

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

April 2022 In This Issue:

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Upcoming Events:

Keltner Chapter Meeting **LIVE**

Saturday, April 30 @ 11 AM
J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill
53rd & Bluemound

Beloit Sky Carp Game
with Halsey Hall Chapter
Saturday, August 13
Info: contact [Stew Thornley](#)

SABR Annual Convention **SABR 50**

Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor
Baltimore, MD
August 17-21, 2022
Learn More [Here](#)

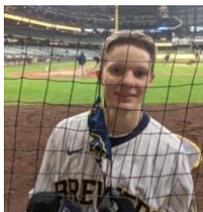
Direct questions or comments to:
Dennis D. Degenhardt
bovine9@icloud.com,
262-339-9968

Welcome New Member Alex Harvey of Portage

Upcoming Events

Keltner Chapter Meeting **Live & In-Person** Saturday, April 30 @ 11AM J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill 5230 W Bluemound Rd.

Josh Maurer - New Brewer Radio Broadcaster
Meet and welcome the new road game broadcaster
and learn about him and his broadcast background.



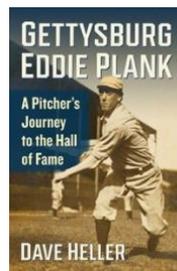
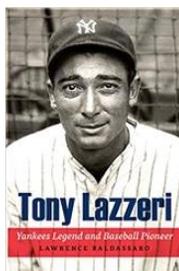
Jake Oakland - Brewer Batboy
So, what do batboys do? Any stories
from the clubhouse he can tell us? He also is a
ball boy with fans stories begging for balls.

Raffle of Chapter member's books published in the last year

🏆 Larry Baldasaro's *Tony Lazzeri Yankees Legend and Baseball Pioneer*

🏆 Dave Heller's *Gettysburg Eddie Plank A Pitcher's Journey to the Hall of Fame*

🏆 Tom Alesia's *Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century*



And we will have some items donate to Mary Sea by the Brewers with the proceeds going to the chapter to build a balance in our checking account.

The Keltner Hot Corner Want's You

Do you have an article or topic you would like publish in the newsletter? If so, that's great. Please contact [Dennis](#).

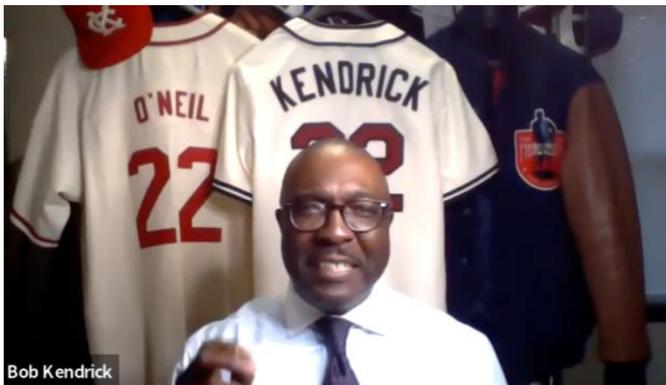
Interest in Madison Mallards game on June 25



It's been a number of years (10+?) since the chapter went to Madison for a Mallards game. And, we have added many new members in the middle of the state during that time. Since 2001, the Mallards have made going to a Northwoods game fun and interesting. I spoke with owner Steve Schmidt who is excited to have us come back to Madison and we could have a pregame "chapter meeting" with some Mallard's officials talking about their organization. From Milwaukee, we could have some car pools (or elsewhere in the state as well).

The key is having enough interest to do more than just attend the game but pregame activities as well. Please contact [Dennis](#) with your interest so we can have an idea of the number of members participating. Also, any ideas you may have for the day would be appreciated.

Story Teller - Bob Kendrick Video Recap Bob Kendrick - Negro League Baseball Museum



Due to COVID, SABR and the Keltner Chapter have relied on Zoom for our meetings. Thursday, March 28th was a special night thanks to our ability to use Zoom when we had a master story teller Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro League Baseball Museum, join our monthly meeting. Kendrick's passion for the Negro Leagues and baseball was on full display as you will see when you watch the recording of the meeting (click on the picture).

Bob talked and told tales about his friend and mentor, Buck O'Neil, Jackie Robinson, Monte Irvin, Satchel Paige, Hilton Smith, Toni Smith and others. His

favorite ballplayer, as a youngster, is also the favorite ball player is the same as many of our Keltner members. He also covered the 1942 Negro League World Series between the Kansas City Monarchs and Homestead Grays, both teams full of future Hall of Famers. And much more. As John Graf related in an email, "wow, is Bob ever a great storyteller."

