

Society for American Baseball Research Collegiate Baseball Committee Newsletter August 2003 (03-4)

Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of SABR or its Collegiate Baseball Committee

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DENVER CONVENTION

We enjoyed the opportunity of meeting fellow committee members, prospective committee members and several hundred other SABR members who attended the national convention in July. Members of our committee who were in Denver included our coordinator Bruce Brown, Bob Andrews, Jean and Dan Ardell, Steve Krah, Bill Lamberty, Rod Nelson, Paul Rogers and Tom Zocco, among others. We are pleased to welcome as new committee members Herm Krabbenhoft, Bob Meisner, Jim Sandoval and Adam Ulrey.

During our collegiate committee meeting, we were able to update those present on future committee plans; upcoming publications of interest; and possible projects for the future. Rick also provided a visual presentation on the new database and how it can be used. There was also discussion on two ideas we feel are worthwhile for the future:

1.) Compiling a master list of all former major leaguers who have served as college baseball head coaches. Once an initial list is put together (player name, schools where they coached and years coached), we will send the list out. We would then like feedback from committee members on names left out, additions, corrections, etc. At some point, we will add the names of coaches to each school's web page in our database. In addition to seeing the names of major league players at each school, you will also be able to see which players were head coaches at the school.

2.) Compiling a brief baseball history of each college, which would be added to a school's web page. We certainly welcome help in writing these histories from each of

you. Perhaps several of you have already done a history of your school's program recently or would like to undertake writing it.

Both of the above projects will be ongoing for the next several years, most likely. Of course, we still want your input on fine-tuning information already on each school's page, particularly a confirmation of years a man played on the school's team.

WEBSITE UPDATE

As of mid-August, All NCAA Division II schools with major league players have now been posted on our website (www.ncaa-baseball.com/sabr). Work is underway on posting Division III schools with major leaguers. We anticipate that all D-III schools will be posted by December.

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Baseball America has published their Baseball Draft update book with a complete list of all draftees through the 2003 draft. The book is available from Baseball America for \$29.95 plus shipping. We understand that a more extensive book on the draft is being planned by Baseball America in the future. A master alphabetical list of all draftees with the year(s), team(s) and round(s) would be included.

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES REPORT

Our webmaster, Jeremy Mills, a graduate of Rice University, had a chance to go to Omaha for two weeks and watch his alma mater win the 2003 NCAA national championship. We asked Jeremy to provide his thoughts on the CWS:

If the 2003 College World Series is remembered for just one thing, it will be for the number of batters hit by pitches during the fortnight. Rice pitcher Philip Humber hit three Longhorns in the 1st inning of the June 18th game – remarkably, no runs scored that inning. Texas was involved in three games that tied the old record for hit batters in a game for one team. Four Longhorns were hit in their opening game against Texas, four Owls were hit in Texas' second game, and Owl pitchers plunked four Horns in their final meeting. That record was broken on June 19th when five Cal State Fullerton batters were hit by the Stanford pitching staff. And in a year where the wind uncharacteristically blew in for most of the Series, there were more hit batters (36) than home runs (32) in the sixteen-game tournament.

There were many other notable occurrences during college baseball's 54th journey to Omaha to determine a national champion:

- For the first time in over fifty years, the championship was decided by a best-of-three series between the final two teams. In the tournament's first two years (1947 and 1948), the Series involved only two teams playing a best-of-three series. From 1949-1988, the

tournament was a true double elimination tournament. From 1989-2002, there was a single championship game after a double elimination-style tournament.

- The Texas Longhorns made their 30th trip to the College World Series, but were knocked out of the Series by in-state rival Rice University. The Owls won their first national championship in any sport in their 4th trip to Omaha.
- Rice, one of the smallest schools in Division I, with an undergraduate enrollment of 2,700, is the smallest school to bring home the crown since Holy Cross won the title in 1952.
- While the attendance for the championship series was disappointing, a single session attendance record was set during the opening when weekend, when 26,327 saw the Longhorns trounce the Miami Hurricanes 13-2.
- CWS Most Outstanding Player John Hudgins (Stanford pitcher) threw 350 pitches over 10 days to go 3-0 and lead the Cardinal to their third championship game appearance in the last four years.
- The Owls hit two home runs in their opening game against the Southwest Missouri State Bears, but didn't hit another homer during the College World Series.
- Southwest Missouri was appearing in their first College World Series, while the Stanford Cardinal are the only team to advance to Omaha all five years since the super regional structure was created.

I could go on, but it's sufficient to say that the 2003 College World Series was another great success for the NCAA and the city of Omaha. This was the second time that I've been, and the first time that I've been able to stay for the duration of the series. For a fan of college baseball, this is a great week and a half that needs to be experienced first-hand to truly appreciate the spectacle. I hope to return (along with the Owls) in 2004, and I hope to see some of you there!!!

DALLAS-FORT WORTH SABR PRESENTATION

On August 12th, the Texas Rangers again gave the DFW SABR chapter a chance to present its Metroplex College Baseball Player of the Year Award before the Rangers-Tigers game. The 2003 winner was TCU pitcher Clayton Jerome, who was named Conference USA Pitcher of the Year after compiling a 9-4 record, a league-leading 2.34 ERA and 106 strikeouts in 111 2/3 innings. Making the presentation of a plaque to Clayton on the field were DFW chapter president (and Collegiate Committee member) Paul Rogers, committee co-chairman Jay Langhammer and committee member Bo Carter, assistant commissioner of the Big 12 Conference. Also present was new TCU head coach Jim Schlossnagel and outgoing TCU head coach Lance Brown. This marked the 11th year that the DFW chapter has presented the award. If any other SABR chapters around the country make a similar presentation, please let us know.

“FOREARM BASHES”

We wish to thank all researchers out there who continue to provide us with some splendid information.

Bill Simpson recently sent us with some very specific details on pre-1900 players from a list originally provided by Reed Howard. Among the schools Bill focused on were Brown, Yale, Beloit and Norwich. His research involved trips to several schools.

We still need to firm up years played on the college team for hundreds of players in the database. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future with any help you can provide. Should you wish to communicate with other members of our committee, we are sending a copy of the current committee roster as part of this newsletter.

SABR Collegiate Baseball Committee (8/20/03)

This section has been deleted from the online newsletter for privacy reasons. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the committee membership, please contact Jay or Rick using their information at the top of the page.