

Beating the Bushes



*A publication of the Society for American Baseball Research
Minor League Committee*

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Chairman's Corner

THE WORD "ALPHA" is defined as the first or the beginning. That's what the first version of the online Minor League Encyclopedia represents: a beginning for what most researchers have long considered an impossible task: a resource for minor league statistics and data.

Lloyd Johnson and **Miles Wolff** have done yeoman work for researchers with the *Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* (now in its third edition), which lists leagues and teams by city and state and features standings, league leaders, and no-hitters. But to publish a volume of playing records for every man who played in the minor leagues has been simply impractical and virtually impossible in printed form.

Thankfully, technology and the Internet have enabled researchers to make large amounts of data available in electronic form. On February 18, the Minor League Committee announced that the alpha version of the SABR Minor League Encyclopedia was online and accessible to all SABR members.

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SABR Minor League Encyclopedia Alpha Version Now Online

THE SABR MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE is pleased to announce the launch of the alpha version of the online SABR Minor League Encyclopedia. It can be found at: www.minors.sabrwebs.com

The SABR Minor League Encyclopedia project is led by **Kevin McCann** (Committee Chair); **Kevin Johnson** (Quality Control Coordinator); and **Ted Turocy** (technical Coordinator). The foundation for the database is the donated work of **Ed Washuta**. Others who have contributed to its launch include **Mike Emeigh, Frank Hamilton, Reed Howard, Rod Nelson, Paul Rivard, and Tom Ruane**.

The database features individual batting, pitching, and fielding statistics (complete and incomplete) for affiliated and independent leagues between 1901 and 2007, plus league standings and statistical totals. Statistics and data for Nineteenth Century leagues donated by Reed Howard will be added soon.

Later this year, the database will be integrated into version 2.0 of the online SABR Baseball Encyclopedia, allowing researchers to view both major and minor league records for individual players. Because it is an alpha

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SABR 37 Meeting

The Minor League Committee meeting at SABR 37 was held in Ballrooms F and G of the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, MO on July 27, 2007. Forty-six members attended.

Former chair **John Schleppe** was recognized for his leadership and contributions to the committee.

Bill McMahon discussed the Farm Club project and how members can help.

Ed Mickelson, a veteran of 13 seasons in the minor leagues, discussed his recent book *Out of the Park: Memoir of a Minor League Baseball All-Star* and shared some stories from his colorful career.

Rod Nelson and **Kevin Johnson** explained the SABR Minor League Encyclopedia that is under development (and now online in its initial format).

New chair **Kevin McCann** shared some results from the online committee survey and discussed future committee goals, specifically the Minor League Encyclopedia.

Encyclopedia

(Continued from page 1)

version, there are errors and gaps in player records. However, researchers can use this version to determine what information is already available, and what information needs to be supplemented or added.

Volunteers to enter data, identify and correct errors, and contribute biographical information are needed to help move the project forward. SABR has many researchers who are experts for specific teams, leagues, regions, and eras. Some have compiled statistics using box scores for leagues that were not included in the Guides. Donations of such research will help make the database more complete and useful for the SABR community.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kevin McCann at: kdmccann27@comcast.net or Frank Hamilton at: fehamilton@aol.com

Minor League Committee

The Minor League Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research was formed in 1971 to encourage and aid research into the minor leagues. The committee compiles material and statistics on leagues that were not covered or only partially covered by the annual baseball guides.

Chairman and Newsletter Editor

Kevin McCann: kdmccann27@comcast.net

Farm Report Editor

Anthony Salazar: salazar801@yahoo.com

Minor League Committee News

Minor League Managers Database Completed

Jerry Jackson has completed a database of minor league managers, having received a SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Grant to complete his research. It will be incorporated into the new SABR online Minor League Encyclopedia.

2008 SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Research Grants



Do you have a minor league research project in mind that would not only broaden your knowledge, but potentially benefit other SABR members as well? If so, consider applying for a SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Grant. When the costs of photocopying, interlibrary loans, and travel expenses are considered—not to mention gasoline!—a project can

become very pricey. But a grant could help with this financial burden and allow SABR to benefit from your research at the same time. **The deadline for 2008 grants is April 30th.** To apply, visit the SABR website at: <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,2057>

Southern Association Conference

The 2008 Southern Association Conference will be held in Nashville, TN on **Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th.** It is an annual gathering of writers, historians, fans and former players of the Southern Association teams. The first conference was held at Rickwood Field in Birmingham in 2004 and the event has grown steadily every year. The conference has a new website at: www.southernassociationbaseball.com.

For details, contact Skip Nipper at skipn1@comcast.net



Rickwood Classic Announced

The 13th Annual Rickwood Classic will be held at historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL on **Wednesday, May 28th.**

Birmingham players will wear the uniforms of the 1951-1952 Barons when the club was affiliated with the Boston Red Sox. Their opponents, the Jacksonville Suns, will don the uniforms of their 1967 club that featured Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan. Former Baron Jimmy Piersall will be in attendance and the first 1,500 fans will receive a vintage portrait of him.

Minor League Committee Survey Results

This is the second part of the committee survey conducted last summer to gauge the interests and research pursuits of our members. Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the online and mailed forms.

Name/E-Mail	Interests	Current Research
Baker, Steven unclstu@aol.com	Boston Red Sox minor league affiliates and corresponding team statistics; independent leagues standings/rosters	N/A
Selko, Jamie okles@comcast.net	Stats, records, trivia, career records	Completed <i>History of Minor League All-Star Teams</i> book (McFarland)
Bauer, Rocky jrocko44@hotmail.com	All Portland area organized teams, Collecting photos of Portland players	Biographies and photos of Portland/PCL personnel, updates to PCL Encyclopedia
Christensen, Will will@baseballtruth.com	Stats, player histories	Book on minor league players
Dunkle, Jonathan deldunk@yahoo.com	Atlantic Lg, BB in Delaware and Central PA	N/A
Mau, Steve smau@cox.net	Wisconsin minor league and semi-pro teams, PCL, International, Texas, and Southern Leagues, American Assoc.	N/A
McConnell, Bob homerbobmcc@aol.com	Player career records, minor league home runs	Second edition of Minor League Home Run book; "a long list of players who I wish to complete career records"
McCray, Gale galemccray@hotmail.com	Sooner State League	N/A
McMahon, William mcmahon@uakron.edu	Farm clubs, especially before 1962	Definitive list of farm clubs prior to 1962
Mickelson, Ed meadry@charter.net	Minor league ballparks, especially during the 1940's and '50s; players and leagues	A complete record of every minor league player and his statistics
Morris, Jack jack.morris@westonsolutions.com	1932 Interstate, Eastern, North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic Leagues	1932 Interstate League box score compilation

