



# 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!*<sup>TM</sup>



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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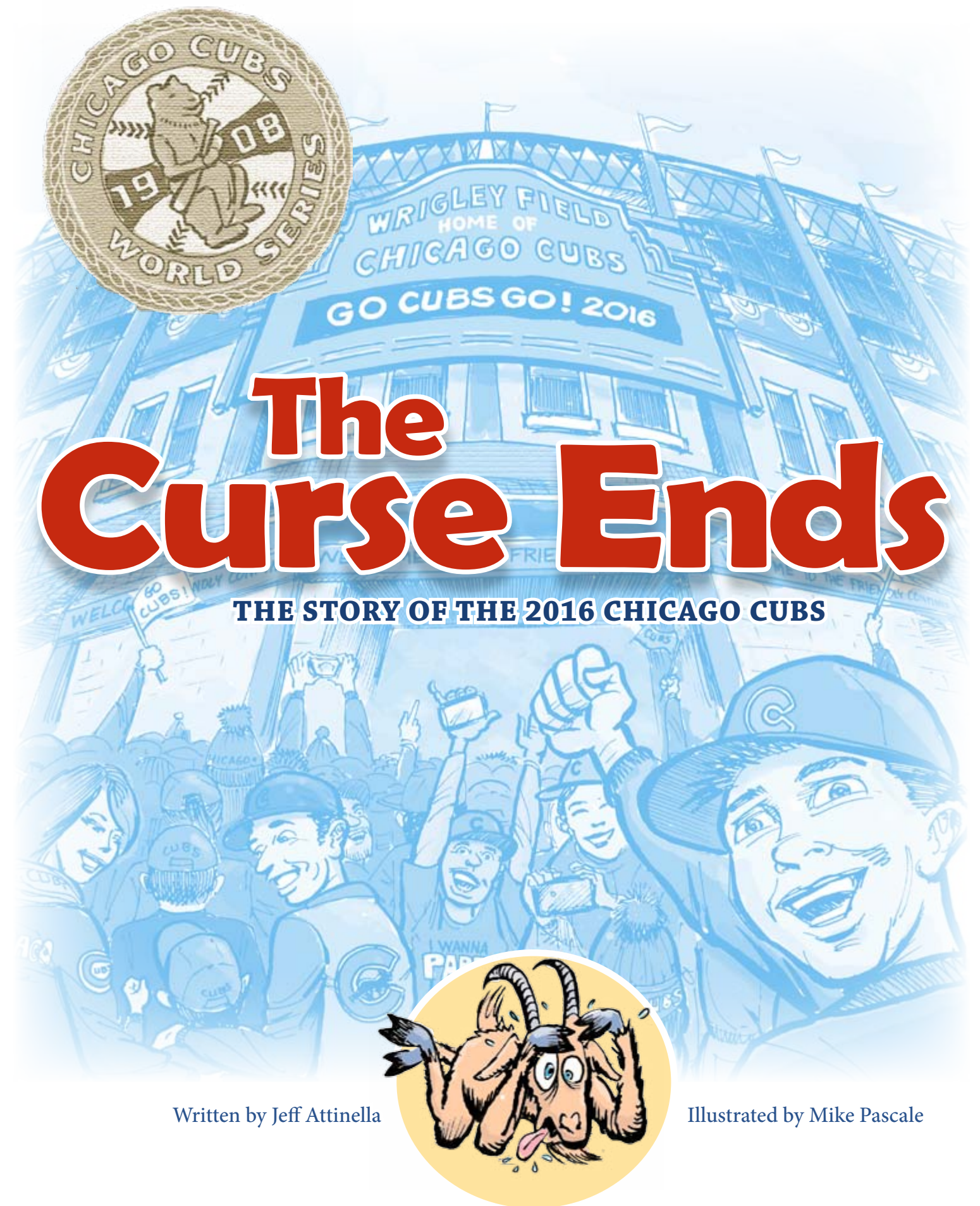
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ISBN 978-0-9989440-0-5

It Had To Be Told Publishing  
Tampa, Florida

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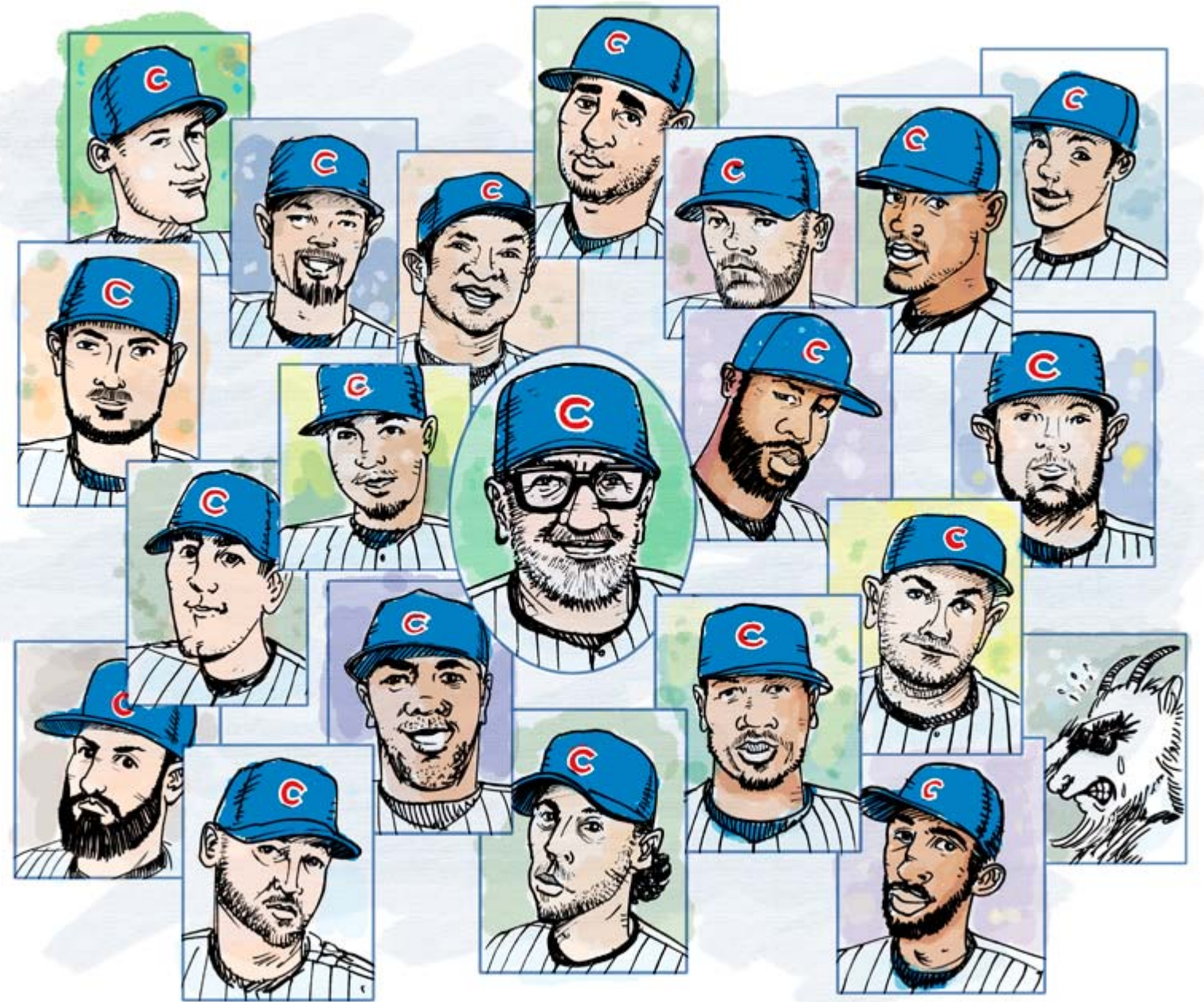
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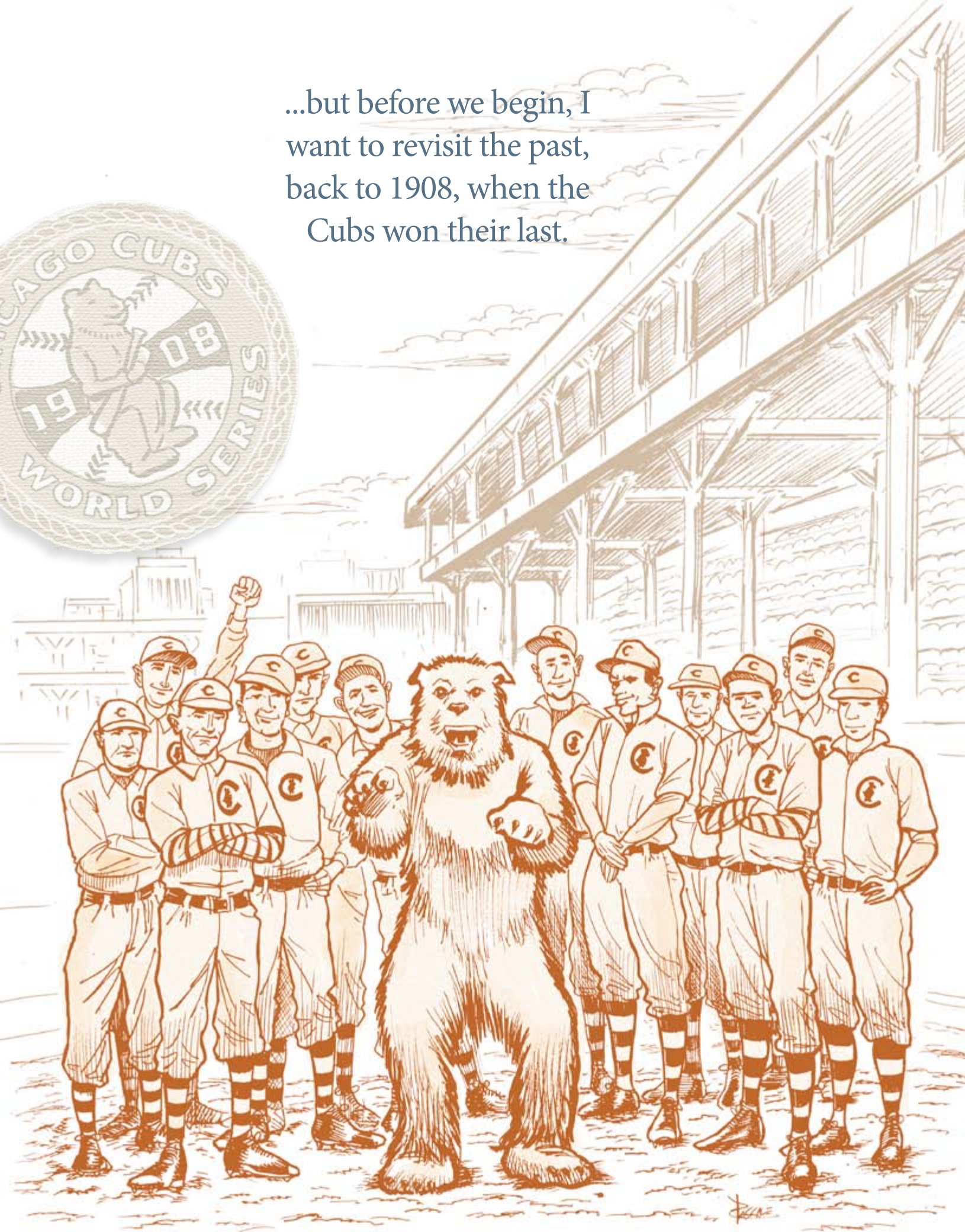
This book is dedicated to Steve Bartman, a fan who loved his team, the Chicago Cubs.



