

The heat of the moment...

Fires at Fenway

A PBS DOCUMENTARY

Boston, Massachusetts **May 8, 1926 & January 5, 1934**

Fenway Park remained unchanged until a May 8, 1926 fire destroyed bleachers along the left field line. Because of a lack of funds, John Quinn, the owner at the time, didn't bother to rebuild the bleachers.

In 1933, Tom Yawkey bought the financially strapped club. Then came his major park overhaul. The revitalization project, however, came to a screeching halt on January 5, 1934 when a second fire ravaged the building for five hours. Few areas of the ballpark were left undamaged.

Construction crews worked diligently to rebuild the ballpark in time for the season opener on April 17, 1934. And when Fenway Park did open that day, it had a new look. Concrete bleachers replaced the wood bleachers in centerfield. Duffy's Cliff was leveled off -- though not completely. And the 37-foot wooden left field wall was replaced by a more durable, 37-foot sheet metal structure.

PBS travels back in time to look at these fires and their effects on the ballpark's players and fans alike.

WHAT DRAMATICALLY CHANGED
AMERICA'S
OLDEST BALLPARK