

EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF SABR

Vol. 1, No. 2

Mark D. Aubrey, editor

April – December 2013

As the calendar comes to a close and I'm editing the final newsletter of the year I'm aware that I did a poor job of publishing newsletters. My intentions were good. My execution was not. Time for a look back at what happened this past year.

On May 11, 2013, we had a meeting scheduled in Chattanooga. Brian Purvis, who lives there, arranged for a tour of Historic Engel Stadium. Lady Walker, a board member of the Engel Foundation, was kind enough to give three of us a tour, despite the rain.

Joe Engel, former player and later scout, had the stadium built in 1930. It was a 12,000 seat marvel and hosted the Chattanooga Lookouts until 1999. The Stadium has seen outlandish promotions and many games. Jackie Mitchell, the 17 year-old girl pitcher, struck out Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth in 1931.

In 2009 Engel Stadium was added to the National Register of Historic Places. That same year the Engel Foundation was formed to restore, preserve, promote, and revitalize Engel Stadium.

More recently the stadium was used to film the Jackie Robinson bio-pic, *42*.



L to R – Mark Aubrey, Brian Purvis, George Aubrey

The summer brought opportunities for much baseball. At the end of July, a few members of our chapter assisted the Tennessee Smokies in their night to honor the Negro Leagues. Bryan Stevenson gave a nice pregame interview that was shown on the video scoreboard. The Smokies played host to the Birmingham Barons. Both teams were wearing their throwback uniforms that debuted in the Rickwood Classic earlier in the year.

Our chapter meeting for August was held in Greeneville at Pioneer Park on the campus of Tusculum College. The park is used by the Tusculum Pioneers in the spring and the Appalachian League Greeneville Astros in the summer. The Appalachian League is short season Rookie League. We met with Lee Landers, president and treasurer of the Appy League. He has been president of the league since 2008. Before the game he regaled us with stories of his time in baseball and patiently answered our questions.

He joined us in watching the Astros beat the Kingsport Mets 5-2. Ryan Connolly got the win and Gonzalo Sanudo picked up the save for Greeneville.

When asked if there was anything that our chapter could do to assist the Appy League, Lee said that it would be nice to have a comprehensive list of the league players and their stats. That led to a brainstorming session and the possibility of season standing and stat transcription.



L to R – Mark Aubrey, Marshall Adesman, Lucas Hobbs

Fall was around the corner and with it came the final chapter meeting. On November 16, we met at Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville. There was much discussion of the past season. An online survey was presented to the members, giving them the opportunity cast their votes in an unofficial Baseball Hall of Fame ballot. The following categories were presented:

- Expansion Era – Candidates whose greatest contributions to the game were realized from 1973 through the present
- Holdovers – Candidates who are still eligible
- Newly Eligible – Candidates who are in their first year of eligibility

Using the criteria that the Baseball Writers Association of America uses, a player must be named on at least 75% of the voters' ballots. No, this was not scientific, nor did it have any bearing on the actual selection of players who were to be enshrined.

Surprisingly, only Greg Maddux was selected and it was with 100% of the votes. Others that received more than 50% of the vote were Bobby Cox and Tony LaRussa from the Expansion Era set. Not a player from the Holdovers got 50% or more. In the Newly Eligible group both Tom Glavine and Frank Thomas crested the 50% threshold. It looks like we weren't too far off of the mark.

After the meeting we broke for lunch and then headed to the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, part of the Knox County Public Library. A short tour gave us a better grasp of their holdings related to baseball (vertical files, newspaper microfilm, and books). Hopefully another trip lies in our future.



L to R – Mark Aubrey, Joe Gallagher, Lucas Hobbs, Marshall Adesman, Bryan Steverson

How many times were the New York Yankees shut out when both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were in the lineup?

