



The Wood Pile



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

Volume I Issue 6

Winter 2018

Leading Off: A Message from the Chapter President



Greetings, fellow Woodpilars! Amidst the cold and snowy weather it's the Hot Stove League season with much player movement, which will be ongoing into spring training. How is your team faring so far?

We had an enjoyable chapter holiday luncheon on December 16, at the Baci Grill in Cromwell. We had about 30 people and authors Jim Kaplan and Bill Ryczek spoke about their respective books. Other chapter authors, Paul Hensler and Bob Wirz, had their books with them as well. We enjoyed the food and hospitality. Thanks to Stan Dziurgot and Alan Cohen for organizing this special event!

Many of us enjoyed the SABR meeting in Rhode Island on November 25. Guest speaker Lenny DiNardo, former hurler with the Red Sox, was very good and we could consider inviting him to one of our future meetings.

We look forward to a chapter breakfast, perhaps in February, which could be our way of commemorating national SABR day. By then, we will know who is in the latest class of inductees into the Hall of Fame.

We are planning our next general meeting for late March, down at Quinnipiac, so stay tuned for more info about that. As we get back into baseball season we will be thinking about chapter outings to a Yard Goats game, Yankee Stadium, and to other venues. Also, the annual SABR convention is in Pittsburgh from June 20 to 24, so hopefully a number of us will attend that as well.

Please let us know what other events you would like to partake of as we do want to hear from you about this.

Happy New Year to all!

Regards, Steve Krevisky

Upcoming Events

Chapter Events

www.smokyjoewood.com/events

January 2018 or February 2018

Chapter Breakfast

Site & Date to be determined

More: Contact Steve Krevisky

SKrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu

March 2018 (Date TBD) 11 am

General Meeting

Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

More: Contact Steve Krevisky

SKrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu

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

National Events

January 27, 2018

8th Annual SABR Day

Multiple sites

sabr.org/sabrday

March 9-11, 2018

SABR Analytics Conference

Phoenix, AZ

sabr.org/analytics

April 20-21, 2018

19th Century Base Ball

Conference

Cooperstown, NY

sabr.org/ivor-campbell19C

June 20-24, 2018

SABR National Convention

Wyndham Grand Hotel

Pittsburgh, PA

sabr.org/convention

More information at sabr.org/events

New Chapter Members

Welcome to new members (since August 2017):

David Bilmes, Southbury

Carl Bishop, Oakdale

Franz Douskey, Hamden

John Ford, Greenwich

Nicholas Guarna, Norwalk

Jim Keener, Farmington

Peter Levy, Riverside

Joseph Liotta, Stamford

Chase Ross, New Haven

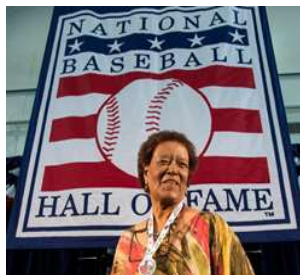
Patrick Russell, Manchester

Corrections

By Cliff Blau

No Writers Wing in Cooperstown

On page 3 of the Summer 2017 issue it says that Claire Smith will be inducted into the writer's wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame. There is no writer's wing at the HOF. Claire Smith wasn't inducted; she received an award the details of which can be found on-line here: <http://baseballhall.org/discover/awards/j-g-taylor-spink> for verification.



On the Web

Society for American Baseball Research: sabr.org

Smoky Joe Wood Chapter: smokyjoewood.com

Smoky Joe Wood Chapter Officers

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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.

Negro Baseball at Wrigley Field – The First Time

By Alan Cohen

With America's entrance into World War II, Dizzy Dean formed a team consisting entirely of recently drafted and enlisted major league and minor league players, and barnstormed around the United States. On May 24, 1942, Dean's "All-Star" team faced Satchel Paige and the Kansas City Monarchs in an exhibition game at Wrigley Field, the first time a black team ever played at Wrigley. R. S. Simmons wrote in the *Pittsburgh Courier*, "this was the first time sepia ball players ever played at the Cubs Park."¹

The Monarchs defeated Dean's All-Stars 3-1 in front of a crowd of 29,775. It had been expected that Bob Feller would pitch for Dean's team. He was in the Navy, but Naval authorities would not let him participate. Nevertheless, the game's organizer, Abe Saperstein, sent \$1,000 to Feller. That money was donated to Navy relief.²

Dean pitched one inning for his team, retiring the Monarchs in order. Hilton Smith later told author John Holway that Dean "wasn't too good; we kind of carried him along."³

Paige pitched six innings and gave up only one run and two scratch hits. He struck out two batters. The two hits allowed the Dean All-Stars to break the ice in the third inning. Joe Gallagher, beat out a slow roller to third base. With Johnny Grodzicki batting, catcher Joe Greene of the Monarchs called for a pitchout. Gallagher was running on the play, but Grodzicki reached out and bunted the ball. With second baseman Barney Serrell moving over to cover second and first baseman Buck O'Neil charging to field the bunt, there was nobody covering first. Grodzicki was awarded a single on the play. Paige picked up the bunt and was charged with a throwing error when his throw to the unoccupied base hit Grodzicki and allowed Gallagher to advance to third. With runners at the corners, Emmett "Heinie" Mueller, forced Grodzicki at second, Gallagher scoring on the play.⁴

The Monarchs tied the score in the top of the fourth. Herb Cyrus led off with a single and moved to second when Ted Strong executed a sacrifice bunt. Cyrus came around to score on a single by Willard Brown. The score was 1-1 after four innings. It would remain that way until the eighth.

Hilton Smith relieved Paige in the seventh inning, and was the beneficiary when the Monarchs scored two eighth inning runs. Pitcher Al Piechota, was in his second inning of work for Dean's team. Bill Simms singled to lead off the inning, and advanced to second on a bunt by Cyrus. He moved on to third when Strong flied out to right for the second out of the inning. Piechota issued an intentional pass to Brown who promptly stole second base. Joe Greene cleared the bases with a looping line drive to center field that fell in front of the charging center fielder. The ball skipped past the center fielder and Greene wound up at second base with a double. That completed the scoring. Smith struck out three batters in his three innings on the mound and was credited with the 3-1 win.⁵



Most of the Monarch players were forgotten as the years passed. Paige and Brown witnessed the end of segregation and played in the major leagues. Each was enshrined at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at Cooperstown. Paige was inducted in 1971 and Brown in 2006. Brown, at age 32, played 21 games with the 1947 St. Louis Browns. Paige, at age fortysomething, joined the Indians in 1948 and went 6-1 as Cleveland won the World Series. But the pace of integration was all-to-slow. The other eight Monarchs who played that day would not have the opportunity to exhibit their skills at the major league level.

But Buck O'Neil left an unmatched legacy. By the time baseball integrated in, he was past his prime. He joined the Cubs as a scout (Lou Brock was his most famous find), and in 1962 became one of the team's coaches. In later life, he was instrumental in founding and promoting the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City and his appearance on the Ken Burns production of "Baseball" earned him a new fan following.

Sources:

In addition to the sources shown in the notes, the author used Baseball-Reference.com and the *Chicago Defender*.

