

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

January 2024 In This Issue:

- Upcoming Events
- [Recap December Meetings](#)
- [Keltner Book Club](#)
- [DDD's Discursive](#)
- [Get to Know](#)
- [Stats & Stuff](#)
- [Schabowski Super Stumpers](#)
- [OTBA Awards Buege](#)
- [Olmo and Marquez: The First Boricua Milwaukee Heroes](#)
- [WI Born SABR Bio](#)
- [Neighboring Newsletters](#)

Upcoming Events

Vinny Rottino

A Week in the Life of a Scout
Virtual, Wed., January 24
Watch for Time & Zoom Details



Joint Virtual Meeting – MN

Author Steve Gieschier
Wed., January 31 @ 7 Pm CST
Register [Here](#)



Joint SABR Day

Brat Stop – Kenosha
Saturday, Feb 3 @ 11 AM



Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

June 6-9
Cooperstown, NY



SABR 52

August 7-11, 2024
Minneapolis

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Members

Anthony Garcia - Milwaukee
Bill Gaulke – Menomonee Falls

UPCOMING EVENTS

**A Week in the Life of a Scout and More
With Vinny Rottino**
Virtual Wednesday, January 24, Time TBD



Wisconsin born (232nd) and former Milwaukee Brewer Vinny Rottino will join us to talk about the life of a scout. In addition to playing for the Brewers, Marlins, Mets, and Indians, as well as the Italian Olympic Team, he scouted for Texas before joining Milwaukee's broadcast team.

We have had many guests over the years but not a scout. We have read books about them who they signed, etc. But what is their day-to-

day activity? Is it all at night during games or other activities during the day, a lot of windshield time? What is the relationship with other team's scouts, the competition? And what are scouts doing in early January (or rain delays)? Other questions may include does have major league experience help a scout? As a catcher, what advantage did he have when analyzing pitchers? Let's ask Vinny to tell us more.

Vinny is always interesting and entertaining, not afraid to express his opinion as we saw last year on SABR Day. As the newsletter is being published, we have not finalized the time for the event nor scheduled the zoom yet for the same reason. Stay tuned as we will provide this as soon as available.

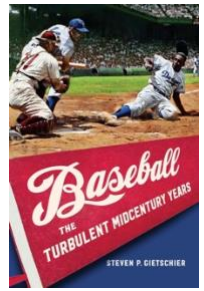


Joint Virtual Meeting – Minnesota Wednesday, January 31

Special Guest – Author Steve Gietschier
Baseball: The Turbulent Midcentury Years

SABR member and former Managing Editor, Research with *Sports Illustrated*, Steve Gietschier, has written the book considered the next volume on the three volume baseball history written by [Dorothy Seymour-Mills and Harold Seymour](#). He is the 2023 recipient of SABR's [Henry Chadwick Award](#) established to honor baseball's great researchers for this book.

[Baseball: The Turbulent Midcentury Years](#) explores the history of organized baseball during the middle of the twentieth century, examining the sport on and off the field and contextualizing its development as both sport and business within the broader contours of American history. Steven P. Gietschier begins with the Great Depression, looking at how those years of economic turmoil shaped the sport and how baseball responded. Gietschier covers a then-burgeoning group of owners, players, and key figures—among them Branch Rickey, Larry MacPhail, Hank Greenberg, Ford Frick, and several others—whose stories figure prominently in baseball's past and some of whom are still prominent in its collective consciousness.



The Keltner Chapter will be joining the Halsey Hall Chapter meeting to learn more about Steve's book. Register in advance [here](#).



Annual Joint Chapter SABR Day Meeting
Saturday, February 3 @ 11 AM
Brat Stop – 12304 75th Avenue, Kenosha



It's that time of year again when we have our annual joint chapter SABR Day meeting with the Emil Rothe chapter of Chicago - live at the Brat Stop in Kenosha on Saturday, February 3 at 11 AM.

Special Guests include:

Susan Shemanske, the former Sports Editor of the Racine *Journal Times* will join us to talk about baseball reporting in the past 40 years from a pioneer woman reporter to leading a sports department. And answer your questions.



Susan worked on the news copy desk at the *Journal Times* during college and joined the newspaper fulltime in 1978, a year after graduating from UW-Parkside. Her interest was sports reporting and when an opportunity opened, Susan became a pioneering sports reporter covering high school sports, college football and the Milwaukee Brewers. In 1990, she was named Sports Editor, becoming one of the first women in Wisconsin named to the leadership role that she held until retiring in 2018. As a member of the BBWAA, she continues voting for members of the Hall of Fame.

In 2019 she was enshrined in Wisconsin Newspapers Association (WNA) Hall of Fame for her pioneering role and leadership. The WNA recognized how Susan won the respect of the players and coaches for her depth of sports knowledge and attention to detail. Her sports department was ranked as one of the best in the state winning numerous state and national awards.

In addition, she is a member of our Baseball Memories team led by Larry Baldassaro who recruited Susan because of her ability to connect with people and has been a true asset to our program.

Scott Simkus, a co-creator of the Negro Leagues Database at Semheads.com will open the meeting discussing Negro League research.

Scott Lindholm, a Chicago chapter member, will discuss his work identifying the Best Negro League players. Scott tried to make this presentation last year was unable to make it due to the snow.

Swap Meet Do you have baseball books and/or memorabilia you want move? Or are you looking for some stuff to add to your collection. Bring it for the Swap Table or come prepared to add from the table.

More speakers will be announce shortly and we'll keep you informed.

Keltner Hot Corner Archives

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

Use of Links

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

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

Recap December Meetings

Keltner Book Club Meeting Special Guest: Author - Lincoln Mitchell



Lincoln A. Mitchell joined us on December 7th to discuss his fascinating book, [The One Hundred Most Important Players in Baseball History](#). Mitchell focused on players who aren't necessarily the greatest but made significant and special contributions to baseball and society. And it is in alpha not numerical order. The biggest questions he receives why isn't so-and-so in the book? He had some tough decisions. Mitchell, a big baseball fan, grew up in San Francisco and Willie McCovey is his favorite player, he made the book.

One member mentioned that as a nerd a good book is where he learns something new. He said he learned a lot in this book, so it was very good.

Lincoln Mitchell has had a remarkable career as a scholar, political analyst, and writer. Read more about him and his work [here](#).

The winner of the drawing for a copy of the book was Francis Kinlaw.

To watch the recording, click on Mitchell's picture or [here](#).



Recap Holiday Get Together



Nearly a dozen members met at J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill on Saturday December 10th to talk baseball – baseball talk was rampant at all ends of the table for nearly three hours. One of my pleasures leading the Keltner Chapter is meeting long time members who have not been able to make live meetings and we met Bob Kapla from Green Bay who has been in virtual meetings. He was in town to visit his daughter at UWM, and it worked perfectly for his schedule, and she still got dad to buy dinner. Also attending were the following, I hope I didn't leave anyone out. One of the tips I picked up was a website, [Thriftbooks.com](#), the eBay for out of date books (and new, too.). It was a great kickoff to the holiday season and as Dave said, the time flew by it was so much fun. We are looking forward to next December.

Mary Shea
Tom O'Connell
Paul Tenpenny

Greg Ebert
Al Karnath
Dave Klement

Carlos Pastrana
Mike Englebart
DDD

Recap Called Up with author Zak Ford



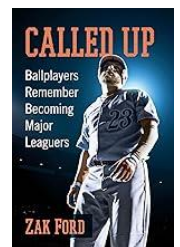
Author Zak Ford joined us via Zoom to discuss his fine book *Called Up* on December 13th. Reaching the majors, requires natural ability and world-class skills, overcoming insurmountable odds. Zak captured the players stories on the called up experience drawing on original interviews with more than 100 players who debuted between 1961 and 2018 using their own words in the stories.

We learned how he reached out to players through social media with a goal of 75 to 100. Zak excelled, doing 149 interviews, and finished with 109 who returned releases. He read some of the players stories to hear the experience in their words. And he was wearing a Brewer shirt with number 5, for Geoff Jenkins, whose

stories is very good plus he read two other members of the Brew Crew. We learned some managers had a sense of humor.