By Marshall Adesman

At the April meeting of our East Tennessee SABR chapter, I gave a brief verbal outline of a research project that has been occupying my time (on and off) for several months. A friend had casually wondered how often the Yankees had been shut out when Ruth and Gehrig were teammates, and this piqued my interest enough to begin investigating. And I did, indeed, come up with some numbers, and that should have been the end of it, right? Not so fast, Bill-James-breath. It also occurred to me that any SABR member worth his or her smartphone would wonder how Ruth and Gehrig compared to other great run producers, so while my basic article is complete, the sidebar on the others has a long way to go.

*What I am doing here, then, is giving you a sneak preview of the article – not all of it because, after all, I need to save some things for the end – but enough to whet your appetite. I am also including, in **italics**, comments to keep you up to speed and, especially, request your input. Because that is the real reason for this, to find out from all of you: (1) what you think of this idea (2) what I might need to add to make this article better, and (3) what needs to be changed, or deleted.*

So here's how I begin:

Ryan Braun burst onto the major league scene in 2007, after playing just 199 minor league ballgames. Making his debut in late May, he went on to be the National League Rookie of the Year with his 34 home runs, 97 RBIs and league-leading .634 slugging percentage. His presence in the Milwaukee lineup gave the Brewers a fearsome one-two punch, as they already sported Prince Fielder, and in 2007 Fielder pounded out fifty home runs (tops in the majors) and drove home 119. Braun and Fielder, in fact, helped the Brewers become one of just five big-league clubs that year to score more than 800 runs.

Over the years, baseball has witnessed a great many lineups that featured two prodigious sluggers, like Braun and Fielder, but there can be little debate that the most legendary remains the New York Yankee duo of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Their stories are well known and do not need to be repeated here. However, when a friend of mine offhandedly wondered how often this Yankee lineup, often called Murderers Row, was shut out while Ruth and Gehrig were teammates, it fired up my research gene and led directly to this article.

First, let us set the table: Ruth came to the big leagues with the Boston Red Sox, playing in a handful of games in 1914 before becoming a mainstay of the pitching rotation the following year. By 1918, however, he was splitting his time between the outfield and the mound, and in 1919 his pitching became secondary to his hitting. The Yankees acquired Ruth after that 1919 season, and he played with them for fifteen full seasons, from 1920 through 1934.

Gehrig, signed off the campus of Columbia University in 1923, made his major league debut on June 15 of that year and played in thirteen ballgames for the Yankees, as well as in 59 games for Hartford of the Eastern League, so in looking at games in which both Ruth and Gehrig participated, we need to begin with those thirteen games of 1923.

Shut outs (continued)

The Yankees won their third straight American League pennant in 1923 with a record of 98-54; seven of those 54 losses were shutouts. The first came at the hands of The Big Train, Walter Johnson, who tossed a three-hitter on May 2 as his Senators beat the Yankees 3-0, dropping the New Yorkers' record to 9-5. Three weeks later, on May 24, the Yankees out-hit the Philadelphia A's, seven to five, and also worked Big Ed Rommel for six walks, but dropped a 1-0 decision. Then on June 1, Ruth's former Red Sox teammates ripped into Yankee pitching for a 5-0 victory.

The Yankees had played 40 games at that point and been shut out three times, but you'd be wrong if you thought this meant they were having a rough time of it. In fact, after that June 1 game, the team was 29-11, enjoyed a six-game lead, and was already clearly the class of the league.

They played better than .600 ball over the next six weeks before running into Cleveland's future Hall of Famer, righthander Stan Coveleski, on July 16. Coveleski won his 11th game of the year that day, a 6-0 whitewashing of the defending AL champs, in the first game of a doubleheader. The Yankees won the second game that afternoon in Ohio, but the very next day they were stymied by George Uhle. Already halfway to a league-leading 26 wins, The Bull tossed the Yankees aside easily, doling out just four hits (including a single by Ruth) in a 13-0 laughter, the Bombers' worst defeat of the season. And in that game, the 20-year-old Gehrig was sent up in the seventh inning to pinch-hit (unsuccessfully, as it turned out) for regular first baseman Wally Pipp, then stayed in the game. {*FOOTNOTE HERE: "Uhle Holds Yanks; Indians Win, 13-0." New York Times, July 18, 1923, 11.*} This is the first time that Ruth and Gehrig appeared together in a game in which the Yankees were shut out.