¹ R. S. Simmons. "Satchel Paige Baffles Dizzy Dean's All-Stars Before 29,000: Hilton Smith Stars in Relief Role as Monarchs Win, 3-1," *Pittsburgh Courier*, May 30, 1942: 16. Simmons' play-by-play accounts of the May 24, 1942 game served as the major source for this article.

² Associated Press. "Cracks Down on Promotional Tilts," *Daily Illinois State Journal*, June 5, 1942: 22.

³ Timothy M. Gay. *Satch, Dizzy, and Rapid Robert: The Wild Saga of Interracial Baseball Before Jackie Robinson* (New York, Simon and Schuster, 2010), 12.

⁴ Howard Martin. "Monarchs, Plus Paige, Beat Stars, Minus Feller, 3 to 1," *Chicago Tribune*, May 25, 1942: 19.

⁵ United Press. "Navy Flags Bob Feller's Barnstorming, so 29,775 See Satchel Paige's Nine Win," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 25, 1942: 21.

33 Attend a Great General Meeting at Q.U. in October

By Karl Cicitto



33 members attended the October 21 CT SABR General Meeting at Quinnipiac. Some highlights:

Kevin Cook, a former senior editor at *Sports Illustrated*, spoke about his new book [Electric October: Seven World Series Games, Six Lives, Five Minutes of Fame That Lasted Forever](#).

Jackie Robinson and Joe DiMaggio were big parts of this Fall Classic, obviously, but it was the role of smaller players that took center stage. The book traces the lives of Snuffy Stirnweiss, Cookie Lavagetto, Al Gionfriddo, Bucky Harris, Burt Shotton and Bill Bevens. Biting poverty followed by baseball success was a constant theme for these men. Cook writes about their upbringings as well as their lives after Baseball, sometimes fulfilling and sometimes bitter. Bitter was the case for Bevens, who was treated as a World Series failure all his post-MLB life. Bevens often imagined how his life would have been different had Cookie not broken up his World Series no-hitter with two out in the ninth.

Mr. Cook kept us very entertained. He credited some of his successful research for the book to the families of the players who allowed him to study the family scrapbooks. (They played in the age of scrapbooks, of course.) The author shared delicious pearls, including the curious one that the person who could really drink all the other Yankees under the table was...Billy Martin's mother, Joan.

Cook is the author of seven books. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Men's Journal*, *GQ*, *Playboy*, *Smithsonian*, *Details*, and many other publications.

Ty Waterman explored the trade of Tris Speaker from the Red Sox to the Tribe days before the start of the 1916 season. Was it that Boston owner Joe Lanin had Tillie Walker available at a lower wage than Speaker? Was that enough to displace a crack fielder who had batted .337 in nine years for the crimson hose?

Ty uncovered how Lanin felt pressured by the efforts of the Federal League to lure Speaker away. Lanin increased Speaker's salary from \$9,000 in 1913 to \$17,500 in 1914 and in 1915. The pay increase would later foment Speaker's departure.

When the Federal League collapsed in December of 1915, Lanin decided to cut expenses. He dragged his heels to re-sign Speaker for '16, deflecting trade rumors until he pulled the trigger in April, 1916.

He traded Speaker for Sad Sam Jones, Fred Thomas and \$55,000.

The swap was a bombshell. In the April 8, 1916 edition of the *Boston Globe*, Melville E. Webb wrote, "No aeroplane could have startled the little coterie of world's champions more than Manager Carrigan's announcement."

Speaker said "I'll go where the money is." Indeed, after taking a \$2,500 annual pay cut for 1916 through 1918, his salary jumped to almost \$27,000 per annum on average from 1919- to 1926 with the Indians.

Ty documented the Federal League enticement, Lanin's subsequent "generosity" and the other events that led to Speaker's departure, through newspaper accounts in the Boston papers.

(Note: I used payroll info from Baseball Reference to summarize here, which may vary a smidge from those Ty found in the papers.)

Paul Hensler spoke about his new book, [The New Boys of Summer: Baseball's Radical Transformation in the Late Sixties](#). Paul set the stage for the 1969 season against a background of expansion, a new Commissioner, and rule changes. Those big internal factors were enjoined by external ones: racial tension, political upheaval and cultural change. Throw baseball's suddenly confrontational labor situation in and you have a volatile combination.

Paul said that racial conflict was one of the more compelling themes. These times saw the first bi-racial roommate assignments with Curt Blefary and Don Wilson sharing a room on the road. The times also saw the trading of 'uppity' Dick Allen, with many people taking issue with this "troublemaker." Meanwhile, rioting and arson scarred African American urban neighborhoods.

Paul described how MLB owners and players reacted to the MLK and RFK assassinations in disjointed and shocking ways. Walter O'Malley, owner of the team that broke the color line, was firm in his decision NOT to delay the Dodgers' 1968 opener, which was played 6 days after King was killed. He did so despite LA being convulsed in rioting.

Paul touched on the rise of TV, improved broadcasting, the Centennial celebration, the 1969 Mets, the coming of Earl Weaver, multi-purpose stadiums that became purposeless, and other people and events that made the end of the '60's a uniquely embattled time in baseball history.

Michael Bimante and Jordan Leite, two fellows who grew up playing MLB Showdown as high schoolers in East Haven, introduced us to [Clutch Baseball](#). It's a fascinating board game that adds salary, stadium factors and clutch ratings to the play.

Continued on Page 5 (October General Meeting)

Have a Prime Time with Baseball in San Diego

By Steve Krevisky

Many famous baseball players have graced the playing fields in San Diego and Southern California. In this article, we will look at the careers and statistics of famous San Diego Padre players and the team.



Ted Williams is one of the immortals of baseball. Born in San Diego, Williams played for the Pacific Coast League San Diego Padres and his hitting prowess helped lead the Padres to the PCL championship in 1937. The Red Sox signed him and he went on to a stellar career, getting elected to the Hall of Fame in 1966. Many people would consider his 1941 season as one of his best when he batted .406, making him the last .400 hitter in the Major Leagues. During that season, Williams' on-base average was .553, slugging average was .735 and his OPS (equal to OBA + SLA) was 1.288.

Since OPS & OBA overlap, a better calculation to follow could be Production (PRO). PRO is calculated by adding total bases plus walks divided by the sum of at bats & walks. In 1941, Williams had 456 at bats which resulted in 185 hits comprised of 33 doubles, 3 triples & 37 home runs in addition to 147 walks.

To start the calculations, add walks (147) to at bats (456) to get 603. Next, obtain the number of singles by subtracting the sum of doubles (33), triples (3) & home runs (37) from the total number of hits (185). The result is 112 singles.

The number of total bases is then calculated by adding the sum of [total singles*1], [total doubles*2], [total triples*3] and [total home runs*4]. For Williams' 1941 season, the total bases would be 335 with total bases plus walks totaling 482.

Therefore, Williams' 1941 PRO is 482/603 which equals .799, which avoids the overlap of OPS.

