

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

### July 2021

#### In This Issue:

- Upcoming Events
- June Meeting Recordings
- Keltner Book Korner
- Ken Keltner Pic w/ Thornley
- Get to Know...
- Borchert Field Bonus Chapters
- Wisconsin Player Debuts
- New Book on County Stadium
- Summer of SABR
- SABR 50 at 50 - Off-Field Moments
- Trivia by Rick Schabowski
- Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Conference
- The American Association Angle

#### Upcoming Events:

**New Team - New Ballpark in Oconomowoc w/ Tom Kelenic**  
Virtual - July 8 @ 7 PM (CDT)

**Talkin' Baseball**  
**Southshore Park Beer Garden**  
Saturday, July 24 @ 3:00 PM

**Keltner Book Club**  
Estabrook Park Beer Garden  
August 14 @ 2 PM (CDT)

**Tailgate/Brewers Game**  
American Family Field  
August 26 - 1:10 Game Time  
[RSVP](#)

**Summer of SABR**  
July 23-25 & August 10, 13-14

Direct questions or comments to:  
Dennis D. Degenhardt  
[bovine9@icloud.com](mailto:bovine9@icloud.com), 262-339-9968

## Happy Fourth of July!

### Upcoming Events

**New American Association Team  
& New Ball Park in Oconomowoc - 2022**  
Virtual with Tom Kelenic  
Thursday, July 8, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (CDT)



The Ken Keltner Chapter welcomes Tom Kelenic, the principal owner of the Lake County Dock-Hounds who are joining the American Association of Professional Baseball in 2022. They are also building a new 2,500 seat ballpark at a site that will be known as 'Lake Country Live' in Oconomowoc.

Kelenic will discuss the process of establishing a new team, why the American Association and building a new ballpark. In addition, we will discuss his involvement with his Waukesha facility which includes Infinity Fields Baseball Park where they hold baseball tournaments, academies and personal training. And, we will need to ask about his son Jarred, one of Wisconsin's best baseball prospects.

As the team progresses toward opening day next April, we will follow the team's process monthly in our newsletter with a goal to hold a chapter meeting at the ballpark and attend a Dock-Hounds ballgame next spring.

For more information about the Dock-Hounds, visit their [website](#).

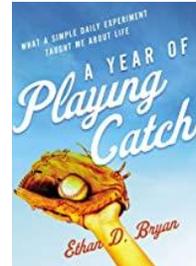
[Register](#) in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from SABR containing information about joining the meeting



**Talkin' Baseball**  
**Keltner Chapter Social Gathering**  
**Southshore Park Beer Garden**  
**Saturday, July 24, @ 3:00 PM**  
Agenda: Talk baseball, in-person!

**Keltner Book Club Meeting**  
***A Year of Playing Catch***  
**Estabrook Park Beer Garden**  
**Saturday, August 14 @ 2:00 PM**  
**Bring Your Glove and Baseballs**

We'll be having our first in-person book club meeting at the beautiful Estabrook Park Beer Garden here in Milwaukee, where we'll discuss [\*a Year of Playing Catch\*](#), by Ethan D. Bryan. You'll be able to purchase food, beer, and other drinks. Also, there will be plenty of room to actually play catch for any of us who are game and have any arm left. We are working with the author to see if he can attend and add playing catch with the Ken Keltner Chapter.



Jim Cryns author of [\*On Story Parkway: Remembering County Stadium\*](#) has been invited to join the meeting as well to talk about his book and will have copies available for sale.

Afterwards, we will stick around to talk baseball and stuff; plus play more catch if our arms permit.



**Brewer Game/Tailgate Party**  
**American Family Field**  
**Thursday, August 26 - Game Time 1:10**



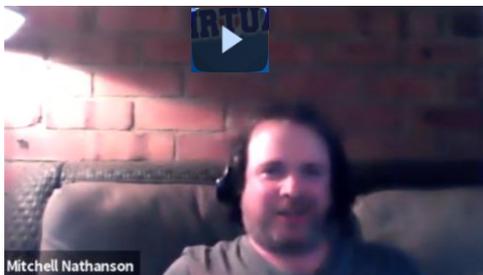
Several out-of-state SABR members, including Mark Armour, are doing their annual tour of different ballparks and are coming to Milwaukee on August 26 for a day game versus the Cincinnati Reds. Are you interested in join us for a tailgate party prior to the ballgame? You would help Mark check off an item on his list of things to do.

To help us with planning please RSVP to [Dennis](#) by August 1st to help us for planning purposes.



**June Virtual Chapter Meeting Recordings**

**Keltner Book Club Meeting - *Ball Four***  
**with Special Guest Mitchell Nathanson**



Mitchell Nathanson, author of [\*Bouton the Life of a Baseball Original\*](#) joined 12 members to discuss [\*Ball Four\*](#), by Jim Bouton on June 10. He had some very interesting comments on the iconic author which led to good conversations.

Although Bouton may have come across as very confident, he was often unsure of himself even as a kid and Nathanson said, "He was always a smart-ass." He also knew his worth and fought for that. If he was pitching today, he would have been vocal, not like Bauer but would still say what was on his mind. He tried many ventures that often went sour but is former partners, even ex-wife, would still say they really liked him. He was curious and wanted to learn and know why. The discussion let to Bouton's appearance at the 2006 SABR convention and how good of a guy he was, a good speaker and interested in the people he met. Although he is no longer with us, having Nathanson for the meeting was a great second choice.

To watch the recording of the meeting, click on the arrow above in the picture.

## 125 Years of Badger State Baseball Cards with Jason Schwartz

On July 24, Jason Schwartz, SABR Baseball Cards Committee co-chair entertained and educated 17 members with his presentation, *Prehistory of the 1971 Topps Phil Roof Card, 134 Years of Badger State Baseball Cards*. Originally advertised as 125 years, he was able to go back even further, to 1887. As anticipated, Jason was excellent starting with what he considered the first baseball card of the current Brewers, Phil Roof. Teams covered included:

- The American Association Brewers
- Pre-AA Brewers
- The Milwaukee Cream Citys (oldest cards)
- The Milwaukee Bears
- Milwaukee Braves
- Jason's Henry Aaron Collection
- And, Wisconsin Minor Leagues, AAGPBL, Northwoods League, and more.



He even had card trivia contest won by Matt Prigge, see how well you can do with those Qs.

