

The Wood Pile

Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research

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Stephen Krevisky (President) - Alan Cohen (Vice President/Treasurer)

Stan Dziurgot (Membership Director) - Stan Osowiecki (Wood Pile Editor)



LEADING OFF

By: Steve Krevisky

Greetings, SABR-ites, and Happy New Year! We had a nice chapter holiday party in December, organized by Stan Dziurgot, with a nice presentation by Bill Ryczek. It was good to see our members and families there!



Plans are underway for our spring general meeting, with a number of speakers in the pipeline. The tentative date is Saturday, April 22, and please stay tuned for more info about this!

I recently read 2 books about pitchers. One was about Warren Spahn, who won 363 games, tops among all left-handed pitchers. He was very consistent, winning 20+ games numerous times. He also won the 1957 Cy Young Award, the 2nd one ever given. For some trivia, who won the first Cy Young Award in 1956? Those Braves teams were very strong from 1956 to 1959. In addition to Spahn, they featured Aaron and Mathews, 2 other HOFers, along with Adcock, Logan, Crandall, Bruton, Burdette and Buhl. They won pennants in 1957 and 1958, winning the WS in 1957, but then losing a 3-1 games lead over the Yankees, who came back to win the '58 series, behind the pitching of Bob Turley. The author stated that this comeback had not occurred in 25 years, when in fact, the 1925 Pirates came back from the same deficit against the Senators. Also, the Braves lost the '59 playoff against the Dodgers, and Aaron was quoted as saying that those Braves should have won 4 straight pennants! From 1960, the Braves declined, as did their attendance, and moved to Atlanta by 1966. Overall, it was a good read!

The other book was about Massachusetts born Jack Sanford, who went through hard times, just to get to the majors. He was the 1957 Rookie of the Year with the Phillies, and pitched in the All-Star game. He was later traded to the San

Francisco Giants, where he had a 24 win season in 1962, and was a candidate for the Cy Young award, won by Drysdale. His teammates included Mays, McCovey, Cepeda and Marichal, among others. One mistake which the author made was to say that Cepeda was a rookie in 1959, when he was actually a rookie in 1958. Sanford pitched 3 times in the infamous 1962 WS against the Yankees. He was the hard-luck loser in game 7, with a 1-0 score against him. The line Yankee run came as the result of a double-play. The book also dwelled on the Giants' bottom of the 9th, when Mays doubled to right with a runner on first. The runner was held on 3rd, as Maris fielded the ball cleanly, and threw it in to Richardson, the cut-off man. There has been a long-standing debate as to whether the runner on third should have been sent home. Mays felt that if he were the runner, then he would have tried to score, and thereby tie the game. When McCovey lined out to Richardson for the last out, giving the WS to the Yankees, Sanford took this loss really hard, and it haunted him for the rest of his life. The book didn't talk about why Sanford fell off after his great '62 season. Sanford later on became a pitching coach for the Indians, and had a good influence on the development of Tiant and McDowell. The book did a good job in discussing Jack's family life, and his later ventures into the golf world. The stats in the back were hard to read, but overall, it was a good book about a pitcher who lived through hard times, and did achieve a lot!

It would be interesting to see how Sanford fared against other good pitchers of his era, such as Spahn, Gibson, Drysdale, Koufax, and so forth. I hope to research this for a future article or presentation!

Regards,
Steve K

NEW MEMBERS

New chapter members (since July 28, 2022)

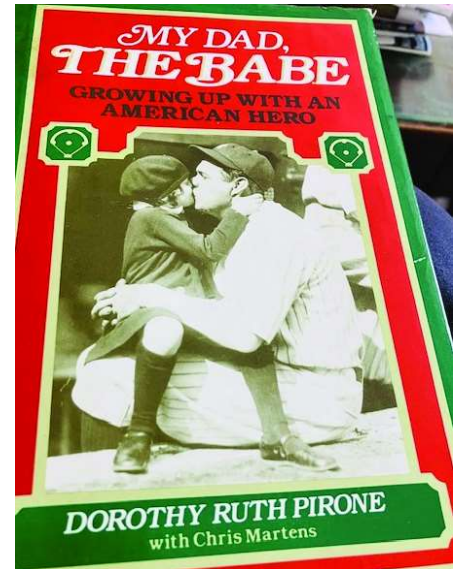
- Terry Dinan (New Canaan)
- Peter Ferris (Monroe)
- Michael Negrón (Guilford)
- John Pakutka (Branford)
- Prisco Panza (Milford)
- Jonathan Richter (Guilford)
- Aaron Schwartz (Wilton)
- Dan Travers (Wilton)

FUTURE EVENTS

Events for Connecticut and National Events can be found online at:

www.smokyjoewood.com/events (Connecticut)
www.sabr.org/events (National)

Members are welcome to submit articles, book reviews or other information that might be interesting to other chapter members. Please send information to Stan Osowiecki at osowiecki@sbcglobal.net.



BABE RUTH IN CONNECTICUT (AND SOMETIMES MASSACHUSETTS)

By: Stan Dziurgot

While Babe Ruth spent his entire Major League playing career in New York and Massachusetts, he did have connections to Connecticut. His daughter, Dorothy, lived in Durham, CT during her later years raising Arabian horses on a farm that she called Home Plate Farm.