Tony Gwynn was an elite hitter who played his whole career with the Major League San Diego Padres (who came into the National League in 1969). Gwynn won eight batting titles, including four in a row from 1994 to 1997. In 1994, the year of the strike, he was batting .394 at the time the strike occurred, so we will never know if he could have batted .400, like Williams.

Here is the data to compute Gwynn's 1994 PRO: 419 AB, 165 H, 35 2B, 1 3B, 12 HR & 48 BB.

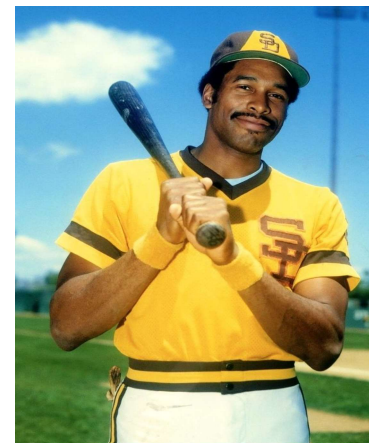


Bobby Doerr also played in the PCL like Williams & was a teammate of Williams with the Red Sox. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in the mid 1980s & enjoyed many fine seasons with the Sox.

One of Doerr's most productive seasons was the 1950 season where he led the league with 11 triples & had a career high 120 RBI. Here is the data for his 1950 season if you'd like to calculate his PRO: 586 AB, 172 H, 29 2B, 11 3B, 27 HR & 67 BB.

Dave Winfield was a three-sport star in college & came to the Padres 1973. He was a multi-time All-Star and in 1979 led the National League with 118 RBI. That season he was also walked a league-leading 24 times.

PRO can be calculated for Winfield's 1979 season with the following data: 597 AB, 184 H, 27 2B, 10 3B, 34 HR & 85 BB.



The Padres have reached the World Series twice, losing to the Tigers in 1984 & to the Yankees in 1998. Here is some team data for those seasons:

| YEAR | W | L | RS | RA | RS-RA | PP |
|------|----|----|-----|-----|-------|----|
| 1984 | 92 | 70 | 686 | 634 | +52 | |
| 1998 | 98 | 64 | 749 | 635 | +114 | |

From the RS-RA differential data, it would appear that the 1998 team was much stronger than the 1984 version. Additionally, we could look at the home park factor, along with Bill James' Pythagorean Projection (PP). This projection uses the runs scored & allowed data to figure how many games a team should have won. Using the Padres data, it can be calculated as follows:

Pythagorean Projection (PP). This projection uses the runs scored & allowed data to figure how many games a team should have won. Using the Padres data, it can be calculated as follows:

$$PP = [(RS^2) / \{ (RS^2) + (RA^2) \}]$$

For example, your team plays three games, scoring six runs & allowing 2 runs.

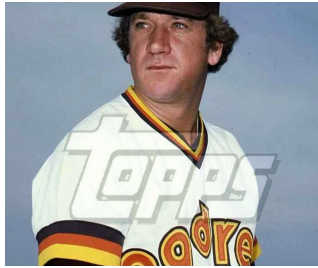
$$\text{Example PP} = [(6^2) / \{ (6^2) + (2^2) \}] = 36/40 = 0.9$$

Then multiply this by the number of games played to identify how many games you should have won. So if you played these three games, you should have won $3 \times (0.9)$ or 2.7 games. This can then be compared to the number of wins. You can compute the Padres PP & put it in the chart above.

Continued on Page 5 (San Diego)

San Diego (continued from page 4)

After leading the National League with a 2.24 ERA in 1975, Randy Jones won the 1976 Cy Young Award with a league-leading 22 wins. During that season Jones completed 25 games with five shutouts & a 2.74 ERA



in 315 1/3 innings pitched. What was even more remarkable was that both of these Padre teams that Jones pitched for were well below .500.

Just like the PRO calculations for hitters, the Home Park Factor (HPF) can be calculated for pitchers. If $HPF < 1$, the ballpark favors the pitcher. If $HPF > 1$, then the ballpark favors the batter. A park is neutral if the $HPF = 1$. In the calculations below, let the $HPF = x$ with the adjusted ERA $[(League\ ERA / ERA) * x * 100]$ taking ballpark factor into account.

For Jones' 1976 season, his ERA was 2.74 & NL ERA was 3.50, meaning the adjusted ERA was 120. Therefore, the HPF calculation for Jones in 1976 was $120 = (3.50 / 2.74) * x * 100 = 1.28 * x * 100$. In this equation, $x = 0.944$. Since the HPF was below 1, Jones' home park favored the pitcher.

You can calculate Jones' 1975 HBF. During that season, his ERA was 2.24, his adjusted ERA was 1.56 & the league ERA was 3.62. What was Jones' HPF that year?

Other Padres of note include: Trevor Hoffman, Randy Jones, Ozzie Smith, Gary Templeton, Steve Garvey, Graig Nettles & Rich Gossage.

The last three were stars on other teams who also helped the Padres win. Another interesting consideration is if the Padres' stadium for a number of years (Jack Murphy Stadium, later known as Qualcomm Park) is a hitters or pitchers park, compared to Petco Park, where they play today.

References:

1. baseball-reference.com
2. Gillette & Palmer, ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia, 4th Edition
3. miscbaseball.wordpress.com

October General Meeting (continued from page 3)

In addition to player cards that are mathematically grounded in performance probability, these 27-year-old creators of Clutch Baseball included a design element of FUN that is absent in Strat-O-Matic and other sim games. That is why, e.g., they creatively named some of their strategy cards "Back, Back, Back!", "Instant Replay", "Web Gem" and "Bush League."

Just as interesting was their description of the evolution of their game in phases, starting by giving it away for free to going pro when securing \$16,365 in seed money on www.indiegogo.com this past March.

Along their 5 year journey to profitability they learned the do's and don'ts of license violations, receiving one cease-and-desist from MLB, but adapting to the rules as they went forward.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The deadline for the August 2018 issue of The Wood Pile is July 1.
- The next chapter breakfast will be held on a January or February date TBA and could be located in the Quinnipiac cafeteria. Details to come.

1917 Anniversary Poem

By Steve Krevsky

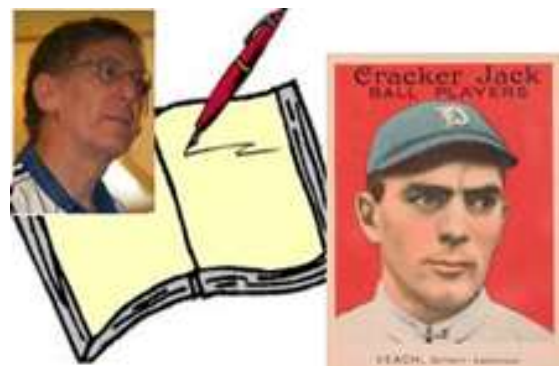
Bobby Veach was quite the peach, in '17's days of yore!
Good 'ol Pete was really neat; he made the batters sore!
Vaughn and Toney made no baloney, with their double-no hit bid.
Cobb and Speaker were quite the feature: their talents be not hid.
Ruth and Casey were not crazy, but baffled the opposition.
Eddie Collins was so solid, helping the Chisox win.
John McGraw would always jaw, in the Polo Grounds tradition.
Smoky Joe put on a show, and the Tribe liked his rendition.
Ernie Shore was no bore, for Ruth he did relieve.
Mogridge hurled a no-no then; in him we could believe.
Those days gone by could make you sigh, the dead-ball days gone by.
No home run feast, from The Beast, though times would change, oh my!

