *Nardo: Memoirs of a Boxing Champion*; Zappala was publisher of a group of six newspapers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for many years and served as president of the New England Press Association. She works closely with various publishing companies on behalf of other authors and handles publicity in both print and electronic media. She especially enjoys bringing the stories of the Deadball Era players to life.

Joe Orlando is president of Professional Sports Authenticator and PSA/DNA, the largest trading card and sports memorabilia authentication service in the hobby. Editor of the nationally-distributed *Sports Market Report (SMR)*, a Juris Doctor, and an advanced collector of sportscards and memorabilia, Orlando has authored several collecting guides and dozens of articles for Collectors Universe, Inc. He is the author of *The Top 200 Sportscards in the Hobby* and *Collecting Sports Legends*, and contributed the foreword and last chapter to the award-winning *The T206 Collection: The Players & Their Stories* as well as *The Cracker Jack Collection: Baseball's Prized Players*. As a hobby expert, Orlando has appeared as featured guest on numerous radio and television programs including ESPN's *Outside the Lines* and HBO's *Real Sports*.

Lou Blasi has been a talk radio host in the Greater Boston area for the last 15 years, and is the senior analyst for Insiderbaseball.com with credits on MLB.com, ESPN Radio and the Chicago Sports Review. Blasi was program director for an all sports radio station in southern Florida broadcasting the Florida Marlins, Miami Dolphins, and Orlando Magic. He is also a minor league talent evaluator.

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