

August 22, 1902

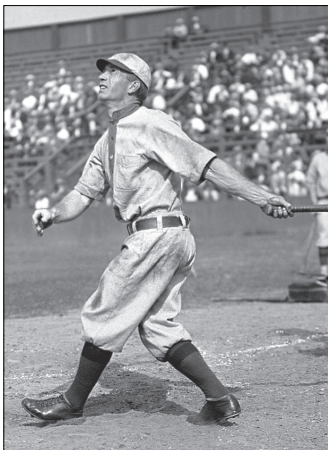
Longball Bucco

In the eighth inning in the first game of a doubleheader with the Brooklyn Superbas, Pittsburgh Pirate third baseman Tommy Leach hits his sixth, and final, home run of the 1902 season as the first-place Pirates total 17 hits en route to a 14-2 victory.

Leach will lead the National League that season in triples (22) and home runs (6) and finish second in RBIs (85). All of his home runs are of the inside the park variety and his six round trippers are the lowest by a major league statistical leader in the twentieth century.

The 5-foot-6, 150-pound French Creek, New York, native will hit 63 home runs over the course of his 19-year major league career, of which 48 are inside the park (third all-time).

One of the reasons for Leach's high number of inside the park home runs are the dimensions of Exposition Park, the Pirates' home field from 1891 to 1909. The distance down each foul line is 400 feet while straight-away centerfield measures 450 feet from home plate.



The diminutive Leach is the answer to the trivia question; "who was the only other Pirate besides Ralph Kiner and Willie Stargell to lead the National League in home runs?" In addition, Leach stands a good chance of remaining the only NL home run king to have all of his league-leading home runs being inside the park.