

Society for American Baseball Research



MINOR LEAGUE RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

David Kemp

Since the last issue of the M.L.N. John Pardon has decided to resign as the chairman of the Minor League committee. John will continue as an important and active member of the committee. The SABR board has asked me to take over the responsibilities of the chairman. The chairman handles research inquiries and aids in the coordination of committee projects. He also reports to the board on a regular basis and at the national convention each year. I will continue to issue the M.L. Newsletter. I hope that it will aid in the committee's activities.

A major contribution of the Minor League committee is the Minor League Stars. Several of our members have participated in the first two volumes of MLS. Bob Hole is once again coordinating the research. The committee has compiled the following nominees for Vol. III.

We would like to have your comments and input on our nominees. We need volunteers to help compile the statistics for the new selections. Do you have any special observations on the abilities of the nominees?

The database for research background of the members is still incomplete. It would be very useful if the members would provide us with the information as soon as possible. Providing us with your research background will aid in carrying out the work for MLS III. It will also help me to explain the necessary expenses and purpose of our committee.

Can anybody inform me of the place and date of death of Bill Thomas (William C. Thomas), the winner of 383 games in the minors? This is, of course, number 1. A former teammate told me he died in Texas about 1972, but I could not verify this by correspondence with the keepers of the vital record in Austin. He lived in Tulsa, and Oklahoma treats the vital record as confidential. I plan to follow his career through newspaper search, and do not consider what I would find publishable without his place and date of death.

George W. Hilton
Dept of Econ
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, Ca. 90024-1477

ABERDEEN PHEASANTS - 1958

The Pheasants were, for the twelfth year, the Class C farm club of the Baltimore Orioles. The affiliation had begun when the parent organization was still the St. Louis Browns. Aberdeen was the only South Dakota town in organized ball. The local sportswriter believed that Aberdeen was the smallest town in baseball.

The Pheasants' first win of 1958 was their second game of the season. Steve Barber won a 9-5 affair over St. Cloud Rox. On May 1 the Pheasants lost 22-2 at St. Cloud with temperatures hovering at 32 degrees. The Pheasants lost the next five games by a combined score of 67-7. The pheasants would go on to lose 18 straight games. The losing string ended on May 19 when Bo Belinsky's first start resulted in a 3-0 victory.

The local sportswriter expressed regret that Aberdeen had remained affiliated with the hapless Oriole's organization. He castigated farm director, Harry Dalton for not sending a representative team to town. Billy DeMars, with no previous managerial experience, was sent in to take over the 2-22 Pheasants. The Pheasants would drop to 2-29 before winning three games in a row.

Herm Starette and Belinsky began to pitch effectively. The Pheasants won 18 of the next 41 games. Steve Dalkowski lost his first start on July 22. On July 27 he lost 9-8 while striking out 14 and walking 12. On August 20, Dalkowski, abandoning his no windup style of pitching, beat Grand Forks 2-1 in 11 innings. He Struck out 20, walked 5, and allowed 3 hits. In his first forty-six innings Dalkowski had walked 86 batters. In his last three starts he would walk 28 while striking out 24.

The pheasants would finish the season with a 39-86 record, 34 1/2 games out of first. Earl Weaver would arrive in 1959 to bring winning baseball back to Aberdeen. Will the 1988 Orioles find a Dalkowski to bring excitement to their exceptional season?

Obituary:

ARNOLD JOHN (JIGGER) STATZ

Jigger Statz, perhaps the finest minor league player of all time, died March 16, in Corona del Mar, California at the age of 90. Jigger's long and impressive career is documented in Minor League Stars I. Statz played 3,473 professional games, the most ever by an individual. His 13,242 at bats is also an all time record. His lifetime batting average in 24 seasons was .309.

MINOR LEAGUE STARS III CANDIDATES:

Andres Ayon
Angel Luis Alcaez
Bill Allington
Thomas Angley
Ralph Atkins
Win Ballou
Evertt Bankston
Dave Barbee
Charles Baron
Richard Barry
Edwin Basinski
John Bassler
Jum Basso
Charles Baumann
Ervin Beck Fred Beck