Name	Interests	Current Research
Selter, Ron rsetler@socal.rr.com	Ballparks	Book on Deadball Era ballparks
Ruane, Tom tjruane@gmail.com	Databases	At some point, I intend to compare the roster information in the two minor league databases I have access to.
Johnson, Kevin kjokbaseball@yahoo.com	League and team statistics and ballparks	MiLB database, ballparks database, team W/L database
Saenz, Chris mempgrizz@yahoo.com	Prospect development	Statistical consistencies between major league success and minor league careers.
McCann, Kevin kdmccann27@comcast.net	Kitty League seasons, statistics	1922-1924 and 1903-1905 Kitty League box scores (to compile statistics)
Malamut, David david@malamut.net	Minor league history	I write about and have a website about the Kane County Cougars, past, present, and future (www.malamut.net)
Levin, Len lenlevin5@hotmail.com	General	Nothing special at the moment
Emeigh, Mike piratefan1@nc.rr.com	Stats mostly	Set up a data modeling/ data analysis consulting business in which I would set up a data model for analysis of minor league performance and market it.
Adler, Rich radler@umd.umich.edu	Minor league history, ballparks	Michigan ballparks (minor and major); Border State League ca. 1910
Black, David dawblack@yahoo.com	Ballparks (particularly last games), player narratives and stories.	Currently working on a last game database and narratives for as many professional parks as possible.
Lancaster, Donald dlancaster09@gmail.com	Pittsburgh Pirates, Penn State Association, Middle Atlantic League, Johnstown Johnnies. Any minor league team that played in southwestern Pennsylvania and their ballparks.	I would like to do a history of minor league baseball in southwestern Pennsylvania, especially the Penn State Association when I retire in 4 years.
Adesma, Marshall adesman@mindspring.com	Minor leagues Ballparks Business	N/A
Schulz, Robert robff49@yahoo.ca	Minor League Player records and Minor League Managers records	Minor League Managers since 1960 who did not play pro ball.

Name	Interests	Current Research
London, Fredric M. fmlondon@gmail.com	Biographical long minor league careers which began prior to 1900 The Western League 1894-1899, the American League 1900 teams contained within players from the above minor league pioneers (through 1883)	N/A
Oxley, Burr boxley1@charter.net	League histories and individual player careers.	N/A
Klein, Jeff zenjak@bright.net	League/team histories, anecdotal stories	Completed <i>Diamond Days: Life in Minor League Baseball</i> (2004). Currently working on history of minor league baseball in Zanesville, Ohio.
Hothan, Michael mikehothan@mindspring.com	Minor League season records Listings of Minor Leagues, Negro Leagues, Winter Leagues & Foreign Leagues Player Season & Career Records Complete listing of all Baseball Leagues	Minor League umpire listing High Minor League season batting records Baseball Leagues listing Minor League season team attendance listing
Rask, Tim timrask@worldnet.att.net	My primary interests are the histories of leagues, teams and ballparks in eastern Iowa.	I am working on an article on the decline of the Three-I League and rise of the Midwest League in the 1950's. I would also like to find time to write the history of Iowa's postwar ballpark boom, and am revising an article I did for a chapter presentation last year on the Three-I League "Civil War" of 1910-11. Eventually, I'd also like to research the managerial career of E.F. "Ned" Egan.
Donovan, Ed ejd3@psu.edu	Team histories, statistics, player records.	N/A
Langhammer, Jay Jlangha132@aol.com	Team histories, stats, player careers, executives.	N/A
Stillman, Thomas stillmant@usfca.edu	League and team histories	I am going to try to work on a way to input minor league games similar to the way ML games are entered via Retrosheet
Bennie, Jim jgbennie@vcn.bc.ca	PCL, WIL, NWrnL	http://wilbaseball.blogspot.com
Williamson, Bill billyed@pacbell.net	Interests include compiling league stats for leagues not published in the Guides and player career records	About to complete the 1901 and 1902 seasons of the Intermountain League (of Utah) now that I have all the box scores. hope to some day complete the Central California League of 1910 and 1911 - have a great deal of info, but still lack many boxes.

Name	Interests	Current Research
Pardon, John jfpardonme@yahoo.com	Minor league cities, ballparks attendance	N/A
Mohr, Brian beach64@att.net	Fort Myers Miracle and baseball in Fort Myers (spring training, FSL etc)	Currently have all stats for the Fort Myers Miracle 1992 thru present as well as Career totals for the same years
Bailey, Bob bobbailey@cox.net	Minor League post-seasons, Louisville Colonels	Working on a history of the Dixie Series
Davis, Stephen oaksfan4655@comcast.net	PCL post-war era 1946-1957	N/A
Szabelski, Tony tszabelski@hotmail.com	Player photos, league histories	Always looking for info or images of players
Newman, Gene belinyoh@charter.net	Minor league statistics; Southern Association history	Gathering any minor league stats I can find to be used in making player cards for a tabletop baseball game, Cadaco All Star Baseball (originally Ethan Allen All Star Baseball), that was made from 1941 thru 1993.
Porter, Paul pporter@sympatico.ca	My primary interests are statistics and player career records.	I have been working on computerizing the records contained in the baseball guides I have and other available sources. I have made a large dent in the leagues which today would be AAA and AA leagues from about 1910 to 1970 including most hitting, pitching and fielding stats.
Olsen, John olyunc@med.unc.edu	Pacific Coast League statistics and history	1925 PCL statistics (updated field- ing, hitting, pitching records be- yond what is found in the latest Carlos Bauer encyclopedia. Currently compiling statistics/box scores from the 1921 California Winter League.
Barnes, Keith kbarnes@apwu.org	Histories, compensation, ballparks	N/A
Helander, Brock helander@neteze.com	19th century minor leagues; History of baseball in former major league cities of the 19th century; Minor league careers of 19th century "regulars" and stars	Articles on the history of baseball in former major league cities (in progress).

