

FROM McGILLICUDDY TO McGWIRE



Baseball in Florida and the Caribbean



June 21 - 25, 2000
West Palm Beach Florida



Top: Connie Mack Field, West Palm Beach, Florida, on March 21, 1952, date of dedication as such (formerly Wright Field). (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.)

Bottom: Roger Dean Stadium, Jupiter, Florida, 1999.
(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Jupiter Stadium, Inc.)

The Society of American Baseball Research

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Editor: **D. Culver Smith**

Design & Layout: **Carmen Saladin**

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Florida Baseball

PAST

AND

PRESENT



FROM MCGILLICUDDY TO MCGWIRE:

SPRING HOME TO RECORD-SETTERS

by D. Culver (Skip) Smith

Hank Aaron, Mark McGwire, Connie Mack—record-setters all. What did they have in common? Repeated doses of Palm Beach County's therapeutic spring sunshine.

But first the beginning. The very first major-league club to train in Florida was the 1888 National League Washington Senators (also known as the Nationals or the Capitals). They trained that year in Jacksonville, playing their

first game before 12,000 fans described as "one of the most orderly and discriminating assemblages ever seen on a ball game."¹ The 1888 Senators' catcher was young Cornelius McGillicuddy—Connie Mack.² The first 20th Century major-league team to make Florida its permanent spring home was the St. Louis Browns, lured to St. Petersburg by Mayor Al Lang for the spring of 1914.³

Major league baseball first arrived in Palm Beach County on March 20, 1925, when the New York Giants defeated the Washington Senators 2-1 in an exhibition rematch of the 1924 World Series teams.⁴ The game was played at the new Municipal Athletic Field in downtown West Palm Beach.⁵ The park's fortuitous location adjacent to Central Schools would for decades contribute to an increase in student illness and truancy on spring afternoons.⁶ Two years later, the Cincinnati Reds played eight home spring-training games at the park, which had since been renamed "Wright Field" in honor of the long-time city manager, George C. Wright. Among the 1927 teams hosted by the Reds were the Yankees of Ruth, Gehrig et al.⁷

In 1928 the St. Louis Browns became the first club to make West Palm Beach its permanent spring home.⁸ When the Browns arrived in West Palm Beach, they had just traded away future Hall-of-Famer George Sisler. Nonetheless, the tropical climate seemed to work its magic. Led by newly acquired Heinie Manush (.378, league-leading 241 hits) and pitchers Alvin Crowder (21-5) and Sam Gray (20-12), the Browns improved from seventh place (59-84) in 1927 to third place (82-72) in 1928.⁹ The Browns remained in West Palm Beach through the spring of 1936, then moved their spring site to San Antonio.¹⁰



Dedication of Connie Mack Field, March 21, 1952. Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

West Palm Beach went without a spring-training team until Connie Mack and his Philadelphia Athletics arrived in the spring of 1946. Mr. Mack, then 83 years old, was entering his 46th consecutive year as manager of the A's, his first year having coincided with the American League's inaugural season of 1901.¹¹ The Athletics truly had been a franchise of extremes.

Through 1945 the A's had won nine American League pennants and five World Series (1910, 1911, 1913, 1929, and 1930). They also had finished dead last in the league fifteen times, including the seven consecutive years immediately following their stunning sweep by the Miracle Braves in the 1914 World Series and Mr. Mack's subsequent dismantling of the team (amidst hints of corrupt play in the Series¹²) and including eight of the eleven years immediately preceding the team's adoption of Wright Field in West Palm Beach as its spring site.¹³

The A's remained in the cellar in 1946, posting a 49-105 record, 55 games behind the pennant-winning Red Sox. The team hit a grand total of 40 home runs, half of them by Sam Chapman (including a three-homer game on August 15). But the tropical sun again soon worked its magic. Paced by the likes of Chapman, Ferris Fain, Elmer Valo, Hank Majeski, and Barney McCosky, the Athletics posted .500-plus records in 1947, 1948, and 1949, finishing fifth, fourth, and fifth, respectively. Alas, in 1950, they returned to their familiar place in the cellar, finishing 52-102, 46 games out of first.

In 1946, Mr. Mack had divided his shares of stock in the team among his three sons. A family squabble ensued over control of the team.¹⁴ In 1950, the two eldest sons, Roy and Earle, bought out Connie Jr. and pressured their 88-year-old father to retire following the 1950 season, his 50th consecutive year as manager of the same team, a record that almost certainly will never be broken.¹⁵ He was succeeded by his former third-baseman, the popular Jimmy Dykes.¹⁶

On March 21, 1952, in a ceremony attended by Mr. Mack, Wright Field was rededicated as "Connie Mack

Field.”¹⁷ Mr. Mack died on February 8, 1956, at the age of 93. He had been born during the Civil War, ten days before the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, had been a member of the first major-league team to train in Florida, and had managed the same team for every year of the first half of the 20th Century.

The Athletics continued to train at Connie Mack Field through the golden era of baseball (when, some would say, New York was the capital of the world¹⁸). When the A’s finished 60 games behind the champion Indians in 1954 and attendance dropped to an all-time low, the Macks sold the club to Chicagoan Arnold Johnson, who moved the team to Kansas City.¹⁹ The team remained in West Palm Beach through the spring of 1962, a total of seventeen seasons. They might have stayed longer, but contractor Lou Perini, who owned the Milwaukee Braves and was developing the “westward expansion” of West Palm Beach, desired to bring his Braves to the city for spring training as a draw to help sell homes in his residential development. In 1963 the Athletics and the Braves, who had trained at Bradenton since 1948, swapped spring-training homes.

The Braves franchise brought its own unique history, similar to the Athletics’ pattern of extremes. Having originated as the Boston Red Stockings, it is the only franchise to have played every season since 1871.²⁰ The 1894 Braves featured Hugh Duffy’s .440 batting average, the highest in baseball history, and were the last team to hit more than 100 home runs until 1920.²¹ The 1914 “Miracle Braves” were well-known to the man for whom their new spring-training park was named. From 1917 through 1945 the Braves finished as high as fourth only three seasons, finishing seventh or last 15 times,²² including the all-time worst won-loss record in National League history, 38-115, in 1935, the year in which Babe Ruth quit the team and retired (after hitting three home runs in his last game) and club president Emil Fuchs was forced to step down after threatening to turn Braves Field into a dog track.²³ A renewal following World War II led to a pennant in 1948, but the success was short-lived, with the team falling to seventh by 1952. With home attendance that season totaling 280,000, less than one-fifth what it had been only four seasons earlier, Perini moved the team to Milwaukee in the league’s first realignment since 1900.²⁴ The Braves immediately set a new league attendance record and topped it the following year, the first over 2 million. Bolstered by the bats of Mathews, Aaron, and Adcock and the arms of Spahn, Burdette, and Buhl, the Braves won pennants in 1957 and 1958 and one World Series (1957) and narrowly missed two additional pennants, finishing one game behind the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1956 and losing a best-of-three playoff to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1959 in two one-run games. By the time they came to West Palm Beach, they had again fallen on hard times.

In 1965 the team moved again, this time to Atlanta. About the same time, a new stadium, Municipal Stadium,

was built in West Palm Beach to serve as the Braves spring-training site. Connie Mack Field lost its main grandstand and became relegated to high-school and legion ball.²⁵ With expansion in 1969 came the new Montreal Expos, who joined the Braves in West Palm Beach for spring training. That same year, the first year of divisional play, the Braves won the West division with a late-season drive, losing the first Championship Series to a new “miracle” team, the Mets.²⁶

The Expos shared Municipal Stadium with the Braves for four years, then took up spring residence in Daytona Beach. As a result, they missed all of the excitement of the spring of 1974 in West Palm Beach, the season of Hank Aaron’s historic 715th home run. In 1981 the Expos returned to Palm Beach County for spring training, citing the superior climate. The Expos noted that West Palm Beach, 200 miles to the south of Daytona Beach, meant 3-4 degrees warmer weather.²⁷ The club actually had reached an agreement with the City of Boynton Beach (just south of West Palm Beach in Palm Beach County) to build a spring facility for the team, but a referendum to float bonds for the stadium failed overwhelmingly.²⁸ As a result, the Expos spent \$1 million of their own money for capital improvements on Municipal Stadium, just to share it with the Braves.²⁹ West Palm Beach was the beneficiary, with a heavy following of Canadian fans joining the many Braves fans generated by new owner Ted Turner’s cable-television coverage.

The presence of two home teams meant a game every day each March, when the stands would fill with retirees, codgers of all ages, the newest generation of truants, and business and professional people catching a few innings under the clever disguise of high-level lunch meetings or extended court recesses. The season of annual hope and renewal permeated the community.

The two-team presence also made for genuine baseball excitement, as once again the tropical sun worked its magic. The Expos made the 1981 split-season National League playoffs, ultimately losing to the Dodgers on Rick Monday’s home run. In 1982 the Braves, principally riding the slugging of two-time MVP Dale Murphy and Bob Horner and the pitching of Phil Niekro and Gene Garber, rebounded by opening the season with a 13-game winning streak and held on to win the 1982 NL West title by one game over the Dodgers, ultimately losing to the Cardinals in the NLCS.

The Braves contended for the next couple of years, but by 1986, Murphy had faded, and the Braves sunk to the cellar. But the tropic spring sun again worked its magic, and in 1991 the Braves authored the first bottom-to-top comeback in league history, winning a tantalizing divisional race with the Dodgers that produced eleven ties or lead changes in the season’s final weeks.³⁰ The Braves have won their division’s title every year since except the strike-shortened 1994 season, which ended with the Braves in second place,

trailing none other than their spring partners, the Expos, by six games.

In 1998, after 36 consecutive seasons in West Palm Beach, the Braves abandoned the city for a new, 200-acre, multi-sports compound adjacent to Walt Disney World, and the Expos moved to the new Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter (in a predominantly residential area of northern Palm Beach County, ten miles north of downtown West Palm Beach). The Expos were joined at Roger Dean Stadium that same year by the storied St. Louis Cardinals franchise. This time the Expos were around for the excitement—the spring of Mark McGwire’s monumental 70-home-run season. The Cardinals spring games have consistently produced sell-outs, though downtown workers now are hard-pressed to repeat the daily trek to the ballpark for springtime business meetings.

Municipal Stadium in West Palm Beach has since been demolished, and today no major-league team trains within the city limits of West Palm Beach itself. Rumor has it that a small band of civic-minded, rabid baseball fans are plotting to bring spring training back to downtown West Palm Beach—likely at a site within home-run distance of old Connie Mack Field.³¹

Aurthor Bio

D. Culver (Skip) Smith was born and reared in West Palm Beach and is a lifelong baseball fan, especially after his great uncle brought back from the 1950 World Series for his 8th birthday a ball autographed by the entire Yankees team. Skip is a member of the South Florida Chapter of SABR and co-chairs the SABR 30 Host Committee. He is a civil trial lawyer and a partner in the national law firm Holland & Knight LLP, serving as Executive Partner of the firm's West Palm Beach office. Skip and his wife, Ellen, live in West Palm Beach.

References

¹ Myles E. Friedman, “Spring Training,” *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., ed. John Thorn, Pete Palmer, Michael Gershman, and David Pietrusza (New York: Total Sports, 1999), ch. 21, p. 570. Also, “Baseball: Jacksonville’s Golden Age Craze,” *Apalachee* (Tallahassee Historical Society, 1978), p. 55, quoting *Florida Times-Union*, March 22, 1888. See also “Sullivan’s Sleepers: Spring Training in Florida 1888” by Norman L. Macht, appearing in this publication.

² Friedman, op. cit., p. 570.

³ Friedman, op. cit., p. 570. Also, William Zinsser, *Spring Training*, (New York: Harper & Row, 1989), ch. 3. The 1914 Browns were managed by Branch Rickey. When the city fathers refused to reimburse the Browns’ \$6,500 in expenses, the Browns declined to return the following spring. Friedman, op. cit., p. 570.

⁴ “Remembering Connie Mack Field,” Souvenir Program, Aug. 31, 1991 (courtesy of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County).

⁵ “Remembering Connie Mack Field,” op. cit.

⁶ The site is just off of Okeechobee Boulevard a short walk east from the Sheraton West Palm Beach Hotel.

⁷ “Remembering Connie Mack Field,” op. cit.

⁸ Friedman, op. cit., p. 573.

⁹ *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., pp. 2101, 2105. Manush lost the batting

title by one point to the Goose Goslin, who barely qualified for the title and had 182 fewer at-bats and 68 fewer hits than Manush.

¹⁰ Friedman, op. cit., p. 573.

¹¹ *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., p. 2466 (Manager Roster). Mr. Mack liked to attribute his longevity in the job to his owning the team. In matter of fact, however, he became majority owner in 1940. Frederick Ivor-Campbell and Matthew Silverman, “Team Histories,” *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., ch. 2, pp. 47-48.

¹² Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 47. The powerful A’s, who during the season hit a league-leading .272, hit .172 in the series. In the 1913 World Series, they posted a .264 composite average while defeating the Giants four games to one. *STATS All-Time Baseball Sourcebook*, ed. Bill James, John Dewan, Neil Munro, and Don Zminda (Skokie, Ill.: STATS Publishing, 1998), pp. 1548, 1550.

¹³ *STATS All-Time Baseball Sourcebook*, pp. 270-271.

¹⁴ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 48.

¹⁵ *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., pp. 2181, 2185, 2189, 2193. Mr. Mack’s career record as a major-league manager, including three seasons managing Pittsburgh in the 1890’s, was 3,731-3,948 (.486). *Total Baseball*, 6th ed., p. 2466.

¹⁶ Dykes played third base for the A’s from 1918 through 1932, when he was traded to the White Sox as part of Mr. Mack’s second dismantling of a championship team. He played more games for Manager Mack (1,702) than anyone else. In a bit of a statistical oddity, Dykes holds the Athletics franchise career record for doubles (365) without having posted one of the twenty highest season totals in franchise history. *STATS All-Time Baseball Sourcebook*, pp. 1322, 1330.

¹⁷ Jay Scagliola, “Connie Mack Field,” Historical Society of the Palm Beaches Newsletter (Feb. 1992).

¹⁸ Roger Kahn, *The Era* (New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1993), p. 1. The book is subtitled “1947-1957-When the Yankees, the Giants, and the Dodgers Ruled the World.”

¹⁹ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 48.

²⁰ The only existing franchise older than the Braves is the Chicago Cubs, which organized in 1870 but missed the 1872 and 1873 seasons in the aftermath of the great Chicago fire. The Cubs have represented the same city longer than any other club in baseball history. Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 13.

²¹ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 15.

²² Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 15.

²³ *STATS All-Time Baseball Sourcebook*, p. 1378.

²⁴ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 15.

²⁵ Connie Mack Stadium finally fell prey to the wrecker’s ball in April 1973. All that remains today is a small monument in the shadow of the parking garage for the Kravis Center of the Performing Arts—at the site of home plate.

²⁶ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 16.

²⁷ Barry Stavro, “Squeezing \$54 Million Out of Spring Baseball,” *Florida Trend* (March 1982), p. 52. The fact that Expos president John McHale had a home in Palm Beach County may have contributed to the decision.

²⁸ Stavro, op. cit.

²⁹ Stavro, op. cit.

³⁰ Ivor-Campbell and Silverman, op. cit., p. 16.

³¹ It should come as no surprise that this group includes two SABR members.

DID THE FLORIDA MARLINS BUY THE 1997 WORLD SERIES?

By Ronald Cox

The Florida Marlins' victory over the Cleveland Indians in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series has been cited as an example of the growing payroll inequities that allow only the richest teams to compete for championships. The subsequent dismantling of the Marlins by owner Wayne Huizenga served to accentuate the economic disparities in the sport, as Florida moved quickly from the best team in baseball, with one of the highest payrolls, to the worst team with one of the lowest payrolls. With the payroll disparities in major league baseball growing considerably since the Marlins captured the 1997 World Series, the important question to ponder is the relationship between a high payroll team and that team's ability to win baseball pennants and World Series. This article argues that the conventional wisdom that posits a one-to-one relationship between team payroll and title contention minimizes the other factors that allow franchises to be successful, while remaining historical in suggesting that the payroll disparities in the 1990s were significantly worse than in earlier decades. I use an analysis of the Florida Marlins World Series season of 1997 to analyze the extent to which the Marlins "bought the pennant" and whether or not 1997 witnessed the emergence of a growing inequality between "haves and have nots."

To many casual fans of the game, the Marlins rise and fall appears to have occurred so suddenly that it can only be explained by the dramatic fluctuation in team payroll from the winter of 1996 to the winter of 1997. Florida finished 80-82 during the 1996 season, giving most observers scant indication of their soon-to-be championship form. When Wayne Huizenga shelled out \$89 million in long-term salary additions to the Marlins payroll in the winter of 1996, the national press focused on the Marlins efforts to purchase a title contender. The fact that the franchise was only four years old generated added commentary about the "new economics" of the sport that would allow one of the newest expansion teams an opportunity to compete well before the organization had "paid its dues" or had the opportunity to undergo the kind of historical memories that other long-suffering franchises, such as the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox, had accumulated.

What is missing from this analysis is the careful organizational planning and timing of the Marlins' payroll increases. Had the Marlins radically increased payroll at any previous year in franchise history, the results would not have been as propitious for the franchise. It was the combination of a strong minor-league organization, judicious

trades, and cost-effective free-agent signings earlier in the team's history that allowed Florida to be in a position to add higher priced free agents as part of their drive to the World Series in 1997. This triad of success: minor-league talent, trades, and money for free agents, have all been necessary ingredients for successful franchises, whether those franchises were playing games during the 1990's or in earlier decades of baseball history. A breakdown of the Marlins starting pitching staff, bullpen, and batting lineup in 1997 illustrates that the organization utilized a number of methods to get the team to the playoffs.

Minor League Talent:

Edgar Renteria, Charles Johnson,
Tony Saunders, Livan Hernandez,
Felix Heredia, Vic Darenbourg

Trades:

Robb Nen, Jay Powell, Gary Sheffield,
Jeff Conine, Kurt Abbott, Craig Counsell,
Ed Vosberg, Darren Daulton

1995 Free Agents:

Al Leiter, Kevin Brown, Devon White

1996 Free Agents:

Alex Fernandez, Dennis Cook,
Moises Alou, Bobby Bonilla

What the above suggests is that the Marlins utilized a balanced mix of the triad in their assemblage of the 1997 World Series team. Note that the 1995 free agents are grouped separately due to the fact that they were relative bargains in the free-agent market. The Marlins spent \$4.5 million for Kevin Brown and \$2.9 million for Al Leiter, whose salaries were low enough to allow plenty of other clubs to vie for their services, including the long-suffering Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox, but who simply chose not to pursue these starting pitchers. The presence of a solid foundation through bargain free-agent signings, as well as a farm system that has been known for producing both quality pitching prospects and solid middle infielders, allowed the Marlins to spend money in a productive fashion in the winter of 1996.

Just how did the Marlins overall payroll compare to other clubs in the 1997 season? If we examine the end-of-the-year payroll figures, the Marlins slightly edged the

Braves in total payroll, spending \$53,490,000 compared to Atlanta's \$52,171,000. However, the payroll discrepancy between the top national league team and the rest of the league (with the exceptions of Pittsburgh and Montreal) was within a ratio that was much less extreme than it would be in later seasons. Four national league clubs had payrolls that were in the \$40 million range (certainly close enough to be comparable to the Marlins top NL payroll), yet only one of those teams—the San Francisco Giants—made the playoffs. The St. Louis Cardinals, despite having the third highest payroll in the NL at approximately \$48 million, finished well below .500 in the Central Division, while the Houston Astros won the division with a \$34 million payroll. The Pittsburgh Pirates, the team with the lowest payroll in baseball of just over \$12 million, finished in second place in the NL Central.

The following is a breakdown of the NL team payrolls for 1997, followed by season record:

Florida	\$53,490,000	92-70
Atlanta	\$52,171,000	101-61
L.A.	\$48,385,304	88-74
StL	\$48,274,167	73-89
SF	\$44,121,713	90-72
Col	\$41,567,334	83-79
NY	\$39,209,500	88-74
Cin	\$36,881,500	76-86
Hou	\$34,182,500	84-78
SD	\$31,713,672	76-86
Chi	\$30,816,000	68-94
Phi	\$30,681,500	68-94
Mon	\$18,460,500	78-84
Pit	\$12,174,166	79-83

Just as in the past, there is a statistically significant correlation between payroll and winning percentage for the 1997 national league teams, which means that payroll contributed to the success of the most competitive teams. However, the correlation is hardly perfect, suggesting that payrolls are only one factor in determining team success and have to be considered alongside how effective the money is spent, how successful an organization has been in developing young talent, and how astute an organization has been in making trades.

In addition, with the exception of Montreal and Pittsburgh, the ratio of payroll between the top and bottom teams is not very extreme in 1997, and certainly much less so than it would become from 1998 to the present. Outside of the Expos and the Pirates, whose payrolls were vastly inferior to the top payroll teams, the ratio of top to bottom payrolls in the N.L.'s 1997 season was approximately 5:3,

which is comparable to most past seasons in baseball history and actually a bit better than the average spread between the top and bottom teams of baseball's so-called golden age of the 1950's, when in a typical season the New York Yankees outspent the bottom 3-4 teams by 2-1 margins in route to their AL pennants. Therefore, if the Marlins did in fact buy the N.L. pennant, the same must be said about most of the pennant winners of the past, including the vaunted New York Yankees of the 1950's.

Author's Bio

Ron Cox is a member of the South Florida Chapter of SABR and a member of the SABR 30 Host Committee. He is an associate professor of political science at Florida International University. He is currently working on a co-authored book with Daniel Skidmore-Hess tentatively titled No Level Playing Field: Money, Power and Major League Baseball. Ron and his wife, Laura Leigh, live in Miami.

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- . Florida Marlins 1997 Media Guide.
- . Team Salary Database, compiled by Doug Pappas, Chair, The Business of Baseball Committee, SABR.
- . A regression analysis correlating payroll with winning percentage suggests that payroll is statistically significant, with a regression coefficient of .54.
- . Team Salary Database, compiled by Doug Pappas, Chair, The Business of Baseball Committee, SABR.
- 6. A statistically significant coefficient of .54 was found when correlating team payroll with team record.
- 7. Team Salary Database, compiled by Doug Pappas, Chair, The Business of Baseball Committee, SABR.



A HALF-CENTURY OF SPRINGS: VERO BEACH AND THE DODGERS

By Andrew G. McCue

It was 1947, and Branch Rickey had two spring training problems, both of his own making. Bud Holman had one, but it loomed large for him.

It took Rickey and Holman a while to find each other, but they proved to be each other's solutions. The relationship they established, despite rocky moments, has endured for over half a century. Vero

Beach, then a community of 3,000 people clinging to the east coast of Florida, has become a city of over 18,000 people identified with the Dodgers and spring training.

At the end of 1942, Rickey had taken over management of the Brooklyn Dodgers. He knew that for his new team to dominate, he could not just imitate the success he'd had with the St. Louis Cardinals. Too many other teams had begun to build minor league farm systems for him to think that tactic alone would propel the Dodgers to the top and keep them there.

Rickey took a couple of new directions. Unlike other baseball executives, he calculated World War II would end. Other teams cut back on their scouting because young men were going into the military. Rickey expanded his effort, and signed hundreds of promising players before they disappeared into the service. He also decided to break baseball's unwritten ban on African-American ballplayers. In late 1945, the Dodgers' top farm team in Montreal announced they had signed Jackie Robinson, a shortstop for the Negro Leagues' Kansas City Monarchs.



Dodger President Walter O'Malley (left) and Dodger Director Bud Holman admire the Holman Stadium dedication plaque during the opening ceremonies on March 11, 1953

The first decision meant he'd need a spring training site where he could work with the 700 or so ballplayers the Dodgers had under contract. The second decision meant he'd need a place where the weather was warm but the South's code of racial separation would not be enforced. In 1946, the Dodgers went to Daytona Beach. In 1947, it was Cuba, plus other Caribbean stops. The minor league organization

had spent those years in the Florida cities of Sanford and Pensacola, where former military bases offered feeding and housing facilities.

Those experiments had been expensive and, in some senses, unsatisfactory. In 1947, the major league team had lost \$25,000 on spring training because of higher travel and lodging costs. The Pensacola minor league camp had cost \$127,000.¹ In both Daytona Beach and Havana, Robinson and other African-American players were placed in segregated housing. The Caribbean itinerary also meant the Dodgers didn't face major league teams for most of spring training. They played the Montreal Royals. This was part of Rickey's plan to let the Dodgers appreciate Robinson's skills in preparation for his promotion, but it also reduced the overall level of competition. And, because the minor leaguers were elsewhere, Rickey hadn't been able to organize the training program as thoroughly as he would like.

Bud Holman's problem was the Navy's decision to turn back the flight training base it had created out of Vero

Beach's pre-war municipal airport.² Holman had parlayed exceptional skills as a mechanic into, first, a Cadillac dealership in Vero Beach, Florida, then acres of orange groves and cattle ranches in the area. He'd also managed to persuade Eastern Airlines to make Vero Beach a stop on its flights up and down the eastern seaboard despite the city's having little to offer the airline except Holman's reliable service. Holman had wound up on Eastern's board of directors.³

The Navy hadn't used the base for nearly two years, and its facilities, many built with the idea they only had to last a few years, had begun to deteriorate. Holman had browbeaten the Navy into repairing the runway lights and making sure three of the base's seven runways were operable, but he wasn't sure how the airport could be made to pay for itself and help Vero Beach grow.⁴

The 1947 experience in Pensacola had made Rickey aware of the advantages of former military bases. The facilities the military had built to house and feed thousands of men only a few years earlier meant the Dodgers were spared expensive construction. They merely had to create diamonds, batting cages, pitching mounds, sliding pits, and similar facilities. As the 1947 season unfolded, Rickey was looking for something more permanent and more profitable. He examined El Centro, California, and other sites in the west as well as prospecting around Florida.⁵

Holman, who acknowledged he hadn't known much about baseball, said he'd heard Rickey was looking for a former military base through a friend of one of Rickey's daughters.⁶ He'd also evidently tapped into friends at Eastern Airlines and at General Motors.⁷ In the early fall of 1947, Buzzie Bavasi took a train ride down to Vero Beach to look at the base and estimate the cost of converting it to meet the Dodgers' needs.⁸ Although the public announcement of a deal wasn't made until December 11, 1947, Rickey was telling the Dodgers' board of directors as early as October that he expected a "favorable" deal for next spring in Vero Beach.⁹

The five-year deal called for the Dodgers to pay \$1 a year in rent for 104 acres while taking over responsibility for maintaining the existing barracks facilities in their area and building their own baseball training facilities.¹⁰ The city of Vero Beach, while giving up any significant revenue from the property, was hoping the publicity attendant to spring training and the crowd of New York writers who would come with it would raise the city's tourism pro-

file both in New York and around the country.

