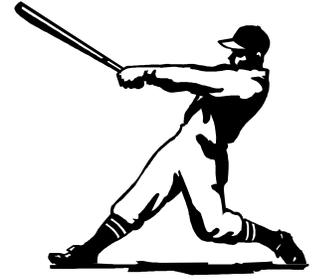




# Baseball Lives



Volume IV  
Summer  
2009

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## **Words from Mark Armour**

It has been a while since we have put out a newsletter, though you might have noticed that the project has been otherwise very productive. Still, people like getting newsletters, and I find that they form a useful record for where we have been and where we are going. We pledge to do better in this area.

Elsewhere in this newsletter Jan Finkel writes of our editing process, and admits to some flaws therein. I am here to tell you ... the rest of the story. Jan came on board as the chief editor seven years ago, and I will always maintain that this was the best day we have ever had. In the ensuing years, he and his team have edited several hundred biographies (the others were edited by various team projects). In all that time we have had a handful that took longer than they should have, and another handful where the author and editor did not see eye to eye.

It is Jan's job to take these occasional issues seriously, but it is part of my job to make everyone realize how great a job the editors are doing. I don't do this often enough. Readers see the rare garbled sentence or misspelled name or factual error that does not get caught. What they do not see is how much the biography has been improved by the editors. Trust me; I have been edited by these people. Without these volunteers, we have no project. (By the way, if you want to be worthy of praise like this, please contact Jan and volunteer to help out.)

While I have you here, I also want to thank Warren Corbett, who recently spent six months ably filling Jan's shoes. Last winter Jan and Judy had the temerity to take off on a six month tour around the world, and Warren kept the trains running for the duration. Warren has been one of our best editors from the beginning, and has helped the project in many other ways for years. But he deserves additional props for his Dusty Rhodes-like effort in Jan's stead.

Switching gears. If there is one thing I wish I could better get across to SABR members, it is this: you are fully qualified and capable of researching and writing a biography. Many bios on our site have been written by people with very little or no experience in baseball research or writing. I still have people, even members of this project, who contact me to ask what they have to do to convince me that they can handle an assignment. My answer: be a SABR member.

You may have noticed the large number of team projects that have been launched from our project. Eight books have been published, a few others are close, and there are several more ongoing. If you want to help any of these, or if you want to start your own, contact Bill Nowlin. Our success rate in this area is very high.

Finally, I recently wrote and published an FAQ (frequently asked questions), which I plan to update as time moves along. It is located on our project web site ([www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms.c.2839.5.5](http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms.c.2839.5.5)), which is not the public site.

Thanks to all for your continued contributions, and for helping making this project such a great success. *Mark Armour*

## “Ball Player Shot” from Bill Nowlin

In researching the biography of 1918 Red Sox player Eusebio Gonzalez (the first Cuban on the team), Bill Nowlin came across something of a “man bites dog” story. Rather than a ballplayer taking out his frustrations on a sportswriter, here was a case where a sportswriter shot a ballplayer in the hand.

Gonzalez’s biography is presented in *When Boston Still Had the Babe*, a BioProject “team book” published in 2008. Now that a full year has passed since publication, the biographies contained in that book are available on the BioProject website. In the case of Gonzalez, the biography on the site is approximately three times as long as that in the book - a full 15,898 words - which may be of interest for those who can’t get enough Eusebio.

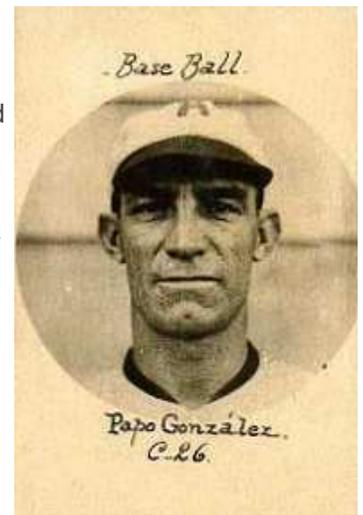
The *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* told how Gonzalez had been shot by a sportswriter in Havana, and the infielder would therefore be a bit late for spring training. How had Gonzalez been shot? González was playing for the Habana Leones (also known as the Rojos) in the Gran Premio of 1924. Come the aftermath of the March 9, 1924 game, in which Habana had beaten Santa Clara, and per David Skinner’s translation of the March 10 article in *Diario de la Marina*: “As the fans were exiting Almendares Park following the game, three gunshots rang out behind the main grandstand. This attracted the reporters, and when they arrived on the scene they saw Habana third baseman Manuel Cueto and backup catcher Eugenio Morín trying unsuccessfully to protect a teammate with a wounded hand from apprehension by several policemen led by a Sgt. Ortega. That player turned out to be Rojo second baseman Papo González, who was taken into custody by the lawmen, to the dismay of [*Marina* reporter] Peter, who referred to him as one of the most admired players for his modesty and gentlemanliness.” Conte was charged with the shooting and released on \$200 bail.

