

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH
MINOR LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 1993

Volume II of the Minor League History Journal arrived in early March. There has been almost unanimous response complimenting the variety of subjects, quality of research and writing found in the second volume. As a SABR publication we are dependent solely on the research and writing created and submitted by our committee members. If we hope to continue to produce the MLHJ we must continue to produce and contribute excellent articles. It is our belief that there is a wealth of interesting minor league baseball research that might be disseminated through the publication of the MLHJ.

After two years of publication we have established that the following roles are essential for the timely completion of the publication.

Project coordinator: Handles submissions. Directs selection process. Coordinates editing process, including cross checking. Submits materials to editors. Secures photographs. Conducts final edits.

Two Editors: Involved in selection process. Reviews and edits selected works.

Production and Distribution: Involved in selection process. Directs selection of printer. Directs procurement of photographs. Notifies selected writers. This includes permission process. Coordinates distribution with SABR office. Coordinates distribution to supporters and contributors. Contacts advertisers and assists in handling publicity.

We hope to rotate the editing responsibilities around the many members of the committee with editing experience. David Pietrusza served as one of the editors this past year. With his election to SABR president he will more than likely not be available for next year. David Kemp served as project coordinator and handled production and distribution responsibilities. He should not be doing more than one role each year.

We are interested in volunteers for each position. You are compensated for your work.

With the completion of the third volume of Minor League Stars and the definite possibility that an additional text highlighting all time minor league performances will not be forthcoming., we hope to create an enhanced chronicle of minor league performances in each volume of the Minor League History Journal. Please submit any appropriate information to either Jim Sumner or David Kemp. The chronicle will remain an important feature of each Minor League History Journal.

We must first apologize for the lateness of this issue. Actually the Minor League History Journal has become a regular publication of

the Minor League Committee. Both Jim Sumner and Dave Kemp were involved in the completion of the second volume of MLHJ. We were hoping to have this issue coincide with the arrival of the first edition of the Minor League Encyclopedia. There are several committee projects that will be discussed upon its completion. The Encyclopedia has been an idea discussed by the committee members for the past decade. Committee members Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff are bringing the first volume to fruition. Many projects developed and started by our committee members will be included in the first volume. Some of the research projects even predate the creation of the SABR organization in the early 1970's. The Encyclopedia is scheduled for distribution in early June. It will be well worth the short delay. The committee's involvement in the first volume and possible subsequent volumes will be discussed in detail in the next newsletter.

Rumor has it that some member, who lives in an old house in Dakota, was quoted as saying back in early 1992, "Do you guys really realize what you guys are getting into, and how long it will take?"

The Minor League Encyclopedia will be on sale at the San Diego SABR convention. It will be mailed the first week of June.

The Minor League Committee will have a special table at the San Diego Convention. Both volumes of the Minor League History Journal, The three Minor League Stars, and the Minor League Encyclopedia will be available. We need volunteers to help man the table. Please check with Morris Eckhouse about your availability.

Sports Tours Inc. has developed a Five Day Road Trip as part of their Guest Road Trip to SABR-23. The trip includes attendance at the California League All-Star Game at Stockton, California, June 22. The Ports and Sports Tours would like to invite all committee members to attend the special event. For further information you may call Sports Tours at 1-800-722-7701.

Bob Hoie has agreed to chair the Minor League Committee meeting in San Diego. Co-chairs Jim Sumner and David Kemp will not be in attendance. We do expect an excellent turnout for the annual meeting.

Barry Strassler, 354 Memory Path, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401, Fax 410-849-3528, is researching and compiling a list of deaf and hearing impaired professional baseball players. Barry has documented twenty deaf minor league players. Barry would like to exchange information with committee members with information on this subject. Barry notes that there is one deaf minor league player at the present time. Curtis Pride is in the Montreal farm system. He signed with the Expos after several seasons with the Mets organization.