For 1948, the Vero Beach complex, which Rickey christened "Dodgertown," was still a minor-league site. The Dodgers trained in the Dominican Republic, where they received a \$60,000 subsidy from the government.¹¹ They played just a couple of quick exhibition games in Vero Beach against the Montreal Royals. However, the organization lost money again and the strain of racial relationships continued to plague the team.¹² Sam Lacy, the veteran sportswriter for the Baltimore Afro-American who covered all of Jackie Robinson's early spring trainings, says one of the reasons the Vero Beach complex was so appealing was that the Dodgers would provide the police service on their property, reducing the possibility of confrontations between their growing cadre of black stars and the local police.¹³

In 1949 the Dodgers joined the minor-league teams for the early weeks of spring training before moving to Miami to begin exhibition play. This would set the pattern for most of the 1950's. The Dodgers would play up to four major-league exhibition games in Vero Beach each year, with the proceeds of one game going to the city to supplement the \$1 year rent. But, in an effort to offset the spring-training costs, many exhibition games would be played in Miami or on a barnstorming tour back to Brooklyn or Los Angeles. The spring-training costs also were offset by the sale of ballplayers force-fed through the Dodger system and the spring camps.

By 1951, Walter O'Malley had replaced Rickey as president of the team. While O'Malley had had reservations about the original Vero Beach deal, he had come to accept it as useful, especially after Bavasi pointed out to him that the camp allowed players both to be pushed ahead with intensive instruction and to be showcased for sale to other organizations.¹⁴ Still, O'Malley hoped to get more. The Miami stay raised spring-training revenues but also hiked costs. He needed a stadium in Vero Beach to make money there but didn't want to make the investment until he had a more stable relationship with the city.

In 1952 O'Malley and the city negotiated a 21-year lease for the property, with a Dodger right of renewal for a second such period.¹⁵ The rent was still \$1 a year plus the proceeds of one exhibition game. The Dodgers' president, a lawyer by training, plowed through two densely printed pages of the contract specifying what would happen if the Dodgers didn't pay the rent. Then, he peeled off \$21 in cash and handed it to a Vero Beach official.¹⁶ The

long-term lease gave O'Malley the confidence to invest \$50,000 to build a stadium with just under 5,000 seats for spring training games.¹⁷ The stadium, named after Bud Holman, who had joined the Dodgers board of directors, opened in 1953. In building the stadium, the Dodgers had obtained dirt by hollowing out a nearby field. Afterwards, O'Malley filled it with water as a fishing hole and then, when a sulfurous smell appeared, named it Lake Gowanus after Brooklyn's odiferous canal.¹⁸ Later in 1953, he added a pitch-and-putt golf course.¹⁹

But all wasn't fishing and birdies. In 1951, Bavasi says, the mayor of Vero Beach came to him and complained about the growing number of African-American players on the Dodgers. Bavasi sent traveling secretary Lee Scott to the racetrack to bring back \$20,000 in \$2 bills. He then had his wife and Kay O'Malley stamp Brooklyn Dodgers on each \$2 bill. He gave each Dodger staffer some of the money and told them to spend it in town over the weekend. The mayor called Monday morning to tell Bavasi he'd gotten the message.²⁰ Still, as late as 1971, black Dodgers were complaining that if they wanted to play golf, eat at a restaurant, or go to a movie in town, they couldn't.²¹ These complaints played a role in O'Malley's decision to improve the food, add a movie theater, and eventually to add golf facilities at Dodgertown. It also led O'Malley to unilaterally take down the segregated seating signs at Holman Stadium in 1962.²²

First, however, team and town had to survive the greatest threat to their relationship. It started in the late 1950's, as the new Federal Aviation Administration began to look into airports around the country. In Vero Beach, the FAA said, the city was violating the terms of the transfer of land from the federal government. Specifically, it was not making enough income from the land, and it was not using the money it did make purely for airport development and promotion.²³ If the FAA's complaints weren't resolved, the federal agency could repossess the entire airport, including Dodgertown.

Over the five years the dispute took to resolve itself, the FAA was at pains to say it had no quarrel with the Dodgers.²⁴ But it was saying to the city that the land leased to the Dodgers must generate more income. The figures varied a bit in the early years but eventually settled at \$12,000 a year.²⁵

Within the Vero Beach City Council, two schools of thought emerged. The Dodger supporters pointed to the economic benefits the team brought the city. They pointed to Dodger-related tourism, name recognition that helped broader tourism, and the team's direct expenditures. They had no figures to support this, but the team regularly received votes of support from the Chamber of Commerce, tourism interests, and similar groups.²⁶

Their opponents argued that the Dodgers were receiving 104 acres from the city that provided them with a wonderful training facility at next to no cost. The Dodgers, they said, should simply pay their fair share.²⁷

The dispute became intimately involved in the politics of Vero Beach. The FAA's action affected about 100 other tenants, including Holman, who actually ran the airport as a lessee (the Dodgers were his sublessee) and Piper Aircraft, which employed over 230 people at a factory on airport land.²⁸ Piper was the biggest industrial enterprise in the city. Holman, after nearly 40 years of civic affairs, had his enemies. There were multiple lawsuits between the city, Holman, and individual city council members.²⁹ There were whispers of fraud and missing money. "It was a bad time," said Sig Lysne, a flying-school operator who sued Holman over the airport contract. Allegations flew that the Dodgers' contract³⁰ had never been approved by the Civil Aviation Administration (the FAA's predecessor) and that a 21-year contract was illegal under the city charter.³¹

Walter O'Malley's position remained consistent. The Dodgers had signed a legal contract with the city. The Dodgers had met every one of the conditions of the contract and, in fact, had invested some \$3 million in



developing Dodgertown over the dozen years they had been there.³² This, he noted, came with a return of only \$122,000 from exhibition games. The Dodgers wanted to stay in Vero Beach and were happy to work with the city to resolve issues, but they weren't willing to pay more rent.³³ Other teams might pay rent for spring training facilities, but they didn't have to pay to build those facilities, he said.

That didn't stop people from approaching the Dodgers about moving, and O'Malley was only too happy to let that fact leak back to Florida to give him leverage in the Vero Beach discussions. The Dodgers looked at sites in California and considered other areas in Florida³⁴. Former Dodger outfielder Lee Walls tried to interest them in 2,000 acres near Palm Springs.³⁵

In 1962, the issue apparently was solved when the City Council agreed to make up the difference between the city's spring training benefit game and the \$12,000 minimum demanded by the FAA. But this wasn't particularly satisfactory. For the city, a poor matchup or rain could ruin the take from their game. For the Dodgers, they knew that each year, a possibly different city council would have to approve making up the difference.³⁶

The temporary solution was strong enough to hold until an idea that had been bandied about for nearly 20 years came to fruition. The idea of the Dodgers' purchasing the Dodgertown land had surfaced as early as 1949. The idea hadn't flown then because the Dodgers were offered a deal which cost them little cash at a time when O'Malley was pushing the board hard to conserve as much cash as possible to prepare to replace Ebbets Field.³⁷ With the FAA problems, the idea had resurfaced but remained on the back burner.

With the tenuous city council resolution of 1962, the idea soon came to the fore³⁸. The negotiations dragged on through much of 1964 and into early 1965.³⁹ Then the deal was struck. The Dodgers would buy 113 acres from the city. Some 13 acres of the original

would keep the core of the development and the city would add some additional property to the west. The price tag was \$133,087.50.⁴⁰

Title to the land gave O'Malley confidence to do make some considerable investments. A nine-hole golf course was begun on the new western property within four months of the sale.⁴² He entered into negotiations with the city that summer for an additional 180 acres northwest of Dodgertown.⁴² In 1971, that property would become the site of an 18-hole public golf course called Dodger Pines. It had eating facilities open to the public. The Dodgers eventually would own 413 acres in Vero Beach.⁴³ Peter O'Malley and his sister, Therese Seidler, also would buy 54 acres in the area.

Landlord O'Malley also turned to the housing problem. When the Dodgers moved in, one of the attractions was the two two-story barracks erected at the airport for the pilots in training. The barracks could house 480 people, had facilities for feeding the men, and provided space for offices, lounges, and similar amenities. Although the buildings had looked good in 1947, they had been built to last out the war, not the centuries, and were beginning to look pretty shabby by the 1960s.

"The décor shows what can be done with plywood and a blank mind," said Los Angeles Times sports columnist Jim Murray, "They tell me this place used to be a barracks for the Navy. Up till now, I didn't know the Confederacy had a Navy."⁴⁴ Other commentators told of toilets that needed plungers and roofs that leaked.⁴⁵ "A deluxe room came with two buckets, which filled quickly during tropical rainstorms,"

said Los Angeles Herald Examiner sports columnist Melvin Durslag, "and the walls were so thin that one could lie awake and take his neighbor's pulse."⁴⁶

In 1969 the Dodgers announced the barracks would be replaced by new housing units.⁴⁷ In a burst of characteristic humor, O'Malley surreptitiously put up signs protesting the demo-

lition of the barracks and calling for their return.⁴⁸ With the six- or seven-team minor-league systems of the 1960's, the organization didn't need the same space as the



(L-R) Jackie Robinson, Dodger Manager Chuck Dressen, Holman and Dodger Coach Cookie Lavagetto, enjoying Opening Day at the newly dedicated Holman Stadium.

Dodgertown land, including the site of the first major-league game played in Vero Beach, were to be turned over to an expansion-minded Piper Aircraft. The Dodgers

22-team systems of the late 1940's. The new housing was 90 units resembling rooms in a nicer motor court. They were completed in time for spring training 1972 and declared a "unanimous hit."⁴⁹

Over the next few decades, the Dodgers would invest further millions in the site, building conference rooms, weight rooms, a new clubhouse, tennis courts, a commercial laundry, a broadcasting studio, a new kitchen, and dining rooms. Housing would be built around the Dodger Pines Golf Course.⁵⁰

Some of O'Malley's investments were less successful. There was the "Dodger Cafeteria," a restaurant featuring Southern-style cooking and housed in an eatery formerly known as "The Shed." There was the papaya plantation that died in a winter freeze. There was the idea that the seeds of the Australian pines at Dodgertown were an exceptionally fine protein fertilizer for birds of paradise.⁵¹

The additional facilities were part of an attempt to turn Dodgertown into a year-round facility. The Dodger Conference Center opened in 1977, bringing in corporate groups for meetings where they easily could break for golf, tennis, swimming, or other recreation. The Dodgers put one of their minor-league clubs in the complex beginning in 1980. Fantasy camps, started in 1983, are run every year in November and February. National Football League clubs and major college programs have rented the facilities for training camp or to prepare for a big game.⁵²

For nearly thirty years from the land purchase, the relationship between team and city went smoothly. By the late 1970's, the team was playing its entire home schedule at Holman stadium. Then came Fox.

When Rupert Murdoch's Fox Television took over the Dodgers in 1998, the new management team looked at every facet of the organization. In Los Angeles, there was talk of dumping Dodger Stadium. In Florida, there was talk of dumping Vero Beach. An Indian tribe near Phoenix offered to build a \$20 million (later escalating to \$50 million) complex and lease it to the Dodgers at low prices. Vero Beach discussed the idea of buying Dodgertown from the team and leasing it back.⁵³ Other cities surfaced, but were discarded.⁵⁴

Vero Beach responded. The chamber of commerce put together a study that showed the Dodgers were worth millions every year to the Vero Beach economy. The local annual payroll was more than \$4 million. Local purchases totaled \$1.2 million while another \$90,000 was

donated to Indian River County charities. They noted that the O'Malley's properties in the city contributed \$320,000 in property taxes and \$450,000 in state and local sales taxes. They suggested that the city's growth from 3,000 people when the Dodgers arrived to almost 18,000 in 1998 was related to the image of the city as the spring home of the Dodgers.⁵⁵

Within a few months, the tribe's offer fell victim to financial questions. Their proposals weren't as attractive as first described, and the Dodgers declined their final offer. Vero Beach's special relationship survives, and with Dodger traditionalist Robert Daly running the team, the relationship seems stable, at least for now.

Author's Bio

Andy McCue is a member of SABR and chairs SABR's Bibliography Committee. He was a 1990 winner of the MacMillan-SABR Research Award for Baseball by the Books: A History and Bibliography of Baseball Fiction. He is an editor and columnist for the Riverside (CA) Press-Enterprise. He lives in Riverside.

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¹ Minutes, board meeting of the Brooklyn National League Baseball Club (hereafter board minutes), Sept. 10, 1947. Branch Rickey papers, Library of Congress.

² *Vero Beach Press-Journal* (hereafter VBP-J), Nov. 7, 1947, p. 1A.

³ *The Sporting News* (hereafter TSN), March 24, 1954, p. 5.

⁴ Interview, Harry R. "Bump" Holman, Vero Beach, Feb. 7, 2000.

⁵ See George H. Williams to Rickey, Feb. 6, 1947 in Rickey papers. Also, TSN, Apr. 16, 1947, p. 11 and Aug. 20, 1947, p. 6.

⁶ TSN, Mar. 24, 1954, p. 5.

⁷ Holman interview, op. cit.

⁸ Interview, Buzzie Bavasi, La Jolla, Ca., Aug. 30, 1994.

⁹ VBP-J, Dec. 12, 1947, p. 1A and board minutes, Oct. 15, 1947.

¹⁰ President's Report to the stockholders of the Brooklyn National League Baseball Club, Inc., Oct. 23, 1950, Rickey papers.

¹¹ TSN, Oct. 15, 1947, p. 13.

¹² President's Report, Oct. 23, 1950, op. cit. Rickey reports the Dodgers themselves with the subsidy, made a profit of \$40,000 for spring training. The Vero Beach operation, including some improvements, cost \$176,000. Since some other clubs trained outside Vero Beach, the organization's net spring training loss was \$168,000.

¹³ Lacy, Sam with Moses J. Newson. *Fighting for*

Fairness. Centreville, Md: Tidewater Publishers, 1998, p. 67.

¹⁴ Bavasi interview, op. cit.

¹⁵ VBP-J, Jan. 31, 1952, p. 1A.

¹⁶ TSN, March 12, 1952, p. 9.

¹⁷ Dan Parker, *New York Daily Mirror*, March 14, 1953.

¹⁸ TSN, Feb. 4, 1953, p. 6 and March 18, 1953, p. 17.

¹⁹ TSN, Nov. 4, 1953, p. 9.

²⁰ Bavasi interview, op. cit. Larry Reisman, the current editor of the *Vero Beach Press-Journal* told me (Jan. 11, 2000) that Bavasi had told him the same story. There was no mention of the incident in the paper at the time and Reisman said he spent some time with older residents trying to pin the story down. He said he never found direct confirmation but came to trust Bavasi's memory on the incident.

²¹ Roseboro, John with Bill Libby. *Glory Days with the Dodgers*. New York: Atheneum, 1978, pps. 110-114. See also Melvin Durlag column, *Los Angeles Examiner*, Feb. 19, 1961, Pt. 6, p. 1 or TSN, March 20, 1971, p. 46.

²² TSN, April 11, 1962, p. 18.

²³ *Los Angeles Times*, June 17, 1960, Pt. IV, p. 3. VBP-J, June 23, 1960, pps. 1A and 2A, and Nov. 17, 1960, p. 1A.

²⁴ VBP-J, April 6, 1961, p. 5B.

²⁵ VBP-J, Feb. 23, 1961, p. 1A. The \$12,000 was the bottom range of a spread (to \$15,000) suggested by the FAA, but quickly became the standard in further debate. VBP-J Sept. 11, 1960, p. 1A shows figures as high as \$30,000.

²⁶ VBP-J, June 22, 1961, p. 1A and 5A; Sept. 11, 1960, p. 1A, March 2, 1961, p. 1A. *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, March 10, 1963, p. E4.

²⁷ VBP-J, April 13, 1961, p. 7B.

²⁸ VBP-J, Sept. 11, 1960, p. 1A.

²⁹ VBP-J, Nov. 3, 1960, p. 1A. VBP-J, June 29, 1961, p. 1A, March 1, 1962, p. 2A, VBP-J, May 17, 1962, p. 1A, Aug. 11, 1960, p. 1A, March 23, 1961, p. 1A, April 13, 1961, p. 1A.

³⁰ VBP-J, Dodger Spring Training 50th Anniversary Edition, February 1998, p. 7.

³¹ VBP-J, April 13, 1961, p. 7B. Over time, the violation of the city charter seemed to be an accepted fact, but the Dodgers vehemently denied their contract was not approved and provided documents to newspapers that seemed to back their case. Their opponents and the FAA, however, offered other documents. Since the contract never went to court, there was never a resolution of this issue.

³² Fresco Thompson to VBP-J, July 7, 1960, p. 7A.

³³ VBP-J, March 2, 1961, 1A.

³⁴ *Los Angeles Examiner*, Feb. 27, 1961, Pt. 4, p. 2, Sept. 21, 1961, Pt. 4, p. 2 and Nov. 20, 1961, Pt. 4, p. 2. Also, TSN, July 27, 1960, p. 15.

³⁵ *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, April 8, 1963, Pt. C, p. 3.

³⁶ VBP-J, April 26, 1962, p. 1A, May 10, 1962, p. 7C,

³⁷ Board minutes, March 7, 1949, Rickey papers. O'Malley's running concern with replacing Ebbets Field is apparent through the minutes from 1946 to 1950. When the Dodgers were faced with replacing the stadium in Ft. Worth after a May 1949 fire, his comments were particularly pointed.

³⁸ VBP-J, Feb. 9, 1961, p. 1A, Nov. 9, 1961, p. 1A and April 4, 1963, p. 1A. Also, TSN, March 30, 1963.

³⁹ VBP-J, Feb. 20, 1964, p. 1A, June 18, 1964, p. 1A., June 18, 1964, p. 1A.

⁴⁰ VBP-J, March 18, 1965, p. 1A.

⁴¹ VBP-J, July 8, 1965, p. 1A.

⁴² VBP-J, July 29, 1965, p. 1C.

⁴³ VBP-J, 50th Anniversary Spring Training Edition, February 1998, op. cit.

⁴⁴ LAT, March 28, 1962, Pt. III, p. 1.

⁴⁵ *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, March 8, 1963, p. C1.

⁴⁶ TSN, March 18, 1972, p. 36.

⁴⁷ *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, March 8, 1969, p. B2.

⁴⁸ TSN, April 19, 1969, p. 10.

⁴⁹ TSN, March 18, 1972, p. 36.

⁵⁰ Los Angeles Dodgers 1999 Media Guide, p. 94.

⁵¹ TSN, March 22, 1969, p. 2.

⁵² Dodgers 1999 Media Guide, op. cit.

⁵³ The Associated Press, Nov. 10, 1998, *Los Angeles Times*, March 31, 1999, p. D1.

⁵⁴ *The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, Calif., Jan. 30, 1999.

⁵⁵ VBP-J, 50th Anniversary Spring Training Edition, February 1998, op. cit., p. 22.

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SULLIVAN'S SLEEPERS: SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA 1888

by Norman L. Macht

Spring training camps in Florida have come a long way since the first expedition into the state in 1888. That's when Ted Sullivan led a small group of Washington Statesmen, then of the National League, to Jacksonville for a few weeks of limbering up.

Most teams prepared at or near home in those days. In 1886 Cap Anson had taken his Chicago club to Hot Springs, Arkansas, while the Phillies went to Charleston, South Carolina. The following spring Detroit had gone to Macon, Georgia, before barnstorming through the South and Midwest.

Sullivan, a veteran scout, promoter, and manager, was not the Washington manager; they had none. The club owner, Robert Hewett, was ill and asked Sullivan, who was slated to manage the Troy, New York, club, to handle spring-training chores for him. It was Sullivan's idea to go to Florida.

Among the players who gathered at the Washington railroad station on the morning of Thursday, March 1, were a rookie outfielder, Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy, and a tall, skinny, 25-year-old catcher, Connie Mack. Mack said goodbye to his new bride before boarding the fast mail train to Jacksonville.

"There were fourteen members of the squad," Mack recalled of his first spring training jaunt, "four of them reasonably sober." They rode all day in coaches, and when it got dark they switched to Pullman cars—two to a berth—until daylight, when Sullivan roused them and herded them back into the lower-fare day coaches, which ballplayers forever after would refer to as "Sullivan Sleepers."

When they arrived in Jacksonville, Sullivan led them to a tract of woods outside of town, where he had arranged

with a woman who owned two shacks to put them up and provide three meals a day for a daily rate of a dollar a man. The accommodations were "vile," Mack said, and the players quickly found a convenient source of booze among the denizens of the forest.

"It was terrible—fights every night in front of those shacks," Mack recalled. "There was always at least one black eye in the crowd, and usually more."

They practiced among the pine trees in the sandy soil every morning and played against a handful of rookies that New York Giants manager Jim Mutrie had taken south. In a letter to the Washington Post, Sullivan ballyhooed with the usual unfounded springtime optimism: "The men arrived here in good shape and surprised me by their excellent work in Sunday's game." After a few weeks they barnstormed through New Orleans, Birmingham, and Charleston on their way home.

The team's performance did little to promote Florida as a beneficial spring-training site. They finished last, 37½ games out.

Author's Bio

Norman Macht has been a member of SABR since 1985. He serves on SABR's board of directors and chairs the National Convention Committee. He received SABR's Baseball Weekly Award for the best research presentation at the 1997 annual convention and was honored with "The SABR Salute" in 1999. This article is an excerpt from Norm's biography of Connie Mack, which, according to the author, is "a work whose gestation period is considerably longer than that of an A's white elephant." Norm lives in Easton, Maryland.



THE ALL-TIME FLORIDA-BORN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

by D. Culver (Skip) Smith

Florida has had its share of native sons star in the major leagues. Three have been voted into the Hall of Fame: pitcher Steve Carlton, catcher and manager Al Lopez, and Negro Leagues shortstop John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. Three additional native-born Floridians, André Dawson, Tim Lincecum, and Boog Powell, are listed among "The 400 Greatest."

Here with the lineup for the author's All-Time Florida-Born Major League Team, with place and date of birth and significant career statistics:

Tim Raines, LF

Sanford, Sept. 16, 1959—.296, 164 HR, 947 RBI, 803 SB
Raines's 803 stolen bases ranks fifth all-time, behind only Rickey Henderson, Lou Brock, Billy Hamilton, and Ty Cobb. His stolen-base average of 84.7 ranks second all-time. Raines appeared in seven All-Star Games and was MVP of the 1987 game. Raines holds the Montreal Expos franchise career records for batting average (.301), runs, triples, walks, and stolen bases.

Pop Lloyd, SS

Palatka, April 25, 1884²
By all accounts, Hall of Famer Lloyd is the all-time best Florida-born player. Lloyd consistently hit for a high average and very well may have been the finest shortstop of all time. He was known as "The Black Wagner," after his contemporary Honus Wagner, who himself considered it an "honor" and "privilege" to be compared to Lloyd.³

Chipper Jones, 3B

Deland, April 24, 1972—.301, 153 HR, 524 RBI⁴
Jones was voted National League MVP in 1999, his fifth full season in the majors. A future Hall-of-Famer.

André Dawson, CF

Miami, July 10, 1954—.279, 438 HR, 1591 RBI
"The Hawk" made eight All-Star Game appearances. In 1987 with the Cubs, he led the league with 49 home runs and 137 RBIs and was voted league MVP. He was the runner-up in MVP balloting in 1981 and 1983. Dawson holds the Montreal Expos franchise career records for home runs (225) and is second in runs, doubles, triples, and RBIs. He becomes eligible for the Hall of Fame in 2001.

Gary Sheffield, RF

Tampa, Nov. 18, 1968—.290, 236 HR, 807 RBI⁵
In 1992 with San Diego, Sheffield won the NL batting title with a .330 average and came close to winning the Triple Crown, finishing two home runs behind teammate Fred McGriff and nine RBIs behind Phillie Darren Daulton, his future Marlins championship teammate (1997). With the Marlins in 1996, he hit .314 with 42 home runs, 120 RBIs, and a .624 slugging percentage. Only 31, he already has logged twelve major-league seasons, but because of injuries he has played in more than 100 games only seven times.

Steve Garvey, 1B

Tampa, Dec. 22, 1948—.294, 272 HR, 1308 RBI
Garvey gets the author's vote over Fred McGriff and Boog Powell in a close decision. Garvey made ten All-Star Game appearances (MVP in the 1974 and 1978 games), hit over .300 seven times, had six 200-hit seasons, and drove in over 100 runs five times. He won four Gold Gloves, led the league's first-basemen in fielding average five times (including an errorless 1984 season), and holds the highest lifetime fielding average for first basemen. He played in every one of his teams' games in seven seasons (including the strike-shortened 1981 season), and holds the National League record for most consecutive games played (1,207). He was the National League MVP in 1974 and the runner-up in 1978. In 55 career postseason games, he hit .338 with 11 home runs and 31 RBIs and was named MVP of the 1978 and 1984 NLCS. (He also received the 1981 Roberto Clemente Award for best exemplifying baseball on and off the field.)

Davey Johnson, 2B

Orlando, Jan. 30, 1943—.261, 136 HR, 609 RBI
Johnson played in three All-Star games. In 1973 with the Braves, he hit 43 of his career 136 home runs (one of three Braves to hit at least 40 that season), finishing second in the league to Willie Stargell's 44.

Al Lopez, C

Tampa, Aug. 20, 1908—.261, 51 HR, 652 RBI
Although voted into the Hall of Fame principally on the strength of his managerial career, Lopez played nineteen seasons in the major leagues, leading the league's catchers in fielding average four times. Upon his retirement, his 1,918 games as a catcher stood as the major-league record.