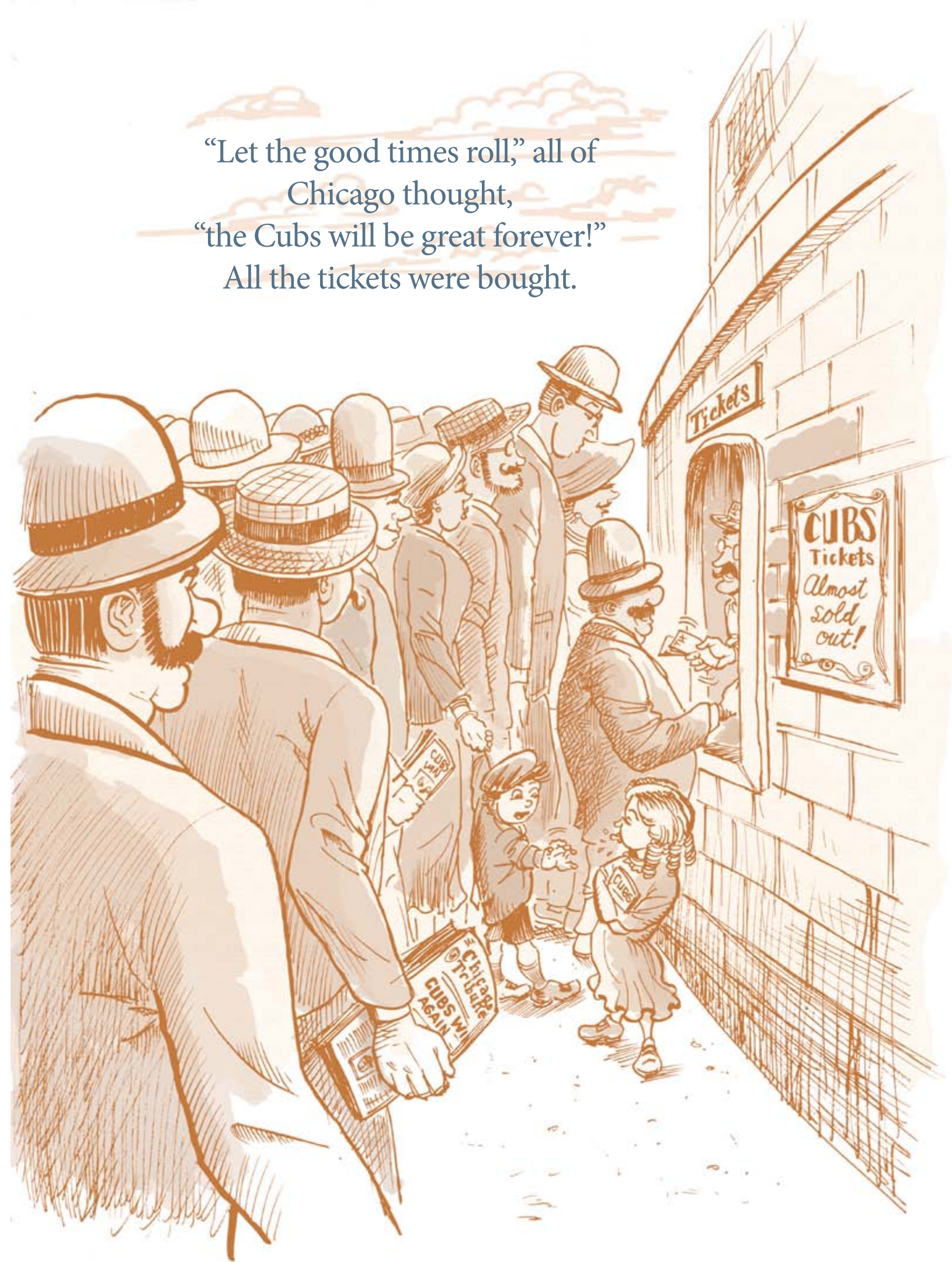
I want to tell you a story, one that I still can't believe.  
It's the story of the Chicago Cubs of 2016.



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

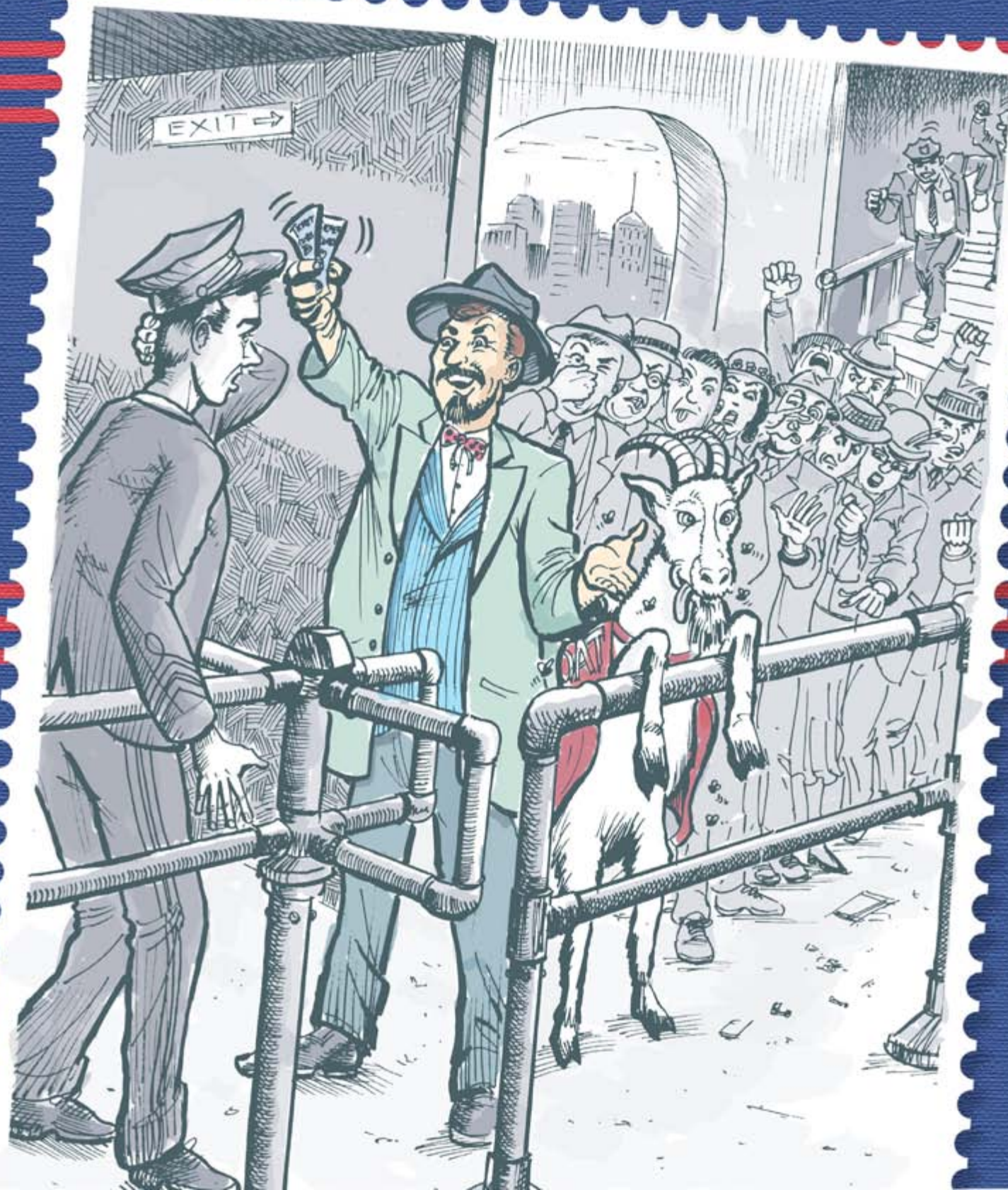


“Let the good times roll,” all of  
Chicago thought,  
“the Cubs will be great forever!”  
All the tickets were bought.





