



The Wood Pile



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

Volume I Issue 9

Summer 2019

Leading Off: A Message from the Chapter President



Greetings, SABR-ites! As of this writing, we are back from the annual SABR convention in San Diego. There were several good sessions, Alan and I made back to back presentations on the PCL, and we enjoyed the Padres-Cardinals ballgame. The weather was good, and it was nice to do some sightseeing, and take in the Old Town,

Balboa Park, and be by the water. It was nice to see old friends, and make new ones. Hearts for all of this.

On the other hand, darts to the shaky Padres defense, where the Cardinals should have been able to score some runs, but couldn't do so. Darts also to some odd-ball trivia questions, which left some of us baffled in the team semi-finals.

Alan Cohen is leading the efforts for us to go to the September 15 Mets game, so we hope that many of you will respond. We could also go to a Yankee game, and also a Yard Goats game. I hope we will have another Strato-matic session as well. We had a lively chapter breakfast recently, and could have a luncheon at Rein's Deli, like we did last year.

I recently re-read the Troy Soos book, *Hanging Curve*. Mickey Rawlings, a well-traveled utility infielder, is with the St. Louis Browns in 1922, as they fight the Yankees for the pennant. Mickey gets involved in who was responsible for lynching Slip Crawford, an African-American hurler who faced Mickey in a game in East St. Louis. Troy writes well, not only about the baseball itself, but also about the social issues connected to dealing with the KKK, racism and the need for justice. This book is part of a series that Troy wrote, with Mickey being on many different teams in the teens and early 20's. I highly recommend this series to our chapter members. Hearts to Troy for this book and his series of books.

Hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events!

New Chapter Members

Welcome to new members (since January 2019):

Dylan Barrett, Storrs	Ray Cotrufo, New Haven
Mark Delfranco, Orange	Daniel de Malas Andreu, Bristol
Steve Desjardin, West Hartford	Justin Kayal, Madison
Donald Loveless, Windsor Locks	Christopher McClancy, Darien
Stephen Sikora, West Hartford	

Upcoming Events

Chapter Events

www.smokyjoewood.com/events

Sunday, September 15
Mets-Dodgers game
Citi Field

Contact Alan Cohen
Adc0317@comcast.net

September – date TBD
Strat-O-Matic Game Day
Site TBD

Contact Karl Cicitto
kcicitto@cox.net

October – date TBD
General Chapter Meeting
Site TBD

Contact Steve Krevisky
Skrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu

December – date TBD
Holiday Luncheon
Site TBD

Contact Stan Dziurgot
Stanyank7@yahoo.com

Watch for emails from Steve Krevisky for details on our chapter plans.

National Events

Black Sox Centennial
September 27-29
Chicago
sabr.org/latest/sabr-black-sox-scandal-centennial-symposium-chicago-il

Arizona Fall League Experience
October 10-12
Phoenix
sabr.org/AFL

SABR Analytics Conference
March 6-8, 2020
Phoenix
sabr.org/analytics

19th Century Base Ball Conference
April 24-25, 2020
Cooperstown
sabr.org/ivor-campbell19c

SABR 50
July 15-19, 2020
Baltimore
sabr.org/convention

More information at sabr.org/events

SABR Convention Presentations



Steve Krevisky and Alan Cohen each made PCL-related research presentations on June 28 at the SABR Convention in San Diego. Steve presented on Fred Haney and Bucky

Harris, whose Hollywood Stars and San Diego Padres faced off for the league championship. Alan traced the signing of the first black San Diego Padre, John Ritchie, in 1947, and the succession of black Padre stars that followed. (Photos: Bill Ryczek.)

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.commnet.edu
Alan Cohen (Vice President/Treasurer): adc0317@comcast.net
Stan Dziurgot (Membership Director): stanyank7@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.



Going Pro: Baseball in the 1860s

By William J. Ryczek

This article first appeared in The National Pastime.

The sporting world is frequently subject to historical, political, and social influence, and when great events occurred in America, baseball felt their impact. At first, the game was too small and parochial to be affected by national trends. During the 1850s, when baseball experienced its first growth spurt, there had been bitter intersectional conflict between Northern and Southern states, but baseball was essentially a New York sport, and regional differences were irrelevant.

During the 1860s, America was ravaged by a bloody civil war, and following the peace a booming economy was accompanied by westward expansion. The country's population was also in the midst of a steady migration from farms to cities, and each of these factors had a significant impact on the game of baseball.

The Civil War was the first to be fought after sporting events had become popular among adults, and baseball men had to decide whether it was morally and socially acceptable for fit young men to devote time to sports when other young men were suffering and dying for their country. The *New York Clipper*, one of the leading sporting journals, urged all able-bodied men to enlist in the army but qualified their recommendation by stating later that "Enthusiasts in the game [of baseball] are looking forward to a brilliant season. We hope they will not be disappointed." As it would be in future wars, baseball was promoted as beneficial exercise that would build strong soldiers, and as entertainment that provided a welcome respite for those who remained on the home front.

The 1860 season had been the finest in the brief history of baseball; there were more teams in the field and more games had been played than in any previous year. The onset of war brought the growth to a screeching halt, as a number of clubs were forced to disband when the majority of their members marched off to war. In 1860, 60 clubs sent delegates to the National Association convention. The following year only 34 were represented. Even the organizations that remained intact played infrequently; the Excelsior Club of Brooklyn, one of the best teams in the New York area, did not play a single game in 1861.

The Excelsiors' inactivity sidelined pitcher Jim Creighton, the most famous baseball player in America. Although Creighton had only one great season, he played for one of the most popular teams of his era and the speed of his pitches was legendary. Still, he might have been forgotten by future generations had he not died tragically and heroically at the age of 21.

The earliest rules of baseball called for the pitcher to deliver the ball to the batter with a stiff wrist and with his hand below hip level. His job was to allow the batter to put the ball in play. As baseball became more competitive during the 1850s, some pitchers realized that their team might gain an advantage if they made the pitch a little harder to hit solidly. Even though it was illegal, they began to throw the ball with a snap of their wrist to give it more speed. While several pitchers did this, Creighton was the one who did it most effectively.

Creighton pitched for the Star Club in 1859, and he so impressed the Excelsiors that they determined to have him in their nine for the 1860 season. To do so, it is likely that they offered him financial inducements of some type, perhaps a salary, and it is strongly believed that Creighton was the first man to be paid to play baseball.

Creighton's signature season was 1860, when the Excelsiors undertook the first extensive tour in baseball history, visiting upstate New York, Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia during the course of the summer and fall. With the Excelsiors inactive in 1861 and playing very little the following season, Creighton didn't do much pitching, but he did play quite a bit of cricket. Apparently in the course of a cricket match he suffered a ruptured inguinal hernia, which he aggravated while hitting a home run in a baseball game. Creighton's death cemented his status as the first American baseball hero.