The Babe had two daughters; Julia, the daughter of his second wife Claire who Babe adopted and Dorothy, Babe's biological daughter who Claire adopted. Julia died in 2019 four months short of her 103rd birthday. Dorothy was led to believe that Babe's first wife Helen was her birth mother and didn't find out until she was 59 years old that her real mother was Babe's mistress, Juanita Jennings. Dorothy found out in 1980 just before Juanita's death. She had been a longtime family friend who Dorothy thought of as an aunt.

Dorothy never got along with Claire who she thought treated her own daughter better than her. When the mother of Lou Gehrig pointed this out to Babe he defended Claire and many thought that this was one of the things that precipitated Babe's feud with Lou which lasted until Lou Gehrig Day on July 4, 1939 when Lou made his "luckiest man" speech. Dorothy was married twice – the second time to Dominick Pirone and gave the Babe 6 grandchildren; three with each husband. The last three were born after Babe's death in 1948.

Claire was the go to person on anything Babe Ruth after his death. You remember her and Ford Frick during Roger Maris' 1961 run at Babe Ruth's home run record. Dorothy came into possession of a large amount of Babe Ruth memorabilia when Claire died in 1976. The Home Plate Farm house looked like a mini Baseball Hall of Fame. After Dorothy's death in 1989 (her husband Dominick died a month before her) daughter Linda Pirone Tosetti has been the family spokesperson. Linda was told by her mother not to expect special favors from anybody and not even to let anyone know of her famous grandfather. Dorothy was also fearful that the kids would be kidnapped for ransom.

["Babe Ruth" continued on Page 6](#)

QUOTABLE BASEBALL

By: Jim Mizera

The trouble with baseball is that it is not played the year round. - Gaylord Perry

I read a lot of Socrates in the off-season. Don't print that, or it'll ruin my rep. - Travis Hafner

I've tried a lot of things in the off-season, but the only thing I really know is baseball. - Hank Aaron

I love playing this game and every spring training feels like the first. - Ricky Henderson

There are opening day pitchers, and pitchers who start on opening day. - Roger Craig

ARTHUR PAPPAS AND THE MARTY BARRETT LAWSUIT

By: Karl Cicitto

Dr. Arthur M. Pappas was the Medical Director and part owner of the Boston Red Sox from 1978 to 2002. His contributions to orthopedics were profound. He was accused of mishandling the treatment of some Red Sox players and settled a law suit with Marty Barrett for \$1.7 million. He was praised after his death by Barrett.

Arthur Michael Pappas was born on July 3, 1931 in Auburn, Massachusetts to Michael S. Pappas and his wife, Tomaⁱ. Pappas played football at Harvard and graduating from there in 1953. He graduated from Rochester Medical School in 1957ⁱⁱ

By the 1970's Pappas was a prominent orthopedic surgeon. In 1976, Dr. Pappas performed surgery on the first patient at what is now UMass Medical Center. He was a Professor and Founding Director of Orthopedics at UMMC. At that time, Pappas was on-call with the Boston Bruins hockey club. There he met the former Bruins trainer, Buddy LeRoux.

In late 1977, a group named Red Sox Associates agreed to buy the Red Sox for \$15 million from the Yawkey Estate. The group was led by Leroux

and former Red Sox General Manager Haywood Sullivan. Pappas contributed \$1 million to the purchase.ⁱⁱⁱ Jean Yawkey was a limited partner in the group.^{iv}

There were controversies. Pappas, then a Director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, authorized \$125,000 paid to a rehabilitation hospital owned by LeRoux. Questions arose about a conflict of interest.^v Since Pappas had spent public funds with LeRoux, had he been rewarded with a part ownership of the Red Sox? There were more problems. The sale was suspended when A.T.O Inc. sued the Yawkey Trustees for not selecting their bid of \$18.75 million, taking less money from LeRoux. And the MLBPA's Marvin Miller challenged an \$8 million loan at the center of the deal because it allowed the bank to set limits on player salaries.^{vi}

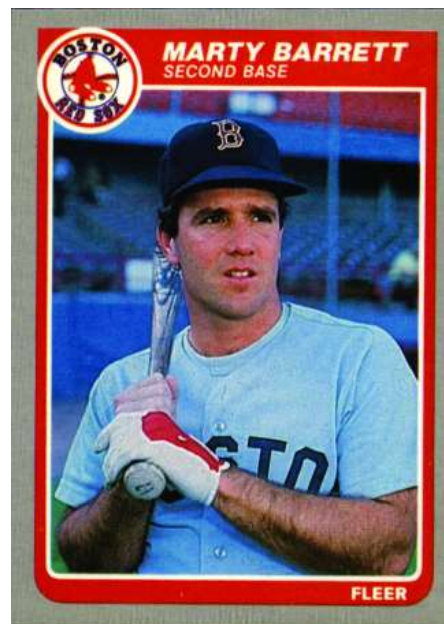
The sale to Red Sox Associates was voted down in December, 1977 but it was approved the following May with a price of \$20.5 million.^{vii} Jean Yawkey had been made a general partner in the new agreement, an important change. LeRoux's purchase of the Red Sox and Pappas' hiring as Team Physician occurred within 3 months of each other in 1978.