Name	Interests	Current Research
Trombley, David trombleyd@usfamily.net	"Old" Northern League (1933-1971); Dakota, South Dakota and North Dakota Leagues (1920-1923)	Web site on the above leagues plus pages on South Dakota born major leaguers; Some day will complete web pages on Prairie League (1995-1997)
Fenster, Ken kfenster2001@yahoo.com	The Atlanta Crackers and the old Southern Association. Earl Mann	I have completed the research for a book-length study of the 1954 Atlanta Crackers. Based on that research I have published "Earl Mann, Nat Peeples, and the Failed Attempt of Integration in the Southern Association," in the spring 2004 edition of Nine. I have applied for a Yoseloff-SABR grant to research the finances of the Atlanta Crackers from 1933-1949 when the Coca-Cola company owned the team and Earl Mann ran it.
Pallotta, Rip ripsmail@yahoo.com	All baseball, but I love the minors.	I've written a successful book called "One Day in Mudville" which you can check out on Amazon .
Jackson, Jerry SABRMnLgs@aol.com	Minor league franchise histories. In- cludes franchise nickname, W-L record, manager(s), any franchise moves (fate/ reason), opening-closing dates of league season.	Working on research involving collect- ing all of the above material on each team and league.
Smith, Steve ssmith2084@aol.com	Keokuk IA minor league baseball history; Florida International League (1946-1954)	History of 1952-53 Keokuk Kernels (article) History of 1955 Keokuk Kernels (article) Biography of Charlie Cuellar (200 plus wins in minor leagues).
Harris, Rick hodybaseball@aol.com	Rhode Island Baseball History 1827 - 1960.	I have published four books. I am currently working on a comprehensive book about baseball at Brown Univer- sity 1827-1945. I am also working on several other books about RI baseball simultaneously as well as a nationally oriented visual book entitled "Anytown, USA: A Visual History of Baseball in the Backyards, Sandlots, Rural Country & Neighborhoods of America". Please visit www.rhodybaseball.info for overview.
Ball, Jim jball10621@aol.com	Team histories, player career records, ballparks, league officials & club/ franchise owners.	Currently working on a book about Frank Saucier, back-to-back batting champ of the Big State League (1949) & Texas League (1950); minor league Player of the Year (1950) & the St. Louis Browns OF for whom Eddie Gaedel pinch hit in 1951.

Name	Interests	Current Research
Hannan, Timothy J. tjhroch@yahoo.com	Rochester baseball	N/A
Benesch, John Jr. JBenesch@Rochester.rr.com	Minor League Batting Leaders [Including Foreign & Winter Leagues]	Working on "The Bushwhackers": *League by League/Year by year leaders in all offensive categories [includes over 95% of US Minors since 1877 plus Japan, Negro Leagues [limited] and Caribbean Winter Leagues] *Year by year listing of Historical events plus leaders [as above] of the top 9 US Minor leagues [Planned for publishing via CD]
Motz, Albert amotz@stic.net	Minor league team histories with emphasis on business aspects of the different eras.	History of minor league baseball, using local team as an example of the changes from early 'town' teams to current farm system.
Bushnell, Scott smbushnell@yahoo.com	Fort Wayne teams and players	Completed Sol White on 1895 Fort Wayne team. Working on Louis Heilbronner biography.
Knickrehm, Karl knickrehm@earthlink.net	Minor league history (especially Sunset League); Long (over 20 innings) games-all types	Assisting Phil Lowry in researching long games
O'Toole, Thomas totoole2@bellsouth.net	West Texas - New Mexico League. Simulating minor league games and seasons	Stalled on a recap of the Albuquerque Dukes 1946-49 seasons because of a Newspaperarchive.com gap in the Albuquerque Journal files.
Green, John jfredrick30@sbgcglobal.net	Player career records, as well as team histories	I enjoy the SABR BioProject; have completed three and ready to submit two more. I also have a couple of books I started work on three years ago, but have gotten sidetracked.
Carlson, Jack jaywalker26@earthlink.net	Team history	N/A
Lammers, Craig bigdanabbott@yahoo.com	League and team histories primarily along with the stories of the men that played the game. Particularly interested in the Deadball Era and looking at the history of a state or region during those seasons.	History of Ohio minor league baseball during the Deadball Era looking from the American Association down to the Class D Leagues. Probably a similar project for the state of Kansas and further down the line the History of the Ohio State League from the 1880's to 1951.

Name	Interests	Current Research
Hamilton, Frank fehamilton@aol.com	Statistics Player Career Records	Still working on Player Career Records, will never finish.
Grace, Johnie drjgrace@yahoo.com	The Southern Association (1901 to 1960) Alabama-Florida League, South Atlantic League	Various statistical projects with the Southern Association, concentration on 1948.
Henry, Ron auricle99@aol.com	Player career records	Statistical profiles of individual players, posted on auricle.net. Miscellaneous postings on ronhenry.net
Fink, Gary gcfink@charter.net	Detroit Tigers, Player career records, and the American Association.	Working on the 1907 Am. Assn. League. I am compiling CG, & ShO for all pitchers and "less than" batting and pitching stats.
Kemp, David davekemp@iw.net	South Dakota Professional teams; Independent baseball, teams, leagues, players, records; Minor League Stars; Minor League ball parks; WPA Era sports facilities; Minor League History Journal; Northern League history	History of the Northern League; History of Independent Baseball Leagues, 1993-2002; History of the Sioux Falls Canaries; Minor League History Journal; Games and performances between minor league teams and independent teams that were integrated or made up of all African-American players; Northern League Reports; Short Season Records; Records based on length of minor league seasons; Performances of players that were Minor League Stars; WPA Era Sports Facilities.
Howard, G. Reed rhoward@udel.edu	19th Century minor leagues and professional player career records.	Continuing adding to 19th Century minor leagues and professional player career records.
Wunderman, Eric wunderman@iwon.com	N/A	N/A
Moyes, Jim jimmoyes@aol.com	Player career records	I am currently doing the history of my high school's baseball team, which obviously would be of no interest to SABR.
Bozzzone, Richard boz9@msn.com	General Interest in Minor League Baseball but specifically CT.	N/A
Gerber, Dale yodale98@comcast.net	Eastern League	N/A
Boren, Stephen sdboren@uic.edu	N/A	N/A