Having read the book, I found it fascinating how the players reacted to going to The Show. Many didn't sleep the night before or their feet or legs were numb from shaking. Seeing their uniform with their name on it, was special making them feel like they made it. Or walking into the clubhouse and seeing the big names wondering how they could possibly be there. And their thoughts entering their first game was fascinating, many only wanting to not look foolish. Some were in awe facing their heroes. I can easily recommend this book. [DDD]

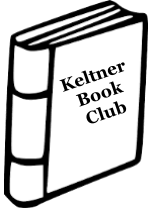
You can learn about *Called Up* [here](#). The winner of the drawing for a copy of the book was Jim Williams. To watch the recording of this fun meeting, click on Zak's picture or [here](#).



Keltner Book Club News

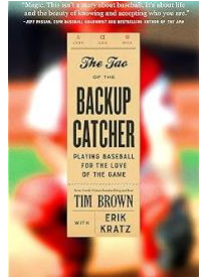
By Mary Shea

Looking into the New Year, there are four new baseball books that I think are worth highlighting.



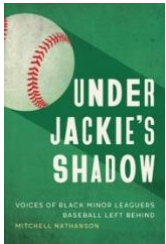
[*The Tao of the Backup Catcher - Playing Baseball for the Love of the Game*](#), by Tim Brown, with Erik Kratz

Recently published in 2023, this was recommended by SABR member and author Larry Baldassaro. Brown has covered baseball for more than three decades and is the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers. Kratz was often a backup catcher during his nineteen-year pro career. As acclaimed baseball writer Jane Leavy commented, “This is a honey of a book ... This ode to the backup catcher with grit beneath his fingernails and grit within his soul is a must read. It will make you feel better about humanity.”



The book is available in hardcover and will be available in paperback in July.

[*Under Jackie's Shadow - Voices of Black Minor Leaguers Baseball Left Behind*](#), by Mitchell Nathanson



I'm really looking forward to this one. Nathanson has written several books about baseball, and he joined us for a book club meeting a couple of years ago for an excellent discussion about Jim Bouton and Nathanson's biography of him. This new work, which is due out in April, focuses on the Black players who toiled in the minor leagues right after the integration of baseball, waiting for well-deserved chances to move up to the big leagues. “From their mouths to your ears, this is the unvarnished story of what it was like to be a Black man navigating the wilds of professional baseball's minor leagues during the 1960s and '70s.”

I highly recommend checking out [Nathanson's website](#) which includes info on this book.

[*Locker Room Talk - A Women's Struggle to Get Inside*](#), by Melissa Ludtke

Ludtke gave a fascinating presentation at the SABR Convention in Baltimore about her career as a sports writer and her professional and legal struggles to gain clubhouse access. I've been anticipating the publication of this book about her remarkable story, but we'll have to wait until it is published in August. However, you can read more about her and the book on her nifty [website](#). She was also recently a guest on [SABRcast](#) with Rob Neyer where you can hear about her story as well.



[*Hall of Fame DNA: The Legacy of Norman "Turkey" Stearnes*](#), by Vanessa Ivy Rose



Turkey Stearnes is a Hall of Famer and Negro Leagues legend, and his granddaughter wrote this biography of him. She also has a fascinating podcast about Black baseball. Info on both can be found on her [website](#).

Also, the International Women's Baseball Center has their own book club, and Vanessa Ivy Rose will be their next guest. All are welcome to attend this virtual meeting on January 14th. You can register through the IWBC [website](#). (They also have information on A Camp of Our Own Fantasy Baseball Camp in May on this site as well.)

So, we have these four intriguing choices, so far. Please let me know if you'd like to suggest any others at: mshea611@earthlink.net.

Stay tuned for info on our next Keltner Book Club meeting sometime in March.

Happy reading, Mary



DDD's Discursive



Happy New Year, it's been nearly a quarter century since we survived Y2K. I recall all of the meetings I attended on the pending catastrophe and one of our plans included using carrier pigeons. Management did not appreciate the thought. Here's wishing you more than bird brained success and joy throughout out 2024.

In this issue we have an interesting article from Carlos Pastrana who originally joined SABR in his native Puerto Rico and now lives in Wisconsin on two players from the island that are famous and idolized there and hardly known here. His opening comparison of the two places is right on, too. And Tom Rathkamp continues his Stats and Stuff column.

After publishing this newsletter for three years, a thought crossed my mind reading Adam McCalvy's *Brewers Beat*. Gee, I wonder if there are members who are not aware of his fine newsletter - so why don't I provide info for signing up for it. Okay, I'm kind of slow but if you do not receive Adam's publication you may want to consider doing so. To subscribe to *Brewers Beat*, [visit this page](#) and mark "Brewers Beat" from the newsletter list. Make sure you're following the Brewers or that they're checked as your favorite team. (Bonus, if there are other teams you would like to follow, too, you can do so as well on this site.



Get To Know

Get to Know...Randall Reilly

"When I was in high school in the mid-1970's, I invented a fantasy baseball game involving real life statistics. I got a couple friends to create a league and we've been having an annual draft and fantasy baseball league since 1977. It is still going strong today - and this was before Rotisserie baseball was a thing."

Randall Reilly was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1962. His father, Paul Reilly, was the City of Madison's Comptroller and worked for Kodak for almost a decade; the family lived in Rochester, New York when Reilly was a year old, through first grade. His mother, Barbara (Braeger) Reilly, was a full-time teacher before Randy was born then a substitute afterwards. "She was my 5th grade math teacher when the class's teacher went on maternity leave."

When the Reilly's returned to Madison in 1969, Randy attend Madison schools from 2nd grade through high school, graduating from Madison La Follette. He then earned a BAA from UW-Whitewater in Operations Research and Quantitative Analysis with minors/emphases in Accounting, Statistics, Computer Science and Geology. Randy explained, "Now a days, my degree might be Business Analytics, but Analytics weren't a thing in the early 1980's."



His earliest baseball memory was attending a Brewers game with his Cub Scout troop on August 17, 1970, against Baltimore. [Boog Powell](#) hit a game winning homer leading off the top of the 8th off [Lew Krausse](#) who tossed a complete game loss, 3-2. Randy's baseball dream was unlike his contemporaries, "When I was a kid, all my friends wanted to be a ball player, I wanted to be Commissioner." Reilly continues, "I remember loving baseball because of the statistics. When I found an old Baseball Encyclopedia at the local library, I was constantly checking it out. I invented a baseball game with dice, similar to APBA, Extra Innings and Strat-O-Matic." And how did he use that newfound information? "I was constantly on the floor in our family room crunching numbers, figuring out odds, etc. When I discovered Dungeons and Dragons 10-sided dice I freaked out."

When it came to actual baseball, Randy's favorite teams growing up were the American League Brewers and the Cubs, his National League squad. "We had the best of both worlds - Cubs in the afternoon on WGN and listening to Bob Uecker at night." When the Brewers moved to the NL, his allegiance was purely the Brewers, which was even better once their games were on TV more in Madison. Reilly's favorite player as a kid wasn't a Brewer nor a Cub, he had two, [Bob Gibson](#) and [Sandy Koufax](#). "I even had two cats a few years ago named Gibson and Koufax." As an adult, its [Andre Dawson](#). Although he hasn't named a cat after him., "it was fun seeing him play when he signed with the Cubs, since the Expos were on TV only a few times a year."

While attending college in the early 1980's, Randy had an internship with the Madison Muskies, then an Oakland Athletics affiliate in the Class A Midwest League, getting to see many players in the league who went on to The Show. He described his job as, "I was a "gopher" for the owner and ran the computer scoreboard, back before PCs were an everyday thing and everyone was terrified of computers." When Reilly graduated from college the Muskies offered him a job as assistant general manager - but - he accepted a job at a bank for 75% more pay, health care and stock options. And he still asks, "Was it a mistake?" and replies, "I'll never know. I know it was years before the baseball analytics field became a thing and is so commonplace today."

During his stint with the Muskies, Randy asked trivia questions at each game with a free pizza for the winner. After a couple years they compiled them into a booklet with a couple hundred questions, selling them at the ball games for a couple dollars for charity.

After the bank, he primarily worked in the mail order fulfillment industry which includes mail, internet, and catalogs (Randy asked, “does anyone remember catalogs that you’d get in the mail or from a department stores?”) for a decade as a Marketing Manager. Reilly then worked in Clinical Research and Pharmaceutical industry for 25 years as a Senior Principal Statistical Programmer and Manager analyzing data from clinical trials to develop new medication until he retired in 2021.

