

1883 Yale Baseball Captain Added to the Bulldog Club Posthumously

Article by Dan Genovese

Allen H. Hubbard, class of 1883 in Yale's Sheffield Scientific science and engineering program and baseball captain of the early Yale dynasty team, has been added to our Bulldog Club, posthumously. Hubbard, born in Westfield Massachusetts, is one of the many fascinating subjects in a book recently published on the history of baseball in Westfield Massachusetts titled, *The Old Ball Ground, Volume One*. Hubbard was the catcher on both the 1882 and 1883 teams and would serve as captain of the 1883 squad in the midst of Yale's early dominance on the Intercollegiate Baseball Association.

While at Yale, Hubbard was described as part of a "coterie in which he and Walter Camp were leaders." This friendship between Hubbard and Walter Camp would bring Camp to Hubbard's hometown of Westfield Massachusetts during the summers of 1882 and 1883 to play together on a local town team known as the Westfield Firemen. Two additional Yale players, S.A. Booth and star pitcher Daniel Albion Jones would also join Camp and Hubbard on this club.

During the summer of 1883 Hubbard flirted with many major league clubs for his catching services, usually working as a battery mate with Yale pitcher Dan Jones. Jones, however, would sign with the Detroit Wolverines of the National League while Hubbard would remain in Westfield. By September Hubbard would join Jones, recently released by Detroit, on the Philadelphia Athletics. Sadly, he would play in just two major league games with his second game catching for his former Yale teammate. Unfortunately, Jones was hammered by the Cincinnati Red Stockings while Hubbard committed three costly errors behind the plate in an 11-2 loss.

With his major league career over, Hubbard would return to his hometown of Westfield and play for his local town team but by 1890 Hubbard would head east to Boston with his engineering degree and would begin to literally shape the early 20th century. Hubbard would become a partner in the Hollis French & Allen Hubbard consulting engineering firm and for the next thirty years he would be involved as a consultant on many high profile engineering projects such as the Boston Opera House, the Boston Art Museum, and the Boston Public Library. Hubbard would also be involved in many projects at educational institutes including his alma mater, Yale University. Hubbard was also very active in other endeavors and clubs most notably the Yale Club and the University Club. I am sure if Mr. Hubbard were here today he would be very proud of his appointment to Yale Baseball's Bulldog Club. You can learn more about Allen Hubbard in the book *The Old Ball Ground, Volume One* available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).