We also discussed his award winning podcast "[Black Diamonds](#)" with Season 3 on the horizon (learn the date in the recording). In the first two years, there are 30 episodes available with more interesting stories and guests to discuss the greatness of the Negro League players.



We also wanted to know more about the Museum's plans for this year with Jackie's 75th anniversary of breaking the color barrier and Buck's enshrinement into the Hall of Fame. They will have a new traveling exhibit celebrating the Negro League pioneers for each of the 16 major league teams. And there will be Negro League commemorative coins issued this year and you can learn more and/or purchase [here](#).

Click the links to learn more about the [Negro League Baseball Museum](#), becoming a [member](#) and/or make a [donation](#) to support Bob and the work of the Museum.

Keltner Hot Corner Archives

You can now view or download past copies of the Keltner Hot Corner at: [Ken Keltner Badger State Newsletters](#)

Use of Links

Links in the *Keltner Hot Corner* are used to enhance the articles with the majority going to players SABR [BioProject](#) and [baseball-reference.com](#) as well as other sites.

Who is Ken Keltner? See his SABR [Biography](#).

Keltner Book Club

Keltner Book Club Virtual Meeting Recording [The Baseball 100](#), by Joe Posnanski, and “Talkin’ Baseball”



A small but energetic group had a robust discussion on Posnanski’s book. And like so much of baseball, the book generated a great deal of discussion and disagreements on the rankings. All who read the book also agreed that it is well worth the effort to read the 800 page tome because of the quality of the writing and Posnanski’s skill as a story teller.

Click on the picture to watch the recording of the meeting. Enjoy



Keltner Book Club Recommendations

Baseball is back! I’m sure we’ve all been looking forward to the almost daily joy of games to watch or listen to on the radio, along with the thrill of attending games in person. Hopefully, there will still be time for summer reading. Here are a few recommendations for those of us who can’t get enough of our favorite pastime. Perhaps we’ll schedule a meeting to discuss one of these selections.

[The Thrill of the Grass](#), by W. P. Kinsella

This is a delightful collection of short stories recommended by author and SABR member Bob Buege. Kinsella also wrote [Shoeless Joe](#), the novel on which the movie *Field of Dreams* was loosely based. As with the film, many of his stories have a mystical quality about them and each is unique.

[The Celebrant](#), by Eric Rolfe Greenberg

Also recommended by Buege, this is another fictional work, although it’s solidly based on meticulous research. The main characters are fictional, but the storyline portrays Christy Mathewson, John McGraw, and other players and historical figures from that era. You’ll absolutely enjoy being immersed in this ragtime New York baseball story.

[If You Were Only White - The Life of Leroy “Satchel” Paige](#), by Donald Spivey

There are a few biographies of Paige, but this one seems to be the most comprehensive and also dispels a few myths. I found it to be fascinating and also an important account of the Black experience in early 20th century America. It also compellingly portrays Paige as the original star free agent in baseball.

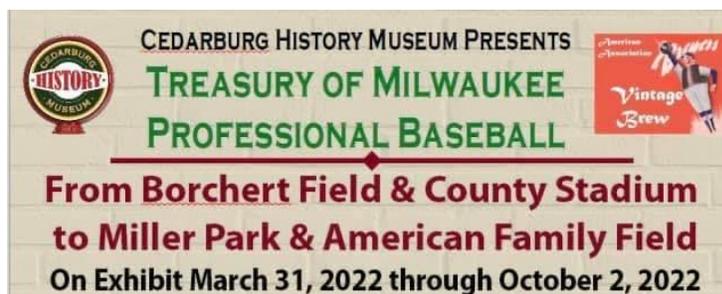
[Tony Lazzeri - Yankees Legend and Baseball Pioneer](#), by Lawrence Baldassaro

This is a fantastic biography of Lazzeri, the first Italian American baseball star who often gets overlooked. Sports Illustrated writer Tom Verducci puts it best: “Tony Lazzeri was one of the first Italian American sports stars, a key player of the famed Murderer’s Row Yankees lineup, and an underappreciated American success story who overcame poverty and epilepsy. He is a worthy subject for this closer look at a Hall of Famer.”

Please direct any questions or comments to [Mary Shea](#).

Happy reading, and enjoy the season!