Randy joined SABR in 1982 when the Muskies wanted representation and paid his dues. He is one of the longest term SABR members in the state. Back then, there was a Wisconsin Chapter that met twice a year in Madison when members presented papers and their research. He was President for a few terms serving until a few years after graduating from college. Reilly went to annual conventions in Milwaukee and Minneapolis in the 1980’s and then the Milwaukee convention in 2001. He enjoyed the convention experience, “They were fun, and I got meet a lot of interesting members that had similar interest as me – which was a shock. I thought I was the oddball.”

Currently, Randy is doing research for a couple minor and independent league teams and performing testing for a computer baseball game. He plays in a bunch of baseball simulation leagues using teams from current and past seasons, as he explains, “right now I am in leagues for the 1923, 1947, 1972, and current seasons including commish or co-commish in three.” Plus, he still plays and is the commissioner of the fantasy baseball league he created back in high school.

His special interest in baseball is remains statistics, analytics, and the front office. Although the excessive use of analytics in the game has soured Randy on sabermetrics the past couple years. “Who cares what a player’s exit velocity is if he makes an out. I would rather a player know how to bunt for a hit or hit them where they ain’t.”

If Randy had a time-machine opportunity or two, who, what or where would he like to go see? As we have learned, Randy has been a big fan of the business of baseball, so his time-machine reply was, “I’d love to go back to when [Marvin Miller](#) formed the MLBPA and watch how the MLB owners dealt with this new entity especially when a judge ruled that [Catfish Hunter](#) was a free agent because [Charlie O. Finley](#) wasn’t making annual annuity payments stipulated Hunter’s contract” Why? “It would be fun to watch the chaos that followed.” And “I would have like to have been Commissioner during Bowie Kuhn’s reign and figure out how to deal with the mess that followed.”

What else would Reilly like the membership to know about him that we may already? “Through 2008, I had been in every MLB ballpark that existed. My hobbies besides baseball are computers, music, I have a big record collection, and jigsaw puzzles.

For his final words of wisdom, Randy followed with some of his favorite quotes.

"God does not play dice with the universe."
- Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist

"Not only does God definitely play dice, but he sometimes confuses us by throwing them where they can't be seen."
- Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist

“The state of the game in baseball is about as bad as I’ve ever seen it. It’s all strikeouts and home runs and a high number of pitches and too many four-hour games, especially during the postseason. And then, the commissioner (Rob Manfred), who’s never worn a jockstrap, has all these rules ... and the way every manager is using his bullpen now ... out of 54 outs every night, you’ve got about 22 strikeouts between the two teams and 10 walks. So, you’ve got 32 guys every night that don’t hit the baseball”
- HOF Manager [Whitey Herzog](#) - regarding the state of the game in 2021.

"If I played today I'd be a million-dollar player. Is that scary or what?"
- [Bob Uecker](#) - Catcher / Broadcaster

“They know when to cheer and they know when to boo. And they know when to drink beer. They do it all of the time.”
- Milwaukee Brewers OF [Gorman Thomas](#) when asked about the Brewers fans

The Death of Printed Baseball Annuals

by Tom Rathkamp

On the back cover of the short-lived *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, edited by Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette (published by Barnes & Noble), the following quote appears from Bill James:

"I want a bumper sticker: You can have my Baseball Encyclopedia when you tear it from my cold, dead hands."

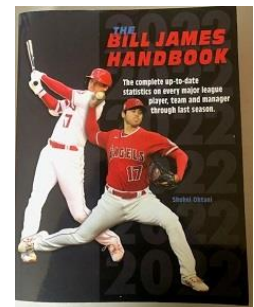
James' comical reference paints a metaphor for the long, slow demise of the printed baseball encyclopedia that took another hit. *ACTA Publications* announced that the [2024 Bill James Handbook](#) will be the last. This jam-packed treasure trove brought several fans ample joy every November in which it was released. The perfect post-season companion was special if only because it was released soon after the season, not January or February as most annuals did. Sad and happy reminders were re-lived through the numbers. Grim evidence of bad starting pitching, or low on-base percentages, laid flat in black-and-white print – literally at our fingertips.

Long before the invasion of those buzzing electrons called the *internet*, baseball fans had no choice but to flip through yearly annuals, some thick enough to double as doorstops, others thinner, lighter versions focused on previewing the upcoming season. We did not have the convenience of search engines Yahoo or Google – currently our lone, albeit powerful research tool. Be it pleasure or serious research, we now look back on a few disappearing tools of the trade.

The Bill James Handbook

Formerly called the *STATS Major League Handbook*, this is my personal all-time favorite. This book re-defined annual baseball encyclopedic publications. Anchored by the most recognized sabermetrician in history, Bill James, the juicy situational nuggets included the following:

- *Hitters*: OPS vs. left-handed and right-handed pitching
- *Hitters*: Swing-and-miss %
- *Hitters*: Lowest and highest strikeout % per at bat
- *Hitters*: Runs created
- *Pitchers*: Piches per start
- *Pitchers*: Opponent batting average
- *Managers*: Managers Record (i.e, how a skipper handles situations)

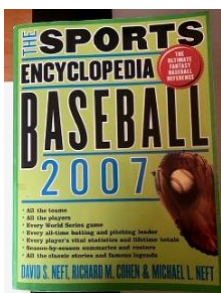


How did I select these categories? Randomly, which speaks to the nature of thumbing through a physical, printed book. Online research is more targeted and deliberate, as in "I am looking for X for purpose of Y." With a printed version, just opening up to a random page required no focused motivation, only wondering what piece of information would jump out at you.

One of the unique aspects of this book is the inclusion of essays. These came with every new stat that was introduced for that year's edition, making sure the readers were apprised of the method and rationale, perhaps preventing them from scratching their heads in bewilderment when a new acronym jumped out at them.

In this year's Walk-Off Edition, former Bill James researcher Rob Neyer paraphrased what Bill James said in 1989 about why the Handbook was released soon after the season: "Hey, we've got computers and laser printers and we're collecting all the numbers. So why should everyone have to wait for all the pretty flowers?"

The Sports Encyclopedia – Baseball



A long-time favorite of baseball researchers, this book provided a reliable account of not only seasonal data, but historical as well. For the longest time, it seemed like the only book of its kind.

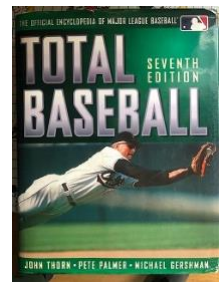
- Stats from 1901 to the present.
- Number of games played at each position for a player
- The age of each player for each season
- An essay review of each season, including World Series highlights



- Yearly award winners, lifetime category leaders, and World Series category leaders

Total Baseball

This mammoth gem was quite possibly the GOAT of printed volumes. Anchored by the current official historian of Major League Baseball, John Thorn and the statistical pioneer, Pete Palmer, a seemingly endless amount of baseball brain food donned these pages for years. Most statistical measures in this book are the same as those in their the unique "linear weights" statistical measuring system, making its debut in their seminal 1981 book, *The Hidden Game of Baseball*. For a complete explanation of that system, I encourage you to check it out.



The linear weights system attempted to encapsulate several statistical counts and calculations into ONE number, similar to WAR and Win Shares.

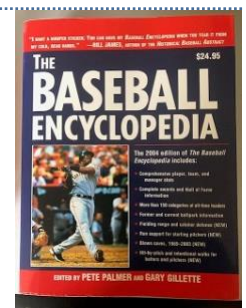
- Batting and pitching runs
- Normalized ERA
- Offense and defensive wins
- Total Pitcher Index (TPI)
- Total Player Rating (TPA)

As an entertaining bonus is a section of baseball quotations by Sean Lahman. Here are just a few:

- *"I'm working on a new pitch. It's called a strike."* -- Jim Kern
- *"The secret to managing is to keep the players who hate you away from the guys who are undecided."* --- Casey Stengel
- *"I didn't come to New York to be a star. I brought my star with me."* -- Reggie Jackson
- *"I don't need an agent. Why should I give somebody 10 percent when I do all the work."* -- Mark Fidych.