...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.

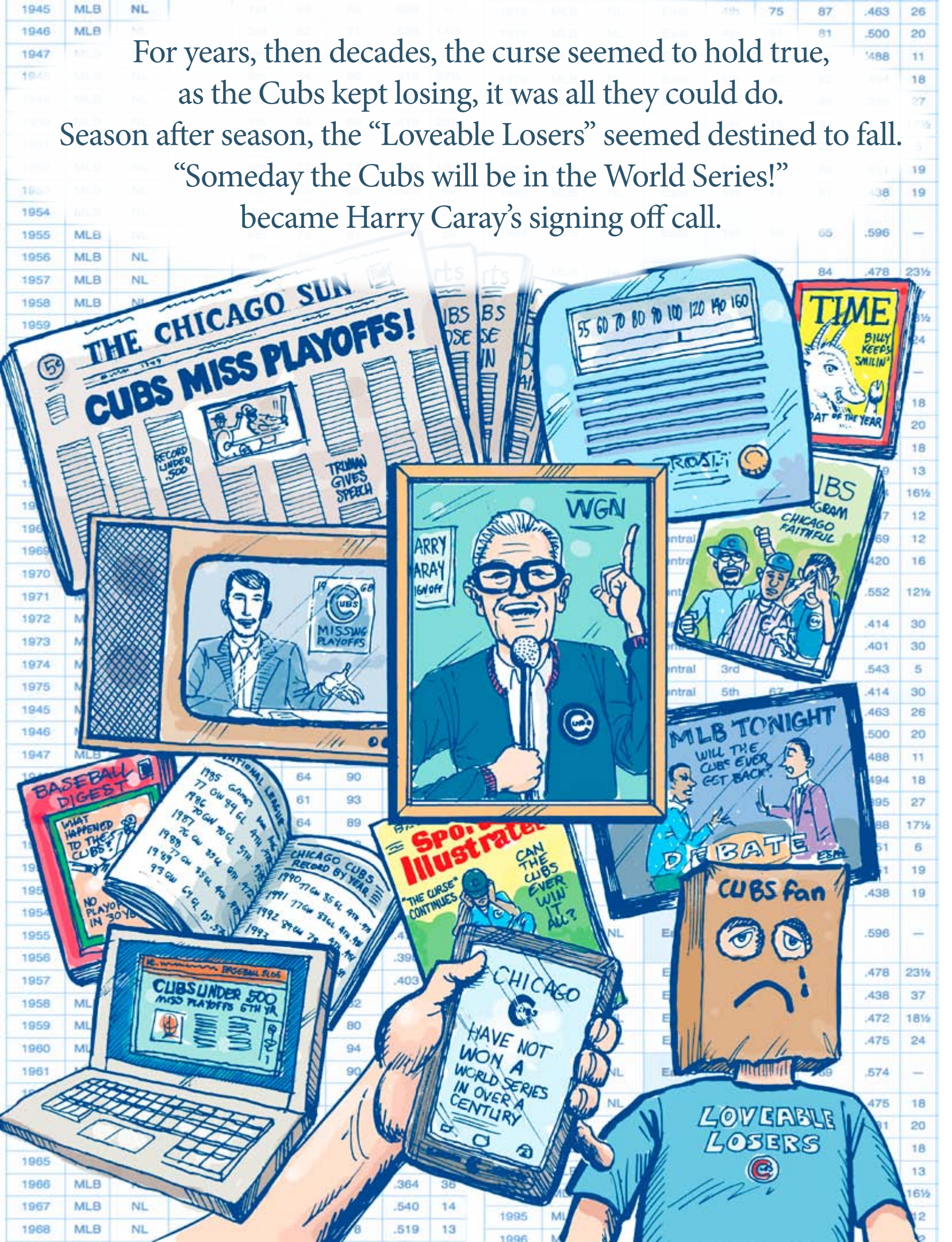




Chicago was leading that Series,  
two games to one,



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

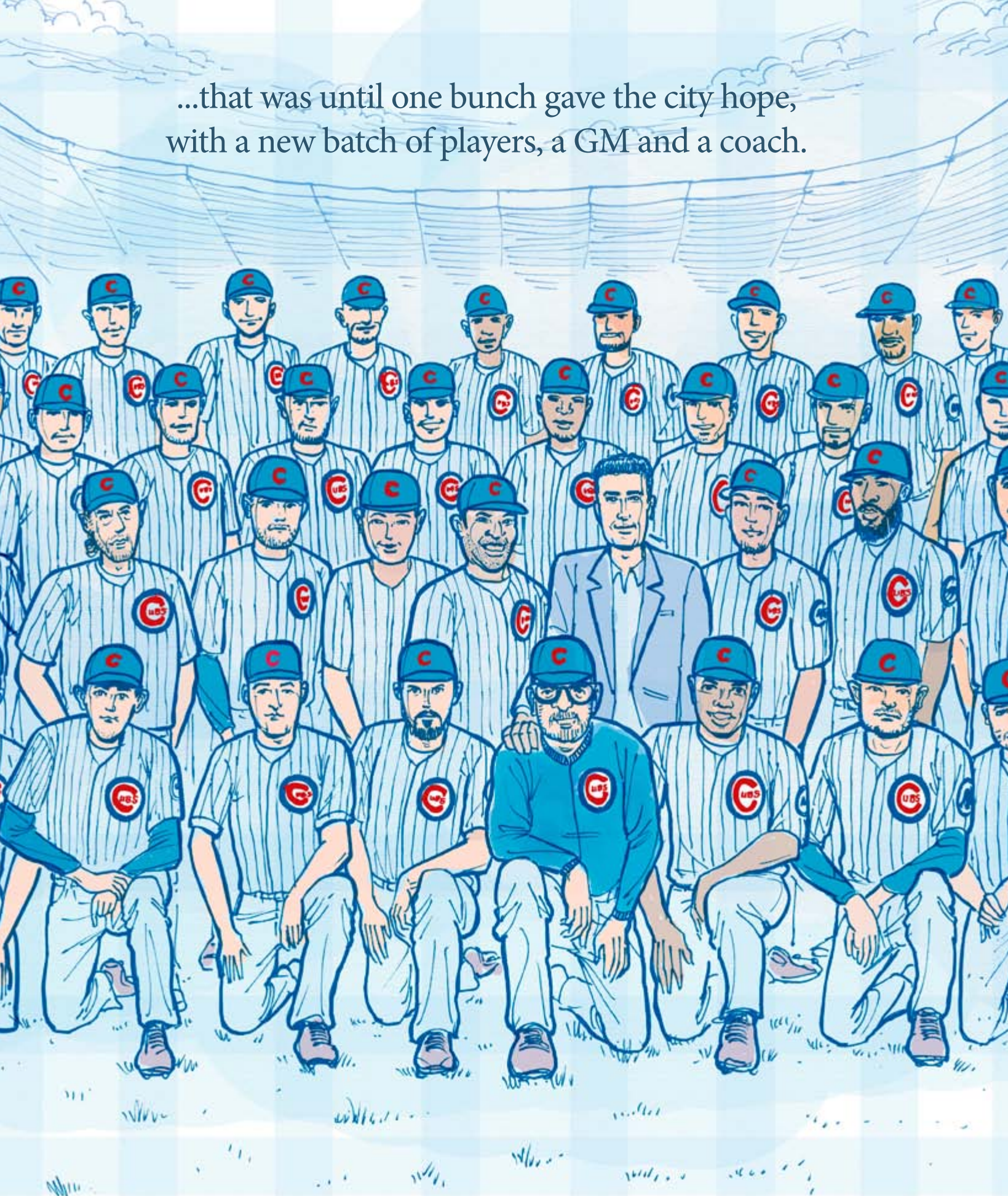


For years, then decades, the curse seemed to hold true,  
as the Cubs kept losing, it was all they could do.  
Season after season, the "Loveable Losers" seemed destined to fall.  
"Someday the Cubs will be in the World Series!"  
became Harry Caray's signing off call.