Mary



Get to Know...Peter Wilt

“I am a sports executive. I was an usher and ticket taker for the Milwaukee Brewers during their first glory years (1979-83) and jack of all trades for the Milwaukee Admirals hockey team from 1983-87. I moved to pro soccer, a sport I never actually played, in 1987 in a sales and marketing role with the Milwaukee Wave. After some success there I went on to lead executive roles with a dozen professional soccer teams. I’ve launched more pro soccer teams, nine, than anyone in history including the Major League Soccer Chicago Fire and National Women’s Soccer League Chicago Red Stars. I’ve been fortunate to earn half a dozen championship rings through my career which now has me operating the Chicago House Athletic Club, a lower division soccer team.”

So why is this bio in a newsletter associated with the Society for American BASEBALL Research? Read on.

“I really enjoy seeking out graves and crypts of famous and interesting baseball players and figures. I’ve visited thousands of famous and interesting people’s final resting places over the years including hundreds of baseball players.” Wilt interestingly related at our last in-person chapter meeting on February 29, 2020 his goal to visit all of the graves of the Chicago Black Sox, with two to go, [Chick Gandil](#) and [Swede Risberg](#), both in California. You can read the meeting recap in the [March 2020 Keltner Hot Corner](#) with many of the late greats sites he has seen.



Ok, so there is a baseball connection. We’ll continue.

“I learned about the sport from my White Sox loving father and brother and watching White Sox and Cubs games on WGN-TV in the 1960s. I began reading the *Chicago Tribune* sports section as a five-year-old to keep up with them and attended my [first game July 7, 1965](#). It was a doubleheader at Comiskey Park against Cleveland. The Indians won both games 4-2. I remember [Gary Bell](#) pitching and the awesome feeling walking up the ramp and seeing the brilliant green of the outfield. I first visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY in 1967 as a seven-year old boy.”

Wilt at Buck Weaver’s Grave

So, who is this baseball fan?

“I [Peter Wilt] was born in 1960 in Woodstock Memorial Hospital in Woodstock, Illinois. I joined my parents Dr. Edward and Marie (Vilona) Wilt and my sister Carol and brother Tim at their home in Johnsburg, Illinois, about 60 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. It is the hometown of [Chuck Hiller](#), who hit the first national league World Series grand slam...but my family moved to McHenry, Illinois, just south of Johnsburg, a year after I was born.”

“My dad was a physician and helped found McHenry Hospital, now Northern Illinois Medical Center. My mother was a nurse, my brother is a medical doctor and cancer researcher. My sister is a retired medical professional as well. I am the black sheep in the family who chose not to follow in their lifesaving footsteps.”

“Seventeen years of Catholic education has turned me into a well-educated atheist.” St. Patrick’s grade school and Montini Middle School, [both in McHenry], Marian Central High School [Woodstock, IL] and Marquette University get the credit (and blame) for much of who I’ve become.”

“My favorite team as a kid was a tie between the White Sox and whoever was playing against the Cubs. My father was a South side Chicagoan and despised the North side and its resident baseball team. I inherited his schadenfreude which stuck with me well into my adult life. The Cubs 1969 season was my favorite until the 1977 Southside Hitmen and then the 2005 World Series championship seasons. In recent years I have tempered my disdain for the Cubs.... surely a sign of my aging.”

“White Sox outfielder [Tommie Agee](#) was my first favorite player. I was distraught when he was traded to the Mets, but thrilled when he helped the Amazing Mets top the Cubs for the 1969 N.L. pennant. As a 12-year old, [Dick Allen](#) became my iconoclastic hero on and off the field. I never thought the White Sox would be able to get a true superstar until he arrived. Dick is a Hall of Famer in my heart and I know he will someday be a Hall of Famer in Cooperstown as well. I [wrote about him](#) (and Muhammad Ali) for the *Whitefish Bay Patch* a decade ago.”



“I enjoyed playing traditional sports in the backyard and neighborhood lots and driveways. My brother, four years older, consistently beat me in fast and slow pitch Wiffle ball, but I managed to hold my own among kids my own age. I played for the Yanks, Tigers and Bluebirds in Little League where I was a good field (using my [Don Drysdale](#) signature glove), no hit infielder. I inexplicably pitched 2/3 of an inning in a Little League All-Star game one year, perhaps as a reward for my top shelf “Hey batter, hey batter, SWING batter!” banter.”

“I played a lot of non-traditional sports, too, which allowed me to have more success, because fewer top athletes were playing tennis, ping pong, frisbee or running. I was on Marian Central’s cross country team where I was MVP as a freshman and on the school’s tennis team where I was decidedly not MVP any of my years at Marian.”