Steve Carlton, P

Miami, Dec. 22, 1944—329-244, 3.22 ERA, 4136 SO
"Lefty" was a dominant, fiercely competitive pitcher. His 329 wins are second only to Warren Spahn among lefties, and his 4,136 strikeouts are exceeded only by Nolan Ryan. He notched 19 strikeouts in a game and compiled six 20-win seasons, including an astonishing 27 for the 1972 Phillies (who won only 32 other games that year), when he pitched 30 complete games and 346 innings, notched 310 strikeouts, and compiled a 1.97 ERA—all tops in the

league. He led the league in complete games three times, in innings pitched five times, and in strikeouts five times. He is one of only three pitchers to win four Cy Young awards.

Al Lopez, Mgr.

1410-1004, .584, 2 pennants, 10 second-place finishes

Other Florida-born notables include the following:

Fred McGriff, 1B	Tampa, Oct. 31, 1963—.287, 390 HR, 1192 RBI ⁶
Boog Powell, 1B	Lakeland, Aug. 17, 1941—.266, 339 HR, 1187 RBI ⁷
Jay Bell, IF	Elgin A.F.B., Dec. 11, 1965—.269, 162 HR, 732 RBI ⁸
Robby Thompson, IF	West Palm Beach, May 10, 1962—.257, 119 HR, 458 RBI
Howard Johnson, IF	Clearwater, Nov. 29, 1960—.249, 228 HR, 760 RBI ⁹
Larry Parrish, 3B	Winter Haven, Nov. 10, 1953—.263, 256 HR, 992 RBI
Dante Bichette, OF	West Palm Beach, Nov. 18, 1963—.300, 239 HR, 1002 RBI ¹⁰
Vince Coleman, OF	Jacksonville, Sept. 22, 1961—.264, 752 SB ¹¹
Warren Cromartie, OF	Miami Beach, Sept. 29, 1953—.281, 61 HR, 391 RBI
Hal McRae, OF/DH	Avon Park, July 10, 1945—.290, 191 HR, 1097 RBI
Lou Piniella, OF	Tampa, Aug. 28, 1943—.291, 102 HR, 766 RBI
Mark Whiten, OF	Pensacola, Nov. 25, 1966—.259, 105 HR, 422 RBI ¹²
Jody Davis, C	Gainesville, Nov. 12, 1956—.245, 127 HR, 490 RBI
Charles Johnson, C	Fort Pierce, July 20, 1971—.238, 79 HR, 255 RBI ¹³
Dwight Gooden, P	Tampa, Nov. 16, 1964—188-107, 3.46, 2238 SO ¹⁴

In addition to Al Lopez, four successful managers were born in Florida: Tony LaRussa (Tampa, Oct. 4, 1944—16391511, .520, through 1999), Davey Johnson (1062815, .566, through 1999), and Dick Howser (Miami, May 14, 1936—507-425, .544).

Florida has produced many other stars who, although not born in Florida, were reared and developed their baseball skills in Florida. Wade Boggs, born in Omaha, Nebraska, played high-school ball in Tampa before going on to accumulate 3,010 hits in his major-league career. Al Rosen, born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, came out of Miami High and the University of Miami to become the third baseman for the Cleveland Indians and establish himself as one of the premier hitters in the American League, hitting what remains an American League rookie-season record 37 home runs in 1950 and winning the MVP award in 1953.

José Canseco of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays was born in Havana but played at Coral Park High School in Miami. Alex Rodriguez of the Seattle Mariners was born in New York City but played at Coral Gables (Miami) High School. Knuckle-Baller Charlie Hough, born in Honolulu, attended Hialeah (Miami) High School before going on to a long career in the majors, including starting and getting the win in the Florida Marlins' inaugural game in 1993. Bucky Dent, born in Savannah, Georgia, and known principally for a lazy, three-run fly ball hit in Fenway Park on October 2, 1978, also played at Hialeah High as well as at Miami-Dade North Community College. Fred Norman, born in San Antonio, Texas, pitched for Miami Jackson High School before going on to a career during which he helped the Cincinnati Reds win two consecutive World Series in the mid-1970's. Herb Score, who was born in Rosedale, New York, and whose brilliant career with the Indians was cut

short by Gil McDougald's line drive, was a sensation at Lake Worth High School five decades ago.¹⁵

Although it was not until 1993 that a major-league baseball team was based in Florida, the state has long been the home of stand-out ballplayers.

Author's Bio

D. Culver (Skip) Smith was born and reared in West Palm Beach and is a lifelong baseball fan, especially after his great uncle brought back from the 1950 World Series for his 8th birthday a ball autographed by the entire Yankees team. Skip is a member of the South Florida Chapter of SABR and co-chairs the SABR 30 Host Committee. He is a civil trial lawyer and a partner in the national law firm Holland & Knight LLP, serving as Executive Partner of the firm's West Palm Beach office. Skip and his wife, Ellen, live in West Palm Beach.

References

¹ John B. Holway and Bob Carroll, "The 400 Greatest," Total Baseball, 6th ed., ed. John Thorn, Pete Palmer, Michael Gershman, and David Pietrusza (New York: Total Sports, 1999), pp. 116 et seq.

² Lloyd played his entire career in the Negro Leagues, and his full statistics are unavailable.

³ Jules Tygiel, "Black Ball," Total Baseball, p. 496.

⁴ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (six seasons).

⁵ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (twelve seasons).

⁶ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (fourteen seasons). McGriff led the American League in home runs in 1989 (with Toronto) and the National League in home runs in 1992 (with San Diego). He has had nine 90+ RBI seasons. He has made four All-Star Game appearances and was voted MVP of the 1994 game.

⁷ Powell made three All-Star Game appearances and was the American League MVP in 1970. Notwithstanding Powell's being listed among Holway and Carroll's "400 Greatest" (see note 1 above), Powell never has received serious Hall of Fame consideration. In the author's view Garvey gets the nod as the best at the position. One could reasonably argue that McGriff should get it.

⁸ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (fourteen seasons).

⁹ In 1991 with the Mets, Johnson led the league in HRs and RBIs with 38 and 117, yet finished only fifth in the MVP balloting, behind Terry Pendleton (ATL), Barry Bonds (PIT), Bobby Bonilla (PIT), and Will Clark (SF).

¹⁰ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (twelve seasons).

¹¹ Coleman's 752 stolen bases ranks sixth all-time. Tim Lincecum ranks fifth. (See text.) Coleman had three of the eight 100+ stolen-base seasons recorded in the 20th Century. The only other player with three is Ricky Henderson.

¹² Still active. Stats are through 1999 (ten seasons). Whiten would not be listed but for the noteworthy accomplishment of having been (at least at press time) the most recent of nine men in MLB history to hit four home runs in a game.

¹³ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (six seasons).

¹⁴ Still active. Stats are through 1999 (fifteen seasons). Gooden holds the 20th Century rookie-season strikeout record, notching 276 in 1984.

¹⁵ In his 1955 rookie season, Score posted a 16-10 record with a 2.85 ERA, a league-leading 245 strikeouts, and an opponents' batting average of .194 and was named to the All-Star team. His 245 strikeouts still stands as the AL rookie-season record. The following year he was even better: 20-9 with a 2.53 ERA, a league-leading 263 strikeouts, and a league-best opponents' batting average of .186, again being named to the All-Star team. Total Baseball, pp. 1803-1804. McDougald's line drive ended an all-but-certain Hall of Fame career the following year.

HURRICANES BASEBALL

by James L. Watt

Dr. Boman Ashe, first President of the University of Miami and a big supporter of collegiate athletics, predicted shortly after the university opened in 1927 that some day the Hurricanes would be competing athletically against national powers Notre Dame and Southern California.

While his prediction certainly came true in college football, it also became reality in college baseball. Indeed, some experts credit former head coach Ron Fraser (1963-1992) with putting college baseball "on the map," including the nationally televised College World Series from Omaha, Nebraska.

The first Miami baseball team played in 1940. They defeated Newberry College in the season opener. That same season the 'Canes played their first night game in a losing effort against the Florida Gators.

During World War II, the university suspended play. A future American League MVP played college football at Miami and no doubt would have played baseball had there been a team. His name is Al (Flip) Rosen. The author's father, Walter Watt, played college football with Rosen at Miami. Being a lifelong Indians fan, the author considered Al Rosen, the Cleveland third baseman, his boyhood idol.

In 1946 the University of Miami resumed college baseball (won 4, lost 6). The following year, they went 9-2 and were state champions.

Miami struggled in the early '50's, and then in 1956, the 'Canes named Hall of Famer Jimmy Foxx as head coach. Foxx coached Miami for two seasons, posting a 9-8 record in 1956 and an 11-12 record in 1957.

For the next five years Miami had winning seasons, but the program, like most college baseball programs, struggled financially. Facilities were meager. Then in 1963 Miami turned to Ron Fraser, the coach of the Dutch National Team, to be head coach.

Ron Fraser has been described as college baseball's Bill Veeck. A master promoter, he made the UM program the premier college baseball program of the '80's and '90's, winning the college World Series in 1982 and 1985. Equally important and through his tireless efforts, he built college baseball's premier facility, Mark Light Stadium. He installed the first artificial surface (since replaced with grass) and consistently set attendance records (163,261 in 1981, 157,653 in 1982, and 161,495 in 1992).

He raised money in unusual ways. In 1997 he held a \$5,000 per person, ten-course dinner on the playing field. Guests arrived in formal attire, and internationally recognized gourmet chefs prepared Iranian Caviar, Alaskan King Crab Legs, and Pheasant Under Glass. The evening raised over \$300,000 for the program and attracted coverage from CBS and NBC.

Another Fraser promotion was Tax Night. Fans bringing

their tax returns to the game on April 15 were admitted free, and tax-preparers, sitting on top of the dugouts, filled out fans' tax returns, which the were taken to the post office to be stamped before the midnight deadline.

Probably a more "popular" promotion was Bathing Suit Day. All patrons in bathing suits were admitted free, and not surprisingly, binoculars appeared in the Miami dugout.

A novel Fraser innovation was the Hurricane bat girls, the Sugarcane. He thought that the fans would find bat girls more interesting than bat boys.

Ron Fraser retired following the 1992 season. On April 24, 1993, his uniform number, 1, was retired. Fraser was succeeded by Brad Kelly whose team posted a 36-22 record in 1993. He was dismissed after the season following a disciplinary problem involving some team players.

Following Kelly, the 'Canes named Georgia Tech head coach Jim Morris to lead the program. At the time, Georgia Tech was ranked #1 in college baseball.

Coach Morris has set an NCAA record by guiding the 'Canes to the College World Series in each of his six years as Miami's head coach. Last year, Miami won its third national championship, defeating rival Florida State in the final College World Series game 6-5. Jim Morris named 1999 Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball and by the American Baseball Coaches' Association.

Many Miami players have gone on to play professional baseball. Many have played in the major leagues. The following is the author's All-Time Hurricanes Major League Team (asterisk designates players who are currently active):

Starting Lineup	Reserves
Dave Berg, 2B*	Charles Johnson, C*
Wayne Krenchicki, 1B	Nelson Santovenia, C
Al Rosen, 3B	Jorge Fabregas, C*
Mike Piazza, C*	Jim Maler, 1B
Greg Vaughn, RF*	Orlando Gonzalez, 1B
Pat Burnell, LF*	Mike Pagliarulo, 3B
F.P. Santangelo, CF*	Chris Howard, OF
Alex Cora, SS*	Neal Heaton, SP
Alex Fernandez, P*	Danny Graves, RP*
	Joe Grahe, RP*

Author's Bio

Jim Watt is a member of the South Florida Chapter of SABR and co-chairs the SABR 30 Host Committee. He was born and reared in Miami, is an alumnus of the University of Miami, and is a long-suffering Cleveland Indians fan. He is a former city attorney, county commissioner, and state legislator and practices law in West Palm Beach.

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THE MAGIC SEASON: MIAMI-DADE SOUTH'S 1981 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

by Douglas Lehman

Coach Charlie Greene thought the 1981 Miami-Dade Community College South Campus Jaguars might be his best team ever. He had even said so to the student newspaper in its preview of the season.¹ But, now, he was not sure any longer. The Jaguars had just lost a critical three-game series to Division IV rival Indian River Community College. At home, no less. The sweep cost the Jaguars a shot at the bye in the state tournament, which meant the South Campus Jaguars would have to do it the hard way.

Which they did. They ran the table in the state tournament with only one loss, and then they got hot. The Jaguars earned a trip to Grand Junction, Colorado, for the 1981 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) baseball tournament, and a funny thing happened to them. This team, which Coach Greene had wondered about after the Indian River sweep, swept their way to their first (and only) national baseball championship.²

The previous edition of the Jaguars had put together the worst record in Greene's thirteen seasons at the helm. He came to suburban Dade County in 1968 to form the inaugural baseball team at the new campus of Miami-Dade. So far he had been extremely successful. To the surprise of many experts his first team had a winning record overall and played .500 ball in the conference. In 1969 they won the conference and the state title, and by 1978 they had qualified for the JUCO tournament in Grand Junction, where they finished fifth. Greene had become a well-known and well-respected baseball coach, but the ring kept slipping out of his grasp. Five times during the 1970's his teams won 40 or more games but just could not make it to the Big Game. He had sent several players to professional baseball, but winning the JUCO tournament would solidify his place in college baseball.

The 1981 season began with high hopes and bad weather. Greene felt this could be a very good team. There were no stars, but stars were hard to develop in a junior college program. Typically a player came right out of high school and then, if you were lucky, you would get him for two seasons. Often players left after one season as they were drafted by a professional team or offered a scholarship at a four-year university or college. Greene had succeeded largely because Dade County was a hotbed for high school baseball and he was able to continually reload each season. But the 1980 season had been a disappointment.

Greene felt this team could hit, although there was a shortage of right-handed bats in his starting lineup. Pitching appeared to be a strength with four young men vying for starting positions: Dean Naylor, George Reyes, Prescott

Milton and Tony Arias. In his bullpen he could call on Robert Barr and Pete Ferrer. The infield had a good double-play combination with Alberto Lorenzo at shortstop and Gary Miller-Jones at second base. The outfield had some good arms, but they were not the quickest getting to the ball.³

And so the season began with a split series against Biscayne College, a four-year program. The Jaguars lost the opening game 6-5 at Biscayne College, blowing a 5-1 lead in the bottom of the ninth inning. Not the most auspicious beginning to a season. But the Jaguars bounced back in the second game at home and took a 10-6 victory to even their record for the season. One of the highlights of the second game victory was the hitting of Nelson Santovenia, who would become a major contributor during the season while shuffling between catcher and third base. His grand slam in the seventh inning provided the margin of victory as the Jaguars erased a 6-3 deficit with one swing of the bat.

The Jaguars moved into Division IV play the next weekend with a series scheduled at Palm Beach Junior College. Division IV had adopted a new playoff format for this season that allowed the team with the best divisional record to gain a bye in the state tournament. Greene felt that was an achievable goal for his team, and this weekend would begin the first step in reaching that goal.

With a sweep of the series the Jaguars moved into the level of play that Greene thought they could play. M-DCC South won game one 3-0 behind the shutout pitching of Prescott Milton, for his first victory of the season. Milton carried a no-hitter into the fifth inning only to see it broken up by Nelson Rood. George Reyes won his first game of the season in the second game, 6-1. The opening game of the series, scheduled for Friday night, was rained out and would be made up later in the season.

The following weekend it was internecine warfare as the Miami-Dade Community College, New World Center Barracudas were the opponents. The Barracudas struck first and took the opening game on Friday by a 6-2 margin. On Saturday the two teams took the field again and this time the results were much more to Coach Greene's liking. George Reyes picked up his second victory of the young season with an 8-3 win. Things were not to stay easy for long. The Jaguars and Barracudas engaged in a titanic struggle which resulted in a 12-11 Jaguar win. This game evidenced the toughness of this team. They jumped out to an early lead, which was nearly squandered until Pete Ferrer shut down the Barracudas and saved the game for Tony Arias.

By now it appeared that Charlie Greene had been correct in his early assessment of this team. They stood 5-2 for the season with a three-game series with Seminole Junior

College coming up. Nelson Santovenia added to his season totals by providing the slugging for the three-game sweep of SJC. Santovenia hit two home runs and 2 doubles for 3 RBIs and 12 total bases in the first game. This broke the school record for total bases in a game and tied the record for home runs in a game. The Jaguars won easily in both games, taking the first 10-2 and the nightcap 14-2. Dean Naylor got the win in game one with George Reyes raising his record to 3-0 with second-game victory. Tony Arias went seven innings in the series finale, winning 8-5 in a tough battle in which the Jaguars came from behind on a two-run double by outfielder Orlando Artiles in the seventh inning for the game winner. The Jaguars stood 8-2 for the season.

The Jaguars had just compiled a six-game winning streak and were playing good baseball. But the game of baseball has a way of humbling everyone, and the Jaguars embarked on a streak of uninspired games during which they would win one, then lose one, then win one, and so on. They split a series with Manatee Community College in Bradenton, winning the first 7-6 and dropping the second 12-6. A home series with Ithaca College followed with another split. The Jaguars were victorious in game one 6-5 with Sherman Bennett getting the win in relief. Ithaca College tagged the home team with a 12-6 loss as Ray Surdyk was ripped and gave up six runs in seven innings, but the loss was cemented during a five-run eighth inning for Ithaca.

As the Jaguars took the road to visit Edison Community College in Fort Myers, their record stood at 10-4, but they had not been playing their best baseball. They did manage to win the series against Edison by winning the second game of the Saturday doubleheader 19-6. The series started good with Prescott Milton twirling a complete game and winning 5-3 on Friday. But, the first game of the doubleheader on Saturday did not inspire confidence. The Buccaneers pounded Dean Naylor, who lasted only three and two-thirds innings, giving up three earned runs and nine hits. George Bezold provided the power in the first two games with two doubles, a single, and an RBI in game one and a single and triple in game two. In the second game of the doubleheader the Jaguars struck first and often. They plated six runs in the first inning, but Edison struck back in their half of the first. The Jaguars were not to be denied, however, and kept piling up runs. Orlando Artiles and Mark Miller-Jones were the big guns in the win. Both players tied single game records with three doubles a piece and six RBIs each.

The Jaguars broke the twenty-win barrier and hit Number One in the state during the same time. With a series of games against four-year institutions, the Jaguars barely played .500 baseball. They beat Wesleyan College (Connecticut) 7-3 and dropped the second game to John Jay College (N.Y.) by a 6-5 margin on March 16. George

Menendez set a school record in the John Jay loss with three triples among his four hits. The next day the Jaguars and John Jay tangled again with Bob Barr getting his first win of the season, as the Jaguars pounded the visitors, 12-2. A two-game set against New York Tech produced a pair of losses, 12-5 and 7-4. The first game was tight with Tech plating seven runs in the top of the tenth to get the victory. Still, a team record was tied as Nelson Santovenia tied the Jaguar single season record for home runs by jacking his 15th out of the park. The second game saw home runs by Ron Kelly and Nene Delgado, but they were not enough as the Jaguars fell.

Due to a rainout early in the season, the Jaguars traveled to Lake Worth for a game against Palm Beach Junior College and produced an 11-10 victory. George Reyes won his fourth game and Ron Kelly pounded another home run for the game winner in the top of the ninth. The Jaguars stood at 7-2 and tied with Indian River Community College atop the Division IV standings. A two-game set with Montclair State College (N.J.) resulted in a series split, as the Jaguars dropped the opener 6-5, while Reyes and Ferrer teamed for a two-hitter in the second, winning 2-0. Reyes went to 5-0; Ferrer set the school record with his fifth save.

It was kind of like the Civil War over the weekend when Miami-Dade North and Miami-Dade South met on the baseball field. Dade-North was the original Miami-Dade campus and had the original baseball team. They had a living legend of their own in the dugout in Demie Mainieri. Mainieri had won Dade County's first national championship at the college baseball level in 1964 when his Falcons took the JUCO tournament. He had consistently put together good and great teams but had not been able to produce another championship season. Dade-South was ranked Number One in the state and sat atop the Division IV standings with a 7-2 record (tied with Indian River). Dade-North was 8-4 in the division and currently ranked second in the state. The Jaguars opened with a 4-3, come-from-behind home victory on Friday, as George Reyes ran his record to 6-0. Saturday produced a different result. Future major leaguer Oddibe McDowell went two-for-five in game one and the Falcons took the tilt, 4-3. Nelson Santovenia continued his hot hitting by going two-for-four for the Jaguars in the loss. The second game of the doubleheader went to the Jaguars and with it the series victory. Prescott Milton won his seventh game of the season in the 4-2 win. Santovenia and Kelly provided the offense for the Jaguars.

The disappointment of the loss was evident in Coach Greene. "We are going to have to go back to the drawing board and regroup", he said after the Jaguars dropped a three-game set to Division IV rival, Indian River Community College.⁴ This was a most important series due to the change in the structure of the Division IV playoff this season. The division winner would receive a bye into the state tournament. If you did not finish first you had to play

your way in, and Charlie Greene wanted that bye. The Jaguars opened the series with a 9-5 loss to the Pioneers. George Reyes took his first defeat of the season. The team hit well, but could not get men across the plate. After a night of sleep (or maybe a lack thereof) things did not get better. The Pioneers jumped on Prescott Milton for an 11-1 victory. Dean Naylor started the second game of the double header left the game with a 5-2 lead in the hands of relief ace, Pete Ferrer. "The Mad Italian," as Ferrer was known, could not hold the lead and lost the game in the bottom of the ninth by a 6-5 score. It was Ferrer's first loss of the season. Orlando Artiles provided the offensive highlights for the Jaguars as he went three-for-four in the 9-5 loss and four-for-five in the 6-5 heartbreaker. After the weekend the Jaguars stood at 25-15 for all games and 9-6 in Division IV, now in third place behind Dade-North.

The team that Charlie Greene thought might be his best ever now had their backs up against the wall. The Division IV postseason tournament was just a few weeks away on the calendar and they Jaguars were playing inconsistent baseball at best. Following the debacle against Indian River, the Jaguars traveled to Curtis Park and met the Barracudas of Dade-New World Center for a single game, which they won 7-4. George Reyes picked up the win and Ron Kelly provided the hitting with a three for four game. Later in the week the Jaguars came home and took on Broward Community College. Dean Naylor evened his record at 4-4 in the first game with an 8-4 win on Friday. Again, the Jaguars split a Saturday doubleheader, losing the first game 4-3 as George Reyes lost his second game of the season. Prescott Milton righted the ship in the second game with a 2-1 complete game victory, raising his record to 8-2 on

the season. Nelson Santovenia continued his slugging during the series collecting another home run.

As the regular season drew to a close the Jaguars met Dade-North for a two game set in an oddity. Dade-North was a Division IV opponent, but the games did not count as division games.

April 24 brought the opening round of the Division IV tournament and the Jaguars were not favored to win. They had finished third in the Division and it was unclear what this team was made of. Coach Greene quickly found out. The Jaguars opened play in the tournament by blast-

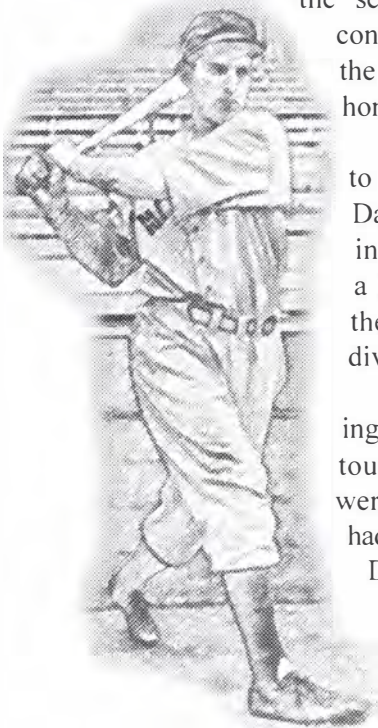
ing Broward-Central in an 11-3 rout with Nelson Santovenia, Ron Kelly and Orlando Artiles providing the firepower. Prescott Milton continued his winning ways and Pete Ferrer picked up yet another save. Santovenia provided the power the next day with a grand slam in the sixth as Dade-South walloped Dade-North 13-5 in a semi-final game played at Florida International University. George Reyes got the win as Santovenia set the single-season home-run record with his blast. This victory sent the Jaguars into the championship game and they had to wait to find out who their opponent was to be.

It turned out to be Broward-Central and it was not contest. Dade-South handled them by a 10-3 margin with Santovenia and Kelly again providing the hitting. An interesting sideline as reported by the Miami Herald involved a stranger approaching Coach Charlie Greene to make a \$1,000 pledge to his team. Greene had been attempting to raise funds to install lights at Dade-South's field with the goal of attracting a major league team for spring training. A dream that never came to fruition.⁵

Next up was a trip to Lakeland for the 1981 Florida Junior College Baseball Tournament. The tournament would be tough. Other teams in the competition would be Gulf Coast Community College, Chipola Junior College, Manatee Community College, Florida College and, of course, Indian River Community College. But the Jaguars had become a locomotive over the past few weeks and it was not likely that they would slow down now, even if they met IRCC again.

In the first game of the tournament on May 6, 1981, Nelson Santovenia was hotter than a firecracker. His four-for-five day with five runs batted in, home run, two doubles, and sacrifice fly powered the Jaguars over Gulf Coast, 13-5. Santovenia became Dade-South's all-time career RBI leader in this game. This set the stage for the game against Florida College. George Reyes twirled a nifty complete game, carrying a shutout into the ninth inning before yielding three runs in a 5-3 win. Gary Miller-Jones and Nelson Santovenia provided the hitting to carry the Jaguars to the next game.

On May 8, Dade-South gained its sixth consecutive victory with an 8-5 win over Manatee Community College. Ron Kelly stroked the game-winning home run in the seventh after Manatee walked Santovenia to get to Kelly. Prescott Milton went the distance for the win. Next up was Valencia Community College. And Valencia went down in a 3-2, extra-inning pitching gem by Dean Naylor. The Miller-Jones brothers combined to get Dade-South their first run when Gary stroked a sacrifice fly to score Mark. Mark Miller-Jones then drove in the tying run. The winning run scored when Orlando Artiles singled with the bases loaded in the top of the 11th inning. The win put Dade-South into the championship game against Chipola Junior College. Dade-South was undefeated which meant Chipola



would have to win back-to-back games against the hottest team in the state to win the tournament.