They would be blanked twice more in 1923, though not until September. After more than five years in the minor leagues, righthander Paul Zahniser had made his big league debut in May (about a month before Gehrig, in fact) and would win nine games for the Senators, including a five-hit shutout on September 8, 4-0. In five seasons in the majors, Zahniser would lose almost twice as many games as he won, fashioning a 25-47 mark, but four of his victories were shutouts and his first was against the Yankees on this Saturday in Griffith Stadium. Three days later, the Bombers lost to Howard Ehmke of the Red Sox, 3-0. Ehmke, about to win 20 games for the only time in his career, stopped the Yanks on just one hit, a single by centerfielder Whitey Whitt.

Gehrig did not appear in either of these last two games, nor did he appear in any of the World Series games that year, one of which – Game Three – saw the Yankees shut out, a 1-0 six-hitter tossed by the Giants' Art Nehf (Ruth had one of those hits, and also walked twice). It was, however, the last game the Giants would win in this series, as the Yankees took the next three games to wrap up their first World Series title in the inaugural season of Yankee Stadium.

**YANKEES CAN'T
HIT LYONS, SOX
BLANK YANKEES**

Rockford Republic – July 13, 1925

Shut outs (continued)

OK, now at this point I go on to give a brief summary of each season, with a tabular breakdown of the Yankee shutouts. For instance, here is 1925, which is also Gehrig's first full year as a Yankee:

1925					
DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPOSING PITCHER	TOTAL YANKEE HITS	RUTH AND GEHRIG
July 12	White Sox	0-1	Ted Lyons (R)	5	Ruth: 0-4 Gehrig: 0-3
July 14	White Sox	0-3	Ted Blankenship (R)	5	Ruth: 0-1 Gehrig: 1-4
August 14	Senators	0-2	Walter "Dutch" Ruether (L)	8	Ruth: 0-4 Gehrig: 0-4
August 26	White Sox	0-1	Urban "Red" Faber (R)	7	Ruth: 0-4 Gehrig: 0-4
August 28	Browns	0-1	Joe Giard (L)	8	Ruth: 1-3 Gehrig: 0-3
September 20	Browns	0-5	Joe Bush (R)	4	Ruth: 1-3 Gehrig: 1-4
October 2	Athletics	0-10	Stan Baumgartner (L)	6	Ruth: 0-2 Gehrig: 0-3

In the interests of space, I will not include all the text and tables; if anyone is interested in seeing the entire draft, please just e-mail me (msadesman@gmail.com) and I will send it to you.

Then I wrap things up with these paragraphs:

On September 30, 1934, Babe Ruth appeared in his last game as a New York Yankee. *{I have a footnote here about Ruth being released by the Yankees and signed by the Braves as a player, assistant manager, and corporate vice president; source is Creamer's bio}* Played in Washington's Griffith Park, the Bombers dropped a 5-3 decision to the Senators. Ruth was 0-for-3, though he drew a walk and scored a run. Gehrig hit his 49th home run (as well as his 40th double) and drove home his 165th run. *{Another footnote here, source is Baseball-Reference.com}*

He and Ruth were teammates for ten full seasons (and a tiny part of two others), a span of 1,557 games (including 19 World Series contests) and, in that period, suffered through just 43 shutouts (see Table 1), which means the Yankees were blanked 2.76 percent of the time.