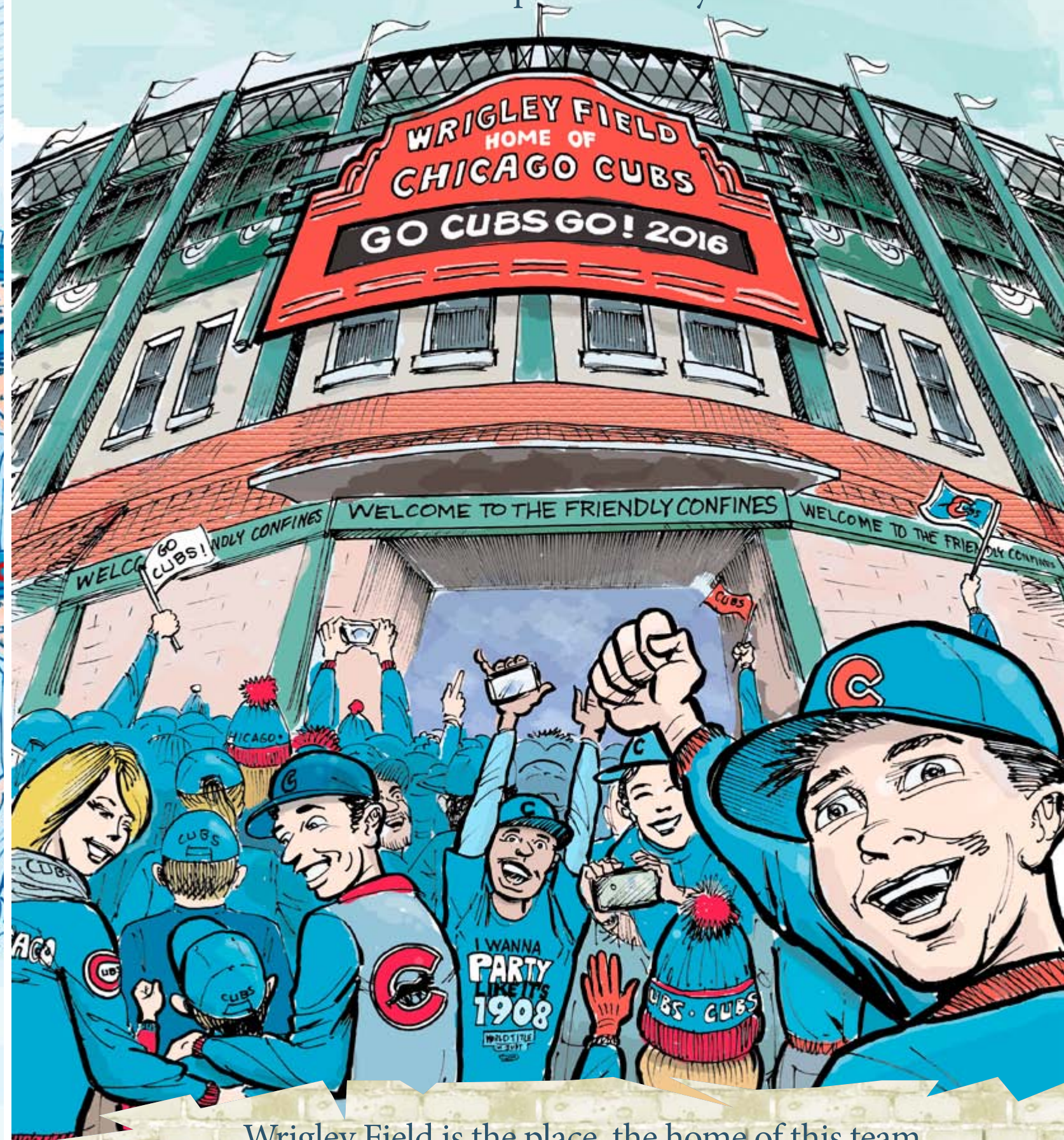




...that was until one bunch gave the city hope,  
with a new batch of players, a GM and a coach.



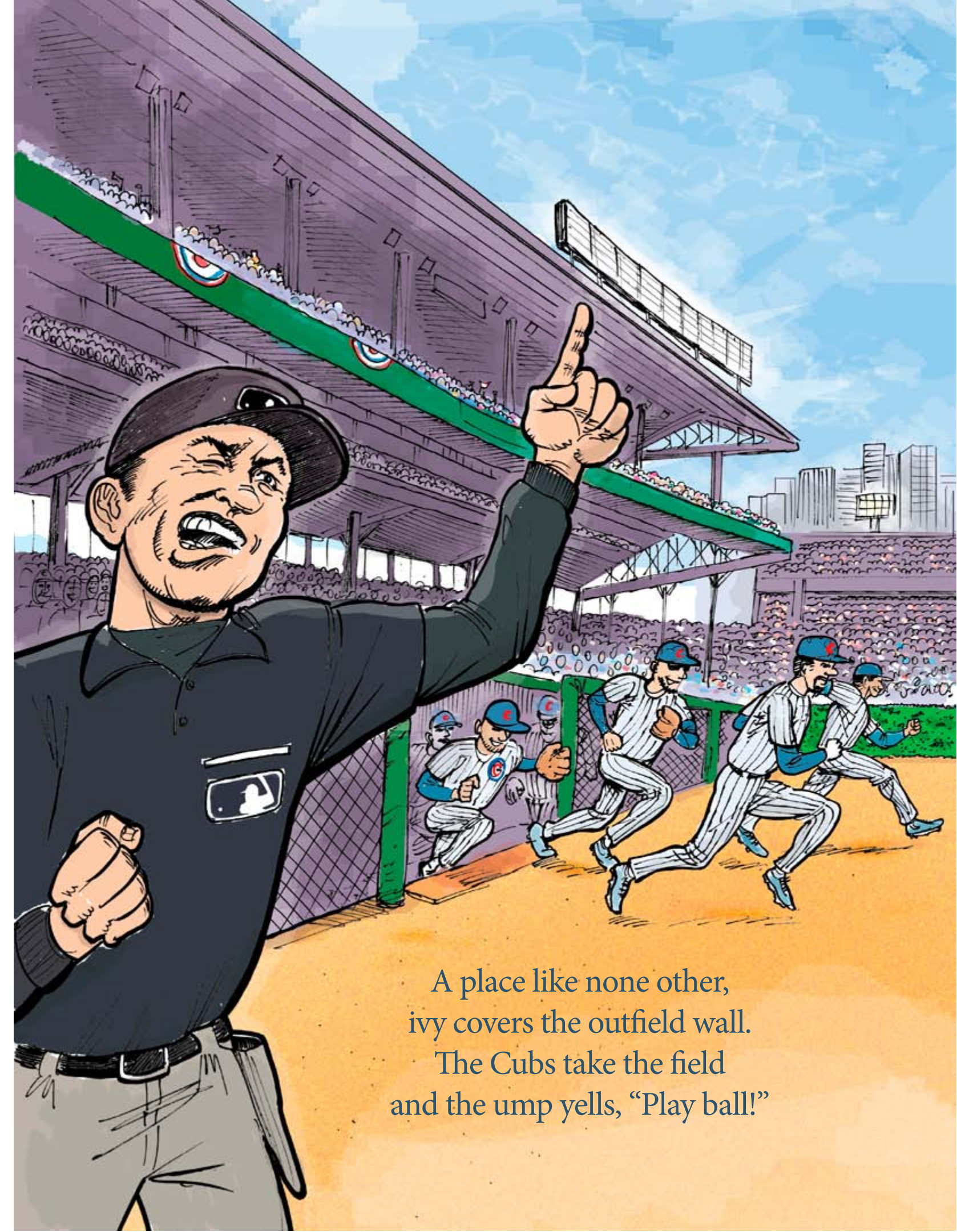
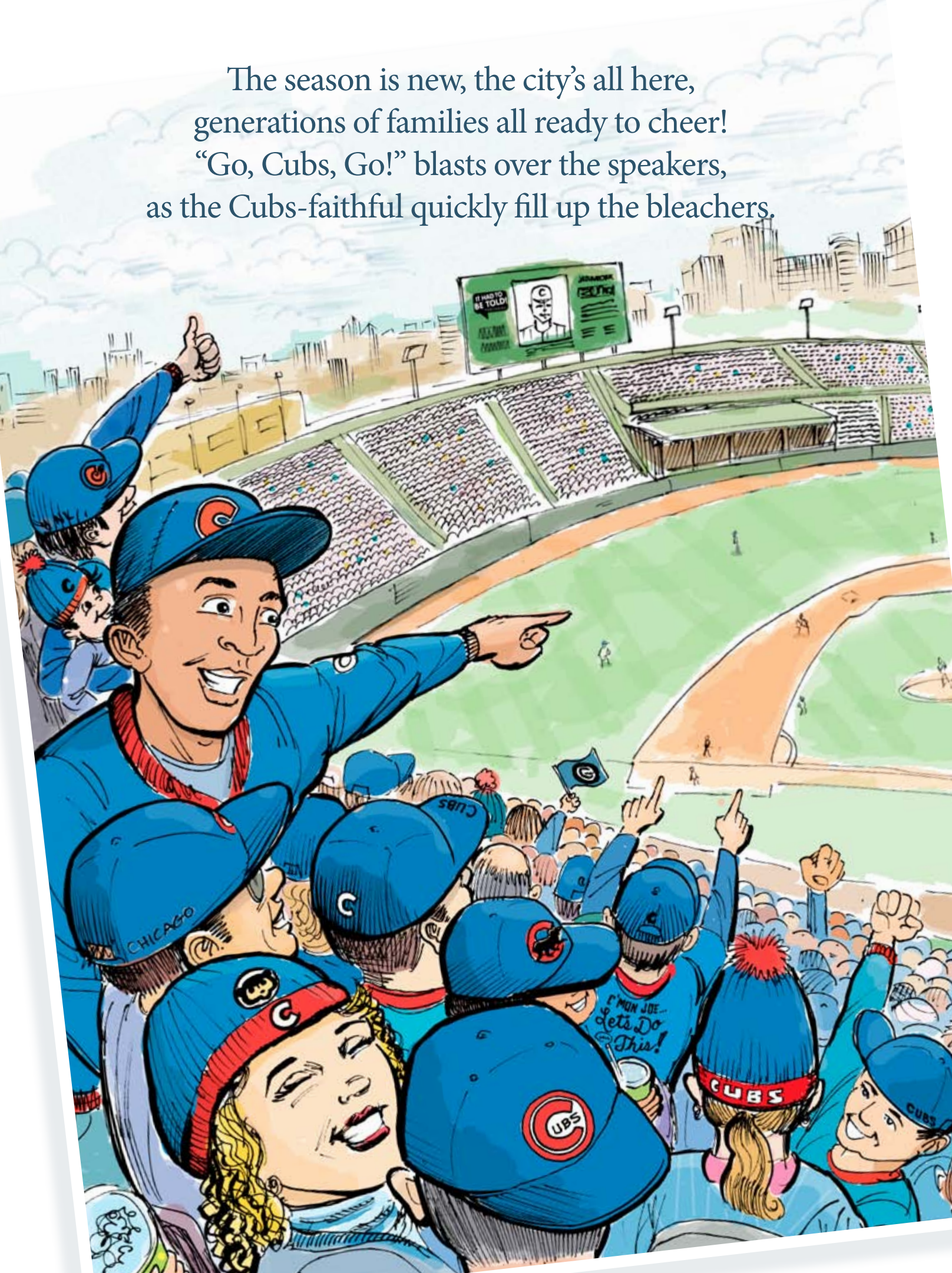
So the fans put on their jerseys, their hats and their gloves,  
and headed down to the ball park that they all know and love.



