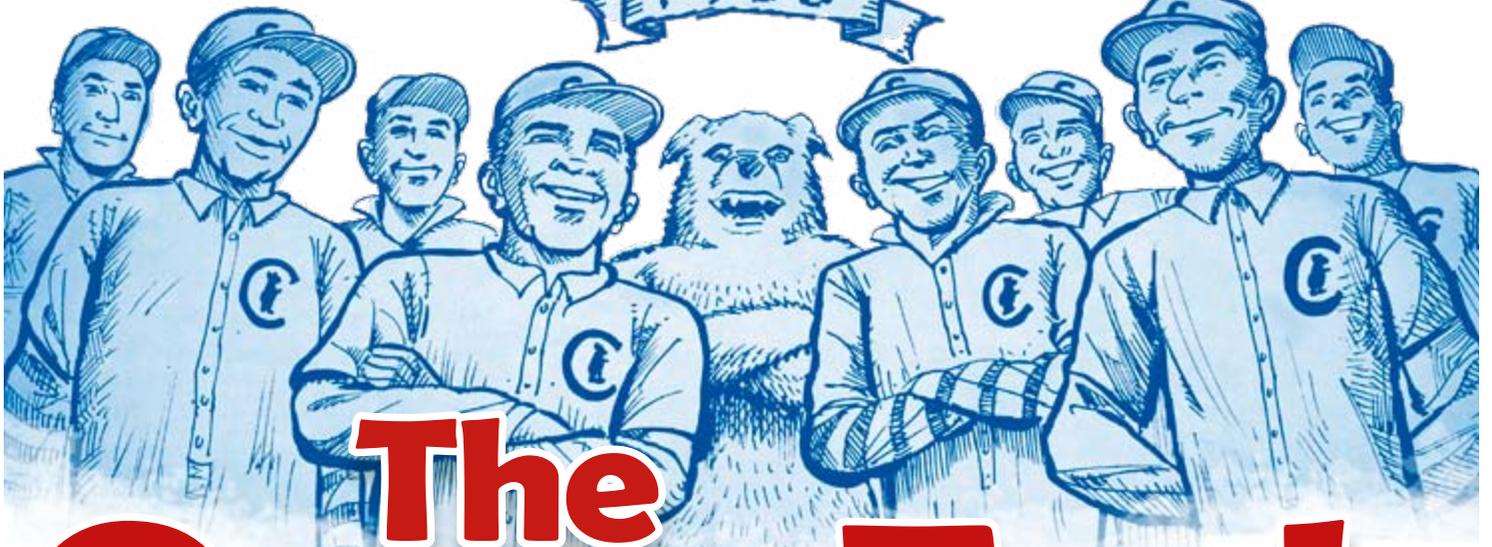


1908



The Curse Ends

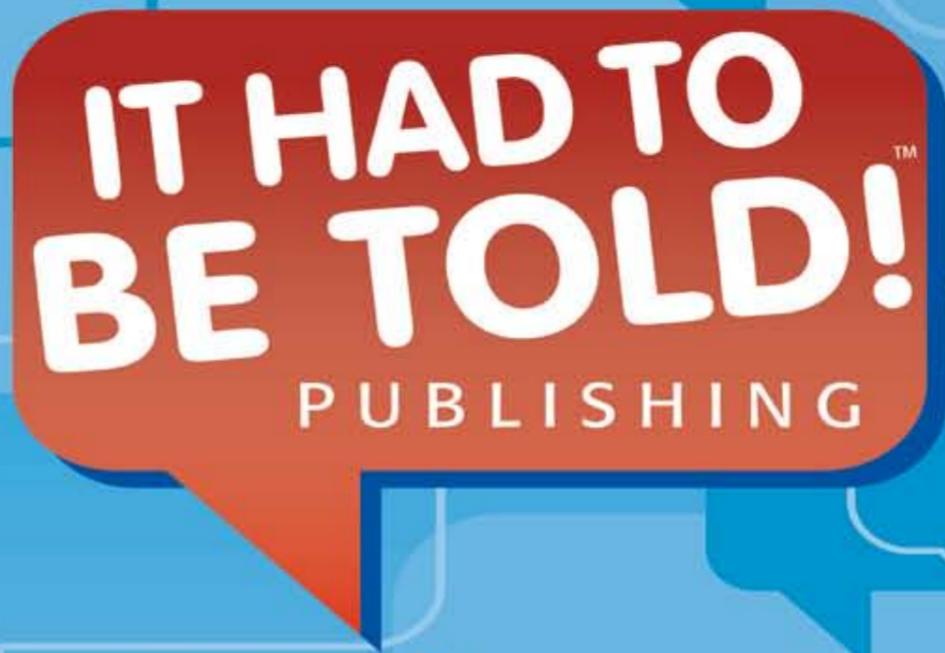
THE STORY OF THE 2016 CHICAGO CUBS



IT HAD TO
BE TOLD!
PUBLISHING

Written by Jeff Attinella
Illustrated by Mike Pascale





I want to tell you a story...
ONE THAT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE![™]

For Remy Rose



A sincere “thank you” to my father-in-law, Wayne Curtiss, who heard my idea while half asleep on the couch one night and has been “all in” ever since. For without his perseverance, effort and sincere passion, these books would not exist.



Special thanks to our wildly talented friend, Don Brown, for his magic with colorization and book design.



IHTBT Publishing would like to thank Scott Fleenor for our logo creation and for lending his creative talents throughout this process.

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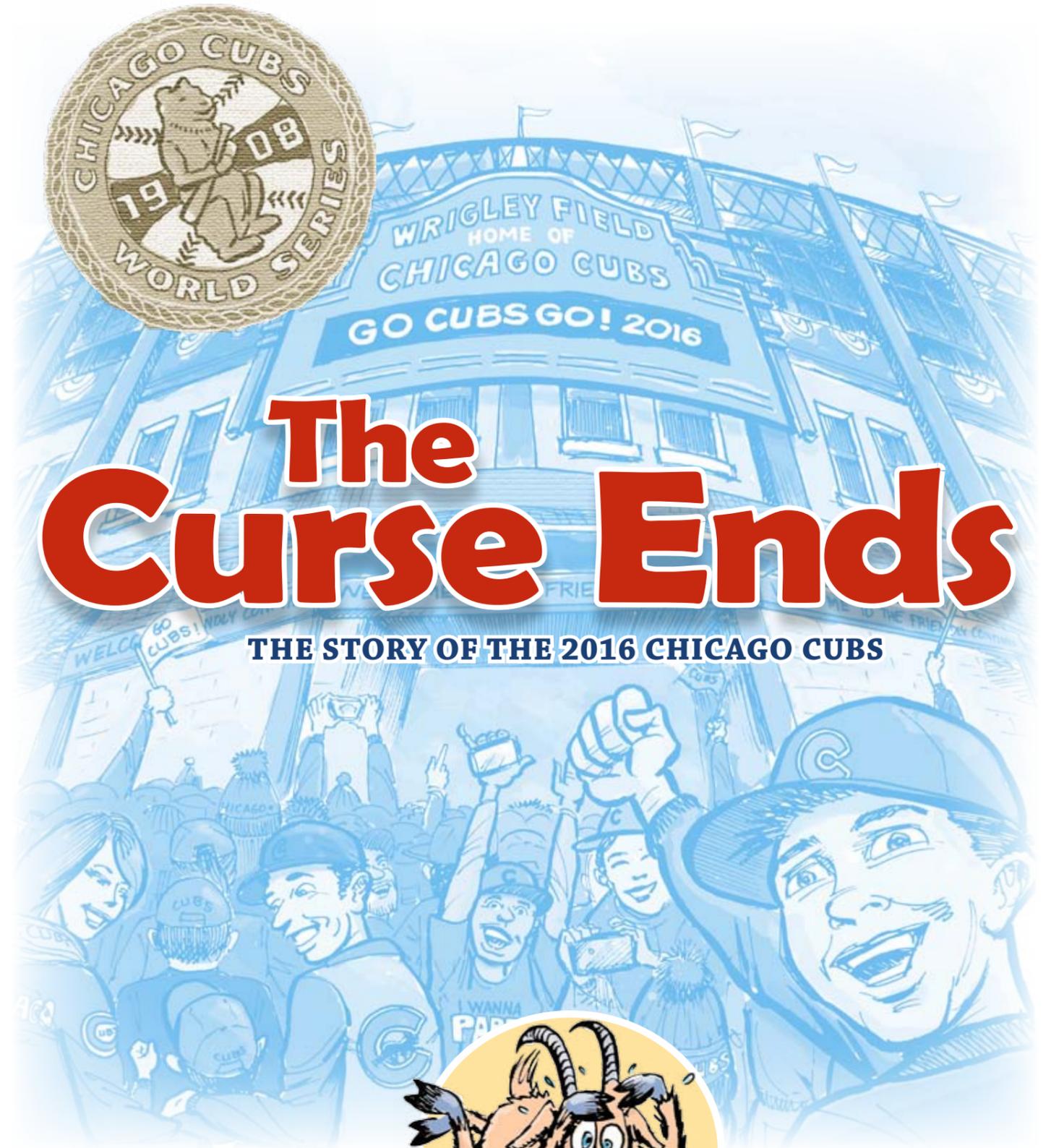
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in the United States of America.



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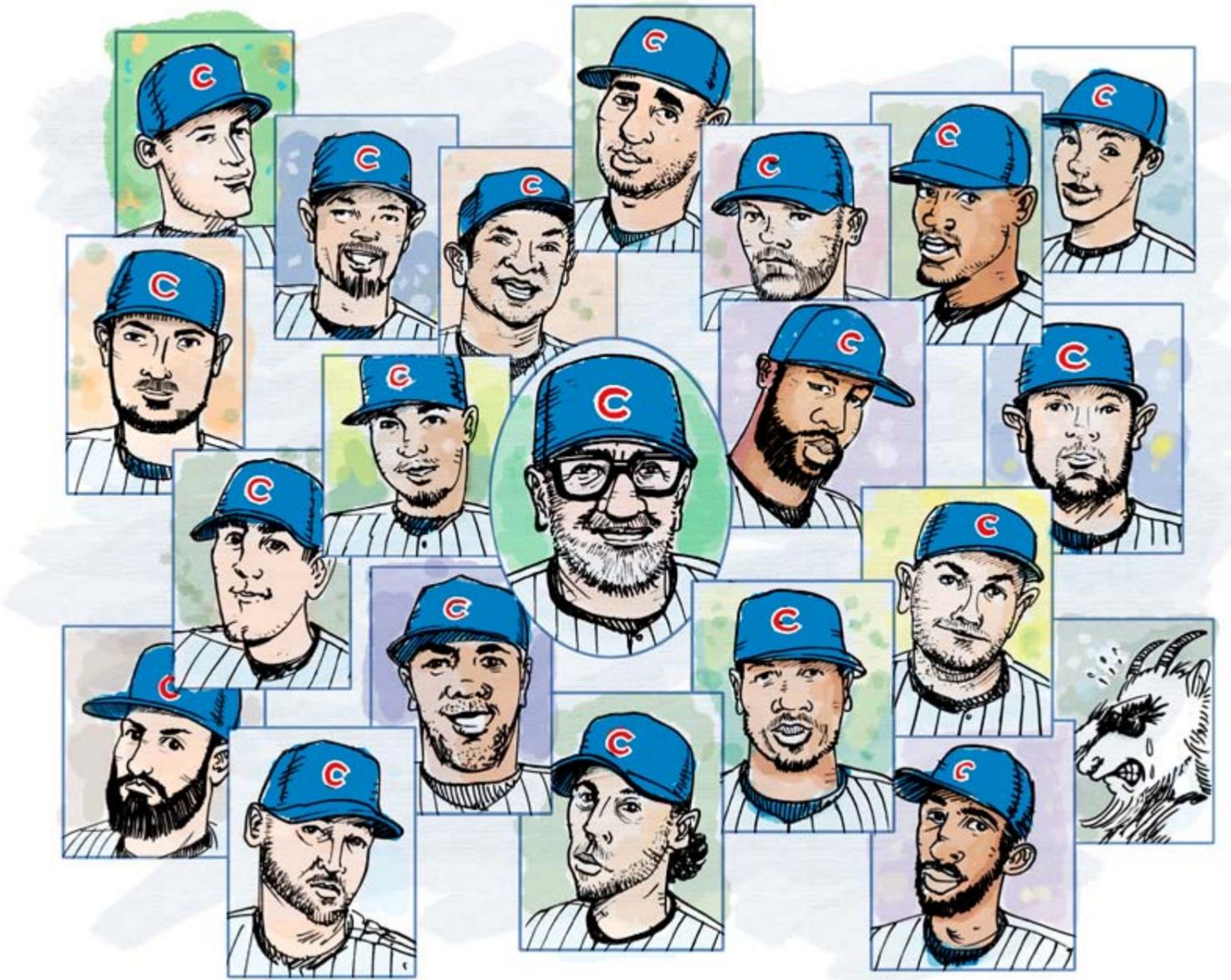
THE STORY OF THE 2016 CHICAGO CUBS

