



20 TO 80*

SABR SCOUTS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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***Welcome to both new SABR members and new members of the
Scouts Committee.***

SABRscouts ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

The SABRscouts eGroup is a restricted and unmoderated online discussion group for members of the Scouts Research Committee. Its purpose is to foster interactive communication regarding areas of interest about professional baseball scouts and player development personnel. Subscribers are also encouraged to post research requests as well as the URLs, titles and/or brief summaries of "Baseball Scouts in the News" articles that they believe would be of interest to other committee members.

To join, send an email to SABRscouts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

***20 TO 80 IS A STANDARD SCOUTING SCALE**

SCOUTS IN THE NEWS

The current issue of the *Baseball America* includes a great piece of analysis about professional scouting entitled "[*Baseball's Draft Is More Than A Crapshoot*](#)" penned by SABR Scouts Committee member **Tracy Ringolsby**.

The Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation honored long-time scout **George Genovese** by naming their lifetime achievement award in his honor. There are other awards named after scouts. But Genovese on January 28, 2012 received a most unusual honor. In recognition of his birthday Santa Anita racetrack in California named the last race of the day "Happy 90th George Genovese." <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/g/genovge01.shtml>

Possibly outdoing that feat former Phillies scout **Edith Houghton** on Friday February 10, 2012 celebrated her 100th birthday. Houghton is featured in the recent scouts committee book ***Can He Play? A Look at Baseball Scouts and Their Profession***.

Richard "Dick" Teed, who played 1 game for the Brooklyn Dodgers (James Ferrenti signed him) and who scouted for the Phillies and Dodgers, signing Ron Diorio, John Franco, Dave Wallace and Eric Young was inducted into the first class of the Windsor (Connecticut) High School Hall of Fame. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/t/teeddi01.shtml>

John O'Neil, who played for the Phillies and scouted for the Braves and Dodgers, signing Mike Scioscia and Bill Robinson, was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/o'neijo02.shtml>

Technology is increasingly being applied to baseball scouting. A San Francisco Giants part-time scout, **Tim Rock**, has invented an app for that. Rock's app, entitled **iProScout Baseball**, will allow a scout to enter biographical information on a player and fill out evaluation cards including rating the players. <http://www.iproscoutbaseball.com>

On occasion a player will have the opportunity to publicly thank his signing scout. It is always great to hear in a new Hall of Fame member's induction speech the mentioning of the scout who discovered him. Cincinnati Reds outfielder Jay Bruce found a tremendous way to honor and thank his signing scout **Brian Wilson**, who also signed Drew Stubbs, Logan Ondrusek, and Sam LeCure. Wilson tragically passed away in 2006 at the young age of 33. Bruce decided to honor his memory by personally funding the renovation of a ball field to be named for Wilson at the Batavia Township Community Center near Cincinnati. http://mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20120502&content_id=30228600
<http://sports.yahoo.com/mlb/news?slug=jp-wilson070706>
<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=wilson001les>

James Henry Terrell passed away on December 12, 2011 in Midland, Michigan. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on September 22, 1923. He scouted for the Major League Scouting Bureau, Orioles, Rangers, Angels and Mets. Terrell has signed Dick Colpaert, Merv Rettenmund and Calvin Schiraldi.

Frank Mattox passed away February 26, 2012 in Peoria, Arizona. He was born June 30, 1962. He played at the University of California before a [7 season career in the Brewers minor league organization](#). He went into scouting with Colorado before moving on to the Mariners where he rose to the positions of Scouting Director (1998-2003) and Farm Director (2004-2007) and remained on staff as a major league scout. Mattox signed Scott Randall.

Robert Fontenot passed away March 25, 2012. He was born January 11, 1919 in Iota, Louisiana. He scouted for the Giants.

Wilbur "Moose" Johnson passed away April 9, 2012, in Denver, Colorado. He was born September 28, 1928 in Lead, South Dakota. After an 8 year minor league career Moose scouted for Philadelphia, Toronto and San Diego. Moose was known to have recommended Ryne Sandberg and Roy Halladay as well as signing Dave Downs, Marvin Freeman, Dane Iorg, Ken Reynolds and John "Bad Dude" Stearns.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=johnso002wil>

Larry Chase passed away April 23, 2012 in Percy, Arkansas. He was born February 6, 1946 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Chase scouted many years for the Mets and recently was with the Orioles. He signed A. J. Burnett, Bobby Keppel, Allen McDill and Mike Pelfrey.

Chester "Chet" Montgomery passed away May 5, 2012. He was born July 29, 1932 in Warsaw, Kentucky. (Kentucky birth records) Obituaries gave a July 28 date. Chet graduated from Western Kentucky University and coached at the high school level before being hired by the Pittsburgh Pirates as a scout. When Rex Bowen moved over to the Reds he brought Chet with him and promoted him to the role of scouting supervisor. He later served as Cleveland's scouting director before returning to the Pirates as a Special Assistant to the General Manager. He also worked for the Braves for a couple of seasons as a Pro scout. He is credited with signing Tom Browning, Doug Flynn and Ross Grimsley. His wife Audrey, children Jeanette and Robert, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survived him.