And, we would have been remiss had we not asked, Jason, about his moniker, Heavy J and the Heavy J Studios. As you will learn, the Studio is charitable work he started since the pandemic hit using baseball cards. He has raised over \$16,000 for various charities like the Josh Gibson Foundation and the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum to mention a few. Visit the [Heavy J Studios website](#) to learn more.

To watch the recording of the meeting, click on the arrow above in the picture. Also, click on [Presentation](#) for the slides.



### Keltner Book Korner Book Club News by Mary Shea



Hey Keltner Bookworms,

Save the date, Saturday, August 14th, at 2:00 PM CT! We'll be having our first in-person book club meeting at the beautiful Estabrook Park Beer Garden here in Milwaukee, where we'll discuss *a Year of Playing Catch*, by Ethan D. Bryan. You'll be able to purchase food, beer, and other drinks. Also, there will be plenty of room to actually play catch for any of us who are game and have any arm left.

Here's a link to the Estabrook website: <http://www.estabrookbeergarden.com/>

We're hoping that Ethan will be able to join us, so please stay tuned for further details. He's been on a tour of playing catch, fundraising for local charities, and gifting baseball gloves to kids.

Here are links to Ethan's [website](#), [Facebook](#) page, and an [article](#) that he sent.

At this time, we are not sure if we'll be able to present the meeting virtually for those who can't attend, but we'll see what we can do. Please let [me know](#) if you have any questions or concerns. Hope you can make it!

Mary

### Keltner Hot Corner Archives

You can now view or download past copies of the Keltner Hot Corner at:  
<https://sabr.org/chapter/ken-keltner-badger-state-chapter-wisconsin/>



### Ken Keltner Picture - 1989 Old-timers Game

Stew Thornley forwarded several pictures from an Old-timers Game on August 8, 1989. Included in the photo besides the young Thornley, was our chapter name sake Ken Keltner. Stew was wearing his name tag from SABR 18 held a year earlier in Minnesota.

For members or readers unfamiliar with Ken Keltner, you can learn more by reading his [BioProject bio](#).



### Get to Know...Lee Kluck

Lee Kluck is a baseball historian from Stevens Point Wisconsin. He has loved the game in every form and has, on numerous occasions, argued that he would watch eighteen ten-year olds if it meant he could watch a game

While Lee is an avid baseball fan in all respects, he is a diehard member of the True Blue Brew Crew along with his wife Carla. Lee's research interests include the evolution of the professional game from 1941-2001 as well as studying the lineage and history of grass roots (amateur and semi-pro) baseball in Wisconsin.

Lee has had his work published numerous times by SABR (in books on the 1982 Milwaukee Brewers, the 1986 New York Mets, and County Stadium) and has also had work published in the 9 Journal of Baseball History and Culture. Kluck has also been a frequent presenter at the 9 Spring Training Conference and has appeared on various podcasts where he tried to sound smart while talking baseball.

Currently, Lee is writing a biography of [Harry Dalton](#) that will be published by the University of Nebraska Press. When he isn't working on research, or watching games, he is cooking with his wife, enjoying a good book or movie, or plotting how he will spend time with his nieces and nephews when he can finally leave the house.



### Borchert Field, the Bonus Chapters

By Bob Buege

During the February Keltner Book Club meeting featuring Bob Buege and his awesome book, [Borchert Field Stories from Milwaukee's Legendary Ballpark](#), we learned that 13 chapters were not included in the book. We asked Bob if he would like to place them in the *Hot Corner*; he happily agreed. We'll feature one monthly into 2022. Thanks, Bob!

### CATFISH

The most famous and most respected baseball umpire who ever wore the mask was [Bill Klem](#) (Klimm, until he changed it). He stood less than five-and-a-half feet tall, and his jowly face and sullen disposition provoked mockery from bench jockeys and loud-mouthed partisans. He possessed a deep, window-rattling voice, though, and his professional, no-nonsense demeanor commanded respect. His judgment in calling balls and strikes was unrivaled. He was also innovative. He was the first to wear an inside chest protector and the first to use arm signals for strikes, fair and foul, and safe or out.



When Klem entered the profession, a game had just one umpire. He called balls and strikes from behind the catcher until someone got on base. Then he moved and stood in back of the pitcher and made his calls. He was alone in the most literal sense. Players and fans abused him both verbally and often physically. Sometimes when the situation became intolerable, the man in blue simply left. The poor umpire did not even have access to a dressing room or shower. At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, umpires in Milwaukee's Athletic Park changed clothes in a tool shed among the rakes and lawn equipment.

Bill Klem is credited with upgrading the status of umpires and bringing dignity to the position. He demanded and received recognition of umpires' rights and needs, but it was an arduous process. For example, on Opening Day 1907 in New York's Polo Grounds, an overflow crowd caused part of the outfield area to be roped off to accommodate standing room. (This was a historic occasion. New Yorker [Roger Bresnahan](#) became the first catcher to wear shin guards.) It was a cold afternoon, and with the home team losing after eight innings, many of the freezing customers began to walk across center field and head for the exit. Umpire Klem would not allow the game to continue while non-players populated the playing field. He ordered the interlopers to vacate under threat of forfeit. Issuing an order is one thing, however; enforcing it is another. Groups of taunting youngsters descended on the hapless umpire in open defiance of his authority while cushions rained down from the grandstand. Major league baseball learned a lesson that day: one lone game official and no police officers create an impossible scenario. After 15 minutes of chaos, Klem followed his only recourse—he forfeited the game to the visiting Phillies.

Absent from that forfeited contest was the Giants' pugnacious manager, [John McGraw](#), who was ill. In his place, first baseman [Dan McGann](#) handled the skipper's duties. McGraw would likely have had a beef with Klem's decision, not because it was wrong but because McGraw detested Klem. In Klem's first big-league game, he tossed McGraw. Twenty-seven years later, McGraw's final official act as manager was to file a protest against Klem.

Ironically, when McGraw's Giants and [Charles Comiskey's](#) Chicago White Sox embarked on a well-publicized world tour following the 1913 season, the umpire the National League provided was McGraw's nemesis, Bill Klem. The 4 1/2-month excursion began in Cincinnati, where Klem and his fellow tourists observed the world's last surviving passenger pigeon. Then they barnstormed across the U.S., playing exhibitions in both rural communities and large cities. Their final small-town stop before boarding the R.M.S. *Empress of Japan* bound for Tokyo was in Oxnard, California.