Baseball activity picked up gradually during the last two years of the war. Many players enlisted for three-month terms and returned to the diamond after they were mustered out. In addition, a lot of baseball was played in military and prison camps, and soldiers who had never heard of the game before learned to play it and brought it back to their hometowns.

After the war ended in April 1865, baseball exploded. Many people had died during the Civil War, but many survivors were much wealthier than they'd been when the war began. Manufacturers made money supplying the troops, and with so many young men in the service, there was a labor shortage on the home front that boosted wages. A strong economy and a larger urban population meant that people had money to spend and access to baseball.

At the advent of the Civil War, baseball was popular in the New York City area, but it was in its infancy in the rest of the United States. Following the war, the game spread to nearly all regions of the country, extending all the way to California. New York emigrants generally introduced the game in other regions and organized clubs they often named after their old organizations.

One of those pioneers was Harry Wright, the oldest son of cricket professional Sam Wright. Harry was born in Sheffield, England, but was brought to New York as a small child. He was proficient at both cricket and baseball, assisting his father with cricket instruction and playing baseball with the Knickerbockers and Gothams. In 1866, at a time when baseball players could not be openly compensated, Wright moved to Cincinnati to serve as the professional of the Union Cricket Club. At 31, it appeared his baseball career was over, for there was no first-class baseball in Cincinnati.

Nearly as soon as he arrived, the fledgling Cincinnati Base Ball Club approached Wright about sharing his cricket grounds. Soon, Wright was running the team and greatly improving the caliber of its play, both through his coaching and the addition of more

"1860s" continued on Page 10

Book Review

By Paul Hensler

They Said It Couldn't Be Done: The '69 Mets, New York City, and the Most Astounding Season in Baseball History. By Wayne Coffey. New York: Crown Archetype, 2019

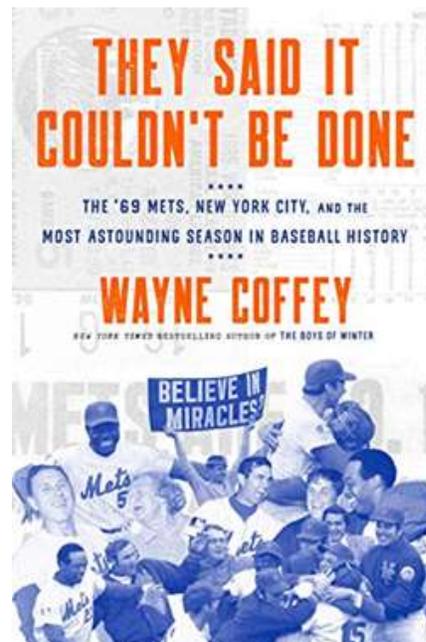
When I first joined SABR forty years ago, I was very interested in learning about the history of the national pastime from earlier in the twentieth century, but after a few years of membership, I began to wonder why there were so many articles related to the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. It was certainly a rite of passage in my baseball education, but the aging process has made me become my father (after a fashion), and now those decades-ago lookbacks that formerly prompted an eye-roll now are a source of fascination to me. Such is the case with Wayne Coffey's *They Said It Couldn't Be Done*, his bouquet to the first Mets team that reached baseball's pinnacle by besting Earl Weaver's powerhouse Baltimore Orioles in the 1969 World Series.

An engaging writer, Coffey does well to highlight the coming of age of George Thomas Seaver, noting - but not dotting over - the deeds of the Mets' most recognizable player in franchise history, but he gives equal time to many of the team's other central characters. Manager Gil Hodges' 25-man roster was laden with the kind of everyman player who if performing for another team might well have vanished unnoticed into the multitude of entries of baseball-reference.com. But here the author breathes life anew into the Al Weises and Jerry Grotes who in one way or another came up with a big play that kept the Mets' magic carpet aloft in that wondrous season.

To be sure, Seaver had company among his teammates who plied their trade for profit not just for the Amazin's. There was Jerry Koosman, who went on to pitch for nineteen years in the majors, and legendary future Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan, whose resume grew by leaps and bounds after his 1972 trade to California, where he added to the concrete of the foundation of a career that was first poured in Flushing.

Coffey warmly enriches his tale by adding other personalities that could be easily overlooked, giving nods to Steve Aptheker, credited with striking up the first chant of "Let's Go, Mets!" on Memorial Day 1962 at the Polo Grounds; Bobby Sacca, the Mets batboy during the Mets' glorious campaign seven years later; and Karl Ehrhardt, the sign man whose trove of placards alternately cheered on the home team and taunted the opposition. These characters fit nicely with the better-known Cleon Jones, the outfielder who emerged from - but never forgot his roots in - the Africatown section of Mobile, Alabama, as well as Tommie Agee, Jones' partner in the outfield who used his athleticism to pull off two of the most memorable catches in World Series history - just a few innings apart, no less.

The portrait Coffey paints of Hodges highlights the stoic manager's demeanor. Unflappable as the apotheosis of a study in concentration, Hodges was the ringmaster who was the right man in the right place at the right time, employing his personnel to the best



effect, and refusing to be intimidated by an Oriole contingent who, on paper, deservedly impressed as the overwhelming favorite in the Series. The David-and-Goliath overtones, present from the first pitch of Game 1, became evident as the fall classic progressed to its Game 5 denouement.

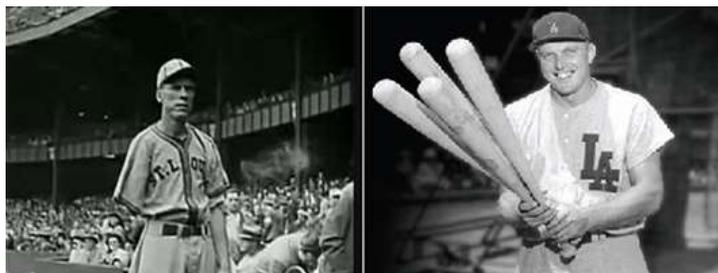
The structure of the book is a bit curious, whereby the author dashes through the 1969 regular season in less than eighty pages, a pace That seems almost uncomfortably brisk. But he eases up greatly for the remainder of the narrative and puts the emphasis on the postseason action, during which time the Mets continued to prove that they were no fluke. There's good and bad to this approach: at times there are such long stretches between descriptions of game action that the reader may need to backtrack to recall what the score is, yet in between these passages, the author has imbedded background information and minutiae that make the book a pleasant read.