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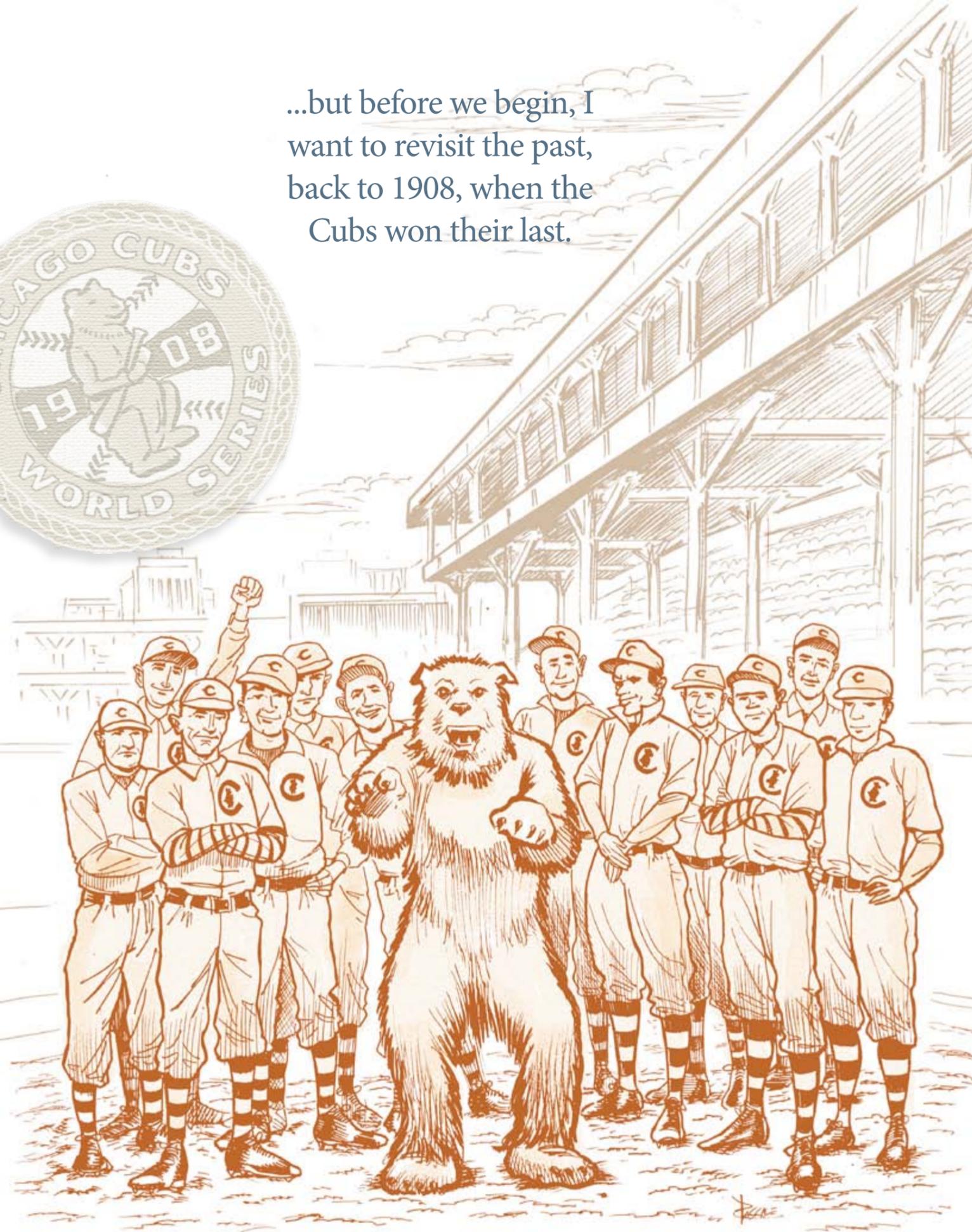


This book is dedicated to Steve Bartman, a fan who loved his team, the Chicago Cubs.

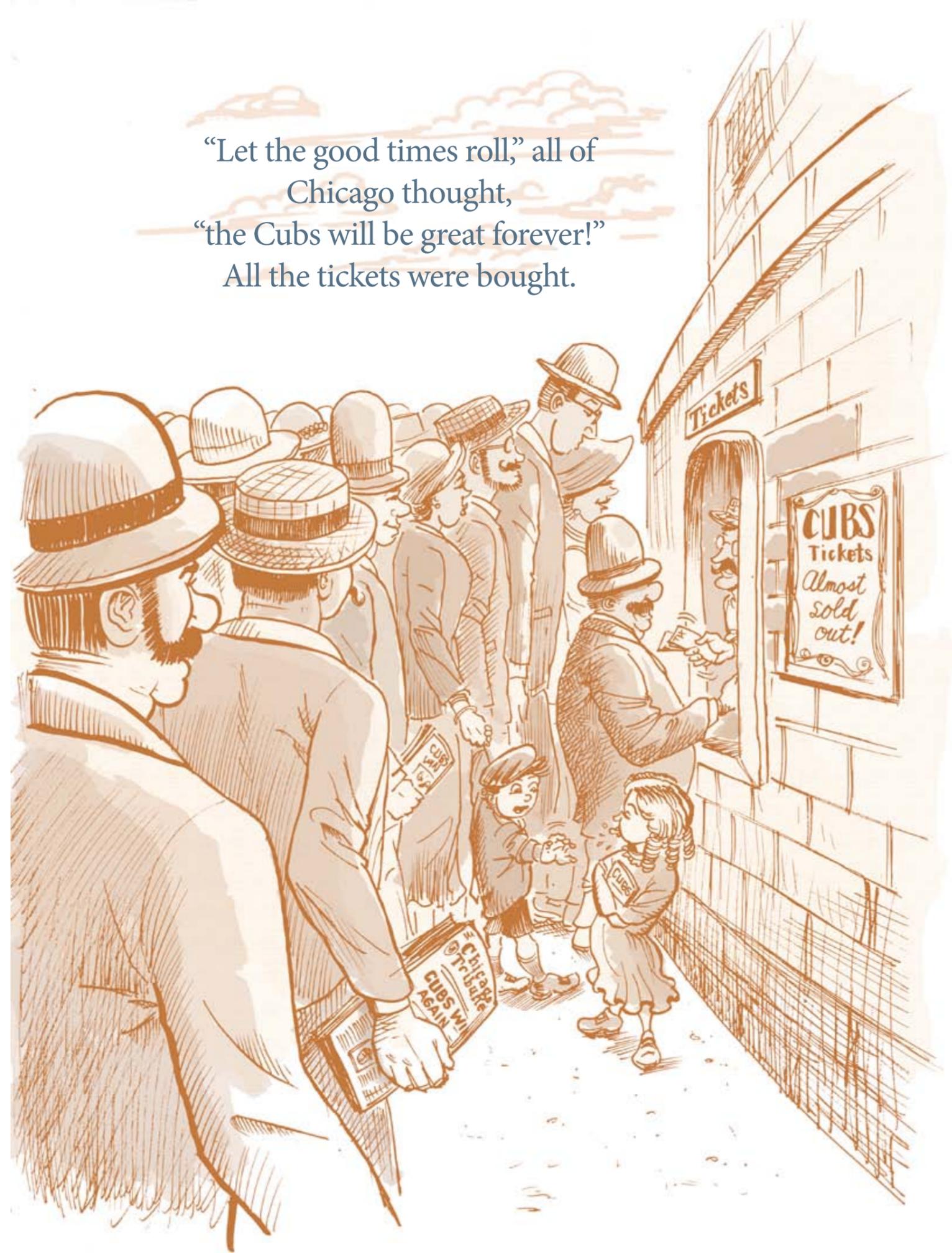


I want to tell you a story, one that I still can't believe.
It's the story of the Chicago Cubs of 2016.

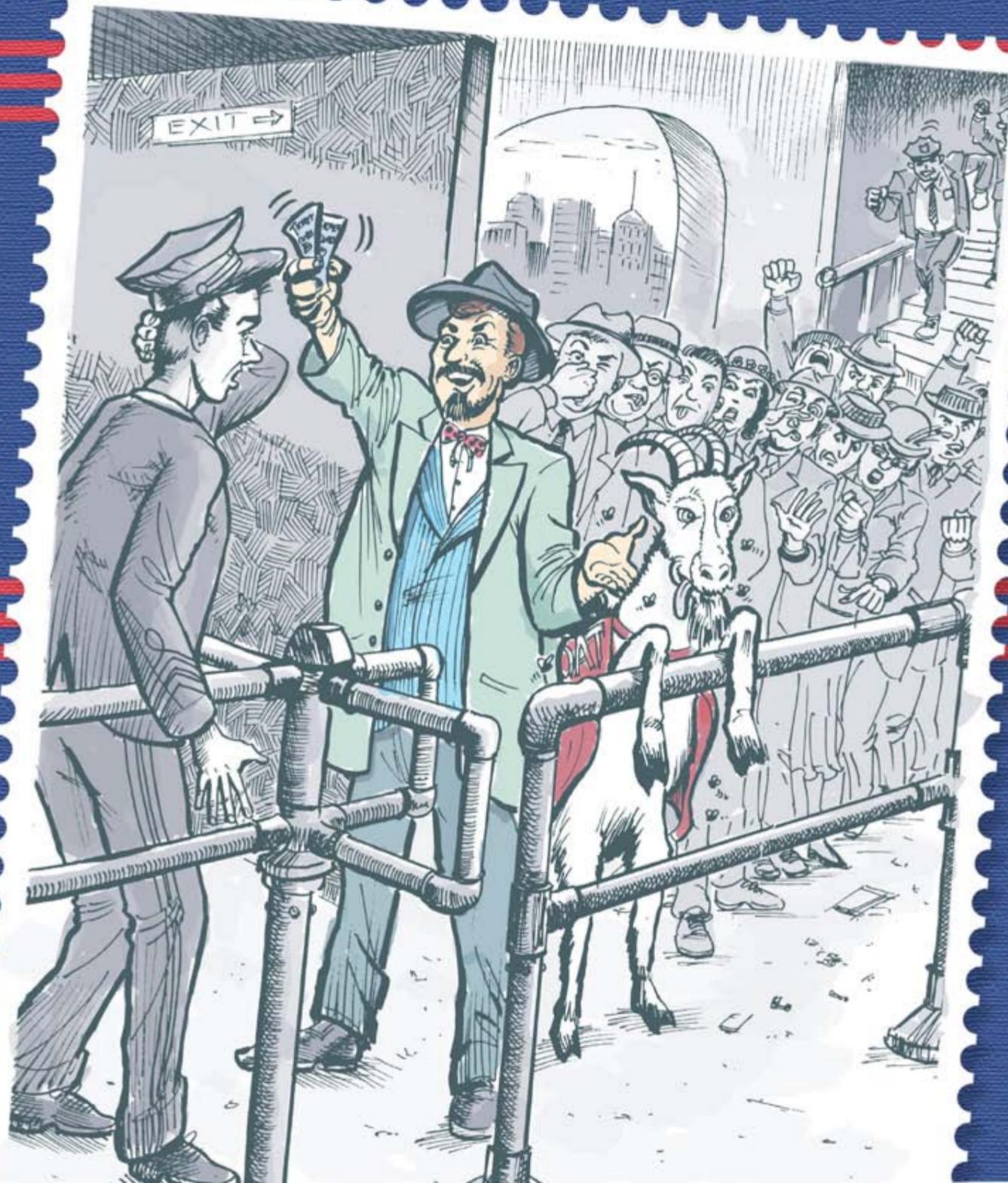
...but before we begin, I want to revisit the past, back to 1908, when the Cubs won their last.



“Let the good times roll,” all of Chicago thought, “the Cubs will be great forever!” All the tickets were bought.



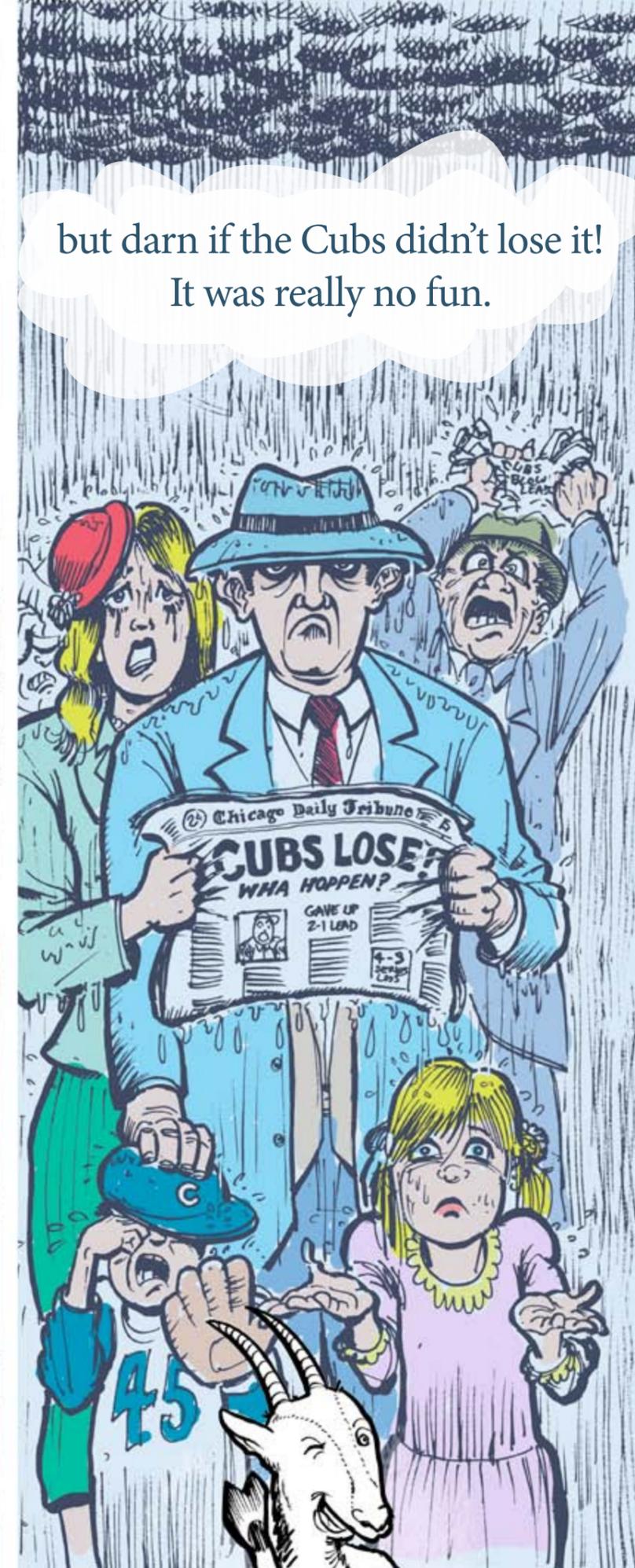
...then something strange happened in the year 1945,
people at the game couldn't believe their eyes.
At Game Four of the World Series, a man's goat wanted a seat,
but the goat smelled so bad, it brought fans to their feet.