The Baseball Encyclopedia (Barnes and Noble)

A fraternal twin of *Total Baseball*, this book had a short life span of a few years. But it delivered in a major way over its 1,600+ pages. Many of its statistics echoed those by Pete Palmer, including Batter and Pitcher Registers in both. One of the key additions to this volume was pitcher run support. I know of no other publication in history that included this; a huge advantage to researchers opining about the dying significance of W-L record in evaluating pitchers. Several universal statistics such as OBP and SLG % are also included in the *Hidden Game of Baseball*, the authors referred to OBP as OBA (on-base average). However, they were calculated the same, and later, in *Total Baseball*, changed it to OBP.



In Summary ...

For baseball researchers, the *internet* has indeed become a savior. Casual and serious baseball researchers would be lost without it. Perhaps this is the key difference between the two, which I break down into *active* and *passive*. Researchers with a specific goal in mind normally fall on the *active* side of the ledger. Casual researchers or even just casual fans usually belong to the *passive* crowd. The saddest aspect of the void left by the demise of printed books, radically change the *passive* side of us. Sitting in your favorite chair, picking up a *Bill James Handbook*, requires no forethought or research agenda. The joy of opening up to any random page provides immediacy and surprise to the baseball experience – all without those annoying popup ads.



Schabowski's Super Stumpers

January Trivia By Rick Schabowski

Before we get to trivia, Rick shared with me a recording of an interview he did on his book about the 1971-72, NBA Champion Milwaukee Bucks, *From Coin Toss to Champions: 1971-The Year of the Milwaukee Bucks*. It was on the video podcast, [Wisconsin Icons](#) with host Bob Nolan. We all know Rick and his love a Wisconsin teams. In the interview, his knowledge of the Bucks is outstanding, and he looks like he has been doing interviews his whole life. I hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane (even if it's not baseball related). If you

are interested in the book, unfortunately, Boswell does not have it, but you can get it at [Amazon](#) or [Barnes and Noble](#).

Now back to trivia. It may be a new year but there's always new trivia questions to be answered and Rick is more than ready to issue the challenge with this month's Stumpers. Good Luck!

1. Who has the most World Series rings in Major League Baseball history?
2. Which pitcher holds the MLB record for most consecutive strikeouts in a single game with 10?
3. Who is the most recent player to get traded during a season and hit at least 20 home runs for both of the teams for which he ended up playing?
4. Who is the most recent player to get traded during a season and steal at least 20 bases for both of the teams for which he ended up playing?
5. Who is the most recent player to get traded during a season and save at least 20 games for both of the teams for which he ended up playing?



Do you have a baseball trivia question or two, to stump Our Stumper? If so, send your questions to [Rick](#) to trip him up and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit - bragging rights.

Trivia Answers are [here](#)



Old Time Ball Players Award Bob Buege

Our good friend and mentor to the Ken Keltner Chapter, Bob Buege, was recognized by the Old Time Ball Players Association on December 10 with the Paul Schramka Lifetime Achievement Award. A very worthy acknowledgement of Bob's tireless work with a number of baseball organizations covered by Rick below. And thanks to Bob's influence bringing the 2001 convention to town, the Keltner Chapter was the result. And we all appreciate his research skills and groundbreaking books we have all enjoyed reading. Congrats, Bob on a well-deserved recognition. Following is what Rick's wrote about Bob in the *MBHA Tepee*.

Bob Buege Receives Award By Rick Schabowski



On December 10, 2023, during the 42nd Annual Hall of Fame Banquet of the Wisconsin Old Time Ballplayers' Association, Bob Buege received the Paul Schramka Lifetime Achievement Award.

Schramka was the longtime President of the organization and presided over banquets and meetings. He also worked tirelessly recruiting new members, organizing baseball leagues, promoting baseball.

He also was an outstanding player at Messmer High School in Milwaukee, the University of San Francisco, and playing in a couple of games with the Chicago Cubs. After his professional career, he played for the Falk Corporation in many industrial leagues.



Bob with grandson Victor
Photo Courtesy of Yvonne Kemp

Most baseball fans are aware of Buege's literary skills. He authored three books, *Eddie Mathews and The National Pastime*, *The Milwaukee Braves: A Baseball Eulogy*, and *Borchert Field: Stories from Milwaukee's Legendary Ballpark*, but he's been involved in many activities. In 2000, Bob's love of the Braves led him to assist in the organization of the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association. He served as a Secretary, Treasurer Vice President and is the current President. He also planned the banquets and edited the *Tepee*. The Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) is a group that brings the history of baseball to life. The 2001 National Convention was held in Milwaukee. Bob was chairman of the committee that planned the event. He helped revitalize the dormant local group to achieve this. Bob served as president of the Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter, which is still going great.

In addition to being a director for the World Series Club, a group which has monthly meetings, Bob has served as the Old Time Ballplayers Association's Secretary and assisted in the Spring Jamboree and Banquet planning.

He's always there to help everybody all the time in whatever way he can.

Olmo and Márquez: The First *Boricua* Milwaukee Heroes

By Carlos R Pastrana

It is difficult to imagine two more dissimilar places - in terms of geography and temperament - than Puerto Rico and Wisconsin. The former is a tropical island where it is Summer virtually all year, where *reggaetón* or *salsa* wafts from every storefront, and where people loudly and animatedly converse about topics ranging from sports to the latest celebrity gossip to how awful the local government is. The latter is a vast and lush tundra dotted with farms, pubs, and churches, where the weather is only as good or as bad as it is right now, and where the friendly locals quietly and steadfastly make the best of everything. Other than a predilection for coupling conversation with imbibing, *Boricuas*¹ and Sconnies have precious few things in common. One of those things, however, is a deep baseball tradition.

While Wisconsin has had baseball almost from the day when Abner Doubleday did not invent the sport – at one point having teams in the National League, Union Association, American Association, and Negro National League, and being a charter member of the American League – baseball only came to Puerto Rico in any meaningful manner in the 1890s. While one would assume that Americans imported baseball to the island after the United States invaded it in 1898, baseball in Puerto Rico actually precedes the American invasion by two years.

There is evidence that a Brooklyn-born Puerto Rican by the name of Amós Iglesias van Pelt had been spreading the gospel of baseball around the island before 1896.² At some point, he met Braulio Sánchez, a Cuban who played the game in his country and was visiting relatives in Puerto Rico, and they put together the first two organized teams to play baseball on the island: Borinquen (managed by Iglesias) and Almendares (managed by Sánchez). Iglesias' Borinquen defeated Sánchez' Almendares' 22 to 11 on January 9, 1898, with Iglesias starting on the mound for the victors. Oddly enough, given Spain's lack of any meaningful baseball tradition, the teams fielded several Spaniards in their ranks, including colonial Governor Sabas Marín's sons. The sport was only played sparingly during the Spanish-American war, and only thrived after 1900, after the Americans had begun running affairs on the island.

Professional baseball officially kicked off in Puerto Rico on November 13, 1938, when the Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League (the "LBPPR", now known as the "Roberto Clemente Professional Baseball League") began play, fielding six franchises that had answered the call from Sports and Recreation Commissioner Teófilo Maldonado for teams for a new league.³ The LBPPR is a Winter league with a mind bogglingly rich history and tradition. For decades, some of the best players in the United States played alongside the island's best. Notably, in Puerto Rico, Negro League players had the opportunity to play side by side with Major Leaguers and were treated by local fans like the superstars they were. This rich baseball soil helped nourish the Puerto Rican talent pool into what would eventually become a powerhouse that contributed countless All-Stars to Major League teams.

Puerto Rican participation in the Major Leagues was, of course, conditioned on skin color before 1947. Puerto Ricans, like Americans, come in all shapes and sizes, particularly given that Puerto Rico, due to its geographical location, was the first port of call for both European immigrants and the slave trade. While the first Puerto Rican to play in the Major Leagues was pitcher Hiram "Hi" Bithorn, who made his debut with the Chicago Cubs in 1942, the first Puerto Rican to become a star in the Major Leagues and internationally was outfielder Luis Rodríguez Olmo.⁴

Olmo was a lithe and athletic right-handed hitting outfielder who, at his best, could hit .300 in his sleep. His family had originally come to Puerto Rico from Spain, which meant he was light-skinned enough to be able to play in the Majors. He resembled, in his quiet temperament and graceful style of play, Yankees superstar [Joe DiMaggio](#), against whom he would eventually play in the World Series. Olmo was fondly known in Puerto Rico as "El



Luis Olmo

¹ "Boricua" is a commonly used demonym for Puerto Ricans, which comes from the island's original *taíno* name of *Borikén*.