Corrections

By Cliff Blau

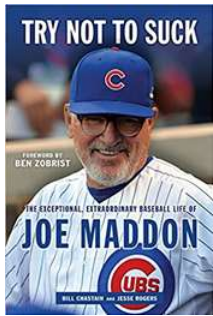
Home of the Browns and Days with No Mound

On page 4 of the Summer 2017 issue the St. Louis Browns are identified as being from Louisville. Later on the page it says the distance from home plate to the mound was increased from 50 feet to 60 feet 6 inches between 1888 and 1898. There were no pitcher's mounds in 1888 and the pitching distance that year was 55 feet, 6 inches. Also, batters only got 3 strikes in 1888 and walks were no longer recorded as hits; those changes were made before that season.



Upcoming Baseball Book Releases

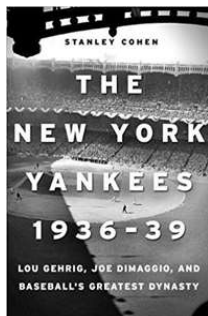
Compiled By Karl Cicitto (Source: amazon.com)



Try Not to Suck

(March 15, 2018) by Bill Chastain and Jesse Rogers

Joe Maddon is a singular presence among Major League Baseball managers. Whether he's bringing clowns and live bear cubs to spring training or leading the Chicago Cubs to their first World Series victory in 108 years, Maddon is always one to watch. In *Try Not to Suck*, ESPN's Jesse Rogers and MLB.com's Bill Chastain fully explore Maddon's life and career, delving behind the scenes and dissecting that mystique which makes Maddon so popular with players and analysts alike. Packed with insight, anecdotes, and little-known facts, this is the definitive account of the curse-breaker and trailblazer at the helm of the Cubs' new era.



The New York Yankees 1936-39

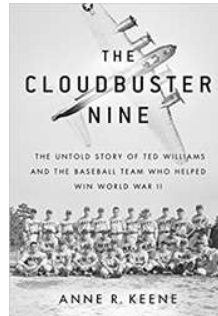
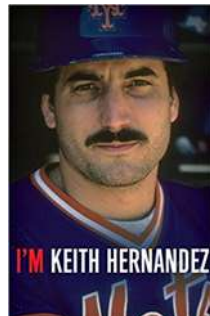
(April 3, 2018) by Stanley Cohen

New York, 1936. Red Ruffing, Lefty Gomez, Bill Dickey, Lou Gehrig, Tony Lazzeri, and rookie Joe DiMaggio—with these six future Hall of Fame players, the Yankees embarked on a four-year run that would go down in the history books as the greatest Yankees team, if not, the greatest baseball team of all time. They won their four World Series by an overall margin of 16-3, sweeping the last two, putting the punctuation mark on baseball's first true dynasty. From 1936 to 1939, the world was changing rapidly. America was in the grip of the Great Depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected president in the greatest landslide in American history. And Hitler's Germany was on the move in the fall of 1939, just as the Yankee dynasty reached its climax. Against the backdrop of a world in turmoil, baseball, and America's love for baseball, thrived. Starring the best team of all time, featuring little-known anecdotes of players and set against a history of the world, *The New York Yankees 1936-39* tells the tale of a legendary team that changed history.

I'm Keith Hernandez

(May 15, 2018) by Keith Hernandez

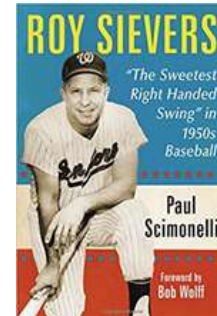
As a champion St. Louis Cardinal and New York Met, Keith Hernandez revolutionized the role of first baseman, partying hard and playing harder. A five-time All-Star, winner of two World Series titles, iconic Seinfeld-cameo star, and one of the most decorated first basemen in baseball history, he has long been renowned for his keen insight into the mechanics and traditions of the game. However, Hernandez is beloved for his infectious energy, rousing antics, and commitment to the sport. Now for the first time, he's prepared to tell all, from his beginnings in the San Francisco Bay area to his wild playing years in the 1980s to his transition to broadcasting.



The Cloudbuster Nine

(May 1, 2018) by Anne R. Keene

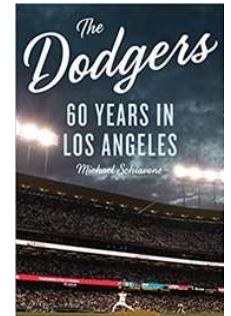
In 1943, while the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals were winning pennants and meeting in that year's World Series, one of the nation's strongest baseball teams practiced on a skinned-out college field in the heart of North Carolina. Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, and Johnny Sain were among a cadre of fighter-pilot cadets who wore the Cloudbuster Nine baseball jersey at an elite Navy training school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a child, Anne Keene's father, Jim Raugh, suited up as the team batboy and mascot. Jimmy followed his baseball dreams as a college All-American but was crushed later in life by a failed major-league bid with the Detroit Tigers. He would have carried this story to his grave had Anne not discovered his scrapbook from a Navy school that shaped America's greatest heroes including George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, John Glenn, and Paul "Bear" Bryant.



Roy Sievers: "The Sweetest Right Handed Swing"

(Currently Available) by Paul Scimonelli

Few players in the history of baseball suffered as many professional setbacks as Roy Sievers. After an award winning rookie season in 1949, he endured a year and a half-long slump, a nearly career-ending injury and a major position change—all from 1950 through 1953. Traded in 1954, he prevailed and became one of the most feared hitters of the decade, the Washington Senators' home run leader and the biggest gate attraction since Walter Johnson.



The Dodgers: 60 Years in Los Angeles

(April 3, 2018) by Michael Schiavone

In 1957, the Dodgers left their home of Brooklyn, New York, where they had been since their inception in 1884, for the sunny hills of Los Angeles, California. Since arriving in LA, the team has won five World Series and ten NL Pennants, and become one of the top-grossing organizations in Major League Baseball. *The Dodgers: 60 Years in Los Angeles* chronicles the team's impressive history since arriving in the West Coast. Covering the amazing feats of Dodgers greats such as Steve Garvey, Fernando Valenzuela, and Kirk Gibson, author Michael Schiavone offers an in-depth history of the team since their arrival in 1958 and through the 2017 season. With highlights of each season, the moments fans love to remember (or wish to forget), as well as those who have graced the field of Chavez Ravine, *The Dodgers: 60 Years in Los Angeles* shares the wonderful history of the boys in blue in the most comprehensive book available. Whether you're a fan of the Dodgers of old or today's team, this book offers the most information of the team's time in California than any other on the market.