Name	Interests	Current Research
Petroski, Catherine G. petroski@mindspring.com	Team histories and ballparks.	I am currently working on a biography/memoir about Bob Groom, including his minor league years.
Green Ernest erniegr@comcast.net	Texas League 1950s, older minor league ballparks	Novel on fictional 1955 baseball team in small town Oklahoma
Henry, Howard henryhw@buffalostate.edu	Buffalo Bisons history (through 1970s) Louis P. Ortiz career history and statistics (1946 through 1958) Buffalo and IL ballparks (through 1970s) Minor League ballparks (through 1970s)	Ortiz career history Buffalo ballparks from 1878 to present Buffalo baseball encounters with Babe Ruth
Murrah, Tom murrah@entouch.net	League histories for those that competed in Texas and neighboring states' ballparks.	Only in the back of my mind is working on the Big State League history specifically.
Akin, Bill williamakin@aol.com	West Virginia, Alabama, Mid-Atlantic League, Georgia-Alabama League.	"West Virginia Baseball: A History, 1865-1900"
Long, Jim jpl315@earthlink.net	League and team histories; stats; ballparks; player records.	I haven't had much time to delve into an idea or two, so there's little I can say right now to answer that question.
Jenkins, David carty43@netzero.net	Chattanooga Lookouts; Southern Association; Atlanta Braves	Wrote Baseball in Chattanooga for Arcadia; Have a Who's Who in Chattanooga Baseball (register) ready to be published and typeset; 3/4s of 800 old B&W Lookouts photos from 1946-1960 have been ID'd. That project is ongoing. Photos and Who's Who are available on disc currently.
Skinner, David pilongo24@msn.com	Cubans in U.S. minors; early African Americans in minors.	1912-16 Long Branch/Newark/Newton/Jersey City Cubans, subject of 1999 SABR National presentation, soon to begin major updating for eventual publication. Various articles published on history of Warren Ballpark in Bisbee, AZ, opened 1909 (1 year older than Rickwood Field in Birmingham) and still used for baseball. Gave presentation at 2000 NINE Spring Training Conference on 50th Anniversary of the Integration of the Arizona Minors.

Name	Interests	Current Research
Krevisky, Steve skrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu	It's pretty varied, but I would say stats, and league histories.	I would like to do some work on minor league triple crown winners.
Ainger, Paul ainger4@comcast.net	Appy League history, Cal League history, Pacific Coast league history	N/A
Saldana, Kevin sabrkev@gmail.com	All Professional leagues: Schedule history Franchise shifts Single game records	I wrote "This date in Minor League History" several years ago. I need to update it and release sooner then later. I am working on Spring Training sites for all clubs.
Gauthreaux, Jay Basebal2day@yahoo.com	Southern Association, i.e. Memphis Chicks, New Orleans Pelicans et.al.	What projects I was working on and completed, were destroyed by fire.
Dinda, Joel jowo@mwlguide.com	Midwest League; statistical analysis of minor league stats, careers in baseball (defined very broadly). Evolution of farm system since WWII (and, to some extend, before that).	Midwest League website (mwlguide.com. Working on an index of the TSN Registers (stalled for two years by health problems which seem resolved). I have other things I want to work on, but they'll have to wait until I retire.
Camozzi, Ken ken@izzomac.com	Pacific Coast League, Pacific Coast International League 1918; Three-I league 1920; San Francisco Bay area semi pro baseball from 1910-1945	www.oldcoastleague.com (a site where I post tidbits of PCL history, I hope to encourage other to help make it grow) www.baseballblues.com (a site where I log my research online for others to view, mostly SF bay area semi pro...mostly about my grand-father's career as a semi pro) Justin Fitzgerald Bio
Christopherson, Jason jschris@triwest.net	Eau Claire (WI) is my specialty. I like the old Northern League and the Wisconsin State League.	I am working on a comprehensive history of pro baseball in Eau Claire as a follow up to my Arcadia book on the subject. I have written about the 1886, 1887, 1912, and 1952 Eau Claire seasons so far. Only 40 or so seasons to go :) I've done complete stats for Eau Claire for 1911 and 1912--the 1912 stats (featuring Burleigh Grimes in his first pro season) are believed to be the

Name	Interests	Current Research
Richardson, Bob 386 Riverway, Apt. 4 Boston, MA 02115-6440	New England minor leagues (pre-WWI), including histories, statistics, and biographical data on players, umpires, executives.	Compiling complete minor league records of every major leaguer.
Adams, Alan ajadamsjr@adelphia.net	Eastern League history, Eastern League team histories, esp, Portland Sea Dogs and any other minor league affiliates to the Red Sox; player records; International League history, and team histories, Minor league baseball history in New England.	N/A
Milman, Stephen E. 5 Pratt Island Darien, CT 06820-5726	Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Browns, "most everything"	N/A
Soto, Marco cangrejeros@gmail.com	North Carolina team histories, statistics, North Carolina ballparks, North Carolina born players.	N/A
McElreavy, Wayne mac@mvgalaxy.com	New Hampshire & Vermont teams and players from those states.	Rosters & stats for all NH/VT teams. Career records for all players from NH/VT. Also interested in semi-pro & outlaw leagues.
Cronin, John jcroninjr@verizon.net	New York Yankees farm clubs	Yankees farm team history; Inter-American League history
Cantu, Art artca55@yahoo.com	Player career records	Annual player lists (1900-2005), Manager lists
Mackey, Scott smackey17@yahoo.com	Pacific Coast League and teams history	Working on a history of baseball in Sacramento for publication
Englehardt, Brian benglehardt@comcast.net	Team histories, player profiles, odd events	Various articles for Reading Phillies website; article on 1919-1920 Reading

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The SABR Minor League Encyclopedia needs your help!