It did not happen. Chipola did win one game, as they beat the Jaguars in the first game, 14-9, but Dade-South bounced back to take the second game and win their third state title by a 6-5 count. Ace Prescott Milton pitched his second complete game in forty-eight hours to clinch the victory. His performance earned him Most Valuable Pitcher for the tournament. In the see-saw struggle Chipola got to Milton early, but Dade-South came back, led by Ron Kelly, Orlando Artiles, and Adolfo Gonzalez. Still, Chipola battled back for a 4-3 lead, but Kelly and Artiles led the comeback in the seventh with Artiles adding an additional run with an RBI double in the ninth. "It went right down to the wire," Greene said. "It could have gone either way."⁶ The much anticipated rematch with Indian River Community College was not to be. The victory earned the Jaguars a trip to Montgomery, Alabama, for the Southeast District playoffs.

The National Junior College Athletic Association Southeast District playoffs began on Friday, May 15, 1981. Dade-South played a doubleheader and overwhelmed the opposition. The first game featured an early streak by Dade-South, a charge by Gadsden (Ala.) State, another lead by Dade-South and a last gasp by Gadsden. Pete Ferrer, as he had done all season, closed it out for the Jaguars in a 10-9 win. George Bezold provided some big lumber with a home run and the Miller-Jones brothers combined for the winning run with Gary doubling to drive in Mark in the eighth inning. In the second game another come-from-behind effort was necessary. DeKalb (Ga.) South Community College jumped off to a 3-0 lead, but then the big guns came out for Dade-South. Ron Kelly provide the game-winner with a three-run home run in the fifth, and Bezold followed with a home run in the sixth. Prescott Milton held on for the win to go to 12-2 on the season.

The next day, May 16, the Jaguars ended it by beating DeKalb again, this time by a 13-6 margin. Ron Kelly and Gary Miller-Jones were the offensive stars with a two-run home run for Kelly and a two-run single for Miller-Jones. Miller-Jones was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament with a .538 batting average.⁷ The Jaguars dominated the all-tournament team with Miller-Jones, Ron Kelly, Orlando Artiles, Prescott Milton, and George Bezold all being honored for their efforts.

And so the Jaguars were off to Grand Junction, Colorado, to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association baseball tournament. Like the state tournament, the JUCO tournament is a double-elimination tournament, which means that you had to lose two games to be eliminated. The Jaguars had survived the tough state tournament with only one loss and were playing some of their best baseball. Grand Junction is a little different from Miami. It does not have the population of Miami and it does

not have the climate of Miami. It sits at a high elevation as opposed to Miami's near sea-level location. Yet, it is the Mecca of junior college baseball, and Charlie Greene and the Dade-South Jaguars were glad to be going.

This team went to Colorado and found the weather and climate to their liking. They jumped out in the first-round game and routed Indian Hills (Iowa) Community College 12-4. Prescott Milton tossed a complete game, and third baseman Ralph Codinach provided the fireworks by going four-for-four with a home run. The second game for the Jaguars was against Pima (Arizona) Community College. Dean Naylor got rocked in the first inning, with Rick Ames coming in to relieve him. The Jaguars turned it around with the hitting of Ron Kelly, as he pounded his second home run of the tournament, along with another home run by Codinach and a shot by Adolfo Gonzalez. This game, as well as the first, was called after seven innings due to the "slaughter rule," by which a team with a lead of eight or more runs is given the win.

Mercer (N.J.) Community College provided the victim in the third game, as the "slaughter rule" was invoked for the third straight Jaguars game. Ames came in again and got the win in the 16-6 victory. Ralph Codinach continued to wield a hot bat, and Nelson Santovenia went four-for-four. This victory ensured the Jaguars a slot in the title game. Against Louisburg (N.C.) Community College the Jaguars had their hands full for eight innings, but a four-run eighth left Dade-South with an 8-3 victory and a date with destiny against Seminole (Oklahoma) Junior College.⁸

Because Seminole had already lost one game in the tournament, the Jaguars needed only one win to claim the national title, but it was not going to be that easy. A side story developed at this time as well. Coach Greene had expected the tournament to end on Thursday night, May 28. Rain, however postponed the game and caused the championship to be scheduled for Friday night. The Jaguars missed their Friday morning flight out of Grand Junction, and unlike Miami, they could not get another flight until Monday. As a result the team remained in Grand Junction for the weekend at an additional cost estimated to be \$2,500-3,000.⁹

The championship game itself was one of the wildest ever witnessed in Grand Junction (or most anywhere else). Dade-South jumped out to a 5-0 lead after one inning and added another run in the second. Then the roof started to cave in. Seminole struck back for four runs in its half of the third inning, and after three innings the score stood 6-4 in favor of the Jaguars. Dade-South added three runs in its half of the fourth, but Seminole roared back with three of its own. Dade-South added one more in the top of the fifth. The roof finally collapsed in the bottom of the fifth. Seminole shelled Dade-South pitching for six runs to take a 13-10 lead. Seminole added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth for a 15-10 lead. Finally, the Jaguars offense

kicked in again with a five-run seventh and an additional run in the eighth. Seminole tallied two runs in the bottom of the eighth for a 17-16 lead as Dade-South led off the ninth inning.

The ninth inning had all the drama you could want in any baseball game, much less a national championship game. With one out, the Jaguars coaxed three walks out of the Seminole pitchers. Gary Miller-Jones lifted a sacrifice fly to score Dave Carr to tie the game. Mark Miller-Jones, Gary's brother, moved to third on the sacrifice fly. Moments later Mark Miller-Jones scored on a wild pitch to give the Jaguars the 18-17 lead.

Now Greene had to make a decision. He brought in Dean Naylor, one of his starters to pitch the ninth inning, and Naylor responded like a champion. He shut Seminole down and the Jaguars had copped the crown. The final batter swung and missed and the celebration was on. The Jaguars, 21-24 in 1980, were on top of the junior college baseball world and Charlie Greene had his championship.

The 1981 Miami-Dade Community College South Campus Jaguar baseball team finished the season 45-18 overall and 11-7 in conference play. There had been bumps in the road, but this team had persevered, and when it was time to produce, they produced. Charlie Greene earned "Coach of the Year" honors for the efforts of this team. The entire infield was named to the all-tournament team:

§ 1B -	Ron Kelly
§ 2B -	Gary Miller-Jones
§ SS -	Alberto Lorenzo
§ 3B -	Ralph Codinach
§ C-	Nelson Santovenia

Individually the Jaguars produced many superlatives that year. Ron Kelly and Nelson Santovenia set a new school record for home runs in a single season with 12, and Santovenia set the career record with 21. He further set a career RBI record with 92, while Kelly set a new single season high at 67. Orlando Artiles added to the record book by compiling 85 base hits, besting the former record of 80. Shortstop Al Lorenzo and second baseman Gary Miller-Jones provided sterling defense up the middle, and the team set a double-play record by turning sixty-seven. Relief specialist Pete Ferrer set the team mark for saves with nine. Team records were set for doubles (132), home runs (47), hits (682), RBIs (401), runs scored (496), and innings pitched (544).¹⁰

Many of Greene's players went on to play at four-year colleges or professionally. Ron Kelly signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles. Orlando Artiles, Nelson Santovenia, and Prescott Milton signed with local baseball powerhouse University of Miami and helped them establish themselves as perennial national contenders. Dave Carr was invited to UM as a walk-on. Gary Miller-Jones and Ralph Codinach

signed with the University of South Alabama. George Bezold and Pete Ferrer signed with the University of Alabama. Jeff Goode signed with Stephen F. Austin University in Texas, and Dean Naylor and George Reyes moved up I-75 to play at the University of Florida. Bob Barr signed with Louisiana Tech, and Nene Delgado signed with local Florida International University, itself starting to establish itself on the national level. Greene said, "All our sophomores, starters and reserves, go on simply because they are from Dade-South."¹¹

One other first was set by this team. According to reports, they were the first junior college baseball team to receive championship rings. The rings were 10 karat gold and had the player's last name and uniform number engraved on them. They also were engraved with "'81 National Champs" and had the players full name, number, and position engraved on the inside of the band. Additionally, each player received a plaque from the Worth Equipment Company and a special bat from Hillerich & Bradsby.¹²

Author's Bio

Doug Lehman serves as Regional Leader of the South Florida Regional of SABR and is a member of the SABR 30 Host Committee. He is Assistant Library Director of Public Services at Miami-Dade Community College, Kendall Campus and is a devoted Detroit Tigers fan (who will be judging Comerica Park very carefully this summer, as if it could ever hold a candle to Tiger Stadium). Doug lives in Miami.

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WRITES OF SPRING

by Dan Zachofsky

Spring training is a natural happening for baseball fans, players, and everyone connected with the game. It is the supreme experience—it is about the passage of time, the rites of spring, a rebirth, a reawakening, or even a new beginning. For many players the rites of spring mean an opportunity to begin training with a clean slate and high expectations for the new season in the sun of the Grapefruit or Cactus league. According to Will "the Thrill" Clark of the Baltimore Orioles, as he prepares for the new season, "Spring training is the ultimate 'rite' for the players to get back onto their field after months of wintry weather. It is our rites for a fresh, new start to begin the season."

Spring training is a magical time for the players who want to sharpen their skills and for the new players (rookies) who want to earn a spot on their team roster. The veterans concentrate on refining their skills, getting their timing and batting stroke ready for the new season. The rookies want to make an impression on the coaches and especially the manager. For them, spring training statistics and getting on base is a big deal. And it isn't uncharacteristic to observe the rookies hustling, stealing bases, and doing all the little things that could earn them a job on the regular twenty-five player roster.

Spring training is a winter phenomenon that begins in mid-February, when the pitchers and catchers migrate south and west to warmer climates to thaw in Florida and Arizona. The rest of the position players report to their spring-training camp during the third week of February, although all players are contractually required to report at the beginning of March. In reality, sixty or more focused players will compete to secure a spot on their team, with only twenty-five positions available. For this writer, who has spent six weeks at baseball camps in Florida conducting research about the spring-training process, it is also his writes of spring.

As I travel north on the interstate highway system to visit the spring training camps of the Orioles, Cardinals, Expos, Mets, and Dodgers, I am overcome with feelings of high expectations and optimism. For the next six weeks and about thirty exhibition games, every team will start the new season in April in first place. You can take the spring game statistics and throw them out the window. The daily compilation of batting statistics pre-

sented by the media department is completely meaningless when the first batter approaches the plate during the cold days in early April. The players hope to peak by the end of spring and experience this continuation at the start of the new season.

The players are more laid back and relaxed about getting ready for the season. During the stretching exercises I observed early one morning at Roger Dean Stadium, in Jupiter, Florida, the players seem almost giddy, as they cavort and act silly in a childish sort of way, while enjoying their moments in the sun. The players seem to be delighted to be away from the winter chills. They are reunited with familiar teammates, the camaraderie evident as they hug each other and continually exchange high-fives. This is the passage and rites of spring for the men who year after year make baseball memories for fans everywhere.

Writing about my first spring training evoked childhood memories. It brought back memories of cheering baseball fans, the smell of hot dogs, and the taste of salty peanuts, as I passed by the stadium concession stands at many spring training complexes. The most vocal call came from the vendors selling beer, who could be heard from afar, but their shrill somehow provided a thirst for the game and the brew.

Jonathan Fraser Light in his book, *The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball*, made reference to David Falkner in *The Short Season* (1986), subtitled "The Hard Work and High Time in the Spring." Light reiterated my own personal feelings and wrote:

Spring training. Even the sound of it has attracted me for more than forty years of my life. . . . I wanted to experience spring training myself, precisely because what I knew about it existed exclusively in my imagination—and my imagination, it turned out, was driven not so much by anything so complex as the problem of putting a multimillion-dollar organization into winning gear as of trying to be faithful to old childhood memories.

Old childhood memories, like hearing the voice of Phil Rizzuto on the radio as he exclaimed "Holy Cow!" when Mickey Mantle hit a wind-blown home run at Fort Lauderdale Stadium during the 1960's. The game is still played the same, but the spring-training complexes have changed—world-class conditioning equipment in lavish

rooms, six practice fields to work on fundamental skills and receive small group instruction from the coaching staff, especially Hall of Fame greats invited to Florida and Arizona to help out for six weeks. The spectators get up close and personal to the players in bleacher areas and a grassy seating section called the berm, where the fans relax with beach chairs or on a blanket with a picnic lunch, and can almost reach out and touch the players. Many fans wait for hours just to have some memorabilia autographed by their favorite players.

The Grapefruit League in Florida comprises twenty major-league teams. The players work hard and long hours during spring training, most are dedicated to their trade and to improve their game, but most teams have no chance whatsoever to win their division or make the playoffs, and less likely to play in the World Series. However, for six weeks they practice fundamentals and daily drills, the repetition over and over again-the pitchers work on PFP drills, known as pitchers fielding practice, when they have to cover first base when the first baseman has to make the play. Some players complain that spring training is too long, that it should be shortened from six weeks to four, and fans dread those boring

split-squad games when their favorite players are no-shows. Taking everything into consideration, the players enjoy the sunny weather in Florida and Arizona and find spring training an exciting time of the year. And as a fan of the game, and living out my childhood dream to meet my baseball heroes, again, this is my write of spring.

Author's Bio

Dan Zachofsky is a new member of SABR. He recently had his first book, Collecting Baseball Memorabilia: A Handbook, published by McFarland. He currently is writing a book on spring training, for which this article will be the introduction. Dan has taught physical education in Fort Lauderdale for 26 years and lives in Coral Springs, Florida.



*Roger Dean Stadium, Jupiter, Florida
Photo courtesy of Jupiter Stadium, Ltd.*

THE SENIOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME CAME (AND WENT)

by James L. Watt

The Senior Professional Baseball Association: an idea whose time may never come-or maybe it came and went.

Jim Morley developed the idea of a seniors baseball league after watching the success of the Senior PGA Tour and reading about a seniors golf tournament in Brisbane, Australia. At the time, Morley was on vacation in Australia.

More than forty potential owners submitted applications for team ownership at a cost of approximately \$1 million. The eight selected franchises each had a 21-man roster, with players receiving between \$4,000 and \$15,000 and a maximum player salary budget of \$550,000 per team. The league projected that each team needed to average 1,800 fans per home game to break even.

The Southern Division consisted of the Ft. Myers Sun Sox, managed by Pat Dobson, the Gold Coast Suns (playing in Miami or Pompano Beach), managed by Earl Weaver, the St. Lucie Legends, managed by Graig Nettles, and the West Palm Beach Tropics, managed by Dick Williams. The Northern Division had the Bradenton Explorers, managed by Clete Boyer, the Orlando Juice, managed by Gates Brown, the St. Petersburg Pelicans, managed by Bobby Tolan, and the Winter Haven Super Sox, managed by Ed Nottle.

The current owner of the Florida Marlins, John Henry, was part owner of the Tropics along with fellow Boca Raton resident Don Sider. Curt Flood served as league commissioner.

Larry Brown, a former major league infielder from Lake Worth, was one of the thousands of former players who received invitations to try out for a team. "Some people think this is going to be like an old-timer's game, but I don't think it will be successful unless they have guys who

can really play. They'll come out for one Sunday to watch Luke Appling but they won't do it every day," observed Brown somewhat prophetically.¹

After signing stadium leases, owners concentrated on signing big-name players to build fan support. They needed some stars.

The St. Lucie Legends traded outfielders Bobby Jones and Champ Summers, catcher Steve Yeager, first baseman Ron Jackson, and a pitcher to be named later for the right to sign Vida Blue, age 40. The Legends hoped to add Blue to a quality pitching staff that included Jerry Koosman, Don Gullet, Ross Grimsley, Dave LaRoche, and John D'Acquisto.

The West Palm Beach Tropics quickly signed the major league record saves holder, Rollie Fingers, 43. "Surprisingly, my arm felt better than I thought it would," said Fingers. "I actually felt better than I did when I retired in 1985," he added.² For run production, the Tropics signed Dave Kingman, 40. Kingman had hit 442 home runs in his 16-year major league career.

The first and only complete season began its 72-game schedule on November 1, 1989. While the league's opening day attracted some attention, the league competed for fans with pro football's Miami Dolphins and Tampa Bay Buccaneers and college football's Florida State Seminoles, Florida Gators and eventual national champion Miami Hurricanes.

For a typical newspaper account (*The Palm Beach Post* on November 29, 1989):

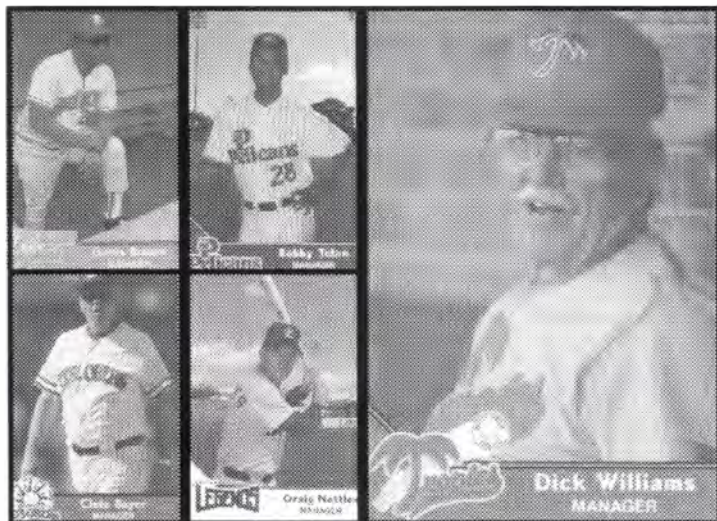
KINGMAN, PUJOLS SPARK TOPICS TO 11-1 VICTORY

Dave Kingman hit a two-run homer, and Luis Pujols added a home run to back Juan Eichelberger in West Palm Beach's 11-1 victory over Bradenton in a Senior Professional Baseball League game Tuesday.

The Tropics (16-5) gave Eichelberger (4-1) all the runs he would need in the second inning. Ron Washington tripled and scored on a single by Tito Landrum. Rodney Scott made it 2-0 with a single off losing pitcher Rick Peterson (1-1).

Stu Cliburn of the Explorers (8-12) broke up the shutout with a solo homer off Eichelberger in the seventh.

Pete Broberg, one of the early college bonus babies, was (and is) a prominent Palm Beach attorney. While Pete wanted to pitch for the Tropics, he could not neglect his law practice.



The following report appeared in *The Palm Beach Post* on November 27, 1989:

BROBERG, TROPICS GET ANOTHER SUNDAY WIN

If it's Sunday, Pete Broberg must be the winning pitcher.

Broberg kept alive his record of pitching-and winning-every Sunday since the Senior Professional Baseball Association season opened. But this one was a lot tougher than the first three.

The 6-foot-3 right-hander got out of his sickbed Sunday and pitched the West Palm Beach Tropics (15-5) to a 4-2 victory over the Orlando Juice (6-11) in front of 1,099 at Municipal Stadium.

Broberg lowered his ERA to 2.05. But the Tropics, shut out on three hits by right-hander Bob Glasco for five innings, had to rally for one run in the sixth and two in the seventh to win it. Left-hander Paul Mirabella pitched two scoreless innings for his first save.

"He must have been throwing 90 miles an hour," Tropics third baseman Toby Harrah said of Glasco, who left with a 2-1 lead after Jerry White doubled and scored on Harrah's single in the sixth.

"Pete pitched an outstanding ballgame," Tropics manager Dick Williams said. "We never expected to get seven innings out of him."

"Occasionally I threw the ball pretty hard," said Broberg, who admitted he felt a little weak from the flu, "but mostly I just tried to throw in zones and hoped they'd hit it at somebody."

As the inaugural season progressed, it became obvious that fans were not excited about this senior baseball product. Critics appeared. New York Mets announcer Tim McCarver thought senior play was embarrassing. McCarver said, "I just think it's an undignified way of playing the game of baseball. . . . It's not that I'm overwhelmed with reverence for the game, but I do have a certain amount of respect and pride for the game and I think it's being tarnished." McCarver had only seen parts of three games on television when he made those comments.³

Former big league pitcher Jim Kaat echoed McCarver's comments. "Guys can't play baseball any more like senior golfers can play golf . . . there's too much disparity in the talent level now. I don't find it enjoyable but I was hoping I could," said Kaat.⁴

On January 21, 1990, the West Palm Beach Tropics clinched the regular season title with a 4-3 win over the Ft. Myers Sun Sox. Ron Washington led the Tropics with two hits, including a two-run home run. The Tropics finished with a league best record of 47-17.

Southern Division Runner-up Ft. Myers played the Bradenton Explorers in the first playoff game. The eventual championship game (no best 4 of 7) saw the St. Petersburg Pelicans upset the favored West Palm Beach Tropics for the SPBA championship.

While the inaugural season was successful in that all

eight teams finished the season, and the post season championship playoffs completed, the league was in trouble financially. Attendance was poor and revenue from corporate sponsors and television less than expected. The West Palm Beach Tropics led the league in attendance with an average of 1,433 per game. Ft. Myers was second in attendance with an average of 1,324 and St. Petersburg was third at 1,035. They were the only three clubs that averaged at least 1,000 fans per game. The St. Lucie Legends averaged 643. The lowest figure was reported by the Orlando Juice who averaged only 351 per game. And not only were fans missing, but the team owner as well. Orlando owner Phil Breen, a former convicted embezzler, was avoiding both FBI and IRS agents.

"From the start, we expected attendance to pick up after Thanksgiving when the snowbirds start arriving," said Rick Horrow, president of the league.⁵ "This league is based on future growth," Horrow said. "We're looking at short-term losses and long-term profits."⁶

The league looked to Arizona and California for new franchises. Expansion would bring more exposure and, hopefully, more revenue from corporate sponsorship and television advertising.

The League added two new teams, the Sun City Bay (Arizona) and the San Bernardino Pride (California). The two new teams joined the St. Petersburg Pelicans, the Ft. Myers Sun Sox, the Daytona Beach Explorers (relocated from Bradenton), and the West Palm Beach Tropics. The St. Lucie Legends, Gold Coast Suns, Orlando Juice, and Winter Haven Super Sox suspended operations.

The reorganized six-team league reduced its schedule from 72 games to 56 games. After completing slightly less than half of the season, however, the second season came to an end. On December 26, 1990, Jim Morley, the league founder and owner of the St. Petersburg Pelicans, made the announcement. He hoped the league would regroup the next year.

Next year never came.

Author's Bio

Jim Watt is a member of the South Florida Chapter of SABR and co-chairs the SABR 30 Host Committee. He was born and reared in Miami, is an alumnus of the University of Miami, and is a long-suffering Cleveland Indians fan. He is a former city attorney, county commissioner, and state legislator and practices law in West Palm Beach.

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⁶ *Palm Beach Post*, Dec. 18, 1989

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SPRING TRAINING

by Brad Van Bibber

Economic-impact studies done in recent years have demonstrated a substantial beneficial impact on the economies of the states and counties that host Major League Baseball's Spring Training. The contribution to the state's economy during March of each year is estimated to be \$15-20 million per team.

In 2000, eighteen cities hosted the twenty teams that make up the Spring Training's Grapefruit League in Florida.

A study conducted by Van Horn & Associates in 1991 concluded that the Grapefruit League, then comprising eighteen teams, generated \$305 million for Florida's economy, an average of \$16.9 million per team. The total amount includes \$7.8 million from sales and bed taxes. The largest source of direct expenditures were the fans. The 1.3 million fans who attended Grapefruit League games in the year studied spent \$98.9 million. Of those fans, 61% were from out-of-state. The nonresidents' expenditures averaged \$63.42 per person per day—a total of \$91.5 million.¹

According to a more recent economic analysis compiled by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the nine teams that train in Polk, Hillsborough, Sarasota, Pinellas, and Manatee counties themselves pumped \$227 million into Florida's statewide economy. Of that amount, \$199 million benefited the governments and businesses of the five host counties themselves.

Economic-impact surveys conducted on Arizona's Cactus League show some differences from the Grapefruit League studies. The Cactus League currently comprises the following teams and cities:

<u>Team</u>	<u>City (County)</u>
Anaheim Angels	Tempe (Maricopa)
Arizona Diamondbacks	Tucson (Pima)
Chicago Cubs	Mesa (Maricopa)
Chicago White Sox	Tucson (Pima)
Colorado Rockies	Tucson (Pima)
Milwaukee Brewers	Maryvale (Maricopa)
Oakland Athletics	Phoenix (Maricopa)
San Diego Padres	Peoria (Maricopa)
San Francisco Giants	Scottsdale (Maricopa)
Seattle Mariners	Peoria (Maricopa)

In 1998, the Behavior Research Center conducted an economic-impact analysis of the Cactus League. The research showed total expenditures of \$198.6 million. The study did not, however, include factors such as the new stadium construction or the teams' and staffs' spending.

As in Florida, the majority of the expenditures came from the fans. Also as in Florida, the majority (58%) of the

Florida's Spring Training Grapefruit League

<u>Team</u>	<u>City (County)</u>
Atlanta Braves	Kissimmee/Walt Disney World (Osceola)
Baltimore Orioles	Fort Lauderdale (Broward)
Boston Red Sox	Fort Myers (Lee)
Cincinnati Reds	Sarasota (Sarasota)
Cleveland Indians	Winter Haven (Polk)
Detroit Tigers	Lakeland (Polk)
Florida Marlins	Viera (Brevard)
Houston Astros	Kissimmee (Osceola)
Kansas City Royals	Davenport/Baseball City (Polk)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Vero Beach (Indian River)
Minnesota Twins	Fort Myers (Lee)
Montreal Expos	Jupiter (Palm Beach)
New York Mets	Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie)
New York Yankees	Tampa (Hillsborough)
Philadelphia Phillies	Clearwater (Pinellas)
Pittsburgh Pirates	Bradenton (Manatee)
St. Louis Cardinals	Jupiter (Palm Beach)
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	St. Petersburg (Pinellas)
Texas Rangers	Port Charlotte (Charlotte)
Toronto Blue Jays	Dunedin (Pinellas)



904,224 fans to attend Cactus League games were from outside the state. The average expenditures per person were considerably higher than Florida: \$201 per day. This may be partly due to the fact that the median age of Cactus League fans was lower than in Florida and that in most cases (61%), Spring Training was the primary reason for the visit to Arizona. The study showed that the average fan attended 2.8 games and stayed 5.4 nights.