“Don't let that smelly goat in!” the people did shout.
So the two were stopped at the gate and booted right out!
“You will never win again!” the man proclaimed aloud,
and thus “The Curse of the Billy Goat” fell over the crowd.



Chicago was leading that Series, two games to one,

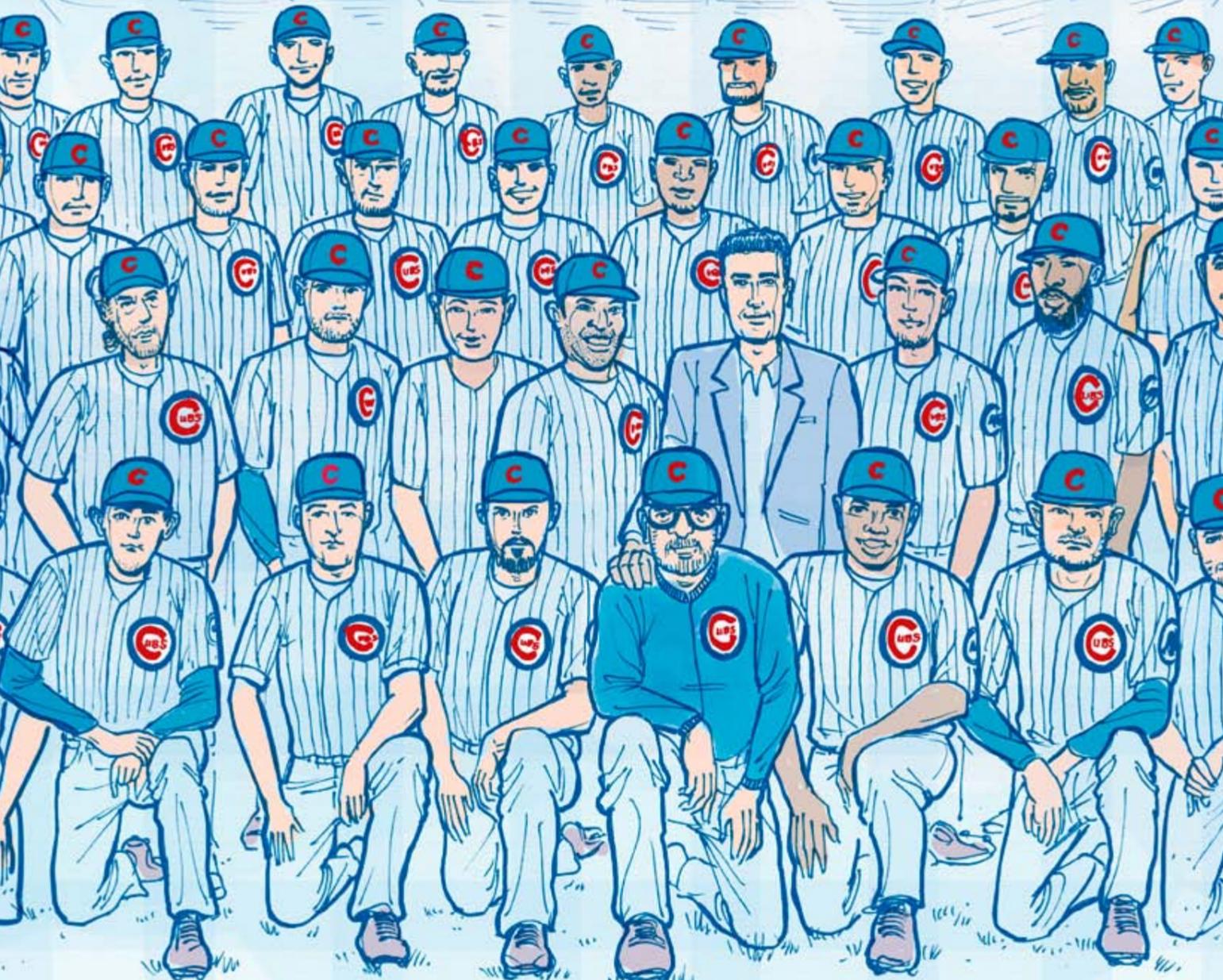


but darn if the Cubs didn't lose it! It was really no fun.

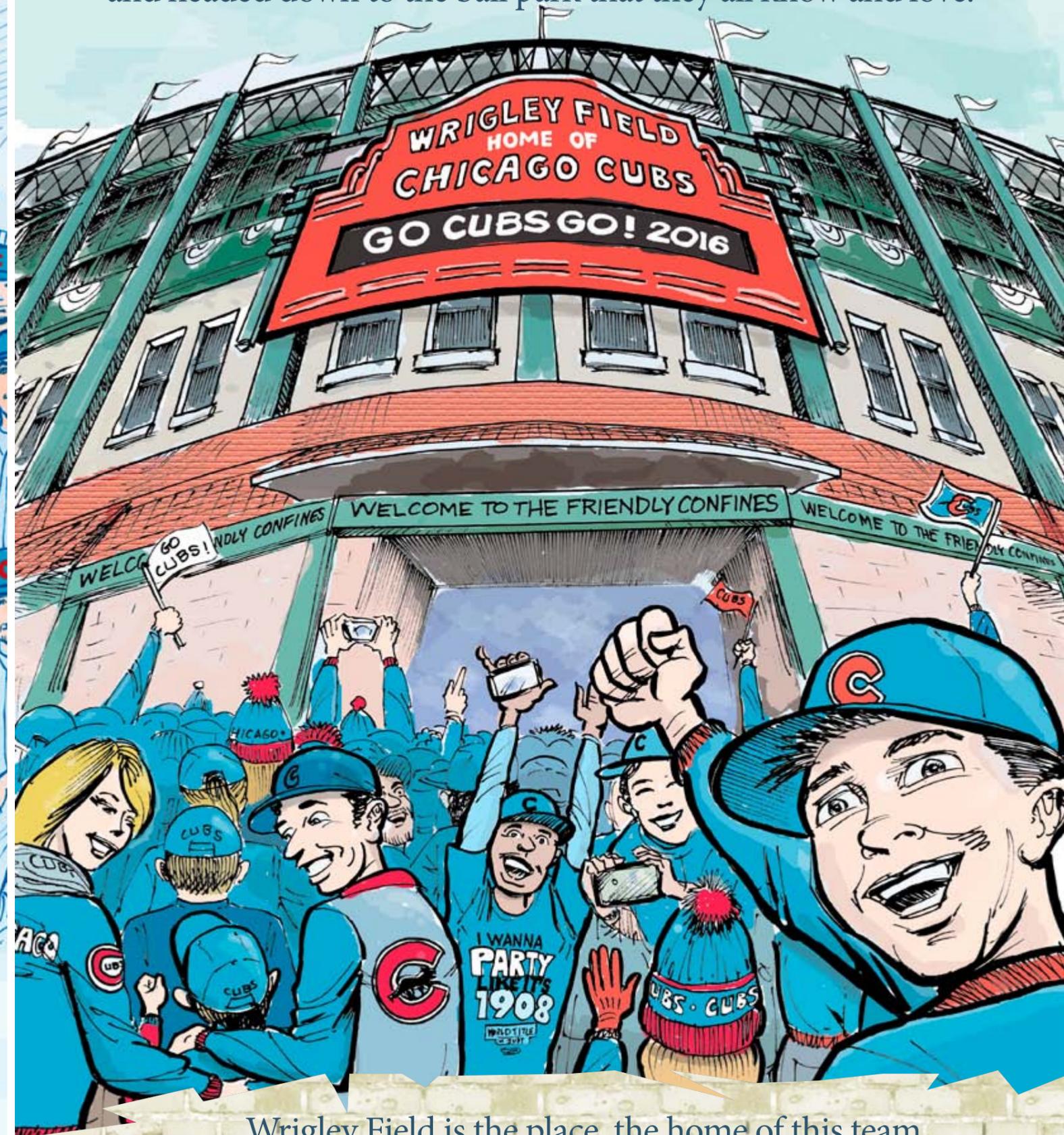
For years, then decades, the curse seemed to hold true, as the Cubs kept losing, it was all they could do. Season after season, the "Loveable Losers" seemed destined to fall. "Someday the Cubs will be in the World Series!" became Harry Caray's signing off call.

1945	MLB	NL			75	87	.463	26
1946	MLB					81	.500	20
1947	MLB						.488	11
1948	MLB							18
1949	MLB							27
1950	MLB							19
1951	MLB							38
1952	MLB							19
1953	MLB							65
1954	MLB						.596	—
1955	MLB	NL						84
1956	MLB	NL					.478	23%
1957	MLB	NL						18
1958	MLB	NL						20
1959	MLB							18
1960	MLB							13
1961	MLB							16%
1962	MLB							7
1963	MLB							12
1964	MLB							12
1965	MLB							16
1966	MLB							12
1967	MLB							16
1968	MLB							16
1969	MLB							12
1970	MLB							12
1971	MLB							12
1972	MLB							12
1973	MLB							12
1974	MLB							12
1975	MLB							12
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2014	MLB							12
2015	MLB							12
2016	MLB							12
2017	MLB							12
2018	MLB							12
2019	MLB							12
2020	MLB							12
2021	MLB							12
2022	MLB							12
2023	MLB							12
2024	MLB							12

...that was until one bunch gave the city hope,
with a new batch of players, a GM and a coach.

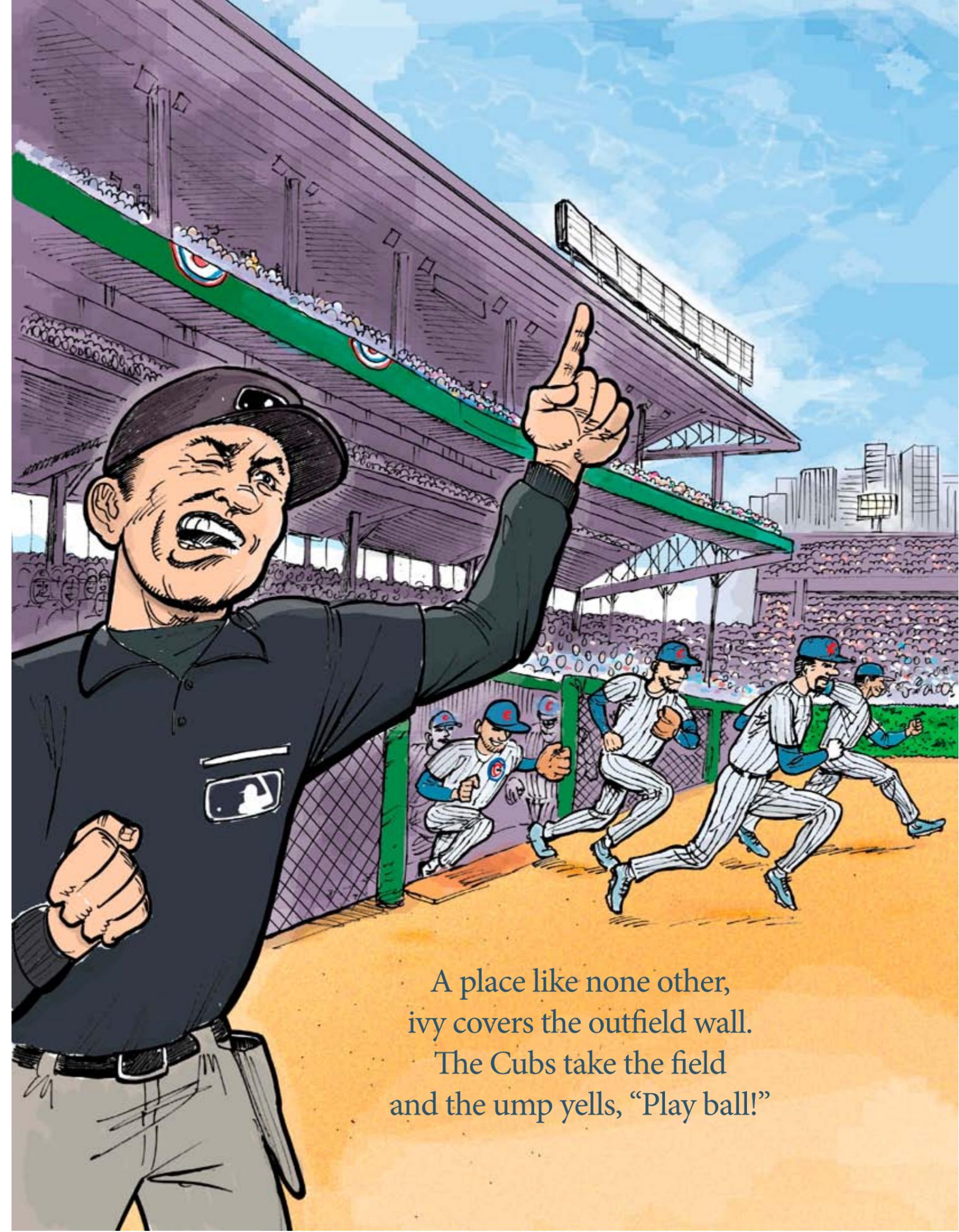


So the fans put on their jerseys, their hats and their gloves,
and headed down to the ball park that they all know and love.

