

Luke Easter Chapter Newsletter August 2013

Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter for the SABR Luke Easter Chapter of Western New York! Goal is to share news, upcoming events, and some general baseball information. Please feel free to forward this to anyone who you think would be interested in joining us for an event, learning more about SABR, or would just enjoy as a baseball fan.

Please also feel free to submit any items for future newsletters. I'm not committing to a set schedule for these, just as the volume of information and timing seems appropriate. Thanks for reading -

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Luke Easter Chapter Liaison

Upcoming Events

SABR at Rochester Red Wings Game Saturday, August 24th – Meet at 6PM

Join us as the Red Wings take on Indianapolis at Frontier Field. Plan is to meet at the 10th Inning Bar in the third base concourse at 6PM (or shortly after gate opening) for some socializing prior to the first pitch at 7:05.

All tickets are reserved seating, if you would like me to purchase tickets in a group section, please let me know on or by Monday, August 12th. Ticket cost would be \$9.50/person for Upper Box Seats. If there is interest in this, I'll let everyone know the section so they can find us if they'd rather buy on their own.



(Upcoming events, cont.)

SABR at Genesee Country Village Vintage Base Ball Game Sunday, October 6th, 2013 – 1:30 PM

Have had several suggestions for an outing to Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfordsville, NY for a vintage baseball game. SABR Members Tony Brancato, Ryan Brecker, Scott Pitoniak, and Joe Territo all play in this league under 1866 rules. This game is for the Mayor's Cup Championship. Please see www.gcv.org for more information. I may have limited complimentary passes, so if you are interested let me know!

Recent Events

SABR at the Batavia Muckdogs

On Saturday, July 13th the Luke Easter Chapter of SABR held our first gathering as the Batavia Muckdogs took on the Tri-City Valleycats.



(SABR at Muckdogs, cont.)

In attendance were, from left in above photo:
1st Row: Ryan Brecker, Joe Territo, Tim and Erin Hannan. 2nd Row: Abby Bennett, Mike Dugan. 3rd Row: Myra Fonte, Gary Passamonte, Chris Moran. 4th Row: John Dunn. Behind Camera: Ed Adamczyk. We got Ed in the pic below though (top left):



Although the Muckdogs lost 5-4, we had a great time with lots of great conversation. Thanks to Mike Dugan for providing a couple of door prizes!

SABR 43: National Convention Philadelphia, PA

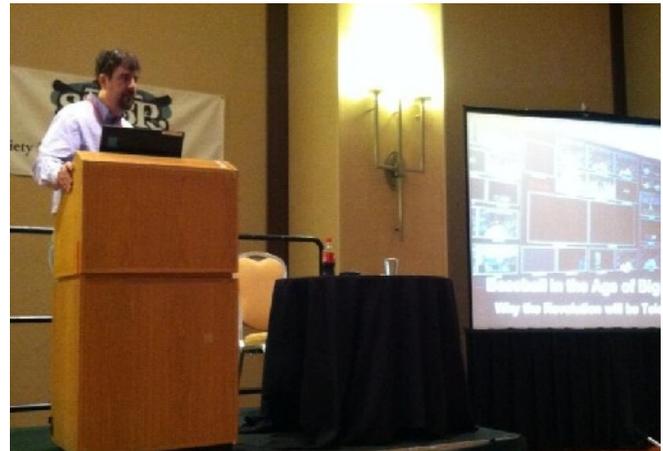
Luke Easter Chapter had three members make the trek to Philadelphia for four days of baseball and fellowship! Seen below at the welcoming reception are, from left, Justin Murphy, Ryan Brecker, and Sean Lahman.



(SABR 43, cont.)

Highlights included a player panel of Dickie Noles, Gary Mathews, and Brad Lidge; welcoming from Phillies President David Montgomery, and keynote from All-Star Larry Bowa. We also caught a Phillies game, witnessed the first ever SABR variety show, attended numerous research committee meetings, and saw over thirty tremendous research presentations. Much of the program is available as video to members on the SABR Website.

Of particular note, our own Sean Lahman presented "Baseball in the Age of Big Data: Why the Revolution Will Be Televised." It was very well received and referenced several times in the following day's Analytics Panel. A photo of Sean presenting is below:

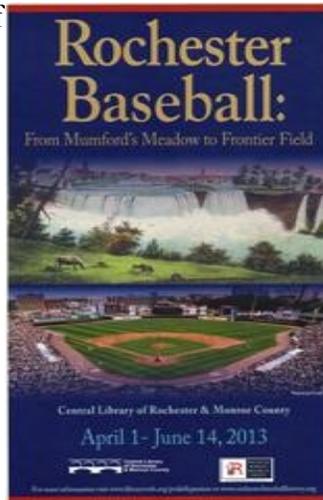


Full video should be on the SABR website at some point soon. Sean has also graciously made his slides available, if interested:
sabr43.seanlahman.com