“Ann (Coffey) Wilt and I met at Marquette our sophomore year and have been married since 1988. Our early dates included an otherwise meaningless end of the season White Sox game in October, 1981. Afterwards while having a beer in McCuddy’s beer garden across the street from Comiskey, I asked Ann if she’d like to go to a Blackhawks exhibition game that night at the Chicago Stadium. Her affirmative answer made me feel good about our prospects together. We have three cats, two Siamese named Beany and Cecil and a barn rescue named Flora. Ann is Riding Director at Knollwood Farm, a respected horse riding stable in Hartland.”

Wilt joined SABR in 2019. “I wish I joined earlier. I had been reading SABR player bios and other available articles online for years and finally decided that I should get off the gravy train and contribute some money for the incredible information I was learning. Attending the SABR century symposium on the Chicago Black Sox finally put me over the hump to join.”

During his college years, Peter was a sportswriter for United Press International (UPI) where he primarily covered high school and college football throughout Wisconsin. He also had some opportunities to cover Milwaukee Bucks and Marquette basketball games.

“After having application letters to 23 MLB teams (I didn’t apply to the Expos, because I couldn’t speak French) rejected right out of college, I started writing a book analyzing the history of trades in baseball. I developed “Tradeologies” patterned after ancestral genealogies and then wrote narratives describing how the trades worked in a rearview mirror. I ended up getting a job with the Milwaukee Admirals and put my pen down. I discovered the unfinished manuscript in my attic during COVID and am thinking of finishing it in the future.”

He has also written about 50 sports columns for the *Whitefish Bay Patch* including a few on baseball as well as around 50 soccer columns for various online and print soccer publications including *Pitch Invasion* and [The Athletic.com](#). “Baseball articles I’ve written include one on [Bill Veeck’s time in Milwaukee](#) and a serendipitous [baseball history discovery](#) at the former Pabst Brewery. Other sports columns I’ve written include [uniform numbers](#) and [long gone pro football leagues](#).”

If the Whitefish Bay resident had a time-machine moment and could go back in time to any baseball event, he would want to return to the [Dick Allen Chili Dog Game](#). “I was actually there with my dad and brother, but I wasn’t there. It was a bat day doubleheader and my dad wanted to beat the crowd (51,904) out of the parking lot. We were in our car listening on the radio when [Chuck Tanner](#) called Dick to pinch hit for Rich Morales. He was in the locker room eating a chili dog. Dick quickly finished the chili dog, spilling some of it on his uniform, then grabbed his 42-ounce piece of lumber. It was the

bottom of the 9th, the Sox were down 4-2 with two runners on base against the New York Yankees' star reliever [Sparky Lyle](#) and Dick came through like the superstar he was. Oh, what I'd give to have still been inside Comiskey Park to be a witness to that blast."

Representing the Admirals in 1984 while speaking at a West Milwaukee service organization meeting, he thinks the Lions Club, he felt fortunate to meet Ken Keltner. "I was very excited to meet the man who stopped [Joe DiMaggio's](#) hitting streak and he was pleased to know that someone so young (I was 24) knew who he was."

And as usual, the last question we ask the Get to Know candidates (victims) is if they have any final words of wisdom and Peter easily had a reply, "Thank you for allowing me to be part of this community. With all the divisiveness in society today, it's wonderful to have a group of people that come together to share their passion for baseball."



Universal DH Poll

With MLB adopting the Universal DH for the 2022 season, what are your thoughts? Do you love it or hate it or somewhere in between. Please complete this simple poll and reply to [Dennis](#).

Comments received:

Dave Klement

I'm in favor of the universal DH. I don't like the DH rule, but the nation's trend has been strongly in that direction, so the National League may as well go along with it instead of being an odd outlier.

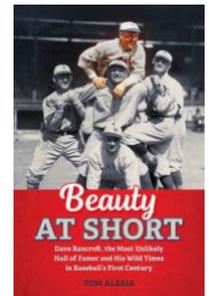
Dennis Degenhardt

Although I consider myself primarily a baseball purist, I have been in favor of the DH all the way back to the Brewers AL years. Nothing is more frustrating than having a pitcher squelch a rally which is far more typical than the rare heroics.



New Book by Keltner Member Tom Alesia

Tom Alesia of Madison has a new book on Hall of Famer Dave Bancroft, who died in Superior after living in the Northern Wisconsin city for 60 years, titled [Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century](#). The undersized Iowan signed his first minor league contract at age 17 but lasted only 3 weeks and the next team also released him but his persistence paid off with a career topped off with enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. Along the way, his aggressive play changed the shortstop position, holding the longest-standing season record for fielding chance by a shortstop. He earned the nickname Beauty. His eighth grade team included a black player but he wouldn't have another black teammate until 1959, at age 68, when Jackie Robinson was his keystone corner mate in an old-timer's game.



