

The Wood Pile



Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research

Volume I Issue I

Summer 2015

Leading Off: A Message from the Chapter President



Greetings to all in the Smoky Joe Wood SABR chapter!

This is your organization and it's open to baseball fans of all stripes. Whether it's baseball history, statistics, Negro Leagues, Minor Leagues, or ballparks, there is a place for you here! Our chapter meets several times a year, with general meetings in February and October, chapter breakfasts and outings to minor league games.

On a weather-delayed national SABR Day (February 7), we hosted a media panel at Middlesex Community College, my home campus. This was very successful, and my Academic Dean greeted the audience.

We held a special Baseball in Mark Twain's Era panel at the Mark Twain House in Hartford in September 2014. We attend the annual SABR convention and other regional meetings.

We also have a number of authors in our chapter and have hosted former players or offspring of former players at our meetings. This list includes Gary Waslewski, Dick McAuliffe and Willie Upshaw, along with Vernona Gomez (Lefty's daughter), Maureen Hicks (Schoolboy Johnny Taylor's daughter) and Linda Tosetti (Ruth's granddaughter). We also enjoy our trivia and the camaraderie and friendship of our group.

Please join us in our various baseball endeavors and contact me with any questions or concerns.

Regards to all,
Steve Krevisky
Chapter President

Upcoming Chapter Events

Chapter Breakfast

Hamden Townhouse Restaurant
Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

- Saturday, August 8, 2015: 10:00 am
- Saturday, September 12, 2015: 10:00 am

General Meeting

October 17, 2015 (Quinnipiac University; Time TBD)

Agenda will include:

- Mike Sandlock Centennial
- The Moehringer Player Performance Pyramid
- The Hearst Classic
- All Time Phillies Team
- SABR 45
- Trivia Contest
- Happy Recap

Rock Cats / Bluefish Outings

Currently looking at holding an event at an August game. More information will be coming soon.

New Chapter Members

Welcome to new members (since January 2015):

Mike Armstrong, Trumbull	Matt Leach, Bloomfield
Robert Bruce, Colchester	David Leiper, West Haven
Mike DeMazza, Falls Village	Joe (McCoy) Lenti, Shelton
Rick Funaro, North Haven	Robert Mader, Trumbull
Lawrence Grambling, Tolland	Ryan Mitchell, Middletown
David Kull, Simsbury	Robert Morelli, Derby
Jim LaFrance, Farmington	Roger Reale, Branford
Stephen K. Laird, Westport	

Baseball Trivia

Look for gray shaded sections throughout this issue for the newsletter's baseball trivia.

The trivia questions are numbered and the answers to all of the questions can be found at the back of this newsletter.

On the Web

Society for American Baseball Research: sabr.org
Smoky Joe Wood Chapter: smokyjoewood.com

Smoky Joe Wood Chapter Officers

Stephen Krevisky (President): skrevisky@mxcc.comnet.edu
Alan Cohen (Vice President/Treasurer): adc0317@comcast.net
Stan Dziurgot (Membership Director): stanyank5@yahoo.com
Karl Cicitto (Communications Director): kcicitto@cox.net

Members are welcome to submit articles, book reviews or other information that might be interesting to other chapter members. Please send information to Karl Cicitto at kcicitto@cox.net.



SABR Convention Returns to the Windy City

It was good to have the convention back in Chitown again. In 1986, my first SABR convention, we were housed in the dorms at Loyola University and went to Wrigley Field. We also had a similar excursion to see the Cubs and Dodgers on June 25, and the LALA team blanked the Bruins, 4-0, in a game that lacked excitement. However, it was fun to be back in the Friendly Confines and stock up on souvenirs. The annual convention, held in different parts of the US or Canada, is also a chance to see old friends or meet new ones. I attended the chapter leaders meeting, along with Karl Cicitto and Alan Cohen. We broke

up into small groups, so as to discuss how our chapters are doing. I think that we are in good shape, with a strong leadership, a variety of activities, and a good core of people, who participate in what we do. We can always do better, but considering that we are not in a major league city, we have a good, steady level of activity. The chapter committees meeting was also interesting, regarding what the committees are doing. I am hoping to step down as chair of games and simulation (G&S) and get other people involved. This discussion also occurred at the G&S meeting.

I gave a poster presentation on: "Should Ernie Banks Have Won the MVPs in 1958 and 1959?" I included various statistic and images of the 1959 Topps baseball cards. I think that people liked it, although the audience wasn't as large as an oral presentation would have been. I also chose to help frame the trivia questions, so I did not participate as a contestant this year. I had mixed feelings about this as I realized that I miss being part of the action and will get back to it.

The all star game of the Great American Fantasy League (GAFL) also took place and the NL shut out the AL, 3 to 0. We are beginning to get some attention from the SABR Board on this new area. At the business meeting, it was announced, after some concerns raised about transparency, that next year's convention will likely be in Miami at the end of July, which some of us had reservations about. This is not a done deal. Discussion took place on a variety of issues and the organization seems to be doing well. However, scrutiny and questioning are always a good thing!

Overall, things went well, and the minions will meet again next year. It was also good to see some of the city and ride the famous E!
– Steve Krevisky



SABR 45: A Few of My Favorite Things

A few thoughts coming at you about the National Convention in Chicago that ended on June 28....

The SABR National is a slice of baseball Heaven that rivals induction day at Cooperstown. You are surrounded by people consumed with baseball and they are in constant conversation about the Game. The dress code ranges from "neat-and-preppy" to "a tribute to my team" to "what I slept in last night". The attendees seemingly come from every state and are supporters of every MLB team. The conversational possibilities are endless.

I benefit by observing what the Phoenix staff devises for events, such as their Media Panel discussion. The inspiration for the Feb. 2015 Media Panel that we held at MXCC was the Media Panel that was held in Houston at SABR 44. This year I came away wondering if we should do the math on a Player Panel in CT, as is also done annually at the National.

In addition to the people and events, it is the research presentations that drive me to the Convention.

This year I caught research presentations on Mike Burke, Lee MacPhail & the NYY; Using Twitter to Develop a New Generation of Baseball Fans; Pop Anson's Color Line Legacy; The Increased Importance of Quality Starts; How Pro Ball Conquered the Windy City; and Gender & Professional Athletes.

The RP on Mike Burke, Lee MacPhail & the Yankees of 1966-73 (by Mark Armour) was for me the most interesting. It detailed the steps Burke & MacPhail took to rebuild the Yankees and counter the popular rise of the Mets in a span that began with the Bombers going 142 – 179. President Burke & his GM, Lee MacPhail, achieved a turn-around in just 4 years, going 93 – 69 in 1970. Their draft picks included Munson, Guidry, Medich and Blomberg. There were game changing trades. Sparky Lyle for Danny Cater. Graig Nettles +1 for Charley Spikes +3. They also closed the deal with the City of NY to refurbish The Stadium and keep the Yankees out of New Jersey. It seems that Burke/MacPhail were to George Steinbrenner what Dan Duquette was to Theo Epstein, setting the foundation for a long run of success, if not receiving lasting credit. As someone who is utterly fascinated by the twin personalities of George Steinbrenner, I found this "before the Boss" presentation of great interest.

I also had the pleasure of coordinating flights with fellow chapter member Rudy Urban and thus had a traveling buddy. And we bumped into our first fellow conventioneer before even departing Bradley Airport. Soon after getting through TSA, we were greeted by Jim Wyman, on his way to catch his flight to Chicago.

To get a taste of how much fun SABR 45 was go to sabr.org/ convention, where you'll find many links to stories, photo galleries and audio files.

If you had to pick just one link, listen to the Media Panel audio. Jim Deshaies alone was worth the ticket. You can hear it here: sabr.org/latest/sabr-45-broadcasters-panel-len-kasper-ron-coomer-jim-deshaies.
– Karl Cicitto

Trivia Question #1 By Ken Paulsen

Who was the first Connecticut born player to play in the Major League All-Star game?

- Walt Dropo (Moosup)
- Johnny Moore (Waterville)
- Jim Piersall (Waterbury)
- Spec Shea (Naugatuck)

Geno Auriemma: Baseball Still the Game I Love Most

By Karl Ciccitto



Ten time NCAA Champion Geno Auriemma is a Philly guy of a certain age. He has an enduring love for the first sports franchise to lose 10,000 games. His answers resonated with passion and loyalty when he answered 10 questions via email in May 2015.