Senators Win From Yankees by 2-0 Score

Morning Advocate – August 15, 1925

Shut outs (continued)

Table 1 – Number of times the New York Yankees were shut out while Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were teammates

YEAR	# SHUTOUTS
1923	1
1924	0
1925	12
1926	4*
1927	1
1928	6
1929	8
1930	2
1931	3
1932	0
1933	1
1934	5
TOTAL	43

* Includes World Series Game Three

This answers the question posed by my friend, but raised, for me at least, another: how does this compare with other great hitting duos?

With input from a great number of my baseball friends, I have compiled a list of dynamic duos and then examined how often their teams were shut out while they were teammates, just as I did with Ruth and Gehrig. The results can be seen in Table 2.



Dallas Morning News – March 28, 1934

Shut outs (continued)

Well, right now there is no Table 2, at least not in its final form. Here's what I've got so far:

Table 2

DUOS	YEARS	GAMES AS TEAMMATES	SHUTOUTS	PERCENTAGE	NOTES
Cobb & Crawford	1905-1917	1,905	130	6.82	
Ruth & Gehrig	1923-1934	1,557	43	2.76	
Foxx & Simmons	1925-1932	1,230	49	3.98	Foxx didn't start getting regular playing time until 1927
Ott & Terry	1926-1936	1,703	88	5.17	
Musial & Slaughter	1941-1953	1,411	83	5.88	Slaughter was in the military from 1943 thru 1945, Musial in 1945
Rosen & Doby	1947-1955	1,272	69	5.42	
Hodges & Snider	1947-1961	2,368	98	4.14	
Hodges & Campanella	1948-1957	1,582	57	3.6	
Snider & Campanella	1948-1957	1,582	57	3.6	
Mantle & Berra	1951-1963	2,097	102	4.86	

And still to come are these duos:

<i>Aaron/Mathews</i>	<i>Killebrew/Allison</i>	<i>Killebrew/Oliva</i>	<i>Mays/McCovey</i>	<i>Banks/Williams</i>
<i>Banks/Santo</i>	<i>Williams/Santo</i>	<i>Cash/Kaline</i>	<i>Brooks</i>	<i>Robinson/Boog Powell</i>
<i>Stargell/Clemente</i>	<i>Bench/Perez</i>	<i>Rose/Bench</i>	<i>Rose/Perez</i>	<i>Cey/Garvey</i>
<i>Luzinski/Schmidt</i>	<i>Yaz/Evans</i>	<i>Yaz/Rice</i>	<i>Evans/Rice</i>	<i>Molitor/Yount</i>
<i>Trammell/Whitaker</i>	<i>Hrbek/Gaetti</i>	<i>Bagwell/Biggio</i>	<i>C. Ripken/E. Murray</i>	
<i>Hrbek/Gaetti</i>	<i>Hrbek/Puckett</i>			

As you can tell, this is very much a work-in-progress, so I am interested in your thoughts and comments.

Editor's Note: A bit of formatting was done to Marshall's article as originally presented. The newspaper story headlines were taken from GenealogyBank.com

The Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball has expanded their league and now includes several teams in east Tennessee. For an afternoon of clean, old-timey baseball I'd encourage you to support them and attend a game or two. The Association's website is: <http://tennesseevintagebaseball.com>