Frank Observations

By Michael Frank

Connecticut's Surprising Little League Legacy

Buoyed by success in the early, smaller, less formal, less international days of the Little League World Series tournament, Connecticut can hold its own among bigger Sun Belt states. Only California has more titles.

Bridgeport lost to Houston in the 1950 finals. Stamford beat North Austin, TX to take the championship in 1951. The best player for the Stamford champs was Andy Wasol. There's a wonderful two minutes covering this on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihGmFWDGKi0>

In 1952 Norwalk National made it back-to-back titles, edging Monongahela. John Sutton was the Norwalk manager; key players were Ralph DiMeglio (who played pro ball), Julio Landa and Tony DiMeglio. There was a 60 year anniversary ceremony in 2012, but, sadly, none of the players attended.

In 1963 Stratford made the finals but in 1965 Windsor Locks went one better by beating Stoney Creek, Ontario for the crown, 3-1, on a 2-run homer by Dale Misiak. The manager was Robert O'Connor. Over 450 fans came down to Williamsport for the '65 Series and the game was on ABC-TV. The team celebrated in New York City after winning it all and was venerated in Connecticut. In 1990 there was a 25 year reunion and parade.

Most of us remember how 1989 champion Trumbull beat highly favored Taipei, China. Tom Galla was the manager; Chris Drury, who made his name in pro hockey, and Andy Paul were key players. In fact they threw out the first pitch in Game 2 of the World Series in Oakland. I have an autographed ball from this team.

Per capita, Connecticut is certainly one of the most successful states in the United States.

Notes:

- Joey Jay, the first Little Leaguer to make the majors, grew up in Middletown, CT.
- Houston Astro and World Champion George Springer of New Britain was a Walicki Little Leaguer in the Hardware City. His parents, George and Laura, are adult leaders in the national organization with George, Sr. sitting on the Little League International Advisory Board.



Baseball Conjectures & Speculations

By Ezra Count

Answer these questions to the best of your imagination.

1. How would Ted Williams have fared if he had tried to become a pitcher? (Ted pitched one game in the major leagues (1940), stood 6' 3", weighed about 203 lbs., and threw right-handed.)
2. Baseball is a game of _____.
3. How could baseball become the international pastime?
4. Make an argument that every big league pitcher should make the knuckleball part of his repertoire.
5. When should a manager relieve a starting pitcher?
6. What are the ideal dimensions for a baseball ballpark?
7. How good are baseball scouts at judging talent?
8. What characteristics separate major league talent from AAA minor league talent?
9. True or False: A batter should get his front foot down early.
10. What practices should American baseball consider borrowing from Japanese baseball?

See Responses on Page 8



Responses to Baseball Conjectures & Speculations

By Stan Dziurgot & Karl Cicitto

Question 1:

Stan Dziurgot: Ted could throw hard but unless he had another pitch let's just say he found his niche with a bat in his hand.

Karl Cicitto: It's possible. Musial, as a young hurler, hurt his arm after winning 18 games in 1940 in D ball and converted the other way. So if Stan could convert, why not Ted? Ted was so intense. Underwood wrote that a youthful Ted paid kids pennies to throw him BP until his little hands bled. Ted would have found a way.

Question 2:

Stan: Baseball is a game of inches, for instance, when the difference between hitting a home run or routine fly ball is where on the bat the hitter made contact, often an inch or less apart.

Karl: Baseball is a game of History, Geometry and, unfortunately, Cupidity.

Question 3:

Stan: Expand internationally by having MLB play spring training games or send an MLB All Star team to play in a foreign country after the regular season.

Karl: At no charge, expand the international TV audience. Let Russia, China, Africa, India and others watch subtitled MLB games via the web unfettered. Spice it up. Throw in Love Boat reruns.

Question 4:

Stan: A knuckleball causes less stress on the arm than any other pitch. Also it's hard to hit (and catch).

Karl: Every pitcher should learn the knuckler and then ingratiate their catchers to them – by not throwing it.

Question 5:

Stan: A manager should relieve a pitcher when he sees more and more hard contact. When a pitcher is getting tired his control and location go before his velocity.

Karl: It's a little like driving your car on empty. It's very hard to pinpoint the exact moment when disaster will strike. And every situation is unique. Study the pitcher's game logs. Past is prologue.

Question 6:

Stan: Stadiums were built on city blocks which made for short and long distances to outfield fences. Camden Yards has a warehouse in right. Petco Park has a building in left. Anything quirky is good as in these two instances. No cookie cutters

Karl: I like irregular dimensions with a giant centerfield that allows fleet fly catchers to go great lengths to run them down.

Question 7:

Stan: Scouts should go by how a pitcher retires batters by soft or hard contact and not rely on speed guns. Generally for pitchers and hitters analytics are fine but don't forget the eye test.

Karl: Scouts are probably very good at identifying talent. But it's not up to scouts how players progress.

Question 8:

Stan: The difference maker could be consistency, as in a pitcher repeating his motion or a batter going up the middle to prevent a slump. Also confidence and willpower.

Karl: I suspect you can succeed in AAA with just a pretty good belief system, but not so in the bigs. Your mental armor has to have no chinks in the majors or they'll peel you like an onion.

Question 9:

Stan: False; he's already committed on the pitch with his lower body and then has to make sure to keep his hands back. Besides, hitters have had success with different stances and methods of hitting.

Karl: False. As long as the foot is down to allow for a smooth weight transfer from back-to-front it doesn't matter. Just get it down in time.

Question 10:

Stan: Japanese pitchers usually pitch once a week on the same day with Monday an off day. For teams with an extra starting pitcher, pitch counts may go out the window with pitchers getting more rest between starts.

Karl: I don't know much about Japanese baseball. I am in favor of fresh sushi in all parks, especially spicy tuna roll.

Holiday Luncheon Featured Authors & Good Cheer

By Karl Cicitto

Twenty-nine CT SABR Members gathered for the Holiday Luncheon on December 16 at the Baci Grille in Cromwell.

Our first speak was Jim Kaplan, author of *Clearing The Bases*, *A Veteran Sportswriter on the National Pastime*. Some readers know Jim as a longtime Sports Illustrated baseball writer (1970 to 1984). Others know him as the author of *The Greatest Game Ever Pitched*, *Juan Marichal*, *Warren Spahn and the Pitching Duel of the Century*. It's a terrific book.

Jim is the author of 14 books, including *Lefty Grove*, *American Original*.

Jim Kaplan was not much of a ballplayer, himself. His boyhood nickname was "Snowshoes", a reference his youthful lack of footspeed on the base paths.

Jim described a surprisingly pleasant plane flight he took with Ted Williams from Maine to Chicago years ago at the behest of S.I. on short notice. He expected Williams the Ogre. He got Williams the Charmer.

Mr. Kaplan was loaded with anecdotes about players, including their pervasive need to gamble on just about anything. Ron Taylor, relief star of the Mets, told Kaplan how upon arriving at an airport his teammates would, as a rule, throw \$5 into a pot and go wait by the baggage pick up. The money went to the player whose luggage appeared first on the conveyer belt.