In your book (GENO: In Pursuit of Perfection”) you write lovingly about playing ball and the first glove Mom bought for you. What difference did baseball make in your youth?

Baseball made all the difference in my youth. If it wasn't for baseball, I have no idea what I would have done with my life from the time I was 11 to the time I was 18. I don't know if there was ever a time in those seven year between March and September that I didn't play baseball as much as I could. I loved everything about the game. It's the first game I fell in love with and the still the game I love the most.

You became a Phillies fan in '64, the year of the September collapse. How did this affect you? What do you remember?

I was a fan before 1964 but that was the first year I really remember everything. Back in those days, not every game was televised. I do remember having a mini little transistor radio maybe the size of my phone. You had to be in bed by a certain hour and the Phillies were playing the Reds, I believe in Cincinnati, and we were just on this slide. We had a 6.5 game lead and we lost nine-straight. There's just nothing that can prepare you for that. Even to this day, if somebody mentions Chico Ruiz I get this rash. He stole home one night and they lose 1-0. I'm thinking at that point that you can't invent more ways to lose than that during the streak.

You played for a Salvation Army team when you were 13, batted about .350 and pitched to an 8 – 0 record. You were good. Why did you choose basketball over baseball?

To this day, I have no idea. I think when I was young I wasn't confident enough to branch out so the Salvation Army team that I played for was the best team in town. All the guys I played with, I knew. I was the youngest guy on the team. To be able to make that team and start on that team was unbelievable. We had the best equipment, uniforms, coach. We had the best of everything and I don't know what happened when I got to high school. I fell in with a group of guys who played basketball. I guess I wasn't confident enough to go play baseball. At that time, our basketball coach in high school wasn't crazy about playing more than one sport. I just kind of fell into the basketball thing and only played baseball in the summer. I look back to this day and think my body and size would have been better suited for baseball than basketball.

Is Baseball more beautiful to behold than basketball, or vice-versa, and why?

Basketball is a beautiful game when played the right way. Baseball is more subtle. Basketball will hit you right in the face with stuff. There's a never-ending stream of things that are happening so quickly that when it's done well it's like choreographed ballet. Baseball is more subtle. There are just so many little things in the game and there's so much time to appreciate those little things. But in the bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded and you're on the mound. Your body is going through things and your teammates can't pick you up. In basketball, you need your teammates whether it's setting a screen or receiving a pass. Baseball, if a guy hits a ball to the shortstop in the bottom of the ninth, no one helps him. If he misses it, no one can pick it up and make the play.

If you had one pick -- Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente or Gary Maddox? Why?

If you're asking me defensively who the best is, Gary Maddox was really good. Who had the best arm of all those guys? Roberto Clemente. Who is the best player? Willie Mays. Of the three, Maddox was third in that group. Our Salvation Army uniforms were blue because our coaches loved the A's and the Pirates. We were the only team that had the cutoff sleeves. So we looked like the Pirates and the A's.

If you had to pick: Connie Mack Stadium, the Vet, or Citizens Bank Park? Why?

The Vet because I went there the most and I saw great games there. But in terms of a ballpark, Connie Mack Stadium was a lot more fun. I was young and I could go there for five dollars and get a hot dog and a coke. All these years, I've never been to Citizens Bank Park. Growing up as a Phillies fan, you really had to love them. They were the first franchise in sports to lose 10,000 games. And yet, the guys that you remember lived in the same neighborhoods as you. Some guys sold insurance in the offseason. It wasn't like it is today.

Again one pick: Byrum Saam, Richie Ashburn or Harry Kalas?

We're talking three legends. That's like saying Mantle, Mays or Aaron. Man, I have to go with Harry Kalas. He was legendary as an announcer. I didn't grow up with him, that was Saam. Richie Ashburn came into the booth as the color guy.

Mantle, Killebrew or Richie Allen?

First of all, I didn't see Killebrew a lot because he was in the American League and we didn't have the TV across league. I didn't see Mantle play that much. I didn't see him play in his prime. The World Series was on most of the time when we were in school so maybe you listened to the game a little. Richie Allen played a lot. He played with a 44 ounce bat. It was like a miniature telephone poll.

Continued on Page 4 (Geno Auriemma)

Geno Auremma (cont.)

If you were Commissioner, what would you do with Pete Rose's status?

That's a hard one. There are guys that did a lot worse things than he did that are in the hall of fame. I don't know the whole story, but from what I understand, he didn't bet on his team to lose. So you're betting on your team to win, that shows a lot of confidence. I guess the idea is if you come out and admit that you did it and move than it's better than lying about it. Pete Rose is the kind of guy you admired growing up. He's a tough guy who played hard. If I was commissioner, I'd form some kind of committee. I don't want to make that decision.

It's been said that Philly fans are different. Why is that?

Philly fans hate everyone. Every once in a while they love you, but it's temporary. One time I was at a game and Richie Allen struck out his first three times up and people were throwing stuff at him. Back then, you weren't going to get taken out by security. I think the fourth time he comes up and hits a three-run homer and gets a standing ovation. They used to say Philly is where you suffer the agony of defeat and the misery of reading about it the next day.

By the Numbers: Smoky Joe Wood

2.03

Smoky Joe Wood's ERA through his 11 year career.

60

Games over .500 for Smoky Joe Wood's career (117-57 all time record).

1.087

Smoky Joe Wood's career WHIP.

Trivia Question #2 By Ken Paulsen

Cheshire's Brad Ausmus (born in New Haven) won 90 games in his debut year as the Tigers manager. With 28 wins through May 31 of this year, he is squarely in 5th place among Major League skippers born in the Nutmeg State. Who is first on that list?

- Billy Gardner, Waterford
- Ned Hanlon, Montville
- Jim O'Rourke, Bridgeport
- Bobby Valentine, Stamford

Media Panel Brightened Delayed SABR Day

By Karl Cicitto and Stan Osowiecki



Pictured (L to R): David Heuschkel, David Borges, David Kull & Bob Wirz

Middlesex Community College was host to 25 attendees at a weather delayed SABR event day on February 7, 2015 after snow and sleet bumped the event from the originally planned date of January 24 which was scheduled as part of the national 6th Annual SABR Day.

The meeting opened with a welcome to campus from Dean of Academic Affairs Steven Minkler and opening remarks and introduction of the day's panel from SABR chapter president Steve Krevisky. The panel consisted of moderator Scott Gray of WTIC and featured David Kull of ESPN Digital, David Borges of the New Haven Register (a baseball HOF voter), David Heuschkel of Turley Media (a former Courant Red Sox beat writer) and Bob Wirz (also a baseball HOF voter), the former Press representative for Commissioners Kuhn and Ueberroth.

Before the discussion began, Gray, recently retired from radio after 34 years, was honored by State Senator Cathy Osten with a proclamation to recognize Gray's tenure during which he wrote and delivered 3,500 sports commentaries on the air.

A key discussion point during the panel was the ever changing relationship between reporters and players and the subjects about players that do and do not get reported. To open this discussion, Gray recalled how he roomed with a player while he traveled with the Sox in the early 80's. At that time, card playing and drinking were a nightly activity. In addition to these activities, extramarital affairs were private business from the public at that point. For example, Wade Boggs had a frequent visitor and regular companion of Margo Roberts and Boggs often explained that Roberts was his east-of-the-Mississippi girlfriend.

David Heuschkel told a story about how after Gabe Kapler had been disciplined by the team many years ago, Manny Ramirez told Heuschkel that Kapler had been singled out because he was Jewish. Heuschkel asked Ramirez if he was serious and Manny affirmed. Heuschkel noted that today that kind of quote would be tweeted in minutes and prominently inserted into the 24/7 news cycle. At the time, Heuschkel considered the source and situation and erred on the side of caution, opting not to write the story.

David Borges said that today's players will take offense over criticism or perceived wrong reporting but they are also often quick to forgive. For example, Borges said Jason Varitek was someone who specifically went out of his way to circle back with reporters and let them know that there were no hard feelings over a dispute in reporting.

The panel was in agreement that media and player relations have come a long way from the days when media members were like defacto team employees. That era was followed by a time of increasingly balanced reporting and eventually by the unfettered and instantaneous digital media environment of today.

Charlie O.

By Alan Cohen

Charlie Finley was open to any idea that would produce more wins for his Kansas City Athletics and, in 1965, he elected to replace the sheep that had been grazing beyond the right field fence since 1961 with a mule. Finley had thought that “the sheep would bring me luck. But they ain’t.”

