



Society for American Baseball Research
San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

eNews

August 18, 2013

Issue No. 54

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 📍 Summer Regional Meeting: August 9, 2013, **Memorable Padres Moments Radio Broadcast Re-creation**



Summer Regional Meeting on August 9th Memorable Padres Moments— A Radio Broadcast Re-creation

Our Chapter held a unique and entertaining program on August 9, 2013. An estimated 215 were in attendance at Scripps Ranch Library Auditorium. The bonus for our chapter was the generation of needed revenue to help us offset the cost of acquiring a major collection of baseball research and archival material for our Baseball Research Center.



Our featured guests included: Steve Arlin, Kurt Bevacqua, Jerry Coleman, Roger Craig, Dick Freeman, Tony Gwynn, Randy Jones, and Bob Skinner.

Our Chapter Vice President, **Andy Strasberg**, served as the producer of this event with the help of several Chapter members. Our emcee for the evening was our member and long-time Padres announcer in past years, **Bob Chandler**.



Before the re-broadcast started, Joe Rathburn (you may know him from the Tin Fish restaurant) got the crowd in the mood for baseball with a variety of baseball songs, culminating with “Centerfield.”

After Joe, and as appropriate for the start of a game, we sang the National Anthem. After the song was complete and we sat down we were then reminded of Roseanne Barr’s memorable singing of the National Anthem with a 15-second excerpt of the travesty. We also heard from a Padres management insider about what went on behind the scenes leading up to her singing.



Now it was Bob Chandler’s turn. To those of you not in attendance it is useful for you to have a picture in your mind about how the stage was set up. The library’s auditorium stage was set up like a radio studio on one side and an interview area

with several cushioned chairs was on the other side. The event was being broadcast for radio and for television, so Bob used special effects to add realism to the listening audience. These special effects included a small bat that he used to strike a wood block (a 2x4 labeled SABR) to simulate a batted ball, along with a pillow that he hit with the bat there was a whiff. After describing the action Bob then would conduct interviews on the other end of the stage.

4/8/1969, Padres win first MLB game

The first of the nine events was from April 8, 1969, when the Padres won their first major league game at San Diego Stadium. This game was the Padres first MLB game and it started the team on a short winning streak. Roger Craig, a coach in 1969 along with Sparky Anderson under Manager Preston Gomez, offered some comments about that first team.

7/21/70, Kirby’s Near No-hitter

Clay Kirby had a no-hitter going for eight innings on this night and was pulled for a pinch hitter in the bottom of the 8th inning. Roger Craig, who was still pitching coach, discussed Manager Gomez’s decision to pinch-hit for Kirby. It was Gomez’s decision and it was “old school” all the way.

7/18/1972, Arlin's near no-hitter

This third moment was another near no-hitter. This was a game being pitched by Steve Arlin. Arlin remembered how he was one-out away from the no-hitter and that is when then Manager Don Zimmer called for his 3rd baseman to play in for a possible bunt. After two strikes there was no bunt. Yet, Zimmer wanted the 3rd baseman to stay put. As luck would have it, the hitter chopped a ball that went over the head of the 3rd baseman and the no-hitter was gone. After the game Zimmer acknowledged that the ball would have been an easy play if the baseman was in his proper position. In re-telling the story to Chandler, and now 31 years later and still no Padres no-hitter, Arlin suggested that the lack of a no-hitter should be referred to as the "Curse of Don Zimmer."



Chandler introduced Arlin by mentioning that the first MLB radio broadcast was in Pittsburgh with Harold Arlin the broadcaster who was Steve's grandfather.

8/1/1972, Colbert hits 5 HRs in Double header

The next moment was double header in Atlanta when Nate Colbert hit five home runs. Bob Skinner was the Padres hitting coach at the time and had a front-row seat for the game. Skinner noted that Colbert was a great athlete until a back injury slowed him down.



May 19, 1975, 10-inning 1-hitter win & May 4, 1977, 1 hr. 29 min. game

Former Cy Young Award winner Randy Jones talked about his one-hitter in 1975, and then the game in 1977 when he faced Jim Kaat and it was completed in 1 hour and 29 minutes—this was the *total time*!



Smith's bare-handed grab on April 20, 1978

Roger Craig was manager this season and recalled Smith's spectacular one-handed, bare-handed grab of the ball hit over 2nd base and the throw for the out.

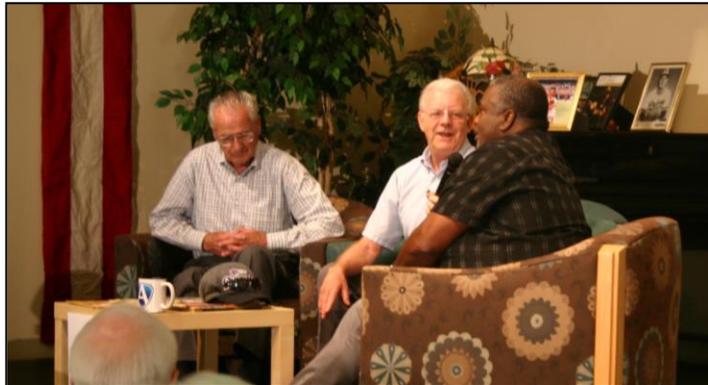
October 6, 1984, Garvey NLCS HR and October 10, 1984, Bevacqua WS HR

Kurt Bevacqua was next and he provided interesting tales about the 1984 National League Championship Series against the Cubs and the following World Series against the Tigers. With regard to game 5 against the Cubs and Rick Sutcliffe he pinch hit in the 5th inning and felt Rick Sutcliffe was losing a little bit off his fastball. Sure enough the Padres got to Sutcliffe over the next two innings to pull off a major upset. Then, in Game 1 of the World Series Bevacqua injured his hamstring rounding second and was thrown out at 3rd base. Before the game the team talked about running on right fielder Kirk Gibson because he “never” hit the cut-off man. Well, this time he did and Lou Whitaker made a perfect throw to nail the injured, stumbling Bevacqua at 3rd. Embarrassed and angry Bevacqua’s 2nd game home run gave him some satisfaction for what happened to him in Game 1.



October 7, 1984, Gwynn NLCS game-winning hit and October 1, 1989

Tony Gwynn was the next player interviewed and was joined by Jerry Coleman. They provided lively comments about winning the 1984 National League Pennant and about the trip home from Chicago after being down 2 games to none.



Last Out!

While we were unable to have Trevor Hoffman join us we did hear “Hell’s Bells” and we had past Padres President Dick Freeman on stage to talk about the “fire sale” trade bringing Trevor Hoffman to the Padres.

The event concluded with Strasberg’s humorous re-write of the standard MLB message with regard to re-broadcasting:

Any rebroadcast, retransmission, or other accounts of this re-created broadcast of Padres Memorable moments, without the express written consent of The Aramco Group and the San Diego Ted Williams chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research, is totally not necessary and therefore may be used whenever and wherever Padres fans want and is not prohibited by law.