W. A. Phelon’s column in the March 20, 1924 issue of *The Sporting News* provided a fuller description of the incident and its protagonists. It is worth reprinting here in its entirety:

*Here in Cuba, they sure take their baseball seriously – and in the old-time way. If a sporting writer pans a player, good night! He has to whale the athlete, hand to hand, or be disqualified forever. A few days ago, Pepe Conte – well known to all American writers – penciled a paragraph that hurt the proud spirit of one Gonzales (not the noble Miguel) second baseman of the Almendares Club. Senor Gonzales sought out Senor Conte during the eighth inning, and smote him on the nose, proboscis, or snoot, so that Senor Conte fell extremely prone.*

*Senor Gonzales trumpeted in triumph, but not for long. Senor Conte uprose, and with him came a dark blue automatic, and, one instant later, Senor Gonzales lay upon the reddened soil. Then all Cuba went to war; and the strife between the partisans of Senor Conte and Senor Gonzales endured, with many casualties, until the police charged from several directions and bore everybody to the hoosegow. The doctors say that Senor Gonzales will recover. The judge says Senor Conte is out on bail. And, as might be expected, in the tumult and confusion, somebody took a darn good kick at the umpire. Isn’t it a wonderful world?*

What transpired with Pepe Conte after the shooting? The *Toronto Star* provided a little more information, recounting the story told their reporter by Emilia Zarzo, a catcher for another ballclub who was “a cousin of the brothers Gonzalez.” Zarzo said that Eusebio was not seriously hurt but had been shot in the hand by Havana sportswriter Conte during an altercation on the field. “Zarzo maintains that Gonzalez was protecting himself against an attack by Conte when a bullet penetrated his left hand, inflicting a minor flesh wound. Ramon, according to the story told by Zarzo to the Canadian press, was involved in the dispute and summoned to court as a witness.” Zarzo might have tried out for Atlanta or Macon, or another Florida State league team training near Georgia but does not appear in enough games to have made the record books



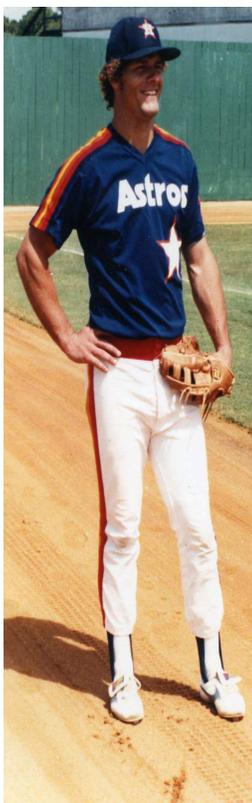
## Contest #1

The Player below played for the Houston Astros during the 1980's. (This contest was in the last issue of *Baseball Lives*.)

### Who Is He?

There was no winner.

The Answer is:



*Pictured above is*  
**Larry Ray**  
**Debut 1982**  
**Houston Astros**  
**Five Games**  
**One Hit**  
**One RBI**

**One RBI**

## By Steve Smith - *Iowa Field of Dreams SABR*

### Emlen Tunnell

To paraphrase the immortal Forest Gump, "Baseball research is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna come across." In my case, it was the discovery of an all too brief minor league baseball career of a pro football Hall-of-Famer. Furthermore, it turns out that in all likelihood he was the first black to play minor league baseball in Iowa after Jackie Robinson's 1947 major league debut.

Emlen Tunnell, the great Hall-of-Fame defensive back with the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers, came to the University of Iowa (located in Iowa City 25 miles from Cedar Rapids) after the war to play football (he had played at Toledo prior to the war). He wore the Hawkeye Black & Gold in 1946 & 1947 but after the 1947 season was over, he decided to sign with the New York Football Giants with whom he played in 1948. In the spring of 1947, while still in Iowa, he played semi-pro baseball with the Amana Freezers, a team sponsored by the Amana Refrigeration Company. The Amana team also included former University of Iowa and major league player Jack Dittmer.

