

THE PEE WEE



REESE REPORT

Newsletter of the Louisville Chapter of

the Society for American Baseball Research

Louisville SABR Day a Big Hit!

By Tad Myre

The Pee Wee Reese Chapter held its annual SABR Day on Saturday morning, January 28. A good crowd assembled at the Louisville Slugger Museum to hear an excellent succession of presenters kicked off by our keynote speaker Doug Feldmann, who visited us from NKU, where he is a Professor in the College of Education and Human Services. Dr. Feldmann has written thirteen books, many about baseball, most recently his first (baseball) novel. Dispensing with the podium and mic, Doug strolled before the audience and spoke in his easy style, discussing his craft, his background, and some of the interesting characters he's met along the way. He and his wife Angie stayed around afterward and gabbed with folks, while he autographed his new book and several of his other ones.



Doug Feldmann discusses how Whitey Herzog built the St. Louis Cardinals into contenders.

Doug was followed by Nick Curran, the nonpareil Louisville Bats radio announcer. If you've heard Nick broadcasting games, you know that he has an easygoing style that he packs with information current and past and bolsters with his deep knowledge of the game. From that smooth delivery, you wouldn't be able to tell that he has a variety of other jobs with the Bats, including (no small task) getting the team ready for road trips. The constant turnover last season added to his normal homework load. Not surprisingly, Nick was a great speaker, with felicitous injections of humor, and he was quite the hit. He stuck around for a bit but had to leave early to catch a flight to Syracuse in order to broadcast the University of Louisville Women's Basketball team's game that evening.

Next up was Mark Smith, father of the Dodgers' starting catcher and Louisville native Will Smith. Mark coached his son at St. Mathews Little League as Will was coming up through the ranks, and also had the pleasure of watching him rise up through the high school ranks (at Kentucky Country Day) and then at the University of Louisville. He spoke of his own paternal experiences as Will played in the

minors and then came on strong as a rookie with the organization (and continues to rack up impressive stats with L.A.). After his speech, Mark fielded a number of questions from an interested crowd.

Our friend Gary Cieradkowski was next up. Gary walked us through an excellent slide show depicting his latest works and projects and also brought along a handful of his excellent Felton Snow cards (if anyone out there hasn't received one and wants one, let us know). Gary designed the graphics for this newsletter and has produced some wonderful and inventive baseball books, including the *League of Outsider Baseball*. For his support of the Chapter, we honored him with a personalized Louisville Slugger. Doug Feldmann also received one.

SABR member Kelly Park came all the way from Western Kentucky to discuss his two books: *Just Like Me: When the Pros Played on the Sandlot*, and his new follow-up book, *Just Like Me Volume 2*. In both books Kelly recounts stories from professional players



Members of the Pee Wee Reese Chapter absorbed in a presentation.

about their days of playing youth baseball. He shared great stories about meeting Boog Powell, Lou Piniella, Luis Tiant, and several other players spanning the baseball world, from the Major Leagues to the Negro Leagues and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Finally, Chris Betsch took us through the story of Cuban ownership and integration with the Louisville Colonels in the 1950s. Chris put together a nice PowerPoint presentation, and we're hoping to make all of the SABR day presentations available to the membership.

We finished up with Jack Sullivan's trivia contest, which he could not personally administer because he was somewhere in Africa at the time. He did leave us a nice video saying hi to the gang and introducing his test of torture.

We went for over three hours without a break, and afterwards folks stayed around a talked baseball. A good time was had by all. ■



Check out our Facebook page!
Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter Group

Mary Hums Introduces Us to Her Management of Professional Baseball Course at the University of Louisville

I am a Sport Administration professor at the University of Louisville and have been a big baseball person all my life. As part of my teaching load, I have the opportunity to teach a class called Management of Professional Baseball. It is an elective course for our Sport Administration students and I offer it every other Spring. I used to teach it in-person but now it is offered online in asynchronous fashion, which means there are no set meeting times. I post the required coursework and the students work at their own pace. They have quizzes and papers – you know – the usual stuff.

What do we cover? Here is a list of topics, which as you can see are quite wide-ranging and serve to inform the students about a wide variety of topics relative to the baseball industry:

- History of professional baseball
- Governance structures of professional baseball
- Labor/management conflicts
- Race and baseball
- Women in baseball
- International baseball
- Youth baseball
- Careers in professional baseball
- General business aspects of the sport

But the highlight of the class is what I call our class cast – “From the Diamond to the Desk.” Throughout the semester, I invite people who

work in various aspects of the baseball industry and we record Zoom interviews about their lives working in baseball. I have had the opportunity to interview some amazing guests! Here is a partial list of some of our favorites over the years I taught the course:

- Billy Bean, *MLB Executive VP*
- Jessica Mendoza, *ESPN*
- Doug Glanville, *ESPN*
- Chris Antonetti, *Cleveland Indians*
- Ben Cherington, *Pittsburgh Pirates*
- Dave Bush, *Red Sox Pitching Coach*
- Mike Voltmer, *Dodgers Analytics Specialist*
- Greg Gaiette, *Louisville Bats*
- Dr. Maki Itoh, *Japanese baseball expert*
- Todd Michaelson, *Baltimore Orioles Ticket Sales*
- Alec Marovitz, *Schaumburg Boomers*
- Aaron Izaryk, *New England Baseball League*

There are too many more to list here, but this gives you an idea. These are great fun, and the students really enjoy them. (I know they enjoy my lectures, too, but I will gladly play “second-fiddle” to guests like these!)