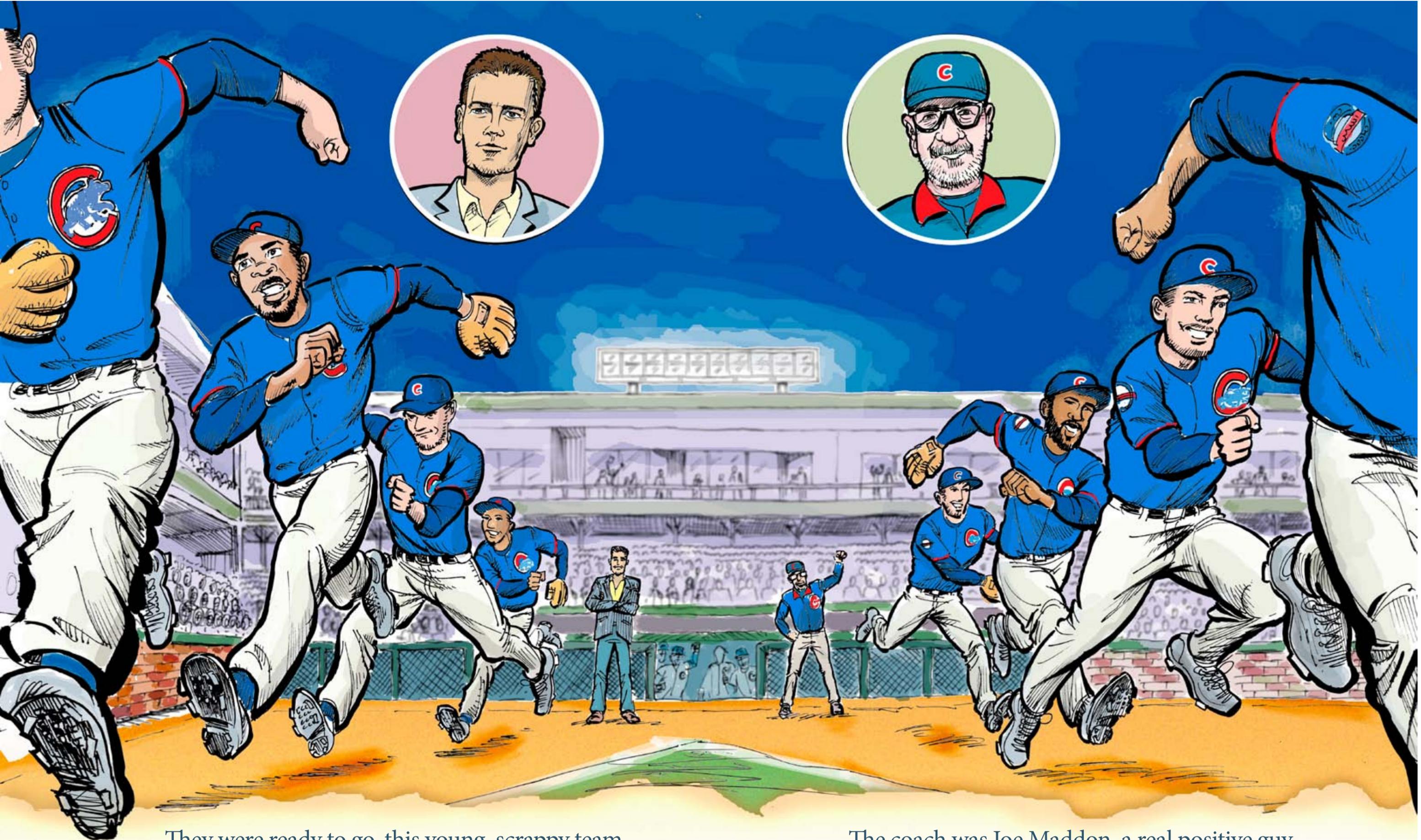


Wrigley Field is the place, the home of this team,
the Chicago Cubs of 2016!

The season is new, the city's all here,
generations of families all ready to cheer!
"Go, Cubs, Go!" blasts over the speakers,
as the Cubs-faithful quickly fill up the bleachers.



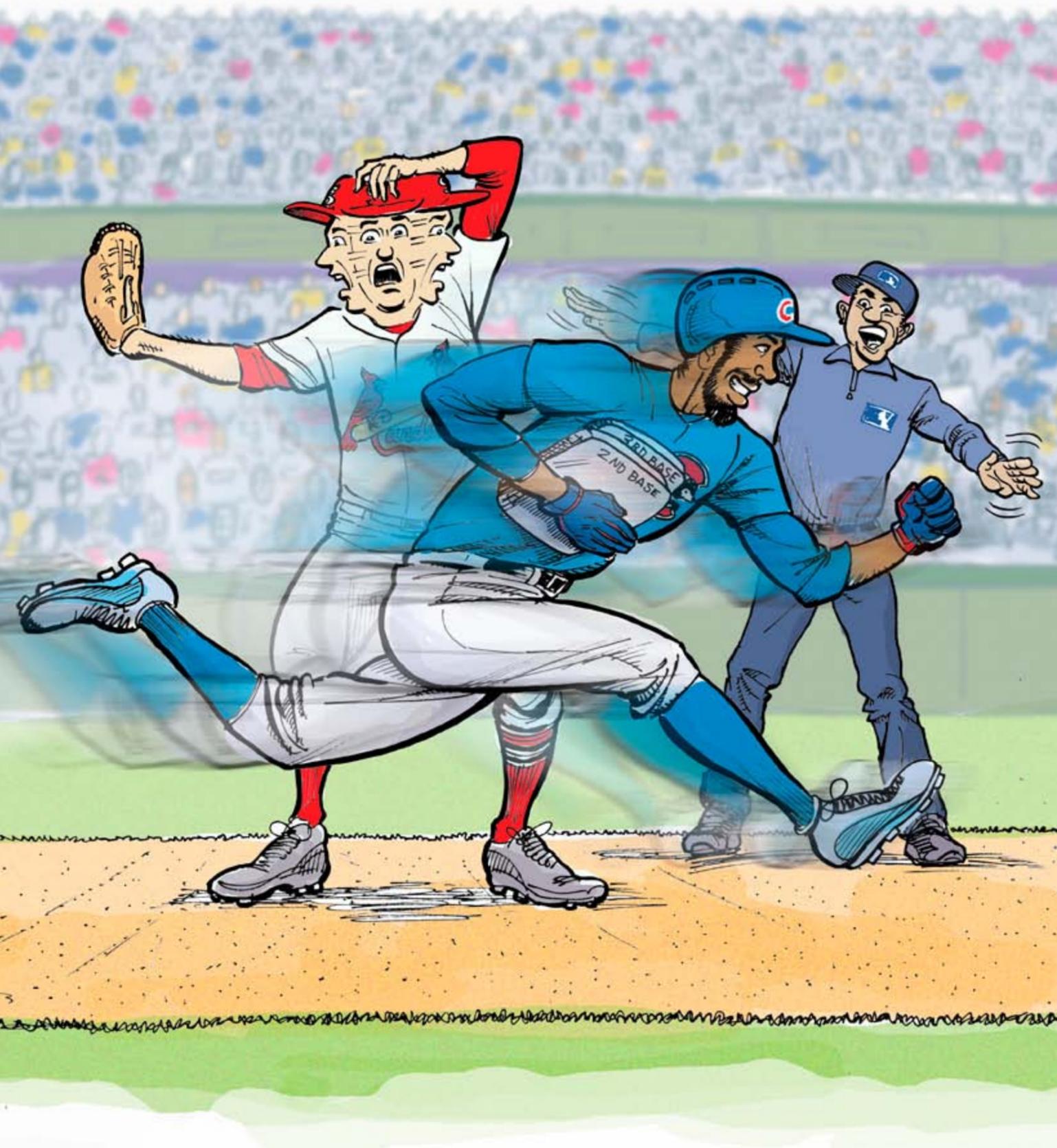
A place like none other,
ivy covers the outfield wall.
The Cubs take the field
and the ump yells, "Play ball!"



They were ready to go, this young, scrappy team, thanks to a master plan by GM Theo Epstein.

The coach was Joe Maddon, a real positive guy, he told his Cubs to believe in themselves and to reach for the sky!

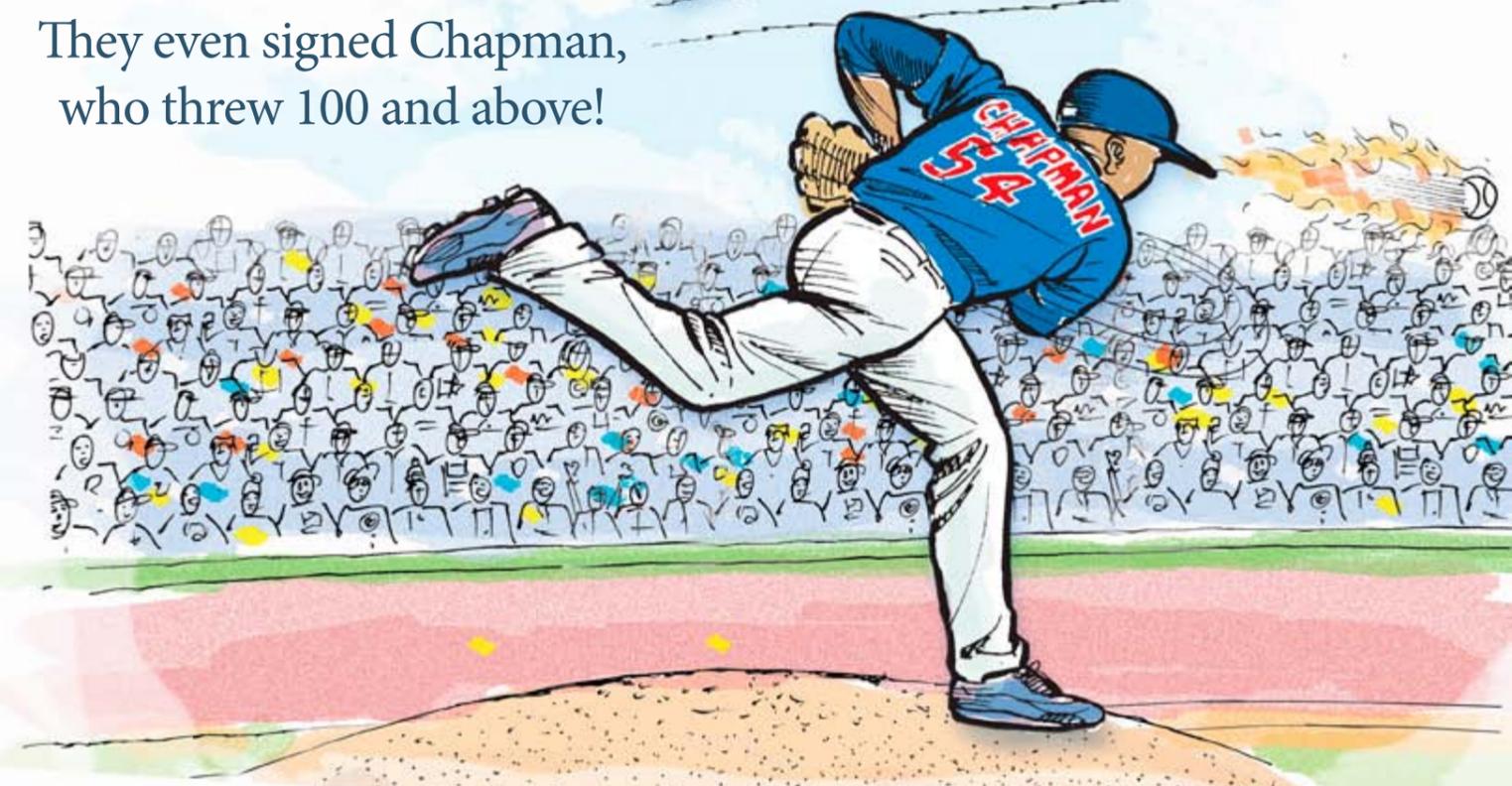
Fowler lead the way, he was as fast as they come,
he would steal every base, man could he run!

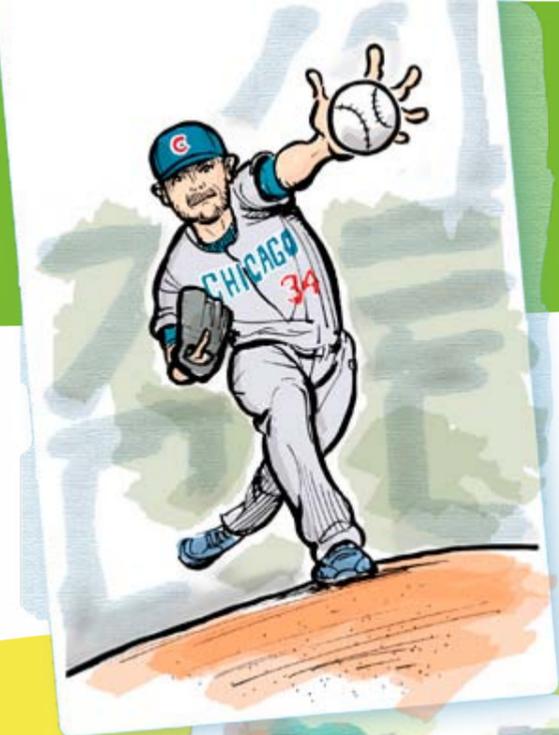
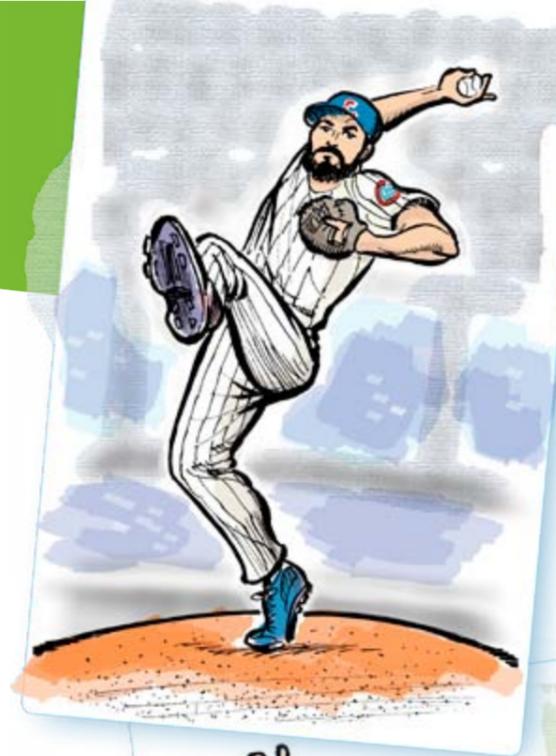
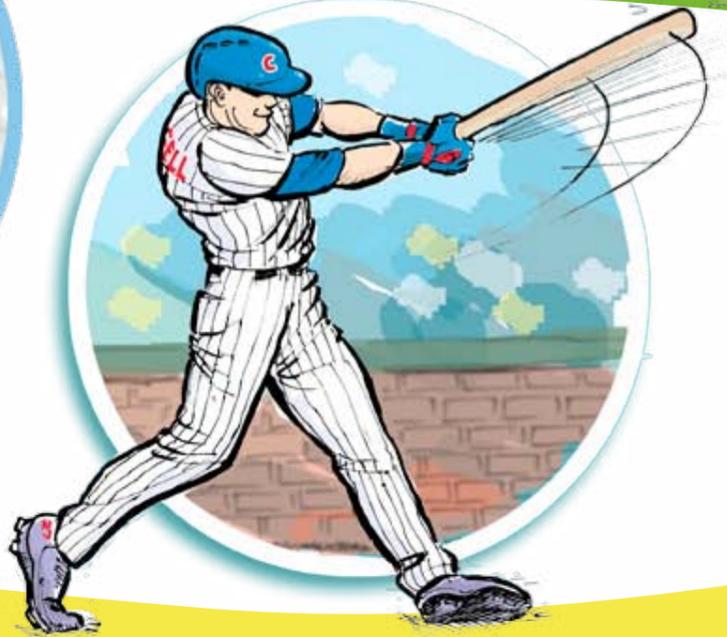


Rizzo and Bryant had power
and could both flash their glove.