Clearing The Bases is a collection of ten articles ranging from baseball-and-culture to the demands of playing baseball's most unforgiving position – right field. The most intriguing chapter title may be this one: "Paul Molitor's Misspelled, Misconstrued and Misunderstood Hall-of-Fame Career."

As always, Jim is a great speaker and his talk was enjoyed by all.

Our second speaker was Bill Ryczek, author of *Baseball on the Brink: The Crisis of 1968*. The book details a year in which Baseball was challenged with the inept Commissioner William D. Eckert, swarming competition from The NFL, and how the games had become hard to watch due to the growing dominance of hurlers over hitters.

Regarding his research for the book, Bill explained how accessible non-stars, a.k.a. role players, had been. His interview subjects included many veterans well-known to SABR folk such as Ed Bressoud, Don Cardwell, Billy Cowan, Bill Denehy, Doc Edwards, Johnny Ellis, Bob Friend, Jake Gibbs, Jim Gosger, Clem Labine, Danny McDevitt, Tom Shopay, Tracy Stallard, Ron Taylor, Tom Tresh, Steve Whitaker and others.

The book is written with flair and even the Introduction is interesting with its explanation of the book's origin. Bill writes that a few years ago he had "gone long" on a Yankee-Mets-in-the-1960's book -- long by about 50,000 words. With encouragement from his publisher, Bill redeployed much of his text into two books: *The Yankees in the Early 1960's* and *The Amazing Mets, 1962 to 1969*. The 50,000 words that did not make it into those two books became the critical mass for *Baseball on the Brink*. All in all the three



books offer a treasury of history about baseball in the 1960's, especially for those of us who followed it closely when it was happening.

Bill's other baseball books include *Blackguards and Red Stockings*, *a History of Baseball's National Association, 1871-1875*, *When Johnny Came Sliding Home*, *the Post-Civil War Baseball Boom, 1865-1870* and *Baseball's First Inning: A History of the National Pastime through the Civil War*.

The Luncheon was a success. Everyone grazed on four entrees, desert, coffee and a few of us took advantage of the cash bar. We enjoyed the private room.

Steve Krevsky warmly greeted all and at one point gave the floor to Jim Keener, who recently rejoined SABR.

Jim Keener talked about his love for the game and his enduring affection for all things Pittsburgh. Like Mr. Kaplan before him, Jim explained how he personally knew that Ted Williams was a regular and genuine person, something he learned when working at the Ted Williams Baseball Camp for seven summers. Jim has been with the University of Hartford since 1984. He contributed two fine articles to the upcoming Bagwell book and has been the SID and the Baseball Coach for the Hartford Hawks, among other duties. He is currently the official scorer for the Hartford Yard Goats.

Those making the longest drives to attend the Luncheon may have been Michael Frank (Manhattan) and Jim Kaplan (Northampton, MA).

The event's success rested in the care of Stan Dziurgot, who coordinated the advance planning. Alan Cohen wrangled the finances.

Three for a Quarter! The Last Major League Baseball Tripleheader

By Steve Krevsky

To paraphrase Joe Castiglione, the present Red Sox broadcaster, "Can you believe it?" Yet, this article isn't about a Red Sox game. It's about a tripleheader which took place between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds on Saturday, October 2, 1920.

That's right. A tripleheader!

This amazing feat took place in Forbes Field and will likely never happen again.

Imagine that these 3 games, which took place almost a hundred years ago, lasted a grand total of 5 hours whereas today many single games take 3.5 to 4 hours to play.

The tripleheader was played at the urging of Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss after a rain out.

Entering this series, the Cincinnati Reds, who had won the infamous 1919 Series, were now were battling for third place. In those days finishing third gave teams a share of World Series money. We can see the third place payoff with perfect hindsight today. According to the Oct. 21, 1920 edition of The Sporting News, the third place teams (NL & AL) each received \$10,744 to distribute among their players. That's \$137,313 in 2017 dollars.

The Reds were ahead of the Pirates in the National League Standings, the Reds in third place and the Pirates in fourth. The Pirates needed to sweep a 3 game series in Forbes Field against the Reds. After the tripleheader, each team had one additional game to play against other teams. To overtake Cincy, the Bucs needed to win all four games and the Reds needed to lose all four, including the triple header and their final Sunday tilts.

Pirates' ace Wilbur Cooper took the hill in game 1 of the tripleheader and got shelled with the Reds emerging victorious, 13 to 4. Cooper gave up 10 hits, 8 runs, 7 of them earned, in 2 1/3 innings. Heinie Groh, one of the more well-known Cincy names, excelled in Game 1 with 3 RBI's. Larry Kopf did the same while drilling 2 triples. Cincinnati erupted for 7 stolen bases' in Game 1. The Reds scored 6 runs in the 3rd inning to pull away. For the Reds: Edd Roush went 2 for 6, with 1 RBI. Greasy Neale was 1 for 4, with 1 run scored, and 1 RBI. For the Pirates: Max Carey had a 2 for 5 day. Future manager Billy Southworth was 0 for 3 and Pie Traynor went 1 for 4. Reds hurler Ray Fisher went the distance. The game took 2 hours and 3 minutes. The game 1 pasting was atypical for Wilbur Cooper. He won 24 that year in a very successful season.

In game 2 Cincinnati prevailed 7 to 3, tallying all of their runs in the 7th. Reds mounds man Hod Eller played both first and second base going 3 for 4, with 1 run scored and 2 RBI's. The Reds rested most of their regulars in G2. Pittsburgh's Max Carey went 0 for 4 in a game which took 1 hour and 56 minutes. Both starters went the distance: Brenton for Cincy, and Zinn for the Bucs.

Game 3 went to the Pittsburghers, 6-0, in a match shortened to 6 inning by darkness. Johnny Morrison yielded but 4 hits. This game took all of 1 hour! The Pirates scored 3 in the first, and 3 more in the 3rd. Pie Traynor was 0 for 3, with 1 RS, and first sacker Charlie Grimm went 2 for 2 with 1 RS and 1 RBI. Reds hurler

Napier went the distance, yielding 6 runs, but only 2 were earned. Cincinnati Reds' mounds-man Hod Eller, a 19 game winner in 1919, held down the first sack in the 3rd game. He also played infield in game 2 as the Reds were able to move people around after clinching 3rd place with their Game 1 win. This included playing 3 pitchers in the regular lineup.

Thus, the Cincinnati Reds were able to hold on to 3rd place in the National League campaign with the last game of the season on Sunday no longer being meaningful. Pittsburgh held down 4th place, the last spot in the National League's first division. Rookie Pie Traynor played in the first and third games of the triple header, playing shortstop as opposed to the usual 3rd Base he would play in future seasons.

Edd Roush and Max Carey are two Hall of Famers who were part of these tripleheader games. In 1920, Roush batted .339, with a career high 90 RBI's. Carey in 1920 batted .289, with a league leading total of 52 SB.

Also of note, Greasy Neale played for the 1919 World Series Champions Cincinnati Reds and participated in this tripleheader. An avid athlete, Neale played football and baseball. He is in the Football Hall of Fame, having coached the Philadelphia Eagles to NFL titles in 1948 and 1949.

