

CHICAGO CUBS MAGIC NUMBER 108 – The Full List

By Grant DePorter, CEO, Harry Caray's Restaurant Group

Grant DePorter, CEO of Harry Caray's Restaurant Group and co-author of *Hoodoo: Unraveling the 100 Year Mystery of the Chicago Cubs*, claims the number 108 (years since the last Cubs World Series Championship) is the reason the Cubs are destined to win the World Series this year. All signs are pointing to 108. Examples are everywhere:

- AG Spalding, the Chicago Cubs' first manager and owner of the Spalding sporting goods, wrote a rule into the National League's first set of rules requiring teams to only use Spalding baseballs. His baseballs have 108 stitches. His office was at 108 W. Madison.
- The distance from both the left field and right field foul poles to home plate at Wrigley Field is 108 meters.
- The City of Chicago's zoning records show that Planned Development #108 belongs to Wrigley Field. There are 1,336 planned developments in the city of Chicago, each assigned its own unique number.
- The Cubs win the World Series in the movies *Taking Care of Business* and *Back to the Future Part II*. Both movies are 108 minutes long.
- Cubs star pitcher Jon Lester was born in the 108th largest city in the US, Tacoma Washington (according to the 2010 National Census).
- Chicago Cubs game broadcasts are transmitted from the top of the Willis Tower, which is 108 stories tall.
- The Chicago Cubs' lawsuit against the State of Illinois to have games at night at Wrigley Field was recorded in Volume 108 of the Illinois Supreme Court Reports.
- The Chicago Cubs' current owners, the Ricketts family, made their fortune with Omaha-based TD Ameritrade. Its corporate headquarters are located on 108th Avenue.
- Last two Cubs to be inducted into the Hall of Fame—Santo 10 and Dawson 8. (Leo Portnoy)
- The World Series trophy is made of silver. Silver's atomic weight is 108.
- In 2015, the Adler Planetarium said that the Chicago Cubs are seen in the Great Bear Constellation. The center of the Great Bear is Galaxy M-108.
- Washington DC based Cubs fan club called the Emil Verban Society – whose members include presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, former Vice President Dick Cheney, George Will, Senator Dick Durbin, President Barack Obama and Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel – is named after a player who was only a Cub for 3 seasons and his last season batting average with the Cubs was .108.
- The Billy Goat Curse is a Greek curse. In the Greek translation of the Bible the worst curses are all found in Psalm 108.
- The number 108 is a sacred in Yoga. Jake Arrieta does Yoga six days a week.
- Prayer necklaces used in Buddhism, Hinduism and Yoga have 108 beads to help keep count of 108 mantras. Joe Maddon's mantra is "Try Not To Suck".

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- The movie *Bull Durham* has the same name as famous a Cub player and is 108 minutes long. The movie compares religion to baseball with the line, “108 beads in a Catholic rosary and 108 stitches in baseball.”
- Hoodoo illustrates that Cubs fans in 1908 believed they could predict the team’s future by looking at the stars. Hoodoo features a 1908 cartoon of a Cubs fan looking through a telescope at the sun, moon and earth to see the Cubs future.
 - The Sun is 108 times bigger than the Earth.
 - The distance between the Sun and Earth is 108 times the diameter for the Sun.
 - The distance between the Moon and Earth is 108 times the diameter of the Moon.
 - The first manned space flight to orbit the Earth lasted 108 minutes.
 - Stonehenge used the sun as a calendar and predicted eclipses is 108 feet in diameter.
- Notable Dates:
 - 10/8 (1871) Great Chicago Fire starts burns down Cubs ballpark, equipment and uniforms; team takes 2 years off as city rebuilds.
 - 10/8 (1908) Controversial Merkle makeup game; Cubs win pennant go on to win the 1908 World Series; their last World Series Championship.
 - 10/8 (1929) First Cubs World Series game held at Wrigley. (Keith Olbermann)
 - 10/8 (1945) Billy Goat Tavern owner William Sianis sent PK Wrigley the “Who smells now?” telegram that put a curse on the Cubs.
 - 10/8 (1945) Last time Cubs won a World Series game.
 - 10/8 (2016) Chicago Cubs won NLDS Game 2.
- The CNA Insurance building turned itself into a giant Cubs’ sign for the 2015 playoffs. It sold for \$108 million shortly thereafter.
- The Cubs honor the military every game. The “Chicago Brigade” of the US Army National Guard is the 108th.
- Harry Caray’s Restaurant becomes the center for Cub fan rallies. Frank Nitti, treasurer of Al Capone’s organization, used to own Harry Caray’s Restaurant’s building. Capone’s organization made \$108 million per year.
- The Plain White T’s, who performed at Harry’s Cubs rally, have recorded a total of 108 songs.
- Mayor Emanuel placed a bet on the Cubs-Giants series against the Mayor of San Francisco. Rahm bet 108 ounces of Prime Steaks from Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse.
- Before becoming Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel was a member of the United States 108th Congress.
- Harry Caray’s Cubs Rally co-host actor Joel Murray’s birthday was on the 108th day of 2016 (April 17).
- NLDS Game 1: Cubs win 1-0. Javier Baez hit home run on pitch #108 from SF Giant’s Johnny Cueto.
- Bill Murray, omnipresent at NLDS Games 1 and 2, has one historic marker named for him in Illinois - located at 108 Cass Street, Woodstock.

