

# Beating the Bushes



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## From the Chair

By George Pawlush

**S**ABR 49 is just weeks away. I hope to see many of you in San Diego, June 26-30. I would like to hear from you ASAP if you have any topics that you want to have included on our meeting agenda. Since we are challenged for time we can 5-7 minutes to devote to each topic.

This was an active year for our committee. In September we sent out a survey to our 600 plus committee members. The response rate was less than I had hoped to receive. We heard from 101 members, or approximately 16 percent of our committee. One of the questions that I will ask at our SABR 49 meeting is how can we improve future survey returns.

The survey is a valuable resource to better understand your needs and concerns and add value so that we can attract new and engaged committee members.

Thanks to your feedback we were able to quickly implement two new initiatives. Members told us they would like to know about projects that are in progress. We asked and you told us about 56 projects that you were working on. This member interests/expertise list is on the Minor League Research section of the SABR.org site.

How to do research is a common stumbling block for people who would like to embark on their first project. We have made this process a little easier by organizing a volunteer/research assist list that's also on the Minor League Research section. Twenty-Eight senior members have volunteered to help you navigate these research waters.

There is so much that we can accomplish but we can't do it in a vacuum. I urge you take a few minutes in the week or so and check out the project and volunteer list. If you would like to be added just drop me a line at [George.pawlush@wilkes.edu](mailto:George.pawlush@wilkes.edu).

See you in San Diego.

## A singular triple play?

By Chuck McGill

**A**side from researching minor league no-hitters, I've also been compiling minor league triple plays. Pretty much all of the triple plays I've compiled so far, just a bit over 1000, have occurred between 1877 and 1924. I do the vast majority of my research on newspapers.com, and have the basic subscription, which allows access to any newspapers they have that aren't under copyright. All newspapers from 1923 and earlier no longer have copyright protection, thus, that's where the bulk of the compilation comes from.

Within the last year or so, the Boston Globe was added to newspapers.com. The benefits of having that paper available in digital form for major league research are immediately apparent, but the newspapers also did a good job of covering the New England League, including game summaries and box scores.

And this brings us to a New England League game played on August 24, 1904 between the Manchester Textiles and the New Bedford Whalers, in New Bedford. Going into the game, New Bedford was one game below .500 in fourth place, but some 19 games behind the league leading Haverhill Hustlers, who were running away with the title. Manchester was even further back, three games below .500, in seventh place, but comfortably ahead of eighth, and last, place Lawrence.

The game summary in the Globe doesn't mention which inning the triple play occurred, but the Whalers were at bat, with Buster Burrell on second base, and Fred Valdois on third. Win Clark came to the plate against Bill Leith, on the mound for Manchester. Clark hit a grounder to Billy Page at shortstop. Valdois broke for home, but got caught in a rundown, with Page throwing to third baseman Wally Warren, who threw to the catcher Henry Cote. Cote chased Valdois back towards third, throwing the ball to pitcher Leith, who tagged out Valdois for the first out.

Meanwhile, Burrell scampered down to third base, but as Valdois was chased back to the bag, he ran back to second, then broke again for third. He was eventually tagged out at third base by Warren, but not before left fielder Harry Armbruster, center fielder Moonlight Graham, of Field of Dreams fame, and second baseman Wally Taylor

NEW BEDFORD, Aug 23—In today's game with Manchester, which was won by the home team by a score of 9 to 5, there was a triple play in which every visiting player on the field handled the ball.

With Valdois on third and Burrill on second, Clark hit a grounder to Page at shortstop. Valdois was run down between third and home, Page, Warren, Cote and Leith handling the ball, and Warren made the putout. While Valdois was dancing back and forth Burrill went to third and back to second, and finally was put out at third base by Warren after the ball had been handled at second base by Armbruster, Graham and Taylor, and Clark was the third out trying to get back to first base, Chapman making an assist in this play, and Morrissey having the putout.

Amole was batted hard in the first inning, but he managed to keep hits scattered during the rest of the game, while Leith, who had poor control, had miserable support and toward the close of the game allowed several safe hits that counted in the run getting. The score:

NEW BEDFORD						MANCHESTER					
	bh	po	a	e			bh	po	a	e	
Kehoe rf...	1	0	0	0		Graham cf..	0	1	1	0	
Mullaney lf	1	0	1	0		Armbrus'r lf	3	1	1	1	
Valdois ss..	3	2	1	1		Page ss....	3	2	5	2	
Burrill c....	2	5	1	1		Warren 3b..	0	4	4	1	
Clark 2b...	1	4	4	1		Taylor 2b...	1	0	4	1	
Kiernan cf..	0	1	1	1		Chapman 1b	2	10	1	1	
Harrin'n 3b.	0	2	8	0		Morrissey rf	0	1	0	0	
Joslyn 1b...	0	11	1	1		Cote c.....	0	5	1	0	
Amole p....	1	2	8	0		Leith p.....	1	0	5	1	
<b>Totals....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>Totals....</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	
Innings .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
New Bedford .....	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	-9		
Manchester .....	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1-5		

Runs made, by Kehoe 4, Mullaney 3, Valdois, Amole, Graham, Armbruster, Page, Taylor, Leith. Earned runs, New Bedford 2. Three-base hit, Kehoe. Two-base hit, Taylor. Sacrifice hits, Mullaney, Harrington, Armbruster, Warren. Stolen bases, Kehoe 2, Valdois, Mullaney, Page. First base on balls, by Leith 6. First base on errors, New Bedford 5, Manchester 3. Hit by pitched ball, by Amole, Leith. Struck out, by Amole 3, by Leith 4. Triple play, Page, Warren, Cote, Leith, Taylor, Chapman, Graham, Armbruster and Morrissey. Time 1h 40m. Umpire, Kerins. Attendance 450.

The scoring on the play went 6-5-2-1-4-3-8-7-9. Every member of the fielding team was involved in the triple play, and apparently only handled the ball once, if the box score is accurate. According to the summary of the play, I think the scoring should have been 6-5-2-1-4-8-7-3-9. Either way, this is the only game I'm come across so far where every fielder was involved in the execution of the triple play. I've come across a few other triple plays where five or six different fielders were involved, but this one was definitely unique.

## Nick Smith: California League Star

By Bill Francis

Back in the 1880s, a teenaged Nick Smith emerged as a minor league phenom, earning plaudits and honors for his bat work and sturdy play at third base. Today, thanks to the generosity of his descendants, three gold medals he received as a result of his stellar play one magical season over a century ago [can now be found](#) at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Nicholas Smith, a career minor leaguer who spent over a decade toiling in the bushes, was only 19 when he was plucked off the roster of a local amateur nine by manager Mike Finn and placed on his San Francisco-based California League squad, the Pioneers. The youngster, born in 1868 in the Northern California town of Sutter Creek – famous for its Gold Rush in the 1840s – stood only 5-foot-7 and weighed approximately 170 pounds, but made an immediate impression.

“Nick is a perfect gentleman on and off the diamond, and many a fair one’s heart flutters whenever he takes his position at the bat,” wrote the San Francisco Examiner in November 1887, in a profile of the rookie minor leaguer. “The ‘ahs’ and ‘ohs’ that greet him when he makes a good hit are remarkable for their sweetness of tone.”

Smith was also receiving high praise from a pair of National League stars at the time, with it being reported that John Montgomery Ward “is looking out for a third baseman for the New Yorks ... Ward is now considering the engagement of Nick Smith of the Pioneers,” while Ned Williamson “considers Nick Smith, of the Pioneers, the most promising young player he has ever seen.”

