



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
July/August 1999

Armando Roche Found

Armando Roche was one of the many Cuban players tried out by the Washington Senators. He pitched 2 games for the Senators in 1945. He has essentially been missing since the 1940s and it was assumed he was living in Cuba.

Dan Dischley managed to find a Social Security number for Roche from some documents he had filled out when he was playing. I ran the Social Security number through the Social Security Death Index and found his death date in 1997. He was listed as living in Hammond, Indiana. I went to the web and found his obituary in a Hammond newspaper. The obituary noted that Roche had died in Chicago. These Cubans are sometimes tough to track down. Finding Roche earns Dan the *Find of the Month* award.

Did His Roommate Read Comic Books?

Pete Morris found an interesting note on George Pinckney, who played with several teams between 1884 and 1893. The note Pete found stated that Pinckney "is a devoted and powerful chess player, and he recreates himself with the Calculus and Spinoza's ethics." Sounds like your typical ballplayer reading material.

Sparrow Morton

Pete Morris found a rather confusing note about William P. (Sparrow) Morton. "Morton, who pitched for the Philadelphia club in a game against New York last week, is said to be a Fairmount Park 'Sparrow' and not a graduate of the Chambersburg club. It is also said that his real name is Morton More." Any of you Philadelphia folks want to check this out?

The Database

Dave Vincent has been busy redesigning our biographical database. It's going to be a relational database, meaning that rather than one big file as it is now, we will have several tables which relate to each other through use of a key.

At present it looks like we will have 9 tables:

- Players - Name and biographical information
- Cities - Names of all the cities
- Cityold - Names of cities and their previous name for cities which have changed names
- Player Notes - Biographical notes on players who are missing
- Player Teams - The player and the teams he played for
- Real Name - The real names of players who changed their names
- Relative - A cross reference of players who are related to each other
- States - A table of all states and countries
- Teamconv - A list of abbreviations for all teams

This may sound confusing but it will be much easier to find information and produce reports. We aren't done yet. (I say "we" but Dave is doing all the work.) Since we are using Microsoft Access rather than Dbase III, it will also be Windows compatible and will use a much more modern database system. I really appreciate Dave's help with this project.

Coming Attractions

This has actually been a rather dead month for biographical data. I'm attaching Cappy Gagnon's biography of Richard Paul "Red" Smith. I hope you enjoy the story. Next month will feature the excitement of listing all the 1999 rookies. I still wish I knew why it is so difficult to find such things as a middle name for a player who debuts in 1999. However, there are some interesting names among the rookies so stay tuned.

Birthday List

There are several 90 year olds celebrating birthdays in September and October if you'd like to send a card.

September 2	Ben Sankey	92
September 5	Bill Musser	94
September 8	Frank Stewart	93
September 17	Ernie Koy	90
September 19	Frank Reiber	90
September 25	Paul Hopkins	95
October 5	Anthony Malinosky	90
October 15	Mel Harder	90
October 18	Andrea Spognardi	91
October 28	Henry Boney	96

The Mystical Mr. Kelly

Pete Morris brings us our *Mystery of the Month*. An old time ballplayer by the name of Theodore F. "Toots" Kelly died on February 16, 1884 in Jacksonville, Florida. Kelly is listed as having begun his baseball career with the Mystic Club of Yorkville in 1858, and later with the champion Active club of New York along with Al Wright, and Kelly's famous ballplaying brothers Billy and Ed. In Preston Orem's book, there is a listing of the personnel of the Actives in 1868 which includes H. Kelley, 1B, W. Kelley, C, and T. Kelley, 2B. It seems likely that W. Kelley is the missing 1871 Fort Wayne player; if so, this suggests several possible leads on him including looking in Yorkville, checking Jacksonville for a more detailed obituary that may say more about Bill, and looking in Florida to see if the whole family had relocated there.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	15041	67	99.557
Total Complete Births	14373	735	95.135
Total Complete Deaths	7531	438	49.848
Total Assumed Alive	7139		47.253
Total Bats	13755	1247	91.688
Total Throws	14013	989	93.408
Total Heights	14017	985	93.434
Total Weights	13954	1048	93.014
Total Debut Dates	15108	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9983	5125	66.078
Total Completion			92.1548

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1884 Baker, Charles A.	Name: <u>Charles Arthur Baker</u>	(C1)
	B: <u>West Boylston, Massachusetts</u>	