The Mets' showdowns against the Atlanta Braves in the National League Championship Series (now practically an afterthought) and then the Orioles in the fall classic allowed them to etch their names in the granite of baseball's annals. Indeed, the black-cat episode (against the Cubs) and Hodges' memorable stroll to left field to bring a perceived-to-be-loafing Jones back to the dugout with him find space in these pages, and whether the topic is the emerging Tug McGraw or the forgotten contributions of general manager Johnny Murphy, Coffey has done his homework in covering a vast amount of ground to tell the story of this destiny-bound team.

Lacking endnotes and an index, the book will disappoint scholars a bit, but the author's acknowledgments indicate that he's done his homework by crediting a host of people (including Smoky Joe Wood's own Bill Ryczek) for their many and varied contributions. Wayne Coffey has delivered a fine work that makes one wish that Gil Hodges had lived to continue plying his managerial skill, that Ed Charles had lived to write a poetic golden anniversary tribute to the last team he would play for, and that Tom Seaver could join his former teammates this summer at Citi Field for the remembrance tribute that the 1969 Mets so richly deserve.

One Small Town, Two Major Leaguers

By Stan Dziurgot



Many people are aware that Denora, PA, population 5,000, just south of Pittsburgh is the birth place of Hall of Fame major leaguers Stan Musial and Ken Griffey Jr. There is at least one other small town in PA that was the birthplace of two major league players. A co-worker of mine, Walter Skalla is from the town of Nanticoke, PA (population 10,000) just west of Wilkes-Barre and about 20 miles from Scranton. He alerted me to the fact that Nanticoke is the birthplace of one-armed outfielder Pete Gray and (mostly minor league) slugger Steve Bilko. Walter actually knew Pete Gray and knew of Steve Bilko even though he never met him.

PETE GRAY

The parents of Pete Gray moved from Chicago to Nanticoke, PA in 1911 where Pete's father worked in the coal industry. Peter was born March 6, 1915 in the Hanover District of Nanticoke. The family was of Lithuanian descent. Their last name was actually Wyshner but an older brother Anthony went by the name Whitey Gray when he was a boxer in the 1920's. Pete would go by Gray thinking it was non-ethnic sounding.

At the age of 6 Pete's right arm had to be amputated when he fell off the running board of a delivery wagon and his arm was mangled in the spokes of a wheel.

He was right handed and had a life-long dream of playing Major League Baseball. He actually hitch-hiked from Pennsylvania to Chicago and was at game 3 of the 1932 World Series when Babe Ruth supposedly pointed and called his shot.

He learned to hit left-handed (with one arm) and also to throw and field in a unique way. The glove was on his left hand and upon making the catch he would tuck it under his right armpit and pull the ball out with his left hand to throw it. This was the same technique used by pitcher Jim Abbott in the 1990's. Unfortunately for Pete, runners tried to take an extra base when he played the outfield.

At 19 years old he played in a church league and also on semi-pro teams in the area, mostly the outfield but occasionally pitching. He left Pennsylvania to play with a semi-pro team in New York – the Brooklyn Bushwicks. A scout for Three Rivers in the Can-Am League saw him and signed him to a contract for 1942. He moved on to Memphis in 1943-1944 before his contract was bought out by the St. Louis Browns for the 1945 season. The Browns had been to the World Series in 1944.

Pete's Browns teammates in 1945 thought he was signed to boost attendance, not to help them win games. Pete knew this. But he

was determined to be treated with dignity. His habit of keeping to himself was interpreted by teammates as being ornery and hard to get along with. Although fans and writers called him courageous, he felt that the real heroes were the soldiers in World War II, many of whom came back as amputees or disabled. Pete was turned down for military service. He thought that if he could play baseball with one arm he could shoot a rifle with one arm. With most of the best players in military service during the war, many active big league players held 4-F status and were exempt from the military because of a disability (including Pete Gray, Monte Stratton and Bert Shepard). Other wartime big leaguers were too old or too young to be drafted (including 15 year old Joe Nuxhall and 16 year old Tommy Brown).

Pete hit .218 in 77 games in 1945, his only season in the major leagues. He was a Yankee fan and his biggest thrill was playing in Yankee Stadium in front of family and friends who made the trip from Nanticoke. He actually did pretty well with fast balls while batting but pitchers would soon find out that he had trouble with slow breaking pitches because he had a hard time controlling his 35 ounce bat with one arm.

In 1946 with the players returning from military service at the war's end, Pete was released by the Browns. He played from 1946 to 1949 with Toledo, Elmira, and Dallas. He retired from professional baseball in 1949, appearing in a few barn storming games after that.

He moved back to Nanticoke and back to his boyhood home. By 1961 both his parents had passed away. He was cooking for and taking care of his older brother Anthony (Whitey Gray) who was showing the effects of his boxing career.

Walter Skalla says that both brothers could be seen walking around Nanticoke with Anthony shadow boxing as he walked. Pete Gray was a heavy drinker most of his adult life but quit in the mid 1970's. His alcoholism may have helped form the impression that he was a difficult person. Always present was his determination to prove he belonged. He was hailed for his work with the handicapped by visiting army hospitals and inspiring the wounded.

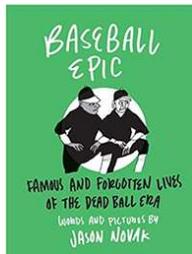
A 1986 movie, "A Winner Never Quits", starred Keith Carradine and was based on the life of Pete. His name and memories of his playing bubbled up in the media when one armed pitcher Jim Abbott made the major leagues in 1989.

Pete's boyhood home was heated only by an old fashioned stove. The house had been called the "White House" and was cleaned occasionally by a cousin who said that Pete mellowed as he got older, finally not thinking he had to prove himself in everything he did. He was especially kind to young people as he aged.

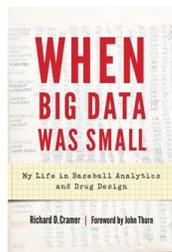
There are various explanations about what he did after his baseball career ended. It's been said that he owned a billiard parlor, or that he just hung out in the billiard parlor to gamble.



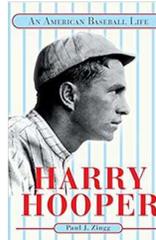
Books Being Read



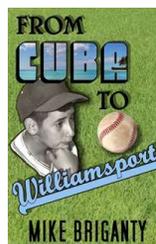
DAVID WILK just read *Baseball Epic: Famous and Forgotten Lives of the Deadball Era* by Jason Novak. "It is an outstanding book - cartoon drawings of many players with short biographies. A great way to discover or rediscover players from long ago", writes David. "Reading this book got me interested in the amazing life of Cy Williams, and I am now working on getting a biography of him written and in print, which his life story richly deserves."



TOM ZOCCO is reading *When Big Data Was Small* by Richard D. Cramer. Wrote Tom, "Dick was one of the founders of Project Scoresheet and Stats Inc. This book is about his ups and downs as a statistician, chemist, and jazz musician. Dick is a longtime SABR member. Hopefully, he will be in San Diego."