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- Bill Murray shown on NLDS Game 1 TV broadcast exactly during pitch #108, and shown on NLDS Game 2 TV broadcast exactly 108 minutes after the first pitch.
- NLCS Game 2 starting pitcher was Kyle Hendricks. Hendricks was born on 12/7/89. $12+7+89 = 108$. (Beth Heller)
- David Ross hit his career 108th home run during Game 4 of the NLDS becoming the oldest Catcher and Cub to hit a home run during the post season. The Cubs beat the Giants 6 to 5 to win the NLDS Championship.
- Ernie Banks, who wore #14 when he was a Cub, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1977. $14 \times 7.7 = 108$. (Mike Donahue)
- The Cubs won their 108th game by scoring 10 runs, winning by 8 (Game 4 2016 NLCS) (Joanna DePorter and Gary Richard)
- NLCS Game 5 winning pitcher Jon Lester pitched exactly 108 pitches.
- The Cubs won two consecutive games in Los Angeles during the NLCS, scoring 10 runs in their first and 8 runs in their second win. (Josh Mora)
- MLB's official YouTube video of Harry Caray singing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" is 1:08 long. (Asta Gass)
- Half of 20 is 10 and half of 16 is 8 $2016 = 108$. (Kelly MacFarlane and Marty Delmonte)
- $108+108$: $1+1=2$; $0+0=0$; $8+8=16$ add together = 2016. (Duane Drivard)
- "Vote 108" signs were in yards surrounding Cleveland's ballpark during the World Series. 108 was the major issue on Cleveland's ballot for the Nov. 8, 2016 election. "Here's why it's in every Cleveland citizen's interest to vote "Yes" on Issue 108" - Cleveland.com (Jesse Clarin)
- Harry Caray's famous World Series prediction – "Sure as God made green apples someday the Chicago Cubs are going to be in the World Series." Green apples are 108 calories. (Joanna DePorter)
- It takes 108 outs to win the World Series; 27 outs per game x 4 winning games = 108 outs.
- The Cubs won their 108th all-time Postseason appearance in Game 5 of the 2016 World Series.
- The Cubs needed two wins in Games 6 and 7 on the road in Cleveland to win the World Series. $108 \times 2 = 216$, which is Cleveland's area code. (Samson Victor)

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- Addison Russell's grand slam in Game 6 of the World Series came off of his bat at exactly **108** miles per hour.
- The Chicago Cubs won Game 7 of the World Series in 10 innings and 8 runs = **108**.
- The Cubs won the World Series on Nov. 2, All Soul's Day. From November 2 to Christmas (Dec.25) [there are](#) 54 days and 54 nights which equate to **108** cycles from darkness to light. (Andy McGaan)
- Manager Joe Maddon hoists the World Series trophy following the Cubs victory in Cleveland at **1:08** a.m. ET.
- During the World Series Rally, Joe Maddon holds the World Series trophy during his speech at exactly **1:08** p.m. CT.
- The highest grossing movie in the country during the period from when the Cubs clinched the division through winning the World Series was Sully. In the movie, after Sully landed the plane in the Hudson and saved all the passengers, he is taken to hospital room #**108**. (Pam Weaver)
- Three members of the Chicago Cubs: Anthony Rizzo, David Ross, and Dexter Fowler, appeared on SNL following their World Series victory (11/5). That same episode was the **108th** episode since the Cubs hired Theo Epstein on October 12, 2011. (Boomer Berman)
- If you assign a number to each letter of the alphabet where A = 1, B = 2 and so forth and add up the corresponding numbers for Cubs President of Ops - T E P S T E I N (20+5+16+19+20+5+9+14) they add up to **108**. (The Post Game)
- The true origin of the Cubs curse was started by Cubs owner Charles Murphy (Cubs seasons 1906-1913). When he was forced out of baseball after the 1913 season he literally cursed the team in the Tribune. Anti-Murphy factions announced the formation of the Cubs' "Never Again Club". Ever since that moment a "Murphy" was at the center of every Cubs collapse starting in 1945 with the goat named Murphy and ending with the Mets Daniel Murphy in 2015. The Feb. 22, 1914 paper that wrote the story, "Charles Murphy Forced Out; Sells Cubs", that started the curse was **108** pages long.