The game that day was overshadowed. Despite the presence of [Christy Mathewson](#), [Hal Chase](#), [Tris Speaker](#), [Jim Thorpe](#) and others, the local cowboys who packed the rickety stands were only interested in the announced post-game event—a foot race around the bases between speedy second baseman [Hans Lobert](#) and the county's fastest cow pony. Much wagering had preceded the horse race. After seven innings the cowpokes demanded that the man-versus-beast battle commence at once. Lobert stripped off his jersey, Klem shouted "Go!" and the hooves and spikes took off. The two-legged sprinter excelled at turning the corners, but he was constantly checking to see if he would be trampled. At the end of 14 seconds Klem awarded the hay-burner the championship by a long nose.

Klem commanded respect, but he also demanded it. On October 1, 1914, in the Polo Grounds, the Giants bench jockeys were riding Klem with continuous gibes. He warned them to stop. They did not. Finally, one of them said the magic word: "Catfish." It was a nickname that Bill "Derby Day" Clymer, manager of the Columbus Senators, had hung on Klem in 1904, and Klem hated it. Everyone in the league knew that its utterance would result in immediate ejection. When Klem heard it emanating from the New York dugout, he could not identify who said it, so he cleaned house. He ordered from the premises 24 men in Giants uniforms, everyone except the batboy and the acting manager, [Turkey Mike Donlin](#). When the cast-outs realized Klem was serious, they formed a single file with Mathewson in the lead and each placing his hand on the shoulder of the man ahead of him. Then like a prison chain gang, they marched slowly and solemnly to the clubhouse in deep center field.

Klem believed implicitly in his own judgment, of balls and strikes, of foul balls, and of people. In 1909 one of the hottest topics of conversation in the country concerned Dr. Frederick Cook, the intrepid adventurer who had spent years trying to become the first to reach the North Pole. In 1909 Cook returned to the United States and announced that in April 1908 he had indeed reached his frozen objective. Many people received the news with skepticism, among them fellow polar explorer Robery Peary, who claimed that in April 1909 *he* had become the first to stand at the pole.

Dr. Cook discussed his conquering of the frigid north in a sold-out lecture in the Milwaukee Auditorium on October 10, 1909. Following his talk he boarded a train for Detroit where the next day, at the invitation of the Tigers management, he threw out the first ball in Game Three of the World Series. Klem worked the game in right field, the first time an outfield umpire was employed in a World Series game. It was a cold, raw afternoon. In the third inning Cook and his party got up and left the stadium. For many years afterward Klem told the story of the arctic explorer who left the baseball game because it was cold. "I knew then the bum was a phony," Klem always declared. (*St. Petersburg Times*, October 6, 1957) He may have been right. In 1923 Cook was convicted of mail fraud and sentenced to 14 years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, 85 years before quarterback Michael Vick was housed there.

Before starting his 37-year career as a National League umpire, Klem earned his spurs in the American Association. He had two experiences in Milwaukee's Athletic Park that he never forgot. The first was on July 18, 1904. Klem had been warned that the Brewers had a center fielder who might cause trouble. Sure enough, the first time a close play occurred, excitable Frank Hemphill came charging in from his outfield position. Klem was standing behind the pitcher's mound facing home plate, but he heard the angry flychaser approaching. Just before Hemphill reached the mound, Klem drew a line in the dirt with his shoe and warned the irate ballplayer of serious consequences if he crossed it. This "line in the dirt," accompanied by the warning "Don't cross the Rio Grande!" became Klem's signature ploy for defusing tense situations and preventing mayhem. He would use it many times in his National League career.

That game ended in a near riot that, for once, was not centered on Klem. Athletic Park had a reputation as the hardest place in the country for a visiting third baseman. The nearby bleacher seats (which later became part of the grandstand) were usually occupied by boisterous, well-lubricated louts. On this day their target was former Brewer Bill Friel. In the ninth inning Friel grew tired of the stream of profane comments directed his way. He walked to the edge of the seats and challenged one of his tormenters. The heckler was well-known tavern keeper Hugo "Sluggo" Walter, who hopped over the railing and confronted Friel. Walter got his nose scraped and Friel had to be rescued from the encroaching crowd by Sgt. Genthe and his gendarmes. The Columbus team received an escort to their downtown hotel.

The next time Klem umpired in Athletic Park he was the object of scorn. On August 24 Milwaukee's spitball pioneer [Elmer Stricklett](#) was locked in an extra-inning struggle with Louisville. The Colonels led by a run in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. Brewers second baseman Heinie Reitz lined a ball into the corner that appeared to score the tying run from first base. Klem, however, ruled it a foul ball. Howls of protest arose from the Milwaukee dugout and the stands. Reitz had to bat again. This time he grounded out, the next batter lined out, and the home team lost by a run.

As soon as the game ended, the crowd from the notorious west bleachers burst onto the field and surrounded Klem, threatening bodily harm. Several uniformed police officers helped protect Klem while Brewers manager Joe Cantillon and infielder [Germany Schaefer](#) waved bats from side to side, forming a corridor through which the little arbiter was able to flee to the clubhouse. When Klem left the ballpark that afternoon, he was under police guard.



## Wisconsin Players Major League Debut - 2021

### By Dennis D Degenhardt

With the midpoint of the 2021 baseball season upon us, we have three new Wisconsin born players who have made their major league debut in 2021. This month we cover the first two and next month, Owen Miller.

[Ben Rortvedt](#), born on September 27, 1997 in Madison was the first ball player from the state to debut in the majors in 2021, on April 30 at age 23, the 22,364 major leaguer, 250th from the state.



The left-handed hitting catcher starred at [Verona High School](#), the schools only major leaguer. Rortvedt made all-star teams all four high school years starting with being named the All-Big Eight Conference, second team catcher as a freshman and sophomore. Following that second year, he committed orally to play for Division I Arkansas. In his last two high school years, he was first team All-conference and first-team, All-State Spring Team. In his junior year, he hit .463, slugging .817 with 10 doubles, two triples, and five homers with 29 RBIs.<sup>1</sup> During his senior year, slashing<sup>2</sup> .444/.568/.677 with 22 runs and 12 RBIs, he led the Wildcats to the State sectional finals before bowing out 2-0, Verona's third consecutive year making it that far. Rortvedt's honors continued, earning the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year award and the *Wisconsin State Journal's* WisconsinPrepZone.com All-Area Baseball Player of the Year.<sup>3</sup>

Rortvedt was selected by the Minnesota Twins in the second round of the [2016 June MLB Amateur Draft](#), the 56th pick overall. He was one of two Wisconsinites drafted<sup>4</sup> that year along with shortstop Gavin Lux<sup>5</sup> of Kenosha Indian Trail by the Los Angeles Dodgers. His coach, Brad D'Orazio, told the *Wisconsin State Journal*, "Ben is just on an entirely different level," he said. "It was an unreal experience to watch the draft and see the best high school and collegiate players in the country and know that Ben is one of those elite players."<sup>6</sup>

Forgoing his Arkansas scholarship<sup>7</sup>, Rortvedt signed with the Twins and reported to the Rookie Gulf Coast League, getting into 39 games for two Rookie level teams, Fort Myers (FL) Twins and Elizabethton (TN) Twins batting .222 in 59 at bats with three doubles, slugging .253. Defensively he was solid, only three errors for a .989 Fielding Percentage (Fld%) while throwing out 28% of the steal attempts. He gained his first play-off experiences with Elizabethton losing the Appalachian league semifinals to the Johnson City Cardinals in three games.