The mule was donated by the State of Missouri. Governor Warren E. Hearnes (a Democrat) said “I’d consider it an honor and a privilege for Missouri to donate this mule to the A’s.” However, the mule was reportedly born in Kansas to parents not of the same species. Documentation of the mule’s birth was not available. Not surprisingly, the mule was named “Charlie O.”

Finley said on February 8. “Charlie O. will come out of the A’s dugout on Opening Day, even if it takes the whole ball club to push him out. We will take Charlie O. with us on one trip to each of the nine cities in the American League - somehow.” Finley went on to say that the mule would have “a real good blanket with his name in green letters trimmed in white.” Finley, himself, planned to ride the mule on opening day.¹

How much did the mule weigh? The consensus was that the mule weighed 1492 pounds, and stood 15 hands and two inches high. He was said to be three years old.

Finley was not about to have the mule suffer from loneliness. Shirley Povich noted that Finley had also signed “a cageful of monkeys, a prized bird dog, a hutch of outsided checker rabbits and two peacocks.”²

On April 12, Finley was astride the mule as they took a trot around the bases before the Athletics fell to the Tigers, 6-2. The A’s did much falling that season, registering 103 losses and finishing in tenth place for the second straight season. In 13 seasons in Kansas City the team never finished in the first division. The mule, if nothing else, was a distraction, and an enjoyable one at that. Jim Schaaf, the A’s PR Director, accompanied Charlie O as he met with his fans.

Everybody, or so it seems, got in on the act, and the mule’s reception in New York was the icing on the cake. The mule, ridden by Finley, was welcomed at the Americana Hotel by an eight-piece band. Newspaper accounts indicated that “Charlie O clopped through the lobby, past startled guests and turned into a restaurant. There he paused at the bar long enough to consume a heaping portion of oats in a silver bowl. In his suite (okay it was a corner of the garage), Charlie O also found a dresser in which to store his green and gold attire.”³

And the reporters could not get enough of the story. Ross Newhan commented that “Charlie O is the hottest thing to hit the (American league) circuit since Mickey Mantle, and he has sounder legs. Charlie’s van is equipped with a stereo unit, but Charles has a one track mind when it comes to music. His selection is always the same: ‘Mule Train.’” Of Charley O’s stay in New York, Newhan noted that the mule’s “hotel room” consisted of green and gold drapes, a desk featuring Finley’s picture, a TV set (he prefers Mr. Ed), and white-gloved attendants serving oats on silver trays.”⁴



On occasion, catcher Doc Edwards was assigned the somewhat dubious honor of riding Charlie O, although he did fall off Charlie Finley’s mule in Cleveland, prompting Finley to trade Edwards to the Yankees.

In May, 1965, the White Sox General Manager refused to allow Charlie Finley’s mule inside the White Sox ballpark because “we don’t issue passes to mules.” Finley’s response was to show the mule in a leased parking lot across the street from the ballpark and hire six models to carry picket signs, to the accompaniment of a six-piece band.⁵

And so it went in the summer of 1965. Four years later, the mule went to Oakland and was there when the A’s turned from habitual losers to dynastic winners.

Sources:

Chass, Murray. “Finley’s Follies Boasts Mule, Pigeons, Pheasants.” *The New York Times*, April 13, 1965.

Newhan, Ross. “Charlie O . . . A Mule, No Fool”, *Independent Press Telegram* (Long Beach, CA), May 2, 1965. D-2

Povich, Shirley. “Zoo in KC”, *The Washington Post*, March 30, 1965.

Jim Van Valkenburg. “Mule Replaces Sheep in Kansas City’s Park.” *Cumberland (MD) Evening Times*, February 9, 1965, 14.

Swanson, Don. “Kansas City Fans to Get New Kick.” *Phoenix (Arizona) Gazette*, March 26, 1965, 50.

¹ Van Valkeburg.

² Povich

³ Pottstown (PA) Mercury. April 28, 1965, 18.

⁴ Newhan

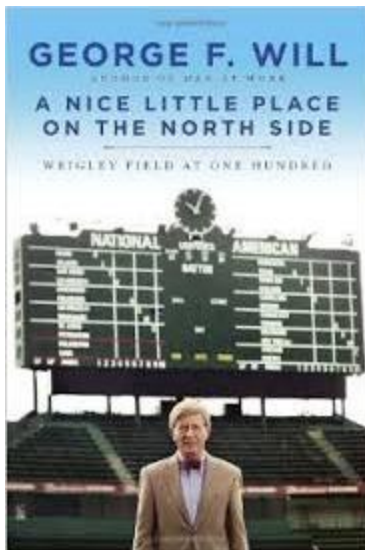
⁵ Ed Sainsbury. *The Childress (TX) index*, May 12, 1965,2.

Book Review: George Will on Wrigley Field

By Larry Levine

Quick quiz: What does a female bear on birth control pills and the World Series have in common? Answer: No Cubs!

This is but one of the bons mots offered up by George Will in his charming latest book, *A Nice Little Place on the North Side: Wrigley Field at One Hundred*. Will, the prominent political columnist who dabbles with forays into baseball, brings his accustomed elegance to this short (194 pages) but fact and fun-filled account of the history of the “friendly confines” and the ball club which inhabits it. To be sure, he attempts to explain why the Cubs have not been in a World Series for almost 70 years and have not won one in 106 (one fan argues that “anyone can have a bad century), but he spends most of his time on the colorful saga of the oldest franchise in Major League Baseball.



To be sure, Will does not ignore those relatively rare occasions when the Cubs were not merely good but among the National League’s best. The late 1920s and early 1930s, for example, were graced by performances from such Hall-of-Fame stalwarts as Gabby Hartnett, Rogers Hornsby, Billy Herman, Kiki Cuyler, and one Hack Wilson, whose 191 Runs Batted In 1930 still challenges credulity. It is said of Wilson that he was shaped like a beer keg and was not unfamiliar with its contents.

Will devotes several pages to the saga of Ruth’s “called shot” in the 1932 World Series at Wrigley Field. Predictably, he relegates the non-event to the dustbin of myth but presents a unique argument to buttress his position in the form of a photograph of a sinister, sneering Charlie Root, Ruth’s victim. Not someone you’d care to meet in the proverbial dark alley. Will’s priceless description of the photo reads:

“Take a long look at the hard glare from the photo on page 62. Does that seem like the sort of fellow who would have tolerated disrespectful behavior from anyone, even Babe Ruth? Charlie Root was a pitcher who, a Brooklyn baseball writer said, seemed to throw at Dodger hitters ‘for the sheer fun of it’”

Incidentally, Will appropriately spends virtually no time on the Cubs NL pennant in 1945 when the likes of one-armed outfielders and 15-year old pitchers populated box scores.

One minor quibble with this small volume is that the author tends to meander a bit. He tends not to follow a strict chronological line nor does he always stay on topic, interspersing story lines in the midst of telling another story. But it’s always fun. It’s as if he’s taking you by the hand and saying “Oh, I’ve got to tell you this before I forget”. And you’re always glad he remembered. For example, apropos of nothing clearly preceding it, he launches into the story of Chicago’s mayor Anton Cermak’s murder by an assassin who may have been targeting FDR. This is followed by a veiled accusation against Bernard Malamud, the author of *The Natural* for basing his story of Roy Hobbs on the shooting of Eddie Waitkus, then the Cubs first-baseman, by a deranged Cubs fan (you’ll recall that Malamud’s protagonist was similarly shot). Apparently, early in Waitkus’ career, he was referred to as “a natural”. Case closed!

Will spends relatively less time on the more recent Cubs years. He expresses some personal embarrassment as a fan for the absurd College of Coaches idea, the Lee Elia rant (still one of the funnier things to see on YouTube), the Steve Bartman tragedy, and Leo Durocher’s disdain for Ernie Banks. But his most interesting, if not entirely persuasive speculation, pertains to WHY the Cubs have been so unsuccessful. When you read the book, and I highly recommend that you do, you can evaluate his reasoning. What it comes down to briefly, is that when the original chewing gum Wrigley magnate, William, who was a baseball lifer, died, he committed his son P.K. to maintaining the franchise. P.K., unfortunately, had only tepid interest in the game. He placed greater value on business success than on team performance and as a result most club resources were spent in areas other than those required for on-field

competitiveness. The incentive to boost attendance became *not* a winning team but rather the *experience* of Wrigley Field. P.K., for example, had been quoted as saying that the reason for coming to the ballpark is the fun, the sunshine, the relaxation, *win or lose*. For years, then, the business succeeded while the ball club floundered. Whereas most teams’ attendance is keyed to the club’s record, for example, Cub attendance is correlated far more with beer prices. It is a fun place to be, winning, but mostly losing.