If you can enter pre-1983 statistics from the Guides to spreadsheets, contribute player biographical data or league information, please contact Kevin McCann (kdmccann27@comcast.net) or

Frank Hamilton (fehamilton@aol.com)

Fan Generosity in the West Texas-New Mexico League

Tom O'Toole

FANS OF THE POST-WORLD WAR II West Texas-New Mexico League were generous when their home team players hit a home run. They would stuff dollar bills through the fence and the hitter would often collect as much as \$50. Those same fans were also most generous when contributing toward the welfare of an injured player; this was significant since clubs did not always pay for the medical expenses incurred.

Amarillo outfielder Martin Koppe broke his right ankle on a play at the plate in a May 18, 1946 game against the Abilene Blue Sox. Amarillo News-Globe sports editor Harry Gilstrap wrote that the incident was one of the most unusual he had ever seen. Koppe was on second and another runner on first when the batter hit a long fly ball to center. Thinking the ball might be caught, both runners hovered around second. When they saw it was a hit, both runners took off for home, only a few feet apart. A fine throw and perfect relay resulted in Koppe being tagged out. The second runner then piled in on Koppe and was also tagged out. In the collision Koppe's ankle was broken. He never

returned to Organized Baseball again.

The next night the hat was passed through the stands and a total of \$336.25 was collected. That amount is roughly equivalent to almost \$4,000 today (as indicated by the historical Consumer Price Index at <http://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpi.ai.txt>. Gilstrap indicated the fans were impressed by Koppe's "brilliant fielding and base-running" and "his all-around spirit". At the time Marty was hitting .355.



The Abilene outfielder who made the throw resulting in Koppe's injury also suffered a season-ending injury later that year. Ed Krage severely sprained an ankle sliding into third base in an August 4 game against Albuquerque. Originally thought to keep him out of the lineup for only two weeks, he was out for the remainder of the regular season and playoffs. Krage received a contribution of \$357.90 collected from the fans at a later game. In a letter, Krage thanked the fans, saying that the donations were a big help to him financially.

Like Koppe, Krage was also having an outstanding season when he was injured.

Sporting a .337 average, he had hit 21 home runs, 14 triples and stolen 30 bases. Krage was a top-notch center fielder also. An umpire attending (but not working) the league's All-Star game (won by Krage's South team, 5-4) said it was his fielding that led the team to victory. According to columnist Howard Green, the umpire stated: "The North could have at least tied the score or gone ahead if Krage hadn't made those two circus catches in the ninth." The second catch ended the game and produced tremendous applause from the fans.

Krage even pitched in one game in 1946 and got the victory. Since team rosters numbered only fifteen players (with usually only five or six pitchers), a manager could not always bring in another pitcher to relieve. If double-headers or extra inning games had occurred recently, there might not be any pitchers with sufficient rest. In this particular game—June 26 at home versus Albuquerque—Krage relieved the starter and pitched the final two and two-thirds innings, allowing no runs. The Blue Sox came from behind in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game and got the winning runs in the eighth to win, 10-5, and give Krage the victory. Although he was a pitcher and outfielder for Albuquerque in 1940, Ed indicated that he did not relish the idea of being a full-time pitcher, preferring to be in the lineup every day. He went on to play five more seasons, all in the minors.

Another outfielder, Val DeFazio of the 1947 Albuquerque Dukes, fared the best as far as contributions went. DeFazio

broke his leg sliding into second base in a May 21 game at Lamesa. The Lamesa fans began an effort to stage a benefit for Val the next night, which saw the 850 fans contribute \$235.



On June 3 the Dukes also hosted a benefit for DeFazio, a night which saw a total of \$351.16 contributed by the approximately 1,800 fans. In those two nights, \$586.16 (equivalent to about \$6,600 in today's dollars) was collected for Val's benefit.

The previous year DeFazio had hit .278 in 137 games for the Albuquerque Dukes; he also stole 21 bases. He was reportedly a superb outfielder; columnist Wilbur Bentley of the Albuquerque Journal indicated that Val covered "acres of ground" and had a "rifle arm". Those qualities must have caused Albuquerque Tribune columnist Carlos Salazar to pick DeFazio for his second team Albuquerque All-Stars (based on observations from 1946 to 1951).

The March 30, 1948 edition of the Albuquerque Journal mentioned that DeFazio would play for Clovis, another New Mexico team in the West Texas- New Mexico League. He had played with Clovis manager John Bottarini while both were in the

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Research Projects

John Cronin is working on the New York Yankees farm system and hopes his research will eventually become a book. If you can help him with leads to documents or materials, contact him at: jcroninjr@verizon.net

Tom Flynn is researching the career of his great-great uncle, Tom Sheehan, who played in the minors 1915-1934. If you have any information to share, please contact him at: tsflynn@mac.com

John Galm is working on the history of baseball in Gainesville, FL. He can be contacted at ggalm1@bellsouth.net.

Denver Howard is interested in biographical information for minor and major league umpires (he is a former minor league arbiter himself). He may be contacted at: PO Box 171, Andrews, IN 46702-0171; telephone 260-786-1288.

Reed Howard and **Bob McConnell** are working on statistics for the 1883 Northwestern League. So far they have about 90% of the box scores. Reed may be contacted at: reedhoward@verizon.net. Bob may be contacted at: homerbobmcc@aol.com

Kevin McCann is working on statistics for the 1923 Kitty League season.

Bob McConnell has completed the 1925 International League Less Than 15 Games batting statistics. The project was initially started by former SABR member **Jack Dougherty**. Bob may be contacted at: homerbobmcc@aol.com

Bob is also looking for players with four home runs in a game. So far he has the following players (not including independent leagues) from 1997 to 2007.