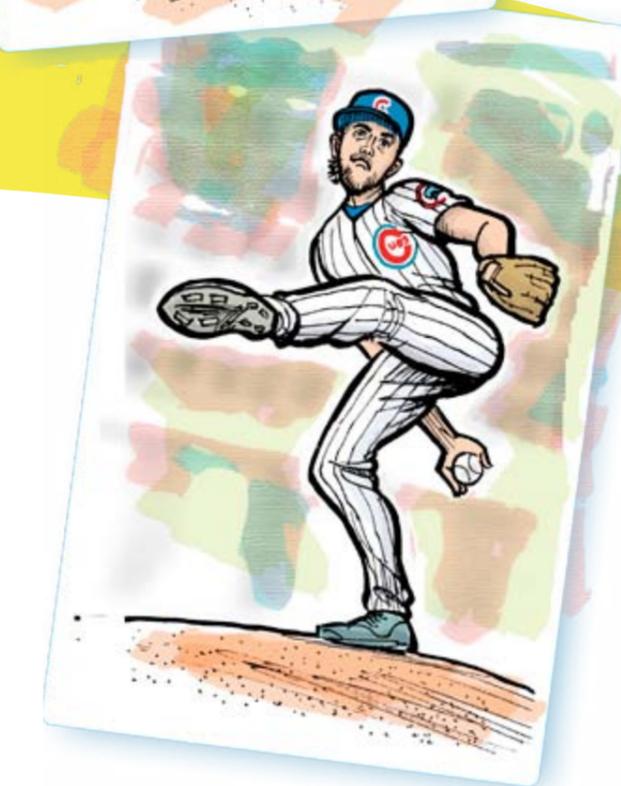
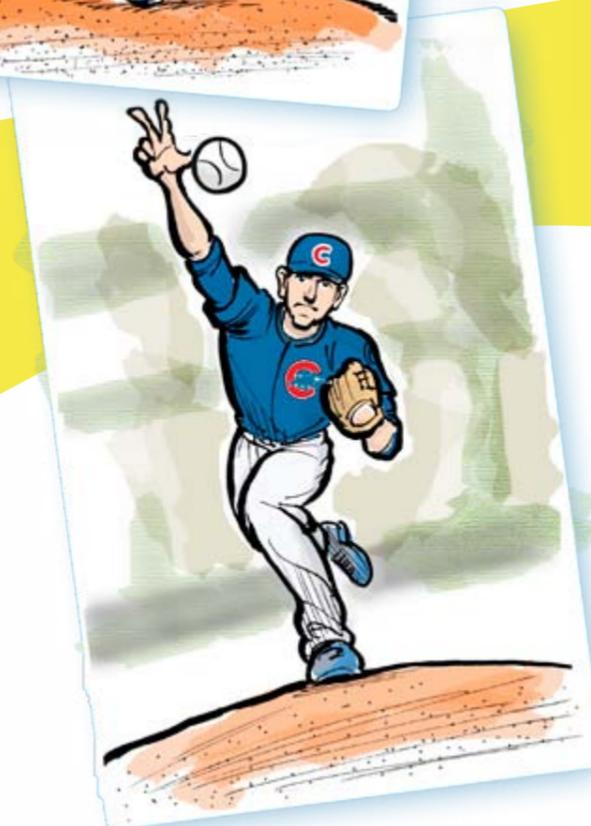


They even signed Chapman,
who threw 100 and above!

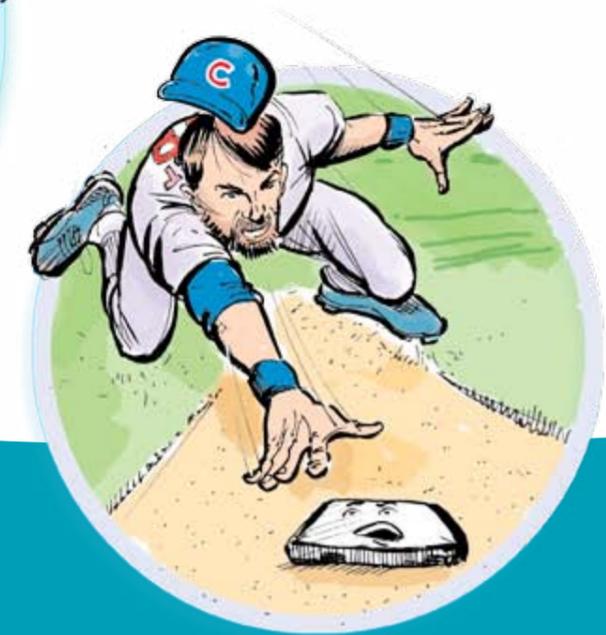




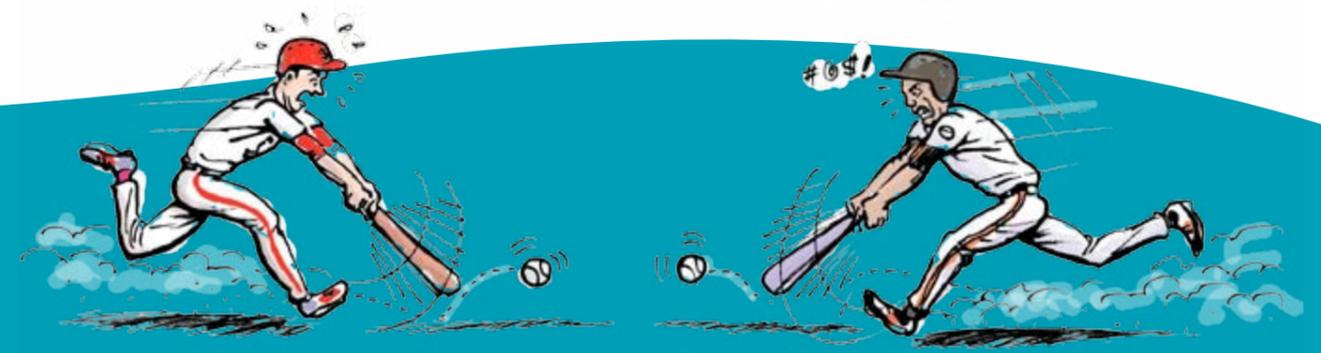
Baez and Russell were young, but wow, could they play!



When Arrieta and Lester took the mound, it all seemed to work. Plus, Hendricks and Lackey had guys chasing pitches in dirt.



Ross and Zobrist brought experience to show them the way.



Date	Opponent	Result	Record	Date	Opponent	Result	Record
Mon, 4/4	at Angels	W 9-0	1-0	Thu, 7/7	Brewers	L 3-4	52-33
Tue, 4/5	at Angels	W 6-1	2-0	Fri, 7/8	at Pirates	L 4-8	52-34
Thu, 4/7	at D-backs	W 14-6	3-0	Sat, 7/9	at Pirates	L 6-12	52-35
Fri, 4/8	at D-backs	L 2-3	3-1	Sun, 7/10	at Pirates	W 6-5	53-35
Sat, 4/9	at D-backs	W 4-2	4-1		Rangers	W 6-0	54-35
Sun, 4/10	at D-backs	W 7-3	5-1		Rangers	W 3-1	55-35
Mon, 4/11	Reds	W 5-3	6-1		Rangers	L 1-4	55-36
Wed, 4/13	Reds	W 9-2	7-1		Mets	W 5-1	56-36
Thu, 4/14	Reds	W 2-1	8-1		Mets	L 1-2	56-37
Fri, 4/15	Rockies	L 1-6	8-2		Mets	W 6-2	57-37
Sat, 4/16	Rockies	W 5-2	9-2		at Brewers	W 5-2	58-37
Sun, 4/17	Rockies	L 0-2	9-3		at Brewers	L 1-6	58-38
Mon, 4/18	at Cardinals	W 5-0	10-3	Sun, 7/24	at Brewers	W 6-5	59-38
Tue, 4/19	at Cardinals	W 2-1	11-3	Mon, 7/25	at White Sox	L 4-5	59-39
Wed, 4/20	at Cardinals	L 3-5	11-4	Tue, 7/26	at White Sox	L 0-3	59-40
Thu, 4/21	at Reds	W 16-0	12-4	Wed, 7/27	White Sox	W 8-1	60-40

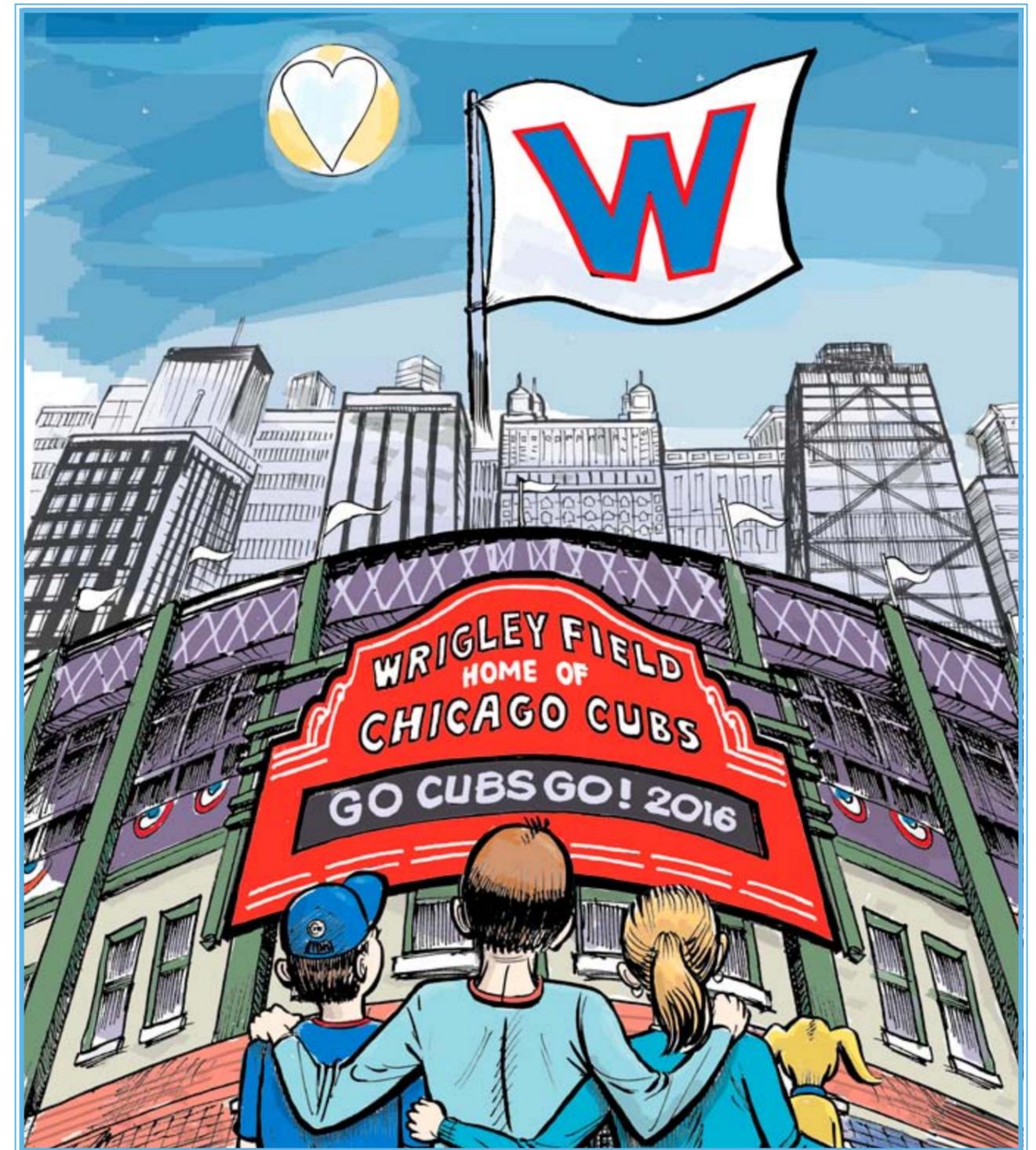


Even the team from St. Louis stood no chance at all. The Cubs reached 103 wins, the best team in baseball!