The Wrigleys, of course, have not been part of ownership for some time so it’s a bit of a stretch to believe that such an orientation has extended far beyond their separation but maybe it takes some time to overcome its effects. You can surely believe that Theo Epstein has a quite different orientation. We’re already beginning to see its fruits.

Finally, whether you share George Will’s political philosophy or not, if his columns were as compelling as the baseball schmoozing found in this, his latest offering, we’d all be voting conservative Republican in upcoming elections.

Trivia Question #3 By Ken Paulsen

In a recent Mets – Diamondbacks game (June 4, 2015), the batter Eric Campbell (Norwich) hit a pitch thrown by Dominic Leone (Norwich) to center field where it was caught by A.J. Pollock (Hebron). The Mets starting pitcher that day was Matt Harvey (New London) and also appearing in that game was shortstop Nick Ahmed, who, although not born in Connecticut (Springfield, MA) attended the University of Connecticut.

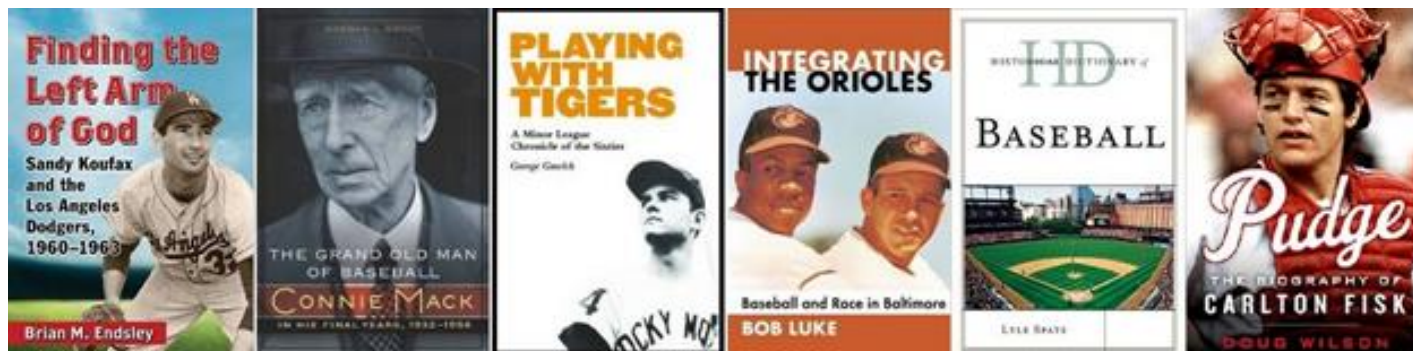
The winning and losing pitchers of that game (Harvey & Leone, respectively) were both Connecticut natives. This was the first time both pitchers of record were Nutmeggers (at least in the past 100 years).

Who has the most wins among Connecticut born pitchers?

- Freddie Goldsmith
- Bill Hutchinson
- Charles Nagy
- Carl Pavano

Upcoming Baseball Book Releases

Compiled By Karl Ciccio (Source: amazon.com)



Finding the Left Arm of God: Sandy Koufax and the Los Angeles Dodgers, 1960-1963

By Brian M. Endsley. Release date: Oct. 30

The story of the Dodgers' volatile fortunes during the transformation of Sandy Koufax from a wild young left-hander with a career losing record on the verge of quitting the game to an artist with exquisite control of the baseball - a veritable Mozart on the mound. A broad view narrative history of the Dodgers in the first four years of the 1960's set against the backdrop of the world changing events of John F. Kennedy's fleeting New Frontier presidency.

The Grand Old Man of Baseball: Connie Mack in His Final Years, 1932-1956

By Norman L. Macht. Release date: October 1

Macht chronicles Connie Mack's tumultuous final two decades in baseball. After Mack had built one of baseball's greatest teams, the 1929-31 Philadelphia Athletics, the Depression that followed the stock market crash fundamentally reshaped Mack's legacy as his team struggled on the field and at the gate. Among the challenges Mack faced: a sharp drop in attendance that forced him to sell his star players; the rise of the farm system, which he was slow to adopt; the opposition of other owners to night games, which he favored; the postwar integration of baseball, which he initially opposed; a split between the team's heirs that tore apart the family and the disastrous 1951-54 seasons.

Playing With The Tigers

By George Gmelch. Release date: Feb. 1

In 1965 George Gmelch signed a contract to play with the Detroit Tigers organization. Sheltered in an all-white, affluent San Francisco suburb, he knew little of the world outside. Over the next four seasons, he came of age in baseball's Minor Leagues through experiences ranging from learning the craft of the professional game to becoming conscious of race and class for the first time. Now a well-known anthropologist, Gmelch recounts a baseball education unlike any other as he got to know small-town life across the United States against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, civil rights protests, and the emergence of the counterculture.

Integrating The Orioles

By Bob Luke. Release date: Nov. 30

The struggle to integrate the Baltimore Orioles mirrored the fight for civil rights. The Orioles debuted in 1954, the same year the Supreme Court struck down public school segregation. As Baltimore experienced demonstrations, white flight and a 1968 riot, team integration came slowly. Black players--mostly outfielders--made cameo appearances as black fans stayed away in droves. The breakthrough came in 1966, with the arrival of a more enlightened owner, and African American superstar Frank Robinson. As more black players filled the roster, the Orioles dominated the American League from 1969 through much of the 1970s and into the early 1980s.

Historical Dictionary of Baseball

By Lyle Spatz. Release date: July 29

The *Historical Dictionary of Baseball* is primarily devoted to the major leagues. It also includes entries on the minor leagues, Negro Leagues, women's baseball, baseball in other countries, and more non-MLB topics. It traces baseball and these topics individually, from their beginnings up to the present. This is done through a chronology, an introductory essay, appendixes, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary has over 900 cross-referenced entries on the roles of the players on the field as well as general managers, managers, coaches, and umpires. There are entries for teams, leagues, stadiums and ballparks, the role of the draft and reserve clause, and baseball's rules, and statistical categories. An excellent access point for students, researchers, and others.

Pudge

By Doug Wilson. Release date: Oct. 20

A homegrown icon, Fisk rapidly became the face of the storied Boston Red Sox of the 1970s. As a rookie making only \$12,000 a year, he became the first player to unanimously win the AL Rookie of the Year award in 1972. Fisk's game-winning home run in Game Six of the 1975 World Series forever immortalized him. Fisk played through an epic period of player-owner relations, including the dawn of free agency, strikes, and collusions. Doug Wilson, finalist for both the Casey Award and Seymour Medal for his previous baseball biographies, uses his own extensive research and interviews with childhood friends and MLB teammates to examine the life and career of a leader who followed a strict code and played with fierce determination.



Middle Innings: Recent Member Activities

DAVE ARCIDIACONO completed research on re-evaluating Candy Cummings' considerable on-field accomplishments - even leaving aside his contributions to the development of the curveball. The results of this research were published in an article (Return to Conventional Wisdom on Candy Cummings) which appeared in the 2014 edition of *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*, edited by John Thorn. Dave is currently working on some leads regarding Charles Waitt's reported wearing of a glove at first base in 1875. Al Spalding said this was the first glove he ever saw. While that may be stretching things a bit (since catchers were certainly wearing gloves before this), Charles Waitt's contribution to the evolution of glove-use by fielders is a possibly important milestone. Dave is hoping to report some definitive documentation of where and when Waitt may have used a glove.

ALAN COHEN wrote three biographies including that of Van Lingle Mungo for *Van Lingle Mungo: The Man, The Players, The Song*. He also did three biographies for *Who's on First: Replacement Players During World War II*. Alan's continuing work on the Hearst Sandlot Classic included a poster presentation at the 2015 SABR Convention and an article in *The National Pastime* dealing with the relationship of Chicago to the Hearst Classic and other youth all-star games played in the 1940's and 1950's. This past January, Alan spoke at the Greater NY Sandlot Athletic Alliance's annual dinner, and met the 1962 Hearst Classic MVP. Alan has interviewed 20+ MLB alumni who played in the Classic. Alan also contributed three chapters to Stew Thornley's upcoming book on the Polo Grounds. Alan also contributed to upcoming books on the 1965 Minnesota Twins, the 1972-74 Oakland Athletics, the most memorable Montreal Expos games, and the most memorable games at Braves Field in Boston and County Stadium in Milwaukee. Alan is currently working on biographies of HOF umpire Doug Harvey and several 1986 Mets. Alan has joined Warren Corbett's dedicated staff of fact-checkers and has reviewed more than 200 biographies on the SABR website for accuracy. When not involved in research, Alan can be found in the Press Box at New Britain Stadium where he is a stringer with the Rock Cats.