Professional baseball was in its infancy and the burgeoning California League – the West Coast’s first minor league – was during this period a stepping stone to stardom, producing such future big league stalwarts as Clark Griffith, George Van Haltren, Bill Lange, Mike Donlin and Jerry Denny. In 1887, the loop was made up of four squads – two in San Francisco, the Haverlys and Pioneers, Sacramento’s Atlas and Oakland’s Greenhood & Morans.

In a season that ran from April to November, Smith not only led the Pioneers to the best record in the league (24-

handled the ball during that part of the play. While that was going on, the batter, Clark, had rounded first and was headed toward second, but with Burrell getting tagged out at second, Clark tried to scamper back to first. After Taylor tagged out Burrell, he threw the ball to first baseman Charles Chapman, who relayed it to right fielder Frank Morrissey. Morrissey applied the tag to Clark to complete the triple play.

21), but also topped the circuit with a batting average of .307 (54-for-176) in his 43 games played, adding 40 runs scored and 32 stolen bases to his impressive credentials.

“Nick Smith, the third baseman of the Pioneers of the California League,” it read in a September 1888 edition of the Chicago Tribune, “is said to be one of the best in the country.”



*A gold medal presented to Nick Smith for a home run on Sept. 25, 1887. (Milo Stewart Jr./National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum)*

Smith’s burst upon professional baseball scene resulted in a trio of historic gold medals: One for being a member of the California League champion Pioneers, another for topping the circuit in batting, and a third for socking an impressive and memorable home run during the regular season.

In November 1887, the San Francisco Examiner made note of the young ballplayer’s remarkable year: “Nick Smith has three medals, the reward of his honest and efficient work during the past season.”

In an email from his home in California, donor Nick Smith – the great-grandson of the 19th century ballplayer Nick Smith – wrote that it was a family decision to donate the medals to the Hall of Fame.

“We loved the medals, but had little opportunity to showcase them,” Smith explained. “Once I inquired about donating, I contacted my brother and he, too, was all in. We both thought if they could be of use to the Hall of Fame, and that would be the best place for them.

“The toughest decision was by my son. My brother and I

had them in our possession for many years. Nicholas had not been able to enjoy them as his own yet. When he learned they might someday be on display at Cooperstown, he felt good about letting them go there.”

According to Smith, he’s been to Cooperstown twice. “Once, in 1962, as a wide-eyed boy and Little League player who only wanted to grow up and become a major league player. I was fortunate enough to return as an adult and lifelong San Francisco Giants fan a few years ago.”

As Nick Smith, the donor, clarified, the ball-playing Nick Smith was where the family name began. It’s legacy continued with the ballplayer’s son, Nicholas G. Smith, the donor’s grandfather, who lived from 1889 to 1949, was followed by the donor’s father, Nicholas J. Smith, who lived from 1923 to 2001, was passed on to the donor, Nicholas E. Smith, who was born 1951, and continues with his son, Nicholas M. Smith, who was born in 1982.

The Hall of Fame has in its permanent collection approximately 175 medals of all different types and origins, from those presented for baseball achievements to those for military service, dating from the 1860s up to the present. The 1887 California League championship gold medal



*Medal presented to Nick Smith for being a member of the 1887 California League championship team. Smith’s heirs donated the medal to the Hall of Fame. (Milo Stewart Jr./National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum)*

has it its top an image of two crossed bats with a banner across the top reading "Champion" and a small baseball suspended from the intersection of the two bats. From the chain links at the end of the bats is a crest ringed with laurel leaves that reads "C.B.B.L./1887" around a baseball diamond with four bases, a pitcher's box, and a small gem inset behind the pitching mound.

Presented to Davis for capturing the 1887 California League batting title, the gold circular medal, 1¼ inches in diameter, has engraved, "Presented to Nick Smith by Lewis Morrison for best Average Batting Cal. B.B. League 1887."

Morrison was an acclaimed stage actor at the time who announced prior to the start of the 1887 campaign that he would be offering a very handsome gold medal for the best batting average made by any member of the California League that season. The original version of the 18-carat medal had a cross-bar in enameled blue letters the words "The Lewis Morrison Medal," and suspended from the bar by chains were two miniature crossed baseball bats with a small gold ball in the center, the medal hanging from the bats.

Morrison presented Davis with the medal at San Francisco's California Theater on Nov. 25, 1887. Appearing in the melodrama "The Main Line," called in its advertisement "the greatest railroad effects even seen on any stage," Morrison, at the close of the second act, appeared on stage with the youthful third sacker.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a short time ago I made up my mind to have medal made to be presented to the best baseball player. I did not so this to advertise myself, but out of pure fellowship for the California boys," is how Morrison addressed the appreciative audience that night. "I don't play ball myself, but he has faced many a pitcher and knocked many a ball over the fence. I hope he will keep up his hard work and his modesty. I bid him good night, goodbye and good fellowship, as I pin this on his breast in order that he may remember me in after years. You will now agree with me when I say he has again made a three-base strike."

It was reported that Smith appeared quite embarrassed while Morrison was speaking. Then the pair walked off-stage together to great applause.

"Nick, however, had to appear once again, when someone called our 'Speech!'" the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "but he simply bowed his acknowledgement and disappeared."

Davis' circular home run gold medal, 1¼ inches in diameter, on the front has engraved "To N. Smith for making the first clean home run on the Cal. League B.B. Grounds Sept. 25th 1887. Presented by one of his admirers J.W. S.F. Cal." The reverse has a baseball diamond in white with four bases, a pitcher's box, and six black dots on it at the approximate positions of first, second, third and

short, and two around home plate.

The home run in question took place at San Francisco's Haight-street Park in an 8-5 win for Davis' Pioneers over the G. & M.'s. In the seventh inning, Davis clubbed a two-run homer to the clubhouse for a "clean" home run.

"Family 'lore' knows a little about him." Nick Smith wrote in his email regarding his great-grandfather. "My older cousins and younger brother concur hearing from our parents he was highly skilled (hit for average, hit with power and fielded well), fast and quite handsome.

"His career and life were cut short by an accident. He evidently lost a popup in the sun and was struck in the head by the ball, causing severe, untreatable (at the time) brain damage. He was taken to a 'sanatorium' in the Southern California desert."

Unfortunately for Smith, his life unraveled to a great extent after baseball. In 1901, West Coast newspapers began reporting his strange behavior led him to being committed to a hospital.

He passed away in 1905 at the age of 37. But his legacy will be preserved forever in Cooperstown.

*"This story was originally published at [www.baseballhall.org](http://www.baseballhall.org)"*

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## THE HEYDAY OF THE FARM SYSTEM, 1930-62

By Bill McMahon

### I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of stockpiling and developing talent is a fairly obvious one, but it took the major leagues about 50 years to adopt it. Prior to the 1920's there had been a few cases of major league ownership of minor league clubs and some "working agreements", but the first farm system was created by Branch Rickey for the St. Louis Cardinals, beginning with the acquisition of Houston, Ft. Smith, and Syracuse. By 1930 other teams were following suit, as the cost of buying players was becoming prohibitive. It has been said that the model for farm chains was the chain store system set up by merchandisers.

Before World War II the Cardinals had the most extensive system, even controlling two whole Class D leagues for a time. They had so much talent that they could defray expenses by selling surplus players. The strongest chain in the American League was that of the Yankees,

and soon Detroit, Cleveland, and others began to imitate them. The success of the Cincinnati Reds at the end of the 30's is attributable to the system built by Frank Lane. In fact a team's strength or weakness was closely correlated with that of its farm system.

Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis, Commissioner of Baseball, believed the chains to be detrimental to the minors and did his best to undermine them. In the late 1930's he released a number of players owned by various clubs. The major league teams countered by claiming that the minors couldn't exist without their support and threatening to pull the rug out from under them. By World War II farm systems were well entrenched, although there were many independent minor league teams, including most of the Pacific Coast League. The war put the issue on hold, as most minor leagues shut down for the duration.

