

## Baseball Project "The Yankee Flipper"

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He's a friend of the Smithereens,  
an old pal of Eddie Vedder.  
For a good few years there weren't any pitchers better.  
He loved R.E.M. and he played a Rickenbacker guitar,  
but for a night on the town with Mike Mills you get hit  
pretty hard.  
Mike and I met up with Dennis Diken and Black Jack  
somewhere. As this was New York City,  
you may have heard they have a few bars there.  
Jack loved the Replacements,  
and we drank enough that we became them.  
Two guitars, bass and drums--yeah our line-up was the  
same then.  
He was crowned the Yankee Flipper by the foul ball  
of fame. He gave 50, 000 fans the finger,  
but we'd like to share a little bit of the blame.  
It was Spike and Mike and Black Jack and me.  
I'm told Jack ended up on the cold tiles of the floor,  
with his mom who was visiting banging on the  
bathroom  
door. Next time he took the mound was not a pretty  
sight, and I've always figured it had a lot to do with that  
night.  
The photos filled every front page of the morning  
editions.  
Now he's the poster boy for a grand baseball tradition.  
Templeton, Tejada, Billy Martin and Albert Belle--from  
old Hoss Radbourne all the way to David Wells.

Another true story. They're all true,  
aren't they? Black Jack McDowell should be  
remembered  
for his pitching, and for his music as well.  
When the ever-understanding Yankee Stadium fans  
booed  
a rare early exit, Jack reciprocated with a majestic  
(and much-photographed) raised arm and middle  
finger.  
I applauded his gesture, yet at the same time  
wondered  
if my pals and I had played some small part in his bad  
day.

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