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

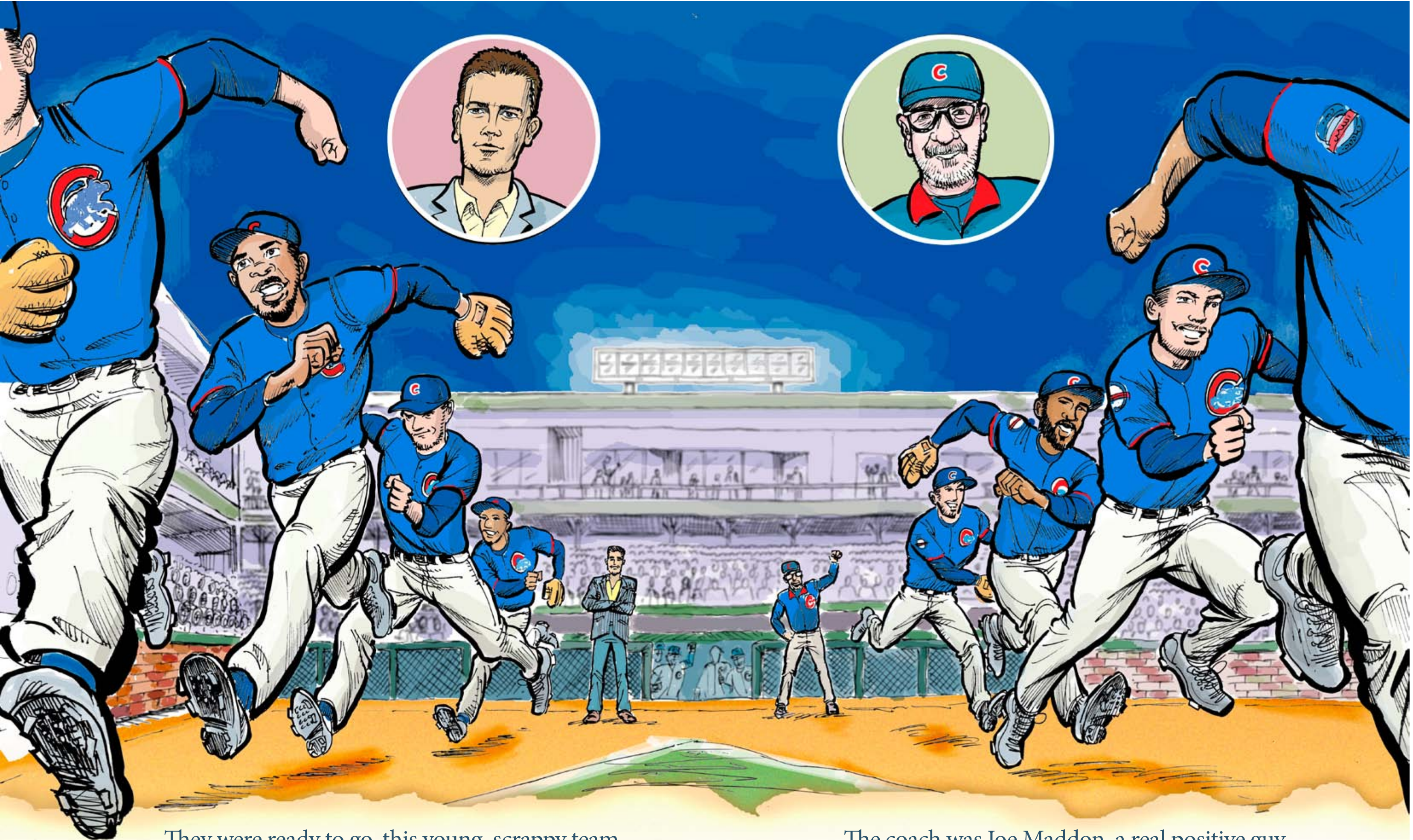


The season is new, the city's all here,  
generations of families all ready to cheer!  
“Go, Cubs, Go!” blasts over the speakers,  
as the Cubs-faithful quickly fill up the bleachers.



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



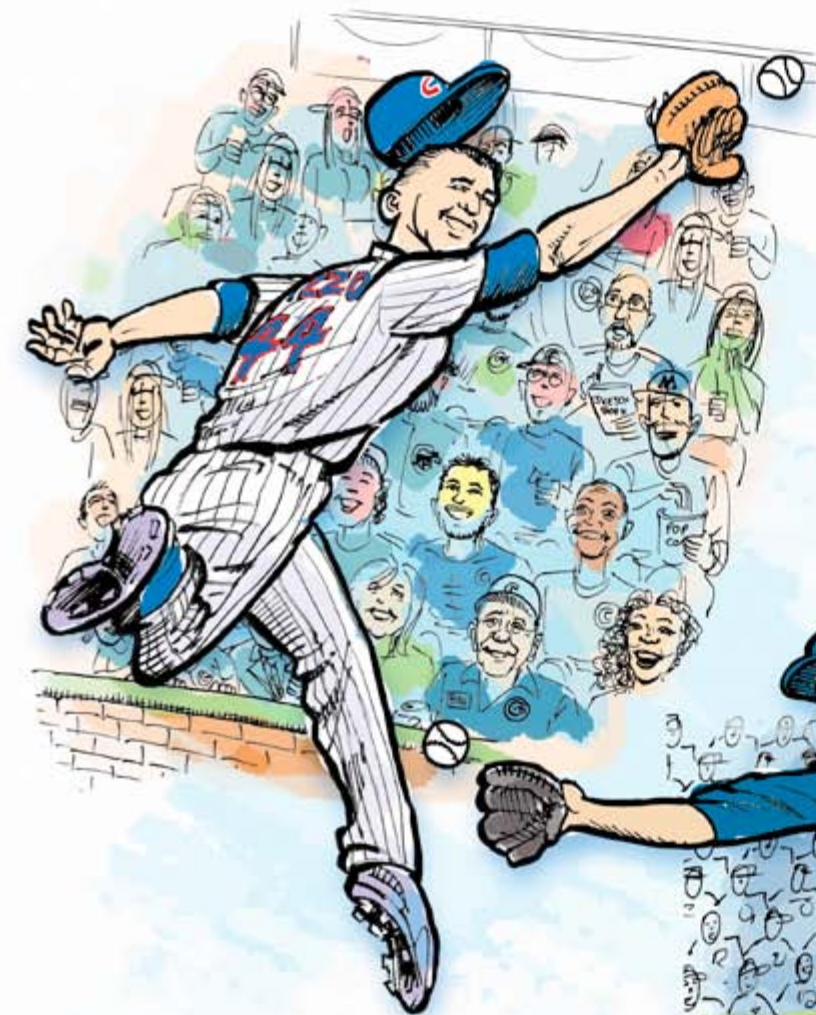
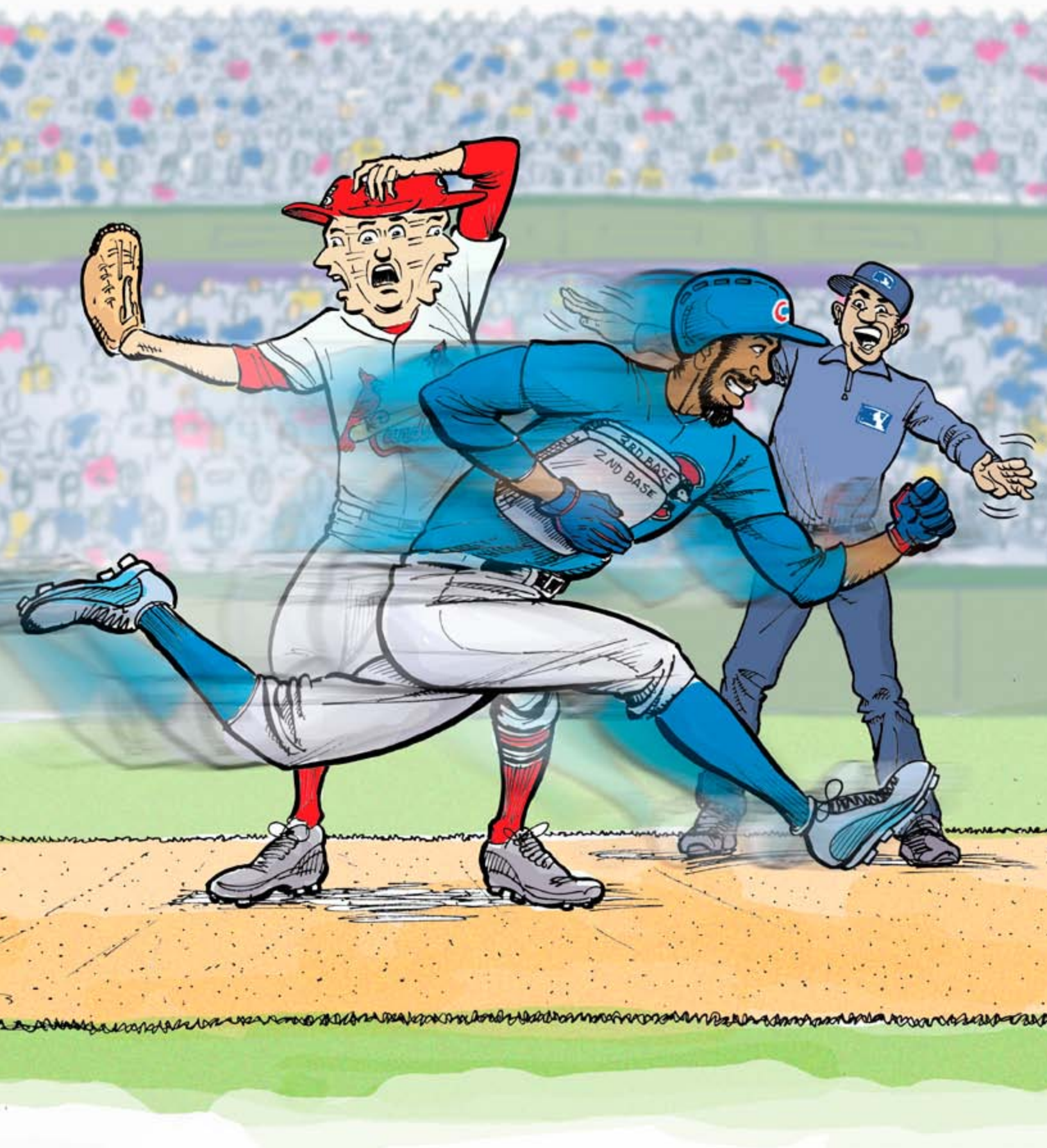