After the war organized baseball experienced its greatest expansion. Landis was gone, and every major league team was developing talent through a farm system. When Rickey moved from the Cardinals to the Dodgers, the latter team's system became pre-eminent, and it was the first to include African-American players. The number of leagues expanded until the early 50's, when the impact of televised major league contests began to be felt. Throughout the decade an increasing number of leagues shut down, and executives like Frank Lane advocated using the minors solely for the purpose of developing major leaguers.

Ultimately, Lane's point of view prevailed. The classification system was changed so that levels B, C, and D were eliminated, and only enough leagues for the maintenance of four or five team systems remained. There have been a few independent teams since then, but these are small operations at the lower levels, and the large independent with a farm system of its own is a thing of the past. Of course, such leading minor league cities as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Atlanta are now represented in the majors. However, the expansion of the majors to 30 teams has required more minor leagues and stimulated renewed interest at the local level. Nevertheless, the minors are almost completely subservient to the majors today.

## II. TEAMS AND THEIR SYSTEMS

From 1930 on there is a fairly close correlation between strength of farm systems and strength of teams. Granted, other factors may sometimes intervene, e.g., exceptionally good (or bad) trades, but it has been the co-ordination between the scouting and player development components of an organization which has produced success in

baseball. Certain teams have excelled at this; others have been remiss, and in many cases the situation is cyclical. As noted, the two most successful teams in the period in question are the St. Louis Cardinals and the New York Yankees. The former started in the 1920's and had more than 30 farms by 1940. The latter began seriously in 1932, and the subsequent results are obvious. In each case we associate the success with one man, Branch Rickey for the Cardinals and George Weiss for the Yankees. For several years such teams as the Athletics, Senators, Braves, and Phillies had no farm systems to speak of. This led to weakness on the field and efforts to catch up later. Then there is the case of the Chicago Cubs, under the leadership of P.K. Wrigley, the fluctuation of whose policies resembles the track of a roller coaster.

In ascribing players to given farm systems the criterion is generally where one started, and secondarily where he played the most. It should be noted, however, that the best prospects often play briefly or not at all in the minors; examples of the latter include Bob Feller, Dick Groat, Al Kaline, Sandy Koufax, Ernie Banks, and Larry Doby. In what follows we shall consider each of the original 16 teams during the period in question, i.e., the early 30's to the early 60's, the team's attitude toward "farming", the principal builders of systems, leading farm clubs, and the main players who passed through given systems. Table 3 lists the leading players produced by the various farm systems, divided into whether they came up before (or during) or after World War II.

Two teams have already been singled out for special consideration. The "chain store system" is considered the brainchild of Branch Rickey after he became an executive with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1917. The story was that he tried to buy a player from Fort Smith in 1919, was outbid by someone else, and hence decided to buy Fort Smith instead. Soon Houston and Syracuse (later replaced by Rochester) were added. Eventually the farms, which reached a peak of 34 in 1937, represented a balanced, multi-leveled system. From 1933 to 1935 the Cardinals controlled the entire Nebraska State League, and they also ran the Arkansas State League in 1935. Such monopolies were relinquished under pressure from Judge Landis, but the Rickey organization produced nine pennants from 1926 to 1946. Rickey's associates and proteges included Larry McPhail, Warren Giles, Bill DeWitt, Bill Walsingham, Harrison Wickel, and George Toporcer, as well as top scout Charley Barrett. Long time farms include the Columbus Redbirds, Rochester Red Wings, Houston Buffs, and lower level teams in Columbus and Albany, GA, Springfield, MO, Johnson City, Daytona Beach, and Hamilton. The pre-war talent would almost make up a team of Hall of Famers—Jim Bottomley, Chick

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Hafey, Johnny Mize, Stan Musial, Joe Medwick, Enos Slaughter, Red Schoendienst, Dizzy Dean, and we can fill the gaps with people like Marty Marion, the Cooper brothers, Max Lanier, Harry Brecheen, Murry Dickson, and Preacher Roe. After the war a new organization was unable to maintain the talent level despite the efforts of, e.g., Bing Devine, and it is noteworthy that St. Louis did not win another pennant until 1964. Under present circumstances the control of players which this team once had is inconceivable.

The New York Yankees entered the farm business seriously with the hiring of George Weiss, a successful minor league executive, in 1932. They already had in Paul Krichell as good a scout as there was. The linchpins of their system were the Newark Bears and Binghamton Triplets, to which were added teams in such places as Kansas City, Norfolk, and Joplin. The Yankees' pre-war success was largely the result of trades and purchases of players like Joe DiMaggio. But by the post-war period the system was producing in such abundance that they were able to deal prospects for the also rans' best players. The pre-war group of Phil Rizzuto, Joe Gordon, Charlie Keller, Spud Chandler, Ernie Bonham, *et. al.*, wasn't exactly shabby, but after the war the names include Mantle, Berra, Ford, McDougald, Bauer, Richardson, Boyer, Kubek, Raschi, and some who starred elsewhere, such as Burdette, Porterfield, Courtney, Triandos, and Siebern.

The other 14 teams are considered alphabetically by league:

The Boston Red Sox were tailenders when acquired by Tom Yawkey in 1933. He spent freely to improve the team, but early on almost all their talent was purchased, including the five future Hall of Famers of the 1940-41 teams—Ted Williams, Joe Cronin, Jimmy Foxx, Bobby Doerr, and Lefty Grove. Eddie Collins was Yawkey's first Vice President/General Manager, and later Herb Pennock was put in charge of minor league operations. After the war Joe Cronin ran the club, with Johnny Murphy as farm director. The classic Red Sox farm system is that of the late 40's-early 50's, Louisville Colonels, Birmingham Barons, Scranton, Roanoke, and San Jose. The organization delivered a pennant in 1946, followed by some near misses, and not another until 1967. Their best position player from the early farm system was Johnny Pesky, although later there were several others of all-star calibre, topped by Carl Yastrzemski. For some unknown reason the organization was especially strong in pitching, the prospects over a 20-year period including Tex Hughson, Boo Ferriss, and Mel Parnell, then Maury McDermott, Chuck Stobbs, Tom Brewer, Frank Sullivan, Bill Mon-

bouquette, and Dick Radatz.

The Chicago White Sox were one of the less affluent teams, which was reflected in their doormat status until after 1950. Billy Webb began to build a farm system, but his premature death and the war put things on hold. The pre-war prospects were largely hometown boys, such as Bob Kennedy, Johnny Rigney, Orval Grove, and Don Kolloway. Perhaps the highlight of Frank Lane's checkered career was his work with the White Sox. In 1950 he became general manager, and a couple of years later Rigney (husband of Dorothy Comiskey) became farm director. Thereafter the system became quite productive, although Norm Cash, Johnny Callison, Earl Battey, and Johnny Romano were dealt away. By the late 50's the Sox had replaced the Indians as the chief competition for the Yankees. This resulted in their first pennant in 40 years in 1959, but there has been only one more since then. One thinks of such Sox farms as the Memphis Chicks, Waterloo, and the Class D teams in Wisconsin Rapids and Madisonville.

The Cleveland Indians began farming fairly early, after Billy Evans became general manager in 1927. For 30 years the organization turned out quality players, including Hall of Famers Boudreau, Lemon, and Feller (who skipped the minors), and near-greats Mel Harder, Jeff Heath, Jim Hegan, Sherm Lollar, Allie Reynolds, Hal Trosky, Gene Woodling, Rocky Colavito, Mike Garcia, Roger Maris, Sam McDowell, Minnie Minoso, Al Rosen, and Herb Score. Hence the Indians were competitive, just missing in 1940, and breaking the Yankee monopoly in 1948 and 1954. About 1960 the well began to dry up, and it was another 30 years until the Indians were again contenders. Their ace scout, C.C. Slapnicka, who became GM after Evans, had much to do with recruiting the early talent; later perhaps the key figure was Hank Greenberg. The Indians had a long association with New Orleans when it was owned by Charles Somers, and we also think of them together with cities like Wilkes-Barre, Spartanburg, Bakersfield, and Batavia.