² Ruiz, Yuyo, (2005). *68 años de béisbol puertorriqueño*. Ediciones Situm. pp. 9-10.

³ "La temporada de baseball semiprofesional," *El Mundo*, November 15, 1938: 10

⁴ Spaniards and Latin Americans use two surnames: their father's first and their mother's second. This often confuses people in the U.S., who assume that the second surname is the primary surname. For example, Felipe Rojas Alou's main surname should have been "Rojas", not "Alou". Like Alou, Olmo became better known by his mother's surname.

Jibaro”,⁵ due to his unassuming demeanor. He would also come to be known throughout Latin America as “*El Pelotero de América*”⁶ (“The Ballplayer of the Americas”) in tribute to his years of excellence starring in Latin American leagues and the Caribbean Series.

After starring for the Caguas *Criollos* of the LBPPR and the International League’s Montreal Royals, Olmo made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on July 23, 1943, wearing the same number (21) that a more famous Puerto Rican would transform into a quasi-religious artifact for Latino baseball fans decades later.⁷ After hitting .303/.325/.412 in part-time duty in 1943 and .258/.284/.367 in his first full-time season in 1944, Olmo had his breakout season in 1945, hitting .313/.356/.462 with 110 RBI and leading the National League in triples.⁸ Unfortunately, immediately after only being offered a \$500 raise by [Branch Rickey](#) after the season,⁹ Olmo was one of several Major League stars who, lured by the promises of multimillionaire [Jorge Pasquel](#), jumped to the Mexican League in 1946. Olmo starred for the Veracruz Blues for two years in México, where he earned four times as much as he had earned with the Dodgers.¹⁰ However, by defecting to the Mexican League, he was banned from organized baseball by Commissioner [A.B. “Happy” Chandler](#) in June of 1946. This ban barred him from playing anywhere other than the Mexican League (including the LBPPR) even after the Mexican League folded and would effectively rob him of what should have been his peak years.

Upon being reinstated by Commissioner Chandler to organized baseball in 1949, Olmo came back to the Dodgers and the *Criollos*. He hit .305/.336/.390 in only 111 plate appearances with the Dodgers but started two games in that year’s World Series and, in Game Three, hit the first World Series home run ever by a Latino player off Yankees star reliever [Joe Page](#).¹¹ In spite of the Dodgers’ defeat in the Fall Classic, Olmo was received as a hero when he came back to the island.¹² Being able to participate in his home country’s league again, Olmo starred in the LBPPR that winter as a Player-Manager with the Caguas-Guayama *Criollos*, winning the pennant in 1949-50.¹³

On Christmas Eve 1949, Olmo was traded to the Boston Braves, who had finished 4th in 1949, for Jim [Russell](#), Ed Sauer, and cash.¹⁴ Braves Manager [Billy Southworth](#) called Olmo “a good hitter and a magnificent outfielder” who he expected would provide him additional strength in the outfield.¹⁵ This was in contrast to Dodgers Manager [Burt Shotton](#) who, after calling Olmo “a great player” in 1949,¹⁶ disparaged Olmo, calling him a “semipro” who had “never learned how to play baseball,” never forgiving Olmo for playing in México.¹⁷ The feeling was mutual as, for the rest of his life, Olmo called Shotton the worst manager he had ever played for.¹⁸ Because Boston had [Sid Gordon](#) (who it had acquired from the New York Giants for [Alvin Dark](#) and [Eddie Stanky](#)) in left field, Olmo did not see as much playing time in Boston in 1950 as he would have hoped. He had by far his worst season in professional baseball up to that point, only hitting .227/.308/.383 in 173 plate appearances.¹⁹



Luis Márquez

In Spring Training 1951, Olmo was joined on the Braves by a 26-year-old veteran of the Negro Leagues and the LBPPR: [Luis “Canena” Márquez](#).²⁰ Márquez was known as “*El Fogón Boricua*” (“The Boricua Fire”) because of his playing style. He was a free swinger and a very aggressive baserunner who was widely considered the fastest player in Puerto Rico, often winning the 100-meter dash in the skills competition at the LBPPR All-Star Game. Márquez

⁵ A “*jibaro*” is someone, like Olmo, from the mountainous rural part of the island. It can also be – as in Olmo’s case – refer to a shy or introverted person.

⁶ Practically everyone outside of the U.S. uses the word “America” to refer to the entire continent, not just the U.S.

⁷ Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. p. 80.

⁸ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/olmolu01.shtml>

⁹ Olmo, Luis. Interview. Conducted by Frank Otto. 1992: 0:14:18

¹⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/sports/baseball/luis-olmo-died-brooklyn-dodger-from-puerto-rico.html>

¹¹ Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. pp. 192-193

¹² Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. pp. 207-209

¹³ Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. p. 215.

¹⁴ “Venta de Olmo a Bravos Fue Por Dinero y Jugadores,” *El Mundo*, December 27, 1949: 15

¹⁵ “Bravos Quizás Usen al Jibaro Como Suplente,” *El Mundo*, December 27, 1949: 15

¹⁶ “Piloto Shotton Opina Sobre Olmo,” *El Mundo*, July 19, 1949: 11

¹⁷ “Olmo The Unwanted,” *New York Journal American*, January 1, 1950

¹⁸ Olmo, Luis. Interview. Conducted by Frank Otto. 1992: 0:24:05

¹⁹ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/olmolu01.shtml>

²⁰ “Canena Márquez Pasó a Bravos del Boston,” *El Mundo*, November 17, 1950: 17

was also a very jovial and animated man who was long considered one of the great characters in Puerto Rican baseball.

Márquez had originally debuted in the United States as a 20-year-old with the Negro National League's Baltimore Elite Giants in 1946, but he was quickly traded to the Homestead Grays, where he was an All-Star in his two full seasons there.²¹ After the integration of the Major Leagues, Márquez became, in 1949, the first Black player to sign with the New York Yankees, pre-dating [Elston Howard](#) and countryman Víctor Pellot (known in the U.S. as "[Vic Power](#)".) Because Yankees General Manager [George Weiss](#) was in no rush to integrate his team and would rather not do so with a flashy player like Márquez or Pellot, Márquez lingered in the Minor Leagues until the Braves acquired him from Portland of the Pacific Coast League in the 1950 Rule 5 Draft.²²

The Puerto Rico press was ecstatic that two of the island's stars would play together in the Big Leagues. *El Mundo* newspaper called it a "happy coincidence," while quoting an ecstatic Márquez who said he was "extremely happy" to get to play alongside Olmo and joked he would have to run his best in the upcoming All-Star 100-meter dash to get in shape for the upcoming season to run against new teammate and reigning Rookie of the Year [Sam Jethroe](#), who he expected would be his roommate, in an implicit reference to the color of their skin.²³

Márquez got off to a good start with his new team that spring, going 2-for-4 with a double off Yankees starter [Tommy Byrne](#) in an April 10 exhibition game in Kansas City.²⁴ As for Olmo, the beginning of his season was highlighted by a game-winning double against the Philadelphia Phillies on April 29.²⁵ Ultimately, however, neither Olmo nor Márquez got to star in Boston during the 1951 season and, in fact, they would only be teammates for a little over two months.