Moving up to the Low A, Midwest League, the 19 year-old catcher spent the 2017 season and part of the following with Cedar Rapids. In his first year in Iowa, he continued building his skills behind the plate, gunning down 36% of attempted steals with a .992 Fld%. Rortvedt added 70 points to his (SLG) with 16 doubles and belting his first professional home runs, four, while slashing .224/.284/.315;

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis Semrau, "Juniors Fully Committed: Keaton Knueppel and Ben Rortvedt have Verona Poised for a Shot at State," *Wisconsin State Journal*, June 9, 2015, C4.

<sup>2</sup> Slash line: batting average (BA)/on-base average (OBA)/ Slugging Percentage (SLG).

<sup>3</sup> Jon Masson, "Coach: Verona's Rortvedt on 'Entirely Different Level': Brad D'orazio Says He Is Still "Amazed" by the Second-Round MLB Draft Pick Prep Baseball | All-Area Team," *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 1, 2016, C4.

<sup>4</sup> Jim Polzin, "Rortvedt Chosen in Second Round: The Verona Catcher, Taken By The Twins, Is One Of Two State Players Selected MLB Draft," *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 10, 2016, C2.

<sup>5</sup> Lux broke a 37-year dry spell when he was selected 20th in the first round, becoming first Badger State player to go in round one since Nekoosa outfielder [Kevin Brandt](#) was taken 11th by Minnesota in 1979.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Rortvedt also passed on playing with the local Northwoods League, Madison Mallards, who he signed with in February 2016.

with a .599 OPS<sup>8</sup>. He was in the post season again as the Kernels swept the Quarter Finals defeating the Kane County Cougars in two games to advance to the Semifinals where they lost two-of-three to the eventual champion, Quad Cities River Bandits.

The following season was Rortvedt's best year in the minors, beginning at Cedar Rapids for 39 games, before advancing to the High A, Fort Myers Miracle (now in the Florida State League) in June after achieving his best batting average, .276 with 40 base hits. With the Miracle, the backstop was in 51 contests, 46 behind the plate and had his best game in his career late in the season. On August 29, he smacked a fourth inning grand slam and drove in six runs as Fort Myers defeated Bradenton 8-3<sup>9</sup>. For 2018 combining both locales, he hit, .250/.337/.372 with a .709 OPS while again excelling defensively with a .972 FLD% while nabbing 37% of the would be base stealers (43% With Cedar Rapids). When the Miracle won the FSL - South Division, second half title, they clinched a playoff spot; Rortvedt returned to the playoffs for the third consecutive year. With many of the Twins top prospects, they swept the Palm Beach Cardinals, the South's first half winner, in two games and advancing to win the League Championship over the Daytona Tortugas in four games.

Spring training 2019 was Rortvedt's first invite to Minnesota's training camp as a non-roster invitee. When demoted, he rejoined Fort Myers for 24 games before being promoted to Double-A Pensacola. Rortvedt's hitting slipped some as he combined to bat .238/.334/.379 with a .687 OPS, smashing his best, seven homers. The season ended early following a knee injury and a brief return to the Arizona Fall League showed that he needed knee surgery.

The 2020 season started out positively with another invite to the Twins spring training. But with baseball shutting down due to the COVID pandemic, Rortvedt's season ended when baseball restarted and he did not receive an invite to be a member of the Twins 60-man roster. The year ended on a higher note when the big club added him to their 40-man roster in November, protect a catcher, drafted in the second round with strong catching skills, from being lost to another team in the Rule 5 Draft.

Like 2019 and 2020, Rortvedt started the 2021 season as a non-roster camp invitee before being sent to the alternate site on March 15. He was a member of the taxi squad, until the minor league season started in May. But, on April 30, he was promoted to the big leagues swapping places with backup catcher, Ryan Jeffers. "I was catching some of the relievers, I was doing pregame work with them, and then I spent the game in the bullpen" he said before the game against the Royals at Target Field that evening. "So that was pretty cool to be in the atmosphere. I thought that was a good treat."<sup>10</sup>

It became even more special when he made his debut that night at Target Field. his first at bat in the majors was in the bottom of the second inning when he worked the count to 3-and-2, walking on the eighth pitch from Kansas City's Brady Singer to load the bases. The following batter, Luis Arraez drove in the first run of the game when he was hit by a pitch. Rortvedt struck out swinging and flied out to third on his next two plate appearances. In the bottom half of the eighth inning, he got his first hit, a single, and RBI, off Wade Davis, driving in Andrelton Simmons with the Twins going on to a 9-to-1 victory over the Royals. He was demoted to Minnesota's new AAA Team, the St. Paul Saints, on May 21 after going 4-for 25 with two RBIs (the second was earned on May 11 when he was hit by pitch by the White Sox Dylan Cease.)

But Rortvedt's stay was short, only nine days; recalled on May 30, when Max Kepler went on the Injury List (IL). He got into action immediately that Sunday afternoon smashing the first pitch thrown by Kansas City's starter, Brad Keller, for his first major league dinger leading off the second inning. With the Twins starting backstop, Mitch Garver placed on the IL on June 2, following a groin injury and surgery, the Wisconsinite in Minnesota shares the catching duties with Ryan Jeffers.

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<sup>8</sup> OPS, on base average plus slugging.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.milb.com/scores/minnesota-twins/2018-08-29>

<sup>10</sup> Megan Ryan, "Rortvedt jumps from Twin's taxi squad to MLB Debut", *The Star Tribune*, April 30, 2021.