I was fortunate enough to have a PDF copy of the book forwarded to me by Tom and with a busy schedule, I didn't have time to look at it. One afternoon I had some time and thought I would take a look at the book. The added research items and writing got my attention and a look at it turned into a need to read. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. We will have a Zoom meeting in the next month or so with the author to discuss why Bancroft and Tom's endeavor to bring this project to reality.

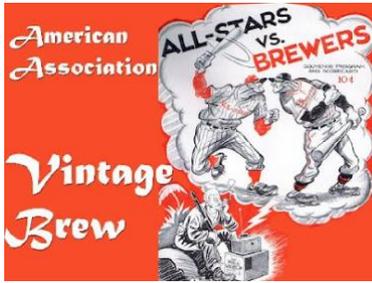
The Keltner Hot Corner Want's You

Do you have an article or topic you would like publish in the newsletter? If so, that's great. Please contact [Dennis](#).

Vintage Brew

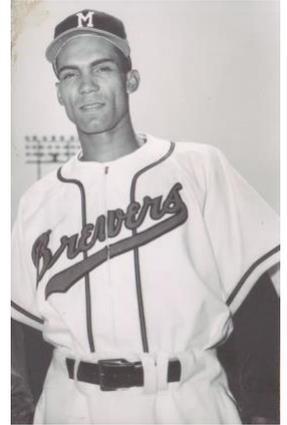
“Playing it Forward... James Buster Clarkson”

By Paul Tenpenny



James "Buster" Clarkson was known mostly as a Negro League ball player, he played with his fellow soldiers during World War 2 and his minor league career included the 1950-1952 seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers. He had a short cup of Joe in the majors with the Boston Braves, but the well-traveled Clarkson was much more to those who really knew him and caught the "Bus."

In the summer of 2016 I was invited to attend a ballgame at Miller Park by my good friend and author [Bob Buege](#). Seated with us was the family of the newly inducted member of the Milwaukee Braves Wall of Fame, [Bill Bruton](#). I had met the late Bruton at a signing years ago and had the privilege to talk at length with him during a break. He was a great player and a very friendly man. To get a chance to sit with his daughter and grandsons was an honor. It allowed me the time to get to know them and also afforded me an opportunity to return a "lost" passport to his family that I had acquired. It was an emotional experience for myself and the family. I was able to share with them a photo of him as a Milwaukee Brewer that they apparently had never seen.



Bruton as a 1952 Brewer

Our conversation led to his early experiences in baseball and the overwhelming impact that another player had on his career and life. That player was James Clarkson. "Bus, Buzz" or "Buster" Clarkson was a veteran [Negro League star](#) and a [Milwaukee Brewer from 1950-1952](#). He was a solid hitter for the Brews during that time hitting over .300 in the three years with the team. Here are a couple of comments from teammates I had contact with for a previous article.

Teammate Charlie Gorin:

"I remember Clarkson on fielding a ground ball would make the throw and holler 'Do something with it George.' Bus was older, and his arm was a little weak, but [\[George\] Crowe](#) (1st) would dig it out of the dirt. Bus made up for his arm with a strong bat."

Teammate Bert Thiel:

"Nobody knew his age but he could swing the bat with power."



Clarkston as a 1951 Milwaukee Brewer

His stats can be found on [Baseball Reference.com](#) and some very good research has been done and is available online, particularly ["A Long Ride to the Majors: The Story of James 'Bus' Clarkson"](#) by Nick Diunte. This is a must read and gives us a window to the times as to how many great players were overlooked. For most, it was too late for them by the time Jackie Robinson broke down the barrier. He was undeniably a great ballplayer, but we will never get a chance to really know how great. Like longtime Brewer trainer [Harry "Doc" Buckner](#), we can only think of the "What If"s.

By the time he arrived in Milwaukee, James Clarkson was older than most of his teammates and he became a coach and a mentor to players like Bill Bruton who were new to the game.

John Stahl in his [SABR bio](#) on Bruton tells us:

On May 31 the Braves fired manager [Tommy Holmes](#) and hired [\[Charlie\] Grimm](#). He quickly made several roster moves, including optioning outfielder Jim "Buster" Clarkson to the Brewers. Bruton became friends with Clarkson, a veteran Braves minor-league player who had also played in the Negro Leagues. A college graduate in physical education, Clarkson began schooling Bruton on how to improve his game.