The Detroit Tigers also had a strong organization, slipping around 1950, and then rebuilding thereafter. The architect of their early success was Jack Zeller, one of the targets of Judge Landis' ire. In the 1950's the task of reconstruction was entrusted to John McHale. In the 30's the Tigers were the chief competition for the Yankees, the last hurrah coming in 1945. Their biggest stars were Greenberg and Newhouser, backed by Bridges, Rowe, York, McCosky, Gee Walker, and Pete Fox. The post-war crop wasn't as good, but by 1960 they had Bunning and Lary, with Freehan and Lolich soon to come. Tiger towns included Buffalo, Beaumont, Durham, and Jamestown.

The Athletics of Connie Mack had a piece of Portland before farming became fashionable but severed the connection. Mack was perhaps a victim of his own ego. Just as he thought he could tear down and rebuild championship teams with impunity, he thought he could personally scout and buy sufficient talent to stay on top. After the onset of the Depression that didn't work any more. Subsequently, about the only team with a weaker farm system was the rival Phillies, so Philadelphia was treated to several years of terrible baseball. Except for dealing with friends in Williamsport Mack often had no high level farms, preferring Class D franchises in Federalsburg, MD and Lexington, NC. Mack had few prospects to spare, and in his later years he traded away the two best, George Kell and Nellie Fox. The Kansas City version of the A's are remembered as a de facto Yankee farm. Nevertheless, Farm Director Hank Peters laid a foundation on which was built the outstanding Oakland teams, which were primarily constructed through the free agent draft.

The St. Louis Browns, when owned by Phil Ball, had an early farm system, centered in Milwaukee and in the Texas League franchise that ended up in San Antonio. Later Rickey disciple Bill DeWitt ran the team, and by 1937 they had 16 farms. This led to an improved club which won their only pennant in 1944. The Browns' prospects go from Harland Clift and Vern Stephens through Jack Kramer, Bob Dillinger, Ned Garver, and Roy Sievers, ending with Bob Turley and Don Larsen. After moving to Baltimore the franchise was molded into one the best in the league. The earliest building blocks included Brooks Robinson and a score of young arms topped by McNally, O'Dell, Barber, and Pappas. In addition to San Antonio the Browns are associated with cities like Toledo and Springfield, IL. The Orioles moved into Rochester after the Cardinals left and remained for many years, were affiliated with Bluefield (Appalachian) more than 50 years, and also had long-time ties with Aberdeen and Stockton.

The Washington Senators were a family franchise like Philadelphia and Chicago. Patriarch Clark Griffith called the shots, aided by relatives and cronies like Ossie Bluege. The story of their dealings with the minors is largely that of the relationship between Griffith and two of his closest friends, Joe Engel and Joe Cambria. After Griffith bought the Chattanooga Lookouts in 1929 Engel ran them for him. Griffith gave the team to Engel eventually; it became independent for a couple of years and then re-entered the fold. Griffith also owned teams in Charlotte and Orlando for many years. While running his own string of minor league clubs Cambria scouted for Griffith. He was the Senators' "Cuban connection", accounting for the distinctive Hispanic flavor they had from the 40's on. The Nats finished fairly well in the era of buying players,

but by the 50's the thinness of their farm system caught up with them. They had a few stars in the early days—Travis, Lewis, Case, Vernon, Wynn—but not enough depth. But toward 1960 under Calvin Griffith the Senators began to reload, with such Cubans as Oliva, Pascual, and Ramos, and non-Cubans like Killebrew, Allison, and Kaat. Those were the players that put the team, relocated in Minnesota, into the World Series in 1965.

The Boston Braves were not generally a successful franchise and hence were moved to Milwaukee in 1953. They had hardly any farms before the late 30's, and their record on the field showed it. The Quinn organization was a shoestring operation which established farms in Hartford and Evansville, but the only pre-war product of note was Warren Spahn. Lou Perini then acquired the franchise in 1946, and the group of VP/GM John Quinn, Farm Director John Mullen, and Chief Scout Jack Zeller put together the team which challenged the Dodgers for dominance in the 50's. This of course was the team of Aaron, Mathews, Logan, Bruton, Crandall, and later Joe Torre. Gene Conley, Joey Jay, Don McMahon, and Tony Cloninger were among the more successful of the many young pitchers brought up. It is interesting that the Milwaukee Brewers were a farm of the Boston Braves, and the Atlanta Crackers of the Milwaukee Braves.

The top second generation farm system was that of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and its architect was—Branch Rickey. Before the war the team was getting players like Johnny Hudson and Ed Head from the minors. The players on the 1941-42 teams were bought, traded for, or, in the case of Pete Reiser, signed as a free agent after Judge Landis had released him from the Cardinal organization. During the war youngsters like Gil Hodges and Ralph Branca appeared, and then afterward came a flood of stars—Robinson, Campanella, Snider, Newcombe, Labine, Podres, Gilliam, Drysdale, Willie and Tommy Davis. When Rickey left, Buzzy Bavasi and Fresco Thompson carried on the tradition. The paradigmatic Dodger farm system looks like this: Triple A—Montreal and St. Paul, Double A—Mobile and Ft. Worth, A—Pueblo, B—Newport News, C—Santa Barbara, D—Olean and Valdosta.

As for the Chicago Cubs, people are still trying to figure out what made Philip K. Wrigley tick. His father bought the Los Angeles Angels in 1921; about ten years later Phil decided to treat it as an independent outfit, and in another ten years it was a "Farm" again. The pre-war achievement of a pennant every three years resulted from purchases, although the Cubs missed on Joe DiMaggio. Later there was a fairly strong farm chain under former Rickey men Wid Mathews and Harrison Wickel. Such players

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as Banks, Santo, and Williams anchored the competitive teams of Leo Durocher. But in the 50's Cub policies seemed to vary from year to year, one year building with youngsters, the next acquiring veterans. So some Cub prospects had their best years elsewhere, e.g., Smoky Burgess, who hit .387 at Fayetteville in 1947 and .386 at Nashville in 1948. Other Cub farms of note were Macon, Des Moines, and Janesville.

The Cincinnati Reds looked like Cardinal alumni in the 30's; first Larry McPhail and then Warren Giles worked with Frank Lane to put together a farm system. This was achieved by 1940, although most of the talent on their pennant winners was not home grown. After the war Gabe Paul ran the team and Bill McKechnie, Jr. the farm system, and it began producing in abundance, from Adcock and McMillan through Pinson and Frank Robinson to Maloney and Pete Rose. Hence the post-war Reds organization has generally been strong, keeping this relatively small city from losing its team. One can get the flavor of the farm system by looking at the career of quintessential Red Joe Nuxhall (in the organization since he was 15). Joe once said he was supposed to go to Ogden, Utah, but landed in Birmingham and Syracuse instead. Then he had to work his way back up—through Lima, Muncie, Columbia, SC, and Tulsa.

The New York/San Francisco Giants had a wavering farm policy in the early years. It looked like they were starting something as far back as 1932, but then their Bridgeport franchise folded, and they seemed to have lost interest for a few years. By the 40's they were back in the game, and such players as Lockman, Thomson, Sid Gordon, and Don Mueller came up. They soon followed the Dodgers' lead in recruiting black stars—Mays, Irvin, Bill White, McCovey—and were one of the first to open the door to the Caribbean, thus giving them Cepeda, the Alous, and Marichal. Chub Feeney ran the team after the war, and for a while Carl Hubbell directed the farms. For several years the Giants had two AAA farms, Jersey City and Minneapolis, under which were Jacksonville, Sioux City, Richmond, St. Cloud, Bristol, and Oshkosh.