[Jarred Kelenic](#), born on July 16, 1999 in Waukesha, was 21 years-old when he played his first game with Seattle on May 13, the 22,384<sup>th</sup> in major league history and Wisconsin's 251<sup>st</sup>



The Waukesha West High School graduate is the only professional baseball player to attend the school although he did not play on the high school team. Instead he played on very competitive top-tier traveling teams and for Team USA 18U ball clubs (ages 16-18) that won two gold medals. The National teams were pared down to 20 from a pool of over 100 players. Kelenic's first gold medal was at the 2016 [COPABE Pan American Championships](#) in Monterrey, Mexico with the US squad winning seven of the eight contest including defeating Cuba in the championship game 6-1. He contributed a home run in the game and was named the tournament MVP. The other medal was at the [2017 U18 Baseball World Cup](#) held in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Team USA was undefeated taking their fourth consecutive title.

South Korea won the silver and Japan the bronze. Kelenic scored seven runs hitting, 257/.386/.486. He was a triple shy of the cycle in the tournament opener as the USA defeated the Netherlands 11-1.

To prepare for the spring draft, Kelenic graduated early so he could concentrate on preparing for it. Although Wisconsin's spring weather did not cooperate with working outside, the NX Level Sports Performance and Stiks Academy<sup>11</sup> facilities in Waukesha and Hitters in Racine were used to his advantage. His hard work paid off as he was drafted sixth overall in the [June 2018 Amateur Draft](#) by the New York Mets. He was the first high schooler selected and the highest drafted player ever from the Wisconsin.

Eleven days after being selected by the Mets, he inked a \$4.5 million bonus contract on June 15 and was off to start his pro career in Florida with the GCL Mets in Port St. Lucie of the Rookie Gulf Coast League. After 12 games and hitting .413/.451/.609 with a 1.060 OPS he quickly advanced to the Kingston (TN) Mets, in Rookie Appalachian League, where he finished the season playing 44 games. With 17 of his 45 base knocks for extra bases, he hit .253/.350/.431 with a .781 OPS for a combined .839 OPS in his first year in the minors.

But he wasn't done moving for the year. On December 3, Brodie Van Wagenen, the Mets new GM, pulled off a block buster deal to make a statement, acquiring Robinson Cano and Edwin Diaz from Seattle for, major salary dumps of Jay Bruce and Anthony Swarzak plus prospects Gerson Bautista, Justin Dunn (2016 first rounder) and Kelenic. The five-tool Waukesha native was shocked, even questioning if the move was legal when the rumors started flying, "My mom called me and she was like, "This is probably going to happen," Kelenic said on Sunday. "I was like: 'Mom, this doesn't happen to first-year guys. It just doesn't happen.'"<sup>12</sup> With both of the new Mets struggling the following season, the deal looked even worse when both Dunn and Kelenic represented the American League in the All-Star Futures Game.

The throws and bats left-handed outfielder kept on the move in 2019, playing at three different levels plus a short stint in the Arizona Fall League. His first 50 games were in the Class A, SALLY League, (South Atlantic) where he struggled out of the chute with the West Virginia Power. Seemingly lost with only two hits in his first 25 at bats with his new franchise, he received encouragement from the Mariners first baseman, Daniel Vogelbach<sup>13</sup>, and quickly snapped out of his funk hitting .309 with 28

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<sup>11</sup> Per the Detroit Free Press "His father, Tom, co-owns and helped drive the construction of the Infinity Fields complex (also known as "Five Diamonds") in Waukesha. Part of that complex is the NX Level building that opened in 2015, a facility with 80 yards of indoor artificial turf, a basketball court, batting cages and a bevy of training options. Tom also owns the new building down the road into which Stiks Academy and Sports Training recently relocated." JR Radcliffe, "Team USA vet Kelenic may be in play at No. 1," *Detroit Free Press*, May 25, 2018, C7

<sup>12</sup> Tyler Kepner, "At the All-Star Futures Game, Two Reminders of a Painful Mets Trade," *New York Times*, July 7, 2019.

<sup>13</sup> Jude Adam, "Vogelbach steps up with advice," *Spokesman Review*, May 24, 2019, B5.

of his 55 hits for extra bases including 11 four-baggers when he was on the move again. To continue his growth, Kelenic was advanced to High A, Modesto of the California League where he was one of only two players under age 20 on the Nuts. Getting into 46 games he continued manning center field and some right as he had done with the Power. Over 190 at bats, he hit .290 with a .838 OPS. Continuing his progress, the next stop, as he was turning age 20, was to AA, Arkansas for his final 21 games of the season in the Texas League. He was the only one under 22 on the Travelers. Kelenic continued playing both center and right fields and hit .253 with a .957 OPS. Combining all three outfits, his .291/.364/.540 hitting with a .904 OPS and 23 home runs in 117 games earned him the Mariners Ken Griffey, Jr. Minor League Hitter of the Year Award.

Also during Kelenic's second minor league season, he was named to the All-Star Futures Game at Progressive Field in Cleveland as one of the major league top prospects. He was hitless in three at bats. He was also invited to the 2019 Arizona Fall League to join the Peoria Javelinas because of that status. His stay was cut short due to a sore back after playing only one game in the field, three total. In ten at bats, he had three singles and two RBIs.

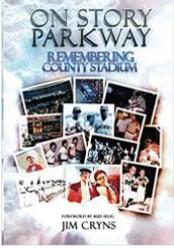
After all of the advancing Kelenic made in 2019, the pandemic halted everything with the 2020 minor league season canceled. He was added to the 60-man roster as an upper prospect when the major leagues season started up again in July but the slugger spent all of his time at the alternate camp in Tacoma, Washington. Unlike some major league teams, Seattle did not promote their best prospects to receive some big league experience.

After haggling between MLB and the Players Association, the baseball season started at the normal times with players reporting to Spring Training in mid-February. Kelenic was one of those coming to camp with high hopes of making the big club but those aspirations were thrown into turmoil when the team CEO, Kevin Mather, made disparaging remarks about a number of players at a Rotary Club meeting including comments that top prospects like Kelenic and Logan Gilbert would not start the season on the Mariners as a way to manipulate their major league service time, keeping them under club control longer. This is a very controversial process the Players Association had accused the owners of doing but they always denied it before. Although the CEO resigned, the club continued to say no decisions had been made.