The arrival of Dr. Pappas was welcomed by Bill Lee. "What's all the noise about?", asked Lee. "Now we have one of the top orthopedic men in Boston. What can be wrong with that?"^{viii}

Pappas' player treatments were steady. There were Luis Tiant's dislocated finger, Bill Campbell's elbow, Andy Hassler's sliced tendon, Butch Hobson's elbow chips, Yastrzemski's lower back condition, and a beaming of Dwight Evans that caused dizzy spells. There was even a hepatitis scare emanating from a Boston sportswriter.^{ix}

In the coming years newspapers regularly quoted Pappas about injuries. Among these, no player injury undermined faith in Pappas like that of Marty Barrett. On June 4, 1989, Marty Barrett tripped over first base running out a groundball and injured his right knee. He left the field on a stretcher^x and missed the next two months. Pappas diagnosed the injury as cartilage damage and performed arthroscopic surgery. Pappas hid the fact that he "removed much of what was left of Barrett's ruptured ACL", a fact supported by the postoperative report.^{xi}

After the 1989 season, Barrett was informed that his anterior cruciate ligament was damaged. "I've been advised that I should have been told there was something else wrong", said Barrett, "...I just can't fathom why the knee wasn't (surgically) reconstructed (by Pappas)..."



["Pappas" continued on Page 8](#)

THE NEGRO LEAGUES BEYOND 1948 & A BOY NAMED WILLIE

By: Alan Cohen

By consensus, it has been deemed that the Negro Leagues died in 1948. The last Negro League World Series was played in 1948. SABR's book on the 1948 Homestead Grays and Birmingham Black Barons was called *A Bittersweet Goodbye*. Seamheads, an authority on Negro Leagues history, does not go beyond 1948. When Retrosheet began doing individual game records, they began with 1948 and went backwards. As of this writing, they are doing 1941.

As we begin to look at the statistics of Black ballplayers who broke into the American and National Leagues and view their records on Baseball-Reference, there is a gap. With Willie Mays, we know his record with Birmingham in 1948, and we know his record with Trenton in 1950. What happened in between?

In these paragraphs, the story begins to unfold of the Negro Leagues beyond 1948 and some of the early glories of Willie Mays.

After 1948, the Negro Leagues, to survive, dropped two teams and moved several others. The new 10-team league, called the Negro American League, had a limited schedule, with most games played on weekends. The East-West All-Star Game was once again held at Comiskey Park and drew a good-sized crowd (31,097) to see the top players in the league. One player from that game, Jim Gilliam of the Baltimore Elite Giants, went on to have a great career with the Dodgers in Brooklyn and Los Angeles. One Negro League player not in the game was Willie Mays of the Birmingham Black Barons. Why didn't he play? There have been many reasons given, but nothing conclusive.

How did Mays do in 1949? The record is not yet complete, but early indications are that the greatness of Mays was seen early on. Through June 5, Mays was batting over .413.¹ The *Birmingham News*, a mainstream daily paper, gave ample coverage to the Black Barons, and had many box scores. On May 10, Mays had his first homer of the season as Birmingham lost to the Louisville Buckeyes (formerly the Cleveland Buckeyes), 7-5.² The first game for which there is an available box score was played the next night and Mays doubled in a 4-3 win over the Chicago American Giants.³ On May 13, Birmingham completed its homestand with a 5-3 win over the Kansas City Monarchs (featuring Curt Roberts, Gene Baker, and Elston Howard). Mays singled and scored in the game.

Mays did not accompany his team on its road trip (his school would not allow it). When the team returned home for a doubleheader on May 22, Willie was in the lineup for each game. Birmingham won by scores of 14-2 and 18-8 against Louisville, and Mays went 3-for-7 in the two games. His hits included a double in the opener. One of the pitchers he victimized was future San Francisco Giant teammate Sam Jones. Mays had four RBIs and a stolen base in the 14-2 game. He also had a stolen base in the nightcap.⁴

On May 25, Mays, who walked in a run and singled and scored in another plate appearance, got raves for his glove work. He made a bare-handed catch of a ball as he was running at full throttle by the outfield wall in the 6-3 win over Louisville.⁵

Four days later, his school year complete, he was on the road with his team as they traveled to Louisville⁶ before visiting New York. Birmingham faced the New York Cubans in a doubleheader on May 29. It was Mays's first visit to the spacious center field that would be his playground in the early years of his career with the Giants. The *New York Age*, a weekly Black newspaper, gave the games good coverage. Each game resulted in an 8-4 score. Birmingham won the opener, and the Cubans won the second game. In the ninth inning of the second game, Willie Howard Mays, Jr. hit his first Polo Grounds home run. It was an inside-the-park homer, but there was no report as to whether his cap came flying off as he rounded the bases. Earlier in the game, he had singled in a run.⁷

Mays made his first Brooklyn appearance three days later, but it was not at Ebbets Field. It was at Dexter Park against the Bushwicks, a popular semi-pro team that featured some players that had previously played in the National and American leagues. The Black Barons won, 7-4⁸, hopped back on the bus and headed toward Baltimore to face the Elite Giants on June 5 and Philadelphia's Shibe Park to face the Philadelphia Stars on June 6. The bus seemed to be always in motion and finally, on June 11 and June 12, the Black Barons were back in Birmingham to face the Cubans. No sooner had they gotten home than they, and the Cubans,

["Negro Leagues" continued on Page 9](#)

SABR PROFILE: STEVE KREVISKY

By: George Pawlush

Steve Krevisky has been the pillar of the Connecticut Smokey Joe Wood chapter, serving as president of our group for the last 20 plus years.

