

DIXON TIES TO MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL... WALLY SCHANG, FORMER BASEBALL PRO, RETIRED TO FARM AT DIXON IN 1945

WAS THE SCOUT WHO DISCOVERED DIXON'S OWN MORRIE MARTIN

Reprinted from Dixon Cow Days Issue 2013



Wally Schang played for the St. Louis Browns 1926-1929.
Submitted

Walter Henry (Wally) Schang (August 22, 1889 – March 6, 1965) was a catcher in Major League Baseball. From 1913 through 1931, he played for the Philadelphia Athletics (1913–1917, 1930), Boston Red Sox (1918–1920), New York Yankees (1921–1925), St. Louis Browns (1926–1929) and Detroit Tigers (1931). Schang was a switch-hitter and threw right-handed. He was born in South Wales, New York.

Most baseball historians agree that Wally Schang was the greatest offensive catcher of the

deadball (pre-1920) era. When Schang wasn't catching, his managers usually played him in center field, right, or at third base, in order to keep his bat in the lineup. His defensive work was also regarded as outstanding, although he holds the American League career record for most errors by a catcher, with 218.

Schang was discovered by George Stallings in 1912, when he played in the sandlots of upstate New York for the Buffalo Pullmans. Schang started his major league career with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1913, who won the World Series in five games against the New York Giants and returned the next year, only to be swept by the 1914 Miracle Braves, who were managed by Schang's mentor, George Stallings.

After Connie Mack sold many of his players following the 1914 Series, Schang played for three last-place Athletics teams in 1915-1917, until being sold to the Boston Red Sox before the 1918 season. Schang was the regular catcher for that club, the last Red Sox team to win the title until 2004. Soon afterwards, Boston owner Harry Frazee sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. Schang followed Ruth in 1921, becoming the first in the great string of Yankee catchers, including Bill Dickey, Yogi Berra, Elston Howard and Thurman Munson.

Schang served as the Yankees' regular catcher for three straight American League pennants and was a member of the 1923 World Champion team. Three years later Schang moved again, this time to the St. Louis Browns, hitting a career-high .330 in his first season with St. Louis, as the team improved greatly, managing first-division finishes in 1928 and 1929. The following year, Schang returned to Philadelphia as a backup for Mickey Cochrane. The Athletics of 1930 were coming off a World

Championship and repeated that year. It was the fourth title for Schang in his career, which ended the next season with the Detroit Tigers.

In a 19-season career, Schang hit a .284 batting average with 59 home runs and 710 RBI in 1842 games played. In 32 World Series games, he hit .287 (27-for-94) with one home run and eight RBI.

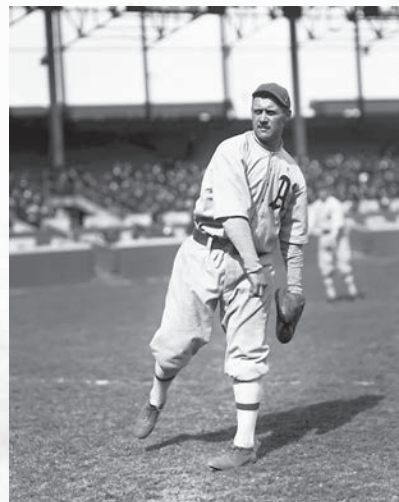
Following his major league career, Schang played for several seasons with Western Association and Canadian clubs, and then turned to managing in minor leagues.

In 1945, he retired to a farm he operated at Dixon, Missouri, in the Ozark Mountains.

Schang died in St Louis at age 75.



Wally Schang
Wally Schang catching for the New York Yankees.
Submitted



Wally Schang with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1917.
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Wally Schang

Born: August 22, 1889 in South Wales, NY
Major League Debut: May 9, 1913 (Age 23)
Teams: Athletics/Yankees/Browns/RedSox/Tigers 1913-1931
Final Game: June 22, 1931 (Age 41)
Died: March 6, 1965 in St. Louis, MO (Aged 75)
Buried: Dixon Cemetery, Dixon, MO



Locations:
Crocker,
Dixon, Rolla,
Cuba,
Steellville,
St. James,
and Sullivan

MPC