Although he swatted Seattle's first spring homer in their first Cactus League contest, Kelenic's ability to be ready for the season was in jeopardy when he injured his knee on March 5. Kelenic was able to resume activity 12 days later and performed very well batting .333 with a 1.256 OPS including two four-baggers. But the MLB Pipeline fourth rank prospect was sent to their minor league camp on March 26. He reported to the alternate site until the minor league season started May 1 when he joined AAA Tacoma. Making his Rainiers debut, the 6'1", 190lb outfielder hit two homers and then continued his hot hitting over 29 at bats, hitting .370/.414/.630 when he was recalled on March 13.

Making his debut, Kelenic played left field, hitting lead-off at home versus Cleveland; the Mariners ran into a buzz saw. Indian's starter, Zach Plesac, stifled the home team's bats taking a no-hitter into the eighth innings and allowed only two hits. Leading off, Kelenic swung at the first pitch and right fielder Josh Naylor made a great catch for an out in foul territory. He was 0-for-4 adding a third inning strike out swinging, a groundout to first base in the sixth and a long-fly to deep left-center to end the eighth as Seattle lost 4-2. It was the following night when the Waukesha star shone brightly. He was 3-for-4, whiffing to start the game and then getting three big hits. He clouted his first big league dinger, with a runner on first base in the bottom of the third inning off Indian starter Aaron Civale. He slapped his first double with two outs in the fifth and doubled again in the last half of the seventh with a runner on second base as Seattle bested Cleveland 7-3. But the left handed batter started to struggle including a 39 at bat hitless streak that led to his demotion to Tacoma on June 7 after batting, .096/.185/.193 with only eight hits in 83 at bats. Kelenic's performance has improved with the Travelers and he is working on returning to Seattle this season.

## On Story Parkway: Remembering County Stadium



“[On Story Parkway: Remembering County Stadium](#) is a new book about everything and anything Milwaukee County Stadium. Two and a half years in the making, it covers everything from; the county financing to demolition, Braves to Brewers, Pink Floyd to The Rolling Stones. Keep in mind the book is 620 pages with 152 photos never seen before. It includes 250 memories from former Braves and Brewers, Milwaukee media and most importantly the fans. It is not a coffee table book, but that's where you'll want to keep it for others to share in the memories. The book features memories from Robin Yount, Rollie Fingers, Bob Harlan, Chris Jacke, Mayor John Norquist, Tom Trebelhorn. and hundreds of fans. Foreword by Bud Selig. Thank god for baseball.” (From the [Amazon](#) website.)

Dedicated to Henry Aaron, the book includes contributions from SABR members, Bob Buege, Dennis Degenhardt, Mathew Prigge, and Rick Schabowski. It is currently the #1 baseball book on Amazon.



## Summer of SABR



As part of SABR's 50th anniversary in 2021, all baseball fans are invited to join us online for the [Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series](#), presented by Major League Baseball and [Baseball-Reference.com](#). The opening session begins on June 25-27, 2021.

Join us this summer for a series of presentations, chats, and panel discussions featuring authors, scholars, and figures from around the game, including: **Katie Krall**, Cincinnati Reds; **Bianca Smith**, Boston Red Sox; **Janet Marie Smith**, Los Angeles Dodgers; **J.J. Cooper**, *Baseball America*; **Rick White**, Atlantic League; **Sean Forman**, Sports Reference; **Gary Ashwill**, [Seamheads.com](#); and **Larry Lester**, SABR Negro Leagues Committee; and more.

**Registration:** [Click here to register for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series](#).

Registration is \$35 for SABR members and \$50 for non-members. The **single registration fee** will provide access to the entirety of the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series, including every session in June, July and August. That's NINE incredible virtual sessions, including the full Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, for just one registration price.

**Schedule:** The Summer of SABR online sessions will be held on the weekends of July 23-25, The Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference and August 10, 13-14. [Click here](#) for a closer look at each date and the broad range of topics to be explored.

**Contact:** Please e-mail [Chanel Zapata](#) with any questions.

We hope you'll join us this summer for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series! Visit [SABR.org/summer](#) to learn more.

## ...AND FREE FOOD...

SABR National will cater a future in-person meeting for TWO deserving chapters. The winning chapters will be:

- 1) The chapter with the most total members registering for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series
- 2) Since we have a wide range of chapter sizes, we'll also reward the chapter with the highest percentage of their membership registering for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series

The Ken Keltner Chapter is not one of the largest but we can win the second qualifier and enjoy a summer of SABR meetings for one low cost, \$35...and ...then food at one of our events.

## SABR 50 at 50: Off Field Moments

As part of SABR's 50th anniversary year, we present the final feature in our 50 at 50 series: the [most important off-field moments](#) of the past half-century since SABR was founded in 1971.



In narrowing hundreds of options down to 50, we tried to remain cognizant of all of the other lists we have presented over the past year as part of this golden anniversary series. We have published an entire list on the evolution of [baseball analytics](#) and another for [off-field figures](#); accordingly, we wanted to minimize overlap so we could spread the attention around.

We are aware there are many, many other important moments or days that could, and perhaps should, be included here. It was a very eventful past 50 years. We expect the next half-century to be just as eventful.

Visit [SABR 50 at 50: Off Field Moments](#) to read the list and the short description for each of the moments included.



## Check Out Stories, Videos, and Highlights From the 2021 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Conference

The 11th annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference was held virtually on April 22-24, 2021.

The 2021 virtual conference was highlighted by [a keynote address](#) from Major League Baseball's Official Historian John Thorn, along with [a panel discussion](#) on National League president William Hulbert with Jack Bales, Richard Hershberger, Bill Lamb, and moderator Bill Ryczek; [a special presentation](#) by Jim Gates on the "Penny Marshall Sheet Music Collection" at the Baseball Hall of Fame; a [Member Spotlight interview](#) of Tom Gilbert; plus research presentations.



Visit [Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference](#) to watch video replays of any session from the 2021 conference.



## Ken Keltner Badger State Trivia - July 2021

By [Rick Schabowski](#)

Test your trivia skills, answers will appear in the August Keltner Hot Corner

The first three questions are about Opening Day:

1. In the Brewers first regular season game ever, Opening Day at Milwaukee County Stadium on April 7, 1970, they lost, 12-0, on a four-hitter by which Angels pitcher?
2. Which Brewers had three of those four hits, which included their first ever extra base hit?
3. Name the Angels player who was ejected in the fourth inning by home plate umpire Ed Runge for comments he made while in the on-deck circle.

The next two questions are about the first regular season.

4. The Brewers won their first game on April 11, 1970 in an 8-4 victory against the White Sox. Which Brewer hit two homers and had four RBI's?
5. Who pitched the Brewers first complete game shutout?