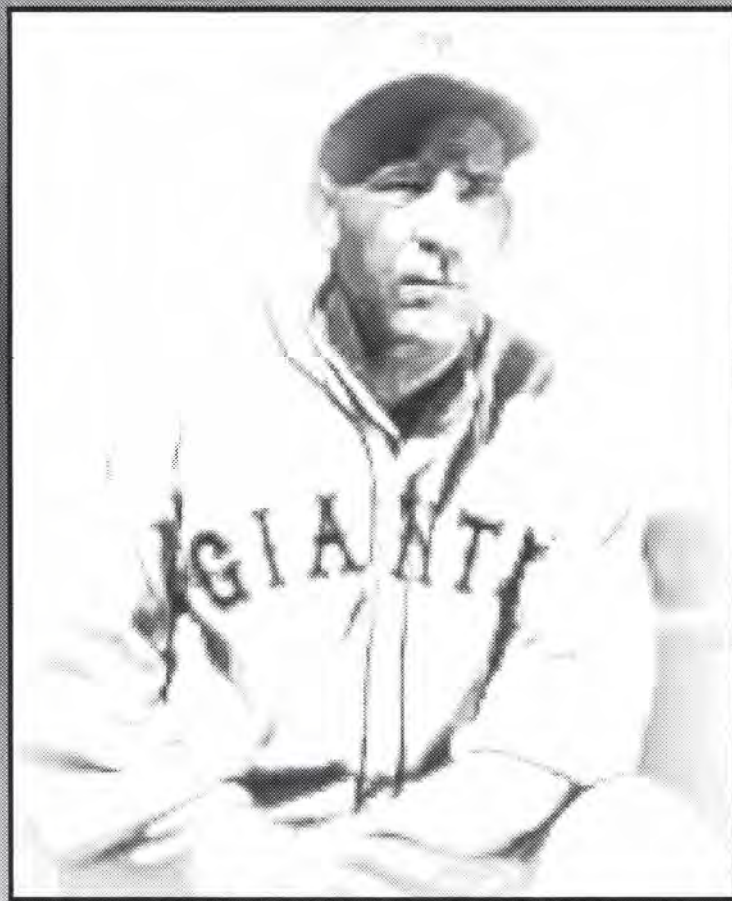
Author's Bio

Brad Van Bibber is a member of the staff of Jupiter Stadium, Ltd., which operates Roger Dean Stadium, the spring home of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Montreal Expos and the regular-season home of the Florida State League Jupiter Hammerheads.

Reference

¹ Total Grapefruit League attendance exceeded 1.5 million in 2000.

LATIN AMERICAN BASEBALL



**History and
Influence**

BEISBOL AMERICA:

A PRESPECTIVE ON LATINOS IN THE GAMES

by Anthony Salazar

During the last half of the 1990's, Latinos have made significant contributions to the national pastime. Not only have the sheer numbers of players of Latin descent increased in the past decade, but also their exploits on the field have created the heroes that we know today. As we enter a new century of baseball, Latin players no longer can be overlooked; they represent a considerable number in the game.

A 1999 report conducted by the Center for the Study of Sport in Society concluded that for the first time, Latinos constitute up to 25% of all players in Major League Baseball. According to the study, Latino player presence has increased since 1990 from a rate of 13% to 25% in 1998. In 1997 the Latino ball-player population stood at 24% of all major leaguers.

Among those 25%, the majority of Latinos were middle infielders, constituting 44% of all second basemen and 34% of all shortstops. Compare those statistics to those for the same positions in 1983, when 14% of all second basemen and 13% of all shortstops were Latino. In just 15 short years, the figure has increased dramatically.

Consider something else. The 1999 All-Star Game ballot listed a total of 255 players, 127 American Leaguers and 128 Nationals. Latino players accounted for 22% of the AL names and 25% of the NL names. Three of the major 1999 season award-winners were Latin: Pedro Martinez (AL Cy Young), Ivan Rodriguez (AL MVP), and Carlos Beltran (AL Rookie of the Year).

Latino players have always been a part of America's game, but it seems that the Latin explosion really took shape, as some would argue, during the heyday of Fernandomania. The Latinization of baseball was just beginning to bloom.

Despite the long history of Latinos in baseball, particularly with the flood of Latinos in the 1950's and 1960's, not a single Spanish surname could be found in Major League Baseball's All-Century team. Where was Roberto Clemente? Where was Juan Marichal? Minnie Minoso or Felipe Alou? Should baseball decide to re-create this list for the 21st century, one can be assured that the list will be dominated by Latin players.

In 1997, all but two major league teams had tapped into the Latin market in the Dominican Republic. Some of the more astute clubs, such as the Los Angeles Dodgers, have been in Latin America for many years. Their baseball academies have been helpful to their young players who had just signed contracts and were beginning to understand how professional baseball operates.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Latino population in the United States will increase to 40 million in 2010. In response to the growing number of potential fans in the Latino market, major league teams have created marketing departments specifically catering to the Latino community.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, Florida Marlins, Arizona Diamondbacks, New York Mets, Anaheim Angels, and San Diego Padres will spend time this season looking for more ways to market their team to Latinos in their cities and beyond.


The Padres were the vanguards of this marketing movement. Enriqu  Morones, the club's vice president for Hispanic marketing, began the Latin marketing campaign by organizing Padres games in Mexico and by bringing in customers from Tijuana, Mexico, on buses for Sunday games. Response to his programs have been successful, as the Padres have seen their Latino fan base grow by thousands.

The Padres had already attempted to build a bridge to the neighbors to the south by opening the Padres Baseball Store in Tijuana Plaza, becoming the first-ever major league team to open a store and ticket outlet in Mexico. They also created a program called "Domingo Padres Tecat " in 1996, where they brought fans from across the border in buses to Padre games using Tecat  beer as corporate sponsors for the Sunday games.

The following year, they brought major league baseball to Monterrey, Mexico, when they hosted "La Primera Serie," becoming the first major league team to play a regular-season game in Mexico. The game was a hit. The teams packed the Mexican stadium, as two nations watched what may be considered a dress rehearsal for a major league franchise in Mexico one day.

This season, Major League Baseball, recognizing the important contributions Latinos have made to the game, designated March 2000 as "Month of the Americas," which celebrated the rich Latin heritage in baseball. Spring training games were played in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Venezuela and were televised in the United States by Spanish-language networks. The games were part of a





grander plan to enfranchise the Latin experience in the 2000 season, as MLB attempted to reach out into the Latino community in the same spirit as individual clubs have done.

As the years go by, the number of Latinos in baseball will increase, as the numbers of Latinos in the general U.S. population will increase. Not only are advertisers quick to realize the potential profits from marketing their product to this growing demographic, but also Major League Baseball is realizing the value proposition. It is the major league teams in their respective cities with high concentrations of Latinos fans that will benefit most. The team with the popular Latin players will leverage the name recognition to reach the fan and fill the ball park seats.

Never before has the Latin player had this kind of leverage. For so many years, the Latin player has been underappreciated and overlooked. As the Latinos' exploits on the field become increasingly pronounced, the Latino fans will continue cheering, and the rest of the field will jump on the bandwagon.

In the not-too-distant future, Latino ball players likely will represent up to 50% of the names on major league rosters.

Author's Bio

Anthony Salazar is a member of SABR and a staff writer and co-owner of LatinoBaseball.com. He currently is writing and co-producing a documentary on the history of Latinos in baseball. He lives in Seattle.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARRIBBEAN PLAYERS IN ORGANIZED BASEBALL

by Eduardo Valero

Colombian second baseman Luis Castro and Cuban outfielder Armando Marsans were the first Latin American players in the Major Leagues. Castro wore the Philadelphia Athletics uniform in 1902, while Marsans broke in 1911 with Cincinnati. Prior to these two was Esteban Bellan, an infielder-outfielder who played in the National Association with the Troy Haymakers in 1871 and 1872 and with the New York Mutuals in 1873.

Since then nearly one thousand Latin American and Caribbean players have participated in the major leagues. Had it not been for the racial barrier that prevented colored players' participation, at least twenty had the tools to be stars in the Big Leagues, including: Cubans Martin Dihigo, Cristobal Torriente, and José de la Caridad Mendez; Puerto Ricans Francisco Coimbre, Pedro Cepeda, Pedro Miguel Caratini, and Emilio Navarro; Dominicans Juan (Tetelo) Vargas and Horacio (Rabbit) Martinez; and Venezuelan Vidal Lopez.

In the globalization of baseball, Latin America and the Caribbean are second to none. Contrary to what may be common belief, it was not the coaches and players of organized ball who fostered baseball in Latin America. Much of the credit must be given to the Cubans, not only in their own country but also in the whole Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Colombia (later Panama). The Cuban Professional League was organized in 1878, only two years after the National Association. Cuban teams also traveled extensively to Nicaragua, Mexico, and

other Central American countries. Credit also is due the Negro Leagues teams that from 1915 on barnstormed during the winter to Latin American countries, participating in their local tournaments. Later in the 1930's, minor league teams also played in Latin America.

In its development, baseball had to face the competition of soccer as its national sport in many Latin American countries, especially in Central and South America. Not only is soccer the most popular sport worldwide, it does not demand the same physical stamina that baseball does.

As time goes by, the number of Latin American and Caribbean players in organized baseball continues to increase. Of the 2,994 players in the rosters of all the teams from rookie to major leagues born outside the United States, 91% are from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today serious consideration is being given by Major League Baseball and the Players Syndicate to organize in the near future a World Cup around the month of November, probably somewhere in Arizona. The contemplated participants: dream teams from Japan, Korea, Cuba, Taiwan, U.S.A., Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. If it comes to pass, it will outshine the World Series. The time is right.

Author's Bio

Eduardo Valero is a member of SABR and chairs the Latin America Committee. He is a sportswriter and historian and lives in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

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NUMBER 24 WAS A PUERTO RICO WINTER LEAGUE HALL OF FAMER

Remembering “Tany” (Tony) Pérez’s Puerto Rico Winter League Career

by Tomas E. Van Hyning

There was much joy in Puerto Rico and Cuba this past January when Atanasio “Tany” Pérez—”Tony” Pérez to big-league baseball fans—was elected to Cooperstown on his ninth try. His 385 votes on the 499 ballots cast by ten-year or longer members of the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) made him the first Cuban-born ballplayer to be voted in by the BBWAA, and only the second Cuban—following Martín Dihigo—to be enshrined in Cooperstown.

Tany Pérez was already a Hall of Famer when he received a phone call from Jack O’Connell of the BBWAA. Pérez, who wore the Santurce Crabbers flannels in the Puerto Rico Winter League for ten seasons, was inducted into the Puerto Rico Professional Baseball Hall of Fame on October 20, 1996. Inductees in that Hall of Fame and in Cooperstown who once played for Santurce include Roberto Clemente, Orlando Cepeda, Leon Day, Josh Gibson, and Satchel Paige, plus Pérez.

My interest in Tany Pérez’s professional baseball career stems from the fact that I lived in a Santurce neighborhood at two different intervals: as a child (1960-66) and as an adult (1980-84). Santurce, a section of Puerto Rico’s capital, San Juan, was first shown on a map prepared by Spanish cartographers in 1519. Spanish officials called Santurce “Cangrejos” during the 16th and 17th centuries due to its crab-shaped layout on the map. Hence the nickname “Cangrejeros” or Crabbers for the baseball team.

Tany Pérez’s Santurce Debut (1964-1965)

The first professional baseball game I attended was in November 1964 between the Crabbers and the Arecibo Wolves. I remember the crowd leaving the ballpark in a festive mood after 22-year-old Tany Pérez’s two-run homer in the home ninth gave Santurce a 5-3 win. Miguel “Mike” Cuéllar was the Arecibo starter, and he was good. But Santurce came out ahead, and it made for a fun ride home with Dad.

Santurce was the class of the 1964-65 season. Their pitching staff included Juan “Terín” Pizarro, a 19-game winner with the 1964 Chicago White Sox, Fred Talbot of the

White Sox, George Brunet of the Los Angeles Angels, league vet Rubén Gómez, and reliever Jim Dickson. Puerto Rico League teams were allowed eight “Imports” or non-Puerto Rican/U.S. Virgin Islands players. A 22-year-old Pérez was a Santurce “Import” at third and first base. Other Santurce “Imports” were Jim Beauchamp at first/outfield, Puerto Rico League batting champ Lou Johnson, New York Mets catcher Jesse Gonder, White Sox second base prospect Marv Staehle, and future Boston Red Sox manager Joe Morgan, who filled in capably in the infield and outfield.

Tany Pérez was a genuine big-league prospect due to a superb season with the San Diego Padres of the Pacific Coast League prior to his late-season call-up by the 1964 Cincinnati Reds. Puerto Rico’s Winter League was a “AAA+” circuit, with better talent than the AAA minor leagues but a notch below big-league caliber. Pérez’s Santurce debut was on October 23, 1964, and he drove in a run against the visiting Ponce Lions. Pizarro bested Steve Hargan, 5-1, before 10,437 fans at Hiram Bithorn Municipal Stadium, shared by the Crabbers and their archrivals, the San Juan Senators.

San Juan, led by player-manager Roberto Clemente, finished fourth in the seventy-game season and faced Santurce in one best-of-seven semifinal series by virtue of the Crabbers’ first-place regular-season finish. Tany Pérez endeared himself to the Santurce faithful with six RBI’s in that series, capped by a game-winning, three-run homer in Game 6 that propelled Santurce into the league finals against the Mayagüez Indians. Santurce/San Juan players, including Tany Pérez, Marv Staehle, Jerry McNertney, Duke Carmel, and losing pitcher Bob Priddy, stayed at Bithorn Stadium for several hours after the last out. Priddy was tired, having started a game two days earlier before being summoned by Clemente in Game 6. Pérez noted that the wind was blowing in from left-center at Bithorn and was not sure that the game-winning homer would go out. Duke Carmel, who almost caught Pérez’s blast, said that Santurce/San Juan fans were the winners after watching six action-packed ballgames at Bithorn, capacity of about 20,000.

Santurce won the 1964-65 championship by besting

Santurce won the 1964-65 championship by besting Mayagüez in six ballgames. The Indians' pitching ace was Dennis McLain, and they had a working agreement with the Detroit Tigers that resulted in Willie Horton, Jim Northrup, Joe Sparma, Mickey Stanley, and other young "Bengals"

The 1972-73 Crabbers looked solid on paper with Juan Beníquez, Ron Cey, Willie Crawford, Don Baylor, and Tany Pérez in their line-up, and Pizarro, Lloyd Allen, and Doyle Alexander on the mound. But Tommy Lasorda's Licey ball club, comprised of Manny Mota, Jay Alou, Bobby Valentine, Steve Garvey, Von Joshua, Pedro Borbón, Dick Tidrow, and Charlie Hough, came through. Frank Robinson and I conversed in his Baltimore office nearly twenty years after this (1973) series, and he still was disappointed about not winning it with his Santurce players and reinforcements such as José Cruz, Sr.

The Twilight Winter Seasons (1978-80, 1982-83)

Frank Robinson managed Tany Pérez during the last week of the 1978-79 season and in the final month of the 1979-80 campaign. Pérez was a DH by this time. Santurce lost to Mayagüez in the 1978-79 league semifinals, but the eventual League champs, the Caguas Criollos, invited Pérez to reinforce them for the February 1979 Caribbean Series. Tany Pérez hit .458 in this series to finish third behind Jerry White of the Magallanes Navigators

and Mike Easler of Mexico's Navojoa Mayos.

Pérez was a team leader at this stage in his winter league career when a sixty-game season became the norm. Gary Allenson, a catcher for the 1979-80 Crabbers, told me that this ball club had great chemistry thanks to Pérez, Juan Beníquez, Sandy Alomar, Sr., and "Imports" such as Bill Caudal, Tim Stoddard, Wayne Garland, Larry Andersen, and Bob Molinaro. Santurce won the regular-season crown prior to losing in the finals to the Bayamón Cowboys, formerly the San Juan Senators.

A 40-year-old Pérez suited up for the 1982-83 season after taking off the first two winters of the 1980's. Luis Tiant, also from Cuba, joined the Crabbers for his final winter-league stint. There were some changes in the Santurce franchise. They moved their home games to Bayamón's Juan Loubriel Stadium to spur attendance. Santurce was rewarded when 200,414 paid fans attended their thirty-one home games, including a first-place tie-breaker against Ponce. Eastern Airlines was the main corporate sponsor of the Crabbers, and their uniforms bore Eastern's logo. Most of Santurce's uniforms from the 1960's and 1970's had rum company logos.

Ed Figueroa, Tiant, Atlanta Braves' prospect Ken Dayley, White Sox hopeful Reggie Patterson, and Carlos Díaz were the starters. Guillermo (Willie) Hernández and José Alvarez anchored the bullpen. The infield had Guillermo (Willie) Montañez, Glenn Gulliver, Iván de Jesús, Manuel (Nolin) Ruiz, and Pat Tabler. The outfield featured Juan Beníquez, Jerry Morales and Sixto Lezcano.

'Tany' (Tony) Pérez's Regular-Season Hitting Statistics for Santurce

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg.
1964-65	69	264	37	71	12	4	7	32	.269
1965-66	71	249	40	71	12	4	9	38	.285
1966-67	71	261	43	87	18*	4	9	63*	.333*
1967-68	68	257	38	79	20 ^t	3	7	53	.307
1969-70	60	217	41	68	17 ^t	0	11	35	.313
1970-71	33	115	18	34	8	0	8	24	.296
1972-73	26	95	18	27	1	1	4	15	.284
1978-79	4	15	1	5	0	0	1	3	.333
1979-80	31	115	18	42	7	0	3	26	.365
1982-83	49	169	25	49	9	1	6	30	.290
Totals	482	1,757	279	533	104	17	65	319	.303

* = led the league

t = tied for first

A special event was Tany Pérez Day held at Loubriel Stadium on December 12, 1982. Tany, his wife Pituka, his sons, and his teammates enjoyed the gift-giving and amenities.

Santurce's fans showed their appreciation on January 17, 1983, when they gave Pérez a standing ovation in his last regular season game—the tie-breaker for first-place with Ponce. Pérez's three RBI's were instrumental in the Crabbers' win behind the pitching of Ed Figueroa and Ken Dayley.

The semifinal series versus Arecibo was a surprise, as the "Cinderella Wolves" upset the Crabbers by winning four of six games en route to a Caribbean Series title for the first and only time in their history. Tany Pérez could reflect on his Puerto Rico career.

Author's Bio

Thomas E. Van Hyning's family moved to Puerto Rico in September 1956 when Tom was two years old. Tom became a rabid Santurce Crabbers fan by 1963, when he lived in a Santurce neighborhood. A SABR member since 1989, he has written two books, Puerto Rico's Winter League (1995) and The Santurce Crabbers (1999), both published by McFarland & Co. Tom has written for the Baseball Research Journal and for The National Pastime. Tom is the Research Manager for the Mississippi Division of Tourism and lives with his wife, Donna, in Florence, Mississippi.

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Final Thoughts and Post-Script

In mid-March of 1992, I caught up with Tany Pérez, then coaching the Cincinnati Reds, prior to a spring-training contest. He was standing behind the batting cage and carefully observing the hitters take batting practice. Pérez told me that he played his final Puerto Rico Winter League season as a "farewell tour" of sorts for the fans, and that it was an honor for him to have played for Santurce and two owners: Hiram Cuevas through 1972-1973 and "Poto" Paniagua during the latter period.

Tany's younger son, Eduardo, joined the Santurce Crabbers in the mid-1990's. Eduardo had graduated in 1987 from the same school in Santurce (Robinson) that I had fourteen years earlier. He went on to study and play baseball at Florida State University.

Tany Pérez continued to follow his beloved Crabbers by living in Santurce during the "off-season." I saw him in the stands during an exhibition game between San Juan and the Cuban National Team in early December 1993 but did not get a chance to say hello. That would have to wait almost six years until November 7, 1999—the night that Orlando Cepeda's number 30 was retired by the Santurce Baseball Club.

November 7, 1999, was special for me, because I got to chat or say hello to some of my baseball heroes, including Pérez, Cepeda, Juan Pizarro, and long-time Santurce trainer Nick Acosta. I gave Tany my recently published book titled *The Santurce Crabbers*.

There were some interesting side bars that evening and beyond. Santurce's manager, Ken Griffey, Sr., let me interview him prior to the game. Griffey Sr. was Pérez's teammate on some great Reds teams a generation earlier. Fast forward to February 2000 in Santo Domingo, when Santurce won the Caribbean Series. Tany Pérez attended the series with his wife and thanks to the efforts of Juan Marichal, got to see his two sisters, Gloria and Argelia, who came over from Camagüey, Cuba, to see their nephew, Eduardo, help Santurce win six straight contests. The Crabbers were Caribbean Series champs for the fifth time, and Tany Pérez was a very happy person.

TWICE CHAMPIONS:

The 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopardos

by David C. Skinner

The 1923-24 Santa Clara Baseball Club is ranked by many historians and baseball aficionados as the greatest team in the long and storied history of the pre-revolutionary Cuban League. Their 11½ game margin of victory was the largest in 83 years of league play, and they have been compared to the 1927 New York Yankees. They were so dominant that attendance waned, and the league abruptly ended the season in midstream. Santa Clara was declared champion and summoned to the national capital to play in a tournament against runners-up Habana and Almendares, both bolstered by players from last place Marianao, which was dropped from the competition. Forced to play all of their games in Havana, Santa Clara struggled to cap their league title with the Gran Premio as well, but the second season lingered a little too long. By the time it was over, most of the league's players, American and Cuban alike, had departed for spring training in the States, and nobody much cared who won.

Baseball first came to Cuba about the time of the U.S. Civil War and soon became the island's national pastime. Play began in the Cuban League in 1878, just two years after the National League's first season in the United States. Article 98 of the Cuban league statutes, which prohibited men of color from playing in the league (while failing to prevent teams from hiring exceptional blacks and mulattos), was abrogated in 1900. Afro-Cubans immediately took their rightful place among the league's top players. They were joined in 1907 by African Americans from the leading U.S. black clubs, as well as U.S. whites, mostly from the minor leagues. Cubans, white and black, also were going to the U.S. to play in organized baseball or the Negro Leagues, and the Cuban League arranged its schedule to coincide with the winter off-season in the States.

Although Cuban teams integrated quickly after racial barriers fell, some were predominantly white, while others featured a majority of black players. Some teams were all Cuban, others predominantly North American. None, however, was more dominated by players from the U.S. Negro Leagues than the Santa Clara club of 1923-24. There were nineteen players on the roster over the course of the season, eighteen black and one white, eleven American and eight Cuban. Each of them played in the Negro Leagues, and several were among those leagues' biggest stars. The manager was a club owner and manager in the Negro National League, making it easy for him to contact players seeking winter employment.

What brought this sterling collection of talent to a small provincial capital in Central Cuba to play in a league that had generally scheduled all of its games in one stadium in Havana is of some interest. That the team had begun only the season before—and quit the competition in mid-season over a questionable decision that the locals felt had been engineered to impede first-place Santa Clara's quest for a league championship—increases the intrigue. When the team was broken up the following season and failed to compete at its previous high level, the fans stayed away and the franchise was moved, again in mid-season. That the ball club only existed for two partial seasons and one truncated one plus an aborted tournament makes this an amazing story.

The most powerful figure in the Cuban League during the first three decades of the 20th century was Abel Linares. He owned both of the "eternal rivals," the Almendares and Habana clubs, as well as Havana's Almendares Park, where all league games were played. He held various positions in the league administration, but his power was supreme regardless of any official title. It is difficult for those familiar only with the structure of the U.S. Major Leagues to comprehend how one man could so dominate baseball in an entire country. His influence reached even from beyond the grave, as his widow owned both eternal rivals from the time of his death in 1930 until the mid-1940's.

Linares had owned an early Cuban Stars team in the U.S., but his influence stateside was limited. For that he was dependent on his right-hand man, Augustin (Tinti) Molina, a former player in Cuba and the U.S. who owned and managed the Cuban Stars in the Negro National League from 1921 through 1931. The Cuban League struggled to find teams to compete with the eternal rivals and fill out the league schedule. For the 1922-23 season the Marianao team, based like the rivals in Havana, was added, along with a club that Linares owned and Molina managed in Santa Clara, capital of the province of the same name which was later changed to Las Villas and is now known in its much smaller form as Villa Clara.

The city of Santa Clara had a population of 63,151 as of December 31, 1923, ranking sixth in a country whose capital was the only city of over 100,000. The hub of a vast agricultural region in the center of the island, Santa Clara's livelihood was originally based on livestock but diversified into a sugar and tobacco center with the coming of the railroad. The economy boomed as the city developed into a

a major rail junction at the meeting place of north-south and east-west lines. The region's relative prosperity was one reason that Linares decided to locate a team there in an attempt to increase interest in the league and broaden its fan base. Surely another factor was its location, 190 miles east-southeast of Havana, which made it an easy train ride from the capital. Santa Clara also had a reputation as a good baseball town, with teams and leagues throughout the province from the earliest days of the sport in Cuba.

Slavery has had a definite impact on Cuban demographics. During the first half of the 19th century, Cuba had a majority of blacks and mulattos, although whites officially constituted the majority beginning in 1859. One-third of the slaves worked on sugar plantations, with a similar percentage initially on coffee estates, although that number declined to almost nothing by 1860. Historian Hugh Thomas believes that more than 50,000 slaves may have been brought to Cuba from 1820 to 1865, but none have been documented after that date. Slavery was abolished as of 1888, although with little change in the social status of Afro-Cubans. The non-white minority numbered just over 600,000 by 1907, which was less than 30% of the total population, but raised expectations after the 1895-98 war for independence from Spain were not realized. Black political solidarity, as expressed in a 1912 uprising, was diluted in the next decade, as over 150,000 black laborers were brought in from Haiti and Jamaica, and the farther removed from revolutionary wars, the more that blacks were excluded from political and cultural developments. Until 1959, black rights were virtually ignored, even by non-white politicians. American colonial domination, which replaced Spanish rule in 1898, was effectively ended by the communist revolution, as was racial segregation. Blacks and mulattos, however, remain a political and economic underclass in communist Cuba—this despite once again constituting (due to white emigration to the U.S.) a 62% majority on the island.