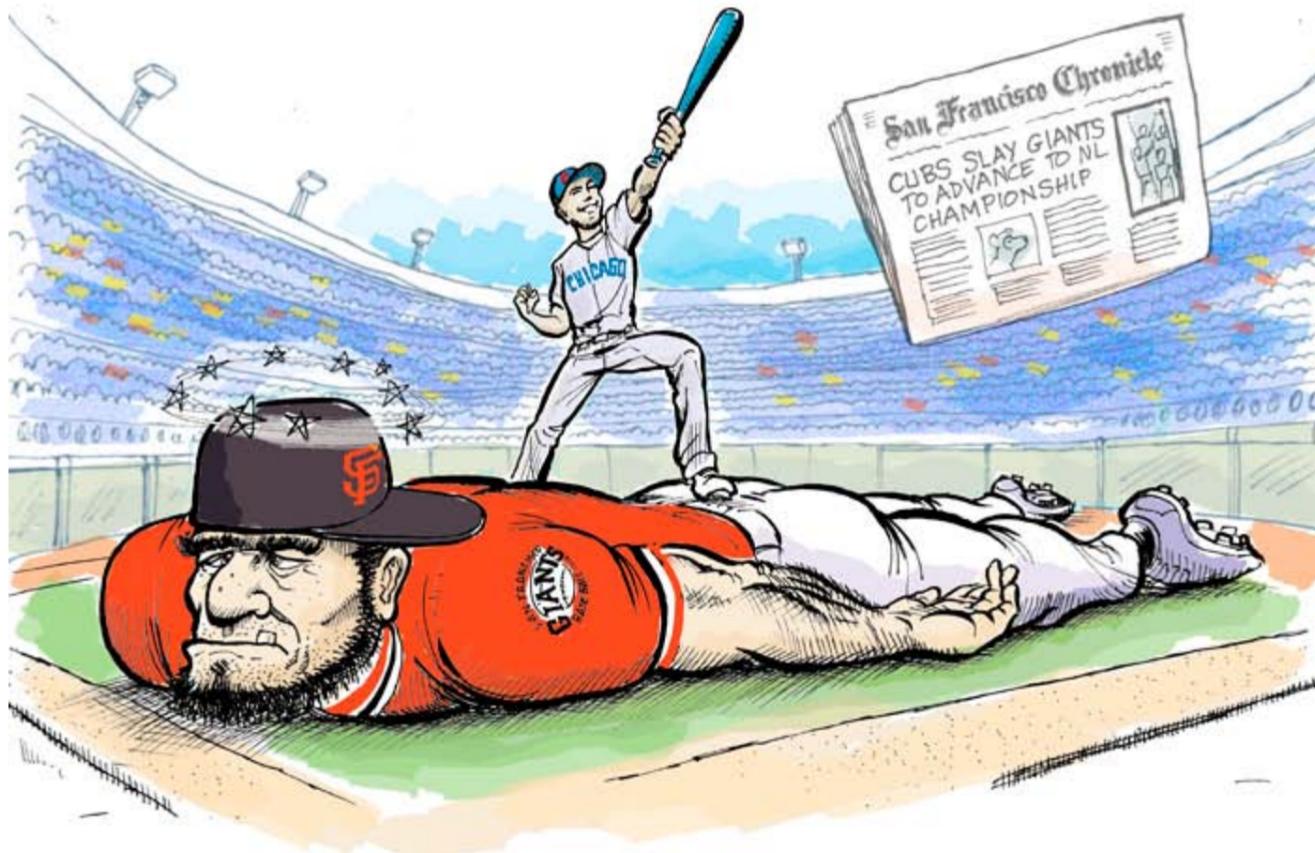
Mon, 5/2	at Pirates	L 1-2	13-5	Thu, 8/18	Brewers	W 6-1	76-43
Tue, 5/3	at Pirates	L 2-4	13-6	Fri, 8/19	at Rockies	L 6-7	74-44
Wed, 5/4	at Pirates	W 2-1	14-6	Sat, 8/20	at Rockies	W 9-2	74-44
Thu, 5/5	at Nationals	L 3-5	14-7	Sun, 8/21	at Rockies	L 4-11	75-45
Fri, 5/6	at Nationals	W 8-1	15-7	Mon, 8/22	at Padres	W 5-1	76-45
Sat, 5/7	at Nationals	L 3-5	15-8	Tue, 8/23	at Padres	W 5-3	77-45
Sun, 5/8	at Nationals	W 2-1	16-8	Wed, 8/24	at Padres	W 6-3	78-45
Mon, 5/9	at Padres	L 0-1	16-9	Fri, 8/26	at Dodgers	W 6-4	79-45
Tue, 5/10	at Padres	W 9-4	17-9	Sat, 8/27	at Dodgers	L 2-3	79-46
Wed, 5/11	at Padres	W 8-2	18-9	Sun, 8/28	at Dodgers	L 0-1	80-46
Fri, 5/13	Pirates	L 1-2	18-10	Mon, 8/29	at Dodgers	W 8-7	81-46
Sat, 5/14	Pirates	W 2-1	19-10	Tue, 8/30	at Dodgers	W 3-0	82-46
Sun, 5/15	at Brewers	L 2-4	19-11	Wed, 8/31	at Dodgers	W 9-5	83-46
Tue, 5/17	at Brewers	W 2-1	20-11	Thu, 9/1	at Dodgers	W 5-4	84-46
Wed, 5/18	at Brewers	L 3-5	20-12	Fri, 9/2	at Dodgers	W 2-1	85-46
Thu, 5/19	at Giants	W 8-1	21-12	Sat, 9/3	at Dodgers	W 2-1	86-46
Fri, 5/20	at Giants	L 3-5	21-13	Sun, 9/4	at Dodgers	L 2-3	87-46
Sat, 5/21	at Cardinals	W 9-0	22-13	Mon, 9/5	at Dodgers	W 1-0	88-46
Sun, 5/22	at Cardinals	W 10-1	23-13	Tue, 9/6	at Dodgers	W 3-0	89-46
Mon, 5/23	at Cardinals	W 10-1	24-13	Wed, 9/7	at Dodgers	W 3-0	90-46
Tue, 5/24	Phillies	W 10-1	25-13	Thu, 9/8	at Dodgers	W 3-0	91-46
Wed, 5/25	Phillies	W 10-1	26-13	Fri, 9/9	at Dodgers	W 3-0	92-46
Thu, 5/26	Phillies	W 10-1	27-13	Sat, 9/10	at Dodgers	W 3-0	93-46
Fri, 5/27	Phillies	W 10-1	28-13	Sun, 9/11	at Dodgers	W 3-0	94-46
Sat, 5/28	Phillies	W 10-1	29-13	Mon, 9/12	at Dodgers	W 3-0	95-46
Sun, 5/29	Phillies	W 10-1	30-13	Tue, 9/13	at Dodgers	W 3-0	96-46
Mon, 5/30	Dodgers	W 10-1	31-13	Wed, 9/14	at Dodgers	W 3-0	97-46
Tue, 5/31	Dodgers	W 10-1	32-13	Thu, 9/15	at Dodgers	W 3-0	98-46
Wed, 6/1	Dodgers	W 10-1	33-13	Fri, 9/16	at Dodgers	W 3-0	99-46
Thu, 6/2	Dodgers	W 10-1	34-13	Sat, 9/17	at Dodgers	W 3-0	100-46
Fri, 6/3	Dodgers	W 10-1	35-13	Sun, 9/18	at Dodgers	W 3-0	101-46
Sat, 6/4	Dodgers	W 10-1	36-13	Mon, 9/19	at Dodgers	W 3-0	102-46
Sun, 6/5	Dodgers	W 10-1	37-13	Tue, 9/20	at Dodgers	W 3-0	103-46
Mon, 6/6	Dodgers	W 10-1	38-13	Wed, 9/21	at Dodgers	W 3-0	104-46
Tue, 6/7	Dodgers	W 10-1	39-13	Thu, 9/22	at Dodgers	W 3-0	105-46
Wed, 6/8	Dodgers	W 10-1	40-13	Fri, 9/23	at Dodgers	W 3-0	106-46
Thu, 6/9	Dodgers	W 10-1	41-13	Sat, 9/24	at Dodgers	W 3-0	107-46
Fri, 6/10	Dodgers	W 10-1	42-13	Sun, 9/25	at Dodgers	W 3-0	108-46
Sat, 6/11	Dodgers	W 10-1	43-13	Mon, 9/26	at Dodgers	W 3-0	109-46
Sun, 6/12	Dodgers	W 10-1	44-13	Tue, 9/27	at Dodgers	W 3-0	110-46
Mon, 6/13	Dodgers	W 10-1	45-13	Wed, 9/28	at Dodgers	W 3-0	111-46
Tue, 6/14	Dodgers	W 10-1	46-13	Thu, 9/29	at Dodgers	W 3-0	112-46
Wed, 6/15	Dodgers	W 10-1	47-13	Fri, 9/30	at Dodgers	W 3-0	113-46
Thu, 6/16	Dodgers	W 10-1	48-13	Sat, 10/1	at Dodgers	W 3-0	114-46
Fri, 6/17	Dodgers	W 10-1	49-13	Sun, 10/2	at Dodgers	W 3-0	115-46
Sat, 6/18	Dodgers	W 10-1	50-13	Mon, 10/3	at Dodgers	W 3-0	116-46
Sun, 6/19	Dodgers	W 10-1	51-13	Tue, 10/4	at Dodgers	W 3-0	117-46
Mon, 6/20	Dodgers	W 10-1	52-13	Wed, 10/5	at Dodgers	W 3-0	118-46
Tue, 6/21	Dodgers	W 10-1	53-13	Thu, 10/6	at Dodgers	W 3-0	119-46
Wed, 6/22	Dodgers	W 10-1	54-13	Fri, 10/7	at Dodgers	W 3-0	120-46
Thu, 6/23	Dodgers	W 10-1	55-13	Sat, 10/8	at Dodgers	W 3-0	121-46
Fri, 6/24	Dodgers	W 10-1	56-13	Sun, 10/9	at Dodgers	W 3-0	122-46
Sat, 6/25	Dodgers	W 10-1	57-13	Mon, 10/10	at Dodgers	W 3-0	123-46
Sun, 6/26	Dodgers	W 10-1	58-13	Tue, 10/11	at Dodgers	W 3-0	124-46
Mon, 6/27	Dodgers	W 10-1	59-13	Wed, 10/12	at Dodgers	W 3-0	125-46
Tue, 6/28	Dodgers	W 10-1	60-13	Thu, 10/13	at Dodgers	W 3-0	126-46
Wed, 6/29	Dodgers	W 10-1	61-13	Fri, 10/14	at Dodgers	W 3-0	127-46
Thu, 6/30	Dodgers	W 10-1	62-13	Sat, 10/15	at Dodgers	W 3-0	128-46
Fri, 7/1	Dodgers	W 10-1	63-13	Sun, 10/16	at Dodgers	W 3-0	129-46
Sat, 7/2	Dodgers	W 10-1	64-13	Mon, 10/17	at Dodgers	W 3-0	130-46
Sun, 7/3	Dodgers	W 10-1	65-13	Tue, 10/18	at Dodgers	W 3-0	131-46
Mon, 7/4	Dodgers	W 10-1	66-13	Wed, 10/19	at Dodgers	W 3-0	132-46
Tue, 7/5	Dodgers	W 10-1	67-13	Thu, 10/20	at Dodgers	W 3-0	133-46
Wed, 7/6	Dodgers	W 10-1	68-13	Fri, 10/21	at Dodgers	W 3-0	134-46
Thu, 7/7	Dodgers	W 10-1	69-13	Sat, 10/22	at Dodgers	W 3-0	135-46



They raised the “W” high above the city each night, that big white flag flying over Wrigleyville - what a glorious sight.



They won the Central Division, and all our hearts too, then on to the Playoffs to see what they could do.