Van Smith, a long-time scout with the Padres, passed away in his hometown of Belleville, Illinois on May, 24, 2012. He was born February 6, 1945 in Avon, Illinois and his family moved to Galesburg where Van attended high school. A lefty he pitched for the University of Houston including the 1967 season when they went to the NCAA finals, losing to champion Arizona State. Van once told the editor he did not have much of a fastball but he could throw strikes all day long, which he said made him a good batting practice pitcher when he began his coaching career.

Earning a business degree at Houston Van put it to good use. With his wife Ann he helped his parents run a donut business which allowed him to also coach.

Smith was the head coach at McKendree University and Southwest Illinois University. He was named the District 10 NAIA coach of the year three times while at McKendree. In 1991 Van was hired as an area scout with the Padres. He would remain with the organization until his passing. Van signed Homer Bush, Eric Cyr and Dave Mauer while an area scout and then moved into the pro scouting side of the organization.

On a personal note your editor knew Van well. He was one of the nicest, classiest men I have ever met in the game. Van was one of the first scouts who helped me sharpen my skills which led to my becoming an associate scout. He will be missed.

His wife, children Robin Lindsey, Christine and Tad and 6 grand children survived him.

Harold Kefauver “Hal” Keller passed away June 5, 2012. He was born July 7, 1927 in Middletown, Maryland and graduated from the University of Maryland. He then taught high school math and coached baseball. He served briefly in the Merchant Marine and then the army and upon his discharge in February of 1948 he received a tryout with the Washington Senators. Keller played 8 minor league seasons and got into 25 games with the Senators as a catcher, in the seasons of 1949, 1950 and 1952.

Keller worked as the Farm Director for the Washington Senators and Texas Rangers, Director of Player Development and General Manager for the Seattle Mariners and scouted for Minnesota, Detroit and the Angels.

Hal has often been credited with bringing the radar gun into professional baseball. The Scouts Committee of SABR credits Keller with participating in the signing of the following big leaguers: Don Castle, Joe Coleman, Odie Davis, Dan Firova, Jim Gideon, Tom Grieve, Don Loun, Greg Mahlberg, Tom McAvoy, Gene Nelson, Billy Sample and Wayne Tolleson.

Hal was presented with the George Genovese Lifetime Achievement in Scout Award from the Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation in 2010. His older brother was Charlie Keller, long-time Yankees outfielder. He was survived by his wife seven children, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/k/kelleha03.shtml>

An excellent bio of Keller was written by Chip Greene for the SABR BioProject and can be found at this link: <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/d7a6e3e5>

Spotlight on a Scout: Bruce Connatser

By **Jim Sandoval**

Major league player and scout Broadus Milburn “Bruce” Connatser was born September 19, 1902 in Sevierville, Tennessee, son of Stewart and Laura (Massey) Connatser. Stewart was a farmer. Bruce had eight siblings, including a brother Roy who also played in the minor leagues. Sometime between 1910 and 1920 the Connatser’s moved to Chilton County, Alabama. Bruce played at the University of Alabama in 1925 and 1926 before playing 13 seasons professionally, mostly in the minor leagues beginning in 1926 with Vicksburg.

He debuted in the major leagues with Cleveland as a first baseman on September 15, 1931 spending parts of two seasons in the show. He played 35 games with a .257 average and no home runs. His minor league stops included Jackson, Pensacola, Terre Haute, New Orleans, Chattanooga, Kansas City, Dallas and Tulsa. He ended his playing career with a lifetime .303 average in the minors. He also managed Tulsa from 1937-1939.

Bruce then scouted for Detroit from 1940-1952 and the Phillies from 1953-1971, signing Jim Bunning, Paul Hinrichs, Jeff James, Lou Kretlow, Greg Luzinski, Art Mahaffey, Mike Rogodzinski and Gary Wagner. He was quoted in the Sporting News in 1950 as saying he wanted to sign hungry players. “Whenever I go to a home and talk to a young prospect, and

he lives in a pretentious home, I'm going to leave him for the Yankees to sign. I'll take the kid who comes from a family that's struggling to get enough to eat—where they don't know anything about luxuries. If that boy has ability at all, he'll make the grade in baseball.”

Connatser passed away January 27, 1971 in Terre Haute, Indiana and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery there. Still an active scout Connatser was showing the 1970 World Series film to a group at the local Exchange Club meeting when he suffered a fatal heart attack. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/c/connabr01.shtml>

SABR ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 2012 SABR convention, celebrating the 41th anniversary of SABR, will meet at the Minneapolis Marriot City-Center Hotel from June 27-July 1. The host of the convention will be the Halsey Hall chapter.