Rochester Baseball Historical Society Exhibit

The recently formed Rochester Baseball Historical Society presented Rochester Baseball: From Mumford Meadow to Frontier Field; a series of panels taking the viewer through the entire history of Rochester baseball. It ran in conjunction with the traveling exhibit, Pride and Passion, from the

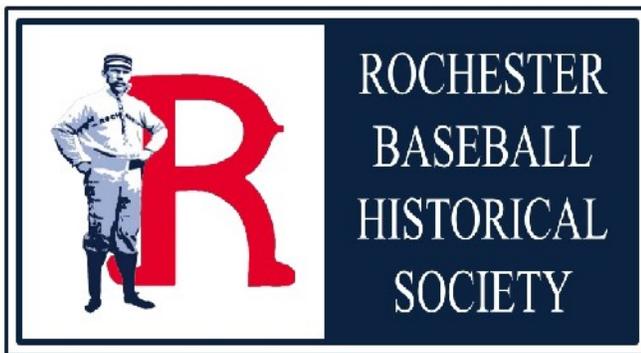
National Baseball Hall of Fame at the Rundel Library. The exhibit was very well received, and also accompanied baseball artifacts on display and public programs on Baseball Parks in Rochester as well as a conversation with Johnny Antonelli.



The society is accepting new members, and more information can be found at: <http://rochesterbaseballhistory.org>

Six of our seven founding members are also SABR members, and our mission statement is below: The Rochester Baseball Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, research, and dissemination of the baseball history of greater Rochester, New York. The Society is a network that facilitates these goals through publications, presentations and the promotion of our region's long and rich baseball heritage.

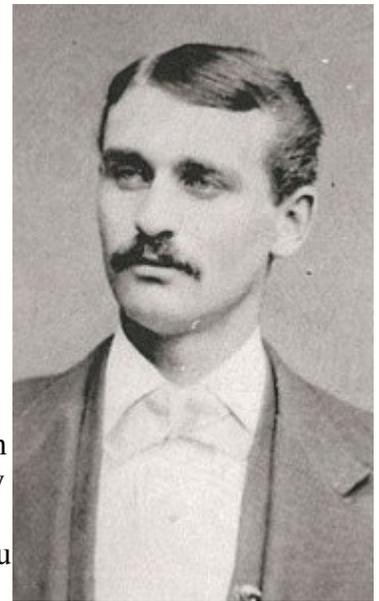
I anticipate the RBHS and Luke Easter Chapter working closely on programming; and definitely encourage you to consider joining both!



SABR Overlooked Legend

Ross Barnes was named the Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend for 2013 at SABR 43. Hailing from Mt Morris, he has been described as

the most exciting player of the 1860's and 1870's. Please see the SABR website for more information and full biography.



Luke Easter Chapter Member Gary Passamonte has long been championing Ross Barnes, and hopes that like Deacon White, this award may lead to enshrinement in Cooperstown. If you are on Facebook and would like to help with *Ross Barnes* effort, search for "Get Ross Barnes in the Baseball Hall of Fame" under groups.

You can also get a commemorative Ross Barnes card at ItalianFest in Mount Morris on August 17th and 18th.

What We're Listening To

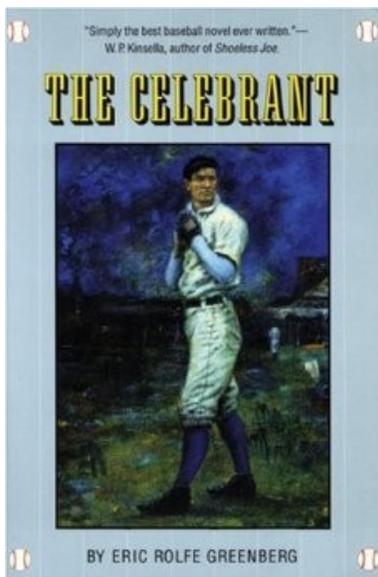
Members Curt Smith and Scott Pitoniak have a weekly radio show, "A Talk in the Park" on WYSL out of Avon, NY. Featuring local and national baseball personalities, they were kind enough to talk with me a few weeks ago regarding our new SABR Chapter. Airing Saturdays at Noon on 1040AM/92.1FM, it's also available as a Podcast at www.wysl1040.com.