DOUG MALAN wrote two articles for *Inside Pitch*, a quarterly magazine for amateur coaches, players and parents with a focus on college baseball. The magazine is distributed to subscribers and is available at high-profile events throughout the country, such as the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) convention. One article focused on some of the historic ballparks that players and coaches from throughout the country will experience this summer when they compete in the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) and the Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England (FCBL). His second article was a profile of UConn-Avery Point head coach Roger Bidwell, who reached the 1,000-win milestone this spring in his 34th year of coaching this junior college program. Bidwell has helped place hundreds of players in four-year programs, sent 170+ players to the pros and has had three players reach the majors - Rajai Davis, John McDonald and Pete Walker. Doug is also busy with multiple football and basketball writing projects while actively marketing his book about Muzzy Field during Bristol Blues (FCBL) games this summer.

STEVE WISENSALE and LARRY GRAMLING guided an Independent Study project that took them and three UConn Accounting majors to Cooperstown. The students completed Steve's Baseball & Society course in 2014 and subsequently asked Steve and Larry to supervise the Independent Study. Steve created the case problem which asked the students to assume that they had been hired by the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, "to prepare a proposal for Major League Baseball that explains why Charlotte should be selected by MLB as the next expansion team." Their final project becoming the opening plenary session at the 27th Annual Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture at the National Baseball Hall of Fame on May 27, 2015. The plan included locating a ballpark site, creating an investment group, costing out the project, developing marketing strategies & media network, naming front office personnel, field manager and coaches and realigning divisions. A mock draft was completed, locations of minor league affiliates were named, and a spring training site was identified. An inaugural full-season simulation of 162 games was then run to conclude the Independent Study project. "All five of us reached that wonderful but elusive plateau in life where work and fun become one," said Steve (from a UConn Press Release.)

BILL RYCZEK anticipates the release of a revised edition of *Blackguards and Red Stockings, a History of the National Association 1871-1875* later this year. The hard cover edition of *Blackguards* was released in 1992 and a paperback version followed in 1999. "When I began researching this book in 1981," said Ryczek, "very little was known about nineteenth century baseball, especially anything that happened before the formation of the National League in 1876. Over the 23 years that have passed since *Blackguards* was first released, I've written two more books, edited two volumes, and written numerous articles about the nineteenth century. I learned that some things I wrote in *Blackguards* were just wrong, and others could be fleshed out based upon what I know now. It's not often in life that you get a chance to do things over, and I'm thankful to McFarland and Company for publishing a revised edition." The *Blackguards* chapter setting forth the background to the National Association has been completely re-written, and substantial revisions have been made to other sections. "I also think I've learned to write a little better over the last couple of decades," said Ryczek, "and I've done a lot of editing and cutting." *Blackguards and Red Stockings* remains the standard work on the National Association of Professional Ball Players, the first professional sports league in the United States. The hard cover edition won the 1993 SABR/Macmillan Award for Best Baseball History Book of the Year.

KARL CICITTO completed his second Bio Project biography in May on fellow Middletown native Mark DeJohn. "As a kid, I followed Mark's 10+ years in the minors while reading the Courant's Player Periscope weekly feature. It was an honor speaking with Mark and researching his career. He is well situated in the Cardinals organization today." Karl is now working on how to best research Hezekiah Allen, a CT native who had a 1 game career (Philly Quakers, 1884.) He is also enjoying editing and contributing to the first issue of *The Wood Pile* while organizing the chapter game plan to self-publish a book tentatively titled *Mike Sandlock & His Era*.



A Yankee Brat Growing Up on Red Sox Turf

By Vernona Gomez

This feature originally appeared as a guest column in the Westport (CT) News. Many of these stories are from Vernona Gomez's co-authored book, "Lefty, an American Odyssey". Vernona is a member of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of SABR.

Any day I find myself in the company of Red Sox fans talking about the Boston nine in the American League standings relative to the 'insufferable' Yankees I can count on being asked the very same question the last time I was surrounded by Fenway fever.

"What was it like growing up in Massachusetts with a Yankee Hall of Famer?"

Reading this, you're probably surprised that Red Sox fans care a fig about my dad, Lefty Gomez, who famously said, "I'd rather be lucky than good" and wound up being both.

Known as a 'Money Pitcher' with a robust killer instinct...the guy the Yankees sent to the mound when a pennant or World Series win was on the line, Lefty was hailed as the glue of the Yankee dynasties of Ruth, Gehrig, Dickey and DiMaggio when baseball rekindled the spirit of Americans during the dark days of the Depression.

The only man to post a perfect World Series record, 6 wins & no losses, Lefty pitched Triple Crown ball in 1934 and '37 and started and won the first All-Star Game. But, Lefty's appearances in the batter's box told another story.

"I had only one weakness as a hitter....a pitched ball. I'm the cause of the designated hitter." To his amazement and that of the fans at the 1933 inaugural classic, Lefty drove in the first run in All-Star history with a single to center.

Lefty's classic one-liners speak to a competitor who took the game seriously but not himself. That he often chose to make himself the butt of many of his jokes shows a sense of fair play and a generosity of spirit.

For example, Lefty recalled a game in Boston against the Red Sox when his battery mate Bill Dickey asked Williams if the ball looked larger to Ted as it moved towards the plate.

"I see it the same size as anyone else", Ted said, "Don't believe that stuff in the papers, Bill."

Dickey comes out to the mound and says, "Ted sees the ball as it is."

And Lefty said, "That's good news? Damn, I was hoping Teddy didn't see the ball at all!"

Pondering why Sox fans repeatedly ask the question, "What's it like to call Lefty Gomez Dad?", and why they care about a guy in

pinstripes, I asked the fans if the reason lay in the fact that Lefty's diamond-edged quips transcended the sport and even the fierce Boston-New York rivalry. But I was so wrong. The hearts of Fenway Fans will remain forever inscrutable to a Yankee brat like me.

The Red Sox fans laugh and say, 'Nah. The reason we care about Gomez is because outside the foul lines when it came to the important stuff in life...his marriage and settling down...this Yankee came to his senses and married a Bostonian, June O'Dea, who starred on Broadway and they made their home in Lexington, Massachusetts, smack dab in Red Sox country.

And so it was. During the baseball season Lefty and June lived at the Ansonia Hotel in New York but the house they called home was a bungalow on Oak Street in Lexington, built by June's family in 1920.

In town for a series with the Red Sox, Lefty and his teammates hopped into taxis and came out to Oak Street. Ballplayers working the road trips get tired of hotel rooms and bland menus. They're looking to relax away from the crush of the crowds.

The Gomez house was also a popular hangout for entertainers working gigs at Boston nightclubs. They eagerly accepted the invitation to come back to Lexington for a home-cooked meal, laughter and the fun to be found around a ping-pong match, pinball machines or a hand of bridge or poker. Our house was filled to the rafters with celebrities who wanted to escape the glare of the spotlight.

If the game at Fenway went only nine innings, the late afternoon on Oak Street involved a game of croquet on the terraced lawns with the mallets quietly tapping the balls through the wire wickets until the Babe appeared and swung his mallet with such abandon that the victim's ball careened off the lawn and into the street. Wanting to protect their shins, opponents conceded victory to Ruth. And then there was the time Babe saw a kid's bike on the side of Oak Street picked it up and pedaled up and down the hill recklessly until Lefty watched in horror as the God of Baseball crashed into the boxwood, and lay sprawled moaning on the street. If Babe had broken his legs, Lefty said his days as a Yankee were over.

As the evening wore on, after a dinner of steaks and lobster, chairs were pushed back from the long dining-room table, the parlor rug rolled up and the showbiz folks entertained the guests.

One night Bing Crosby crooned *Up A Lazy River*. Another time Martha Raye did a soft shoe and Jimmy Durante sang a raspy *'Inka Dinka Doo.'* Bojangles Robinson took his famous dance routine out our front door, tapping up and down the porch steps.

'What was it like growing up with a Yankee Hall of Famer?'