They were ready to go, this young, scrappy team, thanks to a master plan by GM Theo Epstein.

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



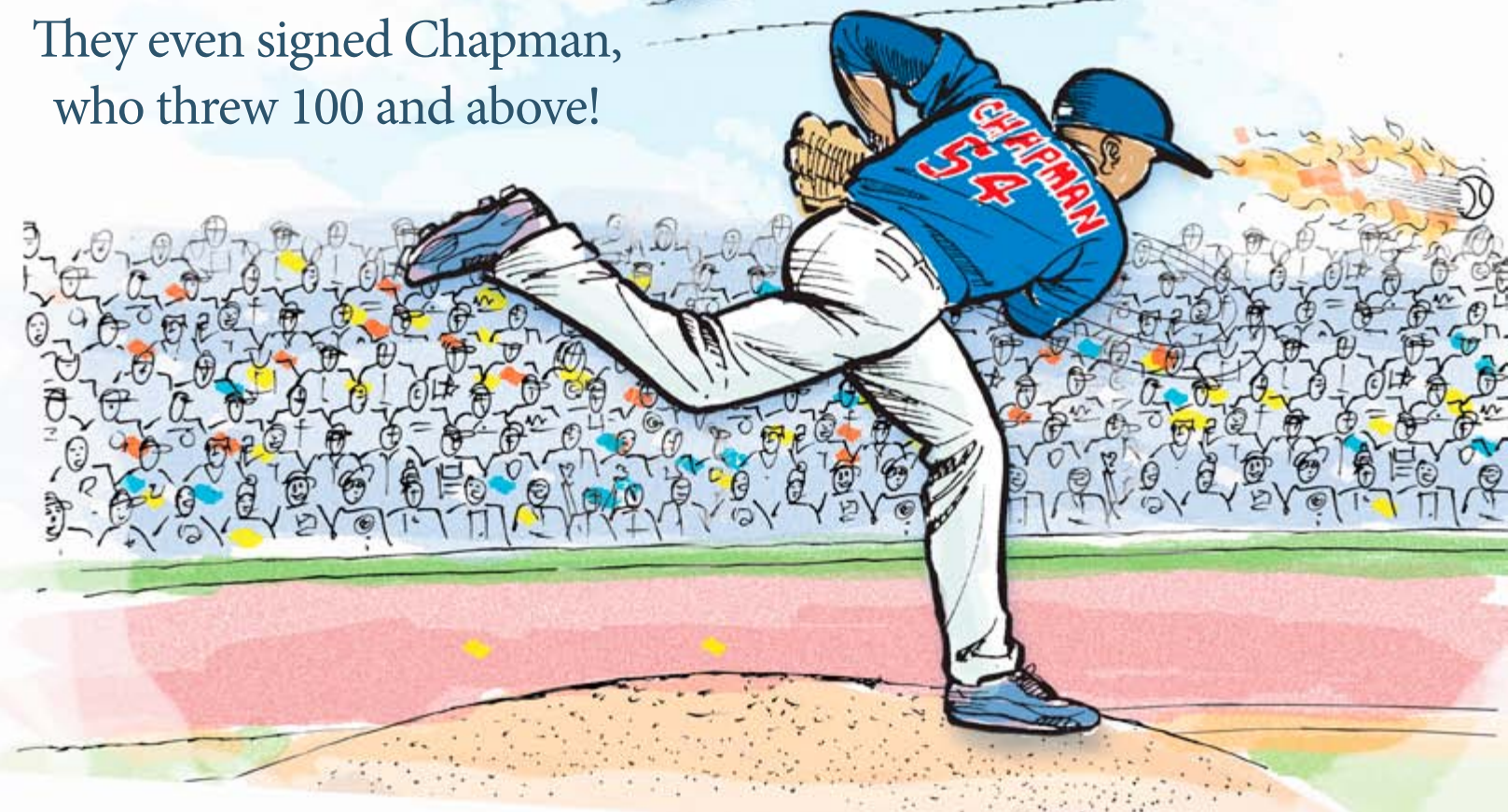
Fowler lead the way, he was as fast as they come,  
he would steal every base, man could he run!



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



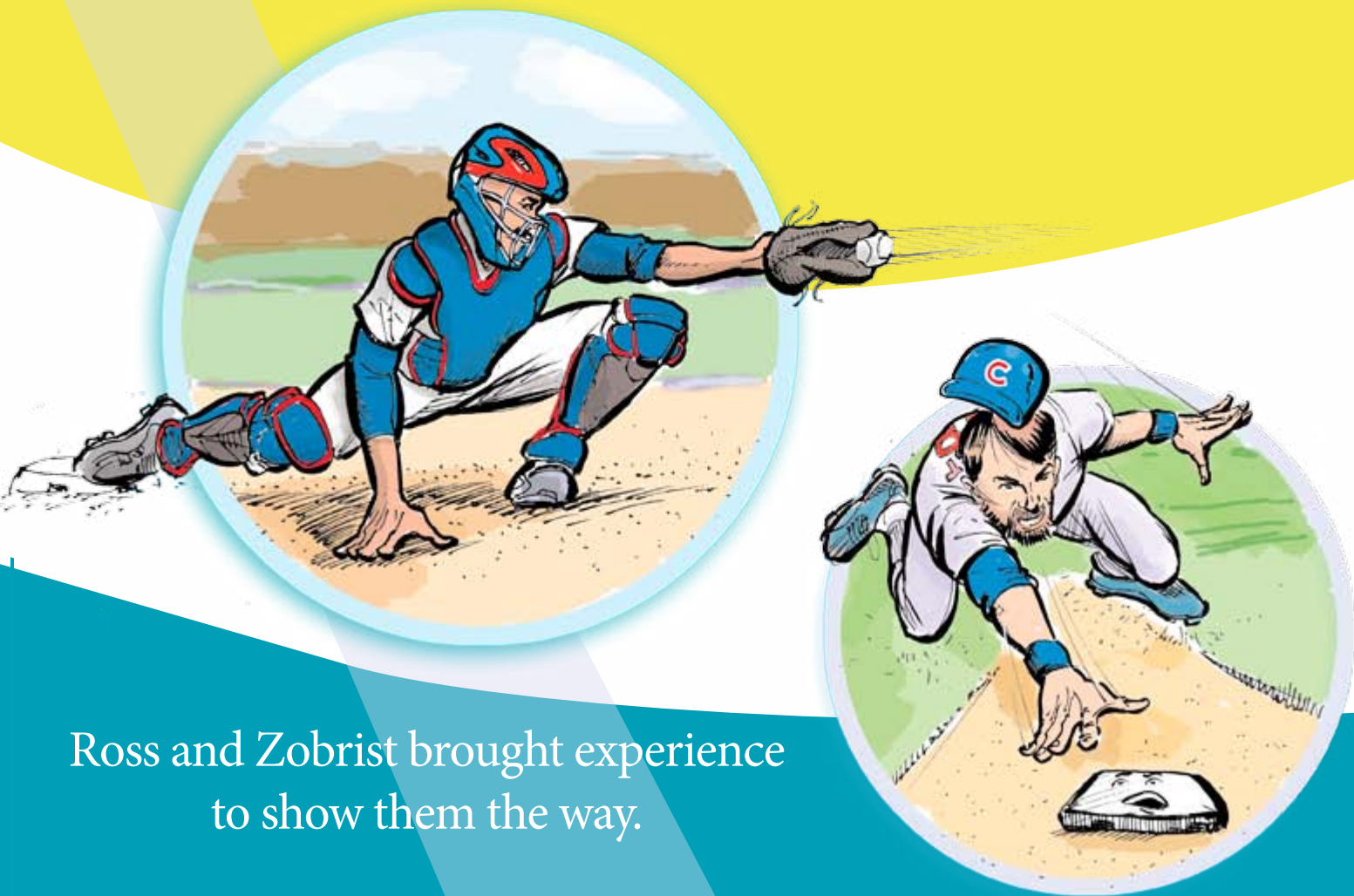
They even signed Chapman,  
who threw 100 and above!