Bruton quickly turned his disastrous season around. He ended up playing in all 154 games and hit .325 for the season. His 211 hits led the American Association. In the last six weeks of the season, he stole 20 bases. Bruton gave all the credit to Clarkson. "All I know about baseball, I owe to Bus Clarkson," he said. "He taught me a lot." After the season, Clarkson invited Bruton to play winter ball for a team he managed in the Puerto Rico League. Again, Clarkson provided Bruton with more baseball insight. This time they focused on his bunting."



Milwaukee Brewers Clarkson, Bruton and Luis Marquez outside of Borchert Field in 1952

Clarkson also helped players navigate life as a person of color during the 1950's as he was a "veteran" of these *times* too.

Clarkson never lost sight of the future, he reached out to those younger than himself, seen here, sharing baseball with the eager children of Milwaukee. Just look at the face of the little boy being held by two of the local heroes. I wonder if Matthew Huff of Milwaukee saved this baseball? I'd love to hear from you. You'd be 71 years young today.

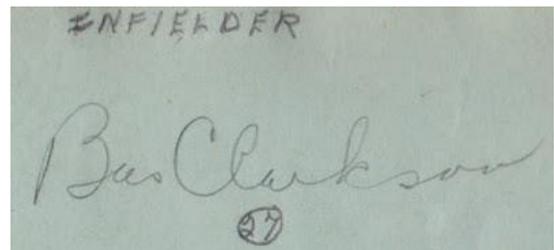
From May 30, 1951:

"Autograph seekers had a field day at Lapham Park playground the other day when George Crowe and Jim Clarkson of the Brewers visited the field..."



James Clarkson went on to live a quiet life after his career in baseball ended in 1956.

This signature as a 1952 Brewer from a young fan's autograph book is one of my most treasured possessions.



He played his heart out, lived life well and unselfishly gave back to those younger than him in so many ways.

He paid it and played it forward.

Thanks, Bus.

Paul Tenpenny
Tencentz@aol.com

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What's Happening with the DockHounds in Oconomowoc?

DockHounds Announcements

The opener for the [Lake Country DockHounds](#) is under 45 days away.

The Dog Pound continues to grow with players signing contracts. The [roster](#) now has 23 players including 11 pitchers with the addition of Taiwanese Righty, [Cheng Hao-Chun](#).

The Hounds open their inaugural season on the road, well, maybe down the road in Milwaukee with three games against the Milkmen starting May 13 then open a week later at home versus the Winnipeg Goldeyes on the 20th. The Hounds final home appearance is on August 28 before closing the season in Cleveland on September 4. See the [Schedule](#) for more information.

Single Game [Tickets](#) are now on sale.

What to Expect at Wisconsin Brewing Company Ballpark



The Oconomowoc team recently released a video introducing Wisconsin Brewing Company Ballpark showing what is in store for the fans who will attend games including the many fan friendly amenities. You can see it all in less than two minutes [here](#).

The Lake Country DockHounds are ready to rally with a new partnership with Baird Wealth

Management sponsoring [The Baird Wealth Management Club Level](#) provides a comfortable, fun atmosphere that includes full-service catering ideal to host groups of 50-250. It will be available year-round for multiple events whether a DockHounds game, private event or even a company meeting. It has three glass garage doors that can be opened to provide a mix of indoor and outdoor lounge seating. Another unique feature in the Club Level is the microbrewery that will brew the official DockHounds beer and new brew creations.



Wisconsin Brewing Company Park Construction Update

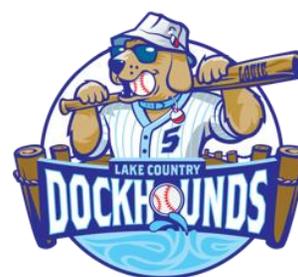
Pouring of the bowl was completed on Monday, April 4

The third base building is complete

Rough mechanics are near completion

Finishing the berm and framing second floor the week of April 4

All windows are in



[Trish Rasberry](#)

General Manager

Lake Country DockHounds

Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By [Rick Schabowski](#)

April Trivia

1. April 19, 1952: This pitcher in his first ever at-bat hit a home run. His next at-bat resulted in a triple. He would go on to never hit another home run or triple in his 21 seasons in the Major Leagues. Who is he?
2. April 30, 1922: This day saw the last perfect game in the Major Leagues until Yankee Don Larsen threw a perfecto in the 1956 World Series. Which White Sox pitcher threw this game in 1922?



