



Frank Chance

September 9, 1877 - September 15, 1924

Los Angeles, California

Frank Leroy Chance, Hall of Fame first baseman and manager of the Chicago Cubs' early-century dynasty - the "Peerless Leader" of Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance lore - died in Los Angeles, California, on September 15, 1924. He was forty-seven. Head injuries from beanings had shortened his playing years; management tours with the Yankees and Red Sox followed; California became the last stop for a California native who had made Chicago's West Side the center of the baseball world.

Born September 9, 1877, in Fresno, Chance reached the majors in 1898 and helped the Cubs claim World Series titles in 1907 and 1908. He led the National League in stolen bases and runs in peak seasons, managed with a temper that players feared and sportswriters enjoyed, and entered baseball's mythology through Franklin P. Adams's poem as much as through box scores. Later generations who never saw him play still chanted the double-play names.

Illness and the long residue of those beanings closed the last chapter far from Wrigley Field's ancestor park. Los Angeles newspapers marked a hometown end for a man Fresno and Chicago both claimed.

He died in Los Angeles on September 15, 1924. Cooperstown later made the induction official; the poem had already done the cultural work.

Chance's legacy is leadership as much as glove - a first baseman who ran a clubhouse and a city argument about what a championship team should look like. Notice Nearby records the death date so September 15 keeps the Peerless Leader beside novelists and Speakers on an American calendar that rarely separates sport from civic

memory.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1924. Baseball Hall of Fame first baseman and manager (Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox).

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