

## Society for American Baseball Research

# BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

March 2013 (12—1)

♥ 2013 Society for American Baseball Research

Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of SABR or its Bibliography Committee.  
Editor: Ron Kaplan (23 Dodd Street, Montclair, NJ 07042, 973-509-8162, Ronk232@comcast.net)

## Comments from the Chair

**Andy McCue**  
*Riverside, CA*

It's been over 20 years since I took over as chair of this committee from our founder, the late Frank Phelps. And I think it's time for a change.

There has been a lot of progress over the years. The project to create indexes for baseball books published without them. Rich Arpi's continued work to keep Current Baseball Publications up to date and complete. Various research guides. The fine work on our newsletter done for years by Skip McAfee and our current editor and book maven Ron Kaplan. The book reviews by Ron, Terry Smith, and other folks over the years.

And, of course, our core project, The Baseball Index, started by Ted Hathaway over two decades ago and now closing in on 250,000 citations. If you haven't checked out "The first base of baseball research" at [baseballindex.org](http://baseballindex.org), it's worth a look.

After all these years, I feel the committee could use new blood, new enthusiasm, and new ideas. We haven't done well in recent years in picking up on new ideas for projects or following through on old ones. This newsletter, like all for the past several years, will contain contributions from myself, Ron, and Terry. Rich's CBP will be attached. That's four people. That's not a functioning committee; it's less than a handful.

So, I am seeking a volunteer to take my place. I'll be happy to mentor you through the change. For those curious, let me outline the duties. Essentially, they are to ensure that at least two newsletters are published each year (Ron has been doing four) and that an organizational meeting be held at the convention each year. Beyond that, it's up to your energy level, ideas and commitment.

At the same time, it is my intention to continue as project manager for The Baseball Index. That is a project that continues to draw volunteer work, especially from Steve Milman. It is of core value to the organization as a whole.

I am in the process of updating and repairing the software that makes TBI go. The original software, done by DML Co. over a decade ago, has started to fail. In addition, both computers and software tools have improved greatly

over that time and we are not taking advantage of all the possibilities.

I sought input from computer people both inside and outside SABR and an exchange with Sean Forman of Baseball-reference.com led me to Jan Jorgensen, a young man who served as an intern for Sean. Jan has developed a work plan that two computer-savvy SABR members have reviewed and approved. He's begun work and we hope to have the new software in place by May.

In the interim, the part of TBI which researchers use continues to function fairly well. The administrative pieces, including the one where I add entries, is broken. With Jan's work, I hope to be able to begin increasing the size of the database by spring. Other changes will enhance the usability of the site.

Please consider taking up the reins of the committee. See you in Philadelphia.



## Features & Reviews

*1918: Babe Ruth and the World Champion Red Sox*, by Allan Wood. Writers Club Press, 2000.

*The Year the Red Sox Won the Series: A Chronicle of the 1918 Championship Season*, by Ty Waterman and Mel Springer. Northeastern University Press, 1999.

*When Boston Still Had the Babe: The 1918 World Champion Red Sox*, Bill Nowlin, editor; Mark Armour, Len Levin & Allan Wood, associate editors. Rounder Books, 2008.

*The Babe in Red Stockings: An In-Depth Chronicle of Babe Ruth with the Boston Red Sox, 1914-1919*, by Kerry Keene, Raymond Simbaldi, and David Hickey. Sagamore Publishing, 1997.

*The Given Day*, by Dennis Lehane. William Morrow, 2008.

Having read recently Sean Deveney's *The Original Curse*, I was interested in balancing his account of the 1918 Major League season with one that focused more on the game on the field. I found several books that focused on the 1918 World Champion Boston Red Sox, of which Allan

Wood's 1918: *Babe Ruth and the World Champion Red Sox* promised the best narrative of the season. I wondered if Wood's account would differ significantly from Deveney's. As I discovered, it did and it didn't. And I further discovered that the real story of the 1918 season was not the pennant race, or the suspicions of gambling, though they were each prominent, but the emergence of Babe Ruth as a force greater than any observer had before seen.