3. In April 1940, this pitcher threw the only opening day no-hitter in the first 100 years of Major League baseball history. Who is he?
4. Which player holds the record for the highest career on-base percentage (OBP)?
5. Dan Plesac pitched for the Brewers from 1986-1992. Which batter did he strikeout the most during that period? Hint: He's NOT from an AL East team.

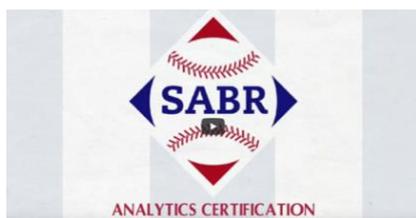
I did not have my usual, one; shockingly, I got three. Let me know how you did on the trivia [DDD](#).

Do you have a favorite baseball trivia question? If so, send it to [Rick](#) to see if you can stump him and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit for the stumper.

Answers are [here](#).

SABR Analytics Certification

SABR Analytics Certification program launches with online course on baseball analytics



It's time to get SABR Certified! The first course in the new [SABR Analytics Certification](#) program — Conversational Analytics and Critical Thinking in Baseball — is available online now.

The SABR Analytics Certification program is an online, on-demand curriculum offering professional development and learning opportunities for those interested in elevating their skills and knowledge relating to baseball analytics. The curriculum was

developed by current baseball professionals, including employees of Major League Baseball and its clubs. SABR members get a significant discount on this Analytics Certification course registration, saving **\$55 off the regular price**. Visit SABR.org/analytics/certification to sign up today or learn more.



The American Association Angle

Home Run Frequency as Measured by At-bats Per Homer Run: Single-season Performances of the Deadball-era Milwaukee Brewers and the Milwaukee Braves

by Rex Hamann of [The American Association Almanac](#)



The January 2022 issue of the *Hot Corner* featured an article covering the home run frequency of the home run leaders of the American Association Milwaukee Brewers and the modern Milwaukee Brewers of both the American and the National Leagues. This article is an extension of that, covering both the Deadball-Era Milwaukee Brewers and the Milwaukee Braves. Using the metric for average number of at-bats per home run allows home run frequency to be measured for comparative purposes. One purpose for such comparisons is to view players from Milwaukee teams with respect to their peers. Another purpose is to view players who weren't necessarily a team leader in home run

production but had a home run frequency that set them apart from their peers.

Listed below are the top ten players of the Deadball-Era Milwaukee Brewers (1902 to 1919) ranked according to their at-bats per home run. A player's at-bats per home run can be viewed as the average number of at-bats each player required per home run during a single season.

Rk	Player	Season	#HR	AB/HR
1	Happy Felsch	1914	19	30.3
2	Doc Marshall	1910	5	55.2
3	Larry Gilbert	1913	10	55.7
4	Jim Thorpe	1916	10	57.3
5	Johnny Beall	1916	8	58.1

6	Johnny Beall	1914	10	60.3
7	Quait Bateman	1904	9	61.2
8	John O'Neill	1905	6	65.2
9	Bruno Haas	1919	7	65.7
10	Doc Marshall	1911	6	67.5

As an example, **Happy Felsch** hit a total of 19 home runs in 1914, or one home run every 30.3 at-bats.

As a side note, two players who ranked at the top of this listing were excluded because of their low number of at-bats: **Doc Johnston** and **Austin McHenry**, both of who home played during the war-shortened 1918 season. Johnston, a first baseman, produced four homers in 31 games and led the team with a .374 batting average; McHenry was an outfielder who appeared in 44 games with five home runs and batting .306. Their averages for at-bats per home runs were 28.3 and 34.0, respectively.

Please note **Doc Marshall's** minimal home run total; he played 87 games as catcher for the sixth-place Brewers in 1910, platooning with **Bill Ludwig** who caught 79 tilts.

Of the ten records listed above, only those of lefty-batting **Johnny Beall**, first in 1914, then in 1916, were not those of the team's home run leader.

Deadball Era home run totals were significantly lower than after the live ball era came into being in 1920. With the physical structure of the baseballs of the time, the amount of effort required to propel the horsehide the distance required for a home run was great; many of the those hit during this time were of the inside-the-park variety.

Hometown hero **Oscar Emil "Happy," or "Hap," Felsch**, twenty-two-year-old outfielder, owned acclaim for being Milwaukee's most productive home run hitter during the Brewers' Deadball years, averaging one home run every 30.3 at-bats. While this figure is not on par with the live-ball Brewers' top swatters (among the American Association entry), it represented an immense departure from most of the team's other top ten averages which were frequently twice his mark. The Milwaukee native went on to have a short but productive career with the Chicago White Sox and was directly involved in the infamous Black Sox scandal of 1919.

