

SABR Games Project Committee newsletter

July 2018

To all Games Project Committee members:

Greetings! I am sending some information, much of which was in the committee's latest annual report. Future newsletters will have a more formal structure, but I wanted to get something out after our recent SABR convention. I enjoyed meeting many folks in Pittsburgh and came away with energy to help guide this committee.

The Games Project Research Committee has been publishing game articles online since 2014. We are gaining momentum with interest among SABR members. The committee was ably chaired last year by Greg Erion, until his death in December 2017. At that time, the structure and leadership of the committee was changed. I provide information about the project and manage game assignments for book projects. Steven Weiner assigns and manages the status of games for publication to the SABR website. Len Levin oversees editing of articles and he has been assisted by Laura Peebles. Bruce Slutsky manages a team of fact checkers, to include Kevin Larkin, Brandon Lewis, Tom Brown, and Jack Zerby. Other individuals support the Games Project on a routine basis. We maintain a spreadsheet to manage committee flow work and account for all article work from assignment to publication/posting.

The mission of the committee is to support those who wish to research, write, and publish accounts of major-league regular season, postseason, and All-Star games, along with other games of historical significance such as in the Negro Leagues, minor leagues, or international or exhibition contests. These game accounts complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores, as well as SABR BioProject essays on the players involved.

As of July 1, 2018, there have been 2,290 games assigned to individuals or editors of book projects. Some articles are posted both to the website and are part of book projects. Of the total number, 983 completed articles are posted on the SABR Games Project website. An additional 381 articles have been completed and published in books. Approximately one year after publication, these articles are then posted onto the SABR website. This means that about 926 games have been requested and are either awaiting publication in a book project or have not yet been submitted to our team for editing and fact-checking. More completed games are added to the website each week.

Here is a breakdown of the number of articles posted online since the inception of the project:

2014: 156

2015: 138

2016: 156

2017: 312

2018: 221 (so far)

Our team is actively engaged in supporting the Games Project in several ways. An average of one book is published each month, and another book project is started each month, providing SABR members with research and writing opportunities. Many of the recent SABR book projects incorporate a larger number of games than previous books. Other members pursue opportunities for direct posting to the Games Project website. This means that there continues to be a large number of games which we manage. In the next newsletter, I will give a breakdown of the book projects that have incorporated

game articles (when they might be published and then posted online). We have a core group of authors who submit articles frequently for posting (not part of book projects). Why not become one of those folks?

A major undertaking in the past year resulted in every article that is posted online becoming hyperlinked, connecting player names in the article to their biography pages on the SABR Biography Projects website. Our spreadsheet has been updated and improved to better manage our objectives. Several committee members stepped up for this massive effort. Authors now submit articles with names hyperlinked. I just finished linking all of the games from the recently posted 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates book. In addition, all articles contain links to both Retrosheet.org and Baseball-Reference.com box score and play-by-play pages. In June 2018, SABR sent Retrosheet a list of all posted articles, which will be linked from the Retrosheet box scores.

In the next year, we hope to minimize the number of articles that have been requested but not written. Any articles with assignment dates older than six months will be reviewed and we will discuss games with the assigned authors. You can help. If you have a game that has been assigned to you, please submit your draft in a timely manner. Thanks.

We are working with SABR to renew and revitalize the Games Project's presence on Facebook. The first post was published on July 4. Thanks to Tom Brown for taking this on. Search for "SABR Games Project" and start following us!

Finally, we had a joint Biography Project / Games Project meeting at SABR 48 in Pittsburgh, to explain to members how each committee works and to discuss writing techniques and opportunities. A secondary goal is to get more SABR members involved in all aspects of the Games Project – writing, editing, fact-checking, and supporting. In the next newsletter, I will include some tips from Len Levin, our chief editor, with typical problems he sees when editing our articles.

Thanks for your part in the Games Project Committee. Send me a note if you have any questions, suggestions and ideas or if you would like to get involved. Or, contact any of the folks listed on our SABR page.

Sincerely,
Mike Huber