

# BALL 'N' CHAINS

*Swinging for Redemption in Walla Walla*

A NARRATIVE NONFICTION WORK BY LUCY RAMSDELL



— Postcard from a 1910 game inside the Washington State Penitentiary —

## THE LOGLINE

Inside Washington's oldest maximum-security penitentiary, a ragtag team of convicts built a baseball dynasty that drew paying crowds to bleachers raised above the prison walls — a forty-year experiment in redemption that the archives remember and the bookshelves have forgotten.

## THE UNTOLD HISTORY

From their first recorded game in **1907** through their heyday in the **1940s**, the WSP Mavericks played semipro and barnstorming clubs from across the Pacific Northwest — all from inside the walls of a penitentiary that had stood since **1886**. Drawing on team photos made from real prison mugshots, original game programs, the prison's own newspaper, and never-published letters, *Ball 'n' Chains* reconstructs the era through the men who lived it: the lifers, the ringers, the wardens who bet on them, and the townspeople who paid to watch.

## COMPARABLE TITLES

*The Boys in the Boat* (Brown) · *The Boys of Summer* (Kahn) · *Just Mercy* (Stevenson)

“Where sport, place, and justice intersect — a forgotten American story restored from the archive.”

## 1907

FIRST GAME

## 40

YEARS OF PLAY

## 1886

PRISON FOUNDED

## MANUSCRIPT

50,000 – 75,000 words  
moderately illustrated  
sample chapters on request

## AUTHOR

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## WEB

ballnchains.com

## INQUIRIES

via contact form