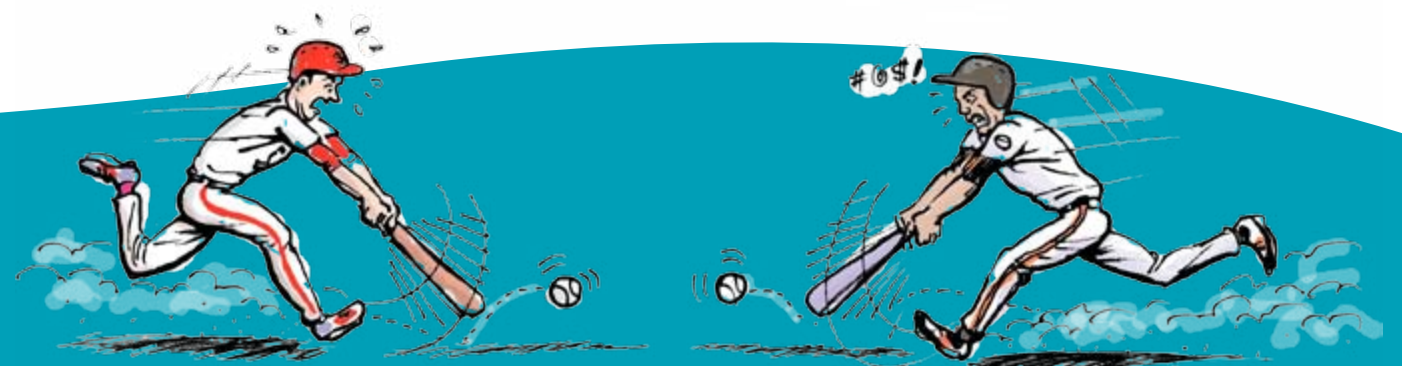
Baez and Russell were young, but wow, could they play!



Ross and Zobrist brought experience to show them the way.



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

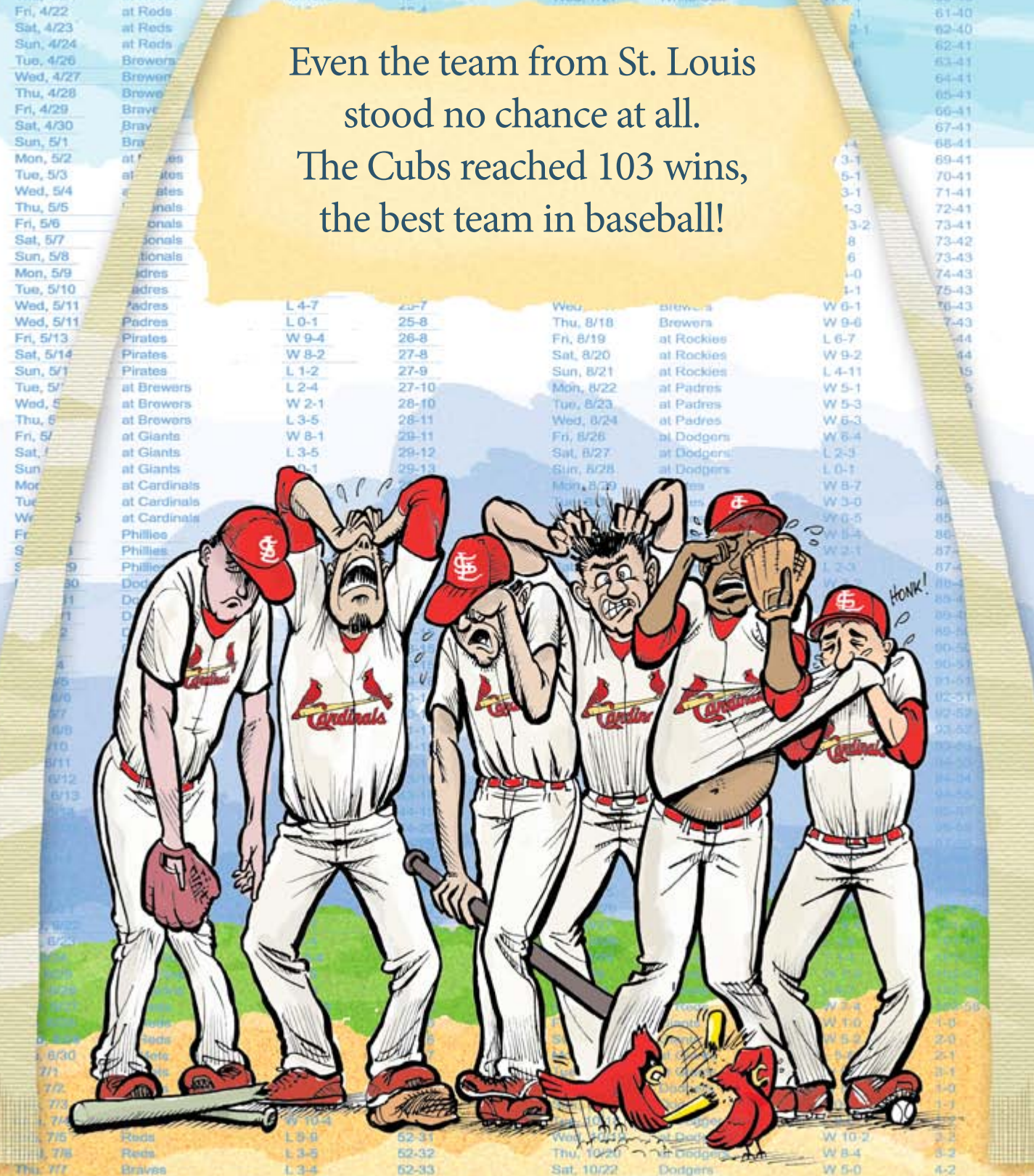




Date	Opponent	Result	Record	Date	Opponent	Result	Record
Mon, 4/4	at Angels	W 9-0	1-0	Thu, 7/7	Brewers	L 3-4	52-33
Tue, 4/5	at Angels	W 6-1	2-0	Fri, 7/8	at Pirates	L 4-8	52-34
Thu, 4/7	at D-backs	W 14-6	3-0	Sat, 7/9	at Pirates	L 6-12	52-35
Fri, 4/8	at D-backs	L 2-3	4-1	Sun, 7/10	at Pirates	W 6-5	53-35
Sat, 4/9	at D-backs	W 4-2	5-1		Rangers	W 6-0	54-35
Sun, 4/10	at D-backs	W 7-3	6-1		Rangers	W 3-1	55-35
Mon, 4/11	Reds	W 5-3	7-1		Rangers	L 1-4	55-36
Wed, 4/13	Reds	W 9-2	8-1		Mets	W 5-1	56-36
Thu, 4/14	Reds	W 2-1	9-1		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 8-2	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!