The Philadelphia Phillies were the poorest team between the wars, on the field and in the pocket book. From an historical perspective it is ironic that they stayed while the Athletics moved, but it so happened that in the era of franchise moving the A's were down while the Phils were on an upswing. Before the war the Phillies had almost no farm system or prospects. Then Bob Carpenter bought them in 1944, infusing DuPont money into the franchise. Herb Pennock, as GM, had the job of building the system, and he started with lower level clubs in places like Utica, Wilmington, Terre Haute, Schenectady, and Bradford. Before 1950 the "Whiz Kids"—Ashburn, Hamner, Willie

Jones, Ennis, Roberts, and Simmons—were on the way. The next generation was nurtured by executives from the Yankee organization, Roy Hamey and Gene Martin. They seem to have specialized in pitchers, such as Jack Sanford, Don Cardwell, Dick Farrell, Chris Short, and Ray Culp.

The Pittsburgh Pirates have been a small market franchise lacking in resources, but their tradition is to make the most of what they have. After the heirs of Barney Dreyfuss sold the team in 1946, Branch Rickey was brought in to build the farm system hadn't had. Soon there was an influx of youngsters, including Ron Necciai, who had struck out 27 in a class D game. Not all of them made it, but those who did included the nucleus of the 1960 World Champions—Friend, Law, Groat, Skinner, Stuart, Mazerowski, and Gibbon. A talent base which made the Pirates competitive for 30 years was established. Representative Pirate farms at different levels are: AAA—Hollywood, later Columbus, AA—New Orleans, A—Albany, B—Waco, C—Hutchinson, D—Salisbury, NC.

### III. THE DEFINITION OF A FARM CLUB

A SABR subcommittee is presently working to develop a definitive list of farm clubs from time immemorial. This has proved to be a difficult task, for reasons such as the following:

(1) Teams owned by major league clubs but having little inter-club commerce. There is one notable case here, that of the Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Angels. The Wrigleys, who owned the Angels, decided to treat the Angels as an independent organization until 1942. So sometimes the Cubs did more business with other PCL teams, while the Angels sold players to teams beside the Cubs. Nevertheless, we would maintain that there was a strong de facto relationship between the Cubs and the Angels.

(2) Minor league teams not officially affiliated with the majors, but engaging in significant dealings with one club. These are often treated as de facto and are sometimes routinely listed as farms in the Sporting News. Examples are Shreveport and the White Sox in the early 40's, then Little Rock and the Chisox, and during the war, with the temporary shutdown of the Texas League and their San Antonio farm, the St. Louis Browns developed a cozy relationship with Memphis.

(3) The transitivity problem. A transitive relation is one such that, if a has it to b and b to c, a has it to c. Is "being a farm of" always transitive? At present members of the SABR Minor League Committee disagree on this. Two factors must be taken into account. One is that into the 1950's minor league teams themselves had farm clubs. So if the AAA team concludes a working agreement with a

major league franchise, do the former's farms immediately attach to the latter? Maybe, but not necessarily. The second point is that in the late 1930's Judge Landis decreed that no major league team could have more than one farm in a given minor league. Subsequently, there were situations as in 1946, where the White Sox had a farm in the Northern League (Superior), and their AAA affiliate Milwaukee also had a farm (Eau Claire). Does that make Eau Claire a White Sox farm? Evidently this is a judgment call, to be resolved by looking at player movement, i.e., whether players actually belonging to the White Sox played at Eau Claire. If the major league team a has a loose or de facto working agreement with minor league team b, it may not be the case that a is affiliated with b's farm c. It would seem that the only way to resolve the matter is to look at c's roster to see who is on it.

(4) Shifting working agreements during the season. Short of official records, which are difficult to obtain from more than 50 years ago, one encounters problems where, e.g., (a) a working agreement is announced prior to the season, and yet once the season begins there seems to be no relationship between the teams, (b) there is a change in working agreements in mid-season (which may or may not be reported in the Sporting News, or (c) an agreement is concluded late in the season. There are numerous examples of (a) in TSN, e.g., Nashville-Cincinnati 1937; Sacramento-Brooklyn, 1935; Portland (ME)-Yankees, 1946; Bakersfield-Cubs, 1957. A good case of (b) occurs in 1932. The Yankees conclude a working agreement with Scranton (NY-P League) prior to the season, and are optioning players there at the beginning of the season. Then in July they buy Binghamton, so presumably the relationship with Scranton is ended. Perhaps the best way to handle this in the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball (MLE) is to treat both minor league teams as Yankee farms for the year. A desideratum for such a reference work would be asterisks and footnotes. As for (c), a recommended rule of thumb would to count an agreement concluded after August 1 as belonging to the following year. This would take care of, e.g., Spokane-Brooklyn, 1946-47. But an interesting problem for MLE would be how to treat Niagara Falls, 1946. They appear to have had a late season agreement with Cincinnati and then hooked up with someone else for 1947.

(5) Finally, there is the problem of vague (or conflicting) information from a long time ago, especially where the league folded early. A good example is the Central League for 1934. MLE has no farms therein. An inspection of TSN for the year yielded a definite affiliation between the Cardinals and Springfield, a probable one between Detroit and Grand Rapids, and possible ones be-

tween the White Sox and Muskegon and the Cubs and Peoria (not to mention that Fort Wayne as a farm of Indianapolis). That was also the year of the Northeastern League, with franchises shifting and folding early. TSN hints at affiliations here and there, but doesn't really clarify the situation for either league. Ultimately, we shall have to collect the questionable cases and delegate people to consult the local newspaper files.

Thus one can see that resolving some of the farm club cases is analogous to adjudicating the merits of pregnant chads. Perhaps factions of "joiners" and "splitters" will emerge, calling to mind the problem of classifying languages into families. In linguistics joiners see affinities between such ostensibly different languages as Hebrew and Hausa (northern Nigeria), or Japanese and Turkish. Joiners among baseball historians would proliferate de facto relationships, which, especially before 1930, would result in ties between some minor league teams and more than one major league franchise. The splitters, on the other hand, eschew all but the most explicit ties. Using the linguistic analogy again, this would yield more than 20 families of American Indian languages instead of, say, three or four. For baseball this would mean ownership or strong, clear working agreements, which would even undercut some of TSN's judgments. This minimalist approach would simplify matters for the period before published lists; there would be relatively few farms, and we simply eliminate any ambiguities. Incidentally, the Cardinals' large farm system presents no problem here, as their relationships are usually quite clear. But the dealings of other clubs are more surreptitious. The solution to our dilemma is that there is no simple solution. We shall have to struggle on with ambiguity and try to make intelligent judgment calls.

The number of leagues and teams (in parentheses) at the various levels during the period in question is given in

Table 1:

	AA A	AA	A1	A	B	C	D
1930	----	3 (24)	----	4 (32)	6 (40)	4(26)	6 (40)
1940	----	3 (24)	2(16)	1(8)	7(52)	8(54)	23 (152)
1950	3 (24)	2(16)	----	4 (30)	10 (76)	16 (120)	23 (180)
1960	3 (24)	3 (20)	----	2(14)	3 (20)	3(20)	8(54)

Table 2 then presents the total of teams and leagues, adding the percentage of farms. After Classes B, C, and D were abolished almost all minor league clubs became farms. That is, if for 1970 we subtract 22 unaffiliated

teams in the Mexican leagues, 98% of the remaining teams are farms—only three teams are independent.