While researching the 1947-1949 Central Association Keokuk Pirates in the Cedar Rapids Gazette using [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com), I came across a picture with the caption: "*The Gremlin Flies Back; Tunnell Makes Debut.*" Pursuing this lead, I found that the Tunnell referred to in the headline was indeed Emlen (Gremlin was the clue that caught my attention as I knew that had been Tunnell's nickname) and with further research I discovered that he was one of the dreaded minor league "less-thans." Tunnell's name had never appeared in a baseball guide nor did it appear in the SABR Minor League Encyclopedia nor did it appear in Pat Doyle's baseball database since he had a minor league career of "less-than" ten games.

The mystery was explained in Gus Schrader's June 16, 1949, *Cedar Rapids Gazette* column "Red Peppers":

*"Emlen Tunnell didn't want to come to Cedar Rapids because of what people might think of him for leaving the University of Iowa football team.*

*For three weeks the (Cedar Rapids) Rockets had been trying to get him and he finally surrendered Wednesday. He stepped off a plane at 6 P.M. and was playing left field two hours later.*

*'I didn't know if I'd be welcome if I came back to Iowa' he explained. 'Some folks out here gave me a*

*hard time because I quit the university before my eligibility was used up. I got some letters from them last year when I was with the Giants but they didn't sign any names.'*

*Tunnell had quit the football squad during the 1947 football season, rejoined it for the last two games and then left school for good.*

*That Tunnell was in a Cedar Rapids uniform Wednesday, the first Negro to play in the Central Association, was due to George Foerstner of Amana.*

*It was Foerstner who first suggested to the Rockets, through this writer, that they contact Tunnell. He had used Tunnell on the famous Amana Freezers managed by Hal Trosky in 1947. He felt that Tunnell could help the Rockets."*

Tunnell played 5 games for Cedar Rapids, got five hits in 18 trips to the plate and committed one error. He played left field and center field for the Class C Cedar Rapids Rockets. According to the *Gazette*, in that first game 2 hours after he got off the plane, he was 2 for 5 with 2 Texas League singles and 2 strikeouts. After the game of June 18, 1949, Adam Pratt, the Rockets owner said "(Emlen) came to us after the game and said he was going home, his bag was already packed. He said he hadn't been doing as well as he should and since he would have to leave before the season was over anyway to join the (New York Giants) football club, he had decided to go. He is leaving Sunday afternoon." So Emlen Tunnell's minor league baseball career ended after 4 days and 5 games.

This was an interesting discovery in that about a year ago I had read Tunnell's 1966 autobiography "*Footsteps of a Giant*" and he never mentioned that he had played minor league baseball. Nor did he mention that he was the first black to play in the Central Association. Although he did mention that he had played semi-pro ball with the Amana Freezers and that baseball had been a big part of his life.

Members of Iowa's Field of Dreams SABR Chapter had previously thought that Davenport, Iowa's Gene Baker (future Chicago Cub and Pittsburgh Pirate) who played with the Des Moines Bruins of the Western League in 1950 was the first black to play minor league ball in Iowa after Jackie Robinson's debut in 1947. Now we know it was Emlen Tunnell. That is, unless another diligent researcher makes another unexpected discovery!

## From The Editor

In this issue, I have included a new contest with a prize every baseball fan would love to have.

The first person to identify the player pictured below will receive a copy of *Babe Ruth by Tom Meany*.

The rules of the contest are easy.

- ◆ You must be a Bio-Project member
- ◆ You may submit only one entry for each contest.
- ◆ Submit your entry to [mwc2002@hotmail.com](mailto:mwc2002@hotmail.com) with the subject line of **Baseball Lives Contest**
- ◆ The first correct entry for each contest wins.



**Name this Player  
and Win**

**Good Luck**

## From the Notebook of Jan Finkel

This spring, the SABR office sent out surveys asking members to evaluate each of the organization's research committees.

The BioProject did well, suggesting that people are generally satisfied with the committee and its work. However, one glaring weakness showed up—editing. The responsibility sits with me, and I want to address the issue.

To my mind, we have three separate but related problems: (1) the overly long time, on average, from the submission of a bio to its appearance on the website; (2) a relatively infrequent (I hope) lack of communication between editor and writer; and (3) some of the editing in itself.