KARL CICITTO is reading *Harry Hooper, An American Baseball Life* by Paul Zingg. "The 2018 Red Sox inspired me to learn more about the players on the 1912 Red Sox, which held the team record of 105 wins until last year. Hooper was the right fielder for all 4 championships between 1912 and 1918. I was curious to see how much of his personal diary was used."



MICHAEL FRANK wrote, "I have just enough time to read the 2019 yearbooks of which about 13 are in. I squeezed in one baseball book, "From Cuba to Williamsport" by Briganty which I got at West New York (NJ) Histo. The author looks back on how he escaped Cuba at age 6, got into Little League, and was the least likely player on the least likely team to reach #2 in the world in 1966. The part about their visit to Yankee Stadium, the author made me feel I was there."

Connecticut's Baseball Marathons

By Phillip Lowry

As reported by SABR's Phillip Lowry in the March 23 issue of SABR-L, here is a list of the 12 games played in Connecticut that went at least 20 innings. More may have been uncovered since that report.

24 Innings

Fish Park, Fairfield
08/14/1992 and 08/15/1992
National League Northeast Regionals
New Rochelle Robins 2
Worcester Warriors 1
Time: 6:10

22 Innings

Mead Memorial Park, New Canaan
06/30/1935
New Canaan Cardinals 8
Hastings Athletic Club (A.C.) 7
Time: 4:30
2,000 fans

20 Innings

Bulkeley Stadium, Hartford
05/09/1937
Negro League at Semi-Proffessional
Hartford Savitt Gems 6
Philadelphia Colored Giants 5
Time: 4:15
3,400 fans

23 Innings

Brewster Park, New Haven
07/14/1914
Eastern Association
Hartford Senators 2
New Haven White Wings 1
Time: 3:55.

21 Innings

Savin Rock Park, New Haven
08/31/1919
Eastern League
Worcester Boosters 4
New Haven Weissmen 3.

Recreation Field, Naugatuck
06/15/1946
Naugatuck High School Garnet and Grey 3
Waterbury Leavenworth High School
Engineers 2

22 Innings

Woodmont, Milford
08/01/1915
Semi-Professional
Woodmont 6
Plymouth of New Haven 5

Municipal Stadium, Waterbury
07/31/1966
Eastern League
Waterbury Giants 9
York White Roses 8
Time: 6:13.

Bristol
09/14/1924
Connecticut State League
Torrington Tigers 5
Bristol New Departures 3
Time: 3:38

Bourne Dormitory Field, Pomfret
05/10/1952
Pomfret School Mannymen 4
St. George's School Dragons 3
Time: 4:55

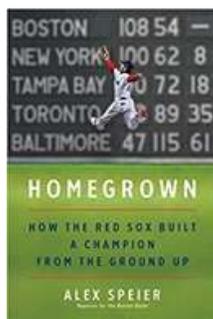
20 Innings

East Hartford
05/14/1933
East Hartford Red Sox 5
New Britain Ramblers 4
Time: 5:15.

Beardsley Park, Bridgeport
06/21/1967
CYO Grammar School Championship
Naugatuck St. Francis 3
Springdale St. Cecilia's 2
Time: 3:30

Upcoming Baseball Book Releases

Compiled By Karl Ciccio (Source: amazon.com)



Homegrown: How the Red Sox Built a Champion from the Ground Up

(August 13, 2019) by Alex Speier

The 2018 season was a coronation for the Boston Red Sox. The best team in Major League Baseball won 108 regular season games & then romped through the postseason, going 11-3 against the three next-strongest teams baseball had to offer. As *Boston Globe* baseball reporter Alex Speier reveals, the Sox' success wasn't a fluke—nor was it guaranteed. It was the result of careful, patient planning & shrewd decision-making that allowed Boston to develop a golden generation of prospects—& then build upon that talented core to assemble a juggernaut. Speier has covered the key players since the beginning of their professional careers, as they rose through the minor leagues and ultimately became the heart of this historic championship squad. Drawing upon hundreds of interviews and years of reporting, *Homegrown* is the definitive look at the construction of an extraordinary team.

The Boston Red Sox Killer B's

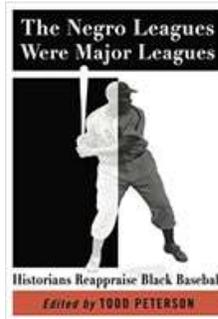
(August 6, 2019) by Jim Prime and Bill Nowlin

Andrew Benintendi, Jackie Bradley Jr., & Mookie Betts, three superb outfielders who are known collectively as the "Killer B's," have set Major League Baseball abuzz. Most notably, they made up the Red Sox World Series-winning outfield in 2018, a season in which Betts was voted the American League MVP & received a Gold Glove, Bradley earned ALCS MVP accolades & a Gold Glove, & Benintendi featured one of the smoothest swings since Ted Williams to complement his defensive prowess. *The Boston Red Sox Killer B's* cover the young careers of all three players, with special emphasis on the 2018 season. Along the way, Prime & Nowlin incorporate on- & off-field stories & interviews with teammates to offer fans a better understanding of how this trio has transformed into New England folk heroes & how they have developed a chemistry unmatched by any other outfield around the league.

Black Baseball's Last Team Standing

(August 10, 2019) by William J. Plott

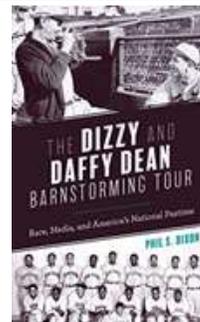
The Birmingham Black Barons were a nationally known team in baseball's Negro leagues from 1920-1962. Among its storied players were Hall of Famers Satchel Paige, Willie Mays, & Mule Suttles. The Black Barons played in the final Negro Leagues World Series in 1948 & were a major drawing card when barnstorming throughout the United States & Canada. This book chronicles the team's history & presents the only comprehensive roster of the hundreds of men who wore the Black Barons uniform.



The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues

(October 9, 2019) by Todd Peterson

How good was Negro League Baseball (1920-1948)? Some experts maintain that the quality of play was equal to that of the Major Leagues. Some believe the Negro Leagues should be part of Major League Baseball's official record & that more NL players should be in the Hall of Fame. Skeptics contend that while many players could be rated highly, NL organizations were minor league at best. Drawing on the most comprehensive data available, including stats from more than 2,000 interracial games, this study finds that black baseball was very good indeed. Negro leaguers beat the big leaguers more than half the time in head-to-head contests, demonstrated stronger metrics within their own leagues & excelled when finally allowed into the majors. The authors document the often duplicitous manner in which MLB has dealt with the legacy of the Negro Leagues, & an appendix includes the scores & statistics from every known contest between Negro League & Major League teams.



