

COMEBACK PITCHERS

The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn

LYLE SPATZ AND STEVE STEINBERG

FOREWORD BY PAT WILLIAMS

"I might read a book about Jack Quinn himself; I might read a book about Howard Ehmke alone. But a book about both men who beat million-to-one odds and set longstanding records? Written by our leading chroniclers of 1920s-era baseball? Sport, there's just no *might* about it."—Rob Neyer, baseball author and analyst

"Steinberg and Spatz—meticulous researchers who spin a riveting yarn while getting their facts right—have pitched a perfect double-header with this dual biography of two of baseball's least known but most fascinating characters. We will never again see the likes of John Picus Quinn and Howard Ehmke in the game."—Norman L. Macht, author of the three-volume biography of Connie Mack

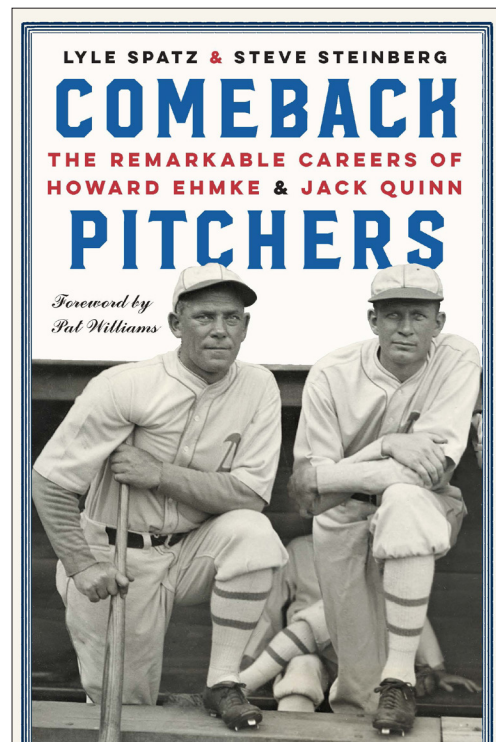
The careers of pitchers Jack Quinn and Howard Ehmke began in the Deadball Era and peaked in the 1920s. They were teammates for many years, with both the cellar-dwelling Boston Red Sox and later with the world champion Philadelphia Athletics, managed by Connie Mack.

As far back as 1912, when he was just twenty-nine, Quinn was told he was too old to play and on the downward side of his career. Because of his determination, work ethic, outlook on life, and physical conditioning, however, he continued to excel. In his midthirties, then his late thirties, and even into his forties, he overcame the naysayers. At age forty-six he became the oldest pitcher to start a World Series game. When Quinn finally retired in 1933 at fifty, the "Methuselah of the Mound" owned numerous longevity records, some of which he holds to this day.

Ehmke, meanwhile, battled arm trouble and poor health through much of his career. Like Quinn, he was dismissed by the experts and from many teams, only to return and excel. He overcame his physical problems by developing new pitches and pitching motions and capped his career with a stunning performance in Game One of the 1929 World Series against the Chicago Cubs, which still ranks among baseball's most memorable games. Connie Mack described it as his greatest day in baseball.

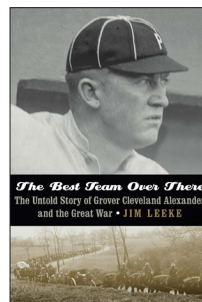
Comeback Pitchers is the inspirational story of these two great pitchers with intertwining careers who were repeatedly considered washed up and too old but kept defying the odds and thrilling fans long after most pitchers would have retired.

Lyle Spatz is the coauthor (with Steve Steinberg) of *The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership that Transformed the New York Yankees* (Nebraska, 2015), winner of the SABR Baseball Research Award, and *1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York* (Nebraska, 2010), winner of the Seymour Medal, and author of *Dixie Walker: A Life in Baseball*, among other books. **Steve Steinberg** is a baseball historian and author of *Urban Shocker: Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age* (Nebraska, 2017), winner of the SABR Baseball Research Award, and *The World Series in the Deadball Era*. **Pat Williams** is a former basketball and baseball front office executive. He is the founder of the Orlando Magic and former general manager of the Philadelphia 76ers and Spartanburg Phillies.

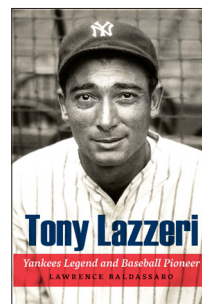


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