Carl Bassi is researching the Middle Atlantic League, particularly the Johnstown Johnnies. He is looking for resources or contacts. If you can help Carl, he can be reached at 2124 Shimoor Lane, St. Louis, MO 63146.

George Pawlusch is researching minor league ball in northeastern Pennsylvania. He is interested especially in the Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, and Scranton teams of the Eastern League (1950s) and the Carbondale and Hazleton teams of the North Atlantic League (late 1940s). He is also looking for information on the Colonial League, which operated in Connecticut in the late 1940s. His address is 206 Taylor Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410.

Tom Kayser, SABR member and president of the Texas League, has recently published the first edition of the Texas League newsletter. Tom will be depending on contributions from committee members who have completed or are working on documenting the history of the Texas League. This is an excellent development. If this becomes the wave of the future, newsletters such as the Texas League's will provide excellent opportunities for minor league historians. Tom can be contacted at the Texas League office, 4098 Tumbleweed Trail, Rochford, Illinois, 61111.

Bob Bluthardt, Ballparks Committee Chairman, and San Angelo, Texas museum person is involved in the development of an exhibit on baseball in the San Angelo area. He is interested in any contributions from the committee.

Miles Wolff has questioned whether the record of 68 wins and 2 losses for the Blue Jays entry in the 1992 Dominican Summer League is a valid record for all time winning percentage for a short season minor league team. Are records created in instructional, complex leagues legitimate records? Did Toronto load up one of their two teams in the Dominican Summer League? Is it real baseball when the games are in the morning, there is no admission or anybody in attendance, and the coach can stop play at any time to instruct the player on any aspect of the game? Should there be additional specifications created by the committee to establish what constitute a legitimate minor league performance? We encourage your comments and discussion? The subject will be on the agenda for the San Diego meeting.

Update of Minor League Stars: Compilation and submissions for the update of the volumes of Minor League Stars continues. Discussions have taken place with publications director, Mark Alvarez about the possibility of combining the contents of all three volumes into one complete text. We are investigating the technical aspects of completing such a text. As a result David Kemp has temporarily postponed the compilation of the updates until further decisions have been.

All time Short Season records: David Kemp has begun the process of tabulating the all-time short season records. The final results will appear in later publications. Who is Willie Darkis and where is he now? Is the Gulf Coast League a real league?

Presentations at Midwest Archives Conference: An important session of the Midwest Archives Conference in Chicago on May 15 was the session "Beating the Bushes: Research and Archiving of Minor League Baseball". Presenters at the session were committee members,

Richard Arpi, and Corey Seeman. David Kemp was scheduled to attend but did not make an appearance due to work commitments. Highlights of the session will be in the next newsletter.

1993 MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Minor League Committee consists of over 200 researchers. The committee, the largest of the SABR committees, concentrates on documentation of the minor leagues. Committee Co-chairman are Jim Sumner and David Kemp.

In the past year the Minor League Committee has contributed to three major publications. In midyear the third volume of the Minor League Stars was released. Volume III is the result of thousands of hours of documentation. The research was conducted in classic SABR committee fashion. Each volume highlights the careers of professional players spent primarily in the minor leagues. Plans are being made to create a consolidated set of minor league stars.

Volume II of the Minor League History Journal arrived in March of 1994. The Journal should become an annual feature of the committee. It provides an excellent venue for presenting the best of the committee continuing research and historical writing. Regular features include: the Minor League Chronology, exceptional teams and player performances, pictorials of historic ballparks and players, biographical sketches of Minor League Stars, and league histories.

The minor league committee provided extensive research and support to the first volume of the Minor League Encyclopedia. The Encyclopedia is published by Baseball America and edited by committee members Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff. The first volume includes research conducted by committee members. In certain instances research on certain subjects were begun over a decade ago. Discussions are underway to have the committee become a formal support entity for future volumes of the Minor League Encyclopedia.

The committee will continue as a network of SABR members concentrating on the documentation of the minor leagues. The committee will continue to produce its annual Minor League History Journal.