The beginning of our chapter and Krevisky's participation in SABR trace back to the mid-1980s. "My first experience with SABR came from attending the Rhode Island chapter meetings led by Len Levin, former sports editor of the Providence Journal," he said. Soon after, Krevisky figured the time may be right for Connecticut to have its own chapter. Unfortunately, that goal was premature. Our chapter had a few false starts in the 1980s and 1990s, but finally came together in 2001 and has been active ever since.

Krevisky is currently in his 38th year as professor of mathematics at Middlesex Community College. He has been instrumental in securing classrooms at the school for our group meetings. A native of New York City, he grew up a Yankees and Giants fan.

After high school, he continued his education in the city, commuting on buses and subways for four years finally earning his baccalaureate degree at the City College of New York (CCNY). He then taught at New York high schools and later, taught graduate courses at Syracuse University, where he completed his master's degree studies. His college teaching career then took him to the University of Wisconsin and the University of Delaware.

Krevisky arrived in Middletown in 1985 to join the faculty at Middlesex Community College. He teaches a variety of math courses that includes statistics, algebra, and calculus. Not surprisingly, Krevisky integrates a lot of baseball in his lesson plans. His involvement with students goes beyond the classroom where he interacts with them, either as co-advisor of the math club or advisor of the chess club. Krevisky also directs the annual math contest that includes all 12 Community Colleges across the state.

However, Krevisky takes a lot of pride with the steady growth of the Wood chapter over the last 20 years. "We have a major challenge ahead, he said. "We need to attract younger members to sustain the future of our chapter. SABR has a wide variety of programs that can appeal to prospective members. The recent interest surge in baseball analytics has drawn many new members to SABR. We need to do more to develop more initiatives of this type for our chapter."

A major highlight for Krevisky each year is to attend SABR's annual convention. This year the 51st annual convention will be held in Chicago in late July. He enjoys the fellowship at the conference that includes attending presentation sessions, participating in the trivia contest and attending the major league game, all part of the five-day gathering.

As to national SABR involvement, he has been very active in the Games and Simulation Committee. He was very involved in forming the committee and served as chair for a few years. Working with Joe Runde, who is a member of our Wood chapter, the duo is currently involved with a new table game that includes dice. He also looks forward to the revival of the Great American Fantasy League, a different kind of game, that can be played virtually over the phone.

His future SABR goal is to write more and get his articles published. One specific target is researching former Pittsburgh pitcher, Wilbur Cooper, who hurled for the Pirates between 1912 and 1924. He is the winningest Pirate pitcher of all-time who played between the eras of Honus Wagner and the Waner brothers. Despite a great record, Cooper missed by one year in playing on Pittsburgh's 1909 and 1925 World Championship teams.

While SABR consumes a good portion of his time, Krevisky has a few other interests. He enjoys travel which he builds around the annual SABR convention, experiencing side trips along the way. He also takes banjo lessons and participates in (non-baseball) trivia contests in downtown Middletown during the week.

SABR WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

SABR Book Projects

Biographers are needed for several books. Status of assignment availabilities changes daily. Please contact Bill Nowlin (bnowlin@rounder.com) to request an assignment.

BABE RUTH (continued from Page 2)

Even though she was born six years after her famous grandfather died, Linda has been a leading authority on Babe's life through stories she was told by people who knew him. She spoke about him in many places such as the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore and many other events concerning the Babe such as a Smoky Joe Wood SABR event at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. Having control of Babe's memorabilia she decided to put some of it up for auction for fear of fire or theft. Linda still lives in Durham (not at Home Plate Farm) with her husband Andy.

Playing with the Red Sox and Yankees Babe passed through Connecticut on many occasions. During the off season he barnstormed and played games throughout the state. Lighthouse Park in New Haven, Weathersfield Ave. grounds in Hartford and Muzzy Field in Bristol were among the places he played in. He also played at Painter Park and Donovan Field in West Haven; the latter located near Savin Rock Amusement Park. In 1945 at the age of 50 he appeared at Buckeley Stadium in Hartford where he grounded out in a pinch hitting appearance for Bill Savitt's store team the Savitt's Gems. He was interviewed at this appearance by local radio personality Bob Steele.

In June of 1948 just two months before his death he made a final trip to Connecticut and Yale Field in West Haven. He presented a manuscript of his biography (written by Bob Considine) to Yale Baseball Captain and future president George H. W. Bush as a donation to the Yale University Library.

During his time with the Red Sox Babe and some teammates went to Sudbury Massachusetts for a fishing trip. It was at a cabin on Willis Pond the legend of the piano in the pond was born. The piano was pushed onto the frozen pond during a party and because of a hill couldn't be pushed back into the cabin. It sunk into the pond when the ice thawed.

Babe and his first wife Helen would buy a farm in Sudbury where hunting, fishing, horseback riding along with chopping wood and raising chickens were some of Babe's off season activities. Helen would travel through Connecticut to the Bronx with baby Dorothy for Yankee homestands. The name of Babe's farm in Sudbury? Home Plate Farm; the same name that Dorothy gave her farm in Durham, Connecticut years later.