Table 3 lists the products of the various farm systems, divided into pre- and post-war eras:

### ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Pre-War—Jim Bottomley, Harry Brecheen, Mace Brown, Tex Carleton, Ripper Collins, Mort and Walker Cooper, Dizzy and Paul Dean, Paul Derringer, Murry Dickson, Fred Frankhouse, Joe Garagiola, Ival Goodman, Chick Hafey, Bill Hallahan, Johnny Hopp, Whitey Kurowski, Max Lanier, Bill Lee, Gus Mancuso, Marty Marion, Pepper Martin, Joe Medwick, Johnny Mize, Terry Moore, George Munger, Stan Musial, Fritz Ostermueller, Mickey Owen, Howie Pollet, Ken Raffensberger, Flint Rhem, Preacher Roe, Red Schoendienst, Enos Slaughter, Max

	No. of Minor Leagues	No. of Teams	% Affiliated with Majors
1930	23	162	22
1940	44	306	53
1950	58	446	48
1960	22	152	84
1970	20	153	84

Surkont, Emil Verban, Ted Wilks, Johnny Wyrostek.

Post-War-- Steve Bilko, Don Blasingame, Ken Boyer, Joe Cunningham, Bob Gibson, Harvey Haddix, Jim Hearn, Solly Hemus, Ray Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Johnny Klippstein, Tim McCarver, Stu Miller, Wilmer Mizell, Wally Moon, Rip Repulski, Del Rice, Ray Sadecki, Dick Schofield, Ray Washburn.

### NEW YORK YANKEES

Pre-War—Johnny Allen, Ernie Bonham, Hank Borowy, Tommy Byrne, Spud Chandler, Ben Chapman, Joe Gordon, Tommy Holmes, Billy Johnson, Walt Judnich, Charlie Keller, Johnny Lindell, Joe Page, Jerry Priddy, Phil Rizzuto, Aaron Robinson, Buddy Rosar, Hank Sauer, George Stirnweiss, Pete Suder

Post-War—Hank Bauer, Yogi Berra, Johnny Blanchard, Jim Bouton, Clete Boyer, Lou Burdette, Andy Carey, Gerry Coleman, Joe Collins, Clint Courtney, Al Downing, Whitey Ford, Woodie Held, Elston Howard, Tony Kubek, Johnny Kucks, Jerry Lumpe, Mickey Mantle, Gil McDougald, Joe Pepitone, Bob Porterfield, Vic Raschi, Bobby Richardson, Norm Siebern, Bill Skowron, Tom Sturdivant, Ralph Terry, Tom Tresh, Gus Triandos, Bill Virdon

### BOSTON RED SOX

Pre-War—Al Brazle, Dave Ferriss, Tex Hughson, Mel Parnell, Johnny Pesky, Jim Tabor, Bill Voiselle, Jim Wilson

Post-War—Tom Brewer, Ivan Delock, Walt Dropo, Jim Fregosi, Billy Goodman, Dick Littlefield, Frank Malzone, Charlie Maxwell, Maury McDermott, Bill Monbouquette, Willard Nixon, Albie Pearson, Jim Piersall, Dick Radatz, Chuck Stobbs, Frank Sullivan, Sammy White, Wilbur Wood, Carl Yastrzemski

### CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Pre-War—Orval Grove, Bob Kennedy, Don Kolloway, Cass Michaels, Johnny Rigney

Post-War—Luis Aparicio, Earl Battey, Don Buford, Jim Busby, Johnny Callison, Norm Cash, Joel Horlen, Jim Landis, Don Mincher, Gary Peters, Johnny Romano

### CLEVELAND INDIANS

Pre-War—Lou Boudreau, Joe Dobson, Denny Galehouse, Steve Gromek, Mel Harder, Jeff Heath, Jim Hegan, Tommy Henrich, Thornton Lee, Bob Lemon, Sherm Lollar, Ray Mack, Al Milnar, Monte Pearson, Allie Reynolds, Hal Trosky, Joe Vosmik, Roy Weatherly, Gene Woodling

Post-War—Hank Aguirre, Bob Avila, Gary Bell, Ray Boone, Rocky Colavito, Mike Garcia, Mudcat Grant, Sam Jones, Brooks Lawrence, Jim Lemon, Roger Maris, Sam McDowell, Minnie Minoso, Dale Mitchell, Don Mossi, Ray Narleski, Jim Perry, Al Rosen, Herb Score, Al Smith, Gus Zernial

### DETROIT TIGERS

Pre-War—Eldon Auker, Tommy Bridges, Hoot Evers, Pete Fox, Hank Greenberg, Art Houtteman, Fred Hutchinson, Barney McCosky, Hal Newhouser, Billy Pierce, Schoolboy Rowe, Virgil Trucks, Dick Wakefield, Gee Walker, Vic Wertz, Whitlow Wyatt, Rudy York

Post-War—Frank Bolling, Jim Bunning, Paul Foytack, Bill Freehan, Johnny Groth, Ray Herbert, Billy Hoef, Willie Horton, Harvey Kuenn, Frank Lary, Mickey Lolich, Dick McAuliffe, Phil Regan, Bob Shaw

### PHILADELPHIA/KANSAS CITY ATHLETICS

Pre-War—Joe Coleman Sr., Doc Cramer, Bill Dietrich, George Kell, Phil Marchildon, Carl Scheib, Elmer Valo

Post-War—Lou Brissie, Nellie Fox, Dick Green, Hector Lopez, Fred Norman, Diego Segui, Bobby Shantz

### ST. LOUIS BROWNS/BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Pre-War—Johnny Berardino, Harlond Clift, Bob Dillinger, Jack Kramer, Bob Muncrief, Vern Stephens, Al Zarilla

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Post-War—Jerry Adair, Steve Barber, Dean Chance, Chuck Estrada, Tito Francona, Ned Garver, Ron Hansen, Don Larsen, Dave McNally, Billy O'Dell, Milt Pappas, Boog Powell, Brooks Robinson, Roy Sievers, Bob Turley, Jerry Walker

### **WASHINGTON SENATORS/ MINNESOTA TWINS**

Pre-War—George Case, Sid Hudson, Buddy Lewis, Ray Scarborough, Cecil Travis, Mickey Vernon, Taft Wright, Early Wynn

Post-War—Ted Abernathy, Bob Allison, Sandy Consuegra, Jim Kaat, Harmon Killebrew, Conrado Marrero, Willie Miranda, Tony Oliva, Camilo Pascual, Pedro Ramos, Rich Rollins, Zorro Versalles

### **BOSTON/MILWAUKEE BRAVES**

Pre-War—Elbie Fletcher, Warren Spahn

Post-War—Hank Aaron, Vern Bickford, Bill Bruton, Tony Cloninger, Gene Conley, Del Crandall, Al Dark, Dick Donovan, Joey Jay, Ernie Johnson, Denny Lemaster, Johnny Logan, Ed Mathews, Don McMahon, Juan Pizarro, Joe Torre

### **BROOKLYN/LOS ANGELES DODGERS**

Pre-War—Ralph Branca, Gil Hodges, Clyde King, Eddie Miksis

Post-War—Dan Bankhead, Joe Black, Roy Campanella, Roberto Clemente, Chuck Connors, Roger Craig, Tommy Davis, Willie Davis, Don Drysdale, Carl Erskine, Ron Fairly, Dee Fondy, Jim Gentile, Jim Gilliam, Don Hoak, Frank Howard, Sam Jethroe, Clem Labine, Billy Loes, Turk Lown, Ray Moore, Charlie Neal, Don Newcombe, Irv Noren, Erv Palica, Johnny Podres, Jackie Robinson, Ed Roebuck, John Roseboro, Larry Sherry, Duke Snider, Stan Williams, Maury Wills, Don Zimmer