There were 4 MLB Hall of Famers who played in at least 1 game of the tripleheader. Can you name them? Also, each team had 2 players who played in all 3 games. For the Pirates, that would be Cotton Tierney and Clyde Barnhart, and for the Reds, it was Morrie Rath and Pat Duncan.

The tripleheader of 1920 was quite the feat, one whose likeness we are very unlikely to see again!



After 20 years in Bridgeport, the Bluefish are forced from their pond.
Article on Page 11.

Bluefish Forced from Their Pond

By Stan Osowiecki

In August 2017, Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim and City of Bridgeport officials announced that the Ballpark at Harbor Yard would be converted into an amphitheater based on a proposal from developer Howard Saffan and concert promoter Live Nation^{3,4}. The move left the Bridgeport Bluefish, a charter member of the independent Atlantic League, without a home ballpark for the first time since its inception in 1998³. During its twenty year history, the Bluefish amassed a regular season record of 1341-1296 and a postseason record of 13-18 which included a championship in 1999 and a runner-up four other times¹.

Following the loss their stadium, Bluefish owner Frank Boulton said his team wouldn't be homeless for long³. This was confirmed days later when the Atlantic League announced that the new home for the team would be High Point, North Carolina beginning with the 2019 season². As for the 2018 Atlantic League season, no official announcement has been made as to where or if the team will play⁴ and whether the team will keep or change the Bluefish name for the 2018 season or beyond⁵.

As the final regular season weekend of the team in Bridgeport approached, the team organized a pre-game ceremony to celebrate the history of the team. During that ceremony, in front of 4,909 fans⁵, the team introduced many of the fan favorites over the years to strong cheers. When it was time to introduce Mayor Ganim, whose initial administration brought baseball back to Bridgeport in 1998, fans strongly booed him and with one fan yelling "Get off of the field!"²

The final game in the history of the team in Bridgeport was against the Somerset Patriots, now the only remaining original Atlantic

League team². The Bluefish, who had been eliminated from post season consideration the prior day, lost the game to the Patriots 9-2 when Bluefish Santiago Nussy flew out to right field on a 1-1 pitch from the Patriots' Jon Hudson². The time was 4:04 pm and baseball in Bridgeport came to an end². While the team tied for the best record in the league, they were not eligible for post season play as they did not win either half of the Liberty Division's season².

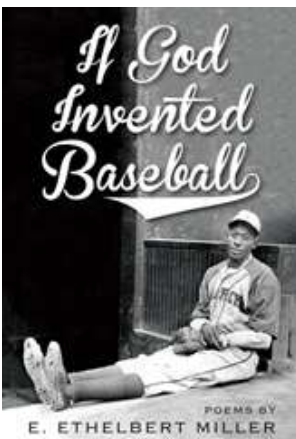
The week following the close of their tenure in Bridgeport, the team announced a moving sale the following Saturday where fans could have their pick of items from the stadium. The sale consisted of clubhouse furniture, signs, posters, balls, office supplies and basically anything that could be moved by fans³. During the sale, fans were allowed to walk around the stadium and some even strolled onto the field for a last catch before the transformation of the ballpark to the amphitheater.

Notes:

- 1 Fornabio, M. 2017. "After 20 Seasons, Fans, Bluefish, Say Goodbye". September 17, 2017. Accessed: January 04, 2017. Bridgeport, Connecticut: Connecticut Post. ctpost.com. <http://www.ctpost.com/sports/article/After-20-seasons-fans-bluefish-say-goodbye-12204700.php>
- 2 News 12 [Online]. 2017. "Bridgeport Bluefish Fans Buy Up Memorabilia at Moving Sale". September 23, 2017. Accessed: January 04, 2017. <http://connecticut.news12.com/story/36436191/bridgeport-bluefish-fans-buy-up-memorabilia-at-moving-sale>
- 3 O'Neil, T. 2017. "Bluefish Find New Home in North Carolina". September 08, 2017. Accessed: January 04, 2018. Bridgeport, Connecticut: Connecticut Post. ctpost.com. <http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Bluefish-find-new-home-in-North-Carolina-12184055.php>
- 4 Spedden, Z. 2017. "Bridgeport Bluefish Play Ballpark at Harbor Yard Finale". September 18, 2017. Accessed: January 04, 2018. BallparkDigest.com. <https://ballparkdigest.com/2017/09/18/bridgeport-bluefish-play-ballpark-at-harbor-yard-finale>

If God Invented Baseball

From Press Release



CT SABR member David Wilk passes along this news about an interesting new book.

City Point Press (citypointpress.com) is publishing a book of baseball poems by the former poet Laureate of Washington, DC, E. Ethelbert Miller. The book is called "If God Invented Baseball."

If God Invented Baseball is a complete game of baseball poems, a full nine innings pitched by a "master twirler," whose complete arsenal includes fastballs, curves and change-ups, and the occasional knuckler, to keep readers swinging for the fences, his full artistry on display.

"Ethelbert Miller celebrates baseball as a metaphor for his—and by extension the reader's—life. This is not a collection of baseball poetry as such, but a collection in which baseball becomes the prism for great, accessible poetry, written by a master who can see a newborn second child as a 'rookie struggling to learn the lessons of spring,' and the bunt as an act of non-violence. This collection is at once sweet, sad and vital—in other words, a grand slam home run." —Paul Dickson, author of *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary* and *The Hidden Language of Baseball*.

Ethelbert was born and raised in the South Bronx, and this book is full of names all baseball fans will recognize.

List price is \$14.99. Special offer to all SABR chapter members: \$12.50 including shipping and sales tax. Payment by check to David Wilk, 286 Curtis Avenue, Stratford CT 06615 or email David at david@booktrix.com and David will send a Paypal invoice for easy online payment.

Editor's Note: David has published some other baseball books including *The Plated City*, the first baseball novel ever published (1895). It takes place in Meriden, Connecticut and *A Great Day for a Ballgame* (which is actually a softball novel).



Major League Players Born in Connecticut (January – June)

January

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Jack Farrell | 01/02/1856 | Hartford |
| Tommy Corcoran | 01/04/1869 | New Haven |
| Tom Kelley | 01/05/1944 | Manchester |
| Carl Pavano | 01/08/1976 | New Britain |
| Moe Morhardt | 01/16/1937 | Manchester |
| Pat Maloney | 01/19/1888 | Grosvenor Dale |
| Brian Dayett | 01/22/1957 | New London |
| Red Donahue | 01/23/1873 | Waterbury |
| Rob Dibble | 01/24/1964 | Bridgeport |
| Walt Dropo | 01/30/1923 | Moosup |
| General Stafford | 01/30/1868 | Thompson |
| Emil Planeta | 01/31/1909 | Higganum |