Sources:

1. "The Big Bambino hit one over the fence at Muzzy Field" Bristol Press 4-13-2018 by Bob Montgomery
2. You Tube When Babe Ruth Barnstormed Greater Hartford
3. You Tube Babe Ruth Played His Last Game with Savitt Gems in Hartford
4. Fron Gehrig to Bagwell – A Proud History of Baseball in Connecticut by Dom Amore, Hartford Courant 3-2-2014
5. My Dad the Babe, copyright 1988 Quinlan Press by Dorothy Ruth Pirone and Chris Martens
6. Babe Ruth Meets Future President George H. W. Bush in 1948 at Yale Field New Haven Register 9-19-2012 by Chip Malafronte
7. Connecticut Magazine 8-16-2018 West Haven's Savin Rock Amusement Park saw a Meteoric Rise as CT Coney Island Before a Precipitous Fall by Albie Yuravich
8. Lowell Sun – The Babe, The Piano and the Mystery by David Pevear 7-25-2010 updated -13-2019
9. Thanks to Joe and Lois Greenbacker and Melissa Greenbacker Dziurgot

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Baseball Biography Project

The lofty goal is to write a high-quality journal-length biography of every player who ever played in the major leagues. Nearly 6,000 biographies have been written by 500+ SABR members as of February 03, 2023. Your subject can be anyone who ever played in the major leagues and has been retired for at least 5 years, or any manager, executive, umpire, scout, or broadcaster. In fact, we welcome your ideas for any subject who impacted the history of the game — someone from the Negro Leagues, the minor leagues, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, and even Japan.

Web-site: sabr.org/bioproject

Request an assignment: Lyle Spatz at lspatz@comcast.net

FRANK OBSERVATIONS: BILL DENEHY

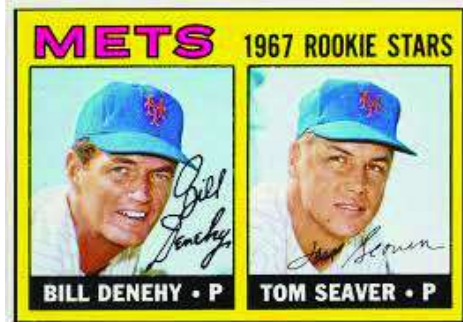
By: Michael Frank

Amazin'! There's a pitcher from Middletown that Steve Krevisky hasn't written about. Our own Alan Cohen wrote a thoroughly researched SABR biography a few years ago. I thought it time to revisit this strapping righthander who has two unusual distinctions.

He was signed by the Mets out of Woodrow Wilson High School for a bonus of \$22,500 and rose rapidly through the Mets system. He met Tom Seaver (who lived in Connecticut while on the Mets) in Jacksonville in 1966. Bill Madden's book on Seaver said Denehy was considered the east coast phenom while Seaver was the west coast phenom. They shared a Topps rookie card, now quite valuable. Then their careers diverged.

Denehy went 1-7 for the 1967 Mets and was demoted. He hurt his arm on a hard slider to Willie Mays. The Mets treated his torn rotator cuff with cortisone, which wrecked his career and caused him to go blind in old age. Senators GM George Selkirk wanted him in exchange for giving up Gil Hodges, soon manager of the Miracle Mets, and he got a pitcher who pitched only three games for Washington. Denehy drifted to Cleveland, back to the Mets, and then to Detroit, where his 0-3 record capped a rather undistinguished 1-10 career.

He later coached (in CT), did real estate and TV work, and wrote a book with Peter Golenbeck, *Rage*. He's still with us.



IT'S FINALLY OPEN: THE JACKIE ROBINSON MUSEUM

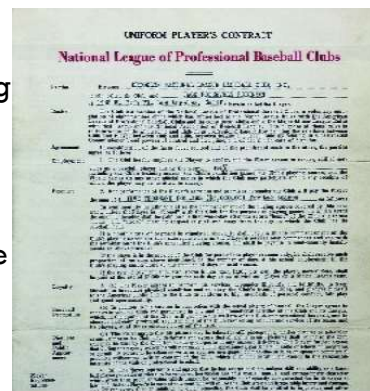
Articles and Photographs By: Paul Hensler

In conjunction with the Jackie Robinson Foundation, established in 1973, the eponymous museum dedicated to this American legend has at last opened in lower Manhattan after much delay due to the pandemic and other issues. The ultimate result is a brand-new facility that honors the man who broke baseball's twentieth-century color barrier, and while Robinson himself is the primary focus of the exhibits, the museum does well to put the man in the context of his times. This is done not only by retelling the familiar narrative of his baseball career but also by bringing to the public eye his military service, his post-baseball days, his activism and politics beyond the diamond, the home life he led for many years at 123 Cascade Road in Stamford, Connecticut, and the legacy that continues to be fostered to this day by his surviving widow, Rachel Robinson.

Various artifacts – some are properly labeled as replicas – make for intriguing browsing, including Robinson's first contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers as well as the World Series ring he earned in 1955. The exhibits don't shy away from the brutality that he and other African Americans endured as the country struggled through the age of integration in the mid-century United States. On the lighter side, I found the three-dimensional scale model of Ebbets Field a remarkable showpiece, and the various game jerseys on display have long been a favorite attraction for me regardless of the player or venue.