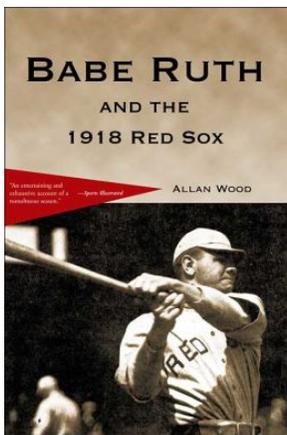
Wood's and Deveney's accounts of the season are similar. Both writers, for instance, had to deal with the effect of World War I on the business and the game on the field. While he doesn't speculate on the effects of the war on play, as Deveney does, Wood keeps the reader up to date on "governmental rulings regarding military service," providing a chapter describing the country's response to the "work-or-fight order" and noting the decision of some major leaguers who chose shipyard and steelworking jobs that would keep them out of the conflict. Wood is critical, too, of the National Commission, noting that it, "unlike representatives of the film and theater industries," "saw no urgency to meet with War Department representatives."

Wood also treats the phenomenon of gambling during the season, but he does so much differently from Deveney, confining his remarks on throwing games to a chapter on the World Series. Titled "The Fix?", it almost seems an afterthought. Wood is clearly dubious about the possibility of the series being thrown, and yet he provides a description of the prevailing conditions that could serve as a blueprint for Deveney's book. "There were ample motives for a fix," he writes. "The World Series shares would be the smallest ever. No one knew if or when baseball would be played

again and the players were worried about money and their families' security. On top of that, the Red Sox and Cubs felt cheated by the National Commission, which had unilaterally decided to share their World Series revenue with six other teams. Combined with the players' well-justified antagonism towards their employers and the legions of gamblers working in nearly every ballpark, the situation was ripe for exploitation and

dishonesty. All this was happening at the end of a decade soaked with greed, betrayal and anger, one of the most wretchedly disorganized eras in baseball history." Nevertheless, his examination of the 1918 World Series concludes that "the possibility...remains a mystery."

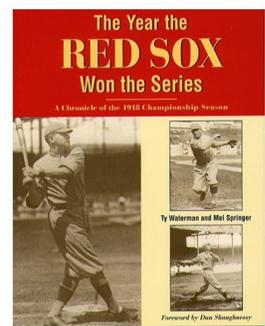
Though both writers point to the emergence of Babe Ruth as a power hitter as well as a starting pitcher, for Wood he is even more central, sharing as he does the top billing with the 1918 Champions in Wood's title. Wood includes several chapters on Ruth's youth in Baltimore and the earlier years of his career. There is a chapter on the death of his father, which occurred in late August of 1918. This is the season in which Ruth emerged as a power-hitting outfielder as well as a premier starting pitcher. He's still a good



enough pitcher in 1918 to make his World Series contribution largely as a pitcher. Wood finds an excellent image to describe Ruth's impact: "Of his many nicknames...the Colossus...was particularly apt. As the Colossus of Rhodes was believed to have straddled the entrance to the harbor of ancient Greece, his New England namesake towered over the national sport in 1918, one huge foot planted on either side of baseball's pitching and hitting camps."

For this reader, Waterman and Springer's *The Year the Red Sox Won the Series* provided an excellent companion to Allan Wood's narrative. Both books must have been composed over the same period of time, but Waterman and Springer opted to let the season tell its own story as far as that is possible. They select game accounts from the newspapers and review the season day by day, adding stories about the players and officials as they appear in the newspapers of the time. Other than in the selection itself, there is very little commentary, and that only to identify things the authors deem obscure.

We get lots of indications that the war is hanging over events and what the public (or at least the reporters) think about it. As Bob Dunbar reports in the Boston *Herald and Journal*, "there is nothing certain about the game this season." Throughout, players opting for positions in the defense industry are held up for the reader's inspection. The report of the decisions of Byrd Lynn and Lefty Williams is exemplary, as it's reported that Comiskey



told them to beat it and good riddance. The reader gets a sense of the general uncertainty, both about the 1918 season and about the future of baseball as the days unfold. Finally, we learn from Harry Frazee, that "the championship deserves to remain here [in Boston] until the war is won."