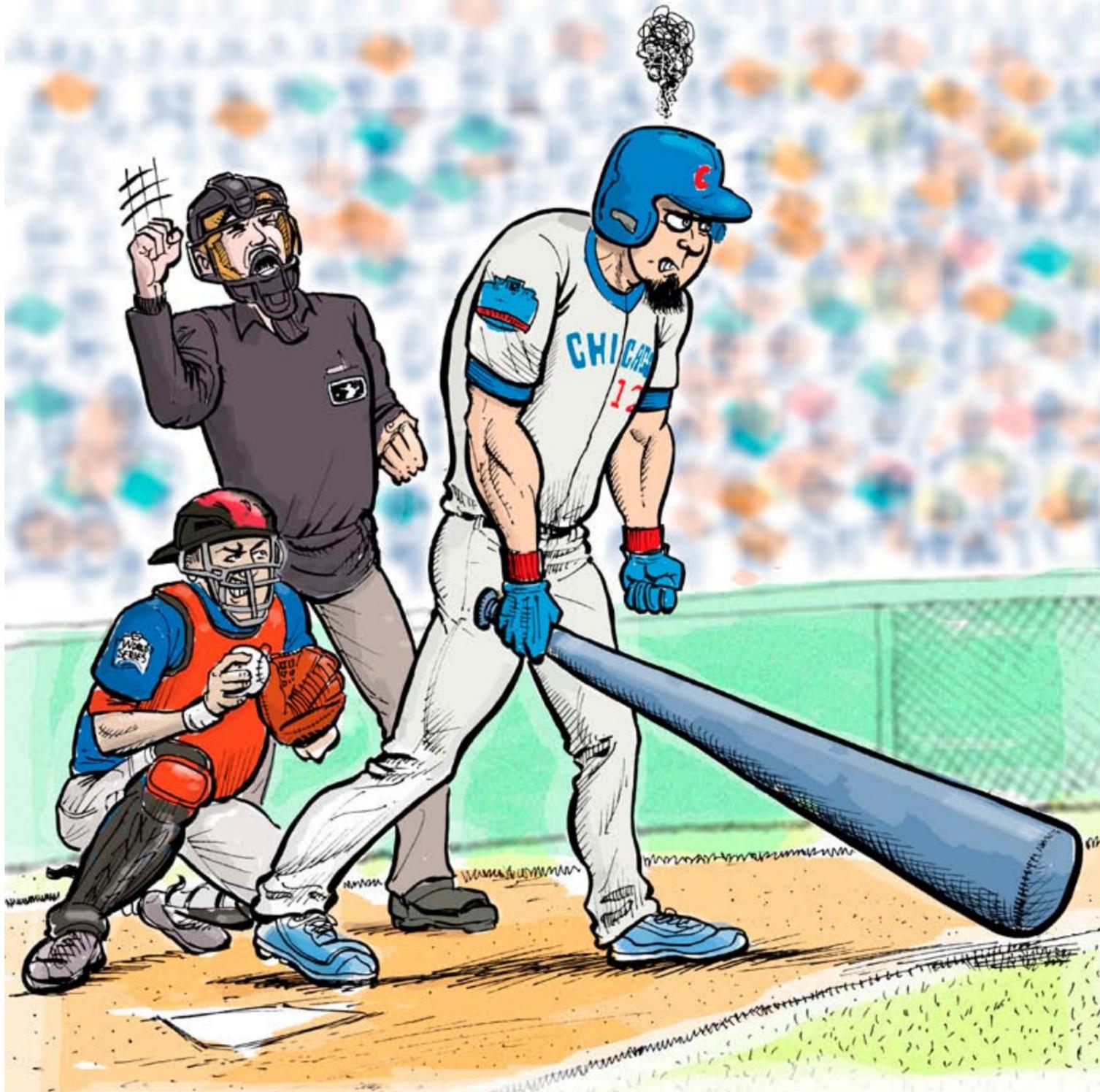
They took care of the Giants from San Francisco Bay



then handled the Dodgers who hail from LA.

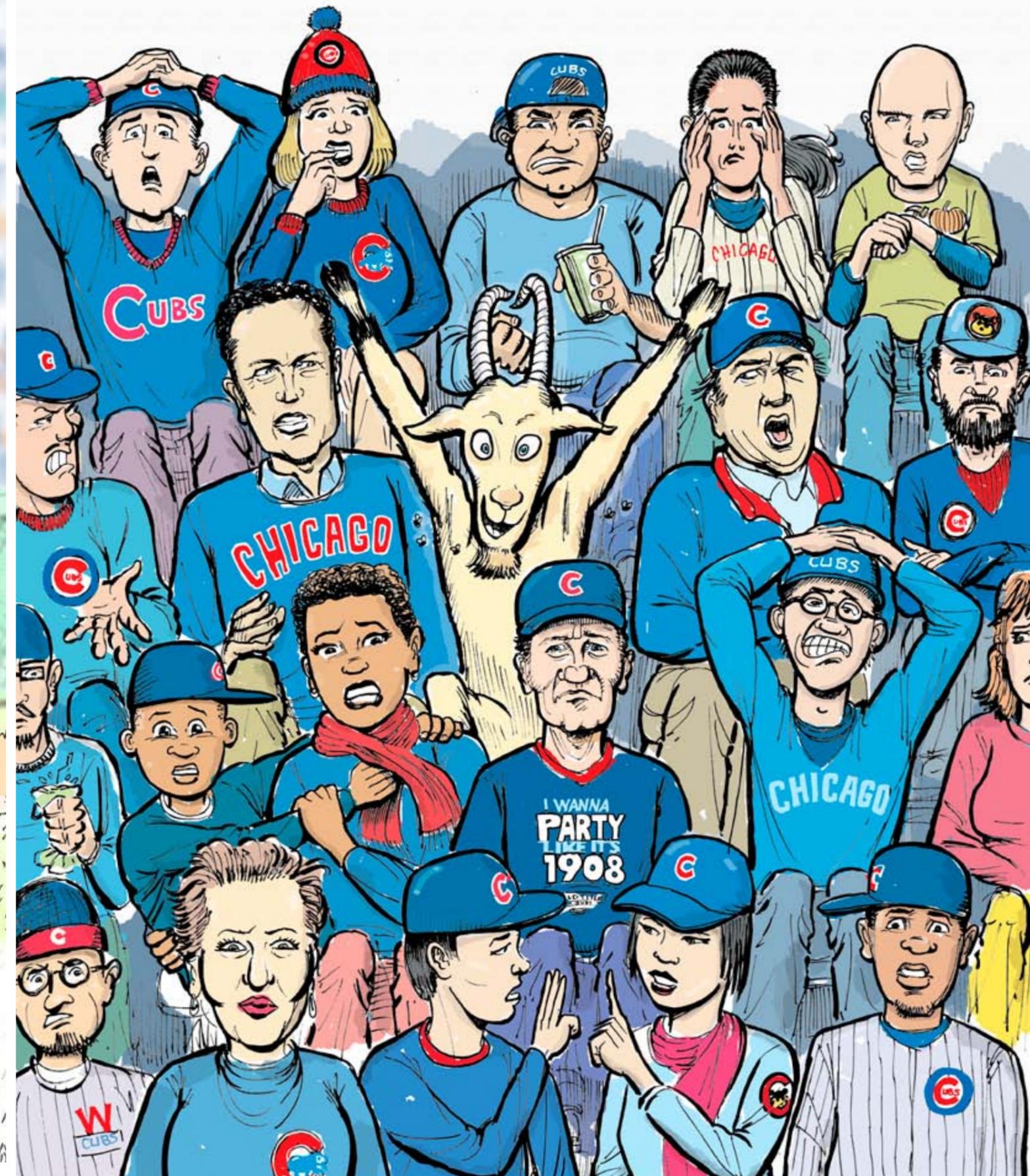


On to the World Series where Cleveland would wait, facing a drought of their own, the matchup seemed to be fate.

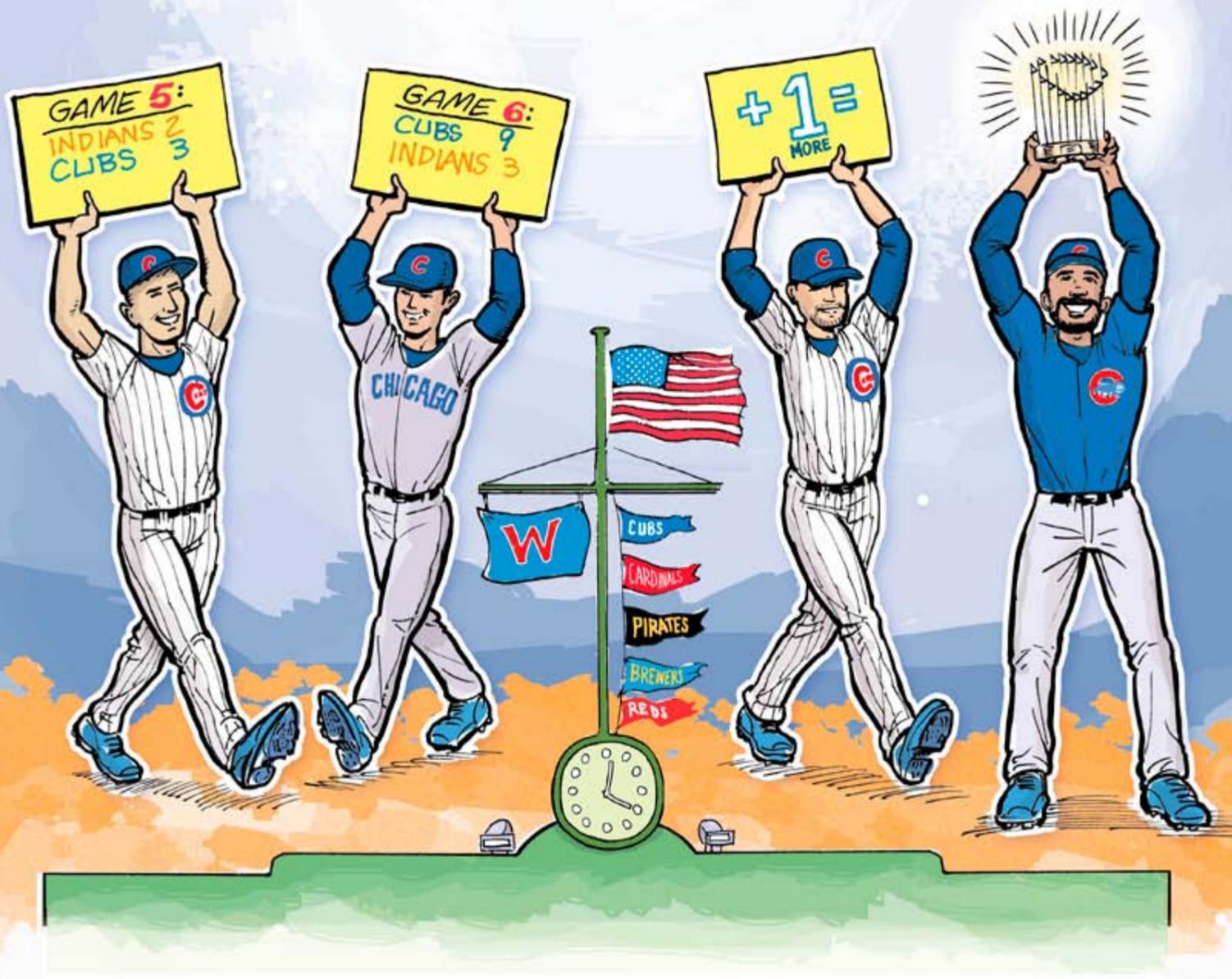


The big hitter, Schwarber, worked hard to make it back from the DL, but even with his boost, things didn't start well.

After four games they trailed and fans all started to worry, down three games to one, the "Curse of the Billy Goat" was back in a hurry.



...but this was a new century's team, not the Cubs of old.
Two big wins and they were one win away from the gold.



Game Seven in Cleveland was one of the best of all time,
there was even a rain delay, fans were losing their minds!



Heyward rounded up his mates and told them to believe.
He said, "This is our team, our city, our dream!"