Because the facility is mere weeks old, it absolutely gleams when the early winter sunshine streams through the southerly windows at 75 Varick Street next to the Holland Tunnel entrance. A trip to the museum does take a bit of planning – it's a tad over three miles from Grand Central Terminal – yet this is an easily accomplished activity for a day trip to the city, especially with the convenience of CT Rail and Metro-North being accessible in key areas of our state.

A favorite expression of mine is this: Not all historians are baseball fans, but every baseball fan is an historian, at least to some degree. That said, visiting the Jackie Robinson Museum, in light of the manner in which it presents the story of this iconic figure in sports and civil rights, should be on the to-do list of any follower of the national pastime.



BASEBALL CONJECTURES & SPECULATIONS

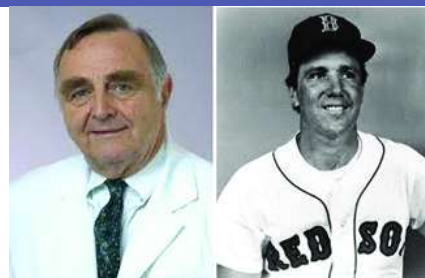
By: Ezra Count

1. If the following World Series had been played 10 times, how many times would each team have won? (Actual Results Games W - L in parentheses)
 - a) 1954 Cleveland Indians vs. New York Giants (NY 4, Cleve. 0)
 - b) 1962 New York Yankees vs. San Francisco Giants (NY 4, SF 3)
 - c) 1969 Baltimore Orioles vs. New York Mets (NY 4, Balt. 1)
 - d) 1972 Oakland A's vs. Cincinnati Reds (Oak. 4, Cin. 3)
 - e) 1990 Oakland A's vs. Cincinnati Reds (Cin. 4, Oak. 0)
2. How many Hall of Fame pitchers had unorthodox pitching motions? How many Hall of Famers elected for their hitting had unorthodox batting stances?
3. Baseball could never be a major sport in Europe. True or False?
4. In the World Series contests between the New York Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers, what advantages did the various Dodger teams have?
5. True, False, or Partly True: Testing proposed major league rule changes in the minors has worked well.
6. How many major league baseball games are tense or exciting in the late innings?
7. If the Boston Red Sox had kept Babe Ruth, how would it have changed the World Series outcomes in the generation that followed?
8. What is the most common regret retired major league players have? What do retired minor league players who did not make it permanently to the majors regret most often?

PAPPAS (continued from Page 3)

Barrett had signed a 2-year contract extension with a 40% salary increase shortly before the injury.^{xii} But Barrett's career soon ended after playing sparingly for the Red Sox in 1990 and Padres in 1991.

Barrett sued Pappas for \$15 million in May, 1992 for "carelessly, improperly, unskillfully and negligently treating" a knee injury "such that his major league baseball career was prematurely ended."^{xiii} Barrett's lawyer argued that Pappas' diagnosis was driven by the fact that Pappas, as part owner, shared in the profits of the ball club. Under cross examination, Pappas admitted he had no written records to support his claim that he informed Barrett that his ACL was torn. He also said he had no specific memory of such a conversation.



Red Sox Manager Joe Morgan further implicated Pappas when he told the court that the Doctor in July, 1989 said Barrett would not have a long career due to the condition of his knee.

Pappas maintained his position as Team Physician (a.k.a., Medical Director) from 1978 to 2002.

Pappas' ownership stake turned a large profit. In 1977, he purchased two shares in the team for \$1 million. In 2002, he sold them for \$26 million to the John Henry ownership group.^{xiv} Pappas' resignation as Medical Director became public knowledge in September, 2002. He was praised by Yastrzemski, Clemens, Eckersley, Lonborg, and Marty Barrett, among others. Despite the damage he did to Barrett, the player called Pappas a great man.^{xv}

Pappas held many significant positions in the medical community and was honored as a philanthropist and community servant. His expertise was frequently requested by the other MLB teams.

Dr. Arthur Pappas died on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at UMass Medical Center in Auburn. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery, also in Auburn.^{xvi}

["Pappas" continued on Page 11](#)

NEGRO LEAGUES (continued from page 4)

were back on the bus. The teams played a doubleheader at Sportsman's Park on June 13 and were back in Birmingham two days later. Such was life in the Negro Leagues.

Mays's next home run came on June 19 at Birmingham's Rickwood Field in the first game of a doubleheader against the Indianapolis Clowns. He went 2-for-5 with a double in addition to the homer in a 12-5 first game win. In the second game, a 10-8 loss, he was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a stolen base.⁹

A long road trip in late June took the Black Barons to Kansas City to play the Kansas City Monarchs. The teams took the show on the road for three stops in Nebraska.

