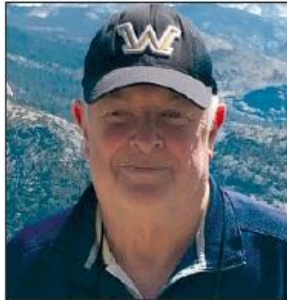


Pawlush Brings Story Of Old Colonial Baseball League To Life

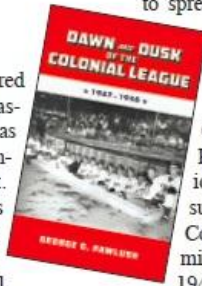


Submitted photo
George Pawlush

by Greg Lederer
Herald Staff

Commonly referred to as “America’s pastime,” baseball has deep roots in the country’s past and present.

While much is known about the history of Major League Baseball, there have been countless other organizations that have helped



to spread the popularity of the sport over the years, of which much less is known.

Back in 1994, Cheshire’s George Pawlush came up with the idea to tell the story of one such organization—the Colonial League, a Class B minor league that ran from 1947-1950 in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.

“I was very interested in baseball after the war (World War II),” reflected Pawlush, who moved to Cheshire in 1983. “It was the era (in which) I was born.”

For Pawlush, becoming an author was a story of persistence.

He started doing research for the book, but found it difficult to manage the workload on top of his full-time job in the health care industry—from 1996-2013, he worked as vice president of public relations and community affairs at Greenwich Hospital.

“I put the thing on hold for 15 years because I had such commutes,” explained Pawlush.

It wasn’t until he retired that Pawlush decided to pick his writing back up.

“If I had finished the book in 2000, I wouldn’t have had the information that I do now,” reflected Pawlush. “With more time, I was able to track down the children of the people who played and they had photos that I could use. They were excited that someone was writing about their father or grandfather.”

Earlier this year, Pawlush reached the goal that he set for himself 24 years ago, publishing his book “Dawn and Dusk of the Colonial League.”

“I didn’t write this to make money. I wanted to keep the memory of the Colonial League alive,” explained Pawlush.



Submitted photo

Former Cheshire resident and Colonial League baseball player John McKenna.

In his book, Pawlush introduces readers to the league and how it was formed. He writes about the Colonial’s four seasons in existence, and then provides a chapter on the baseball personalities who made up the teams.

World War II veterans, baseball promoters, and high school graduates, as well as Latin American and African American players, were brought together in the Colonial League. Some players had lost jobs in Major League Baseball after the war but found spots on Colonial teams.

“The players probably averaged \$300 a month. They couldn’t afford to live on that,” said

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