Santa Clara was an interesting choice for Linares and Molina to locate a nearly all-black baseball team in 1922. Despite a history of rigid racial segregation—the central Parque Vidal still features a double-wide sidewalk that once was divided by an iron fence to separate black and white strollers—the city had a reputation for tolerance that was manifested in fan acceptance of black players. Acceptance is perhaps not a strong enough word. Elderly fanatics today remember black players, especially Americans from the 1930's, with an awe bordering on reverence. It is perhaps appropriate in a city that has embraced ballplayers of all hues that the Villa Clara entry in the late 20th-century Serie Nacional, revolutionary Cuba's overwhelmingly black amateur major league, has more white players than most

other teams.

Molina assembled a powerhouse that began league play with a home double header on November 26, 1922, at Boulanger Park on the west bank of the Rio Cubanacay, losing to Marianao 5-2 in the debut game for both new clubs and taking the nightcap 2-1 for Santa Clara's initial Cuban League victory. The outfield of native son Alejandro Oms and Pablo "Champion" Mesa from the nearby port of Caribbean flanking U.S. Hall of Famer Oscar Charleston was one of the finest to ever play the game, and Americans Oliver "Ghost" Marcelle and Frank Warfield were among the best at third and second. The American righty-lefty pitching tandem of Bill Holland and Dave Brown led a crew of talented Cubans that found itself in first place in mid-January 1923. The team was nicknamed the Leopardos, or Leopards, a powerful animal in the mode of the Habana Leones (lions) and Almendares Alacranes (scorpions). Like other Santa Clara teams in various sports over the years, however, they frequently were called the Pilongos. Pilongos means those who are baptized in the same font, and in Santa Clara at the time that was literally true. There was a pool beneath a waterfall in the Cubanacay, near where it ran behind the since-demolished main church, where local babies received the baptismal rites. To this day, natives of Santa Clara are known as Pilongos.

The club, known to the press as "Santa" during its initial season, left the league at a time when it was battling for the lead, with Charleston and Oms 1-2 in batting with averages well over .400. The dispute came to light in the newspapers on January 14 with the publication of a formal document dated January 11 and signed by league officers. The situation stemmed from the reluctance of the Havana teams to participate in Sunday morning games in Santa Clara, with Marianao contending that its 8-5 loss to the home team on Sunday, January 7, violated a new league policy outlawing them. The officials declared the results and all statistics of that game null and void. Following a 12-7 loss to Habana on January 13, Santa Clara withdrew from the league in protest. At a meeting two days later, the league accepted that decision and ruled the club's remaining twenty-seven games forfeited. Havana newspaper comments, although expressing regret at the loss of the Santa Clara team, revealed a condescending prejudice against the city that it represented, perhaps suggesting that the allegations of a plot by those in the more sophisticated capital city may not have been totally unfounded. Whatever his motive, Linares paid off the Santa Clara players and sent them home. By January 19, all of the Americans on the club had left the island, and Linares' eternal rivals were left to finish the season with Marianao at Almendares Park.

With no mention of the events of the previous season, and with the sole stipulation that games rained out or otherwise suspended in Santa Clara would be made up in Havana, Santa Clara entered the 1923-24 campaign with a stacked deck, a team so powerful that its supremacy could not be questioned or compromised by anyone. From the onset of the season in October, the Leopardos dominated the Havana clubs, opening up by mid-January an 11½ game lead over Habana, with pre-season favorite Almendares standing 11 games below .500. Eight of the players would later join manager Molina in the Cuban Hall of Fame. Holdovers from the 1922-23 squad included American infielders Marcelle and Warfield, whose names would be forever linked in infamy, and American pitchers Holland and the mysterious Brown. Returning Cubans included catcher Julio Rojo, infielder Matias Rios, and pitcher Eustaquio "Bombin" Pedroso. Most significantly, the outfield of Oms, Charleston, and Mesa returned intact.

Homegrown leftfielder Alejandro Oms was an example of the prodigious talent the Piloncos displayed at every position. The lefthander was a natural hitter who possessed both speed and power. He had begun his Cuban career the previous season as a 27-year-old rookie, en route to a .351 average over fifteen seasons on the island, second by a point behind Cristobal Torriente as the best career mark by a Cuban player, and fourth best in league history. He also starred in the States with the Cuban Stars of the Eastern Colored League, where he was known as a great center-fielder, and incomplete records show a .306 mark for eleven recorded Negro League campaigns. Known as "El Caballero" for his gentlemanly demeanor, he was said to have never argued with an umpire nor been in a fight. He led the Cuban League once each in home runs and runs scored, twice in hits, and three times in average, including a record .432 for Habana in 1928-29. That season he was the second recipient of Cuba's version of an MVP award, "Player Most Useful to his Club." His eleven seasons hitting .300 or better tied a Cuban record, and he holds the mark for doing so in eight consecutive seasons (1922-23 through 1929-30). He was the first to get six hits in a Cuban League game and ranked sixth in career runs scored.

Pablo Mesa played in the same outfield with Oms in the States as well, hitting .283 over six seasons with the Cuban Stars. A superb fielder, he was also an outstanding offensive player blessed with speed and power. He was a fine bunter and a baserunner who is remembered in Cuba as having been thrown out sometimes because he was so fast he tended to overrun the base. His best recorded mark in the Negro Leagues was 14 steals in 47 games in 1924. In his best season as a hitter at home, he exceeded Oms with a .433 mark in 1926-27, when both played for Marianao in

the Campeonato Triangular, a rival league that played its games in the new Stadium Universitario of the University of Havana. Oms and Mesa had begun the season with the Cuba club in the Cuban League but defected to the new league after a hurricane destroyed Almendares Park. Mesa's six-year Cuban career average was .332.

Oscar Charleston was a player for whom so many superlatives have been used that the mind boggles at how good he must have been. Called the "Black Ty Cobb" for his speed and aggressive style, his power and build brought comparisons to Babe Ruth and his play in center to Tris Speaker. Some believe that such analogies fail to do justice to Charleston's talents. Umpire Jocko Conlan called him the best Negro player of his time. In an article about a 1999 SABR poll of the top Negro League figures, in which Charleston finished fourth (just ahead of Josh Gibson and Rube Foster) and appeared on 96.5% of ballots, Sports Collectors Digest called him "perhaps the greatest of Negro League players." But many who saw him play called him simply the greatest baseball player ever, including such authoritative voices as Giants' Manager John McGraw, Negro League player-managers Ben Taylor and Buck O'Neil, umpire George Moriarty, and sportswriter Grantland Rice. In the Negro leagues, available records show a .349 average over 26 seasons, most notably for his hometown Indianapolis ABC's, the Harrisburg Giants, Homestead Grays, and Pittsburgh Crawfords, where he switched to first base and was player-manager of what is generally considered to be the best black team ever. In Cuba, his .361 career average was exceeded only by fellow Negro Leaguer Jud Wilson. He twice led the Cuban League in runs and stolen bases, including 1923-24, when he swiped 31 bags, the third-best mark in league history and three less than his top Negro League mark. He also was the Cuban League leader once each in average, home runs, triples, and hits during his nine years there.

Oliver Marcelle was one of the great third basemen in Negro League history, known for his defensive wizardry, baserunning skills, and fierce temper. Regarded as the best at his position in the 1920's, he was picked over Hall of Famers Judy Johnson and Ray Dandridge in a 1952 Pittsburgh Courier poll and by John Henry Lloyd for his all-time team in 1953. Playing primarily for the Royal, Bacharach, and Lincoln Giants, he hit .304 over thirteen U.S. seasons and .305 for eight years in Cuba. His .393 mark for the 1923-24 Leopardos led the Cuban League. Second baseman Frank Warfield also was a great fielder and baserunner. He hit .264 in seventeen Negro League seasons and .304 for four years in Cuba. Although the only starter for the 1923-24 Leopardos to hit below .300 for a regular season, he led the Grand Premio in stolen bases.

Utility infielder Matias Rios was a light hitter but a fine fielder who possessed good speed like Marcelle and Warfield. He played ten years for the Cuban Stars team that became a charter member of the Negro National League. Julio Rojo was the second-string catcher for the champion Pilonos, seeing a lot of time in the outfield and at first. He was a solid receiver over fifteen Cuban seasons, mostly in Habana, and fourteen Negro League campaigns, mostly notable for the Baltimore Black Sox, Lincoln Giants, and Cuban Stars teams in the East. Existing records show career averages of .284 in the Negro Leagues and .255 in Cuba.

Lefty Dave Brown was one of the best pitchers of his time in the Negro Leagues, brief though that time was. He was fast with good control and had command of three pitches. His record was 46-22, .676 for six seasons, three each with the American and Lincoln Giants. His three-year Cuban League mark was 17-12, .586 with Santa Clara, where he stayed throughout the existence of the Linares/Molina club, and Matanzas, where he moved with the team in January 1925. Righty Bill Holland also was fast and had command of several pitches. His twenty-year record of 99-81, .550 in the Negro Leagues was compiled mostly with New York teams, and he was the ace of the Black Yankees staff for the team's first decade. He matched Brown with his three years playing for Molina and added a fourth for Cuba fourteen years later. His Cuban career mark was 27-22, .551, as he led the league with ten victories in the championship season, adding four more in the Grand Premio.

Eustaquio Pedroso was an example of the type of role player who made the Pilonos such a force in Cuban League competition. A fast right-hander with great control, he was one of the top Negro League hurlers from 1910 to 1930, mostly for the Cuban Stars. In Cuba, early in his career he performed brilliantly against touring Major League teams, no-hitting the American League champion Detroit Tigers in 1909. He played first base, outfield, and even caught when not pitching, and in 1915-16 he led the Cuban League with a .413 batting average while topping all hurlers in games pitched and complete games. Two other times he led in the latter categories and twice topped the league in victories. Pedroso's lifetime mark in Cuba was 65-46, .581. His career was winding down by the time he came to Santa Clara, but he was considered one of the three greatest Cuban pitchers of all time, with Luis Padron and Leopardo teammate José Mendez. In 1923-24 he was limited to six season games and one in the Grand Premio with no decisions, going 3-for-3 with a double in the latter after failing to hit safely during the season. His veteran presence, however, must have more than made up for his lack of activity.

José de la Caridad Mendez, "El Diamante Negro," was brought to pitch in Santa Clara after a brilliant career at home in Cuba as well as in the States. The little righty had a nasty curve and fastball and was adept at changing speeds. He began his U.S. career with the Royal Giants in 1908 and then was the ace for the Cuban Stars, going a reported 44-2 in 1909, including a ten-inning perfect game. Arm miseries plagued him during much of his career, but he made a successful comeback with the Kansas City Monarchs during the first seven seasons of the Negro National League. During his prime in the years 1908 to 1912, he was Cuba's best pitcher, and in 1908 he racked up 45 consecutive scoreless innings, the first 25 against Major League opposition. His fourteen-year Cuban career shows a mark of 72-26, .735. He is tied with José Acosta (Major Leagues 1920-22) for most seasons as Cuban League leader in winning percentage and for doing this in consecutive seasons with four (1908-11). He also led in victories for three straight years and topped the circuit twice in games and three times in complete games. Primarily a reliever in Santa Clara, he was 3-1 in 1923-24 and 1-2 in the Grand Premio but was a team leader who like Pedroso contributed in other ways as well.

Other new members of the Leopardo mound corps for 1923-24 were Mervyn "Red" Ryan, Rube Currie, and Pedro Dibut. Ryan was another small righty with speed and a variety of pitches who starred for Hilldale of the Eastern Colored League, topping out with 20-11, .645 in 1923. He and Currie opposed Mendez on the mound in the first two Colored World Series. Ryan did not get to share in championship glory with his Santa Clara teammates, as he was transferred to Habana during the season. He went a cumulative 12-10, .545 with six teams in five Cuban seasons. Currie had the distinction of playing for four straight pennant winners in the Negro Leagues and appearing in all four of the original World Series. He pitched for the three dominant teams of the 1920's, the Monarchs, Hilldale, and the American Giants. His nine-year U.S. record was 80-56, .588. A tall right-hander, he was known for his curveball. The 1923-24 season was his only Cuban season, and he was a cumulative 10-5, .667.

Pedro Dibut was the only white player on the 1923-24 Pilonos and, therefore, the only one to play in the Major Leagues. In 1923, the stocky right-hander hurled for the Cuban Stars of the Negro National League. He was 3-0 for the Cincinnati Reds in 1924 and 1925 and pitched in the U.S. minors for the remainder of the 20's. He was a cumulative 5-5 for the champion Leopards and tied for the most victories (5) in the Cuban League of 1926-27, when the circuit was weakened by a destructive hurricane and a competing league.

Frank Duncan, the catcher for the champion Leopardos, was considered to be one of the top receivers in the Negro Leagues, where he was a clutch hitter despite a .246 average over twenty-one recorded seasons. He played mostly for the Monarchs and was their backstop in the first two World Series. He batted .272 over five years in Cuba, three of those for Cienfuegos. Longtime fanatico Pedro Darias watched Duncan play for Almendares in Santa Clara in the late 1930's and remembers him as one of the best he ever saw at his position.

Joining Marcelle and Warfield in the Santa Clara infield for 1923-24 was the great shortstop Walter "Dobie" Moore, one of the original Monarchs who came to Kansas City from the 25th Infantry army team. His Negro League career average was .365 over seven seasons, hitting .453 in 1924 while leading the league in 26 doubles, belting 10 home runs and slugging at a .694 clip. He hit .323 in the first two World Series. Moore batted .386 for the Leopardos on the regular season, leading the Cuban League in hits and triples, and finished with a .356 mark for the year, his only one on the island.

Oscar "Heavy" Johnson began 1923-24 at first base for the Pilongos, and though he did not finish out the season, he contributed at a .345 clip in his only Cuban appearance. A teammate of Moore's in the army, he played mostly outfield in the Negro Leagues, batting .363 for eight years with available statistics. Johnson was heavy in body weight as well as hitting but a versatile fielder who also could catch and play second and third. He was with the Monarchs in the first World Series. He was succeeded in Santa Clara by Eddie Douglass, with catchers Duncan and Rojo and pitcher Pedroso also filling in. Douglas was considered the best defensive first baseman in the East from World War I to the mid-20's, mostly with the Royal Giants. He hit .244 for two years in Cuba.

Esteban Montalvo, known as "Mayari" for his hometown in eastern Cuba, was the fourth outfielder for the Pilongos in 1923-24. A feared slugger in the Negro Leagues, he batted cleanup for Molina's Cuban Stars team, annually hitting over .300 in the mid-20's. His signing by the Lincoln Giants precipitated a "war" between the Negro Leagues in 1927. He hit .282 in 24 regular-season games for Santa Clara in 1923-24 and .274 in the Grand Premio, well below his five-year Cuban career average of .299.

The Leopardos had a little trouble getting out of the starting blocks to begin the 1923-24 campaign, but it would be the only trouble they would have during the regular season. Although play began for the Havana clubs on October 20 at Almendares Park, Santa Clara didn't play its first game until a week later at La Boulanger. The opening series against Marianao was something of a disappointment for

the local fans and Havana writers, who were expecting big things from the Pilongos. They were able to win only one of the three scheduled contests. The opener on Saturday, October 27, went eleven scoreless frames before darkness forced a halt, after Charleston was unable to score from third with none out of the fifth. The home team managed to win the first game of the now legal morning-afternoon Sunday doubleheader the next day, despite starter Dibut being knocked out in the first, as Mendez came on to finish the game and pick up a victory. Santa Clara scored four in the bottom of the first to take a two-run lead, which they never relinquished, beating the defending champs 8-5 despite being outhit—six of their nine base knocks were doubles, two by Warfield. The second game, however, was another wipeout, being called after three innings with the score knotted at one.

Moving to the capital, the Leopardos reeled off three straight against Habana and Almendares, beat Habana back home on Saturday, and then won six more in a row after a loss to the Leones in the morning game at Boulanger Park on November 4. The season looked to be as good as over, and the league eventually agreed. After a January 13 doubleheader rout of Almendares, 7-0 behind Currie and 12-4 behind Brown, the Leopardos' record stood at 36-11, .766, and officials decided they'd seen enough. Citing a lack of interest due to Santa Clara's huge lead in the standings, they met in Havana with delegates and managers from each club on the evening of January 15 to seek a solution to the problem. They decided to end the season the following day after a contest between the eternal rivals, declaring Santa Clara champion, and announcing a new championship to be contested among those two clubs and the Leopardos, with the Marianao players to be divided between the Leones and the Alacranes. Mariano's star rightfielder, Cristobal Torriente, who had come over from Habana during the season, now found himself with Almendares.

The new season, to be known as the Grand Premio Interval, Winter Grand Prix or grand Prize, was scheduled to consist of 48 games, divided into 24-game series, with the winner of each half to decide the champion with a seven-game playoff. The Cuban Tourism Commission reportedly put up \$5,000 in prize money for the players. All games were to be played in Almendares Park, and the source of prize money indicates the expectation of a tourist fan base.

Despite a drop-off in team batting from .331 for the season to .265, the Leopardos jumped in front once again behind their brilliant pitching and won the first series by 1½ games over Habana with a record of 9-6, .600. Not all Santa Clara bats were silent, as Charleston and Montalvo were one and two with averages of .465 and .407, respectively.

The starters were rested frequently and sometimes played out of position, giving reserves like Mayari a chance to shine. Molina was apparently getting players ready for the season in the U.S. and seemingly used the Grand Premio as sort of an extended spring training. After all, the Leopardos had nothing to prove, having already won a championship. Fatigue from playing all year was also catching up to them, and they began a slump which lasted through the second series and found Santa Clara barely able to score as each player's hitting ability deserted him. After a 4-0 loss to Habana, the Leopardos regrouped and registered back-to-back triumphs against Almendares. They won 5-4 behind Oms' triple, then held on to win 10-9 after leading 10-0 with home runs by Marcelle and Mesa, giving themselves a half-game second-series lead over the Alacranes on March 2. That lead was short-lived, however, as Almendares recovered to pound Currie and Mendez for a 13-2 victory on March 5.

By this time all three teams were losing players, and with the departure of Charleston, then Douglass, and finally Duncan, the Piloncos were having difficulty just getting nine men on the field. After a 5-2 loss to the Leones on March 15, Santa Clara stood last at 4-6 for the second series, two games behind leader Almendares, and it was announced that those two clubs would play one game at 10 a.m. the next day to decide the winner of the Grand Premio, with Holland scheduled to pitch against Lucas Boada.

There was an urgency to determine a champion while there still were some players left on the island, but even after shortening the second series, it apparently was too late to save face with a one-game playoff. The game was never played, and with no further word of this proposed contest, final statistics were published on March 17, and standings were printed for each series. League officials were to meet that afternoon to clarify the situation, but no mention of the results of such a meeting can be found, nor is there any determination of prize money distribution noted. The same article in the *Diario de la Marina* that announced the meeting left no doubt about the reason for the abrupt ending of play, reporting the departure of Dibut and Habana pitcher-manager Adolfo Luqué for the Cincinnati Reds' camp in Orlando, as well as other players from each Gran Premio squad to various minor-league training sites. Cumulative standings for the Grand Premio give Santa Clara a total record of 13-12, .520, a half-game better than Habana's 13-13 and one up on 12-13 Almendares. Historians recognize the Leopardos as Gran Premio champion, while contemporary accounts indicate that the tournament was met with ongoing fan indifference despite the closeness of teams.

Was the 1923-24 Santa Clara club Cuba's greatest professional team? Comparisons between eras are difficult, although the players and the numbers should speak for themselves. They cannot be called a dynasty, because the core group remained together for only three seasons, each of

which was essentially terminated by mid-January. Linares apparently tired of allowing a team from outside Havana dominate league play, as Charleston, Duncan, Douglass, Moore, and some key pitchers and reserves were not kept on for the 1924-25 season. Fan support dwindled with the declining won-lost record. The season was divided into two series, with Santa Clara third at 14-15, .483 for the



1923-24 Santa Clara Baseball Club

L to R Top: Jose Mendez, Oscar Charleston, Oliver Marcelle, Esteban Montalvo, Frank Warfield, Julio Rojo

Middle: Frank Duncan, Alejandro Oms, Pablo Mesa

Bottom: Rube Currie, Dave Brown, Dobie Moore, Pedro Dibut, Matias Rios, Eustaguio Pedroso

Photo from collection of author.

first half, which ended on Christmas Day. Santa Clara began the second series with a "home" game at Matanzas on December 27, losing 14-5 to Almendares, Charleston's new team, as the ex-Leopardo cracked three doubles. The Pilonos stood last at 1-6, .143 in Series Two when the franchise was officially shifted to Matanzas on January 8. The last game in Santa Clara had been on January 3, an 8-6 loss to Marianao.

The outfield of Oms, Charleston, and Mesa draws comparisons to other great combos but suffers from its scant two seasons as a unit. Oms, a great centerfielder in his own right, was forced to play out of position in deference to Charleston. The greatest outfield in the Negro Leagues is generally thought to have been that of the Eastern Colored League Cuban Stars, which had Oms in center flanked by Bearnardo Baro (and later Martin Dihigo) and Mesa. The Baro-Oms-Mesa combine of 1923 and 1924, which played summers at the same time as the Santa Clara winner trio, must be considered inferior to the Leopardo outfield if only because of Charleston. The best Major League threesome probably was Duffy Lewis, Tris Speaker, and Harry Hooper of the 1910-15 Boston Red Sox. This grouping had the advantages of longevity and two U.S. Hall of Famers and probably should get the nod for all-time greatest, but for a brief period, the 1922-24 Leopardos outfield was unsurpassed as an offensive and defensive presence.

The Cuban League did not return to Santa Clara until 1929, and that team disbanded along with the league five days into the 1930-31 season. The next Santa Clara team in the league began play in 1935-36 and may be classified as a dynasty. Under Dihigo and then Lazaro Salazar, these Leopardos won three championships in their first four years and were denied four straight by losing a three-game play-off to Marianao in 1936-37 to settle a disputed first-place tie.

Santa Clara left the Cuban League for good in 1941 but had strong professional teams over the next two decades, playing as an independent or in regional circuits. Teams representing the province fared well from the beginning of the post-revolutionary Serie Nacional, and the Villa Clara Naranjas are a power in Cuba today. The Naranjas are led by the heavy-hitting Eduardo Paret, Cuba's most dangerous baserunner and an acrobatic shortstop who stands out in a country blessed with a number of greats at that position. A 1996 Olympian, Paret was suspended and lost his spot on the National Team for minor infractions marking him to the authorities as a threat to defect, but he returned to league play in 1998 without missing a beat. Catcher Ariel Pestano and leftfielder Oscar Machado are currently on the National team. Boulanger Park is today con-

figured for football (soccer), and is shared by the city's youth and adult soccer teams. The old wooden grandstand is gone. Just down the street and across the river is modern and spacious Estadio Augusto Cesar Sandfino, home of the Naranjas. Santa Clara is famed as the city where the revolutionary victory was won, and Che Guevara's remains now reside there in a gigantic mausoleum/museum. The city still ranks sixth in population, at an estimated 205,400 in 1994.

A number of the participants in the 1923-24 Santa Clara championship season fared poorly in the years immediately following. At a time when life expectancies were generally in the low 30's for blacks in the U.S. as well as Cuba, careers and lives were prematurely snuffed out. Four of the American players had their careers ended in their primes due to apparent acts of violence involving women, cocaine, and gambling. The well-liked Brown, an ex-con, was the first to disappear from baseball. Wanted for murder after a 1925 barroom fight, reputedly over cocaine, he barnstormed as a fugitive and played for semi-pro teams in small Midwestern cities under an alias. Some reports indicate that he died in Denver under mysterious circumstances. Next to go was Moore, who in 1926 was shot in the leg by a female acquaintance, suffering multiple fractures that ended his time as a player. The handsome Marcelle left first-class play, perhaps in embarrassment, after former teammate Warfield bit off part of his nose in a 1930 craps-game fight in Cuba. Warfield was in Pittsburgh as player-manager of the Washington Pilots in 1932 when he died of a heart attack in another unusual incident, after being rushed bleeding to the hospital in the company of a woman.

Three Cubans on the 1923-24 team died young from infectious disease. Rios was the first of the unfortunate trio, succumbing in July 1924, a month after having been sent home to recover his health while playing for the Cuban Stars. Mendez, who managed and pitched the Monarchs to victory in the first Colored World Series, died of bronchial pneumonia or tuberculosis in 1928, not many months after retiring as an active player. Montalvo died of tuberculosis in 1930.

Not all of the erstwhile Leopardos were star-crossed. Oms died in 1946, honored in a proclamation by the mayor of Santa Clara as a great gentleman and ballplayer, and his funeral was a major event in his hometown. Dibut had a disappointing career with the Reds. After going 3-0 with a 2.21 ERA in 1924, he was unable to retire a batter in his first outing the following season and was banished from the majors, never to return. His life was as long as his big-league career was short. The last on the team to pass, he died in Hialeah in 1979 at age 87. Rojo managed and coached in Cuba and Mexico into the 1950's.

Douglas, who had been a player-manager for the Royal Giants, later operated a poolroom in New York City. Duncan, married to blues singer Julia Lee, ran a tavern in Kansas City after stints as a manager and umpire in the Negro Leagues. Like Marcelle, his son played briefly in the black leagues. Holland was yet another of the Pilongos to manage in the Negro Leagues.

The last of the players from 1923-24 to wear a uniform in the U.S. was the great Charleston. Even after integration, the old war-horse stayed with the Negro Leagues, managing the Philadelphia Stars through 1950. Though the surviving Negro American League was not as strong as in earlier days, Charleston got the best from his players. He made a comeback in 1954, and skippered the Indianapolis Clowns to the NAL title. In October of that year he fell down a flight of stairs after suffering a stroke or heart attack and died in Philadelphia eight days before his sixtieth birthday.

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David Skinner has been a SABR member since 1983, with primary interest in the Negro Leagues. He lives in Bisbee, Arizona.

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VIRGIN ISLANDS BASEBALL: FLORIDIAN FOOTHOLDS

By Rory Costello

The bond between Virgin Islanders, the state of Florida, and the national pastime was formed over a century ago, in the primeval days of black professional ball. St. Croix native S.K. Govern, along with Frank Thompson and C.S. Massey, formed the Cuban Giants in the summer of 1885. Govern also managed the original squad of African-American pros. SABR member Jerry Malloy, a leading historian of 19th-century black ball, underscored Florida's role in team affairs.* The club's 1885-86 winter tour of the South wound up in St. Augustine. Govern and Thompson were both respected headwaiters, and their business savvy won the Giants a job as featured entertainers at the brand-new Hotel Ponce de Leon. Under Florida's original mogul, Henry Flagler, this hotel inaugurated the state's modern tourist industry.