Back at Rickwood on July 10, Mays had one of his best games with the Black Barons. He had five hits, including a double and the game winning RBI as Birmingham defeated the Philadelphia Stars, 13-12.¹⁰ On July 27, he put on another show for the home folks with four hits, including a triple. His fourth hit, a game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the ninth, broke a 5-5 tie.¹¹

On August 24 at Montgomery, Alabama, the quintessential five-tool player showed off his arm in spectacular fashion. The game was a marathon affair lasting 15 innings. In the seventh inning, Mays snuffed out a Kansas City rally throwing a line-drive from the 387 ft. sign in left center to third base to nail an advancing runner. Birmingham won the contest 3-2.¹² Mays hit his final home run of the season on September 23 as the Black Barons defeated the Buckeyes, 7-1 at Rickwood Field. He also doubled in the game.¹³

By the time he had hit his final homer of the 1949 season, Mays had gotten attention with a feature article in a predominant Black publication. An August 27 article by Russ Cowans in the *Chicago Defender* acquainted his readers with Mays, who was "coming up like a prairie fire."¹⁴

Willie Mays remained with Birmingham until he was acquired by the Giants organization on June 21, 1950. After less than a year in the minor leagues, he joined the Giants in May 1951 and, on May 28, 1951, on the eve of the second anniversary of his first homer at the Polo Grounds, he hit the first of his 660 National League homers.

The Boomer-generation fans who recall the pitching exploits of "Sudden Sam" McDowell will do well to add his thoughtful autobiography to their reading list, and even those not inclined to follow the national pastime can use this book as a tale of inspiration to help themselves or others afflicted with addiction.

Notes:

1. "Carl (sic) Mays Regains NAL Batting Lead with .413," *Chicago Defender*, June 18, 1949: 16.
2. "Buckeyes Break 5-Game Loss Streak," *Louisville Courier Journal*, May 12, 1949: 11.
3. "Black Barons Edge Chicago, 4-3" *Birmingham News*, May 12, 1949: 48.
4. "Black Barons Win Two, Play Wednesday," *Birmingham News*, May 23, 1949: 14.
5. "Black Barons Win Benefit Tussle, 6 to 3," *Birmingham News*, May 26, 1949: 49.
6. "Barons Blank Buckeyes 7-0," *Louisville Courier Journal*, May 28, 1949: Sports, 5.
7. "League-Leading Cubans Split 2 as Scantlebury Strike Out 10," *New York Age*, June 4, 1949: 33.
8. "Bushwicks Drop Arc Light Opener," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, June 2, 1949: 21.
9. "Black Barons Split Pair with Clowns," *Birmingham News*, June 21, 1949: 21.
10. "Mays' Single Gives Black Barons Win," *Birmingham News*, July 11, 1949: 18.
11. "Black Barons Nip Memphis Red Sox," *Birmingham News*, July 28, 1949: 42.
12. Charles Littlejohn, "Black Barons Nip Kansas City, 3-2," *Montgomery Advertiser*, August 25, 1949: 16.
13. "Black Barons Defeat Buckeyes Easily, 7-1," *Birmingham News*, September 24, 1949: 9.
14. Russ J. Cowans, "Move Over, You Vets, Willie Mays is Coming Up Like a Prairie Fire," *Chicago Defender*, August 27, 1949: 14.

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

SABR Games Project

The SABR Baseball Games Project is a new initiative to research and write articles on major-league and Negro League regular, postseason and All-Star Games. These game accounts will complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores as well as BioProject essays on the players involved. All games, regardless of their historical significance, are eligible to be written up.

Web-site: sabr.org/gamesproject

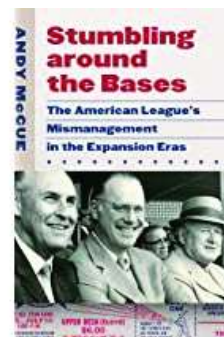
Things you should know: sabr.org/content/sabr-games-project

Request an assignment: Bruce Slutsky at bruce@bruceslutsky.com

BOOK REVIEW: STUMBLING AROUND THE BASES

By: Paul Hensler

There is a new variation of the old adage that tells us not to judge a book by its cover, notably don't judge a book by its thickness. In his latest opus, *Stumbling Around the Bases*, SABR maven Andy McCue has delivered a tightly-knit, engaging narrative that tells in fascinating detail the state of major league baseball's business in the mid-twentieth century. The implications of franchise movements and the creation of expansion teams in both the American and National Leagues are far more complicated than meets the eye, and McCue has deftly undertaken the task of methodically guiding the reader through the various phases of the many transactions that charted a new course in the national pastime's modernization.



The book begins with a quick burst of three short chapters that describe the provenance of the Junior Circuit and the circumstances of how it allowed itself to fall behind developmentally and in an operational sense vis-à-vis the National League. A major turning point, of course, was the Brooklyn Dodgers' signing of Jackie Robinson, a measure countered by the Indians' Bill Veeck, the maverick owner bold enough to recognize the value of African-American talent and bring it into his team's fold. But while other National League clubs moved apace to integrate their rosters with pathbreaking and gifted players from the Negro Leagues and amateur ranks, most of the AL teams limped along at a glacial pace and falsely relied on Yankee dominance as the barometer for perceived superiority over the NL. The bill for this ignorance, in the form of All-Star Game and World Series losses, would come due post haste.