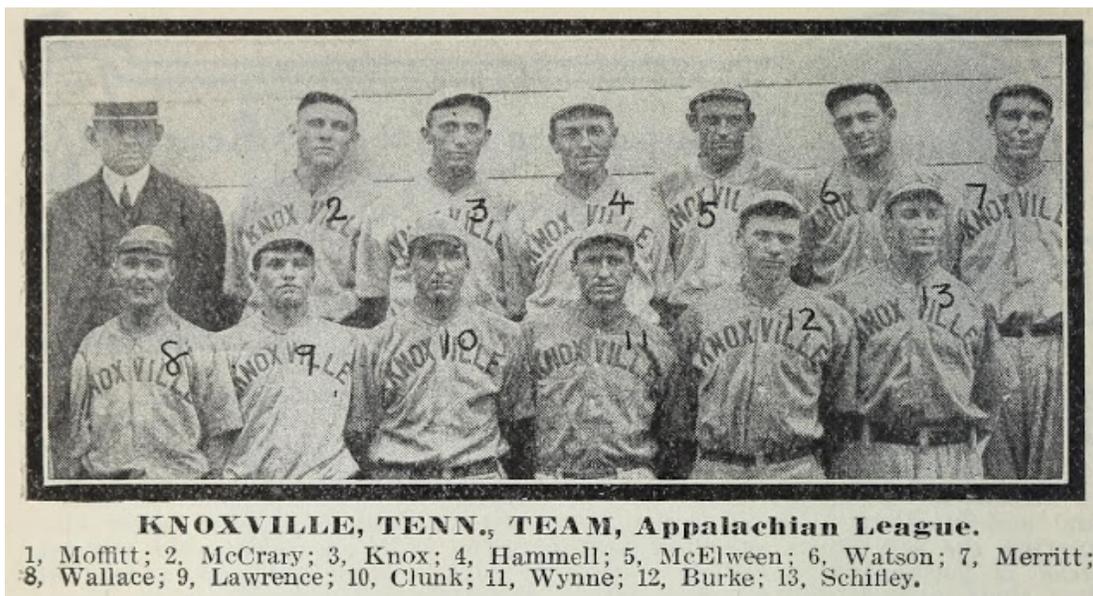
Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball 2014 Matches