1997	J.R. Phillips	New Orleans (AA)
1997	Bubba Trammell	Toledo (IL)
1998	Eddie Williams	Las Vegas (PCL)
1998	Tyrone Horne	Arkansas (TL)
1999	Eric Battersby	Burlington (MWL)
2000	Miguel Ojeda	Mexico City (ML)
2001	Lew Ford	New Britain (EL)
2002	Tony Mongeluzzo	Savannah (SAL)
2002	Garrett Jones	Quad City (MWL)
2004	Brandon Cashman	Spokane (NWL)
2007	Aaron Bates	Lancaster (CAL)
2007	Brad Correll	Lancaster (CAL)

Please send additions to: 210 West Crest Road, Wilmington DE 19803, (302) 764-4806, or e-mail: homerbobmcc@aol.com

Bill McMahon is working on the Farm Club project. If you are working on any particular farm systems, please join his effort. He may be contacted at: mcmahon@uakron.edu



Research Assists

John Cronin is researching the Inter-American League, which played only three months in 1979. He would like to correspond with its founder, team owners, executives, etc. Any information or sources would be greatly appreciated. Contact John at: jcroninjr@verizon.net

John Galm is looking for ballpark post-cards or player and ballpark photographs related to the Gainesville G-Men and other clubs in the Florida State League, 1936-1958. If anyone can help, please contact him at: ggalm1@bellsouth.net

Peter Morris is writing profiles of SABR founding members **Bob McConnell** and **Joe Siminec** for the BioProject. He would like to hear from anyone who may have anecdotes to share about these gentlemen. Peter may be contacted at: morrispe@msu.edu

John Schleppe is compiling a list of baseball parks built or renovated by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a Depression era organization that functioned from 1935 to 1944. His email address is: john.schleppe@notes.uakron.edu

Alain Usereau is working on a "brawl" database, which will include major and minor league fights and altercations of all kinds. Currently he has over 2,100 entries and is looking for more. If you have details about any brawls, please contact Alain at: althetiger@hotmail.com

Online Discussion Group

A great place to ask a question or simply discuss the minor leagues is the Minor League Committee's online Yahoo Group.

If you are a committee member and want to join, send an e-mail to:

SABRminorleagues-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The discussion site is at:

sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/SABRminorleagues/

Book Reviewers Needed

If you own a recent book related to minor league baseball, consider writing a book review! Reviews should be at least 500 words.

(Please contact me first before starting to write one in case the book has already been assigned.)

Contact Kevin McCann for details.

kdmccann27@comcast.net

204 Delaney Circle
Dickson, TN 37055



Independent Leagues

Independent Baseball Continues to Impress

Bob Wirz

WHAT BETTER INSTRUMENT to measure success than continued growth in attendance? While several accomplishments have been made this year, the record attendance figures certainly give the Independent Baseball something to brag about.

The industry could claim another 11.8 per cent increase in attendance over one year ago. The jump was 892,000 to 8,446,412, based on the figures reported to *SportsTicker*, the league statisticians.

Independent Baseball's success, of course, cannot be measured strictly on the basis of its number of leagues or its attendance count. Consider these achievements:

Twenty-four players who had worn Independent uniforms at some point in their career played in the major leagues for at least part of the season, lifting the count to 112 different players (that we can verify) since 1993. Many of them got their start in an Indy league.

With the Northern and Atlantic Leagues contributing three apiece, six players were part of Major League Baseball's postseason. The Northern trio included Philadelphia catcher Chris Coste (who played for Fargo, ND plus Brandon, Manitoba of the Prairie League), Los Angeles Angels outfielder Nathan Haynes

(Gary, IN) and Boston outfielder J. D. Drew (St. Paul, MN). The Atlantic could boast of Arizona shortstop Stephen Drew (Camden, NJ), Cleveland closer Joe Borowski (Newark, NJ) and Angels starter Jered Weaver, who spent considerable time working out his first year in Camden but did not play in games. Coste and both Drews played their very first games in Independent leagues.

Another half-dozen players enjoyed roles that had them involved with playoff contenders right down to the wire.

More than 200 other players with Independent playing experience were with affiliated minor league teams during the season, with many of them knocking on the major league door at Class AA or Class AAA.

Individual accomplishments could fill a book, but the top achievement in an Independent league in 2007 might well have come from Calgary (Alberta, Canada) Vipers leadoff man Darryl Brinkley because he ended up in the rarified air as a .400 hitter. Not only did Brinkley smash the 15-year-old Northern League record by 24 points, but he also, according to the league's research, is only the second .400 hitter in modern day Independent Baseball annals, trailing the .411 Desi Wilson of Surprise, AZ managed in the Golden League in 2005.

FORT WORTH, ALEXANDRIA REPEAT CHAMPIONS

The most unimaginable of stories is that of the American Association's Fort Worth (TX) Cats staving off elimination 13 consecutive times in order to win their third postseason championship in a row, which no other Independent team of this era has accomplished.

It is difficult enough to envision when a tennis player has saved set or match point half a dozen times. But for a baseball team to have an elimination game 13 times in a three-year period and win every one is in out-of-this-world territory.

Alexandria, LA will be in position to try for a three peat next season since the Aces have won the first two championships in the United League.

Other teams that earned titles this season included Newark, NJ from the Atlantic League and Gary, IN from the Northern League. Nashua, NH, and Windy City (Crestwood, IL) took home championships in the Can-Am and Frontier leagues, respectively. Chico, CA won the gold in the Golden League and South Georgia (Albany) earned the South Coast League crown. Tarrant County in Texas won the Continental League title.

ATLANTIC, CAN-AM, FRONTIER MAKE MAJOR ATTENDANCE STATEMENTS

The Atlantic League paced the eight Indy leagues which maintained attendance records, finishing at 1,977,113, a 3.5 per cent increase. The Can-Am and Frontier had the biggest

increases in both the raw gain and the percentage jump. The Can-Am was up 28.8 per cent and increased by more than 232,000 people while the Frontier's final count was up nearly 242,000, a 19.2 per cent boost.

THREE NEW TEAMS (SO FAR) FOR 2008

It appears the winter months will bring fans the usual amount of franchise news, with some shifts among leagues one of the possibilities to watch. We already know that the American Association, which seems in position to grow for a few years, will have new teams in Wichita, KS and Grand Prairie, TX next season and the Atlantic League will add another new stadium as the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs begin play.

Twenty-seven states were home to Independent teams in 2007. Maryland becomes the 28th as the legend of non-affiliated baseball continues to make a name for itself.

Bob Wirz has 16 years of major league baseball public relations experience with Kansas City and as chief spokesman for two Commissioners and runs his own sports consulting company in Stratford, CT. He is the author of a weekly subscription-only column, the Independent Baseball Insider, a newly-published book The Independent Minor Leagues: 2007 Season in Review and a blog at: www.IndyBaseballChatter.com. Subscriptions to the book and column are available at www.WirzandAssociates.com.)