New Information Received:

1958 Alvarez, Osvaldo (Gonzalez)	B: <u>Bolondron, Cuba</u>	(D7)
1996 Carlson, Daniel Steven	Debut: <u>Sep 13 1996</u>	(V1)
1951 Fondy, Dee Virgil	D: <u>Aug 19 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Redlands, California</u>	
1924 Foreman, August	Name: <u>August G. Foreman</u>	(D7)
1956 Garber, Robert Mitchell	D: <u>Redwood City, California</u>	(L5)
1935 George, Charles Peter	D: <u>Aug 15 1999</u>	(O2)
	<u>Metairie, Louisiana</u>	
1923 Hargreaves, Charles Russell	Debut: <u>Jun 27 1923</u>	(C1)
1945 Heflin, Randolph Rutherford	D: <u>Aug 17 1999</u>	(V1)
	<u>Fredericksburg, Virginia</u>	
1956 Hernandez, Gregorio Evelio (Lopez)	B: <u>Dec 24 1931</u>	(D7)
1998 Hernandez, Orlando P.	B: <u>Oct 11 1965</u>	(D7)
1945 LaForest, Byron Joseph	Real Name: <u>Biron Joseph LaForest</u>	(D7)
1929 Marshall, Edward Herbert	Name: <u>Edward Herbert Marshall</u>	(P1)
1949 Minoso, Saturnino Orestes Armas	Real Name: <u>Saturnino Orestes Arrieta</u>	(M4)
(Arrieta)	(Armas)	
1950 Moreno, Julio (Gonzalez)	B: <u>Jan 28 1922</u>	(D7)
1996 Mottola, Charles Edward	Debut: <u>Apr 23 1996</u>	(V1)
1942 Peterman, William David	D: <u>Mar 13 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u>	
1940 Reese, Harold Henry	D: <u>Aug 14 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Louisville, Kentucky</u>	
1945 Roche, Armando (Baez)	D: <u>Jun 26 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
1996 Rodriguez, Nerio	Debut: <u>Aug 16 1996</u>	(V1)
1964 Ruiz, Hiraldo (Sablon)	Real Name: <u>Hiraldo Sablon (Ruiz)</u>	(M4)
1951 Taylor, Benjamin Eugene	D: <u>May 11 1999</u>	(D6)
	<u>Alma, Oklahoma</u>	
1995 Valdez, Carlos Luis (Lorenzo)	B: <u>Nizao Bani, Dominican Republic</u>	(L5)
1940 Walker, Harry William	D: <u>Aug 8 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Birmingham, Alabama</u>	
1929 Wyatt, John Whitlow	D: <u>Jul 16 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Carrollton, Georgia</u>	
1944 York, Anthony Batton	Name: <u>Tony Batton York</u>	(C1)

RICHARD PAUL "RED" SMITH

B. May 18, 1904, Brokaw, WI D. March 8, 1978, Toledo, OH (73)
Height: 5' 11"; Weight: 195 BR/TR Baseball and Brewery Executive
Attended Lawrence University, 1922-23 and Notre Dame 1923-1927; receiving a B.A. Degree

There were two young men named Smith, from small towns in Wisconsin, enrolled in the class of 1927 at Notre Dame. Both were nicknamed "Red". Although they grew up within a few miles of each other, the two men did not meet until they came went to ND. Richard Paul Smith starred on both the football and baseball teams. He would be active in sports for nearly 50 years. Walter Wellesley Smith was the most famous sports writer in American Journalism ("there's no heavy lifting"), becoming the first sportswriter to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Dick Smith graduated from Kaukauna High School, in Combined Locks (WI), in 1922. He spent a year at Lawrence University, playing guard on their undefeated football team, before transferring to Notre Dame.

Red played both guard and fullback for the Irish. In another "Smith oddity", the second team guards for Knute Rockne's 1925 team were Richard "Red" Smith and John "Clipper" Smith. Both men later served many years as college football coaches. Both men had to *share* their nicknames, since John was the "Little Clipper", to Maurice "Big Clipper" Smith, who preceded him by seven years at Notre Dame.