Readers also get a keen sense of how dominant a figure Babe Ruth is, even as early as 1918. The Boston papers were full of stories about his prowess. Two concerned large cash offers for his services. The first (for \$100,000) was reported at the end of April by Bert Whitman in the Boston *Herald and Journal*. Ruth is described as "colossal southpaw pitcher and hitter most extraordinary." Frazee is quoted as saying he "might as well sell the franchise...as sell Ruth." Whitman thought the offer came from New York or Chicago. Towards the end of May, the *Herald and Journal* reported a second offer, this one for \$150,000. This one was from Colonel Ruppert of the Yankees and was rejected by Frazee. The *Herald and Journal* reporter went on to speculate about Ruth "playing...every day and hitting those long ones at the leftfield bleachers and the rightfield grandstand" of the Polo Grounds.

Journalists thought up words and phrases to describe Ruth. "Colossal" was a favorite, as Wood concludes. At another point, the *Herald and Journal* referred to him as "the cave man." And he was termed "the king of the home run hitters." This in the early part of the season, as

Ruth had hit all eleven of his home runs by July first. After his abrupt departure from the team in early July, apparently the result of a benching, to take a job in a shipyard, Ruth was referred to as “Ed Barrow’s stubborn child.” These images of primitive strength, royalty, and childhood would continue to characterize the public image of Ruth.

He was still a pitcher, and after the first of July made substantial contributions to the pennant race and the World Series as a pitcher. Melville Webb in the Boston *Globe* imagined that for Ruth, “there’s fun in being a winning flinger as well as a fencebuster.” By August, Hugh Fullerton in the Boston *American* was of the opinion that Ruth “has won this pennant almost alone by his hitting and pitching.” In the World Series Ruth had one big hit, as he got to the plate only when he was the starting pitcher, but his big contribution was as a pitcher. Burt Whitman began his description of Ruth’s first game shutout win this way: “Not the blasting big black bat of Babe Ruth but his potent left arm quelled the Chicago Cubs.”

*When Boston Still Had the Babe* is the only one of these histories (Dennis Lehane’s novel, *The Given Day*, was also published in 2008) to be published since the Red Sox became champions again in 2004. Bill Nowlin calls the 1918 season “unusual...in that it was truncated by war and the timing of the truncation was not known until shortly before it occurred.” Allan Wood in his introduction calls the season “fascinating.” He mentions the consequences of the war: enlistment of players, departure of others to war-related industries, uncertainty over the length of the season, and uneasiness about World Series pay. He emphasizes the roles of Babe Ruth as he moves from being a pitcher to being an everyday player.

The bulk of the book is not an account of the season, as the editors are aware of the earlier books by Waterman and Springer and Wood himself. The book is, in fact, sponsored by SABR and for the most part it consists of biographies of the 32 players who played for the Red Sox during the 1918 season. Each begins with the player’s 1918 record with the Red Sox, details his playing career in both majors and minors, and gives personal biographical information about the player’s life before and after his baseball career. Interestingly, two differing views of Harry Frazee’s finances are provided — Dan Levitt’s (briefly) in his biography of Ed Barrow and Glenn Stout’s (more extensively) in his biography of Frazee.

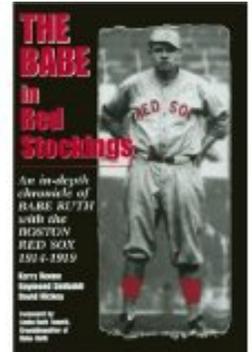
*When Boston Still Had the Babe* is best read as

reference, or as an adjunct to Wood’s 2000 history. Wood is the author of the biographies of two of the most important players on the team — Ruth and Carl Mays — and of a third, Walt Kinney, of special interest to students of Ruth’s life.

So much of the baseball talk during the 1918 season was about

Babe Ruth that it seemed sensible to take a look at Keene, Sinibaldi, and Hickey’s *The Babe in Red Stockings*. It appears from the brevity of their bibliography and the absence of notes that they developed their chronicle largely from newspaper reports. Thus their contribution is valuable in the same way Waterman and Springer’s is. Because of their selections from the newspapers, both are rich in original responses to the Babe. Oddly, *The Babe in Red Stockings* has an appendix dealing with Ruth’s pitching record with the Red Sox, but not his batting record. Perhaps that’s because they wish to emphasize “the magnitude of his pitching prowess.” From 1915 to 1917 he was, they argue, baseball’s premier left-handed pitcher.

