



Dickson Selected for Holtzman Award

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Longtime author Paul Dickson had written books before – more than 50 of them, in fact – but it didn't take long for him to know that Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick would be different than the rest.

It took Dickson more than three years to complete the 435-page biography of the former Chicago Cubs public relations lackie and White Sox owner. As result of his exhaustive effort, the Chicago Baseball Museum has selected him for the Jerome Holtzman Award, which it presents annually.

Established in 2008, the honor is awarded to the person who reflects the values and spirit of its Hall of Fame namesake and is deemed to have made the most significant contribution to the promotion and preservation of Chicago baseball history in a given year.

“As much as we thought that we knew about Bill and his father William, Paul told us so much more,” said Paul Ladewski, Chicago Baseball Museum executive director. “The result is the most complete story yet about a true Chicago original. While there are other worthy candidates for the award, that sets it apart from the rest.”

Dickson will receive the award at the Pitch & Hit Club banquet on Sunday, Jan. 27, at The Carlisle in Lombard.

“Veeck is one of the most fascinating individuals in our lifetime, and that's what attracted me to the project,” said Dickson, 72, a Garrett Park, Md., resident. “He was part of the World War II generation and had a wide range of interests and accomplishments. People identified with him. I can't tell you how many said they enjoyed the book because of what Veeck meant to them.”



**Paul Dickson broke new ground
in Baseball's Greatest Maverick**

To say the least, Dickson put his heart into the project.

First, Dickson had to convince the Veeck family, a process that took more than one year of discussions. This proved to be a crucial step in that he was afforded insights and information that had never been offered before.

Once the 72-year-old Dickson got started, not even aortic valve surgery could stop him. It took several months to track down Veeck's military and FBI records alone.

“The more I found out about Veeck, the more motivated I was to discover more,” Dickson said. “If you read 10 biographies about most historical figures, you would get 10 different versions. But I couldn't approach Veeck as a sports figure only. There was so much more to the person.”

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