The two Red Smith's crossed paths often over the years. Red the Writer always referred to his classmate as "The Imposter". Writing in To Absent Friends, he described his classmate as "...large and round and companionable and patient. Because he was less explosive temperamentally than Jim Gallagher, the Cubs' general manager, and could consume even more beer than Charlie Grimm, the manager, he was assigned to sit up nights with executives of other clubs in the hope that they might grow mellow enough to trade him a 20-game winner or .325 hitter for a round of drinks and a player to be named later."

According to Red the Scribe, The Imposter "...was the last survivor of a jocund company that doubled the flavor and doubled the fun of the sports beat in his time. Owlsh Steve Owen, his burly boss; Jack Lavelle, the incomparable raconteur who scouted pro teams for the Giants and undergraduates for Notre Dame; Herman Hickman, waggish and scholarly, who was Red Blaik's assistant at West Point before he became head coach at Yale; and Toots Shor, host to all of them---they were immense and mirthful and almost inseparable, and together they had the weight to stop an express train."

Richard P. Smith made his Major League debut, on May 31, 1927, against the Philadelphia Phillies, only one day after arriving from his graduation from Notre Dame. He was a defensive replacement, for catcher Mickey O'Neill, in the 9th inning of a 13-4 win. Red's Major League statistics consisted of one putout.

The 1927 Giants had a star-studded lineup. Only George Harper of the first seven men in the lineup failed to make the Hall of Fame--and he hit .331 in 1927. Harper was starting only because of the terminal illness which would claim the life of future Hall of Famer Ross Youngs. Despite having Edd Roush (cf); Freddie Lindstrom (3b); Harper (rf); Rogers Hornsby (2b); Bill Terry (1b); Mel Ott (lf); and Travis Jackson (ss), the Giants finished in third place. And Hall of Fame pitcher Burleigh Grimes was also on that team. Tough league!

Red caught for the Giants against St. Bonaventure College, the day after his debut, in the dedication game for McGraw-Jennings Field. A week later, in Toledo, he was the catcher in an exhibition game honoring Roger Bresnahan. Casey Stengel was the Toledo right fielder.

After the baseball season, Red began his pro football career, where he played mostly fullback:

Year	Team	Games	Notes
1927	Green Bay Packers	5	Coached by Curly Lambeau (Notre Dame)
1928	New York Giants	1	Teammates: Red Badgro
1928	New York Yankees	11	Teammates: Ox Eckhart, Ray Flaherty, Cal Hubbard
1929	Green Bay Packers	5	Teammates: Curly Lambeau, Johnny Blood McNally
1930	Newark Tornadoes	7	
1931	New York Giants	9	Coached by Steve Owen

He coached football at Georgetown University in 1930. He served as Athletic Director for Seton Hall, 1931-32. From 1933 through 1935, he was the line coach at the University of Wisconsin. From 1936 through 1943, he was the line coach of the Green Bay Packers, followed by six years in the same capacity with the New York Giants.

Along with those football duties, Red was in minor league baseball during most Summers. His top Minor League seasons were 1928, when he hit .292 for Montreal and 1936, when he hit .357 in 45 games as Playing Manager for Fieldale (VA). A weak throwing arm ended Red's chances for a longer playing career. On May 14, 1936, Indianapolis base runners stole 10 bases off him, when he served as a fill-in catcher. For 464 Minor League games, Red had a combined batting average of .284.

Red discovered future Major League star Kenny Keltner, playing sandlot ball in Milwaukee.

Red won his first pennant as a player-manager, with Hopkinsville (KY) of the KITTY League, in 1938. He piloted Green Bay to a 76-35 (.685) record in 1941. This was the highest winning percentage in the history of the Wisconsin State League. He advanced to the American Association, as a coach with Milwaukee, for 1943 and 1944.

Red was a coach with the Chicago Cubs from 1945 through 1949. He returned to Milwaukee for the next three years, as President and General Manager of the American Association Brewers, before moving to Toledo in the same capacity, when Milwaukee was awarded a Major League team. His 1953 Toledo Sox set the 1953 Minor League attendance record.

Red became General Manager of Buckeye Brewing in 1955, moving up through the ranks to President and Chairman of the Board, during the next 12 years. When the company was purchased by Meister Brau, in 1966, Red was named Assistant to the President, in charge of coordinating sports promotions.

He received many honors for his contribution to sports. He was named to the Greater Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Football Foundation.

Red passed away, in Toledo, on March 8, 1978. He was 73.