My answer to the fan's question is: 'Life with Lefty was full of laughter and the unexpected. I was a lucky child to call Lefty Gomez, my dad.

Barry Lyons on Muzzy, Coaching, the Clock and More

By Matt Monitto



Manager Barry Lyons

On June 3, we had the opportunity to interview Barry Lyons, former New York Met (1986-90) and current manager of the newly-formed Bristol Blues of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. Mr. Lyons was very forthcoming in his interview and clearly enthusiastic about the upcoming season and the ability to manage a brand-new team. Here's what he had to say. (Ed Note: The Blues play in historic Muzzy Field. Visit www.bristolbluesbaseball.com):

What's it like for you managing a brand-new team in an area that hasn't had baseball in a while?

Well, it's a great opportunity to establish our brand and to make a mark in this community and provide wholesome family entertainment and what I want to label as "winning baseball." We're not going to win every game, but we're going to play a brand of baseball that is exciting to watch and entertaining while being aggressive and holding nothing back. We want to win. Every day we put the uniform on, our goal is to win that game that day.

You've been talking about the community. Do you have any idea how you're going to be involved with the community in Bristol?

Well, we're open to anything, and as I told Rick Muntean, the general manager, who's been here probably since October, maybe, he has had nothing but wonderful things to say about the community and the reception he's received, and the Bristol Blues have been warmly welcomed here. We have all kinds of special nights planned and promotions and things of that nature, but I've been very demanding of our players to be very respectful and to encourage people they meet on a daily basis to come out and watch the Bristol Blues play.

With the changes that are being made in Major League Baseball, with statistics, new metrics of measurement, new pace of play rules, what is your opinion on those? Do you see that as being a positive change, or...?

I guess my first instinct, to see a clock put in baseball, to me is... disturbing, I'm going to be nice. That is the one element of the game I don't think they need to screw with. But due to TV and selling advertising and marketing and creating revenue, that's what it's come to. But the purist in me, and the passionate baseball lifer that I am, I don't like that. And some of the quote-unquote "sabermetrics" or these newly-found ways of measuring things... I don't understand 'em. At all. I don't care for 'em, I don't use 'em. I manage by gut instincts and by knowledge and wisdom gained in my fifty-plus years in baseball.

As I told these guys: Be aggressive, attack the baseball as a hitter. I'm not into the walks - I mean, I love my walks, don't get me wrong, but I'm not into just getting up there, taking pitches, and trying to work the count, and trying to get that "perfect pitch." I think that has led to a lot of the strikeouts that you see these days. Guys are getting behind in the count by taking good pitches to hit because they're borderline or they're not right down the middle or they're not right where they want it, and to me, I don't agree with that style of baseball - with that approach to hitting - at all. I was a very aggressive hitter and I attacked that first pitch if it was presentable. Don't get me wrong, I swung at a lot of bad pitches in my career, but I can promise you I never took a 2-0 fastball down the middle. I never took a 3-1 fastball anywhere near home plate. Rarely did I not attack a first-pitch fastball unless it was obviously blatantly outside or what have you. I believe in being aggressive, and if a kid is aggressive and making mistakes, I have no problem whatsoever. If a kid's passive or makes a mental mistake or is not focused, then we've got issues, and we'll address it, and he'll learn from it.

Have there been many challenges in bringing together all these players from different colleges and different regions as a team?

Not one. Not one challenge at all so far for me as the manager of the club. Now, Rick Muntean I think has done an amazing job of assembling a great group of not only talented ballplayers but fine young men, and that's not always easy to do. It's sometimes easy to see the talent when you're observing the player, but to know that they're good people and they're going to represent the organization in a positive way sometimes is the toughest part.

Upcoming Baseball Books Compiled by Karl Cicitto

Intangiball: The Subtle Things That Win Baseball Games.

By Lonnie Wheeler Aug. 11

Bobo Newsome: Baseball's Traveling Man.

By Jim McConnell Sept. 30

Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson, and the Cuban League.

By Cesar Brioso Sept. 22

The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball.

By Charles Fountain Oct. 5

Our Bums: The Brooklyn Dodgers in History, Memory and Popular Culture.

By David Krell Sept. 30.

Ballparks Then and Now.

By Eric Enders August 11.

Had Them All the Way (1960 Pittsburgh Pirates).

By Thad Mamau Sept. 30

The Voices of Baseball.

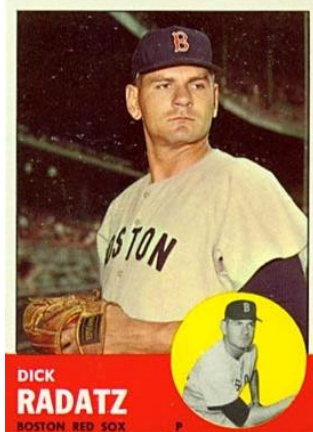
By Kirk McKnight August 16

Bryan Shaw vs Dick Radatz By Tom Zocco

Cleveland Indians pitcher, Bryan Shaw led the American League in games pitched in 2014 with 80 and pitched a whopping 76.1 innings!

Let us compare this to a seventeen day stretch by Dick Radatz for the Red Sox in 1963.

June 9 vs Baltimore: Pitches the last six innings of a fourteen inning game and strikes out ten as the Red Sox beat the Orioles 3-2.



June 11 vs Detroit: Pitches the last 8.2 innings in relief and strikes out eleven as the Red Sox beat the Tigers 7-3 in fifteen innings.

June 14 vs Baltimore: Pitches two shutout innings.

June 16 vs Baltimore: Pitches three innings in the second game and strikes out four.

June 20 vs Tigers: Pitches three shutout innings, striking out five.

June 21 vs New York: One shutout inning, one strikeout.

June 22 vs New York: First game, 2.1 innings, three strikeouts. Second game, two shutout innings, two strikeouts.

June 25 vs Cleveland: First game, 1.2 innings, four strikeouts and a save. Second game, 1.2 innings, three strikeouts and a save.

That's over thirty-one innings in seventeen days.

Dick Radatz was the difference between the Red Sox and a close cellar finish back then. His arm burned out too soon, but what a relief pitcher he was from 1962-64.

Upcoming SABR Events

SABR Analytics Conference

March 10-12, 2016

Hyatt Regency Phoenix

122 North 2nd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85004

For more information: www.sabr.org/analytics

Trivia Question #4 By Father Gerry Beirne

Members of the Napoleon Lajoie (R.I.) Chapter are known for their trivia prowess. At their June 13 meeting, Bob Mazur and Mark Kanter shared top honors in the trivia quiz, which was on the topic of players who hit 50 home runs in a season. At the recent SABR Convention in Chicago, Mark became the first person to win the convention trivia quiz 10 times.

50 Home Run Hitters

The 28 players listed below are the subjects of the questions.

Brady Anderson	Jose Bautista
Albert Belle	Barry Bonds
Chris Davis	George Foster
Cecil Fielder	Prince Fielder
Jimmie Foxx	Luis Gonzalez
Hank Greenberg	Ken Griffey, Jr.
Ryan Howard	Andruw Jones
Ralph Kiner	Mickey Mantle
Roger Maris	Willie Mays
Mark McGwire	Johnny Mize
David Ortiz	Albert Pujols
Alex Rodriguez	Babe Ruth
Sammy Sosa	Jim Thome
Greg Vaughn	Lewis "Hack" Wilson

- 1) Babe Ruth was the first to hit 50 or more, who was second?
- 2) Who was first to do it with an expansion team?
- 3) Who was the only one to do it in a year when he won the Triple Crown?
- 4) Jimmie Foxx and Hank Greenberg both did it in what year?
- 5) Ralph Kiner and Johnny Mize both did it in what year?
- 6) Who had only 210 career homers, the fewest of anyone on the list?
- 7) a) Name Albert Belle's team when he did it; b) Jim Thome's team.
- 8) What was Greg Vaughn's team when he did it?
- 9) Who was the only player to do it in the 1970's?
- 10) Which father/son team did it? Which one hit 51 and which hit 50?
- 11) Which player had the highest career batting average?
- 12) Who was once traded for Curt Schilling?
- 13) Who was the first not born in the USA?
- 14) In what year did Sammy Sosa hit 66 and Mark McGwire hit 70?
- 15) What team does Chris Davis play for?
- 16) Were more hit by American Leaguers or National Leaguers? More hit by right-handed batters or left-handed batters?
- 17) In what year did both Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle do it?
- 18) Who was the next left-hander after Babe Ruth to do it?
- 19) What was Luis Gonzalez's team when he did it?
- 20) Which name of the above never did it?