The convention will include research presentations on a variety of topics, poster presentations; Player, Official Scorer, Women in Baseball and General Managers panels. The Players Panel will include Ron Coomer, Bob “Rocky” Johnson and Roy Smalley III, emceed by Frank Quilici. The GM's Panel will feature Terry Ryan, General Manager of the Minnesota Twins.

Research Committees will hold their annual meetings and SABR will hold its annual business meeting. The SABR Scouts Committee's own **Roland Hemond** will be participating in a special “one-on-one” session discussing his baseball career.

Roland will also present the Scouts Committee award named in his honor to **Bob Gebhard**. Gebhard, currently a Vice President and Special Assistant to the General Manager for the Diamonds pitched briefly in the major leagues for the Twins and Expos before moving into a front office career, He was Director of the Minor Leagues for Montreal, Vice President of Player Personnel for the Twins and General Manager of the Colorado Rockies before moving on to his current position. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/g/gebhabo01.shtml>
<http://www.baseballamerica.com/execdb/?show=exec&eid=gebhabo01>

Previous recipients of the Hemond Award include Dennis Gilbert, John Schuerholz, Dallas Green, Mike Veeck and Tyler Tumminia, Bill Clark, Bob Fontaine Jr., Paul Beeston, Paul Snyder, Pat Gillick, Bob Howsam, and Roland Hemond.

Our Scouts Committee meeting will be Friday, June 29, at 8 a.m., in the Deer Room. Hope to see you there.

Information about the convention can be found on the SABR website at: <http://sabr.org/convention>

SCOUTS COMMITTEE PROJECTS

One thing the committee would like to implement is a SABR website-based Scouts Committee Website. If anyone is interested in becoming our webmaster please contact either of the committee co-chairman. If there is something you would like to contribute or would like to see on the website please contact us as well. A website could be an effective means for recruiting new members both to the committee and SABR itself and providing an outlet for committee research.

SCOUTS BOOK PROJECT

[Can He Play? A Look at Baseball Scouts and Their Profession](#) was published last December by SABR as both the first book of SABR's Digital Library and also available as a printed work.

SABR described it this way: They dig through tons of coal to find a single diamond. They spend countless hours traveling miles and miles on lonely back roads and way too much time in hotels. Their front offices expect them to constantly provide player reports and updates. So much of their time is spent away from family and friends, missing birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Their best friend is Rand McNally. Always asking the question, "Can He Play?" Such is the life of a professional scout.

CAN HE PLAY? collects the contributions of 26 members of the Society for American Baseball Research on the subject of scouts, including biographies and historical essays. The book touches on more than a century of scouts and scouting with a focus on the men (and the occasional woman) who have taken on the task of scouring the world for the best ballplayers available. In CAN HE PLAY? we meet the "King of Weeds," a Ph.D. we call "Baseball's Renaissance Man," a husband-and-wife team, pioneering Latin scouts, and a Japanese-American interned during World War II who became a successful scout—and many, many more.

More information, including how to obtain copies can be found at <http://sabr.org/ebooks>

Work continues on the committee's major projects. The [Who-Signed-Whom Database](#) is integrated as part of SABR's Online Encyclopedia in the members-only area of the website at www.sabr.org and displays listings by Player and by Scout. **Rod Nelson** heads up this project and requests that if you have additional entries or corrections to submit, please submit them via the website or send an email with all the particulars including a citation for your source.

[The Scouting Roster](#) now contains over 6,300 names of scouts and player development figures from baseball's history. **Jim Sandoval** is compiling this database. Eventually, this information will also be available online integrated by Team and by Year. Please send career information, such as year, title, territory and organization scouted for to Jim. Team media guides are a good source for this data, but the best source we have found for historical scouts data is old copies of the Baseball Bluebook.

We continue to look for biographical information on scouts. Birth, marriage and death information will help with the writing of scouts' biographies. It will also help complete a more accurate historical

record for scouts who did not play in the major leagues and are not listed in baseball encyclopedias. The committee has compiled a collection of obituaries which have been uploaded to **Frank Russo's** website at: http://thedeadballera.com/Obitlistings_Scouts.html

SCOUTS BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Baseball scouts are colorful subjects for SABR's Biography Project. The committee has a system in place that we can easily work with. If you are interested in writing a biography of a scout, we recommend that you review their research tips, author's guidelines and the SABR style guide at: <http://www.bioproj.sabr.org/>

Also please let the co-chairs know so we can compile an updated list of who is working on what biography. The chairmen are committed to provide research assistance and reference material on scouts.

Any scouts-related research requests can be sent to **Jim Sandoval** to be included in a future edition of *20 to 80** or shared with the entire committee via the eGroup listed on page one. We encourage your submissions, anything from full-length articles to interesting factoids about professional scouting from members of the committee. If you would prefer a paper copy of this newsletter, please contact me at 653 jrsandoval@aol.com or 256-653-4653. A paper copy will be mailed to anyone without an email address.

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Society for American Baseball Research

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