The tour also went on to Havana—in fact, Govern may have taken another club, the Washington Manhattans, to Cuba as early as 1881 or 1882. No doubt Florida would have been the launch site then, too, and “Cos” Govern's Caribbean background tied it all together. Jerry Malloy also notes two other special items. Thompson and Govern formed a group called the Progressive Association of the United States, which spoke about race and other social issues in St. Augustine in the late 1880's. And when Flagler made Palm Beach the “Newport of the South,” black baseball remained a staple at his grand hotels.

For most of the 20th century, Puerto Rico was the springboard for Virgin Islanders who established themselves as ballplayers in the States. Since the late 1980's, however, Florida has become a vital bridge. Economic problems and changes in society have eaten away some of baseball's support in the islands, and there now is a sizable community of Crucians and St. Thomasians turned Floridians. When Jerry Browne played for the Marlins (1994 and 1995), there was some talk of holding a “Jerry Browne Day” to draw this crowd, but it never came to pass. Fellow Crucian José Morales, who now lives in the Orlando area, was the Marlins' batting coach from 1995 through the All-Star break in '96.

The two current V.I. major-leaguers, Midre Cummings and

Calvin Pickering, both moved to the peninsula as teenagers. Midre starred at Edison High in Miami, and he wonders if scouts would have found him had he stayed at home. Following Hurricane Marilyn in 1995, Calvin came to Tampa's King High, joining his aunt and her husband, who had run a baseball camp on St. Thomas. He then came to the attention of Orioles area scout Harry Shelton. Both players now make their home in the Tampa suburbs. Two hopefuls from the 1999 draft also have followed this path. Pitcher Terence Byron, the second-round pick of the Marlins, attended Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce. Joe Mihalek, coach at the University of the Virgin Islands, helped establish a route to IRCC, where he had been an assistant. In the fourth round, Kansas City tabbed shortstop Mackeel Rodgers out of Miami's Jackson High. In addition, Jason Clarke—son of former Yankees second baseman Horace—has finished up his studies at St. Thomas U. in Miami, where he won numerous honors with the Bobcats. J.D. will be back with the Class A Daytona Cubs this year.

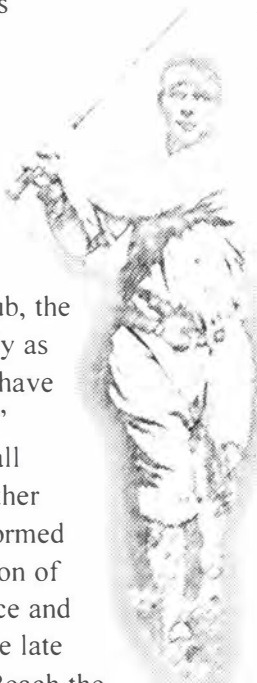
Ideally, we will see baseball fortified in the Virgin Islands proper, and Florida can provide grassroots sustenance—though weighing the costs and benefits is tricky. Joe Mihalek believes that the islanders who moved would have been drafted if they had stayed at home, albeit in lower rounds. (This actually did happen with Terry Byron.) He also notes that other players can gain attention on the coattails of a marquee prospect. In 1997, the coach planned to bring his UVI Buccaneers to play in the Homestead Challenge NCAA tournament, with an eye toward hosting stateside teams. Unfortunately, a budget crunch forced the Bucs to cancel, and they now are a club team. Until UVI can get back up to critical mass, though, Florida's schools are likely to remain an important outlet for the quality players still coming out of St. Croix and St. Thomas.

Author's Bio

Rory Costello is a member of SABR. He is a research analyst and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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CAMILO PASCUAL

FORGOTTEN STRIKEOUT KING

by James Amato

One of the best pitchers ever to come out of Cuba is also one of the most underrated hurlers of the 1960's. He was the ace of the staff of a normally second-division team. Still, from 1959 through 1964 a pitcher named Camilo Pascual put up some very impressive numbers.

Camilo began his major league career in 1954 with the old Washington Senators. By 1959, he had emerged as one of the premier pitchers in the American League. That year he won 17 games and posted a 2.64 ERA. He led the league in complete games with 17 and shutouts with 6. He also fanned 185 batters. In 1960 he won 12 games with a 3.03 ERA. In 1961, the Senators moved to Minnesota, and although Camilo went 15-16 on the season, he led the American League with 8 shutouts and 221 strikeouts. It was the first of three straight seasons leading the American League in the whiffs department.

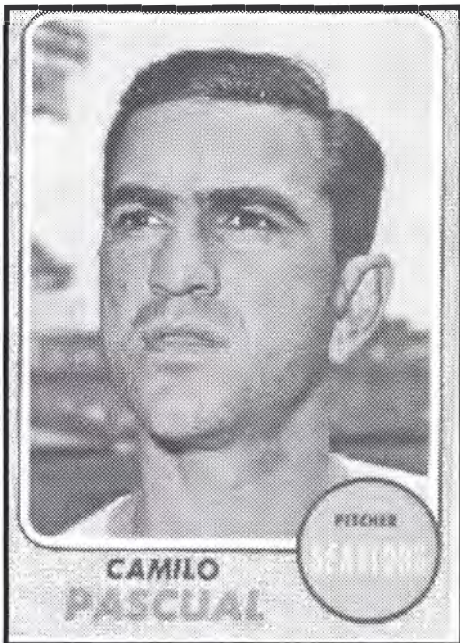
By 1962, the Harmon Killebrew-led Minnesota Twins were beginning to gain respectability. Riding the arms of Jim Kaat and Pascual, the pitching staff began to solidify. Camilo won 20 games that year. He also led the American League in complete games (18) and shutouts (5) as well as strikeouts (206). In 1963, Pascual won a career-high 21 games and again led the circuit with 18 complete games and 202 strikeouts, posting a career-best 2.46 ERA. In 1964, Camilo won 15 games with a respectable 3.30 ERA while striking out 213, second in the league to Yankee Al Downing's 217.

In 1967, the Twins send the fading veteran to the expansion Senators, where he won 12 games. He won 13 for Washington in 1968. His career fading, he spent brief time with the Reds and the Dodgers before finishing in 1971 with Cleveland.

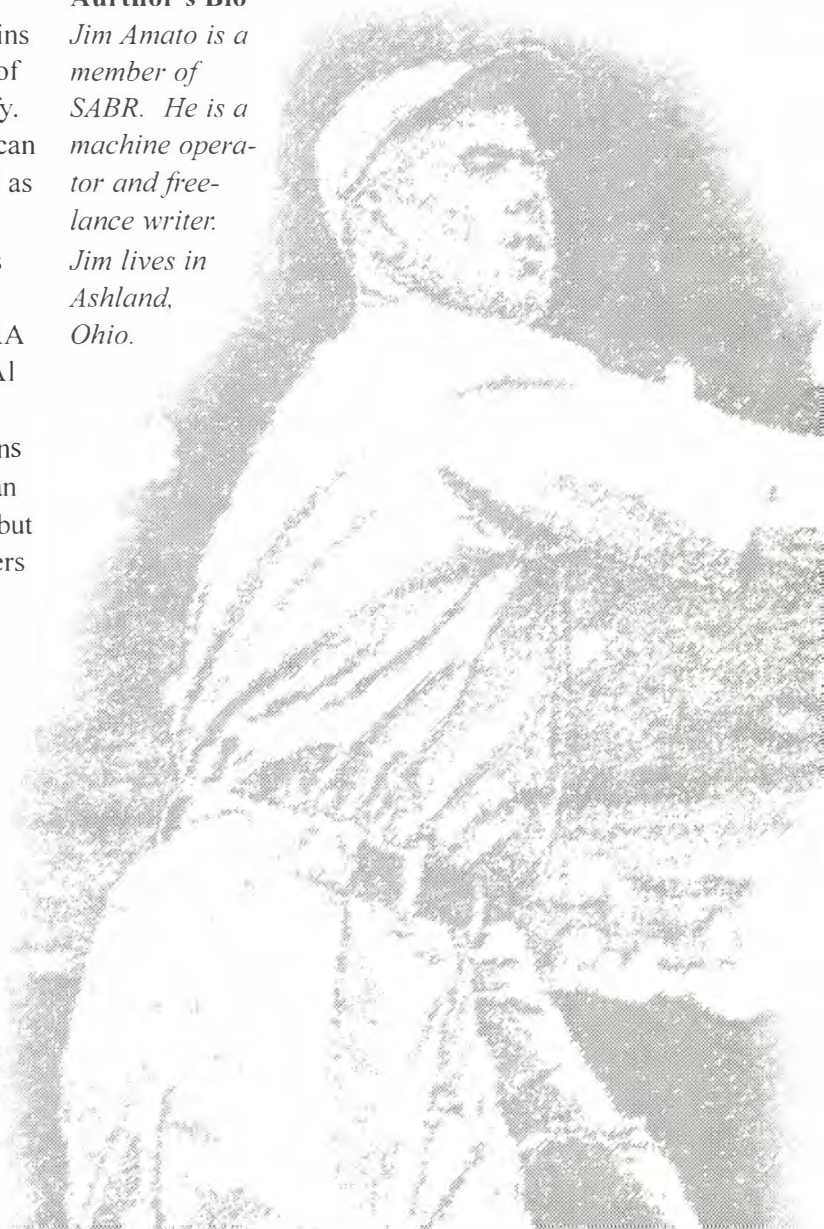
In the six-year span from 1959 through 1964, Pascual won 100 games, pitched 90 complete games and 26 shutouts, and fanned 1,170 batters—an average of 16 wins, 15 complete games, 4 shutouts, and 195 strikeouts per season. He won 20 or more games twice. He led the league in complete games, shutouts, and strikeouts three times each. Camilo finished his major-league career with 174 wins and 2,167 strikeouts, ending with a formidable 3.63 lifetime ERA. Hall of Fame numbers? Probably not, but nonetheless very respectable.

Aurthor's Bio

Jim Amato is a member of SABR. He is a machine operator and freelance writer. Jim lives in Ashland, Ohio.



In 1965, the Twins won the American League pennant but lost to the Dodgers in the World Series. Camilo went 9-3 on the



LATIN HEAT

LATIN PITCHERS WITH 200 STRIKEOUTS IN A SEASON

by Leander Collin

Latin America has exported more than just shortstops and sluggers to the Major Leagues. Dominant pitchers have found their way to the States as well, with Pedro Martinez of the Dominican Republic being the latest in a line of Latin strikeout artists.

A total of twelve Latin pitchers on thirty-one occasions have struck out 200 or more hitters in a major-league season, the first being Cuba's Camilo Pascual of the 1961 Minnesota Twins with a league-leading 221. Hall of Famer Juan Marichal, "The Dominican Dandy," leads all Latin pitchers in number of 200-strikeout seasons with six, followed by Pascual and Martinez with four each.

Marichal, Pascual, and Martinez are the only Latin pitchers to have logged four consecutive years with 200 or more strikeouts, Marichal in 1963-66, Pascual in 1961-64, and Martinez in 1996-99. Pascual led the American League in strikeouts for three of those years—1961 (221), 1962 (206), and 1963 (202). The only other Latin pitchers

to lead their respective leagues in strikeouts are José DeLeon of the Dominican Republic with the 1989 Cardinals when he fanned 201 opposing batters, the Dominican Republic's José Rijo as a member of the Cincinnati Reds when he fanned 227 batters during the 1993 season, and Martinez with 313 whiffs in 1999 with the Boston Red Sox.¹

The incomparable Martinez holds the two highest season strikeout totals among Latin pitchers: his league-leading 313 in 1999 and 305 in 1997 with the Montreal Expos, second in the league to Curt Schilling's 319. Martinez is the only Latin pitcher to have averaged better than ten strikeouts per game in a season, fanning 11.34 per nine innings in 1997 and an amazing 13.20 per nine innings in 1999. He also averaged higher than nine strikeouts per nine innings in two additional seasons—1996 (9.20) and 1998 (9.65). For his career (through

1999) Martinez has averaged 10.17 strikeouts per nine innings. Two other Latin pitchers have averaged better than nine strikeouts per nine innings in a season: Cuba's Luis Tiant with Cleveland in 1967 (9.21) and 1968 (9.20) and the Dominican Republic's Mario Soto with Cincinnati in 1982 (9.55).

Of the Latin pitchers who have accumulated 200 strikeouts in a season, seven reached the 20-win plateau. Marichal leads all Latin hurlers with six 200-strikeout, 20-win seasons. Camilo Pascual and Luis Tiant had two each. With his 1999 triple-crown season (his first season with 20 or more wins), Pedro Martinez joined Fernando Valenzuela, Ted Higuera, and his brother Ramon Martinez as Latin pitchers with one 200-strikeout, 20-win season. Three Latin pitchers have combined 200-strikeout seasons with league-leading ERA's: Marichal with the 1969 San Francisco Giants (205 strikeouts, 2.10 ERA), Tiant with the 1968 Cleveland Indians (264 strikeouts, 1.60 ERA),

and Pedro Martinez twice, in 1997 (1.90 ERA) and 1999 (2.07 ERA).

Pedro Martinez is the only Latin hurler to fan 200 hitters in a season in both leagues: with Montreal in 1996 (222) and 1997 (305) and with the Boston Red Sox in 1998 (251) and 1999 (313). Pedro and Ramon Martinez are the only Latin brothers to fan 200 in a season, Ramon accomplishing the feat with 223 in 1990 with the Dodgers, before his brother Pedro arrived in the majors. Pedro now appears to be on his way to establishing himself as the greatest Latin pitcher the game has known.

Author's Bio

Lee Collin is a member of SABR. He lives in Chalmette, Louisiana.

Latin Heat: Latin Pitchers With 200 Strikeouts in a Season

	Country	Year	G	GS	IP	SO	SO/9	W	L	ERA
Pedro Martinez	Dom. Rep.	1999	31	29	213.0	313	13.20	23	4	2.07
Pedro Martinez	Dom. Rep.	1997	31	31	211.0	305	11.37	17	8	1.90
Mario Soto	Dom. Rep.	1982	35	34	257.0	274	9.55	14	13	2.79
Luis Tiant	Cuba	1968	34	32	258.0	264	9.20	21	9	1.60
Pedro Martinez	Dom. Rep.	1998	33	33	233.0	251	9.65	19	7	2.89
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1963	41	40	321.0	248	6.95	25	8	2.41
Mario Soto	Dom. Rep.	1983	34	34	273.0	242	7.95	17	13	2.70
Fernando Valenzuela	Mexico	1986	34	34	269.0	242	8.09	21	11	3.14
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1965	39	37	295.0	240	7.32	22	13	2.13
Fernando Valenzuela	Mexico	1984	34	34	261.0	240	8.27	12	17	3.01
Ted Higuera	Mexico	1987	35	35	261.0	240	8.24	18	10	3.85
José Rijo	Dom. Rep.	1993	36	36	257.0	227	7.94	14	9	2.48
Ramon Martinez	Dom. Rep.	1990	33	33	234.0	223	8.57	20	6	2.92
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1966	37	36	307.0	222	6.50	25	6	2.23
Pedro Martinez	Dom. Rep.	1996	33	33	216.0	222	9.20	13	10	3.70
Camilo Pascual	Cuba	1961	35	33	252.0	221	7.89	15	16	3.46
Luis Tiant	Cuba	1967	33	29	213.0	219	9.21	12	9	2.47
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1968	38	38	326.0	218	6.02	26	9	2.43
Melido Perez	Dom. Rep.	1992	33	33	247.0	218	7.91	13	16	2.87
Mario Soto	Dom. Rep.	1985	36	36	256.0	214	7.49	12	15	3.58
Camilo Pascual	Cuba	1964	36	36	267.0	213	7.17	13	12	3.30
Fernando Valenzuela	Mexico	1985	35	35	272.0	208	6.88	17	10	2.45
José DeLeon	Dom. Rep.	1988	34	34	225.0	208	8.32	13	10	3.6
Ted Higuera	Mexico	1986	34	34	248.0	207	7.51	20	11	2.79
Camilo Pascual	Cuba	1962	34	33	257.0	206	7.18	20	11	3.32
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1964	33	33	269.0	206	6.89	21	8	2.48
Luis Tiant	Cuba	1973	35	35	272.0	206	6.81	20	13	3.34
Juan Marichal	Dom. Rep.	1969	37	36	299.0	205	6.15	21	11	2.10
Mike Cuellar	Cuba	1987	36	32	246.0	203	7.42	16	11	3.03
Camilo Pascual	Cuba	1963	31	31	248.0	202	7.33	21	9	2.46
José DeLeon	Dom. Rep.	1989	36	36	244.0	201	7.58	16	12	3.05

Bold = Led League

References

¹ Marichal, pitching during the National League heydays of fellow Hall of Famers Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson, Ferguson Jenkins, Jim Bunning, and Don Drysdale as well as Jim Maloney and Bob Veale, never finished higher than fourth in the league in strikeouts.

REMEMBERING ADOLFO LUQUE, THE PRIDE OF HAVANA

by Herb Johnson

Time was when a Latin baseball player was a rarity in the lineup of a big league box score, but no longer. Baseball pages today are filled with antecedents and statistics on all kinds of Latino players. It was not always so.

A little after the turn of the century only a handful of Latin American names graced the scorecards. Very likely the initial Latin major leaguers in the 20th century United States were Cubans Rafael Almeida and Armando Marsans, both playing three seasons with Cincinnati in 1911, 1912 and 1913.¹ Infielder Almeida appeared in 102 games over those three seasons, compiling a .270 batting average. Outfielder Marsans bolted to the Federal League in 1914, where he played for four seasons before returning for a final season in the American League in 1918.

Nothing genuinely sensational for either Almeida or Marsans, but Cuban baseball historians say that they lured the young Adolfo Luqué to the U.S. and the Big Leagues. Luqué was born in Havana in 1890. Known to his teammates as “Dolph,” he caught on with the Boston Braves under the “Miracle Man” George Stallings in 1914, appearing in only two games that year but impressing Stallings as a fine spot pitcher.

Luqué was directed by Stallings and Braves management to apply to Dr. Hernandez Henriquez, a Cuban baseball pioneer that had recruited an All-Cuban team to play in the newly formed New York-New Jersey League. Dolph had pitched in Long Branch before it was awarded a franchise, when it was listed as a semi-pro, independent team traveling in the New York-New Jersey area playing other clubs that operated independently. In the first year of organized ball in the New York-New Jersey League, Luqué posted a 22-5 won-lost record. After about a half season at Boston (National League), he made the Jersey City (International League) roster, going 2-10 in 14 games and pitching 108 innings. In 1915, after again failing to make the Boston Braves roster, he was picked up by Toronto of the International League, where he went 15-9 with 225 innings pitched. Boston elected not to invited him to their training camp in 1916, and Luqué pitched that season for the Louisville Colonels (American Association), posting a 13-8 record. In 1917 and 1918 he somewhat divided the season, pitching partly in Cuba and partly for Louisville. His Louisville record was 2-4 with 79 innings in 1917 and 11-2 with 117 innings in 1918. Louisville had a working agreement with the Cincinnati Reds, and in 1919 Reds manager Pat Moran added Luqué to the Reds’ pitching staff, where he remained for thirteen seasons.

Author’s Bio

Herb Johnson is a member of SABR and serves on the SABR 30 Host Committee. He harbors an avid interest in Italian baseball. Herb is retired and lives in Hypoluxo, Florida.

Footnote: Third-Baseman Esteban Bellan of Cuba debuted in 1871 with the Troy Haymakers of the National Association.

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by John McCormack

When Latin American ball players are discussed today, Adolfo (Dolph) Luqué, “the Pride of Havana,” is rarely mentioned. Which is too bad, because Dolph could pitch. After working a handful of games for the Boston Braves in 1914 and 1915, he took two years off before joining the Cincinnati Reds. His years there, 1918 to 1930, were his finest and included five no-run, one-hit innings in the infamous 1919 World Series. His best season was 1923, when he topped the league in wins (27), shutouts (6), ERA (1.93), and opponents’ batting average (.235).

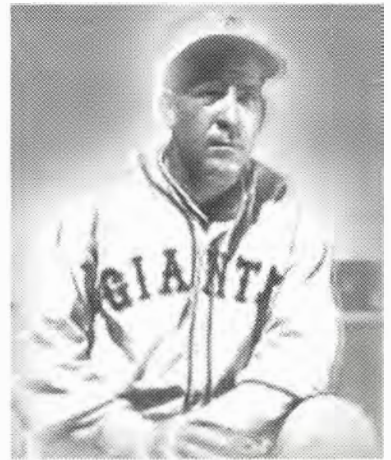
Luqué moved on to Brooklyn for 1930-31 and then to the New York Giants in 1932. Following a wretched 1932 season that saw John McGraw call it quits after thirty years at the helm and the team finish tied for 6th place with the St. Louis Cardinals, Giant fans expected little in 1933. What they got was a nail-biter of a race and the team’s first pennant since 1924. The Giants won mainly on pitching. The big four—Carl Hubbell, Freddie Fitzsimmons, Hal Schumacher and Roy Parmelee—had Dolph to relieve them when they got in trouble. Luqué appeared in 35 games, all in relief, and posted an 8-2 record with a 2.69 ERA.

The World Series pitted the Giants against the Washington Senators. Hubbell won Game 1, Schumacher Game 2. Fitz faltered in Game 3, but Hub won Game 4. Game 5 could wrap it up. The Giants looked like winners as Schumacher breezed into the 6th inning with a 3-0 lead. But he allowed a three-run home run, and with two out, two on, and the score tied, the 43-year-old Luqué entered the game. He ended the inning with no further damage. After Dolph pitched three more scoreless frames, Mel Ott homered in the top of the 10th to put the Giants up 4-3. That was all Dolph needed. He closed out the Senators in the bottom half of the inning, fanning Joe Kuhel, a .322 hitter for the season who already had two hits in the game, for the last out. Dolph had pitched 4S! scoreless innings to gain the win, allowing only two hits and two walks while striking out five. That night the Pride of Havana was the Toast of New York.

Luqué retired after four seasons with the Giants. During his twenty seasons in the major leagues he went 193-179 with a 3.24 ERA. Not quite a Hall of Famer but infinitely better than what passes for a pitcher today.

Author’s Bio

John McCormack is a member of SABR. He grew up in New York City between the two world wars and spent many a weekend at the Polo Grounds with his father. He remembers Adolfo Luqué’s low, breaking stuff as ideal for the Polo Grounds, because it induced ground balls rather than shots over the short left-field and right-field fences. John is a retired attorney and lives in Dallas.



THE CARIBBEAN BASEBALL SERIES:

A BRIEF HISTORY

by Eduardo Valero

In the early months of 1948, representatives of the Puerto Rico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Panama winter leagues met in Miami to discuss common problems, including piracy of players, and to create an association. This led to the organization of a series with the participation of each country's champion club.

A second meeting was held on August 21 of that same year in at Havana. On that occasion, representatives of the same leagues established the Caribbean Baseball Confederation, agreeing to hold a "Caribbean Baseball Series" in February each year. Each team was to play two games against each of the other three clubs. The series would rotate among the four countries, beginning in February 1949 in Havana. George M. Trautman and Robert Finch, President and Public Relations Officer, respectively, of the National Association of Baseball, participated in the meeting, offering full cooperation to the Confederation.

Capacity crowds packed Havana's Cerro Stadium for the first series, in which the local Almendares team swept all six games. Almendares counted among its players major-leaguers Kevin Connors, Wesley Hammer, Al Gionfrido, Monte Irvin, Sam Jethroe, Mike Sandlock, and Morris Martin. Pitcher Agapito Mayor, however, was the series MVP, winning three games, a record that no other pitcher has ever equaled in the forty-two Caribbean Baseball Series played thus far.

The Series, also known as the "Caribbean World Series," continued until 1960, when political changes in Cuba ended eighty-two years of professional baseball on the island. During that time, Cuba won seven crowns, Puerto Rico four, and Panama one, while Venezuela failed to achieve a Caribbean championship. Some of the well-known major-leaguers who played in the Series during those years were Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente, Ruben Gomez, Camilo Pascual, Vic Power, Chico Carrasquel, Minnie Minoso, and Orlando Cepeda. In addition to Agapito Mayor's three wins in one series, some other Series records from that era still stand: Puerto Rican pitcher Juan Pizarro's 17 strikeouts in a game and 29 in a series, Cuban Lorenzo Cabrera's .619 batting average (13-for-21), and Puerto Rican Willard Brown's 13 RBI's. Tommy Fine of Cuba has pitched the only no-hitter (1952) in the Series thus far.

Cuba's withdrawal from the Series after 1960 was a mortal blow, because the Cuban teams, which had won seven of the twelve Series to that point, were the main attraction. The Series also had fostered Latin American unity. Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Panama attempted to

keep the idea afloat. In 1961 they organized the Interamerican Series, which was joined by Nicaragua in 1963. The Series lasted only four years, however, with each country winning once.

In 1970, due to the initiative of Rodrigo Otero Suro, President of the Puerto Rico League, the Caribbean Series was reinstituted with the participation of Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. In 1971 the Mexican Pacific Coast League became the fourth member of the Confederation, providing one of the most successful sites of the event. The Series has been played continuously since then, except in 1981 (due to the players strike).

The admission of the Dominican Republic has created a rivalry with its neighbor Puerto Rico similar in impact to Puerto Rico's earlier rivalry with Cuba. The number of major-leaguers from the two countries has been a main attraction. Venezuela has had Tony Armas, Luis Aparicio, Ozzie Guillen, Bo Diaz, David Concepcion, and Wilson Alvarez, among others. Puerto Rico has had Juan Gonzalez, Roberta Alomar, Carlos Baerga, Ivan Rodriguez, Bernie Williams, Eddie Figueroa, Felix Millan, Edgar Martinez, Ruben Sierra, Rey Sanchez, Ricky Bones, José Rosado, and José Melendez, among others.