Member Profile: Paul Hensler

By Matt Monitto

Paul Hensler is a resident of Ellington, CT and first became a SABR member in 1979. Hensler has been heavily active in the SABR community since rejoining in 2007. He first attended a baseball game in July 1967 at Yankee Stadium, and became a fan of the sport watching the Red Sox win the American League pennant that season. Three years later, Hensler became a fan of the California Angels and has remained a Halos supporter ever since. He was in attendance for two well-known games that did not go in the Angels' favor: Ron Guidry's 18-strikeout performance in 1978, and Game 5 of the 1986 ALCS. Hensler is proud of having met Thurman Munson in 1971 and Bob Gibson and Curt Flood at a 1992 fantasy camp, and singling off Fergie Jenkins in a game at that camp. As a SABR member, Hensler gave a presentation at SABR 42 in Minneapolis about the late '60s Twins, and enjoys attending events held by the CT chapter. He still follows the Angels closely and hopes he won't have to endure another decades-long wait to see them win the World Series again.

Name, education, occupation?

Paul Hensler, BS from CCSU, MA from Trinity College, working as a tour guide at the Connecticut State Capitol.

Earliest baseball memories?

Playing "hit the bat" as a kid; First major league game was the opener of the Bat Day doubleheader at Yankee Stadium in July 1967 - Kansas City Athletics (Catfish Hunter) vs. the Yankees (Al Downing).

How did you become a baseball fan?

By getting wrapped up in the great pennant race of September 1967, then seeing the Red Sox almost capture the World Series against the Cardinals.

Favorite/best baseball memories?

I saw many games of my hometown high school/American Legion teams during the Ray Legenza dynasty of the early 1970s, including the 64-game winning streak of Naugatuck High School; meeting Thurman Munson in 1971 when his brother Duane (a federal sky

marshal) was briefly dating my aunt (a stewardess with PanAm Airlines); being in attendance for Ron Guidry's 18-strikeout performance against the Angels in 1978, and also the 1986 ALCS games in Anaheim, including the infamous fifth game; also meeting Bob Gibson and Curt Flood at fantasy camp in 1992, to say nothing of getting a base hit off Fergie Jenkins in the game against the big leaguers (I actually pulled a 17-hopper just to the right of second base).

Favorite team?

I've been a California / Los Angeles Angels fan since 1970.

How did you end up joining SABR?

I learned about SABR reading The Sporting News in the summer of 1979 and first joined at that time. I gave up in 1995 over bitterness with the unresolved strike, but then rejoined in late 2007. My earlier service time has supposedly been reinstated!

How active are you in the SABR community?

I've been much more active the second time around and have enjoyed various events held by our chapter; I was honored to present at SABR 42 in Minneapolis on the Twins of the late 1960s.

What are your thoughts on baseball nowadays/this season?

I still follow my Angels closely, but many of the other teams are lost on me. There are too many players on too many teams now to devote the time and energy like I used to in the 70s and 80s. It's good to see the pendulum swinging to some degree back in favor of pitching. I'm glad Mike Trout wears a Halo (but he still strikes out waaaaaay too much!), but hopefully there won't be another decades-long wait to see the Angels win another World Series. An adherent to old-style statistics - although WAR has its merits - I think it becomes ludicrous when attempts are made to quantify every minute aspect of the game. Hyper-analysis holds no interest for me.

Member Profile: Tom Monitto

By Stan Dziurgot

If you've been to any New Britain Rock Cats with our SABR group, you've probably noticed three people in the group sitting together engaging in the long lost art of keeping score. They would be Tom Monitto, his son Matt, and daughter Sara. Both his children are fans of the Minnesota Twins and Tom is a Red Sox fan.

Now living in Bristol, Tom was born and raised in New Britain. He attended a computer technical school after graduating from New Britain High School. He has worked in IT since 1974; first in Cheshire, CT before moving to Springfield, VT. There he worked for a company that the father of Carlton Fisk had recently retired from. He didn't realize this until he met and talked to the Hall of Fame catcher 20 years later. Returning to Connecticut he met his wife Joneen at an interoffice softball game. He began to notice her after she as the catcher tagged out a runner at home plate.

Their son Matt graduated from Elon University while daughter Sara is attending CCSU as a Music Education major.

Tom was actually more of a football fan growing up rooting for the NY Giants in the mid to late 1960s when they were a terrible team. The 1967 Impossible Dream Boston Red Sox Team kindled his interest in baseball. By the mid 1970's, around the time of the Joe Pisarcik fumble, football had taken a back seat to baseball. Tom enjoys both the history of baseball as well as the analytical part of the game. He reads both fiction and non-fiction stories about the game and loves to listen to old broadcasts.

A SABR member since December 2013, he was given his SABR membership as a gift from his son and has been an active member of the Smoky Joe Wood chapter.



Opportunity Knocks for Writing Projects

Compiled By Karl Cicitto

SABR has published dozens of books and thousands of biographies and will continue to add to the canon of baseball history through the efforts of SABR members. Writing opportunities are abundant. First Timers are welcome. Here is some information on 5 writing projects and how to become involved.

Team Ownership Histories Project

The SABR Baseball Biography Project and the SABR Business of Baseball Committee are teaming up to create a collection of the ownership histories of major league franchises. As they are completed, the histories will appear in the Business of Baseball newsletter and be posted permanently in a separate section on the BioProject web-site. If you are interested in doing a team's history, or part of a team's history, such as the St. Louis Browns years of the current Baltimore franchise, please contact Andy McCue (agmccue44@earthlink.net), who will be coordinating the project. The Dodgers are done, and writers have claimed the Yankees, Red Sox, Cubs and Indians. But that means 25 other teams are available.

Baseball Biography Project

The lofty goal is to write a high-quality journal-length biography of every player who ever played in the major leagues. Now in its 13th year, Bio Project has completed almost 3,300 biographies written by over 500 SABR members. Your subject can be anyone who ever played in the major leagues & has been retired for at least 5 years, or any manager, executive, umpire, scout, or broadcaster. In fact, we welcome your ideas for any subject who impacted the history of the game — someone from the Negro Leagues, the minor leagues, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, and even Japan.

Web-site: sabr.org/bioproject

Things you should know: sabr.org/content/bioproject-resources

Request an assignment: Lyle Spatz at bioassign@sabr.org

SABR Games Project

The SABR Baseball Games Project is a new initiative to research and write articles on major-league and Negro League regular, postseason, and All-Star Games. These game accounts will complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores as well as BioProject essays on the players involved. All games, regardless of their historical significance, are eligible to be written.

Web-site: sabr.org/gamesproject

Things you should know: sabr.org/content/sabr-games-project

Request an assignment: James Forr at jff110@hotmail.com

SABR Baseball Ballparks Project

We love ballparks, and feel that each one deserves its own biography. Ballparks have a life of their own. Your job, as the ballpark's biographer, is to cover that life in detail, from birth to death.

Web-site: sabr.org/bioproj/parks

Request an assignment: Scott Ferkovich at scottferk@gmail.com

SABR Book Projects

Biographers are needed for several books, as listed below. Status of assignment availabilities changes daily. Please contact Bill Nowlin to confirm availability & request an assignment. (bnowlin@rounder.com)

- 1871 BOSTON RED STOCKINGS: There are a few games which need game accounts written.
- 1986 NEW YORK METS : Biographer is needed for Stan Jefferson.
- 1986 RED SOX: Biographers are needed for Spike Owen, Ed Romero, and Bill Fischer.
- 1946 NEWARK EAGLES: Biographers are needed for Clarence Israel, Charles Parks , Warren Pearce and Jimmy Wilkes.

New Member Profile: Joe Lenti By Stan Dziurgot

Joe Lenti has spent most of his adult life working in radio. He was the Vice-President and Program Director of oldies station WCBS-FM in New York from 1981 – 2004. Also he consulted for stations in Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and New Jersey. He's been an on-air personality for New York stations WOR-FM, WXLO, WNBC and WCBS-FM. In 1999 he was voted the number 1 program director in America by Radio Inc. Magazine. He grew up in Nyack, NY with two interests; music and baseball. He has baseball memorabilia from the era of 1949 – 1964. He has been to 30 major league ball parks.