What We're Reading

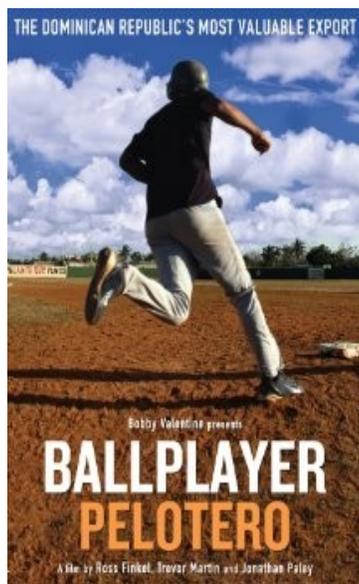
The Celebrant by Eric Rolfe Greenberg

Published in 1983, and winner of the Spitball Magazine's first CASEY Award, this book is routinely near the top of lists on baseball fiction, and baseball in general. Using Christy Mathewson's career as a backdrop, the fictional story of an immigrant family of Jewish jewelers unfolds, with the first intersection being the creation of a ring to celebrate Mathewson's no hitter; later leading to championship rings and more. With rich themes including assimilation into American culture, hero worship, the burden of being a hero, temptations of gambling, and baseball as religion; this book has something for everyone.



What We're Watching

Ballplayer: Pelotero



A documentary released in 2011 centering on the lead up to baseball's international signing day, Pelotero tells the story of Miguel Sano and Jean Batista as they work to get noticed and signed by major league teams. Frank depiction of the stressors, cheating, and corruption involved in international training

(Pelotero, cont.)

and scouting – a real eye opener on a side of baseball we rarely see. Miguel Sano has gone on to become one of baseball's top prospects – recently promoted to AA New Britain, we should see him in Rochester sometime in 2014. A sequel to this film is being filmed following Sano's rise through the minor leagues. Available on Netflix streaming.

Social Media

The Luke Easter SABR Chapter now has a facebook page, easiest to find by searching for “Luke Easter SABR Chapter.” If you have any trouble finding and joining, let me know and we'll be sure you get added.

I also encourage you to login to your account on sabr.org and officially join the chapter. If you are having difficulty, let me know and I can manually add you.

Off the Beaten Path

This section will highlight locations to celebrate baseball that may not be familiar or well known. On the way to and from SABR 43, I used the opportunity to see how Factoryville, PA – birthplace of Christy Mathewson – and Lewisburg, PA – site of his Alma mater, Bucknell College, pay tribute to this baseball legend.



Visitors to Factoryville are Greeted by this Sign



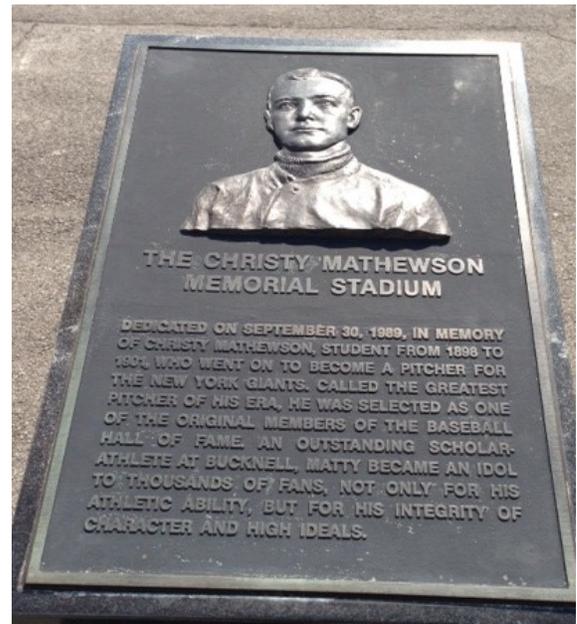
*This adorns light posts in Statue in Christy
Factoryville Mathewson Park*



Mathewson Grave site in Lewisburg Cemetery



*This foot bridge is the only access to Christy
Mathewson Park and Field*



*The Bucknell Bison play at Christy
Mathewson Memorial Stadium*



*Scoreboard at Christy Mathewson Field in
Factoryville*

Trivia Corner

From the SABR 43 Trivia Contest – this question eliminated the Hop Bitters team (featuring the three attendees from the Luke Easter Chapter and Blake Sherry) after a three way tie for seventh place (we got 5, the team we were tied with got 6). Answer on following page:

Q. In thirty seconds, can you name all seven players with the last name Martinez to make a major league all-star team? GO!

Future Ideas and a Challenge

As a new chapter, we have lots of fun and exciting ideas that will hopefully come to fruition. In future newsletters, hope to add a “Collector's Corner” - highlighting a local collector with some of their collection; some of our favorite websites and twitter feeds; and a “Research Corner” highlighting member research activities.

Please keep ideas coming for chapter events. Hope to start a fantasy league next season, and working on more events such as dinner gatherings and research presentations.

I would like to close with a challenge – whether you have come across this as a SABR member or not, I request that you forward to at least one person (hopefully more!) that enjoy baseball and may get pleasure from this.

If this does come across your e-mail or desk, please contact me so I can keep you informed of our activities and include you on future newsletters of the Luke Easter Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research.

Yours in Baseball -

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Trivia Answer:

Dennis, Edgar, Pedro, Ramon, Tino, Tippy, and Victor Martinez have all made ML All Star teams.