The Dizzy and Daffy Dean Barnstorming Tour

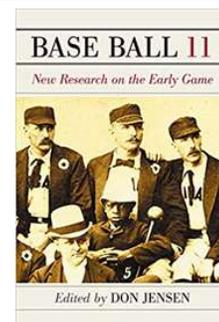
(August 22, 2019) by Phil S. Dixon

In 1934, brothers Dizzy & Daffy Dean were stars of Major League Baseball's regular season & World Series. Following their St. Louis Cardinals' victory over the Detroit Tigers in Game Seven, Dizzy & Daffy went on a fourteen game barnstorming tour against the best African-American baseball players in the country. The book examines for the first time the full barnstorming series in its original & uncensored splendor. Dixon profiles not only the men who were part of the Deans' All-Star teams but also the men who played against them, including some of baseball's most monumental African-American players. Dixon highlights how the contributions during the tour of Negro League stars such as Satchel Paige, Chet Brewer, Charlie Beverly, & Andy Cooper were glossed over by sports writers of the day & grants them their rightful due in this significant slice of sports history.

Base Ball I

(September 9, 2019) by Don Jenner

Base Ball is an annually published book series that promotes the study of baseball's early history, from its protoball roots to 1920, & its rise to prominence within American popular culture. This volume includes a dozen articles on the uses & abuses of mascots & batboys, attempts to revive the major league American Association, the meaning of early club names to the founding of the National League, the finances of the Union Association, the early years of future Giants magnate John T. Brush, & thoughtful reviews of recently published books on women's baseball & 1887 Detroit Wolverines.



Black Sox Panel Keyed March Meeting

By Karl Ciccitto

35 attended the spring General Meeting of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of SABR at Middlesex Community College on March 23. We welcomed Bill Nowlin, who sits on the SABR Board of Directors and our friend and frequent presenter David Kaiser, Don Loveless and George Arendt of the World Series Club of Hartford County. A documentarian from JBS Films was present and recorded the presentations as part of a movie they are making on the 1919 Reds.

Mark Kanter talked about the 1919 Reds, a team seldom recognized for its excellence. Mark examined the assumptions that the White Sox were superior in 1919 and that the American League was the superior circuit in the 1910's. Mark also explored the effect of gambling in the period and how the media affirmed the Reds talent before and during the Series, the NY Times writing "Moran's Reds Rank With The Greatest". Mark concluded that the '19 Sox were injured while the '19 Reds had superior pitching and home field advantage. The 94-66 World Champ Reds deserved better than they have gotten.



Our Black Sox Centennial panel included (L-R), Jim Margalus, Jacob Pomrenke and Bill Lamb.

Paul Hensler talked about the cultural rise of Reggie Jackson as he became a Yankee in 1977, leaving the A's and the O's in his rear view mirror. Paul explored Jackson's relationships with his teammates, manager Billy Martin and owner George Steinbrenner; he delved into the prima donna factor and the myriad endorsements, books, TV and movie appearances that marked Reggie's transition from a mere offensive machine in Oakland to the straw that stirs the drink in the Bronx. Paul's writing on Reggie's rise is included in the book, *The New York Yankees in Popular Culture* (McFarland, 2019).

We welcomed a 1919 Black Sox Centennial Panel which held court for the first 90 minutes of the meeting. The panel included Jim Margalus, Bill Lamb and Jacob Pomrenke. Margalus has been writing about the White Sox since 2006, first at SoxMachine.com, then at SB Nation's SouthSideSox.com. Jim wrote a series of annuals called *White Sox Outsider*. Lamb is the editor of The Inside Game, the newsletter of the Deadball Era Committee, and is the author of *Black Sox in the Courtroom: The Grand Jury, Criminal Trial and Civil Litigation*. (Bill was given the Bob Davids Award at SABR 49 in San Diego for his contributions to SABR and baseball and his demonstrated ingenuity, integrity, and self-sacrifice.) Jacob Pomrenke is SABR's Director of Editorial Content. He is the chairman and newsletter editor for the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee. He is the editor of *Scandal on the South Side: The 1919 Chicago White Sox*. Jacob has written for the Hall of Fame's Memories and Dreams magazine, The National Pastime Museum, Seamheads.com and has appeared on the MLB Network.

As the moderator, I prepared by reading *Scandal on the Southside*. This helped me prepare an opening question and back up questions which proved to be unnecessary. The panel took one kick-off question and talked long and off-the-cuff before taking a beat. The discussions surfaced the names of little known scandal participants (gamblers, players, newsmen) that all played in the fix. They busted eight myths including ones about Comiskey as a miser, Cicotte's bonus, Harry the hit man, and the stolen confessions. They explored the motives of Joe Jackson as he sued Comiskey for back pay after the scandal, showing that Joe was something other than a guileless dupe. Probably one of the most eye opening moments was when the panelists explained how Comiskey quietly gave each honest White Sox player a check equal to what was a WS winning share after the Series concluded. Some might say that was guilty behavior by the Old Roman.

The audience peppered the trio with questions and banter. The panel discussion provided one of the most unbridled and entertaining learning experiences we have recently had. We concluded by giving them our thanks and small gifts including a Hartford Yard Goats hat.

I highly recommend *Scandal on the Southside*. If you would like to purchase a copy from our chapter for \$10 please email me at kciccitto@cox.net.

I took 5 minutes to wrap up the Bagwell book project, thanking the authors, editors and fact checkers. It was nice to have Bill Nowlin on hand and to recognize his role as first reader and co-editor of the book. Bagwell authors at the meeting were given their copies of the book and others purchased copies as they wished.

There was a pre-loved baseball book sale, snacks and other light refreshments.



Frank Observations

By Michael Frank

Long before SABR, two things intrigued my young mind about John Bella, Jr. One, that he was called Zeke. Two, that he was a mailman in Greenwich, Ct.

Born in 1930, Zeke excelled in all three major sports at Greenwich High School. He signed with the Yankees but served in the Army during the Korean War.

He hit well in Binghamton and Denver, then Yankee farm teams, and was finally called up late in 1957. He got one hit in ten at bats.

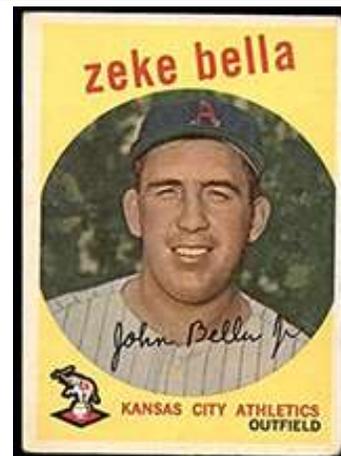
Traded to the KC A's for Murry Dickson in one of the many Yankee-A's deals of that era, the outfielder had a little more of a chance in KC in 1959. He had 93 at bats, and hit a single home run.