Two of his biggest thrills were working with Mel Allen and interviewing Bob Sheppard. He also had a baseball show with Rich Marazzi on WAVZ New Haven during the baseball season. His interests in baseball are in the 50's and 60's. He would love to do a book on pre-1964 baseball stadiums. Joe resides in Shelton and he's been a SABR member since February 2015.

Trivia Question #5 By Ken Paulsen

Mike Sandlock of Old Greenwich is nearing 100 years of age. As of June 20 he is the oldest living Major Leaguer. Sandlock hit 2 career home runs, both in 1945 while with the Brooklyn Dodgers off the same New York Giant pitcher, five months apart. One was at the Polo Grounds, the other at Ebbets Field. Who was that pitcher?

- Charles "Red" Barrett
- Harry Feldman
- Russ Meyer
- Bill Voiselle

Helpful Links

baseballreference.com = Detailed statistics and information.

uniwatch.com = Evolution of team uniforms through the years.

sportslogos.net = Team logos, uniforms and symbols.

Recent Member Activity

STANLEY ROTHMAN, Quinnipiac University professor of Mathematics, presented at the 2015 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio, the largest mathematics meeting in the world. At the 2014 convention, Stanley's linear formula for predicting a team's winning percentage based on runs scored and runs allowed was shown to be effective for MLB teams from 1998 to 2013. At this year's gathering, Stan, aided by work from junior math major Alex Everett, established that his linear theorem is an effective predictor for winning percentages for the years 1901 to 2013. Dr. Rothman is the author of Sandlot Stats: Learning Statistics with Baseball. In 2015, he finished his 45th consecutive year at Quinnipiac. Dr. Stan's love of baseball began early. He spent his pre-teenage years playing a board game called All-Star Baseball. Using disks whose sectors represented the probability of a player having various baseball outcomes, he was introduced to the rules of probability. He still has that game today. Stan was the shortstop on the Hackensack, New Jersey Little League All Star team in 1957. His career in baseball was short-lived due to an arm injury and the non-existence of Tommy John surgery but he remains a huge baseball fan. The player he admired most was Mickey Mantle and his favorite team is the New York Yankees. Dr. Stan follows every Yankee game either on the radio at work or on television at home.

Member Classifieds

BASEBALL IN GILDED AGE CONNECTICUT

Major League Baseball in Gilded Age Connecticut: The Rise and Fall of the Middletown, New Haven and Hartford Clubs. Enjoy an exciting journey back in time to the days of Mark Twain, Morgan Bulkeley and the Samuel Colt family, when baseball was young and Connecticut played a major role in its development. 268 pages, numerous photographs, bibliography, index and appendices. \$20 plus \$3 S/H. Email David Arcidiacono at DArcidiacono@snet.net.

SABERMETRIC LIBRARY FOR SALE

Bill James Baseball Abstract 1982-88, Elias Baseball Analyst 1985, 1987-1989, and 1992, Baseball Sabermetric 1989-1994 (various titles), more. \$100 plus shipping. All proceeds go to SABR. E-mail brak2.0@dslextreme.com for details.

800 VINTAGE MEDIA GUIDES & ANNUALS

A large collection of media guides, 1970 to 2011, available by team. Plus 120+ TSN Annuals and Baseball Digests. Visit my page: www.bobsbaseballbooks.wordpress.com

THE WOOD PILE

Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter
of the Society for American Baseball Research



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Answers to Trivia Questions

Trivia Answer #1

Spec Shea, representing the Yankees, pitched in the 1947 All-Star Game. He went 3 innings, giving up a home run to Johnny Mize but got the win when the AL came back to win 2-1 while he was still the pitcher of record.

Walt Dropo's only All-Star appearance came in 1950, his rookie season (he won the AL Rookie of the Year award.) He started at 1st base and tripled off Don Newcombe.

Jim Piersall appeared in the 1954 and 1956 games as a defensive replacement, going 0-1.

Johnny Moore never made it to the Mid-Summer Classic. His best year was 1935 when he hit .328 for the Phillies. The National League outfielders that year were Joe Medwick, Cardinals, Wally Berger, Braves, Mel Ott, Giants, Jo-Jo Moore, Giants and Paul Waner, Pirates.

Trivia Answer #2

Ned Hanlon won 1313 games in 19 seasons as a Major League manager, including 60 with the 1890 Pittsburgh Burghers of the Players League. Born in Montville in 1857, Hanlon played minor league ball in 3 states that border Connecticut, in Providence, Rhode Island, Fall River, Massachusetts and Rochester and Albany, New York. Reaching the majors with the Detroit Wolverines, Hanlon was a quick center fielder, often leading the league in outfield chances. He began his managerial career in Pittsburgh in 1889 while still a player, but did not see much success until he had basically retired from playing. His best success was with the Baltimore Orioles, winning three consecutive National League pennants from 1894-1896. After two second place finishes, he moved on to the Brooklyn Superbas, winning two more NL pennants. His best 20th century finish was 2nd place in 1902. After finishing last in 1905 Hanlon moved on to Cincinnati for two 6th place seasons. His overall record as a manager was 1313-1164 (.530). He retired to Baltimore, becoming active on the Charm City's Parks Board and an investor of Baltimore's Federal League entry. He died in Baltimore in 1937. Hanlon was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1996 by the Veteran's Committee. Despite being most closely identified with the Baltimore Orioles of the 1890's and such innovations as the hit and run, sacrifice bunting and the "Baltimore Chop"*; Hanlon was first of all a Connecticut native.

Stamford's Bobby Valentine won 1197 games (including 13 in the post season) with Texas, the New York Mets and the Red Sox.

Billy Gardner won 330 games in the 1980's with the Twins and Royals.

Orator O'Rourke managed Buffalo and Washington in the National League in the 1880's and 90's, compiling 246 wins.

Brad Ausmus ended the 2014 season tied with Meriden's Jack Barry. Barry, the shortstop in Connie Mack's \$100,000 infield, managed the 1917 Red Sox to a 90-62-5 record as a player-manager. The Red Sox, who won the pennant in 1915 and 1916 and would again in 1918 only finished second under Barry, 9 games back of the Chicago White Sox. Barry never managed in the big leagues again but became head baseball coach at Holy Cross University for over 40 years. The Little League in Meriden is named for him.

* Some sources give less credit to Hanlon for these innovations and more to his players such as John McGraw and Wee Willie Keeler.

Trivia Answer #3

Bill Hutchinson of New Haven won 181 games in the 1880's and 1890's National League, primarily with Chicago.

Born in Bridgeport and raised in Fairfield, University of Connecticut product Charles Nagy went 129-105 in his 14 year Major League career. His win total is tops for the modern era.

Freddie Goldsmith from New Haven went 112-68 in the 19th century for Troy and Chicago in the National League and Baltimore of the American Association. While William Arthur "Candy" Cummings is in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for his development of the curveball, Goldsmith claimed that it was actually he who originated it.

Southington's Carl Pavano (New Britain) was 108-107

Trivia Answers #4

- 1) Hack Wilson
- 2) Ken Griffey, Jr. (Seattle)
- 3) Mickey Mantle
- 4) 1938
- 5) 1947
- 6) Brady Anderson
- 7) a) Indians; b) Indians
- 8) Padres
- 9) George Foster
- 10) Cecil Fielder hit 51; Prince Fielder hit 50
- 11) Babe Ruth (.342)
- 12) Brady Anderson
- 13) Sammy Sosa
- 14) 1998
- 15) Orioles
- 16) a) AL; b) Right-Handers
- 17) 1961
- 18) Johnny Mize
- 19) Diamondbacks
- 20) Albert Pujols

Trivia Answers #5

Harry Feldman was the unlikely victim of both of Sandlock's four-baggers. He actually won the April contest despite giving up 6 runs over 7 innings including a 2-run shot by Sandlock. Sandlock's 3-run homer off Feldman in a September contest led to his early exit but he did not factor in the decision. Feldman went 12-13 in 1945. Sandlock's 12 at bats against Feldman, all in 1945, were the most he had against one pitcher. Besides the 2 home runs Sandlock also had a single in those 12 at bats against Feldman.

Charles "Red" Barrett did not pitch for the Giants, but Mike Sandlock owned him, going 5-9 with 2 doubles. Barrett's real claim to fame is that he pitched a 2-hit shutout in 1944 for the Boston Braves against the Reds needing only 58 pitches.

Sandlock also had his way with Russ Meyer, going 5-9 with a double and hit by pitch and was 3-10 with 2 doubles and 2 walks against Voiselle.