Book Review

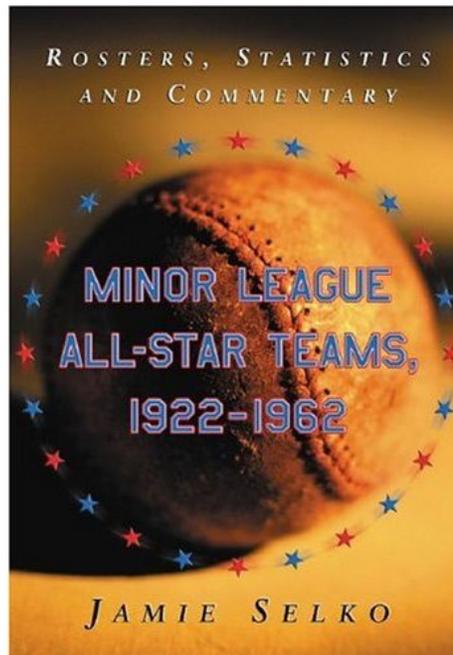
Minor League All-Star Teams, 1922-1962

Lloyd Johnson

Minor League All-Star Teams, 1922-1962: Rosters, Statistics, and Commentary by Jamie Selko. 584 pages. McFarland & Company, 2007. \$49.95.

THE AUTHOR, Jamie Selko, is a long time SABR member who was trained by the Three Bobs (McConnell, Hoie, and Davids) to cast a discerning eye upon what he reads in baseball history. Bob Davids, founder of SABR, is the person who said, "Minor league baseball is the National Pastime. When the majors existed only in the Northeast quadrant, the minors stretched from sea to sea and, border to border, and beyond." Selko, a man of unusual talents, continued delving into baseball's past while serving his country in Germany as an Army Intelligence operative.

Starting as a researcher of the Sunset League (Pete Hughes of the 200 walks fame) Jamie continued to put together lists of minor league players such as 2,000 hits, 200 wins, 200 home runs, 30/30, 20/50, 20-20-20-(20) player seasons. For the uninitiated, Vada Pinson hit 40 doubles, 20 triples, 20 home runs,



stole 53 bases in the 1957 California League. Len Tucker hit 51 homers with 47 stolen bases in the 1956 Southwestern League. Selko has many lists of amazing feats, and this book is an outgrowth of his vivid imagination.

Minor League All-Star Teams, published by McFarland Press and written by Jamie Selko, is a compendium of statistics and comparative analysis on the all-star teams of the numerous minor leagues that operated

each season between 1925 and 1962. The author tells us that he chose those particular years because "starting with 1925, at least one league chose an all-star team each year," and ending with 1962, because "it was the last year of the old classification system." Selko scrutinizes each all-star selection and compares the non-picked players to the man who was chosen. His analysis and comments make the book a seminal advance in baseball historical research. Yet, his commentary begs the reader to ask the question that Jamie leaves unsaid and unanswered, "WHO PICKED THESE ALL-STAR TEAMS?" Jamie may have discovered the dirty little secret of minor league baseball research – source material does not add up.

Take the extreme example of the 1925 Pacific Coast League all-star team. At second base Pete Kilduff of San Francisco is the selection. He hit .306 with 20 home runs, 126 RBI, 115 runs scored in 174 games. At shortstop Hal Rhyne of San Francisco is chosen. He hit .315 with 3 home runs, 97 RBI, 109 runs scored in 188 games. Left off is Tony Lazzeri, who played both short and second, hit .355 with 60 home runs, 512 total bases, 222 RBI, 202 runs scored in 197 games for Salt Lake City. His season, one the greatest in baseball history, is ignored by *whomever* picked this all-star team. The book is full of such instances. Jamie painstakingly chronicles each selection and which players would have been better choices. Another example is the 1946 Class B Tri-State League.

The real joy of Selko's book is that I can open it to any page and prove my point. The two all-star pitchers for the 1946 Tri-State League are John Dixon of Charlotte and Porter Witt from Knoxville. Witt went 8-6 with 2.83 ERA, 53 strikeouts and 12.1 base runners per 9 innings. Dixon won 19, lost 11 with 2.62 ERA, 90 Ks and 11.3 BR/9. Not bad, but Dixon wasn't even the best pitcher on his Charlotte team. Roland Miller went 17-6 with 2.13 ERA and 9.9 runners per 9 innings. Alex Zukowski, who posted 15-4, .789, 1.42 ERA, was the top pitcher in the league. The three hurlers Dixon, Miller, and Zukowski easily led their squad to a runaway pennant. All-star choice Dixon was hardly the best in the league. Asheville's Erv Palica went 15-6 with 2.51 ERA, even with the Charlotte trio but much better than Witt.

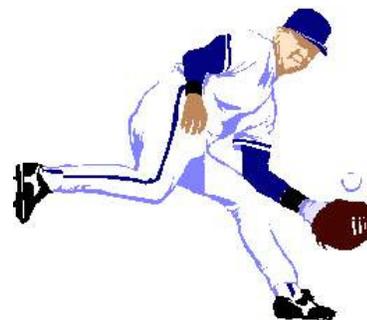
To pick another page at random, 1951 Sooner State League. Here, Jamie is at his best. "At first, two players had superior years to that put together by Dickson (Ed. Note: Ed Graham Dickson with

McAlester hit .339/.464/.430 (BA, SLG,OBA) with 3 home runs, 114 RBI and 131 runs scored). Pauls Valley Raider Don Williamson compiled averages of .337/.582/.436 tied for the lead in homers with 30, and drove in 129 runs. Glen Snyder of Ardmore was even better at .349/.552/.466. He hit 58 doubles and, in his 131 games, scored 141 times and drove in 155 runs. Either or both should have had the spot over Dickson."

Selko's analysis of the league's short-stop pick reads, "Two shortstops were chosen and poor Osmaro Blanco was passed over. True, he did not hit for the average of the others (.273) and SLG was lower (.353), but he still managed to out-RBI both of them with 97. And, more importantly, in his 138 games he scored 178 (!) runs (more than both selectees combined), and drew 164 walks (also more than both selectees combined). His walks led to an OBA of .448."