Zeke retired from playing after 1959, and worked for the post office for many years. He got no pension from baseball. He was thrilled to have any time in the majors, but bitter that it wasn't more. After 1959, he umpired high school and Babe Ruth baseball.

Zeke had 3 daughters, and one son who predeceased him. His wife also predeceased him. He died in 2013 and is buried in Greenwich's St. Mary Cemetery. He was a good man.

Can you imagine Luke Voit delivering your mail?

One purpose of this is to point out there's baseball activity in the southwest corner of the state, not just on the Hartford-New Haven axis.



Baseball Conjectures and Speculations

By Ezra Count

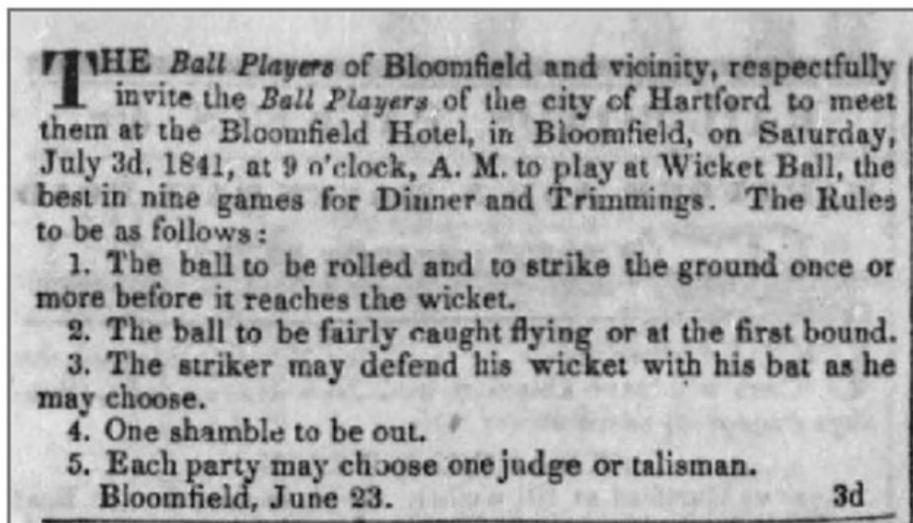
Answer these questions to the best of your imagination.

1. Give 5 to 10 reasons that baseball became popular in the U.S.
2. What are the toughest baseball injuries to recover from?
3. About _____ of the players who are in baseball's Hall of Fame don't belong in it.
a) 5% b) 10% c) 20% d) 33% e) Other
4. What factors do major league baseball teams mis-judge most often in the free agent market?
5. What are the best ways to turn young pitchers with raw talent into polished performers?
6. In the next 25 years, baseball's popularity will: a) grow b) decline c) plummet d) remain the same e) be unpredictable.
7. What are the best ways to revive baseball in the inner-cities of the U.S.?
8. Which baseball players are legends?
9. What are the best songs to play during the 7th-inning stretch?
10. Baseball needs less _____ and more _____.
11. Name the best minor league baseball stadiums.
12. Pitching is: a) 80% b) 50% c) about 45% d) Other percentage of baseball.



Through the Wicket

By Karl Ciccitto



An **1840** article detailing how the ball players of Granville, Massachusetts met the same from Hartford and played wicket ball in Salmon Brook. Details include the score and that they all went to dinner.

A delightful 114 word notice from **1841** in which ball players of Bloomfield invited the ball players of Hartford to play wicket. It spells out 5 rules including, "One shamble to be an out."

An **1841** article lamenting, among other things, how the semi-annual playing of ball by the generations on the Farmington town green recently ended.

Joe Williams and I have joined in the New England chapters' effort to uncover data on early base-running games in Connecticut prior to 1858. The results will be added to www.protoball.org.

I started in June with search terms "Wicket" and "Playing Ball" in Connecticut before 1858.

There are ten Connecticut newspapers on newspapers.com. Of them, the Hartford Courant starts with 1764 and none of the others go back prior to 1880.

I found the following 15 articles – all from The Courant.

A **1798** article which mentions how Connecticut's elected officials, after selecting their subordinates, are soon in the local tavern where they bet on horses, pitch quoits and play ball.

An **1815** story about a riot at Dartmoor Prison in the U.K.. American Sailors captured in the War of 1812 were imprisoned there the day that a group of boys playing ball whacked one into the prison compound, causing a diversion that covered up criminal behavior.

An **1834** summary and box score of a wicket ball game between the ballplayers of Hartford and Litchfield.

An **1834** notice from the ball players of Hartford to those of Litchfield sending their warmest wishes and thanks for the aforementioned match.

An **1838** blurb about how 108 people spent time on a Sunday in the Smithfield, Rhode Island woods shamelessly drinking rum, playing cards and playing ball.

An **1840** notice in which Granville, Massachusetts's ball players invited the celebrated players of Hartford to Salmon Brook (Granby Center, Connecticut) near the tavern of Mr. Hayes to play wicket ball.

An **1848** essay about the Carolina Cherokee's Indian Ball Game. Living in the white man's world, they'd dropped their "silly games" except for "the manly game of ball playing." The pregame fun the night prior included ritual dancing and jumping into a cold pond. Two poles were set up at each end of the field and a ball placed in the middle. The team able to throw the ball beyond their pole twelve times would win the game. Each player had a ball stick (a.k.a., spooney stick) with a braided bag attached at one end. The game was vigorous and "of a character that would have killed most white men." There were two two-hour games, followed by jumping in the river and a late evening of eating and ritual dancing. Sounds like lacrosse, I suppose.

An **1849** article detailing how Westfield, Massachusetts defeated Granville, MA at wicket ball with 400 spectators in attendance.

An **1851** article detailing a lawsuit brought by a man injured in Great Barrington, Massachusetts when his horse threw him after stepping on a wicket ball being used by a group of boys playing in the street.

Two articles (a blurb and an advertisement) inviting interested parties to a meeting to set up the **1856** season of the Hartford Wicket players.

A 1200 word essay from **1857** about how boring Cricket is.

An **1857** story that mentions a road near Asylum Street in Hartford will be made suitable for "...a parade ground, a place to play foot-ball, base, or wicket, in front of Affleck and George Beach, Jr.'s lots..."

More to come in the next The Wood Pile.

To join Joe and me in the digging for early base running games in Connecticut, please contact me at kciccitto@cox.com.



1860s (continued from Page 2)

talented players. By 1868, they were playing competitively against top Eastern clubs. At the National Association convention that December, professionalism was legalized, and Wright hired several good players from the East, making his team, now known as the Red Stockings, one of the strongest in the country.