- For appearing twice on the list, Marshall and Beall warrant the spotlight.
- **William Riddle Marshall**, of Butler, PA, first joined Milwaukee in 1910 at the age of 34, remaining with the team through 1913, his final season in organized ball, with the exception of the 1912 season which he split between Milwaukee and the St. Paul Saints.

A native of Beltsville, MD, **John Wolf Beall** became a Brewer in 1913, which happened to be Milwaukee's first season as an American Association champion, at the age of 31. He stayed with the Brewers through the 1918 season with a total of six seasons playing in Milwaukee flannels. His 1915 season deserves note for his .334 batting average in 154 games, scoring 111 runs with a career-high 29 stolen bases. His 77.0 at-bats per home run that year ranked 17th all-time on the Milwaukee leader board. Beall died at the age of 44 in 1926.

Comparing Deadball-Era Milwaukee's leaders with the combined list from the live ball era shows no overlap. Felsch's 30.3 matched best with the average of Brewer middle-infielder **Bud Connolly's** 49th-ranked 30.6 in 1933, providing a stark contrast between the two eras.

As mentioned, Milwaukee's first American Association championship season was 1913. That year the team registered 31 home runs, ranking second to the 40 of the Kansas City Blues, and tied with the Columbus Senators. The team's average at-bats per home run was 178.4, an astronomical figure in comparison with the 2021 Brewers whose team average, with 194 long balls, was 27.6 ab/hr.

Comparing averages between the minor league Brewers and major league Brewers from the last installment of this column showed some interesting highlights. With that in mind, consider the accomplishments of the National League's Milwaukee Braves. While it's an "apples vs. oranges" view,

the results are nonetheless a good way to become more familiar with this particular stat as it relates to the top performing players of teams making their home in Milwaukee. Listed below are the top ten players for the Milwaukee Braves (1953-1965) during their 13-year tenure in the Cream City:

Rk	Player	Season	#HR	AB/HR
1	Joe Adcock	1956	38	11.95
2	Eddie Mathews	1954	40	11.90
3	Eddie Mathews	1955	41	12.17
4	Wes Covington	1958	24	12.25
5	Eddie Mathews	1953	47	12.32
6	Eddie Mathews	1959	46	12.91
7	Hank Aaron	1962	45	13.16
8	Joe Adcock	1962	29	13.48
9	Hank Aaron	1957	44	13.98
10	Eddie Mathews	1960	39	14.05

Three players listed above were not the team home run leader during the designated season. **Wes Covington**, Braves' left fielder, ranked fourth on the team's all-time list, but was third in his home run output in 1958 as third-sacker **Eddie Mathews** led the team with 31 circuit shots, while fellow future Hall of Famer and right fielder **Hank Aaron** was next with 30. In 1960, Mathews had the team's tenth-best average, but had one less home run than Aaron whose 14.75 HR/AB ranked twelfth. And in 1962, **Joe Adcock**, ranked eighth on the all-time list while belting 29 home runs, matching Mathews but with nearly 150 fewer at-bats.

Interestingly, two Braves' players from different seasons had an identical average of at-bats to home runs. Catcher extraordinaire **Del Crandall**, with 25 circuit clouts, averaged 16.92 AB/HR in 1955, while left-fielder **Frank Thomas**, with 26 homers in 1961, averaged 16.92 AB/HR as well. Both averages ranked 20th on the Braves' all-time list.

The Braves most productive home run season during their time in Milwaukee was 1957 when they rapped a league-best 199 round-trippers. The team averaged 27.4 at-bats per home run, a figure nearly identical to that of the 2021 Brewers.

Fans who enjoy the statistical aspect of baseball metrics without getting too immersed in SABRmetrics, calculating and comparing a players' average at-bats per home run can be a satisfying exercise. It's a simple, yet meaningful example of how baseball analytics can add a dimension of enjoyment to your baseball interests.

The American Association Almanac is a bi-annual print publication dedicated to the history of the old American Association. To subscribe, please contact Rex Hamann by email at rex457@gmail.com for further information. The Spring 2022 issue of the Almanac, just released, presented a game-by-game accounting of the American Association playoffs for the years 1958 to 1962. Contact Hamann at the above email address if you have an interest in obtaining a copy of this 35,000-word work documenting the playoffs of the American Association.

Schabowski's Super Stumpers

April Answers:

1. Hoyt Wilhelm
2. Charlie Robertson
3. Bob Feller
4. Ted Williams
5. Steve "Bye-Bye" Balboni - Royals

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