Our editorial process often takes too long. In general, the editorial process from submission to publication on the website should take about one month. Solid, polished submissions can see the light of Cyberspace in half that time. Work by inexperienced or less than skillful writers requiring extensive revision may take two or more months. Most work falls somewhere in between the extremes—hence a month. Editors can make this happen by starting to work almost immediately upon receiving a bio. Writers, for their part, need to get to work upon receiving the editor's suggestions.

Communication or lack thereof is the most frustrating problem because it's so easy to avoid. Mark Armour, Warren Corbett, and I have all received notes from flustered writers wanting to know the status of their work, only to find that an editor's had it for a month without contacting the writer. All we have to do when we've picked up a bio is write a quick note to the writer—something like "I've just been sent your bio and will let you know how things stand in a few days"—and then keep the writer informed each step of the way, even if it means you've had an emergency and have to say, "I'm jammed up and will get back to you as soon as possible." It works the other way, too: We've all had a writer vanish.

To keep the process rolling, perhaps we could have a two-month "rollback" policy. Let's say an editor picks up a bio on January 1. If it's not complete or at least progressing in a meaningful way by March 1, it automatically reverts to "orphan" status and may be selected by another editor. This works both ways, as the writer is also obligated to work with the editor and respond in timely fashion. Exceptions can always be made for good reason—illness or family crisis, work emergencies, the size and scope of the article, and the like.

Our editing is inconsistent. Some bios come back to me having been copy-edited—that is, typos and spelling errors corrected, the random comma added or deleted, a word or phrase changed, and so on. That's fine for the skillfully written, thoroughly researched, polished bio that comes in, probably all it needs. It won't do for the occasional bio that requires significant revision in the form of paragraphs added, rearranged, or deleted, awkward or ungrammatical constructions, needless repetition, dubious "facts," mountains of mind-numbing stats, insufficient documentation, questionable interpretations—the list is infinite. Most bios, of course, are somewhere in between these extremes. Moreover, any editor can tell in the first three paragraphs what he or she has to do.

Everything depends on the relationship between the editor and the writer. I don't know everything that goes on with writers and editors and don't want to, but problems have almost always worked out reasonably well. However, some writers (and editors) take criticism or disagreement too personally, and we've had some editor-writer relationships that didn't go as well as anyone would have liked. One idea would be to have a disinterested mediator or arbitrator who can step in, listen to both sides, and resolve the situation before it becomes unworkable.

How and how much to edit is between the editor and the writer. For example, some writers and editors want to see all the changes tracked, while others find them distracting at best and annoying at worst. (I'm in the latter group). Similarly, some editors prefer to go ahead and make changes, while others prefer to suggest changes. I also think there's a natural tendency to over edit, to change things because that's the way the editor would do it. I want each of our writers to have his or her distinctive voice. Editing style aside, the most important thing is to be candid, tactful, and humane with everybody but especially with first-time writers.

An honest, intelligent reader—that's what a good editor is. As such, a good editor is the best friend a writer could ever have. Nobody—not even Warren Buffett or Bill Gates—has enough money to pay an honest, intelligent reader what he or she is worth. *Jan Finkel*

## From Lyle Spatz and Bill Nowlin

In the last 15 months, we have seen not just one, but SIX new collective works published by SABR via BioProject (each one of them the work of 15-40 members):

- ◆ 1968 Detroit Tigers
- ◆ 1969 New York Mets
- ◆ Go Go To Glory: The 1959 Chicago White Sox
- ◆ Minnesotans in Baseball
- ◆ Lefty, Double X, and the Kid
- ◆ Spahn, Sain, and Teddy Ballgame

To be published this fall:

- ◆ The 1969 Mets

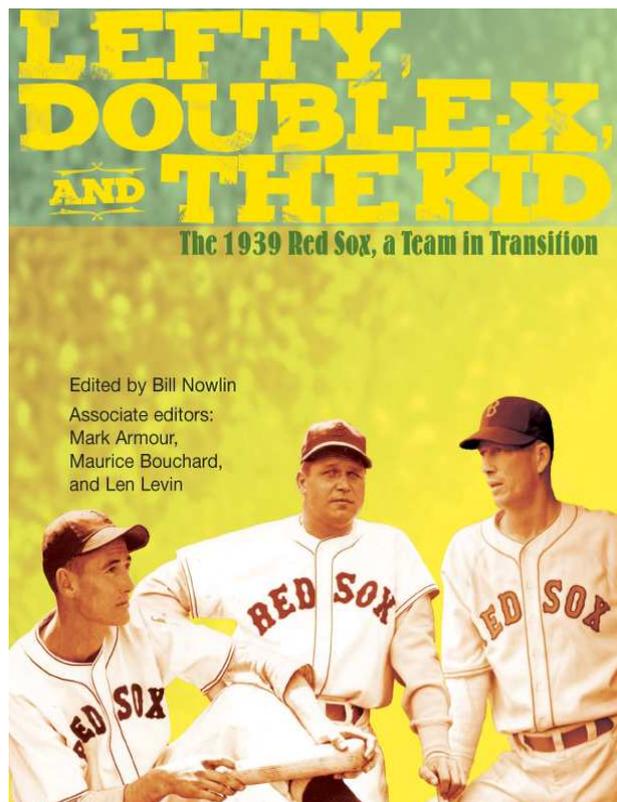
We do have more than one new book on the horizon; not counting some others in the works for a while now:

- ◆ 1984 Detroit Tigers
- ◆ 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers
- ◆ 1950s Red Sox
- ◆ 1964 Cardinals
- ◆ Connecticut natives project
- ◆ Rhode Island natives project
- ◆ 1970 Baltimore Orioles

In the last 60 days, there were another four book projects launched:

- ◆ The Maple Leaf Project (Canadians in Baseball)
- ◆ 1954 Cleveland Indians
- ◆ 1964 Philadelphia Phillies
- ◆ 1884 Providence Grays

In addition, there are ongoing collaborations between BioProject and the AAGPBL and Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc. Keep Them Coming



### A Mike Cooney Memory

I remember Duane Josephson. Not as a catcher for the White Sox and Red Sox, but rather because of a moment in 1963. I was coaching a little league team while Josephson was catching for the minor league Indianapolis Indians. I had contacted him, and asked if he would meet with my team after one of his home games. Duane said yes, but he would rather meet before the game started, so we arranged a date. When the game day arrived I gathered my team and headed for Indianapolis. Thirty miles, one flat tire, and several "I have to go to the bathroom's" later, we arrived at the game as it moved into the second inning. This obviously meant there would be no meeting with Duane Josephson. Sometimes the obvious is wrong. After the game was over, before going back into the dugout, Josephson came to our seats (I forgot to tell you—he gave us the tickets for the game) and told us if we could wait around a few minutes he would come back and talk to the boys. Needless to say, they were thrilled. But not as thrilled as they were 30 minutes later when Josephson and 10 of his teammates headed toward where we were sitting. When they got to us, Duane asked the boys if they wanted to practice a bit. Each of the boys was asked what position he played. Minutes later there were 15 little league baseball players on the field with 11 minor leaguers. Each of the minor league players took one or two boys who played the same position as the player, and worked with them on fielding and throwing fundamentals for close to an hour. That day there were 11 heroes who created memories to last forever. All thanks to Duane Josephson. I will always remember him. As will 15 former Little League baseball Players.

#### Trivia Question

Duane Josephson and one other future Major League baseball player played on the same college basketball team.

Who was the player and what was the name of the college?

## Opportunities for Writers - - from Warren Corbett

I'm the designated fielder for unsolicited notes sent to the BioProject. In the past several years we have received some promising leads. I have offered them to writers, but have had no takers. Here are the best of the lot – BioProject's most wanted.

### George Boehler

P, 1912–26. Det, SLA, Pit, Bkn

I have been researching the baseball career and life of George Boehler for over 15 years (he's the only former major leaguer with my mother's maiden name). I have volumes of info ranging from box scores, personal data, photographs, and communiques from distant relatives. I submitted dozens of pages to the Baseball Hall of Fame Library some years ago, and I would be delighted to share this info and more with you. - - - Jim shoulak [jimmacmn@earthlink.net](mailto:jimmacmn@earthlink.net)

### Tommy Clarke

C, 1909–18. Cin

Tommy Clarke is my step grandfather. My father Frederick Martens is still alive and might be able to fill in a few gaps in Tommy's biography. You may write him at 2488 Macon Circle NE, N.Ft Myers FL 33917. As far as I know there is a scrapbook of newspaper box score clippings about Tommy's career kept at the Isle of Wight Va. museum. It was donated by my uncle, Robert Clarke's estate upon his (Robert's) death in the late 1980's. - - - Bill martens [William.martens@yahoo.com](mailto:William.martens@yahoo.com)

### George Dumont

P, 1915–19. Wash, Bos AL

I am the great-grandson of George Dumont. We have many pictures, and articles about him that might be useful to your project.