Since the competition in the Midwest wasn't strong enough to produce the revenue needed to pay the players' salaries, Wright took his team on the road. The Excelsiors had taken the first tour in 1860, and in 1867, the National Club of Washington ventured to the Midwest, visiting St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Chicago. The following year, nearly all of the prominent teams embarked on lengthy tours, their mobility greatly increased by the expanding US rail system. The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, enabling the Red Stockings, after they'd beaten the best teams in New York and Philadelphia, to journey all the way to California, playing 57 games and winning them all, except for one disputed tie.

The Red Stockings had talented players, and they had the best

captain and manager in baseball in Harry Wright. Wright played center field, ran the club on the field, handled the Red Stockings' finances, and was responsible for virtually every aspect of the club's operation. He enlisted seamstress Bertha Bertram to create a uniform that featured red stockings beneath knickers that eventually became standard baseball attire. He was a pioneer in teaching teamwork and strategy to his players, and he was a shrewd negotiator who always had an eye on the bottom line. There was no fixed schedule; games were arranged and financial terms negotiated through correspondence among team managers. In 1869, Wright filled the current day roles of player, manager, and general manager, and he was the best in the game at the latter two functions.

By the end of the 1860s, professional clubs dominated the baseball world. There was no formal league, and there were still many amateur teams in the field, but the largest crowds came to watch games between the best professional nines. Receiving a salary allowed players to spend all their time playing and practicing baseball, and the quality of play improved dramatically. At the end of the 1850s, baseball was a serious endeavor. By the end of the following decade, it was a game for professionals.

See the Mets and Dodgers with SABR



Alan Cohen has organized a chapter trip to a Mets-Dodgers game at Citi Field.

The Dodgers lead all of baseball in winning percentage and total team WAR. Dodger hitters and pitchers combine to lead the NL or MLB in seventeen categories.

The Blue Crew's Cody Bellinger leads the NL in five individual categories.

The Amazins may answer with slugging rookie Pete Alonso and star utility man Jeff McNeil (.346 BA). (Stats stated as of June 29.)

The game is at 1:10 pm Sunday, September 15. Our seats are in section 107, rows 16 to 18, along the RF line in foul territory. The cost is \$55 per person. Alan has ordered 15 tickets, so please be in touch with him if you wish to go. He can be reached at: adc0317@comcast.net

Major League Players with Connecticut Connections (2019 through 07/24/2019) Source: www.mlb.com

Player	Team	Conn. Connection	POS	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SAC	GIDP	AVG	OBP	SLG
Ahmed, Nick	ARZ	UConn	SS	101	355	53	95	22	3	9	45	33	75	11	10	0.268	0.325	0.423
Davis, Rajai	NYM	New London	OF	4	7	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0.286	0.286	0.714
Pollock, A.J.	LAD	Hebron	OF	39	143	23	37	4	1	6	26	11	32	3	4	0.259	0.319	0.427
Springer, George	HOU	New Britain	OF	71	281	58	83	12	1	23	58	38	66	4	7	0.295	0.382	0.591

Player	Team	Conn. Connection	POS	G	W	L	ERA	CG	SHO	SV	HLD	IP	H	ER	R	HR	BB	SO
Barlow, Scott	KC	New London	P	34	2	3	6.13	0	0	1	6	39.2	16	42	42	6	21	58
Barnes, Matt	BOS	Bethel	P	45	3	3	4.24	0	0	4	17	40.1	31	19	19	4	21	72
Carasiti, Matt	SEA	New Britain	P	10	0	1	5.19	0	0	0	0	8.2	10	5	6	2	5	9
Harvey, Matt	DFA	Mystic	P	12	3	5	7.09	0	0	0	0	59.2	63	47	48	13	29	39
Hughes, Jared	CIN	Stamford	P	41	3	3	2.80	0	0	1	4	40.2	28	13	18	6	14	29
Leone, Dominic	STL	Norwich	P	28	0	0	7.14	0	0	1	0	29.0	30	23	23	7	14	35
Oberg, Scott	COL	Uconn	P	42	5	1	1.65	0	0	3	8	49.0	23	13	9	0	20	53



One Small Town (continued from Page 4)

Pete died June 30, 2002 and is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Wilkes-Barre. There is a marker on Front Street in Nanticoke commemorating the life and baseball career of Peter Gray Wyshner. His custom-made fielding glove resides at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

STEVE BILKO

Steve Bilko was born November 13, 1928 in the Honey Pot section of Nanticoke, PA. He was an all-state football player but baseball was his favorite sport.

A St. Louis Cardinal prospect from Nanticoke, John Grodzicki, who was home after being wounded in World War II, told a Cardinal scout about Bilko. A first baseman by trade, Steve was listed as 6' 1" and 230 lbs but confided to a reporter that he usually played 20 – 40 pounds heavier than that. After playing in the minor leagues from 1945-1949, Steve made his major league debut in September of 1949. He would bounce back and forth from St. Louis to the minor leagues until 1954 when he was sold to the Chicago Cubs.

In 1955 the Cubs sent him to play for the Los Angeles Angels in the Pacific Coast League where he had great success playing his home games at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, a bandbox of a ball park. He would play there from 1955-1957, hitting 37, 55, and 56 home runs. He earned the Pacific Coast League's Most Valuable Player in all three seasons and won the Triple Crown in batting in 1956. He also got a reputation as a beer drinker; sometimes drinking a full case of suds after a game.

In 1957 he was traded to the Cincinnati Reds who he played 31 games for in 1958. He played for the Dodgers in 1958, appearing in 47 games, before spending the 1959 season back in the Pacific Coast League at Spokane. Steve seemed to be blocked from securing a regular first base job at every one of his major league stops. Had Bilko's career started in the 1970's he would have made a perfect designated hitter.

In 1961 he was selected by the Los Angeles Angels in the expansion draft. He thus had the odd distinction of playing for two teams with the same name in the American League and Pacific Coast League. Both Angel teams played their home games at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, too.

In 1962 the Angels moved to a bigger stadium; the brand new Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine. In May of 1962 Steve was sent back to the minors in Rochester, NY. In 1962, at age 34, he retired with 76 major league home runs and 313 more in the minors. Some of his minor league teammates included Tommy LaSorda, Sparky Anderson and Gene Mauch.

After retirement he moved back to Pennsylvania and worked as a salesman and perfume plant inspector for Dana Perfume, Inc. in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was married with two sons.

Steve Bilko died on March 7, 1978 just short of his 50th birthday when he would have been eligible for his baseball pension. The press reported that before his passing Bilko "had been hospitalized for some time for treatment of an undisclosed illness."ⁱ In death he was heralded as the last of the minor league sluggers who made their marks in the pre-expansion era.ⁱⁱ He is buried in St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery in Nanticoke, PA.