Olmo received only 60 plate appearances before being sent down to the Braves' farm team in Milwaukee on June 26, 1951.²⁶ When informed of his demotion while recovering from appendicitis in a Boston hospital, Olmo expressed satisfaction at being able to receive more playing time.²⁷ Both Braves Manager [Tommy Holmes](#) and Milwaukee skipper [Charlie Grimm](#) told the media that they expected Olmo to be an everyday contributor for the Brewers. In his first game in Milwaukee the very next day, the home crowd gave Olmo a standing ovation, which he rewarded with two hits, including a single that he stretched into a double, in support of a 4-3 Brewers win.²⁸



Olmo and Márquez

Olmo's auspicious first game in Milwaukee was only the beginning of what wound up being a great season both for him and the Brewers. After a relatively slow start, he raised his average to .264 on July 19 with a single, double, and triple in a doubleheader against St. Paul²⁹, and never looked back, hitting a single and a double and driving in two runs on his birthday in a 9-8 win over Indianapolis on August 12 that led the Brewers to their sixth win in a row³⁰ and – along with fellow LBPPR stars Buster Clarkson and [George Crowe](#) – helping the team to its first American Association pennant since 1947. Interestingly, on July 22, a 19-year-old Brewers rookie by the name of [Eddie Mathews](#) collected his first base hit in a Milwaukee ballpark – a grand slam, no less – while pinch-hitting for Olmo.³¹

In the postseason, Olmo showed his Big League bona fides, going 3 for 5 and driving in two on September 14 in the first round against Kansas City,³² and homering against St. Paul in the Finals on September 20.³³ In the Junior World Series against the Montreal Royals, Olmo starred defensively³⁴ and capped a rousing comeback from eight runs down by breaking a 10-10 tie with a bases-clearing triple in the seventh at Borchert Field.³⁵ In

²¹ Amy Essington. "Luis Marquez." SABR Bio Project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/luis-marquez/>

²² "Canena Márquez Pasó a Bravos del Boston," *El Mundo*, November 17, 1950: 17

²³ "Canena Mostró Grata Sorpresa Al Saber Noticia Del Ascenso," *El Mundo*, November 17, 1950: 17

²⁴ "Canena Bateó 2 de 6 Hits de Bravos en Revés con Yankees, 3-2," *El Mundo*, April 11, 1951: 13

²⁵ "Doble de Olmo Remolcó Vuelta de Ganar Bravos, 1-0," *El Mundo*, April 30, 1951: 17

²⁶ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/olmoluo1.shtml>

²⁷ "Olmo Está Satisfecho Por Bajar al Milwaukee," *El Mundo*, June 27, 1951: 15

²⁸ "Olmo Fue Ovacionado al Batear Doble y Sencillo," *El Mundo*, June 28, 1951: 13

²⁹ "Olmo Subió Promedio Bateo a .264," *El Mundo*, July 20, 1951: 15

³⁰ "Olmo Empujó 2 En Triunfo 9-8," *El Mundo*, August 13, 1951: 16

³¹ "Rookie Mathews' First Hit as Brew a Grand-Slammer," *The Sporting News*, August 1, 1951: 23

³² "Olmo Bateó de 5-3, Empujó 2 en 2do. Triunfo de Milwaukee, 8-5," *El Mundo*, September 15, 1951: 18

³³ "Olmo Jonroneó en Triunfo Milwaukee; Rivera Dió 2 Dobles," *El Mundo*, September 21, 1951: 20

³⁴ "Olmo se Fué de 3-0 al Perder Milwaukee Con Montreal, 5 a 3," *El Mundo*, October 2, 1951: 18

³⁵ "El Milwaukee Ganó la Pequeña Serie con Triple de Olmo," *El Mundo*, October 6, 1951: 18

his customary low-key fashion, Olmo called this hit “the best [I’ve] had all season” and said it “made him feel good.”

In spite of his heroics with the Brewers, Olmo asked the Braves to release him so he could explore his options. Giants Manager [Leo Durocher](#) was reportedly very interested in signing Olmo, who he regarded as a solid Major Leaguer.³⁶ However, because no Big League club guaranteed him much playing time at that point in his career, Olmo decided to take a Player-Manager job with the Licey Tigers of the fledgling Dominican Republic Summer League, where he wound up winning the batting crown, hitting .344 in a league where only three other players hit over .300.³⁷ He continued to play and/or manage in the LBPPR for the next fourteen seasons, even having a role as a bench player and veteran clubhouse presence in the great 1954-55 Santurce team that swept through the Caribbean with reigning NL MVP [Willie Mays](#), [Roberto Clemente](#), “Toothpick” [Sam Jones](#), [Rubén Gómez](#), and [Bob Thurman](#) in its ranks. Olmo remained lucid and physically active deep into his 90’s, playing golf weekly and being considered one of the best bowlers on the island. When he died at the age of 97 in May 2, 2017, he was survived by his beloved and inseparable wife of seventy-seven years, Emma “Tita” Paradís, who had proudly and selflessly shared in all his numerous accomplishments.³⁸

Márquez, for his part, only received 138 plate appearances and hit .197/.274/.254 in his first taste of the Majors in 1951.³⁹ On December 9, 1951, the Braves sold his contract to the Brewers.⁴⁰ Braves Manager Holmes defended the decision, saying that Márquez “want[ed] to play every day,” and foresaw that Milwaukee fans would fall in love with his daring and speed.

As good as Olmo’s 1951 season in Milwaukee was, Márquez’s was even better. “Canena” had a monster year with the Brewers in 1952, hitting .345/.413/.537, with 38 doubles, 10 triples, 14 homers, 99 RBI, and 24 stolen bases.⁴¹ As Holmes had predicted, Márquez quickly became a favorite at Borchert Field with his daring baserunning and timely hitting. On the weekend of April 18 to 20, he was responsible for the game-winning RBI in two of the three games the Brewers took from St. Paul, including a dramatic game-winning walk-off grand slam on the 19th.⁴² Well into May, he was still hitting .411⁴³ while doing things like coming close to hitting for the cycle⁴⁴ and going 4 for 4 with two homers on a regular basis.⁴⁵ Though the Brewers comfortably finished first in the American Association,⁴⁶ Márquez narrowly lost the batting crown to Indianapolis’ [Dave Pope](#).⁴⁷

As Olmo had done the year before, Márquez led the Brewers deep into the Minor League postseason. The Brewers swept St. Paul in the first round of the playoffs, but unfortunately succumbed to Pellot’s Kansas City Blues in seven. Both Puerto Ricans had starring roles in the series. While Pellot hit .407, Márquez outdid him in a losing effort, going 13 for 29, for a .448 average.⁴⁸ Even in defeat, “Canena” was bursting with optimism afterwards, telling the Puerto Rico media (while he devoured a plate of *mofongo*⁴⁹ and fried chicken) that he felt the Braves would have no choice but to buy back his contract from the Brewers.⁵⁰

Márquez held out, but then re-signed with the Braves (who were about to embark on their inaugural season in Milwaukee) on March 24, 1953.⁵¹ However, after starring for the Brewers in Milwaukee in 1952, Márquez now found himself sitting on the Braves’ bench, frustrated and on the outside looking in, as the city that had embraced him the year before now embraced a Major League Baseball in which he did not feature. Not satisfied with merely wearing a Major League Uniform, “Canena” longed to play every day, and voiced a desire to be sent down to the Minors if that was what it would take for him to be valued as a player.⁵² The Braves granted him his wish and sold him to the Toledo Sox of the American Association, where he hit .292/.350/.435, with 13

³⁶ Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. p. 275

³⁷ Acevedo Márquez, Harold, (2013). *Luis Rodríguez Olmo: El Pelotero de América*. Editorial Deportiva CAIN. p. 278

³⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/sports/baseball/luis-olmo-died-brooklyn-dodger-from-puerto-rico.html>

³⁹ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/m/marquulu01.shtml>

⁴⁰ “Canena Márquez Bajado Incondicionalmente al Milwaukee,” *El Mundo*, December 10, 1951: 24

⁴¹ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/m/marquulu01.shtml>

⁴² “Canena Empujó Decisivas en 2 de los 3 Triunfos de Milwaukee,” *El Mundo*, April 22, 1952: 15

⁴³ “Canena, de 4-4-, Dos Jonrones y Subió a .411,” *El Mundo*, May 28, 1952: 13

⁴⁴ “Canena De 5-4,” *El Mundo*, May 26, 1952: 17

⁴⁵ “Canena, de 4-4-, Dos Jonrones y Subió a .411,” *El Mundo*, May 28, 1952: 13

⁴⁶ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/register/league.cgi?id=76f16408>

⁴⁷ “Canena Terminó en .345; Pellot en .330 y Escalera en .249,” *El Mundo*, September 9, 1952: 19

⁴⁸ “Canena Bateó .448 y Pellot .407 en Serie,” *El Mundo*, September 23, 1952: 13

⁴⁹ Fried mashed plantain and pork rinds.

⁵⁰ “Canena Dice Milwaukee Venderá Su Contrato a Boston Este Año,” *El Mundo*, October 6, 1952: 19

⁵¹ “Firmó Canena,” *El Mundo*, March 25, 1952: 13

⁵² “Canena Está Cansado De Estar Sentado,” *El Mundo*, May 6, 1953: 17

home runs, 81 RBI, and 37 steals.⁵³ As with the Brewers the year before, he led the Sox to the American Association championship in 1953.