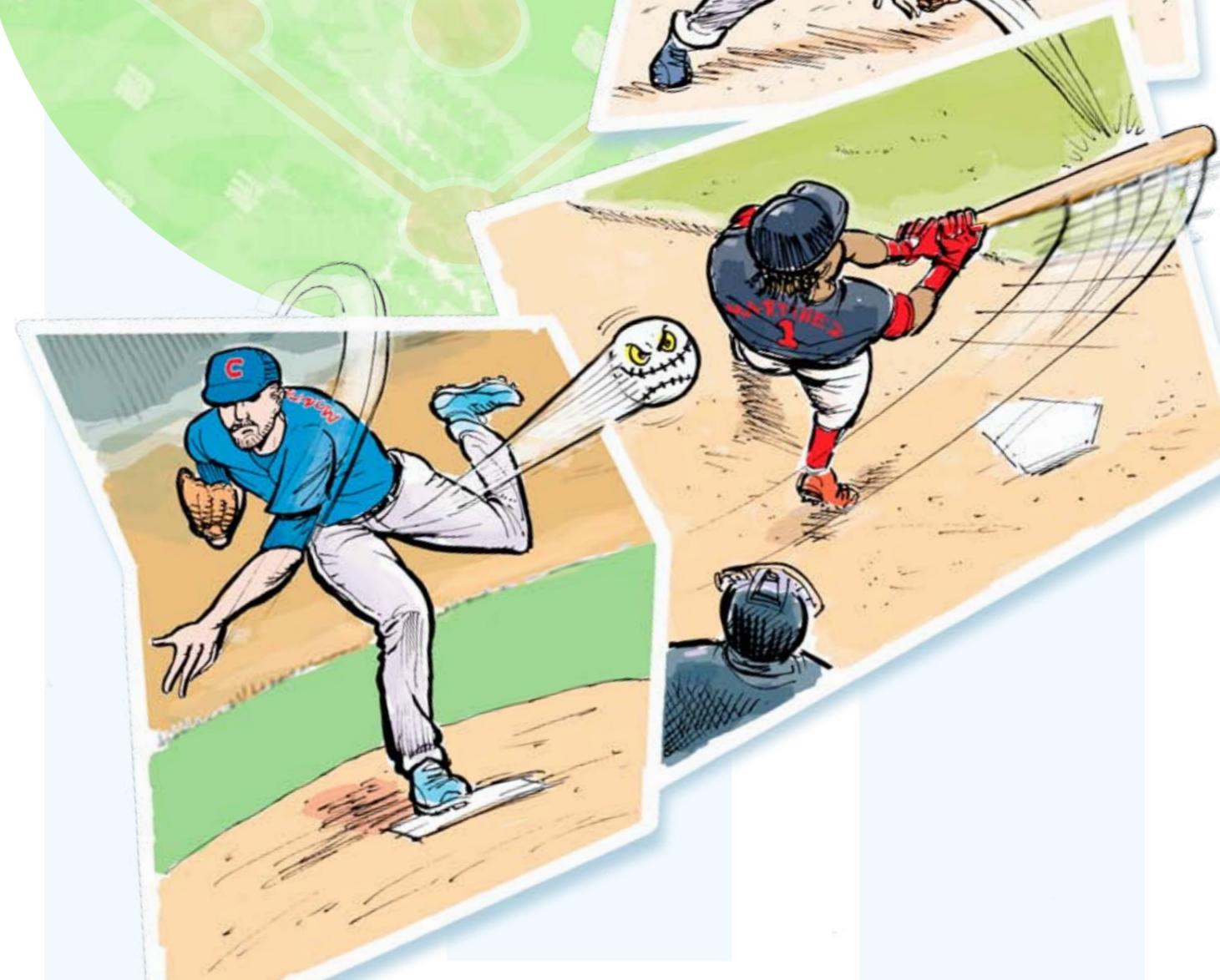
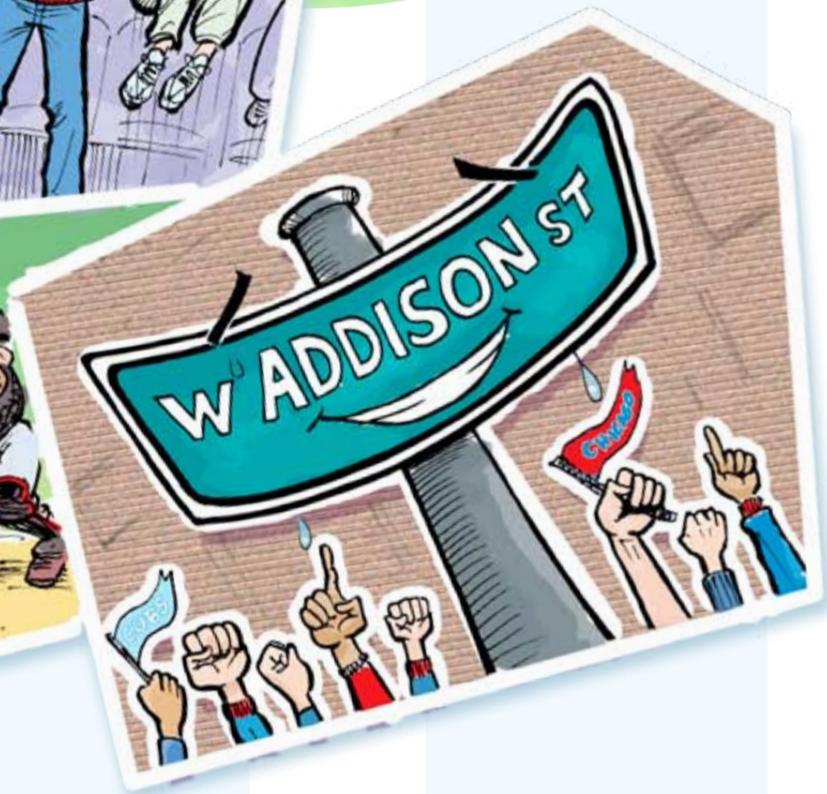
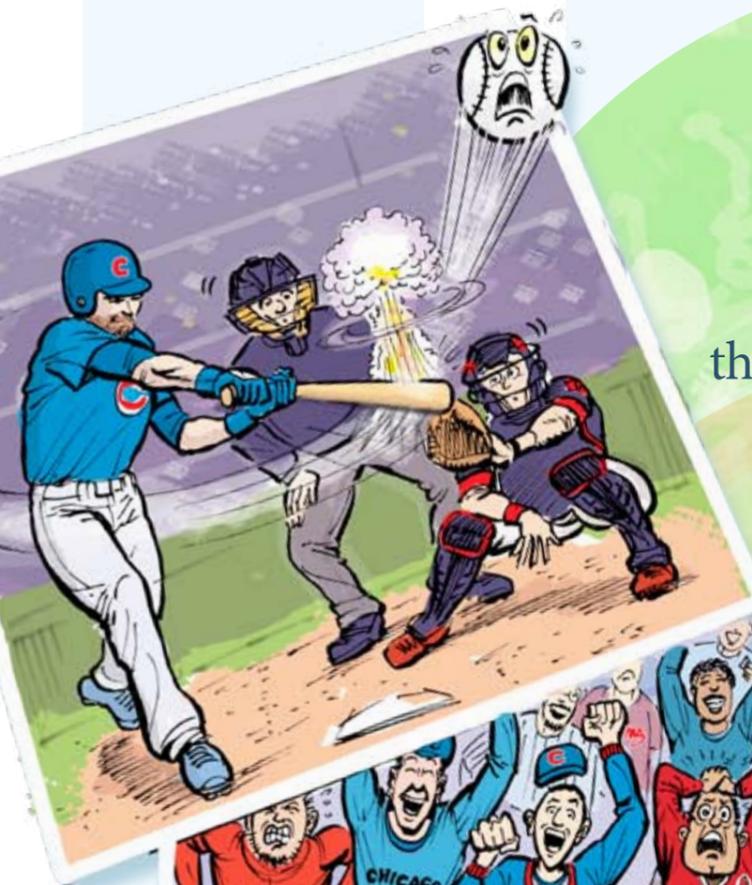


The game went into extra innings as Zobrist stepped to the plate,
a hit here and the pain would be over - no longer would Chicago wait.



A crack of the bat
brought the fans to their feet;
the go-ahead run crossed the plate,
bringing joy to
West Addison Street.

The bottom of the inning finally
went the Cubs' way,
a third "OUT!" with a smile would
be the World Series final play.





The curse was broken! The “Lovable Losers” ceased to be, the Chicago Cubs had won the World Series, four games to three!



108 years was such a long wait,
but it was all worth it, oh man, was this great!

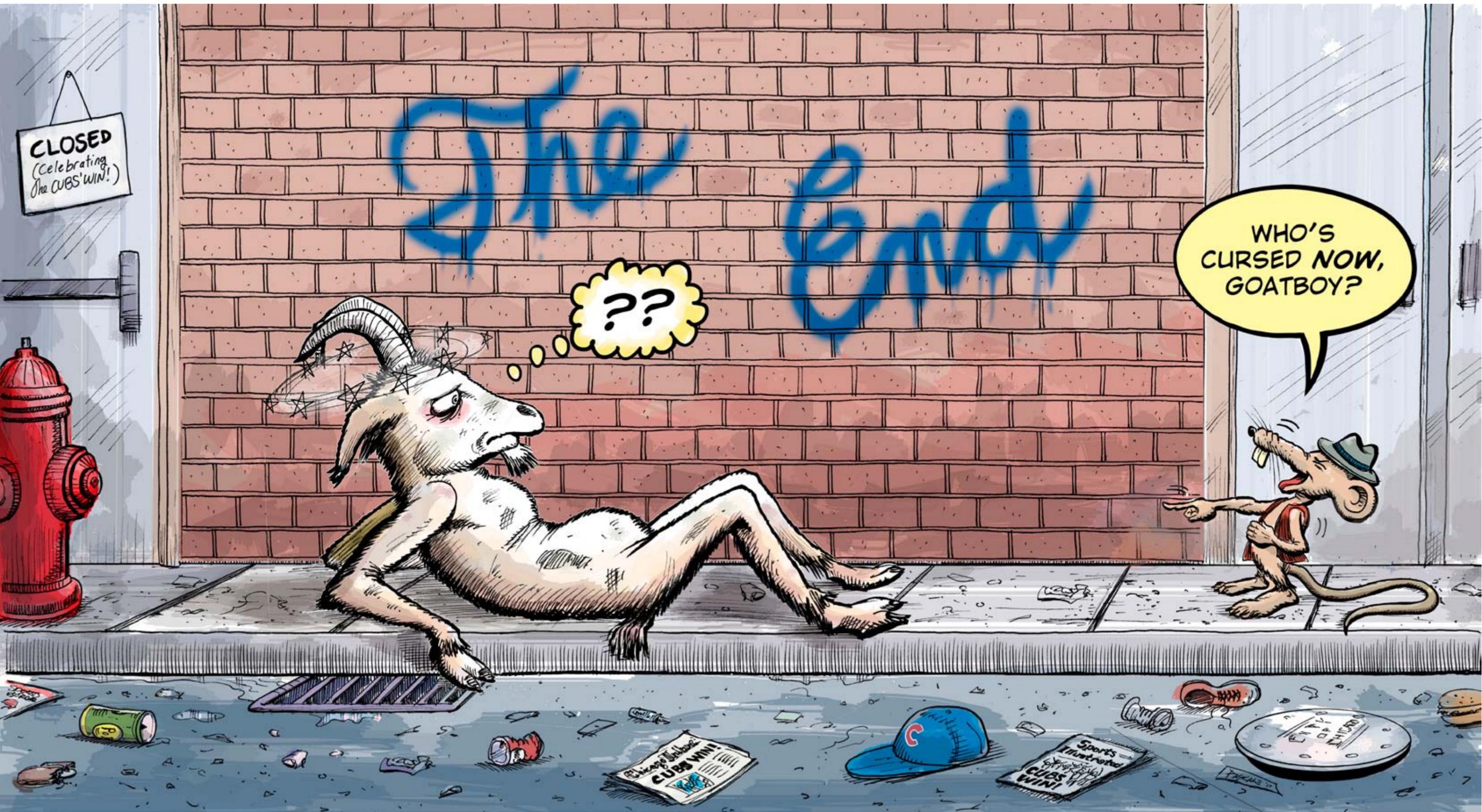


That smelly billy goat would curse them no more,
thanks to a 10th inning win, eight to seven the score!



It was finally over, a feeling that they couldn't believe,
the Cubs were World Champions, the year - 2016!





CLOSED
(Celebrating
the CUBS' WIN!)

Steak End

??

WHO'S
CURSED NOW,
GOATBOY?

Chicago Tribune
CUBS WIN!

Sports Illustrated
CUBS WIN!

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Through our books, we hope to inspire a lifelong love of reading by touching the hearts of children and adults alike.

From the Author

Growing up, I was all about sports - football, soccer, baseball, you name it. If it wasn't sports related, I wasn't interested. My love for sports is a passion that has shaped my entire life. I am fortunate to play soccer for a living, but it's bigger than that. My most cherished childhood memories are centered around watching a big game; my relationship with my wife sparked by a mutual love for Penn State football, and my passion for Tampa Bay sports keeps me close to home, even though we've moved all over the country. I owe so much of my life to sports.



The idea to tell these stories came about after the birth of my daughter, Remy. I wanted to create a vehicle that I could share my love of sports with her, in a way that would hopefully build a bond we'd share forever. Reading together provides a way for parents and their children to share in special moments, but I want these stories to do even more. I want to reach the kids like me, the ones more likely to grab a ball than a book. It is so important for a growing mind to fall in love with reading and I hope these stories can bridge a love for sports with a newfound passion for reading.

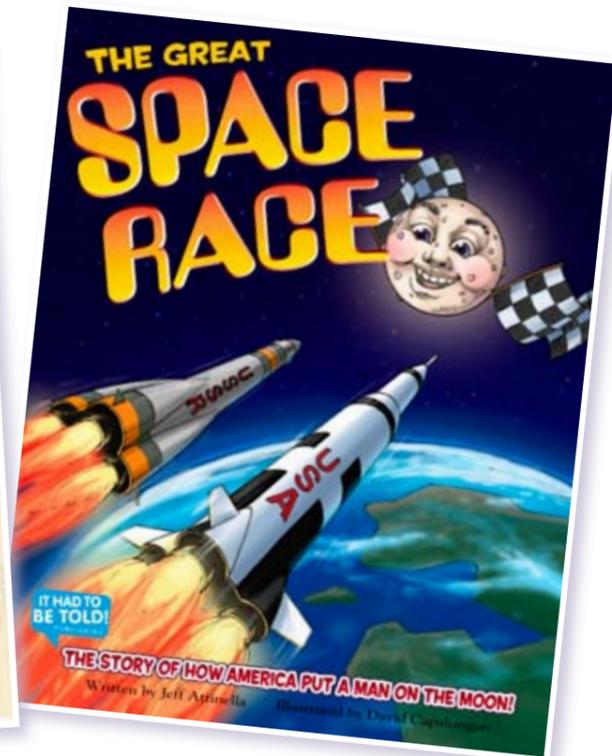
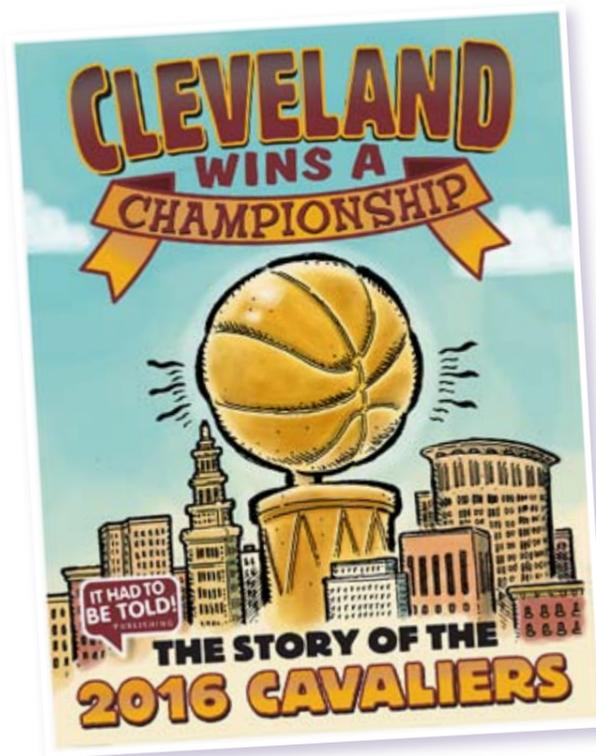
— Jeffrey Attinella



About the Illustrator

Mike Pascale (mikepascale.com) is a storyboardist, artist, writer, comic book creator (Bru-Hed), and former award-winning ad agency copywriter/senior art director. Between storyboarding films and drawing this children's book, he writes and draws the world's longest-running football webcomic, "Game BUZZ!," every week at gamebuzzcomic.com. A Californian born and raised in metro Detroit, he had a lot to learn about the Cubs, and found all of it fascinating, frustrating, fun, funny, interesting and incredible. He only hopes he was able to entertain Cubs fans and do justice to their team's titanic tale—and that we don't wait another century for their next well-deserved WS win! GO CUBBIES!

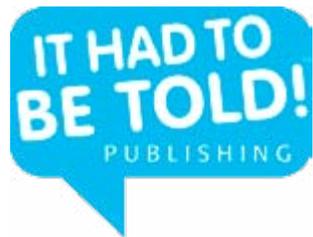
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