So on, and so forth, the book is indexed (47 pages of player names), and a short bibliography is presented. As the cover states, "Rosters, Statistics, and Commentary." If you like those subjects within the context of minor league baseball history, no finer book will you find.

Lloyd Johnson is co-editor (with Miles Wolff) of the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball (Third Edition), published by Baseball America (2007).



Book Review

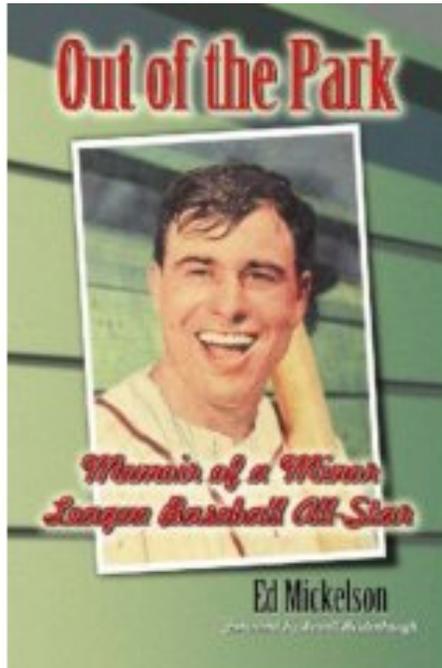
Out of the Park: Memoir of a Minor League All-Star

Kevin McCann

Out of the Park: Memoir of a Minor League Baseball All-Star by Ed Mickelson. 230 pages. McFarland & Company, 2007. \$29.95

WHILE THE POST-WORLD WAR II ERA is considered the Golden Age in baseball history, it could be less than golden for the players trying to break into the major leagues. It could be an arduous and frustrating journey and success on the field didn't automatically guarantee a spot at the next level or on a major league roster.

SABR member Ed Mickelson shares his journey in his autobiography, *Out of the Park: Memoir of a Minor League All-Star*. A St. Louis native, he signed with the hometown Cardinals for \$2,000 and began his professional career at Decatur in the Class B Three-I League in 1947. He played for 11 seasons from 1947 to 1957, with three brief stints in the major leagues with the Cardinals, St. Louis Browns, and Chicago Cubs. His minor league stints included: Pocatello (Pioneer); Columbus (SAL); Lynchburg (Piedmont); Montgomery (Southeastern); New Orleans



(SA); Columbus (AA); Rochester (IL); San Antonio and Shreveport (Texas); and Portland (PCL). He also played winter ball with the Valencia club in Venezuela in 1956.

Mr. Mickelson writes an enjoyable account of his minor league career and major league call-ups, filled with colorful stories of life in the minors. Along with player photos and memorabilia from his career, the book also fea-

tures cartoons by Ronnie Joyner that compliment the stories he tells.

Players often write about their own accomplishments and feelings of excitement, frustration, and loneliness, yet give little insight into how they affected their wives. Mr. Mickelson breaks this mold and shares his wife's experiences dealing with an unstable lifestyle that could change on the whim of a manager or club executive.

Out of the Park is an entertaining and informative book, not only for the stories he tells, but for the details it gives about the leagues and ballparks in which Mr. Mickelson played.

Publications

The 70-Year Road Trip: The History of a PCL Franchise from Sacramento to Honolulu to Colorado Springs

Jim Bainbridge

ISBN: 978-1-932127-98-0

A sleek 11.2" x 8.6" hardbound book filled with photographs and scorecard covers that chronicles the Pacific Coast League franchise. Available at: www.amazon.com

The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball (Third Edition)

Lloyd Johnson/Miles Wolff

ISBN: 978-1-932391-17-6

The long-awaited third edition of Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff's excellent reference book is now available through the Baseball America website at: www.baseballamerica.com

The Independent Minor Leagues: 2007 Season in Review

Bob Wirz

A 150-page review of the 2007 season in the independent leagues. To order, go to: http://www.wirzandassociates.com/indy_book_2007.html

The SABR Guide to Minor League Statistics Third Edition

Edited by Carlos Bauer

*The SABR Guide to Minor League Statistics is a valuable tool for minor league baseball research. It shows where to find statistics in the various Baseball Guides and publications such as *Sporting Life* and *The Sporting News* as well as microfilmed newspaper inventories for selected libraries. It also contains lists of league statistics compiled by researchers that were not published in the Guides.*

To order online at the SABR Store, go to www.sabr.org

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Kevin McCann (kdmccann27@comcast.net)



Chairman's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

The Encyclopedia is the result of tireless work and dedication from a core group of committee members. It began with the generous donation by **Ed Washuta** of his extensive personal database, and others have built upon and expanded his initial work. Former Research Services Manager **Rod Nelson** deserves much credit for helping move the project forward to this point.

As with any work in its initial phase, there will likely be errors and there will be incomplete records. Right now, players prior to 1983 lack complete batting, pitching, and fielding statistics. But this alpha version shows what the Encyclopedia is capable of and the possibilities for expanded research in the future. Once it is integrated into the SABR Encyclopedia, researchers will have both the major *and* minor league records for a particular player at their disposal!

More information will be added in the coming months and years, including 19th Century statistics and standings and minor league ballparks data and photos.

The Encyclopedia leaders hope members of the Minor League Committee will step forward and volunteer their time and research to make it a more complete tool for all baseball researchers.



Kevin McCann
Committee Chair

Fan Generosity

(Continued from page 15)

Army; if fact, it was Bottarini's recommendation that caused DeFazio's signing with Albuquerque in 1946. Less than two months later however, Val wrote a letter to the Journal indicating that complications in the broken leg had led him to forget about returning to baseball.

According to his son (also named Val), Mr. DeFazio played softball in local New Jersey leagues after 1947 and was also an excellent golfer. He had good memories of his time in Albuquerque and talked about it often. One thing he did not enjoy were the afternoon double-headers in the hot sun, which would cause him to lose ten or more pounds.

Although these three outfielders—Koppe, Krage and DeFazio—suffered severe injuries, curtailing their season or career, they were undoubtedly heartened by the largesse of those fans who had enjoyed watching their exploits on the baseball diamond.

Tom O'Toole is a member of the Auker-Seminick (Central Florida) Chapter. He lives in Gainesville, Florida.