	Date	Time	Visiting	Host	Location
Saturday	4/12	12:00 EDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Ramsey House
Saturday	4/12	2:30 EDT	Franklin Farriers	Knoxville Holstons	Ramsey House
Sunday	4/13	12:00 CDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Phoenix of East Nashville	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	4/13	2:30 CDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Nashville Maroons	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	4/27	12:00 CDT	Nashville Maroons	Highland Rim Distillers	Camton Plantation
Sunday	4/27	12:00 EDT	Knoxville Holstons	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Roane State CC
Sunday	4/27	12:00 CDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Sam Davis Home
Sunday	4/27	2:30 CDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Franklin Farriers	Camton Plantation
Saturday	5/3	11:00 CDT	Boston Red Stockings	TaoVBB	Mansker's Station
Saturday	5/3	1:30 CDT	Norwood Highlanders	Boston Red Stockings	Mansker's Station
Saturday	5/3	4:00 CDT	Norwood Highlanders	TaoVBB	Mansker's Station
Sunday	5/18	12:00 CDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Oak Hill Travellers	Mansker's Station
Sunday	5/18	12:00 EDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Knoxville Holstons	Roane State CC
Sunday	5/18	2:30 CDT	Franklin Farriers	Highland Rim Distillers	Mansker's Station
Sunday	5/18	2:30 EDT	Nashville Maroons	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Roane State CC
Saturday	5/31	12:00 EDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Knoxville Holstons	Ramsey House
Sunday	6/1	12:00 CDT	Nashville Maroons	Franklin Farriers	Camton Plantation
Sunday	6/1	12:00 CDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Oak Hill Travellers	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	6/1	2:30 CDT	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Phoenix of East Nashville	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Saturday	6/14	12:00 EDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Knoxville Holstons	Roane State CC
Saturday	6/14	2:30 EDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Roane State CC
Sunday	6/15	12:00 EDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Franklin Farriers	Engel Stadium (Chattanooga, TN)
Sunday	6/15	2:30 EDT	Nashville Maroons	Highland Rim Distillers	Engel Stadium (Chattanooga, TN)
Saturday	6/28	12:00 EDT	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Knoxville Holstons	Ramsey House
Sunday	6/29	12:00 CDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Nashville Maroons	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	6/29	12:00 CDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Franklin Farriers	Sam Davis Home
Sunday	6/29	2:30 CDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Sam Davis Home
Sunday	7/13	12:00 CDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Franklin Farriers	Camton Plantation
Sunday	7/13	12:00 EDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Roane State CC
Sunday	7/13	12:00 CDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Nashville Maroons	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	7/13	2:30 CDT	Knoxville Holstons	Oak Hill Travellers	Camton Plantation
Saturday	7/26	12:00 EDT	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Knoxville Holstons	Ramsey House
Sunday	7/27	12:00 CDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Highland Rim Distillers	Mansker's Station
Sunday	7/27	12:00 CDT	Nashville Maroons	Phoenix of East Nashville	Sam Davis Home
Sunday	7/27	2:30 CDT	Franklin Farriers	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Sam Davis Home
Saturday	8/2	4:00 EDT	TaoVBB	TaoVBB	DeVault Memorial Stadium (Bristol, VA)
Sunday	8/10	12:00 CDT	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Oak Hill Travellers	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	8/10	2:30 CDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Phoenix of East Nashville	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Saturday	8/16	12:00 EDT	Franklin Farriers	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	World's Fair Park
Saturday	8/16	2:30 EDT	Nashville Maroons	Knoxville Holstons	World's Fair Park
Sunday	8/24	12:00 CDT	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Mansker's Station
Sunday	8/24	12:00 CDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Franklin Farriers	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	8/24	2:30 CDT	Knoxville Holstons	Highland Rim Distillers	Mansker's Station
Sunday	8/24	2:30 CDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Nashville Maroons	Bicentennial Capitol Mall
Sunday	9/7	12:00 CDT	Highland Rim Distillers	Stewart's Creek Scouts	Camton Plantation
Sunday	9/7	12:00 EDT	Oak Hill Travellers	Knoxville Holstons	Roane State CC
Sunday	9/7	2:30 CDT	Nashville Maroons	Franklin Farriers	Camton Plantation
Sunday	9/7	2:30 EDT	Phoenix of East Nashville	Dry Town Boys of Roane County	Roane State CC
Saturday	9/13	TBD	Playoff Match	Playoff Match	Camton Plantation
Saturday	9/13	TBD	Playoff Match	Playoff Match	Camton Plantation
Sunday	9/14	TBD	Playoff Match	Playoff Match	Camton Plantation
Sunday	9/14	TBD	Playoff Match	Playoff Match	Camton Plantation
Sunday	9/14	TBD	Championship Match	Championship Match	Camton Plantation
Saturday	10/4	12:30 EDT	TaoVBB	Indianapolis Blues	League Stadium (Huntingburg, IN)

Upcoming Events and Dates in and around our area:

- The East Tennessee Chapter of SABR will be celebrating SABR Day on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Main Branch of the Knox County Library. Tennessee Smokies General Manager Brian Cox will be our featured speaker and Bradley Reeves of the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound will be sharing some footage of baseball in and around Knoxville from days gone by.
- The 11th Annual Southern Association Conference will be held on March 1, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Magnolia SABR Chapter of Atlanta will host.
- The Chattanooga Lookouts open at home against the Jackson Generals on April 3, 2014.
- The 19th annual Conference on Baseball in Literature and Culture will be held Friday, April 4, 2014 at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN.
- The Tennessee Smokies will have their home opener against the Chattanooga Lookouts on April 9, 2014.
- The next chapter meeting of our group is scheduled for May 24, 2014. It will be held at Smokies Park in Kodak, Tennessee. The plan is to meet before we enjoy the game where the Mobile BayBears will come to play. Details to follow.
- The Appy League will start its games on June 19, 2014.
- Saturday, July 19, 2014 will be our summer chapter meeting, which will be held at an Appy League ball park. Details to follow.
- Saturday, November 8, 2014, is the tentative date for our chapter's final meeting. The plan is to hold it in the Knoxville area.



1913 Knoxville Reds from the *1914 Reach Official American League Baseball Guide*