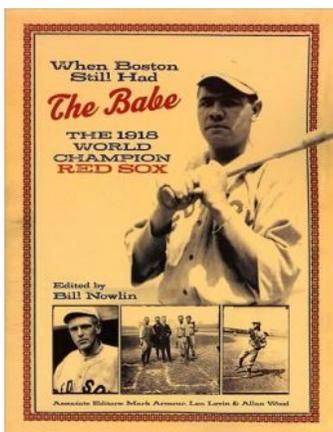
The authors’ purpose is “to create an extremely in-depth, accurate account of the formative years of baseball’s most fabulous career.” They assert “the extent of Ruth’s accomplishments on the field with Boston, as well as his enormous popularity of that period have never been fully appreciated.” The interesting thing is that right from the start, though Babe Ruth was an accomplished pitcher, his “enormous popularity” had to do with his hitting.



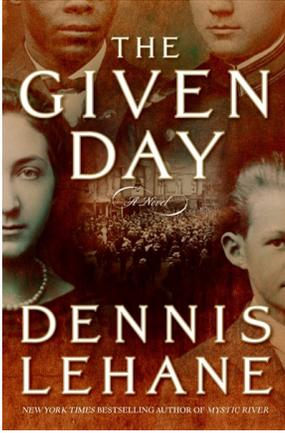
Ruth the batter was the subject of reporters as early as 1915. They noticed that he was a “hard wallower” and called him “the hardest hitting pitcher in captivity.” Arthur Duffey wrote that “it is [Ruth’s] ‘willow wielding’ that endears him to fans.” By 1917 the writers were noticing that although “Babe is the best pitcher in the country today,” his “popularity is due to his tremendous slugging ability.” Clarke Griffith is quoted articulating what was becoming a dilemma when “he told reporters that Ruth is the hardest and best hitter in baseball, and that he would earn just as much playing a position, however the Sox need him as a pitcher.”

In 1918, Ruth was in the outfield a good deal of the time, and both his hitting and the fan response received considerable attention. The authors note the paradox that Ruth “had clearly established himself as the premier left-handed pitcher in all of baseball...yet it was a chance to see him swing the bat that brought the fans to ballparks throughout the country.” Ruth, the authors contend, was redefining the game: how it was financed, how it was managed, how it was watched, as well as how it was played. Ruth’s batting style was “redefining the art of hitting a baseball.” Offers from the Yankees redefined “the relative worth of a player to his team’s owner.” Ruth’s batting “prowess was...redefining the way pitchers and managers handled certain game situations.” Too, his own awesome capabilities “redefined what might be considered successful.” Extra base hits were required; intentional walks endured.

In short, these changes, part of the complex of changes thought to have saved baseball in the 1920s after the revelations of the Black Sox scandal, were already well underway before the conspiracy itself had even begun.



In 2008 Ruth turns up as a character in Dennis Lehane's *The Given Day*. Lehane has become well-known for his crime novels set in the city of Boston, the best-known of which — *Mystic River* — was made into a movie by Clint Eastwood. *The Given Day*, published in 2008, is a blockbuster historical novel centering on the Boston police strike of 1919. The story concerns Danny Coughlin, an Irish Boston policeman who must choose between advancement within the department



and the burgeoning union movement, and Luther Laurence, an African-American on the run from a Kansas City racketeer who wants to reconnect with his family in Kansas City. Babe Ruth is an important character.

Ruth figures in the titles of five of the book's chapters, including the first and the last. The book begins on the train from Chicago to Boston, where the Cubs and Red Sox will continue the 1918 World Series. In the last chapter, Ruth

is back on the train, this time from Boston to New York City in January 1920 to sign a contract to play for the New York Yankees. The title of the chapter perhaps best describes what happens to Ruth in the course of the narrative, "The Babe Goes South." He becomes "the Babe" and he "goes south," that is, he becomes a sort of lost soul.

Lehane stresses Ruth's childishness in the opening chapter, calling him "a little fat boy," something the two photos of Ruth — who looks pretty lean and mean — deny. It's important for readers to realize that Ruth is a character in a novel as well as a historical figure, and Lehane has a literary purpose in mind for him. Lehane imagines in this chapter a game between various Cubs and Red Sox and local black players, of whom Luther Laurence is one. Beginning here, Ruth's development as a character is contrasted with Luther's. Initially, in joining the game Ruth insists on their equality on the field: "We're baseball players here." However, the white players soon assert their supposed superiority as whites, awarding the decisions on all close play to themselves. Even before this happens, Ruth "felt sad and filled with shame." Then he's asked to decide on the first close play, and, even though he knows the white player was out, calls him safe because "it was always best to stick with your own kind." Significantly, both the Cubs and the Red Sox call Ruth "Gidge," not Babe. They are shown up when Luther Laurence declines to catch the fly ball that would have ended the game in the blacks' favor.