### **CHICAGO CUBS**

Pre-War—Paul Erickson, Billy Jorges, Peanuts Lowrey, Lou Novikoff, Andy Pafko, Eddie Waitkus, Hank Wyse

Post-War—Gene Baker, Jim Brewer, Lou Brock, Jim Brosnan, Smoky Burgess, Dick Ellsworth, Don Elston, Glen Hobbie, Ransom Jackson, Hal Jeffcoat, Russ Meyer, Ron Perranoski, Bob Rush, Ron Santo, Roy Smalley, Rube Walker, Billy Williams

### **CINCINNATI REDS**

Pre-War—Ewell Blackwell, Jim Konstanty, Frank McCormick, Joe Nuxhall, Herm Wehmeier

Post-War—Bobby Adams, Joe Adcock, Ed Bailey, Frankie Baumholtz, Leo Cardenas, Curt Flood, Tony Gonzalez, Tommy Harper, Grady Hatton, Ted Kluszewski, Jim Maloney, Roy McMillan, Claude Osteen, Jim O'Toole, Vada Pinson, Wally Post, Frank Robinson, Cookie Rojas, Pete Rose, Frank Smith, Johnny Temple

### **NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS**

Pre-War—Harry Danning, Sid Gordon, Buddy Kerr, Fred Lindstrom, Whitey Lockman

Post-War—Felipe, Jesus, and Matty Alou, Bobby Bolin, Orlando Cepeda, Jim Davenport, Eddie Fisher, Art Fowler, Tom Haller, Jack Harshman, Jim Ray Hart, Clint Hartung, Monte Irvin, Sheldon Jones, Juan Marichal, Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Don Mueller, Gaylord Perry, Bobby Thomson, Leon Wagner, Wes Westrum, Bill White, Al Worthington

### **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

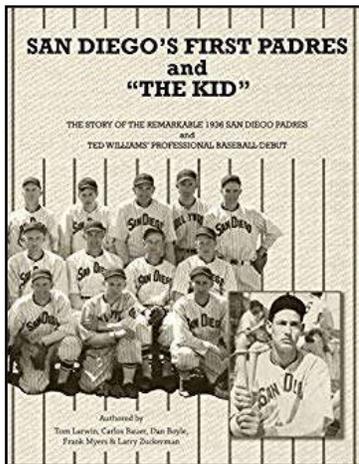
Pre-War—Granny Hamner

Post-War—Dick Allen, Richie Ashburn, Don Cardwell, Bubba Church, Ray Culp, Del Ennis, Elroy Face, Dick Farrell, Willie Jones, Stan Lopata, Robin Roberts, Jack Sanford, Chris Short, Curt Simmons

### **PITTSBURGH PIRATES**

Pre-War—Billy Cox, Frankie Gustine, Ken Heintzelman

Post-War—Gene Alley, Bob Bailey, Gus Bell, Donn Clendenon, Bob Friend, Joe Gibbon, Dick Hall, Julian Javier, Ralph Kiner, Ron Kline, Vern Law, Bill Mazerowski, Al McBean, Bob Purkey, Bob Skinner, Willie Stargell, Dick Stuart, Frank Thomas, Bob Veale



## SAN DIEGO'S FIRST PADRES AND "THE KID"

BY TOM LARWIN, CARLOS BAUER, DAN BOYLE, FRANK  
MYERS & LARRY ZUCKERMAN

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Reviewed by Chuck McGill

**T**he long and storied history of the Pacific Coast League (PCL) began in earnest in 1903. Los Angeles and San Francisco, two of the larger cities in California, had a team, or teams in the league from the start. By the 1930's, San Diego was a growing city, with an important Naval base helping to increase the population.

The franchise that would become the Padres in 1936 started out in Sacramento in the then outlaw California State League (CSL) in 1906. Following the 1906 earthquake, the PCL downsized from six to four teams. The CSL grabbed some of the best players by offering better money. This led the PCL to have the CSL declared an outlaw league by the National Association. Following the 1908 season, the PCL and CSL tried again to patch their differences, but a truce was not forthcoming. However, the PCL had a standing offer to the Sacramento club to join the league, which the owners of the Sacramento team accepted, under the threat of a rival PCL team being placed in Sacramento.

The Sacramento team moved to the Mission district of San Francisco in 1914, becoming the Mission Wolves. A lack of financial success caused the team to go bankrupt, with the PCL announcing at their Winter Meeting that the team would be moved to Salt Lake City. By the 1919 season, Bill Lane had become the majority owner. Inter-

nal politics led the team to relocate from Salt Lake City to Hollywood. After 10 seasons sharing Wrigley Field with the Los Angeles Angels, the last one being an 8th place finish, Lane started exploring a new location for the team. Rumors that the Hollywood team would move back to Salt Lake City were swirling during the off-season, while the Mission Reds were looking into moving to San Diego.

After months of speculation that the Reds would be relocating to San Diego, the announcement came on Jan 21, 1936, that San Diego would indeed get a team, however, it would be the Hollywood Stars that would be relocating.

After exploring the genealogy of the Padres franchise, the authors then detail the building of the team's roster, the renovations to what would become Lane Field to increase capacity, while at the same time, they begin tracking the star of the Hoover High School baseball team, one Ted Williams.

The next several chapters are devoted to each month of the 1936 season, giving highlights of each series, detailing player performance and roster moves, and keeping track of Williams' senior year.

In June, the Padres offered Williams, who had gone 10-2 as a pitcher, and hit .406, a contract. There had been speculation that the Yankees, Cardinals, and Tigers were looking to sign him, but Williams didn't want to get lost in a large farm system like the Cardinals had, so he decided to stay at home with the Padres.

In the first couple months after signing, Williams played sparingly, and San Diego's record remained around .500. In August, the Padres started climbing in the standings, ending the month tied for second place.

In September Williams became a regular, helping the team to briefly move into a tie with Portland for first place, before finishing the season tied with Oakland for second place. The following chapters details the playoff series with Oakland, which ended with the Padres losing 4 games to 1.

The book then details what happened to the members of the 1936 team in subsequent years, along with memories of the players from interviews or books.

Several appendices provide detailed stats for the team, and brief biographies of each person that played for the 1936 Padres.

If you're interested in the Pacific Coast League, or enjoy detailed histories of minor league teams, this book will surely be of interest to you. Few, if any, details of the 1936 Padres have been overlooked.

## Realigning the Minor Leagues

By Jamie Selko

**T**he Majors have a history of calling poor-mouth when it comes to supporting their farm clubs (at least before the age of merchandising everything from bottle openers to tee-shirts), especially when it comes to travel expenses. It is my belief that this could be rectified by the two-fold step of shrinking some of the current humonginoid leagues and bringing back some storied old leagues. This would cut travel time and expenses by at least half for most teams and more for some. For example, there are sixteen teams in the Class A Midwestern League, spread out from southern Kentucky to as far north as Wisconsin and from eastern Ohio to Iowa. The Sally League has fourteen teams, strung out from South Carolina to New Jersey and as far west as central Kentucky.

Another terrific plus would be the renewal of old rivalries and the birthing of new ones. In a sixteen team league with a 140 game season, teams play divisional rivals what, maybe ten times a season? And teams in the other division, how many times do they meet- twice a year? That's absurd. All the leagues I've built up below are ten team leagues. Expand the season just a bit to a 144 game season, and each team would play one another sixteen times- that'll get the blood boiling as well as firing up the civic spirit. It's hard to get jacked up watching a team maybe twice a year- where's the rivalry- especially if the other team is from a thousand miles and five states away. Meet an in-state rival eight times in your home park, and interest will mount. I would be willing to wager on that.

