

# Hitting the Century Park

100 years ago to date, the Harvard baseball team faced the Red Sox in Fenway Park's first-ever contest



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The 1912 Harvard baseball team. Back row (left to right): **Hubbell**, Bolton, Coon, Hitchcock. Third row: Sexton, Wigglesworth, Reeves, Reynolds, Gibson, Arai. Second row: Babson, Potter, Young. Front row: Curtis, Wingate, Desha, Hardy, Clark

Amidst freezing temperatures and snow quite irregular for an early spring afternoon, the Harvard baseball team packed into an electric streetcar in Harvard Square at 1:45 p.m. and headed to the opening day they had been preparing for all winter.

But the Crimson's first game of 1912 was unlike any the country had seen before.

Coming off a 17-6 season under manager Frank J. Sexton, Harvard was going downtown, to the corner of Jersey and Landsdowne Streets. There, it would be playing the third installation of its annual matchup with the Boston Red Sox in the Sox's brand new home, Fenway Park.

At approximately 3:30, amidst the snow, the wind, and the gray skies, Crimson third baseman Dana Joseph Paine Wingate, class of 1914, stepped up to the plate against Boston's Casey Hageman as 3,000 passionate fans of America's pastime looked on in anticipation.

Hageman wound, aimed, and fired, and on April 9, 1912—100 years ago to date—the first-ever baseball game at Fenway Park was underway.