Towards the end of the chapter "Babe Ruth and the White Ball," Ruth revisits his roots in Baltimore. He has an imaginary conversation with his father in which they argue about whether he's made a success of himself or not. His father thinks not: "You can barely read. You fuck whores. You get paid whore's wages to play a whore's game. A game. Not man's work. Play." Ruth responds, saying simply "I'm Babe Ruth." His father contradicts him, saying "You're George Herman Ruth, Jr.... this is not your home any more." As Ruth leaves, "he was steaming away from a whole country, the motherland that had given him his name and his nature, now wholly unfamiliar, now foreign ash."

The "white ball" of the chapter's title refers to the "white ball rule." Tarnished balls would no longer stay in play. Ruth thinks "It's your game now, Babe. All yours... a slugger's game." As he hits a tape-measure home run, Ruth imagines his father riding the ball, "All gone now.... Never coming back." Ruth has transformed himself, become "Babe Ruth."

But he still has difficulties. In the chapter "Babe Ruth and the Summer Swoon" he is disturbed by Luther Laurence's reappearance. This is 1919, the summer of the year the historical Ruth hit 29 home runs while the Red Sox languished in sixth place. He is astonished that crowds everywhere cheer his home runs, even when they defeat the home team. In June he spots Luther in the stands. "Luther knew Ruth had seen him, and that the seeing had rattled him. Shame had filled the man's face like it had come from a hose. Luther almost pitied him, but then he remembered the game in Ohio, the way those white boys had soiled its simple beauty and he thought: You don't want to feel shame? Don't do shameful things, white boy." Ruth goes into a slump.

Later in the season Ruth encounters White Sox first baseman Chick Gandil in conference with gamblers in a bar. Ruth is properly horrified, but it's most significant that Gandil addresses him as Gidge and Ruth corrects him, "Babe." Ruth has succeeded in reinventing himself as "the Babe" and so the book's last chapter is called "The Babe Goes South."

In this chapter Ruth is contrasted with both the other central character in the book, Danny Coughlin and with Luther Laurence. The first part of the chapter depicts Luther's return to home and family in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Home with his wife and child, he feels "whole," which he calls "the word for this day." He goes on "he would stop running. He could stop looking for anything else. Wasn't anything else he wanted. This right here was the full measure of every home he'd harbored since birth." Danny encounters his now alienated father in much the same way Ruth had imagined encountering his, only the result is different, with Danny and his father resolving to keep in touch in spite of their differences. Danny and his wife Nora resolve to go out west to reestablish themselves and find themselves on the same train as Ruth. Ruth is excited about his future too: "New York was the only stage large enough for the Babe. New York and New York alone. It wasn't going to swallow Babe. He was going to swallow *it*." Ruth meets up with Danny and Nora and admires their relationship. "He'd never seen a couple so in love." He realizes that no one has ever or would ever look at him the way Nora looks at Danny. He is excited by his arrival in New York, but seeing them waiting together for a taxi "Babe felt forlorn again, abandoned. He feared he'd somehow missed out on the most elemental part of life."

A final underlining of Ruth's predicament occurs when he discovers that his taxi driver's name is George. Ruth replies. "That's my name too. But you call me Babe." In this insistence, he divorces himself from home, family, and finally self. These histories assert Ruth's Red Sox accomplishments; Lehane's novel depicts his move to New York as self-destructive. This, in the twenty-first century, is Boston's revenge.

**Leverett T. Smith, Jr.  
Rocky Mountain, NC**

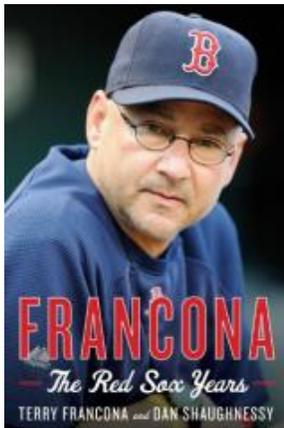
**Francona: The Red Sox Years**, by Terry Francona and Dan Shaughnessy. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.