Because McCue takes the time to dissect the leadership of the commissioner's office, the executives of both leagues, and the front offices of individual clubs, the tics and foibles that drove the decision-making process at these various levels contribute to the scholarship of how the entire enterprise functioned, for better and for worse. Revealed along the way yet seeming to be hiding in plain sight is the overall volatility of a sizeable number of franchises among the original sixteen pre-expansion teams. By the middle of the 1950s, the Boston Braves, Philadelphia Athletics, and St. Louis Browns had relocated as a precursor to the 1957 uprooting of the Dodgers and Giants from Brooklyn and upper Manhattan, respectively.

As the calendar swiftly moved into the 1960s, more dynamics shook the game as Candlestick Park and Dodger Stadium opened for business, while the AL and NL, operating in parallel universes, undertook initiatives to expand to ten teams each. "The two leagues approached expansion with differing goals... Each wanted the best markets they could get and the strongest ownership groups. In that competition, the National League had clearly outpaced the American," writes McCue (39). The maneuverings were complicated by the *de rigueur* retention of a team in the nation's capital so as to placate Congress and keep intact baseball's sacred antitrust exemption.

Despite the appearance of the word "expansion" in the book's subtitle, an addition of the phrase "franchise movement" may have been worthy even at the risk of a bit of clumsiness. In the world of major league baseball, especially beginning in the mid-1950s, there can be little doubt about how inextricably woven the two were in the business of the national pastime. By the time of the first round of expansion early in the next decade, it wasn't long before the Braves were again on the move, headed south to Atlanta, and likewise with the Athletics when they relocated to Oakland. Knowing his history, the author reminds us that "an attorney named Bowie Kuhn" was the legal representative for the NL when the Braves were pried loose from the shores of Lake Michigan (79). Another name of local relevance is that of one Joe Buzas, "a minor league owner partnering with Ted Williams," who was among potential owners trying to keep the Athletics in Kansas City (84). Buzas was the longtime owner of the Boston Red Sox minor-league Double-A team that spent many years in Connecticut.

McCue writes, "American League leadership, mesmerized by the idea of another West Coast franchise, managed to ignore the signals" of a research study that cautioned against going into a situation like that of what would become the Seattle Pilots, and these stories of woe add to the dubious legacy of how not to run a business (90). And it's not only expansion and franchise movements to which he directs our attention: "The Yankees, and the [American] league as a whole, were the beneficiaries of the [New York City's] fiscal recklessness" in rebuilding the original Yankee Stadium, and by touching on this branch of economics, we gain a better understanding of how one well-entrenched team was able to game the system (135). Also, Lee MacPhail is portrayed in the last chapter as the steadying influence that guided the American League through some otherwise unstable periods.

The author's diverse range of source material includes the papers of Bowie Kuhn, found at the A. Bartlett Giamatti Research Center in Cooperstown, but those looking for specifics will be disappointed to learn that the series and folder references are not included in the endnotes. Even those familiar with this special collection will be challenged to ferret out the specifics of these sources, but this is a minor quibble. *Stumbling Around the Bases* is a concise tour de force of the shape-shifting events of baseball business in a crucial period of its transition and growth.

QUOTABLE BASEBALL

By: Jim Mizera

An Opener is not like any other game. There's that little extra excitement, a faster beating of the heart. ... You know that when you win the first one, you can't lose 'em all. - Early Wynn

There are opening day pitchers, and pitchers who start on opening day.
- Roger Craig

I remember I was a scared rookie, hitting .220 after the first three months of my baseball season, and doubting my ability.
- Carl Yastrzemski

I never had a job. I just always played baseball. - Satchel Paige

Baseball is more than a game. It's like life played out on a field.
- Juliana Hatfield, musician, singer-songwriter

It's time for Dodger baseball! - Vin Scully



PAPPAS (continued from Page 8)

Notes:

- i. 1940 Census
- ii. Kathleen Mahoney, Alumni Dir., URM, via email, Oct. 11, 2022.
- iii. Will McDonough, "Given silent treatment, Cox has his say", *Boston Globe*, March 31, 2002, p D2.
- iv. Spotlight, "Financiers of the Red Sox Deal", *Boston Globe*, Oct. 30, 1977, p 1 and 10.
- v. (no byline), "Group Wants Probe of Pappas' Agency", Nov. 1, 1977, *Boston Globe*, p 11
- vi. Will McDonough, "Sox concessionaires largest investors of limited partners", *Boston Globe*, Nov. 7, 1977, p 25
- vii. In Brief, Owners approve Sox sale", *Boston Globe*, May 24, 1978, p43.
- viii. Leigh Montville, "Sox support local Doctor", *Boston Globe*, Feb. 28, 1978, p 25
- ix. "This writer left his mark on baseball", *Boston Globe*, Aug. 1, 1978, p XX
- x. <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1989/06/04/Barrett-injures-right-knee/2234612936000/>
- xi. Mark McCluskey, "Bitter medicine eager", *Sports Illustrated*, Nov. 6, 1995
- xii. Staff, "Barrett Signs Contract Extension", *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram*, May 30, 1989, p 14
- xiii. Nick Carfado, "Barrett's suit filed", *Boston Globe*, June 3, 1992, p 77.
- xiv. Will McDonough, "Given silent treatment, Cox has his say", *Boston Globe*, March 31, 2002, p D2.
- xv. Gordon Edes, "A winter to wonder", *Boston Globe*, Sept. 17, 2002, p F3
- xvi. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/152960240:60525>

THE WOOD PILE

Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter
of the Society for American Baseball Research