The last one more current:

6. In 2018, Christian Yelich hit for the cycle twice. Who was the last Brewer to hit for the cycle before Yelich?

## The American Association Angle

### A Tale of Two Teams: Comparing the 1921 Milwaukee Brewers with the 2021 Milwaukee Brewers

by Rex Hamann

Editor and Publisher of the [American Association Almanac](#)



While it makes no sense that a team that doesn't hit won't win, neither does the notion that a team that hits like heck but has a hard time winning make sense.

First case in point: the 2021 Milwaukee Brewers. Second case in point: the 1921 Milwaukee Brewers.

With the abundance of sub-par batting averages in the lineup for the league-leading 2021 Milwaukee Brewers, it's no wonder that the team ranks last in the major league batting average rankings. If you're anything like me, you're scratching your head wondering how the Brewers, with a team batting average at the very bottom of the major leagues through June 30, could possibly be fielding a competitive team.

And yet they are doing just that, sitting in first place by six games, 15 games over the .500 mark. **Craig Counsell's** "Mash Men" are proving to us that a combination of excellent pitching, superior defense and timely hitting is a recipe for success.

Still, I shake my head. There is no question in my mind that this team is an anomaly. We admire those championship teams of the past and admire their balance, how their strengths compensate for their weaknesses. Is the 2021 Milwaukee Brewer team a balanced configuration? How long can a team so short on consistent hitting possibly stay in the pennant chase? In the case of Milwaukee's 2021 Brewers, they aren't just in the race, they're leading it, and by a significant margin.

By way of comparison, how do the Brew Boys of 2021 stack up against their brethren from 100 years ago? Was that team any more or less competitive? Any more or less balanced? It's like comparing apples with oranges...it's the context that matters most.

Some background: the 1921 American Association season was the first in which the live ball was employed uniformly in the loop. The deadball era was officially in the rear view mirror across the country. Pitchers had yet to fully compensate for the change, and the result was a burgeoning offense which is almost cartoonish by our standards. In fact, the 2021 Brewers have more in common with the 1909 Brewers than the team of 1921. In 1909 under **John J. McCloskey**, the Brewers (90-77) wound up hitting a franchise-low .232 as a team but missed winning the pennant by just two and a half games as the race went down to the final week of the season.

Baseball in Milwaukee was alive and well 100 years ago. Playing their home games at ramshackle Borchert Field at Eighth and Chambers Streets on the city's near north side, the 1921 Brewers were a fierce lot in the league, carrying on a strong tradition of competitive baseball. Aside from leading the league in fielding at the season's midway point, the team was hitting the smack out of the ball that year. The only problem was, so was the rest of the circuit.

The 1921 Brewers were managed by 49-year-old **Rip "Jack" Egan**, former long-time major league umpire in his third season as Brewer skipper (1918; 1920-21). Including the entire 1921 season, Egan's record in Milwaukee was 197-209 (.485). 1921 was his final season piloting the team.

Counsell, 50, will reach the 500-win plateau and undoubtedly be considered for manager of the year in 2021, barring any sudden collapse of the team. He became the Brewer manager in 2015 and holds a record of 479-445 (.518) through June 30.

Counsell's crew opened the 2021 season April 1 with a dramatic one-run victory over the Minnesota Twins at the newly named American Family Field (AFF), formerly Miller Park. With 11 hits in 40 at-bats, the Brewers batted .275 in the game. It was their first of 24 one-run decisions in the first half of

the season (through June 30), winning 16, easily the best record in the National League in one-run games.

Milwaukee's team batting average (TBA) plummeted the next day after being one-hit by the Twins. A loss in game 3 gave the series to Minnesota as the hosts mustered just five hits for a combined-series 17 in 100 at-bats, a .170 average. Facing the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals in the next four games their hit total ran 4-5-8-6, respectively, resulting in a pair of wins. Busting out against the Cardinals April 10 they stroked 13 safeties in a 9-5 win, giving them a cumulative TBA of .196 (53/271).

The pattern seemed to be set early, despite their 4-4 record. The Brewers finished the month of April with 183 hits in 853 at-bats for a TBA of .215 with a 16-10 record. With 15 games played against division rivals, the mere fact the team was winning — despite their low TBA — gave Milwaukee fans at least a shred of hope. The Brewers hit a maximum 13 hits (April 10) in a win at St. Louis, scored an April high nine runs twice (both against the Cards), were shutout twice, were 4-2 in games decided by one run, and had a +10 run differential through their first 26 games.

The 1921 Brewers, on the other hand, had no trouble putting the bat on the ball. Opening the season at home April 13, Milwaukee struggled to get things into full swing because of bad weather; the first three games of a four-game set with the Millers at home were postponed. Hosting the league champion St. Paul Saints in the season opener, Egan's Brew Boys copped a 6-1 victory on eight hits. Rain prevented the second tilt, but an 11-hit attack against the Apostles April 15 provided the boost they'd need for a 7-4 win. Minneapolis held the Crew to six hits in game 3 April 20 to wrap up the home stand. At St. Paul April 22-23, Milwaukee combined for 28 hits with a pair of wins resulting in 21 runs. Then, despite strong hitting, the Brewers lost five straight games, two at Lexington Park in St. Paul and three at Nicollet Park in Minneapolis. It was feast or famine in both hitting and winning. Returning to Milwaukee to host the hard-hitting Kansas City Blues April 30 the Brewers won, 8-6, on the strength of 14 hits. With 17 hits April 22 at St. Paul, the Brewers defeated the Saints, 13-9, achieving their April maximum. Winning six of their first 12 games, Milwaukee wrapped up April batting .308 (131/426) with a run differential of +4 while dropping three of four one-run tilts.

Counsell's Milwaukeeans started May with a win against the reigning world champion Los Angeles Dodgers, punching out nine hits in a 6-5 triumph. Through their first ten games in May the Crew batted .216 and averaged 7.5 hits per game while winning four, three by one run. Three straight losses dropped the team back to .500 at 20-20 May 15 with a combined 15 hits in those three games; the St. Louis series was especially dark with a total of 16 hits, although they managed to eke out a 4-1 win on five hits May 12. Three straight wins May 22-24 preceded a five-game winning streak, but Milwaukee's TBA was not improving, as reflected by a .207 mark for the month. The Counsellmen won seven of 10 one-run tilts, were shutout three times, and posted 14 wins with a run differential of -20. Their overall record stood at 29-25.