The old sports saying goes that managers are hired to be fired. Regardless of one's success, there will always be a time when a lack of production, a scandal, or just plain bad luck will lead to the dismissal of a team's leader, regardless of what a good guy he might be. Such is the case presented in Francona: The Red Sox Years, written by Terry Francona and veteran *Boston Globe* columnist Dan Shaughnessy.

Timing is everything. Francona — the son of Major Leaguer Tito Francona and himself a 10-year veteran — came along when the Boston Red Sox were poised to break their 86-year World Championship drought in 2004 and thus became an instant folk hero. But as another saying goes, the hardest thing to do in sports is to repeat. Over his eight years at the helm, the Red Sox averaged 93 wins and were a perennial participant in the postseason (winning the World Series again in 2007), but it certainly wasn't without the usual drama that befalls any sports enterprise such as injuries, inter-personal conflicts, and/or interference from upper management.

It's this last aspect that frustrates Francona more than anything else. As a manager, you know as a matter of course that at some point you will have to juggle a lineup when a pitcher hurts his arm or a batter goes into a slump. What's more difficult to deal with is the suggestions (always well-meaning) from those who are more concerned with the business aspects of the game. One of the team's owners also helms NESN, the New England Sports Network, on which Red Sox games are broadcast. When ratings started to slip, one marketing wonk weighed in that the team had to win in a more exciting fashion. The 50-something Francona is young enough to be of the *Moneyball* generation, which employs statistics and situational projections, but he seems more aligned with the old-school, instinctual veterans. He makes his aggravation with those who would invade his purview quite evident.

Francona cuts quite a sympathetic figure. He comes across as a decent sort: reliable, honest, loyal, a true father-figure who once told the parents of a pitcher who had been diagnosed with cancer, "We will take care of your son." He spends more writing about these relationships than strategy and on-field action, which many readers might find more enjoyable than recent analytic offerings from fellow managers such as Tony LaRussa, his St. Louis Cardinals counterpart in that 2004 World Series (*On Last Strike: Fifty Years in Baseball,*



*Ten and a Half Games Back*, and *One Final Championship Season*) and perennial rival Joe Torre (*The Yankee Years*).

Francona's ultimate downfall came when several members of the 2011 team seemed to just give up in what proved to be his final season with the Red Sox. Despite their 90-72 record, they finished in third place and out of postseason contention. Rumors of players drinking beer and chomping down chicken during games made Boston a laughingstock and embarrassed the owners, who laid the blame at the manager's inability to maintain control. Francona, on the other hand, feels he was let down by a lot

of people he had trusted, although he's too much of a gentleman to point fingers.

"The impending disaster... did not happen in a vacuum," the authors write. "There were signs all along the way. The Sox missed the veteran coaches who commanded their attention. They had a lot of aging players in the final year of their contracts. They had players placing personal rewards above team success."

The eventual parting was acrimonious and left a bad taste on all fronts. Bobby Valentine was considered the right man to drop the hammer on the ball club, but under his stewardship, the Red Sox suffered their worst season over a 162-game schedule since 1960; by the end of the year, Valentine was gone. In the meantime, Francona was hired to lead the Cleveland Indians for 2013.

The construction of a memoir means that it's the writer's discretion as to what to include or leave out. Francona touches on his legitimate use of prescription medication to alleviate a number of physical ailments (enough so that it caught the attention of his family and employers), but barely mentions the separation from his wife of 30 years ("Few people knew that Francona was no longer living at home.").

The major problem I have with the book is that it is written as a straight biography, that is, in the third person. Shaughnessy, an award-winning journalist with several books to his credit, could have easily done this on his own. Was it a marketing ploy, to use Francona's name as lead writer, figuring it might garner more name recognition and increased sales than having Shaughnessy up front? It seems a tad disingenuous. Or is it just, to borrow a phrase used to describe a legendary Red Sox pain in the butt, Francona being Francona, a bit shy and uneasy to call attention to himself.