Márquez then made it back to the Majors when he was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 1953 Rule 5 Draft, but was quickly traded away to the Pittsburgh Pirates on June 14, 1954, after he got off to a .083 start in his first 17 games in Chicago.⁵⁴ He then hit only .111 for the Pirates before being sent down to the Minors for good on July 14, 1954.⁵⁵ He played the next seven seasons in the Minors, making the Pacific Coast League All-Star team in 1956 and winning the American Association batting title in 1959.⁵⁶ Curiously, on September 13, 1957, Márquez played all nine positions in a PCL game which he wrapped up by getting the last three outs in relief while playing for Portland.⁵⁷ Márquez also remained active in the LBPPR with the Mayagüez Indians and Ponce Lions until 1964.⁵⁸

In retirement, Márquez worked as a scout with the expansion Montreal Expos from 1969 to 1970, and then with the local government of his hometown of Aguadilla.⁵⁹ As with Olmo, Márquez's hometown ballpark was named after him.⁶⁰ Tragically, on March 1, 1988 Márquez was killed by his son in law, who shot him twice after Márquez confronted him about the way he treated Márquez's daughter.⁶¹ The great player's body lay in state at the local arena in his hometown of Aguadilla, as the entire country mourned.⁶²

While relatively anonymous to most baseball fans in the United States, Olmo and Márquez are considered baseball legends in Puerto Rico, on a par with Hall of Famers Clemente, [Iván Rodríguez](#), [Roberto Alomar](#), [Orlando Cepeda](#), [Édgar Martínez](#) and any of the other legends who did star in the Majors. Olmo's career in the Majors was irreparably harmed by his defection to México, while Márquez's was one of several former Negro League stars' careers that never really took off for many reasons, including age, timing, and luck. Olmo and Márquez also faced a level of bigotry and discrimination that their successors never had to face. It is not a stretch to infer that their race (and, in the case of Márquez, his race and color) might have played a role in their teams' decision to demote them or not give them playing time, particularly following a great season.

On a personal note, I grew up listening to my Dad tell stories of their exploits, as well as those of other greats that are all but unknown or forgotten in the United States, like [Pancho Coímbre](#), [Tetelo Vargas](#), or Buster Clarkson. I grew up to trade stories and anecdotes about these players as a member of SABR's Orlando Cepeda Chapter in Puerto Rico, often with people who had seen them play. One of the highlights of my life was meeting Olmo himself at a Chapter meeting held on the date of his birthday. He was warm, humble, friendly, and patient with the (then-young) man who pestered him with questions about games, players, and managers long gone. I vicariously experienced [Jackie Robinson](#)'s dignity and [Dixie Walker](#)'s bigotry and [Ewell Blackwell](#)'s sidarm nastiness through my afternoon with "El Jíbaro". Little did I know that life would eventually take me to a far-away city where he and "Canena" had once been local heroes, if only for a short time.

Do you have a baseball story – everyone does!

We all have great baseball stories, often shared with family and friends for years. So, when will you share it with your SABR family? We all love stories and want you to share yours with all of us.

If you're ready to share yours, contact [Dennis](#).

⁵³ <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/m/marqulu01.shtml>

⁵⁴ "Canena Pasó Al Pittsburgh Por Hal Rice," *El Mundo*, June 15, 1954: 15

⁵⁵ Amy Essington. "Luis Marquez." SABR Bio Project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/luis-marquez/>

⁵⁶ Amy Essington. "Luis Marquez." SABR Bio Project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/luis-marquez/>

⁵⁷ "Pacific Coast League," *The Sporting News*, September 25, 1957: 40

⁵⁸ Amy Essington. "Luis Marquez." SABR Bio Project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/luis-marquez/>

⁵⁹ Amy Essington. "Luis Marquez." SABR Bio Project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/luis-marquez/>

⁶⁰ "Análisis," *El Mundo*, February 10, 1989: 62

⁶¹ "A la caza del yerno de Canena," *El Mundo*, March 3, 1988: 5

⁶² "Pésame desde Fortaleza," *El Mundo*, March 3, 1988: 5

Wisconsin Born Players SABR Bios

With the addition of the three new Wisconsin born major leaguers in 2023 there have been 257* total and 93 have SABB Bios written on them. To get to know these guys better, we will include a SABR Bio monthly starting from the oldest with a completed bio to the most recent. Yes, that will take at least eight years to complete, and longer as new bios are finished. If you are interested in seeing the entire list of these players, or there is a Wisconsin born player that interests you and needs a SABR Bio, contact [Dennis](#).

(*Includes J.P. Feyereisen who was born across the river in Minnesota because that was where his mom's doctor's birth hospital was located. She left Wisconsin for the birth and returned upon release.)

This month's Wisconsin bio is on Beaver Dam's Pink Hawley, the 1,660th major leaguer, 25th from Wisconsin. Pink is part of his name going back to his birth as a twin. And shades of red followed his baseball career, playing for the Maroons, being swapped for a Red and eventually playing for the Reds. He even managed a team named the Pinks. (And as a red-green color blind person, he also pitched for the Browns.)

Pink Hawley

This article was written by [Dale Voiss](#)

He was a hero in his hometown of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He was revered in Pittsburgh and admired nationwide. He was considered by many to be the game's best pitcher in 1895. His roots went back to the nation's earliest days as it was his ancestor, Major Joseph Hawley, who ordered the Boston Tea Party. His name was Pink Hawley.

He was born Emerson Pink Hawley on December 5, 1872, in Beaver Dam to Francis and Cornelia (Davis) Hawley. Beaver Dam is a small town which lies about 65 miles northwest of Milwaukee. Emerson was born one of two twins; the other being named Elmer. People had trouble telling the twins apart so the nurse who assisted in their birth pinned a blue ribbon to one and a pink one to

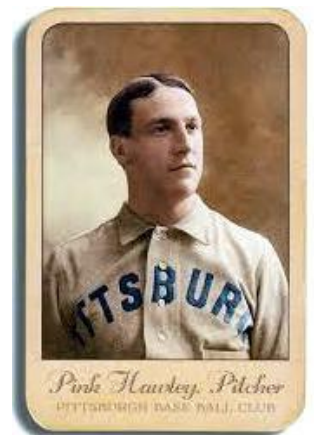
the other. This resulted in Emerson being given the middle name Pink, and the brothers were known thereafter as Pink and Blue.

The Hawley boys grew up in Beaver Dam where Pink attended the Wayland Academy. The Wayland Academy is a private school located in Beaver Dam. The Hawley twins had an older brother, Fred, and the three of them became legends in Beaver Dam baseball. Pink was the pitcher, Blue the catcher and Fred the first baseman. The twins were known as the Pink and Blue battery and both appeared to have bright futures as Blue was every bit as talented as his twin. But Blue's life was cut short by pneumonia in 1891.

In 1892, over the objections of his father, Pink's desire to play baseball led him to pay his own way to the training camp of the Chicago White Sox. Sox manager Cap Anson was quite impressed with the 19-year-old right-hander but couldn't find room for him on his roster. This discouraged Hawley to the point where he was ready to pack it in and head home. But fate intervened. Anson was talking with the Fort Smith Maroons. The Maroons were a semi-professional team located in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The Maroons told Anson they needed pitching and Anson immediately recommended Hawley.

Pink headed to Fort Smith where he helped build the ballpark, organize a team and pitch, as well. Among the games he pitched for the Maroons was a 1-0 loss to Krebs, Oklahoma. In this game he struck out at least 22 batters but lost the game on a scratch hit, a passed ball and an error. The winning pitcher for Krebs that day was future Hall of Famer "Iron Man" Joe McGinnity.

In August of that year Pink reported to the St. Louis Browns of the American Association where he made his major league debut on August 13. The Browns at the time were owned by the colorful Chris Von der Ahe with whom Hawley developed a close relationship. He pitched 20 games for the Browns



that year going 6-14 with a team leading ERA of 3.19. He also spent the 1893 and 1894 seasons with the Browns.