Bad weather woes continued to plague the 1921 Brewers, as six postponements disrupted the schedule during the month of May; after May 17, not another game was called until July 4 at Kansas City. Milwaukee started the month with three straight losses to **Otto Knabe's** Kansas City clubbers, including one of the strangest contests in American Association history. On May 4 at Association Park in Kansas City, the Brewers pounded out 15 hits, only to lose, 23-12; the Blues erupted for 27 safeties against Brew Crew pitching as the visiting Milwaukeeans fell to 6-8 on the season. Inconsistency marred the otherwise productive bats of Egan's boys that month. From May 1 to May 24 the Brewers produced hit totals as follows (in chronological order):

8-15-7-12-9-11-7-10-10-11-5-6-8-18-15-7-8-10

The swings represented by these numbers reflect a team with multiple personalities. On the one hand, the club took advantage of their expanded totals by winning 10 of the 13 games with at least 10 hits. On the flip-side, they won only one game in contests in which they registered fewer than 10 hits. The Brewers were 11-14 in May with no shutouts against them. The team started the month by losing three straight, closed out the month with four straight wins, and won no more than two in a row

between those streaks. They gave up 35 more runs than they scored and posted a .300 TBA, and won three of seven one-run decisions.

June was a very good month for Counsell's crew, winning 19 and losing 8, winding up the month with an eight-game winning streak, giving them a six-game lead over second-place Chicago in the standings with a record of 48-33. Losing to Detroit June 1, Milwaukee swept Arizona at home, producing 27 hits in four games with a .221 TBA, roughly ten points better than their season TBA. Winning their first game against the Reds sealed their second five-game winning streak of the year. After losing the second game of the Cincinnati series, the Brewers won another four straight. But traveling to Cincinnati they gave up those gains by losing their next five, including two against Colorado. Recollections of "Team Streak" come to mind. Not until June 19 did Milwaukee finally exceed double digits in the hit column, posting 11 at Coors Field in Denver in a 6-5 win; they connected for 12 in the next contest to win, 7-6. The Brewers won five of eight 1-run contests in June.

The Central Division race was close before Counsell, Inc. surged during the final week. Despite their .212 TBA entering the final week of June, the team gained considerable ground against the Cubs, another team near the bottom in TBA, whose fortunes were sinking as Milwaukee's was rising. Each of the three tilts in the final June series with the Cubs revealed examples of the mysterious success of this Brewer team. On June 28, the score was tied, 4-4, when the host Brewers erupted for 10 runs in the eighth inning to take the lead before emerging victorious. The next night, they defeated the Cubs, 2-1, on just two hits. And during their June 30 matinee, the Brew Boys pulled off an improbable win in historic fashion. After being down, 7-0, in the first inning they showed us just what this "never say die" team has up its sleeve for the rest of the season. With a season-high 15 runs, they overcame Chicago's early lead with a rally rarely seen in baseball. Fifteen unanswered runs put the Brew Crew in rarified air. Combined with the Cubs' seven runs, the two teams combined for 21 runs in the first four innings, something that had reportedly not been done at the major league level since the start of official record keeping in 1901. It didn't quite measure up to the 1921 Brewers' 17-0 win of June 9, but the drama of this amazing comeback created a spectacle, one for the ages that Brewer fans will be talking about for years. With the 12 hits in 36 at-bats, they boosted their TBA to .218, their highest of the season since Opening Day, but remained at the bottom of the major league rankings in a tie with the Seattle Mariners, managed by Westby, Wisconsin favorite son **Scott Servais**.

In June of 1921, Egan's Milwaukeeans came into the month in sixth place (17-20) with a team batting average of .304. Having ended the month of May with four wins, the Brewers capped a five-game winning streak at Indianapolis June 1, then essentially played .500 ball through June 14. At Toledo's Swayne Field June 9, the Brew Crew registered a historic win with a 17-0 drubbing of the Mud Hens, posting 25 hits in the debacle resulting in a .532 TBA, easily their season high to date. Four players collected three or more hits for the visiting Brew Crew: local boy **Ty Lober** (lf) **Del Gainer** (cf), **Alex McCarthy** (3b) and **Jay (Justin) "Nig" Clarke** (c). A win at Columbus June 13 brought the team back to the .500 mark for the first time since April 30 (6-6); two days later the club kicked off a seven-game winning streak during which they batted .306, including four straight games collecting exactly nine hits. The highlight of the streak was a 16-hit barrage resulting in an 8-2 win over St. Paul.

After wrapping up the month of June by winning five of eight games, Egan's Brewers were in third place in the standings with a record of 37-34, just six games behind the front-running Louisville Colonels. The Brewers ranked fifth in the batting race with an outstanding .298 TBA, well behind the torrid bats of the Kansas City Blues whose garish .320 TBA overshadowed runner-up Louisville's .308 by a significant margin. Milwaukee's top batter was the 34-year-old Gainer who ranked fourth in the league with his outlandish .374 average (105h/281ab). Twenty-two-year-old Milwaukee native **Joe "Zips" Hauser** occupied the first sack and was tenth in the circuit with a bulging .345 mark (87/252). Second baseman **Fred "King" Lear**, 27, batted .338 (81/240) and was on his way to a career year. Hauser was the team's home run leader with seven for the season.

Through June 30, the season midway point, the 2021 Brewers' batting leaders found right fielder **Avisail García**, 30, and infielder **Luis Urías**, 24, tied with a team-best 61 hits; Urías held claim for

the team's top batting average (among qualifiers) at .247. Garcia batted .239 and held title to the club's home run leadership with 15. Midseason acquisition **Willy Adames**, 25-year-old shortstop, while batting .237, seems to have found a home in Milwaukee with his dependable defense, infectious antics and approach to the game. His grand slam June 30 was the Brewers' first of the season.

In the next *Hot Corner*, the American Association Angle will compare the performance of the first-half performances of the 1921 and 2021 Milwaukee Brewers from various "angles..." so be sure to stay tuned!

Those interested in the franchise leaders for the American Association's single season home run production (1902-1962) may be interested in the Spring 2021 issue of the *American Association Almanac*, Vol. 17, No. 1, which was just published. A description of the issue's contents can be found at the [Almanac's blogsite](#).

Copies of Vol. 17, No. 1 of the *American Association Almanac* are on sale. Anyone wishing to obtain an e-copy of the home run database for either the 1952 Milwaukee or the 1952 Kansas City season, please contact the author, Rex Hamann, at [rex457@gmail.com](mailto:rex457@gmail.com). [Note, this is a new address.]

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