



The Game Must Go On: Hank Greenberg, Pete Gray, and the Great Days of Baseball on the Home Front in WWII

John Klima

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Baseball and the struggle to keep the game going at home during the war; the pivotal role played by President Roosevelt; and the divergent career paths of Detroit Tigers slugger Hank Greenberg and St. Louis Browns outfielder Pete Gray. Greenberg was the top slugger in the game when he joined the Army in 1941 and did not return to the majors until mid-1945. He represented the star player gone to war – players such as Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Bob Feller, Warren Spahn and other legends who sacrificed large parts of their careers for the war effort. Many other lesser-known but courageous ballplayers saw combat on land, sea and air – in fighting against the Germans and the Japanese.

Taking their place were replacement players who didn't belong in the majors in the first place, but whose resolve to see the game go on helped push the country to victory. Pete Gray was the most extreme replacement player of them all – a one-armed outfielder who played the 1945 season with the Browns. He overcame the odds to fulfill his dream and in doing so became a shining example of baseball on the home front.

Together, everyone pulled together for victory, and Greenberg and Gray played each other in the last pennant race of World War II, because as FDR said before he died...The Game Must Go On.

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Debra Rubino:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Game Must Go On: Hank Greenberg, Pete Gray, and the Great Days of Baseball on the Home Front in WWII can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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