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

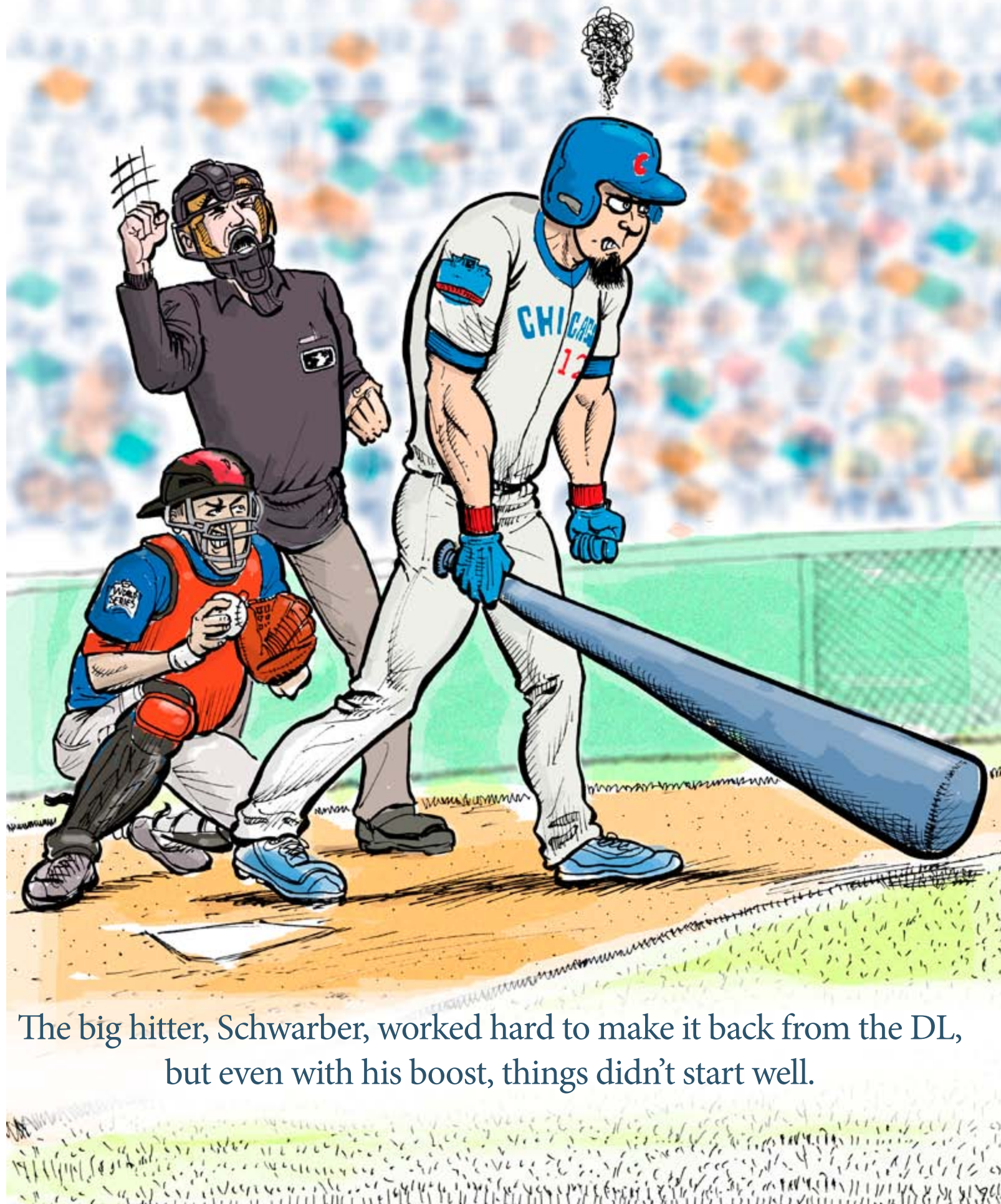


then handled the Dodgers who hail from LA.



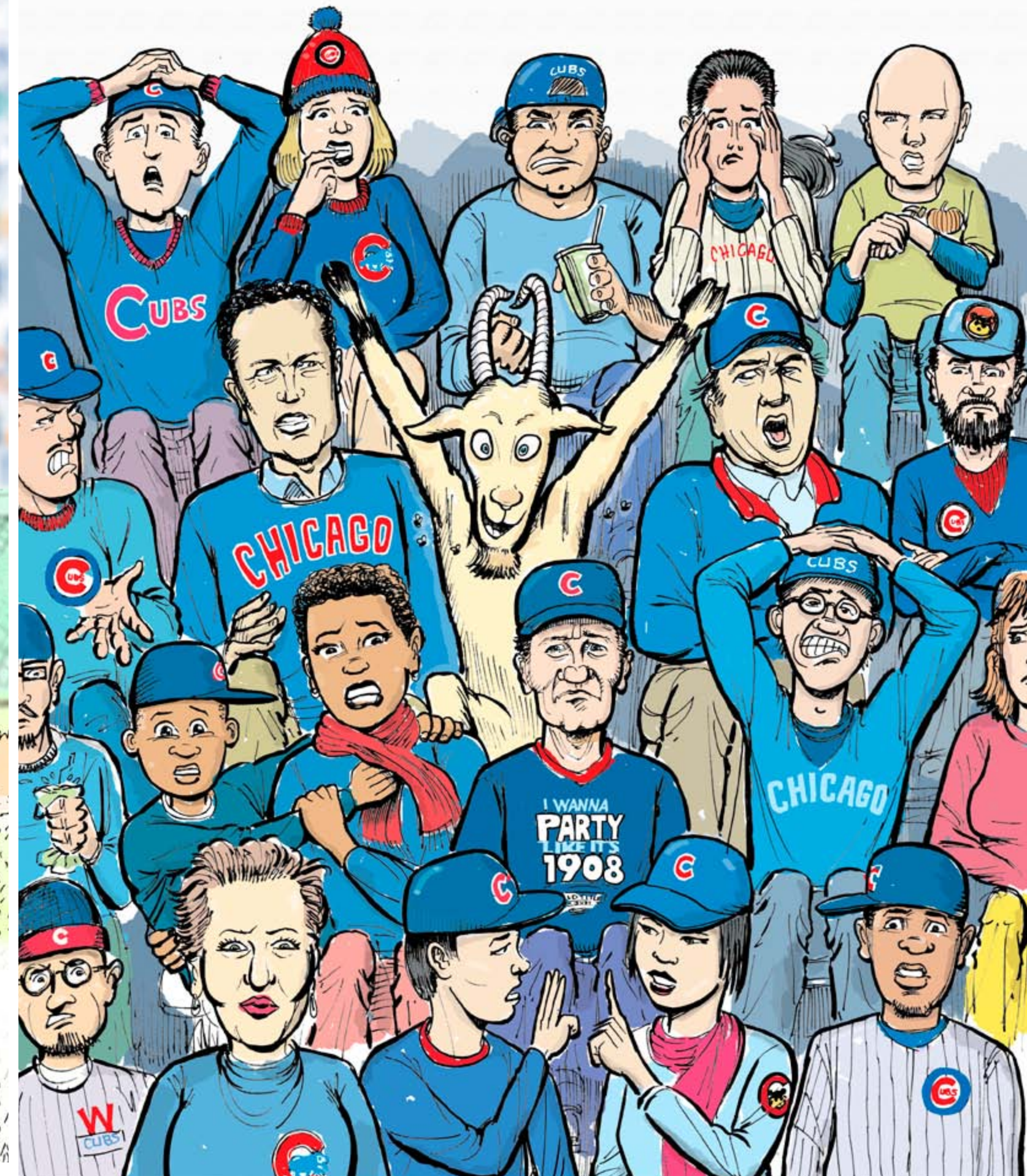
On to the World Series where Cleveland would wait, facing a drought of their own, the matchup seemed to be fate.





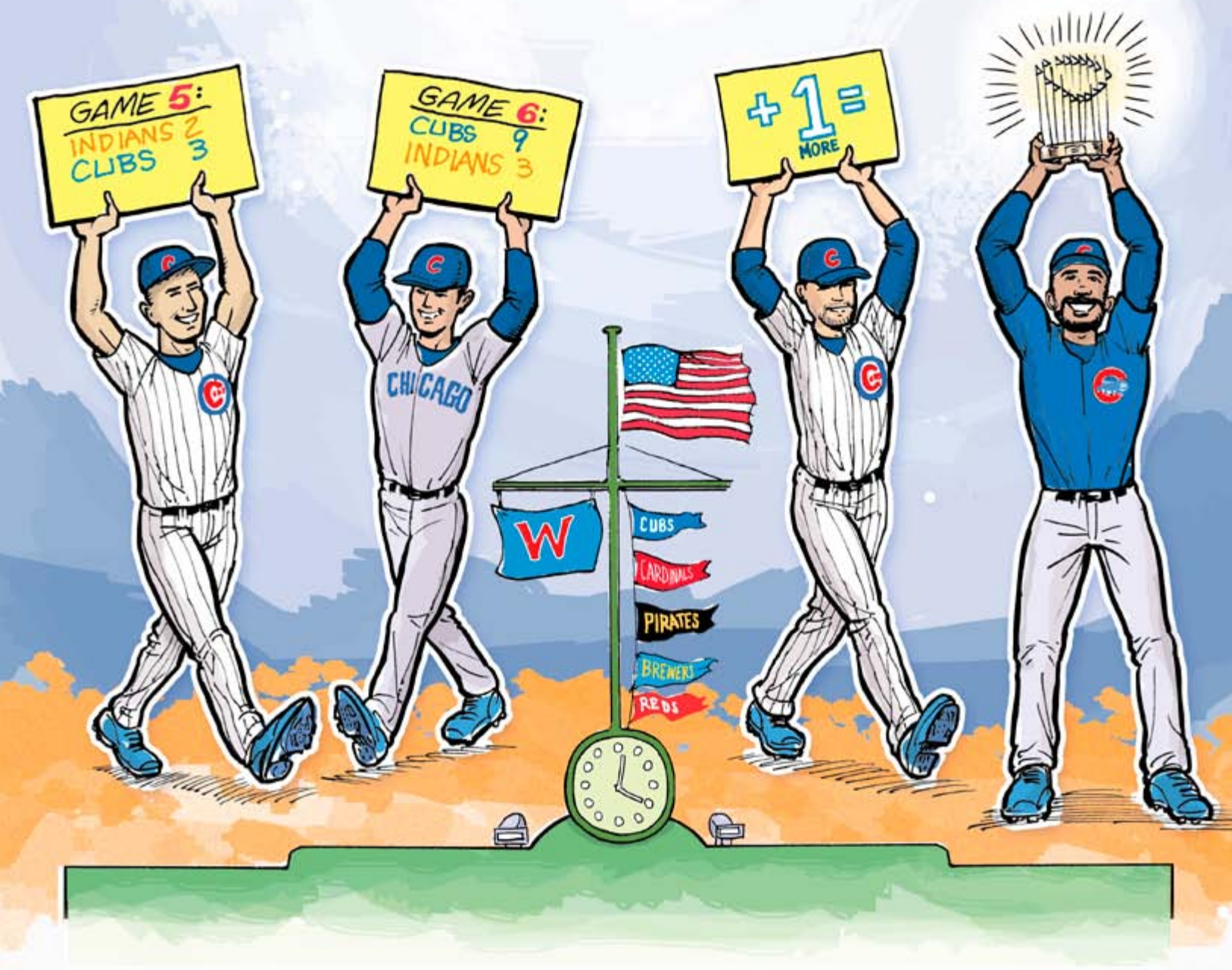
The big hitter, Schwarber, worked hard to make it back from the DL, but even with his boost, things didn't start well.

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.





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