To date, Puerto Rico holds the most Series crowns with fourteen, followed by the Dominican Republic with twelve, Cuba with seven, Venezuela with five, Mexico with three, and Panama with one. Only Puerto Rico and Venezuela have participated in both eras of the Series. Nicaragua and Colombia have requested admission to the Confederation, and Panama has applied for reinstatement. The chances of their admission depend on the quality of the baseball played in their leagues, plus financial guarantees that include airline fares, hotel accommodations, and cash prizes (\$40,000 and \$25,000 for the winner and runner-up teams, respectively). Their applications currently are under consideration by the Confederation directors.

As time goes by, all the teams' and players' accomplishments since 1949 will forever be a part of Caribbean baseball history, whose pages are filled with many emotional chapters. Many of the players who have contributed glorious moments have done so in the Major Leagues as well. Some of those accomplishments are among the treasures and memories deposited in the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown.

Author's Bio

Eduardo Valero is a member of SABR and chairs the Latin America Committee. He is a sportswriter and historian. Eduardo lives in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

FROM THE BALL BAG



CRACKER BASEBALL:

THE ATLANTA CRACKERS

by Tim Darnell

The story goes that the owner of a minor league baseball club got so fed up with the cellar-dwelling proclivities of his team that during a road trip, he ventured deep into the woods of North Carolina and recruited an entirely new batch of players. He then fired the old team and put the new one on the field the next day, while the ex-players sat in the grandstands and booed their replacements unmercifully.

Such is one of the many true stories about the owners and players of Atlanta's first championship baseball team, the Atlanta Crackers. Charles Abner Powell, who is credited with inventing the rain check and Ladies' Day, also was the man who brought the Crackers to Atlanta in 1901, after debuting the franchise in Selma, Alabama, the year before, when the Southern Association was born. Over the next sixty-four years, the Crackers would become arguably the greatest minor-league franchise in history, winning a total of seventeen league championships. Only one other team in organized baseball—the New York Yankees—has posted a better championship record.

How the Crackers got their name is a matter of conjecture. The term itself has various meanings. It has been used to describe a poor, white, illiterate Southerner, as well as someone who was quick and adept at any task. It also has been used to refer to the various agricultural workers who largely populated the region around the turn of the century. Finally, the name simply could have been a shortened version of a team that played in Atlanta in 1894, the Firecrackers.

In any event, the Crackers joined the Southern Association in 1901. The team played in various locations until 1908, when it moved into an all-wooden ballpark called Ponce de Leon Ball Park. In 1923, the original structure burned down but was reconstructed two years later by a wealthy concessionaire named R. J. Spiller. Eventually, though, the field would revert to its previous moniker of Ponce de Leon Ball Park, or "Ol' Poncey."

Like many minor league parks, Poncey had its unique peculiarities, including a huge magnolia tree that stood in center field, 462 feet away. Ponce de Leon is probably the only park in baseball history to have outfield rules allowing for the presence of a tree.

The Crackers were owned by various entities throughout their existence, including the Georgia Power Company, the Coca-Cola Company, and the legendary Robert Woodruff. In 1933, the team hired Earl Mann as general manager. In 1947 Mann bought the team and became known as one of the shrewdest—and beloved—

minor-league operators of his era.

The Crackers were part of professional baseball history in more than one instance. In April 1949 Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers played the Crackers in a series of three exhibition games, marking the first time in Atlanta history that blacks and whites faced one another in a professional sporting event. In 1954 Mann offered a contract to Nat Peebles, the one and only African American to play in Southern Association history.

By the late 1950's, the Southern Association had seen its day. Television and air-conditioning had taken their toll on the league's revenues, and it ceased operation in 1961. The Crackers would find a home as a AAA team in the International League and won the Junior World Series in 1962 against the Toronto Maple Leafs. As a farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals, the Crackers' roster that year featured Tim McCarver behind the plate.

The Crackers' last season was in 1965, as the AAA affiliate of the Milwaukee Braves. The team christened the brand new Atlanta Stadium that year, and Tommy Aaron, brother of the home-run king, hit the stadium's first round-tripper.

Atlanta has strong ties to the minors that continue to this day. The Southern League of Professional Baseball Clubs is headquartered on the third floor of the Kennesaw House on Marietta Square. A Double-A league, it is one of the oldest organizations in all of organized professional baseball, tracing its roots to 1885, with legendary Atlanta journalist Henry Grady having served as the league's first commissioner. In addition to the league's official headquarters, the building houses a permanent exhibit on the Atlanta Crackers.

Author's Bio

Atlanta native Tim Darnell authored the only book to chronicle Atlanta's first baseball team, *Southern Yankees: The Story of the Atlanta Crackers*. He currently serves as editor of the city's leading business publication, *Business To Business*. E-mail him at "atlantacracker@mindspring.com," or visit his website at "www.atlantacracker.com."

No Swing And Amiss:

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE STRIKE ZONE

by Edward Ward

Is not the strike zone an amazing thing?

Let us look at the strike zone from a point of view that combines some sociology from Ervin Goffman, a little bit of poetry from Robert Francis, and a smattering of geography from J. Douglas Porteous.

Ball, bat, batter, and home plate convene in "a frame" that determines the outcome of every game. The area is "the very center of the game." Careers have been made (and not made) there.

The strike zone does not lack for definitions or descriptions. It is "an invisible rectangle" to some, "an imaginary rectangle" to others, and "a floating pentagonal prism" to still others. The rule book simply says, "The strike zone is that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the knee cap." ¹ That description is one thing to recite but another to understand.

Batter and pitcher are interactors who are "front stage." Both are trying to achieve "positive face," described as "the desire to be approved of," as well as "negative face," "the desire to be unimpeded in one's actions." Attentive fans wait to see which "face" will appear. A batter's respectful glance at the umpire at the beginning of a turn at bat may set the stage for a series of favorable calls by the umpire, at least from the batter's point of view. A base hit guarantees "positive face" for the batter in the eyes of team members. A strikeout of the batter by the pitcher assures "positive face" for the pitcher in the eyes of his team.

The batter approaches the plate in a "confident framework" and tries to "own" the plate and the strike zone by applying a critical eye to each pitch, until the ball-and-strike count is to his advantage. In a manner of speaking, the strike zone becomes easier for the batter (i.e., "shrinks") when the count is 2-1, 3-0, and 3-2. The batter can pick and choose a bit. A ball-and-strike count that is advantageous to the batter forces the pitcher to pitch within the strike zone, to avoid walking the batter.

The pitcher, for his part, wishes to "own" the plate

and the strike zone, too, and he will try to set up a count that is favorable for himself, such as 0-2 or 1-2. Each pitcher must throw the ball (better sooner than later) into the strike zone, yet must be able to live "on the edge" of the zone as well. During a particular at bat, pitches will be thrown both in and outside the zone, with the hope on the part of the pitcher of confusing the thinking and outward behavior of the batter. Poets will remember the words of Robert Francis, who has written that the pitcher occasionally "throws to be a moment misunderstood."

In a manner of speaking, the pitcher must also "sculpt." He must "shave off" part of the plate and the strike zone to his advantage, avoiding the areas where the hitter can get the fat part of the bat on the ball. That is, the pitcher must be aware of where the strike zone is "hanging" above the plate, as well as be aware of where the zone is not. Joe Torre of the New York Yankees once described the beautiful simplicity of pitcher-batter interface by saying of Atlanta's Greg Maddux, "Every time you swing at one of his pitches, it's a ball, and when you don't, it's a strike." The pitcher can even waste a pitch, throwing it noticeably (or to some not so noticeably) out of the strike zone with the hope that the batter will be trying to "protect" the strike zone and the plate so desperately that he will "go fishing" for a pitch that is difficult to hit.

Umpires, of course, have their say as well. It is the umpire whose interpretation of the strike zone determines which pitches will be called strikes or balls. The strike zone definitely belongs to the umpire if there is "negative face work" transmitted between batter and umpire or between pitcher and umpire during a particular plate appearance. A narrow strike zone will suddenly expand and a wide strike zone will suddenly constrict if the umpire feels that his judgment is not taken seriously by the batter or by the pitcher. The umpire must make his decisions without having a "squaring off phase" in his interactions with the players, the managers, or the fans.

The arrival of the ball at the plate and near the strike zone makes the confrontation between batter and pitcher critical. The batter must decide in an instant whether to



“take” a particular pitch or not. The batter is retired, of course, if there are three “missed-takes” on his part. The pitcher must be aware of things, too, as he gives up the ball to the area over home plate. Four of his “miss-givings” will allow the batter to walk to first (and not even to run!) without having to swing the bat.

It is a delightful circumstance that so much of baseball takes place within the strike zone and at the place called “home,” two marvelously crafted concepts that join geography and baseball. To geographers, home is “preferred space” as well as “the most significant geographical distinction.” The area is sacred to baseball people as well. The focus is on “the five-sided slab of whitened rubber.”²

To paraphrase Jacques Barzun, whoever wants to know the heart and mind of baseball had better learn the strike zone.

Author’s Bio:

Edward Ward is a member of SABR. He is the author/editor of Where Memory Gathers: Baseball and Poetry (San Francisco: Forum Press, 1998). He is Catholic priest and lives in Bogota, New Jersey.

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¹ “Definitions of Terms,” Official Rules of Major League Baseball, 2000.

² Official Rules, Rule 1.05.

A DEPRESSION KID REMEMBERS BASEBALL IN A SMALL INDIANA TOWN

by Dr. William Bickers

Baseball represents America. Baseball is as much a national landmark as the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, and the Golden Gate Bridge. It thrives on the red clay of Georgia, the great desert of the Southwest, the Rocky Mountains, and sleepy little Midwestern towns like Vincennes, Indiana.

It was there on the south side of town that I first leaned of baseball. These were the 1930's, the hardest of days. Many of us did not have enough to eat, but baseball buoyed our spirits. We went to the old Southside diamond every day in the summer and dreamed of going there in the winter. Baseball gave us hope.

Baseball liberated our minds from the tedium of survival. It fueled our imaginations. It freed us to elevate our unmanicured dusty field to the open-air palace where the great players of our national pastime strode. We had never seen a major-league park. The Polo Grounds, Shibe Park, and Wrigley Field were as far away from our lives as the White House.

We played our hearts out on that dusty diamond. We didn't know that infields were supposed to be grass. Baseball allowed us to see ourselves differently. For a while, at least, we forgot our hunger, our shabby clothes, and our unpainted houses. When we were pitching that black taped ball and swinging that old cracked and taped bat, we were Carl Hubbell, Jimmy Foxx, and the Babe. While none of us ever made it to the major leagues, we could see ourselves transcending the desperation of our circumstances. We saw ourselves as a success.

About 1935 there was some sort of federally funded program that gave kids a chance to play baseball and provided jobs for a few grownups. It might have been part of the W.P.A. At any rate there was a paid adult assigned to each of the four ballparks in Vincennes.

Two teams were formed at each park. Bats, balls, and catchers equipment were furnished. Uniforms and spikes were unknown to us. The teams were named for flowers—the Violets, Posies, Sunflowers, etc. Just try those names on today's kids.

I remember the gentleman in charge of the Southside Ballpark. I cannot remember his first name, but his last name was Craig. After all, most kids in them days called their elders "Mr."

I do not know how the word got out. Ninety percent of the homes did not have telephones, and more than half could not afford the newspaper. But in any

event, on the first day all the kids that wanted to play baseball showed up.

The first thing Mr. Craig said was, "Who do you boys want for captains?" Some said, "Bill". Some said "Pete". Well, I was Bill. So one of us tossed the bat to the other, and we went hand-over-hand to see who got first choice. I don't remember who got first choice, but when I got to choose I took the kid that was the best catcher in the neighborhood. If you do not have a good catcher, there will be a lot of passed balls and a good many runs scored that should not have.

Not only did we get to play baseball, but we also got to cut the outfield grass and weeds with push-mowers and sickles.

On the days we played at other parks, we would all meet at the Southside diamond and walk to the other parks, which were three or four miles away. Harrison Park was where Vincennes University now stands. Washington Park was where the kids with the most money lived. Bowman Field was way north. It was so barren. Even the outfield was clay. I can't recall seeing a tree anyplace.

My team, the Violets, won the city championship. A cheap little trophy was put on display in the window of a local jewelry store. The trophy simply read, "Violets—City Champs." We all went down to look at it through the window. None of us ever got to go inside to touch it. I wonder what happened to it.

Our only contact with professional baseball was through a rather obscure ex-major-leaguer, Ollie Pickering. Ollie was born in 1870 in Olney, Illinois, and had played with Louisville before the turn of the century when that team was in the National League. When the American League was formed in 1901, he was the lead-off hitter for Cleveland and held the distinction of being the first player to ever come to bat in the American League. He later played for the Athletics, the Senators, and the St. Louis Browns. Ollie had a lifetime batting average of .272. Mr. Pickering was a very pleasant fellow who attempted to teach us something about the great game of baseball. He seemed to spend most of his time and money, however, in a local tavern. He took more than an occasional nip. He had a very large red nose. Once, when asked what he would do if he had all the money it took to paint his nose that red, he replied, "I'd just give it another coat". He seemed to be content with himself and life in general. He departed this life in 1952, just shy of his eighty-third

birthday.

We all loved the "Great American Pastime," but we just called it "playing ball." For us, "playing ball" meant baseball only. We had our favorite teams and players. In our town, team loyalties were fairly well-divided between the Cubs and the Cards. With me, however, there could only be one team—the New York Giants. Somewhere I got a little cap and put "NY" on it with white tape.

Just recently in one of my conversations with old-time Giants catcher Harry Danning, I told him, "As for me, there will never be a team like the Giants of the 30's." To which Harry replied, "Maybe the Yankees were a little better than us." My answer to that was, "Maybe so, but I will never admit it."

In the 1930's, Vincennes, like most small communities, was a "Main Street" town. There was a tavern and pool hall between 4th and 5th on Main Street. On one wall, there was a large blackboard scoreboard. On the side were listed the batteries for each game. There also was a ticker tape over which all the ball scores came. The man that "chalked up" the scores was called Earl.

Since beer was sold on the premises, we ragamuffin kids from the south side were not allowed in. Of course, we would not have been welcome in any case, because we had no spending money. So all of us kids would press our snose to the glass window to attempt to read the scores.

The pool tables were in the back of the building, and every now and again someone would call out, "Game out Earl, rack 'em up." Well, that was our cue to slip inside to get a better look at the scores. Then when Earl would come back up front, he would shout and curse at us and run us outside. He used the harshest kind of language, but we never paid no mind to that. We had all heard those words before. Of course, when Earl would disappear for a few minutes, the whole process would start all over again. We never meant any harm. We all just loved the game so much that we just wanted to see how our favorite teams and players were doing.

When I was about fifteen, I heard the older fellows talk about hopping a freight train to Chicago and going to a ball-game. I learned from their conversations that the freight yards were close to Dearborn Street and only a ten- or fifteen-minute walk to Clark Street. From Clark Street Car #22 would take you right to Wrigley Field. The cost for the ride was seven cents. A ticket to the game was \$1.10.

One day in July when the Giants were in Chicago, I did just as I had heard. Walking in to a major league park for the first time was like going to Oz. By chance Carl Hubbell was pitching that day. I had purchased a book at the park for twenty-five cents. He autographed it for me. And as he was doing so, Mel Ott came along and said, "Hey, kid, want me to sign that, too?" I could hardly believe it. Do you think that two of today's great stars would do that. Say, there are no two stars of that magnitude today. Fat chance.

(Speaking of Mel Ott, he was from Gretna, Louisiana,

a small town across the Mississippi from New Orleans. About 1987 letters began to arrive in Gretna addressed to Mel Ott. The postmarks are New York City. There is always a lipstick print of a woman's lips on the envelope. The Post Office delivers the letters to the Mayor's office. The Mayor opens them, and the contents are of great interest to the townfolks. The letters are very chatty and up to date, particularly about baseball. Each letter ends with "Well, take care of yourself, Mel. Love, Mary." Mel Ott has been dead since 1958.)

And then there was the Play-O-Graph, which was most wonderful. The Play-O-Graph was used only at World Series time. It was about twelve feet square and made of metal, probably pressed tin. It was painted green with white baselines so as to approximate a ball diamond. There was a ball fastened to a rod which rested on the pitcher's mound. The line-ups of the two pennant winners were listed on either side. It was mounted on top of the office of the local paper, the Sun Commercial.

Across the street was the Elk's Club, and a few bleachers were placed in the yard. The bleachers would always be jammed full of humanity. The streets would be blocked by scores of people standing. The game would come in over the ticker tape, and the ball would be moved plateward and then to whatever part of the field that the ball might have been hit. White squares were used for the baserunners. The Play-O-Graph was always a play or so behind the actual game.

When games were on Saturday or Sunday, we would all do down to "see" the game. When games were on school days, we all hurried to the newspaper office to see who won. How happy I was in 1936 to find that my beloved Carl Hubbell had defeated the Yankees 6-1 in the opener. And how sad I was the following evening to find that the Yanks had won 18-4.

The Play-O-Graph was discontinued in 1939. The reason: too many people had acquired radios. I don't know whatever happened to the old Play-O-Graph. It belongs in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. It probably ended up in the Dumes Junkyard.

As a boy helping to inhabitate that drowsy little town, I had one permanent and lasting ambition: to be a great pitcher for the New York Giants. And now I am seventy—actually a good deal more than seventy. Even now, in the twilight of my dreams, I stride to the mound of the old Polo Grounds with a one-run lead. I strike out the mightiest of Yankee hitters, and my Giants win.

Dr. William Bickers is a member of SABR. He is an optometrist and now lives in Columbus, Indiana.

DEBUNKING THE CURSE OF THE BAMBINO

Gregory M. Cabana



Harry H. Frazee

have captured the pennant just four times.

A curse is born.

But according to Frazee's grandson, Harry Frazee III, the notion that one man can be blamed for more than eight decades of mediocrity is preposterous.

"The whole Curse thing is a little nutty if you ask me," said Frazee, 74, when reached at his home in Gig Harbor, Washington. "I wouldn't say the whole thing is hurtful to my family, but I think my family has gotten a bad rap, sure."

Frazee claims that the truth about his grandfather's actions has been distorted over the years. As a result, Frazee conducts very few interviews, especially with members of the Boston media.

"There have been a group of sportswriters, guys like (Boston Globe columnist Dan) Shaughnessy, who over the years have perpetuated a myth because it makes a good story," said Frazee, who worked in advertising for the Union Tribune in San Diego for twenty-six years. "Guys like Shaughnessy don't do their homework, and these untruths become accepted over the years. It bothered me that people who had written all these things kept approaching me only because they knew it made good copy."

One man responsible for an eighty-one-year drought?

The "Curse of the Bambino"—if you believe in it—began when Boston Red Sox owner Harry H. Frazee sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees on January 5, 1920. Since the sale, the Yankees have won thirty-six pennants and twenty-five world championships. The Sox, of course, have not won a World Series since 1918 and

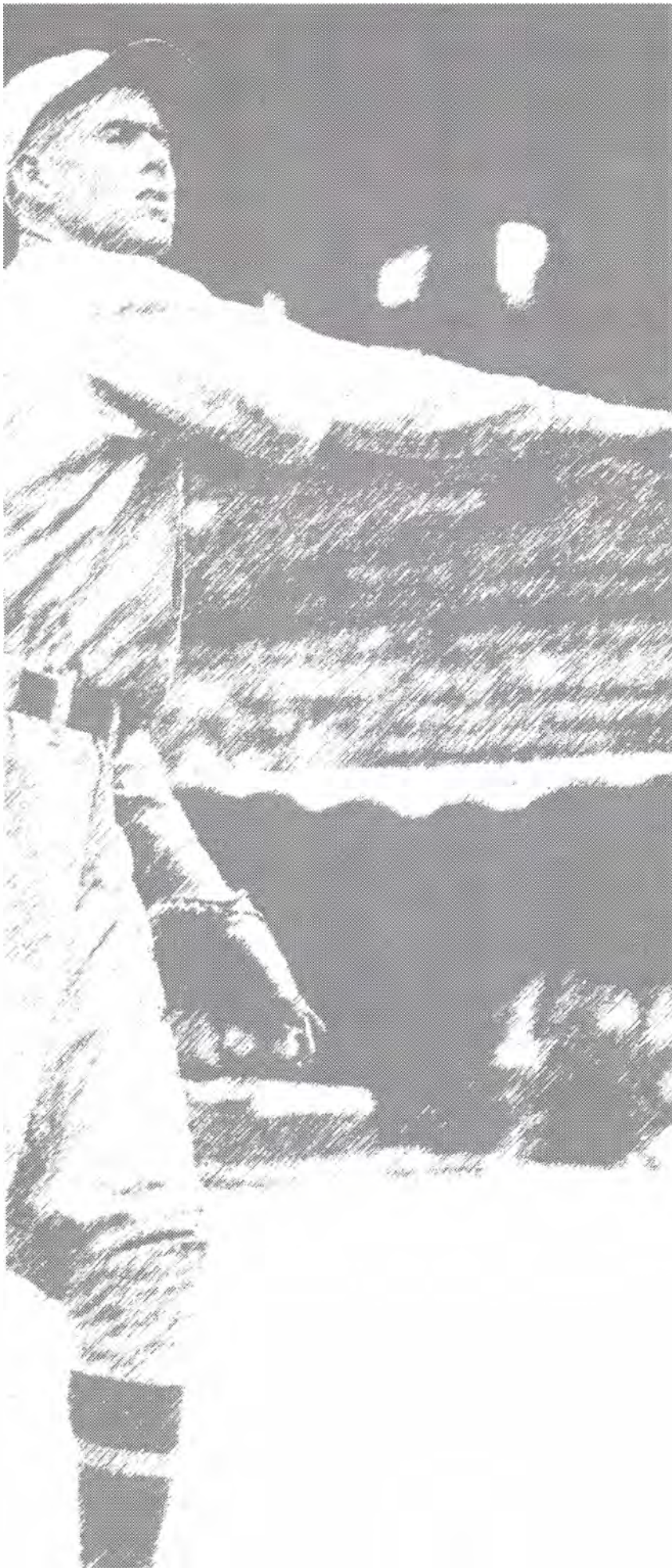
Shaughnessy, who has authored several books on the Sox, including *At Fenway: Dispatches from Red Sox Nation*, *The Curse of the Bambino*, and *One Strike Away: The Story of the 1986 Red Sox*, does not deny that he has prolonged the story of the Curse. "That's probably a fair statement," he says. "But in my mind the Curse is a piece of Boston folklore. It's there to explain the unexplainable things that have happened to the Boston Red Sox, and I've had fun with it."

As far as Frazee's getting a bad rap, Shaughnessy replies, "No, not at all. I don't think he's gotten a bad rap. He was castigated by the media at the time of the sale, and there's substantial evidence of that."

Shaughnessy also defends his work, adding, "(Frazee III) would know more about his family history than I would. I tried to get in touch with (Frazee III), but he wouldn't talk to me. I respect that. But I got quite close to his father (Frazee Jr.), and everything he said is in (*The Curse of the Bambino*). It's a little bizarre to me that (Frazee III) is still sensitive to all this."

Specifically, Frazee claims that his grandfather's reasons for selling Ruth have been misinterpreted to justify a compelling story. "He was in financial trouble, and he did produce Broadway plays," Frazee said of his grandfather, "but a lot of people don't know that he was in financial trouble because the attendance in 1919, a year after they won the World Series, was so lousy. And what does that say about the Boston fans? Another reason (for the sale) is that Ruth was becoming very demanding. He wanted to run the club."¹

Frazee III believes that the book *The Year the Red Sox Won the World Series: A Chronicle of the 1918 Championship Season*, co-authored by Ty Waterman and Mel Springer, presents the facts.² Frazee, for example, has been portrayed as a cash-strapped cheapskate who only cared about selling players for money. Although he did sell or trade pitchers Waite Hoyt, Joe Bush, Sam Jones, George Pipgras, and Herb Pennock, catcher Wally Schang, short-stop Everett Scott, and third baseman Joe Dugan over the next four seasons after winning in 1918, Frazee was somewhat of a free-spender for his day.



"That's one of the things I hope people get out of the book," says Waterman, a Foxboro resident. "He spared no expense to get the players he wanted." According to Waterman and Springer, Frazee attempted to acquire Detroit Tigers Hall of Fame outfielder Ty Cobb in February of 1918. Waterman and Springer also note that in the December 15, 1917, edition of the Boston Post, Paul Shannon wrote, "Harry Frazee put through the most sensational deal in the history of baseball yesterday, when he purchased pitcher 'Bullet' Joe Bush, catcher Wally Schang, and outfielder Amos Strunk from the Philadelphia Athletics, surrendering in exchange \$60,000 in cash and handing over catcher Chester Thomas, pitcher Van Gregg, and outfielder Merlin Kopp."

Waterman does not believe that the Sox are cursed and says that inaccuracies about the selling of Ruth are reported on a daily basis. "You always hear about how Frazee sold Ruth to finance the Broadway musical 'No, No Nanette,'" Waterman says. "but 'No, No Nanette' wasn't produced until 1924. Frazee was in personal financial jeopardy, but some of it had to do with his ex-wife's alimony payments. . . . There's no evidence of any type of curse."

Frazee III, who is rooting for the Sox to win the World Series because "they've had a lot of bad luck over the years," says that his grandfather, who sold the Sox on July 11, 1923, for \$1,250,000 and has been dead for more than sixty years, is smiling upon Red Sox Nation.

Adds Frazee III, "He was a smart, family-oriented man who ran the team like a business. I'm sure he's laughing at all of us, because he didn't care what people said about him."

Greg Cabana is a former sportswriter for The Sun Chronicle in Attleboro, Massachusetts, and The Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Massachusetts. In August he will begin teaching at Archbishop Curly-Notre Dame High School in Miami, Florida. An avid Jimmy Buffet fan, Greg enjoys reading about Cuban, Negro, and minor-league baseball.

Endnotes:

¹ According to the 1999 Boston Red Sox media guide, the Sox drew 249,513 fans in 1918 and 417,291 spectators in 1919.

² Ironically, Shaughnessy wrote the foreword for the book.

NOTES





Top Left : Connie Mack gives pointers on the art of catching to a local West Palm Beach boy, c. 1950. (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.) **Center Left:** Connie Mack and Little Leaguers in West Palm Beach, c. 1950. (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.) **Bottom Left:** Connie Mack greets the Duke of Windsor in Palm Beach, Florida, c. 1948. (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.) **Right Photo:** Connie Mack greets U.S. Vice President Alben Barkley at the beginning of another spring training in West Palm Beach, c. 1949. (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.)



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