- - - Timothy dittrich [timothydittrich@gmail.com](mailto:timothydittrich@gmail.com)

### Charlie Frisbee

OF, 1899–1900. Bos NL, NYN

I have a copy of a presentation on Charles Frisbee that I presented at Field of Dreams Chapter that I would be happy to forward to the Bio Project. I got most of the information from a Cemetery Walk given by Jerry Aldrige and then I added some verification and some new information. If you think you can use the information I will gladly send you a copy with some pictures also. Please send an address and I will get in the mail. - - - Larry e. Johnson [larpat@q.com](mailto:larpat@q.com)



Tommy Clarke

### Joe Holden

C, 1934–36. PhN

You might ask his son to provide the information. His name is Tim holden and he's in the us congress from pa. See his link below. - - - <http://www.holden.house.gov/>

## More Opportunities for Writers - - from Warren Corbett

### Ralph Judd

P, 1927-30. Wash, NYN

I recently came in contact with a person here in Arizona who is in possession of an extensive scrapbook detailing the baseball career of Ralph Judd, who pitched for the NY Giants and Washington Senators in the late 20s. While he had an extensive minor league career, his MLB career was brief with a 3-0 record in 60 some innings pitched. The scrapbook consists of newsprint from the era and thus is quite fragile. The holder is searching for a relative of Judd's in order to pass it on to the family. - - - James e. martin  
[James@iopener.net](mailto:James@iopener.net) (will be back in Sept. from overseas trip)

### Ed Kirkpatrick

Utility player, 1962-77. Angels, Royals, others. Living.

My father is Ed Kirkpatrick. I am trying to gather as much information and as many pictures from his baseball career as possible. We might be able to help each other out. Please contact me.

Jeff Kirkpatrick - - - (949) 813-1331 - - - [JKConst2@cox.net](mailto:JKConst2@cox.net)

### Howie Krist

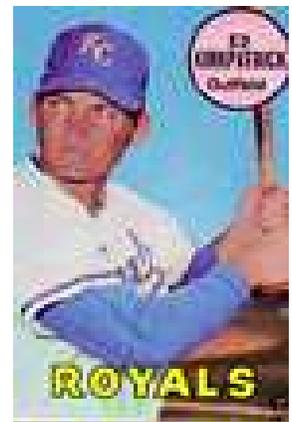
P, STL Nat, career ended by WWII.

Grandson Kevin krist - - - [k.krist@motorola.com](mailto:k.krist@motorola.com)

### Bob Kuzava

P, 1946-57. NYY ('52 Series) and others. Age 86.

Bob's daughter, Teresa Kuzava - - [tburke@gmail.com](mailto:tburke@gmail.com) - - would probably be a good source.



Courtesy of Topps Inc.

### Hub Pruett

P, 1922-32. Browns and others. Claimed his fame for striking out Ruth put him through medical school. I am Hub Pruett's grandson, and my father (Shelby) and uncle (Don) are living in St. Louis. I have done my own informal research and collecting on Hub and have a copy of a June 1964 BB Digest article that profiles my grandfather. (I'm sure you probably have it as well.) Mentions that Babe only hit .190 against Hub. In addition, I have found game log information for all of the games he started or won (unfortunately I can't find all his appearances - he was often a reliever in the mid to late years of his career). My uncle keeps Hub's scrapbook at his home in St. Louis. I would be happy to review anything that's written about him along with the members of my family. Perhaps we can fill in some blanks to help the author. Regardless, the outcome would be great for both sides - a complete bio for our family to share with future generations, and proper documentation of "Ruth's Greatest Nemesis" for SABR and Browns fans everywhere. Please contact me if you would like to put a gameplan together to see if we can help. I currently live in Chicago. - - - Jamie pruett [jdspruett@earthlink.net](mailto:jdspruett@earthlink.net) 773 929 3833

### Harry Rice

OF, 1923-33. Browns, Tigers, others.

Harry Rice is my grandfather I have his scrap book from the 1920 thru 1930 with all the original news articles of him, Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb & many more. - - - Bart dallstrom [bart@pacificaircompressors.com](mailto:bart@pacificaircompressors.com)

**SABR BioProject**  
**Committee**



**BASEBALL LIVES  
WITH  
BASEBALL LIVES**

**Bioproject.sabr.org**



Don Zimmer

The Baseball Biography Project is an ongoing effort to produce comprehensive biographical articles on every person who ever played or managed in the major leagues, as well as any other person who touched baseball in a significant way. The project is run by the BioProject Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research. (SABR)

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