February

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Bill Dawley | 02/06/1958 | Norwich |
| Hi Ladd | 02/09/1870 | Willimantic |
| Freddy Schmidt | 02/09/1916 | Hartford |
| George Bryant | 02/10/1857 | Bridgeport |
| Jim Keenan | 02/10/1856 | New Haven |
| Ed Walsh | 02/11/1905 | Meriden |
| Kiddo Davis | 02/12/1902 | Bridgeport |
| Monk Dubiel | 02/12/1918 | Hartford |
| Pete Castiglione | 02/13/1921 | Greenwich |
| Biff Sheehan | 02/13/1868 | Hartford |
| Candy LaChance | 02/14/1870 | Putnam |
| Evan Scribner | 07/19/1985 | New Milford |
| Adam Greenberg | 02/21/1981 | New Haven |
| Tom Shopay | 02/21/1945 | Bristol |
| Hezekiah Allen | 02/25/1863 | Westport |

March

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Howard Baker | 03/01/1888 | Bridgeport |
| Billy Arnold | 03/02/1851 | Middletown |
| Danny Hoffman | 03/02/1880 | Canton |
| Ron Wotus | 03/03/1961 | Hartford |
| Mauro Gozzo | 03/07/1966 | New Britain |
| Merwin Jacobson | 03/07/1894 | New Britain |
| Phil Nastu | 03/08/1955 | Bridgeport |
| Jud Daley | 03/14/1884 | South Coventry |
| Bill Gannon | 03/17/1873 | New Haven |
| Johnny Scalzi | 03/22/1907 | Stamford |
| Matt Sinatro | 03/22/1960 | Hartford |
| Johnny Moore | 03/23/1902 | Waterville |
| Dan Shannon | 03/23/1865 | Bridgeport |
| Josh Zeid | 03/24/1987 | New Haven |
| Morrie Critchley | 03/26/1850 | New London |
| Matt Harvey | 03/27/1989 | New London |
| Herman Bronkie | 03/30/1885 | South Manchester |
| Bill Denehy | 03/31/1946 | Middletown |

April

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Art Ceccarelli | 04/02/1930 | New Haven |
| Pop Foster | 04/08/1878 | New Haven |
| Eric Campbell | 04/09/1987 | Norwich |
| Jim Rogers | 04/09/1872 | Hartford |
| Squiz Pillion | 04/13/1894 | Hartford |
| Brad Ausmus | 04/14/1969 | New Haven |
| Joe Lahoud | 04/14/1947 | Danbury |
| Ad Yale | 04/17/1870 | Bristol |
| Steve Blass | 04/18/1942 | Canaan |
| Pete Falsay | 04/24/1891 | New Haven |
| Jack Barry | 04/26/1887 | Meriden |

May

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Charles Nagy | 05/05/1967 | Bridgeport |
| Henri Rondeau | 05/05/1887 | Danielson |
| Earl Snyder | 05/06/1976 | New Britain |
| Brook Fordyce | 05/07/1970 | New London |
| Ed Murray | 05/08/1895 | Mystic |
| George Enright | 05/09/1954 | New Britain |
| Roy Clark | 05/11/1874 | New Haven |
| Jamie D'Antona | 05/12/1982 | Greenwich |
| Frank Buttery | 05/13/1851 | Silvermine |
| Bobby Valentine | 05/13/1950 | Stamford |
| James Lehan | 05/14/1856 | Hartford |
| Fred Goldsmith | 05/15/1856 | New Haven |
| Frank Woodward | 05/17/1894 | New Haven |
| Al Niemiec | 05/18/1911 | Meriden |
| John Murphy | 05/20/1879 | New Haven |
| Pete Appleton | 05/20/1904 | Terryville |
| Jim Green | 05/22/1854 | Windham County |
| Pinky Woods | 05/22/1920 | Waterbury |
| Jason Grabowski | 05/24/1976 | New Haven |
| Pat Dean | 05/25/1989 | Waterbury |
| Angel Echevarria | 05/25/1971 | Bridgeport |
| George Smith | 05/31/1892 | East Port Chester |

June

| Player | Date of Birth | Birthplace |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Tom Leahy | 06/02/1869 | New Haven |
| Bob Saverine | 06/02/1941 | Norwalk |
| Jim Sheehan | 06/03/1913 | New Haven |
| Tim Murnane | 06/04/1851 | Naugatuck |
| Lefty Wolf | 06/10/1900 | Hartford |
| Matty McIntyre | 06/12/1880 | Stonington |
| Fred Klobedanz | 06/13/1871 | Waterbury |
| Matt Barnes | 06/17/1990 | Danbury |
| Jim Tipper | 06/18/1849 | Middletown |
| Ray Foley | 06/23/1906 | Naugatuck |
| Al Clauss | 06/23/1891 | New Haven |
| Dick Tettelbach | 06/26/1929 | New Haven |

Major League Players with Connecticut Connections (Final 2017 Regular Season)

| 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 | 53 | 167 | 24 | 42 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 21 | 10 | 39 | 0 | 6 | 0.251 | 0.298 | 0.419 |
| Davis, Rajai | BOS | New London | OF | 117 | 336 | 56 | 79 | 19 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 27 | 83 | 2 | 12 | 0.235 | 0.293 | 0.348 |
| Pollock, A.J. | ARZ | Hebron | OF | 112 | 425 | 73 | 113 | 33 | 6 | 14 | 49 | 35 | 71 | 0 | 8 | 0.266 | 0.330 | 0.471 |
| Springer, George | HOU | New Britain | OF | 143 | 548 | 112 | 155 | 29 | 0 | 34 | 85 | 64 | 111 | 4 | 11 | 0.283 | 0.367 | 0.522 |

| Player | Team | Conn. Connection | POS | G | W | L | ERA | CG | SHO | SV | HLD | IP | H | ER | R | HR | BB | SO |
|----------------|------|------------------|-----|----|---|---|-------|----|-----|----|-----|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Barnes, Matt | BOS | Bethel | P | 70 | 7 | 3 | 3.88 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 69.2 | 57 | 31 | 30 | 7 | 28 | 83 |
| Breslow, Craig | CLE | Trumbull | P | 37 | 1 | 1 | 5.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35.1 | 41 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 16 | 23 |
| Hahn, Jesse | OAK | Groton | P | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5.30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 69.2 | 78 | 41 | 46 | 4 | 27 | 55 |
| Harvey, Matt | NYM | Mystic | P | 19 | 5 | 7 | 6.70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92.2 | 110 | 70 | 69 | 21 | 50 | 67 |
| Hughes, Jared | MIL | Stamford | P | 67 | 5 | 3 | 3.02 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 59.2 | 49 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 29 | 48 |
| Leone, Dominic | TOR | Norwich | P | 65 | 3 | 0 | 2.56 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 70.1 | 51 | 22 | 20 | 6 | 26 | 81 |
| Oberg, Scott | COL | UConn | P | 66 | 0 | 1 | 4.94 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 58.1 | 70 | 35 | 32 | 4 | 26 | 55 |
| Scribner, Evan | SEA | New Milford | P | 8 | 0 | 2 | 11.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.1 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 |



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, 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. 4,338 biographies have been written by 500+ SABR members as of January 05, 2018. 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 lspace@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: Bruce Slutsky at bruce@bruce Slutsky.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: James Forr at jff110@hotmail.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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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.