So, on to the modeling. (I invite any readers to try their own- I'd be glad to check them out and compare!)

The Triple A teams are in split up into a sixteen team league (the "PCL") and a fourteen team league (the "International"). In Double A, at least there are three leagues, but only one is anywhere near geographically coherent (the eight team Texas League). The other two are oversized Frankenstein monsters with little relationship to their traditions, and so it goes. On down the chain. What follows is a plan for increasing profits (a win for the accounting department), recreating old rivalries (a win for tradition) and a win for common sense.

An important part of the plan is make every effort to have three ten-team leagues at every classification. This would be the first step in both economy and in building fan from somewhens other than just "promotions", the only thing

that is keeping many team's heads above water in the current climate.

The first thing that strikes one is the fact that, even though there are thirty AAA farm teams, there are only two fifteen team leagues. This is an absurdity. Three ten-team leagues would fit harmoniously into both historical and geographical grooves. The two-team system results in such farces as the Pacific Coast league having only three teams in states that actually border the Pacific, only four more that are even west of the Rockies, which leads to teams as far east as Tennessee and Louisiana. Ah yes, I used to live in Colorado and how well I remember listening to the lap of the mighty ocean's waves on the foothills of the Rockies. I also used to live in the south, and I have just as many memories (none, of course) of looking to the west and gazing at the snow-capped peaks of the Cascades and the Sierra Nevadas. How many folks, when they think of New Orleans, for example, the first thing that comes to mind is watching the grey whales migrating up the coast? How many people, while watching the sunset high on a cliff overlooking the thundering breakers, have their minds firmly set on blue grass and mint juleps? But seriously, if America (and by that I mean, of course, the U.S.) wasn't so incredibly geographically ignorant, those concepts would in themselves be a joke.

We'll start at the top with the dean of the AAA leagues, the International. Rather obviously, there is little hope of it ever becoming truly international again, but there exists the possibility of having at least half of the teams former members of the "old" International League.

The new roll:

Albany, Buffalo, Lehigh Valley (Allentown), Norfolk, Pawtucket, Providence, Reading, Rochester, Scranton, Syracuse

This was one of the easier leagues to reconfigure, and with only Norfolk as an outlier, and has the added bonus with the fact that more than half of its roster has a genuine International League pedigree.

Next up, the Grand Old League, the storied PCL. The first thing that becomes obvious is the fact that it is no longer possible to put ten teams in states that actually border the Pacific. Only Tacoma, Sacramento and Fresno are actually located in states with a coast (two more do at least have a shoreline on the Gulf of Mexico).\* The best plan I could come up with was to at least place all of the teams west of the Great Plains.

The new roster:

Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, El Paso, Fresno, Hawai'i, Las Vegas, Reno, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Tacoma

I was thinking about leaving Round Rock in the league, but for most teams the distance from wherever they are to Hawai'i, though a couple of hundred miles more, is made up for by far more in keeping with the league's name, and that should count for something (or at least it would in a world where marketing is 75% or more of the reason to have a minor league team at all). I realize full well that, by choosing the side of history, traditional and common sense, I may well be in a very small minority, at least when in competition with cap sales, but there you have it.

The final (and now non-existent) Triple A league would of course be the American Association, which from 1902 until 1962 and then again from 1969 until 1997 was the third top tier minor league. It's reputation, traditions and history might not match the International and Pacific Leagues (although don't tell that to its old time fans), but it was the highest-ranking heartland league of the country. Only three of it's long-time members could be included in the new league, but at least the replacements are all mid-major cities with a storied baseball history in other leagues.

The new roll:

Columbus, Indianapolis, Iowa (Des Moines), Little Rock, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Toledo

This brings us to the double A leagues. Again, there are three of these, so that works out just fine. As an added bonus, they are the same three that have been in place for over a hundred years- the Eastern League, the Southern Association and the Texas League. All three also share the bonus of having several teams whose individual histories are also related to the leagues that they would now find themselves in.

First, the Eastern League:

Akron, Allentown, Altoona, Binghamton, Erie, Harrisburg, Hartford, Portland (ME), New Hampshire (Manchester), Trenton

Next, the Southern Association:

Birmingham, Charleston (SC), Charlotte, Chattanooga, Durham, Jacksonville, Knoxville, Montgomery, Pensacola, Richmond

Finally, the Texas League:

Austin, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Laredo, Lubbock, Midland/Odessa, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, San Antonio, Tulsa

The nice thing about this is that all the teams save one are actually located in Texas. No "Texas" League teams in

Pennsylvania or Minnesota here. Now, I wouldn't argue with replacing Round Rock, due to its close proximity with Austin (or, for that matter either replacing Round Rock with Austin or having an Austin/Round Rock team in the league). On the other hand, Round Rock has a fine stadium and Austin has none, so . . .

The next level, long season A, is more difficult to reconfigure. There are currently three "Advanced A" leagues with eight, ten and twelve teams each- not a problem. However, there are only two long-season A leagues with sixteen and fourteen teams each- problem. Reconfiguring these leagues would take a lot of league and ownership switching, but that in itself is not really a hurdle, as that is done all the time. (For example, since I first moved to Eugene in 1973, the Emeralds have been a farm team of the Phillies, the Reds, the Royals, the Braves, the Cubs, the Padres and the Cubs again.)

So, for my three advanced leagues I'm going with the California League, the Carolina League and reviving the storied old Three-I (III) league.

The California League franchises are:

Freemont, Inland Empire (San Bernardino), Lake Elsinore, Lancaster, Modesto, Rancho Cucamonga, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Stockton, Visalia

Keeping them all in California? Easy-peasy. Would they all work out? Don't know. After a year or two, it might be financially prudent to either have a regional entry (or two) or place one (or two) in the Greater Los Angeles area - East LA or Santa Monica or Thousand Oaks to name a few. After all, the Brooklyn Cyclones are flourishing in the (virtual) shadow of the Mets and the Yankees.

The Carolina League franchises are:

Buies Creek (Fayetteville), Carolina (Zebulon), Down East (Kinston), Greenville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Kannapolis, Raleigh-Durham, Winston Salem

Another easy choice with many of the teams having a deep Carolina league tradition, and with eight in North Carolina.

The III teams:

Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Dayton, Evansville, Fargo-Moorehead, Fort Wayne, Kane County, Peoria, Quad Cities, South Bend

I wished that I could have kept all the teams in the old Three I stomping ground, but there was just no feasible way to do so.

The long season, non "advanced" A leagues are more difficult to place, but with a little work, it is doable. As for

the three leagues, I would keep the Midwest League and reach back into the past for the Sally (South Atlantic) League and the old Piedmont League. Not as well known as the other two, it was in operation from 1920 until 1955.

Midwest League teams:

Bowling Green, Burlington, Great Lakes (Midland, MI), Hagerstown, Lake County (East Lake, OH), Lansing, Lincoln, West Michigan (Grand Rapids), Wichita, Wisconsin (Appleton)

Piedmont League teams:

Asheville, Delmarva (Salisbury, MD), Frederick, Hickory, Lakewood (NJ), Lexington, Lynchburg, Potomac (VA), West Virginia (Charleston), Wilmington

Sally League teams:

Augusta, Bradenton, Clearwater, Columbia, Columbus (GA), Daytona (FL), Mobile, Myrtle Beach, Rome, Savannah

As for the short-season and Rookie leagues, in the words of the prophet, "I ain't gonna mess with those."



ODE BY MR. PANDORA  
THERE ARE KISSING BUGS AND STRADDLE BUGS,  
SOME WILD BUGS, AND SOME TAME;  
BUT THE BASEBALL BUGS ARE THE BUGS FOR ME  
WHEN THEY SWARM IN AT THE GAME.

*The Des Moines Register Apr 24, 1910*