



Rocky Mountain SABR Newsletter

March 2024

Herb Shankman Celebration of Life March 24th Coors Field

Please join us on March 24, 2024, 1:00pm at Coors Field in celebrating the life of one of our most senior members (2009) and good friend, Herb Shankman who passed away in December.

Please bring a story or a memory to share with everyone.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Research Hospital in memory of Herb.

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Memorials/Memorials?px=8287070&pg=personal&fr_id=154020

Parking instructions for the event can be found [HERE](#)



COMMITTEE TO SELECT THE ALL-TIME GREATEST PLAYERS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Rocky Mountain SABR is launching a new committee to subjectively rank the top 20 all-time MLB players that are natives of the Rocky Mountain region.

Kurt Wells is heading the committee and is looking for volunteers to join him in defining criteria for rankings and ultimately in determining the order of the top players. An initial meeting will be held to determine a framework for identifying a scoring system that will provide less subjectivity and more objectivity to the final rankings.

Statistics of the players will be distributed at the meeting for each member to analyze prior to the second meeting. The second meeting will allow the members to discuss and rank the players.

Once the team members are identified, the first meeting will be scheduled.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee or otherwise participating on the project, please contact us via— info@rmsabr.org

MARCH ROCKY MOUNTAIN SABR LUNCHEON



On Wednesday, March 20th, we will have an in-person Rocky Mountain SABR gathering at Chopper's Sports Grill.

The luncheon will begin at noon and will go to about 1:30 PM. Chopper's is located at 80 S. Madison St., which is close to S Alameda and Colorado Blvd. There is plenty of free parking, both on the street in front of the restaurant as well as a parking lot behind the building. - [Map](#)

The luncheon is open to both members and non-members and is a great opportunity to discuss baseball with fellow baseball fans. Hope to see you there!



REGISTRATION FOR SABR ANALYTICS CONFERENCE— LIMITED TIME REMAINING

Early registration is now open for the SABR Analytics Conference, which will be held in person from March 8-10, 2024, at the Beus Center for Law and Society on Arizona State University's Downtown Phoenix Campus in Phoenix, Arizona.

The conference will feature the top minds in the baseball analytics community to discuss, debate, and share insightful ways to analyze and examine the great game of baseball.

For more info - <https://sabr.org/analytics>

STAT OF THE MONTH— BABIP

As the first installment of this new monthly feature, intended to build awareness and explain some of the baseball advanced analytics, we are featuring a simple yet vital stat for player evaluation.

BABIP is important because the frequency with which a player gets a hit on a ball in play or allows a hit on a ball in play is very telling. Three main factors influence BABIP and all three of those factors tell us something important about that player's overall stat line. Those factors are defense, luck, and talent level.

Batting Average on Balls In Play (BABIP) measures how often a ball in play goes for a hit. A ball is "in play" when the plate appearance ends in something other than a strikeout, walk, hit batter, catcher's interference, sacrifice bunt, or home run. In other words, the batter put the ball in play and it didn't clear the outfield fence. Typically around 30% of all balls in play fall for hits, but there are several variables that can affect BABIP rates for individual players, such as defense, luck, and talent level. Hitters have more control over their BABIP than pitchers do and that lack of control for pitchers has led to the creation of [Defense Independent Pitching Statistics \(DIPS\)](#).

BABIP is one of the simplest and more important sabermetric statistics, but it is also one of the most misunderstood. Understanding the factors that lead to a higher or lower BABIP is important for analyzing player performance and knowledge about the principle itself will lead you to a more nuanced appreciation of the game.

Calculation:

The BABIP equation is: $BABIP = (H - HR) / (AB - K - HR + SF)$

The 2023 MLB top 5 in BABIP for hitters were— F. Freeman .370, Y. Diaz .367, L. Arraez .362, B. Bichette .355 and B. Harper .352

The 2023 MLB top 5 in BABIP for pitchers were— C. Burnes .244, J. Lyles .255, B. Snell .256, G. Cole .261 and J. Verlander .265

The MLB BABIP in 2023 was .297.

$$\frac{H - HR}{AB + SF - SO - HR}$$



WRITERS WANTED

Do you have an interesting baseball story, observation, opinion, etc. that you'd like to share with the chapter or a greater audience? If so, please consider writing something to submit to our website blog.

The topic can be anything you feel is of interest or relevant (i.e. baseball history, analytics, player bios, stadiums, the business of baseball, etc.).

Site visitation has grown considerably over the past few months and with plans in place for further promotion of our site, visitation could grow by more than ten-fold before the end of the year - giving your words a broad audience.

If you are interested in contributing a story, please contact us at—info@rmsabr.org



ROCKIES MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lucas Gilbreath (28) —March 5th
Clint Barmes (45) —March 6th
Steve Reed (59) —March 11th
Dale Murphy (68) —March 12th
Scott Oberg (34) —March 13th
Dexter Fowler (38) —March 22nd

DID YOU KNOW?

The Rockies signed 24-year-old RHP Yusuke Arakawa, from Toyota of a Japanese industrial league, on March 14, 2003. He pitched in the minors for three years, but never reached the Majors.



TRIVIA

In the history of Coors field, a player has hit for the cycle 18 times—the most of any MLB ballpark. Who was the heaviest player ever to do so?

EMAIL your answer to - info@rmsabr.org

The first correct response wins a 2023 Coors Field SGA item.

Last month's trivia question -

Q- Who was the first Rockies player to ever be listed as the DH at Coors Field?

A— Raimel Tapia (First correct answer was given by Karl Greve)