The situation reminds me of former Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, who published *Knuckler: My Life with Baseball's Most Confounding Pitch* with Tony Massarotti, also a *Globe* sportswriter. Like Francona, Wakefield's memoir is written in the third person.

Maybe it's a Boston thing.

**Ron Kaplan**  
Montclair, NJ



## Bergino Baseball Clubhouse hosts author events

The Bergino Baseball Clubhouse, located at 67 East 11th Street in New York City, continues its fascinating program of hosting authors to discuss their books this spring.

The lineup includes:

Ira Berkow, [\*Summers at Shea: Tom Seaver Loses His Overcoat and Other Mets Stories\*](#), Thursday, March 14

Matthew Silverman, [\*Swinging '73: Baseball's Wildest Season\*](#), Thursday, April 4

Jim Kaplan, [\*The Greatest Game Ever Pitched: Juan Marichal, Warren Spahn, and the Pitching Duel of the Century\*](#), Thursday, April 11

John Rosengren and Aviva Kempner, [\*Hank Greenberg: The Hero of Heroes\*](#) and [\*The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg\*](#), respectively, Thursday, April 25

Phil Pepe, [\*Core Four: The Heart and Soul of the Yankees Dynasty\*](#), Wednesday, May 1

Ron Kaplan, [\*501 Baseball Books Fans Must Read before They Die\*](#), Thursday, May 9

Doug Wilson, [\*The Bird: The Life and Legacy of Mark Fidrych\*](#), Thursday, May 16

Peter Ephross, [\*Jewish Major Leaguers in Their Own Words: Oral Histories of 23 Players\*](#), Thursday, June 6

Kevin Neary, [\*Closer: Major League Players Reveal the Inside Pitch on Saving the Game\*](#), Wednesday, June 19

Greg Prince, [\*The Happiest Recap: First Base \(1962-1973\): 50 Years of the New York Mets As Told in 500 Amazin' Wins \(Volume 1\)\*](#), Wednesday, June 26

For more information, visit [Bergino.com](http://Bergino.com) or call 212-226-7150.

### Visit The Baseball Bookshelf

For news, interviews, reviews, and previews, visit [\*\*RonKaplansBaseballBookshelf.com\*\*](http://RonKaplansBaseballBookshelf.com). And check out the podcast edition as well, available on iTunes. Recent interviews include Joseph Schuster (*The Might Have Been*), Ray Robinson (*High and Tight: Hank Greenberg Confronts Anti-Semitism in Baseball*), and Neal McCabe (*Baseball's Golden Age: The Photographs of Charles M. Conlon* and *The Big Show: Charles M. Conlon's Golden Age Baseball Photographs*).

Please send articles, reviews, and suggestions to: Ron Kaplan at [Ronk232@comcast.net](mailto:Ronk232@comcast.net) (Note the new address). Appropriate topics include books, magazines, blogs, etc. Please put "For SABR Newsletter" in the subject line.

## We have a winner...

Kudos to **Paul Dickson** and **Robert K. Fitts**, winners of the most recent CASEY Award and Seymour Medal, respectively.

Dickson was recognized for *Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick*, published by Walker & Company. He received the award at a program held March 3 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fitts received the honor for *Banzai Babe Ruth: Baseball, Espionage, and Assassination during the 1934 Tour of Japan* (University of Nebraska Press). Fitts will be presented with his medal at the SABR Convention in Philadelphia.



Paul Dickson, right, with *Spitball Magazine* editor Mike Shannon at the March presentation of the CASEY Award.

Photo courtesy Mark Rea/Reds Report

## Reviewers needed

Reviewers are needed for SABR 43 research presentation abstracts.

The abstracts will be reviewed blindly (identifying information removed). Each reviewer will evaluate approximately 10 abstracts, assessing them on importance, originality, clarity, and organization. The reviews will be done during March. Potential reviewers need not be experts in particular topics, though they are encouraged to indicate the types of abstracts they would welcome and/or wish to avoid. If you're interested, send a message to the Research Presentations email at either [sabr2013-presentations@comcast.net](mailto:sabr2013-presentations@comcast.net) or [sabr43-presentations@comcast.net](mailto:sabr43-presentations@comcast.net).

SABR 43 will be held in Philadelphia, from July 31-Aug. 4. Registration and hotel information can be found at [SABR.org/convention](http://SABR.org/convention).