



**Christy Mathewson 1880-1925**  
NY Giants Baseball Pitcher

Namesake of Mathewson Stadium, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA  
With warm weather comes baseball, the "national pastime." One of the famous "First Five" inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame had ties to Union County. Anyone driving down Route 15 can see the stadium at Bucknell University where Bison fans enjoy football, lacrosse and track events, and Lewisburg Dragon supporters cheer on the high school football team. The stadium is named in honor of Christopher Mathewson, "Matty" to the baseball world and "Christy" to his family and friends.

Christopher Mathewson was born in Factoryville PA, 12 August 1880. His love of baseball began as a child when he played for town teams, prevalent at the time.

In 1898 Mathewson entered Bucknell University where he played baseball, basketball and was an outstanding football player (noted for his drop-kick). Besides being a superior athlete, he was an honor student, class President, and member of the Glee Club, Band and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. At Bucknell he met Jane Stoughton of Lewisburg, who he married in 1903.

In 1901, Mathewson agreed to play for the NY Giants and consequently never returned to Bucknell to complete his senior year. In 12 seasons with the Giants, Mathewson won 20 or more games per season and pitched 3 shutout games against the Philadelphia Athletics to win the 1905 World Series. He played in 3 other Series, pitched 37 winning games and 11 shutouts in 1908, and pitched 68 consecutive innings without

giving up a base on balls in 1913. His fastball, at 134 feet per second, took less than one half second to reach the batter. Mathewson was noted for his "fadeaway" pitch (now called a "screwball") - a slow in-curve to a right-handed batter.

Some statistical highlights: Mathewson won 373 games and lost 188 for an outstanding .665 winning percentage - career ERA of 2.13 and 79 career shutouts - 2,502 career strikeouts against only 844 walks.

In 1916 Mathewson went to the Cincinnati Reds as manager. Throughout his career, he was supportive of other players, including rookies, and was considerate of his fans, especially youngsters.

Mathewson's career was interrupted by service in WWI as Captain in the Army Chemical Warfare Division in France, where he was exposed to poisonous gas. He returned to the Giants in 1919 as assistant manager and pitching coach but was diagnosed with TB in 1920. After two years recuperating, he served as president of the Boston Braves.

Christy Mathewson died 7 October 1925 (at age 45). At his request, a simple funeral was held at the Lewisburg home of his wife's parents. He, his wife Jane (died 1967) and their son Christopher (died 1950) are buried in the Lewisburg Cemetery.

Mathewson was inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936 along with Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson and Honus Wagner. He was the only one of the five who didn't live to see his induction.

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