Heinz Becker
Jodie Beeler
Larry Bettencourt
Del Bissonette
Jim Bivin
George Blackerby
Bob Boken
Stu Bolen
Bernard Borgmann
Art Bowland
Joe Bratcher
Garland Braxton
Joe Brovia
Edward Brown
Hobe Brummitt
Paul Bruno
Jim Bryan
Les Burge
Glenn C. Burns
Russell G. Burns
Bruce Caldwell
Ben Cantrell
Ed Carnett
Arnoldo Castro
Jim Caveney
Charles Chech
Joe Cicero
Harry Clark
James Clarkson
Paul Cobb
Andrew Cohen
Jimmie Collins
Herb Conyers
Howard Craghead
Clifford Crawford
Art Cuitti
Mike Cvengros
Dom Dallessandro
Cecil A. Davis
William Dell
Otto Denning
George Detore
Vince DiMaggio
John Dickshot
Carl Dittmar

Walter Dixon
Charles Dorman
Willie Duke
Cedric Durst
Charles Eagen
Babe Ellison
Gilbert English
Woody Fair
Walter French
Curt Fullerton
Fred Fussell
Del Gainor
Adrian Garrett
Walter Gilbert
Charles George
Sal Gliatto
Les Goldstein
Joe Granade
Clarence Griffin
Art Griggs
Denver Grigsby
Roy Grimes
Luke Hamlin
Ed Hartness
Bob Hast,y
Wally Hebert
Charles High
Carmen Hill
Elmore Hill
Ashley Hillin
Myril Hoag
Ed Hoffman
Ernest Holman
Harry Holsclaw
ClayHopper
Jim Hudgens
Thomas J. Hughes
Hensel Hulvey
Art Hunt
Don Hurst
Joe Hutcheson
George Jackson
Ray Jacobs
William Jacobs

Arthur Jahn
Tex Jeannes
Irvine Jeffries
Joseph Jenkins
Thomas Jenkins
Augustus Johns
Roy Joiner
John W. Jones
Claude Jonnard
Walt Judnich
Joseph Kelly
William Kelly
Michael J. Kennedy
George Kinm
Kedzi Kirkham
John Knight
Charles Knoll
Jess Landrum
Elton Langford
Louis Leroy
Jess Levan
Ed Levy
William H. Lewis
Lou Limmer
Keith Little
Bob Logan
William Ludolph
Mike Lutz
Japhet Lynn
Emil Mailho
Herschel Martin
Ralph Lindsay
Leo Mangum
Marshall Mauldin
Horace McBride
James R. McDaniel
Frank McGowan
Conklyn Meriwether
J. Howard Merritt
Lawrence Miller
Charles Milner
George Milstead
Thomas Mincy
William Mizeur
Pete Monahan

Bob Montag
Felipe Montemayor
Leo Moon
D. C. Moore
James Morton
Greg Mulleavy
Fred Muller
Edward B. Murphy
Alex Mustaikis
William Magel
Albert Neil
Orville Messelrode
Patrick Newman
John C. Oldham
Marvin Olson
Paul Owens
Stan Palys
Ben Paschal
Carlos Paschual
Les Peden
Alonzo Perry
Jess Petty
Edgar Pick
Cotton Pippen
Alfred Platte
Antonio Polloreana
Harlin Pool
Richard Porter
John Powers
George Quellich
Joseph Rabbitt
Earl Rapp
George Rawlings
Andrew Reese
William Rhiel
Kenneth Richardson
Virgil Richardson
Don Richmond
Dave Roberts
Mickey Rocco
Bill Rodda
Oscar Roettger
Ray Rohwer

Harry Rosenberg
John Roser
Art Ruble
Ewell Russell
Les Scarsella
Robert Schmidt
Wes Schulmerich
Bob Seeds
Frank Shaughnessy
Ray Shearer
John T. Sheehan
Sylvester Simon
Carr Smith
J. Carlisle Smith
Moses Solomon
Joseph Sprinz
Lee Stebbins
Charles Stevens
Edward Stevens
John L. Stone
Harvey Storey
John Strenza
James Stroner
George Stumpf
Guy Sturdy
Pete Susko
William Sweeney
Douglas Taitt
Fred Tauby
Dan Taylor
Claude Thomas
Joseph Taylor
Fay W. Thomas
Fresco Thompson
Chester Tolson
Coaker Triplett
Leonard W. Tucker
Jose Vidal
Ned Waldrop
Charles F. Walker
Thomas R. Walker
Arthur Weis
Stanley Wentzel

Walter Max West
Franklin Wetzel
James F. Whelan
Lewis Whistler
Joyner White
John Whitehead
Richard Witworth
Harrison Wickel
Kemp Wicker
Fred Williams
Rhinaldo Williams
George Wilson
Ernie Wingard
Tom Winsett
Burnis Wright
John B. Wright
Dutch Zwilling
Elmer Yoter
Tony Rousa