Sources:

- Even the Brown by William B. Mead 1978 Contemporary Books p. 201-211
- www.baseball-reference.com
- Pete Gray Society for American Baseball Research by Mel Marmer – SABR Bioproject
- Steve Bilko Society for American Baseball Research by Warren Corbett – SABR Bioproject
- www.BaseballAlmanac.com
- www.MLB.com
- www.findagrave.com
- Thanks to the former Nanticoke, PA resident Walter Skalla for his help on this article

ⁱ "Sports In Brief", *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 8, 1978, 25.

ⁱⁱ John Schulian, "Bilko: Minors Last Great Slugger", *Chicago Sun Times*, March 12, 1978, 11D.



Hoyt, Meusel and Morneau Star on Strat Day

By Matt Monitto and Karl Ciccitto

On Feb. 16, the Strat-O-Matic game day event saw four games played between teams ranging from the deadball era to the current century.

The 1961 Yankees club defeated the '62 Giants, 6-1, with Blanchard and Maris each homering and Mantle blasting two dingers.

The 1927 Yankees defeated an HOF team led by Gwynn-Brett-Mantle-Gehrig ("Yankee Thunder") on the strength of a huge day by Bob Meusel with a score of 4-1.

The 2006 Twins took down the '06 Mets, 6-2, with a vintage performance by Johan Santana and a 3-run blast from Justin Morneau.

Lastly, the 1919 Black Sox downed the 1906 Cubs, 5-3, as the two deadball teams cranked out a barrage of bingles scattered by Mordecai Brown and Eddie Cicotte.

2006 Twins defeat 2006 Mets, 6-2. (MM)

An interleague matchup between one starter in his prime and the other in his waning days ended as might be expected: with the player in the prime taking the win. The 2006 Minnesota Twins defeated the 2006 New York Mets 6-2 behind a complete game five-hitter from Johan Santana, who struck out nine and recorded one of Minnesota's 14 hits.

After the teams exchanged runs in the second inning, Luis Castillo singling home Torii Hunter in the top half and Endy Chavez bringing in Carlos Delgado in response, the Twins knocked Tom Glavine out of the game before he could get through the third. After walks to Jason Bartlett and Joe Mauer, Justin Morneau crushed a three-run home run to take the lead for Minnesota. Glavine left the game after another RBI single from Castillo, and Pedro Feliciano retired Nick Punto and Santana to end the inning. Jose Valentin would answer Morneau's home run with a solo shot in the third, but the Mets would have no further answer for Santana, who did not allow a hit after the fourth inning. Castillo closed the scoring, his third RBI of the game, with a ninth-inning fielder's choice.

1919 White Sox defeat 1906 Cubs, 5-3. (MM)

As befitted the dead ball era, only two of the 19 hits in this game went for extra bases. In a cross-decades crosstown series, the 1919 Chicago White Sox topped the 1906 Chicago Cubs 5-3. Both starters, Eddie Cicotte and Mordecai "Three-Finger" Brown, went the distance.

But after the first inning, it appeared Cicotte's day might be shortened when the visiting Cubs tallied two runs. Following singles by Harry Steinfeldt and Frank Chance, Frank Schulte singled home Steinfeldt and Jimmy Sheckard brought in Chance with a fielder's choice. However, that two-run, three-hit output would be the Cubs' best inning all day, their final run coming in the seventh when Steinfeldt singled in Solly Hofman.

Instead, it was the White Sox who struck back, and struck with finality. The Pale Hose picked up a run in the second on Swede Risberg's RBI single, but their bats brought the most damage in the

fifth. With Eddie Collins and Joe Jackson on base, Happy Felsch cracked a double to bring in Collins, then Ray Schalk singled in Jackson and Felsch. The teams traded runs in the seventh, Felsch's second double bringing in Nemo Leibold for the White Sox's tally,

but Cicotte needed no further support, retiring Johnny Evers, Joe Tinker, and pinch-hitter Jimmy Slagle in the ninth to finish the game.

1961 Yankees defeat 1962 Giants, 6-1. (KC)

The Giants scraped one run off Whitey Ford this day on a Willie McCovey solo blast in the fourth inning while Whitey Ford was on his game, facing just 32 batters in a CG victory. Ford seemingly elevated his performance as the innings flew by, striking out 9 of the last 12 batters he faced.

Giants starter Juan Marichal did not fare so well. The high-kicking righty from Laguna Verde yielded solo runs on single and walks in the third and fourth before serving up home runs to Mantle and Blanchard in the sixth. Marichal was relieved by Stu Miller after 5 2/3 IP. Miller gave up ninth inning home runs to Maris and Mantle to ice the cake for the Bombers.

1927 Yankees defeat Yankee Thunder, 4-1. (KC)

The 1927 Yankees were led by Bob Meusel, who doubled and scored on a single by Lazzeri in the second inning and hit a two run home run in the very next inning. Silent Bob provided the Yanks all the offense they needed to cop a 4-1 win.

Meusel's 3-hit, 8 TB performance combined with multi-hit games by Dugan and Lazzeri to outclass the Thunder at the plate. Waite Hoyt was superb in seven strong innings, facing the minimum number of batters in three innings and just four batters in four more. The only run Hoyt gave up came on a long poke by George Brett in the first inning.

Thunder starter Greg Maddux struggled in seven innings, allowing 9 hits and 3 walks. Supported by solid fielding, Maddux snuffed rallies in the sixth and seventh innings to limit the damage.

Hoyt's performance was no mean feat. The Thunder presented a HOF line-up of Frisch-Gwynn-Brett-Mantle-Gehrig-Winfield-Doby-Ripken-Dickey. Hoyt scattered 4 hits over 7 innings. Wilcy Moore pitched the last two innings for the Yanks, facing ten batters to record six outs. No Thunder player reached on a hit more than once this day.

The Twins/Mets and White Sox/Cub teams were guided by Tom and Matt Monitto. The '27 Yankees/Yankee Thunder were led by Karl Ciccitto and Larry Howard. The 1962 Giants/1961 Yankees were managed by Steve Krevisky and Stan Dziurgot.





Opportunity Knocks for Writing Projects

Compiled by Karl Ciccito

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, please contact Andy McCue (amccue@sabr.org), who is coordinating the project.

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. 4,942 biographies have been written by 500+ SABR members as of July 24, 2019. 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 lspatz@comcast.net

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 up.

Web-site: sabr.org/gamesproject

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

Request an assignment: Steve Weiner at sc.weiner@comcast.net

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. Status of assignment availabilities changes daily. Please contact Bill Nowlin (bnowlin@rounder.com) to request an assignment.

THE WOOD PILE

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



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