In 1893 Pink began a string of eight consecutive years of hitting 20 or more batters with pitches. Through the 2013 season Hawley is third all-time with 210 hit batsmen in his career and he has the three highest single-season HBP totals in Pirate history. In that season Hawley pitched in 31 games, including 24 starts. He struggled to a record of 5-17 with an ERA of 4.60 for a team which finished tenth in the National League.

In 1894 he appeared in 53 games, 41 of which were starts, throwing nearly 400 innings. He finished the season with 19 wins and a league-high 27 losses. He also led the league in hit batsmen with 21 and threw 21 wild pitches, good for second in the league. During the season Hawley had a series of disagreements with Von Der Ahe that led Hawley to say he would not re-sign with the Browns unless certain conditions were met.

Following the 1894 season Hawley pitched for the Browns in an exhibition game against the Milwaukee Brewers of the Western League. The Browns, led by Hawley's 14 strikeouts, won the game 14-0. Pittsburg player-manager Connie Mack witnessed the performance and told Pirate officials he just had to have Hawley. As a result of Mack's interest, a deal was worked out which sent Hawley to the Pirates for pitcher Red Ehret and \$3,000. The trade seemed like quite a gamble at the time as Ehret had enjoyed six straight seasons of double-digit wins while Hawley had gone 30-58 with a 4.45 ERA in three seasons with the Browns.

Frank "Lefty" Killen, who had anchored the Pirate staff in 1893-94, missed the majority of the 1895 season with an arm injury. Hawley stepped into the breach. In 1895, the best year of his career, the 22 year-old Pink appeared in a league-high 56 games, including 50 starts for the Pirates. He wound up leading the league in innings pitched with more than 440. He also led the league with four shutouts, while his 31 wins were good for second in the league behind the 35 recorded by Cleveland's Cy Young. No Pirate has won more games in a season since then.

The Pirates paid Hawley \$2,400 a year, the maximum salary at the time. They clearly got their money's worth. Besides his pitching greatness in 1895, Hawley also excelled at the plate where he batted from the left side. He hit an incredible .308 for an offense that was led by outfielder Jake Stenzel and future Hall of Famer Jake Beckley. Hawley also drove in 42 runs in just 185 at bats.

In the next two years as a Pirate, Hawley went 40-39 in 82 starts, 70 of which were complete games, while pitching for a team that finished sixth in 1896 and eighth in 1897.

While pitching for the Pirates, Hawley earned the nickname "Duke of Pittsburgh" because of his stylish dress and good looks. He was known to wear diamonds and other items of high fashion and developed a reputation similar to that of a matinee idol in Pittsburgh. Later a cigar was named Duke of Pittsburgh after Hawley. Boxes of these cigars featured his picture.

At one point during his tenure with the Pirates, Hawley refused to accept a bribe from a gambler who offered him \$20,000 dollars to throw a game. The gambler told Hawley if he didn't take the bribe he would go back to his room a \$2,400 a year pitcher. Hawley replied that he would but he'd be able to sleep at night.

After three seasons with the Pirates, Hawley along with Elmer Ellsworth Smith and \$1,500 cash were shipped to the Cincinnati Reds for five players in November 1897. It was believed at the time that the trade was the result of a rivalry which had developed between Hawley and Killen. The Pirates released Killen in August 1898.

Hawley asked for and received \$2,400 a year from the Reds. Pink got off to a fantastic start in Cincinnati winning his first nine games of the 1898 season. He went on to finish 27-11. His 27 wins led the Reds and were good for third in the league. The Reds, meanwhile, finished third in the league with a 92-60 record.

Hawley appeared in 34 games for the Reds in 1899 and his record fell to 14-17. His 250 innings pitched in 1899 was the first time since 1893 that his total fell below 300. In March 1900 Hawley was

sold by the Reds to the New York Giants where Buck Ewing, who had managed the Reds in 1899, was now the manager.

While with the Giants, Pink managed to raise his innings total to 329 while making 38 starts for New York. He finished with a record of 18-18 while leading the league with 34 complete games. On August 14, 1900, Hawley heard some of the crowd calling him a has-been and stood before the crowd yelling at one man in particular telling him to come down so Hawley could tear him in two. When the man refused Hawley took a stone in his hand and acted as if he would leap into the stands to assault the man before the Giants bench restrained him.

Following the 1900 season, Pink left the Giants jumping to his home-state Milwaukee Brewers. The Brewers were an entry in the newly formed American League. The 28-year-old Hawley saw his numbers decline sharply as he went 7-14 with a 4.59 ERA in just 182 innings over 26 games. As a result of his poor performance the Brewers, who finished dead last in the eight-team AL, released Hawley in September and his major-league career was over.

Hawley however tried to resurrect his career through the minor leagues. He appeared for Milwaukee of the American Association and Buffalo of the Eastern League in 1902. While pitching for Buffalo the 29 year old Pink met Katherine Langen whom he later married. Katherine gave birth to their only child, Emerson Jr. in 1905.

After he retired he moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he opened a cigar store. He helped organize the Wisconsin State League, which was a Class D League. He managed the La Crosse Pinks to league titles in 1905 and 1906. Hawley also went 19-9 as a pitcher for the Pinks in 1905 and 7-4 in 1906. For the 1907 season, the team was renamed the La Crosse Badgers and Hawley managed them to a third-place finish.

In 1908 the Eau Claire Tigers moved to Rockford, Illinois, and the league was renamed the Wisconsin-Illinois League. Hawley managed the La Crosse entry to a third-place finish before moving to take over the Oshkosh Indians for the 1909 season. Oshkosh had been managed the previous year by future Hall of Famer and fellow Wisconsin native Kid Nichols.

Eventually Pink gave up baseball and he and Katherine settled in his hometown of Beaver Dam where Hawley ran the local bowling alley for years. There he and Katherine raised their son who, like his father before him, attended the Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam. Emerson Jr. went on to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Throughout his baseball career, Pink spent his off seasons in Beaver Dam where he spent much of his time hanging out at Charley Miller's Book Store, which was the social center of the small town.

Pink spent the remainder of his life in Beaver Dam, where he succumbed after a long illness and died September 19, 1938 at the age of 65. Katherine survived him until she passed away in 1950. They are buried together at the Oakwood Cemetery in Beaver Dam.

Last revised: December 8, 2022 (zp)

Sources

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/h/hawlep101.shtml>

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=hawley001eme>

http://www.thedeadballera.com/Obits/Obits_H/Hawley.Pink.Obit.html

<http://www.piratesprospects.com/2011/04/pink-hawley.html>

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=eliassillhawley&id=I6464>

“Emerson P. Hawley” by Joseph Overfield from the book *Nineteenth Century Stars* published by SABR, 2012
The Sporting News: January 19, 1895; October 30, 1897; August 18, 1900.

Know a Future SABR Member?

Have them visit [Become a SABR Member Today](#) for member benefits and subscription amounts.

To Pg 1

Schabowski Super Stumpers January Answers:

1. Yogi Berra (10)
2. Tom Seaver 4/23/1970 vs the Padres striking out the last ten batters of the game.
3. David Justice on June 29, 2000. Justice and his 21 home runs were traded by Cleveland to the Yankees in exchange for Zach Day, Ricky Leede and Jake Westbrook. He hit 20 more homers in pinstripes.
4. On July 28, 2021, Sterling Marte and his 22 steals were traded by Miami to Oakland for Jesus Luzardo. Marte stole five bases in his first five games with his new team, ultimately finishing with 47 total for the season (And 25 with the Athletics.)
5. Since 1990, only five relievers who managed to have at least 40 saves for the season were traded at some point during that campaign. And, of that quintet, only Jeff Shaw managed to compile at least 20 saves both before and after swapping clubhouses. Shaw had 23 saves for the Reds when he was traded to the Dodgers for Paul Konerko and Dennys Reyes on July 4, 1998. He then proceeded to save 25 games for Los Angeles, for a total of 48 on the year, placing him third in the NL behind only Rod Beck (51) and Trevor Hoffman (53).

[Return to Trivia Questions](#)

Neighbor Chapter Newsletters



[Click Here for the Latest SABR Chicago Newsletter](#)

THE "HOLY COW"

[Click Here for Minnesota's January 2024 Newsletter](#)

Contribute to the *Keltner Hot Corner*

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

Other Local Baseball Organizations

Milwaukee Braves Historical Association, [Facebook](#)
Old Time Ball Players of Wisconsin, [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

To Pg 1