Mary Hums

I am currently sending invites for this Spring semester and we will see who all will appear on the class cast this time.

You can probably tell how much I love teaching this class! If you want to learn more about it, you can contact me at mary.hums@louisville.edu. As I write this, there are 37 days until Spring Training. By the time you read this, we will all be ready to hear “Play Ball!”

LOUISVILLE BASEBALL BIO



Homer “Dixie” Howell

By Rob Gividen

Homer Howell was born on April 24, 1920, in Louisville to Homer and Leona Howell. “Dixie” graduated from Male High School in 1937 and is a member of the high school’s Hall of Fame. In 1938 he started his professional career in Thomasville, GA, as a catcher in the Georgia-Florida League.

He made it to the International League with Baltimore in 1940 and 1941. In 1942-43 he was playing for Montreal. During 1944-45 he served in the US Army in the European Theater of Operations and missed those two baseball seasons.

He played with Jackie Robinson on the 1946 Montreal Royals which won 100 games and won the 1946 Junior World Series (the championship between the International League and the American Association). According to Robinson biographer Arnold Rampersad, Howell was one of two southern-born Montreal players who personally wished Robinson well on his promotion to the Dodgers.

In 1947 he became a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates, where he hit .276 in 76 games. On January 15, 1948, the Pirates sent Dixie Howell to San Francisco (still in the Pacific Coast League) to complete

an earlier deal made on September 20, 1947. On November 10, 1948, he was selected by the Cincinnati Reds from San Francisco in the Rule 5 major league draft.

He was one of the two Dixie Howells to play in the major leagues at the same time, while a third Dixie Howell was also playing in the minor leagues. Homer “Dixie” Howell and Millard “Dixie” Howell, a pitcher, both played for the 1949 Reds. Both were born in Kentucky in 1920, just months apart. On May 1, 1949, the Reds battery was Homer “Dixie” Howell catching and Millard “Dixie” Howell pitching. Homer was traded by the Cincinnati Reds with cash to the Brooklyn Dodgers in exchange for Clyde King on October 10, 1952. From 1953-1956 he was a Brooklyn Dodger and was on the 1955 Dodgers Championship team but never participated in any of the World Series games.

He batted .246 in eight major league seasons. After his playing days, he worked as a scout for the Milwaukee Braves. He was also vice president of Pee Wee Reese Associates, a local insurance firm headed by Hall of Famer Pee Wee Reese. He passed away on October 5, 1990, and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.



When The Bustin' Babes and Larrupin' Lou's Came to Louisville

By Chris Betsch

Years ago, it was common for baseball players to make extra money by taking part in exhibition games and “barnstorming” tours throughout the year. If teams had a day off on their schedule, they might find a minor league team or other local team to set up a game with. Then when the regular season ended players might travel all around the country to play in offseason tournaments and about any kind of baseball game that was available, especially if the game would be played in a warmer climate. Many players grouped together and formed self-titled “All-Star” teams that traveled from city to city playing exhibition games. Those all-star games drew in large crowds of excited fans that otherwise never got to set eyes on the major league baseball players they read about. But when your name was Lou Gehrig, or especially Babe Ruth, you didn’t need to put together a team of major leaguers to draw attention. The famous duo could go to about any city or town in America and pick up any local group of players to fill out a team, and the fans would still show up at the ballpark in droves. That’s what happened when the “Bustin’ Babes” took on the “Larrupin’ Lou’s” in Louisville in October 1928.

Ruth and Gehrig had completed a popular post-season barnstorming tour of the country in the fall of 1927. Ruth’s business manager, Christy Walsh, looked to repeat the success of the 1927 tour and set up another series for 1928. The 1928 season ended on October 9th, as New York completed a 4-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. The Yankees hardly had a chance to celebrate before Ruth and Gehrig headed across town to Brooklyn to start their exhibition tour on October 12th. Just a few years earlier, Ruth and Gehrig’s tour would not have been allowed due to rules prohibiting players from barnstorming if they played for a team that appeared in that year’s World Series. Ruth was famously suspended for part of the 1922 season, along with teammates Bob Meusel and Bill Piercy, for barnstorming immediately following the Yankees’ loss in the 1921 World Series. The backlash from fans and baseball writers over Ruth’s suspension was a factor in getting the rule overturned the following July.

The 1928 tour went from New York up to Canada before returning stateside and heading toward the Midwest. On October 23rd, after playing a game in Columbus, Ohio, the Bambino and Iron Horse departed by train for their next stop in Louisville. They arrived in the early hours of Oct 24th, with the game scheduled for 2 o’clock that afternoon. After being allowed to sleep in, the pair had a full day scheduled ahead of them. They toured Male, Manual, and St. Xavier High Schools in the morning, then were guests at a luncheon at the Louisville Kiwanis Club before they made their way to Parkway Field, the home of the Louisville Colonels.

The appearance of the two Yankees had been procured by the *Courier-Journal* and *Louisville Times* newspaper. Proceeds from the game would go towards the Red Cross Storm Relief Fund in support of victims of the Okeechobee Hurricane, one of the deadliest storms in Florida history. Ticket prices for the game ranged from \$0.50 for the bleachers to

\$1.25 for box seats. The Louisville school board announced that children could be excused from school that day to go to the game, if parents signed a permission slip, of course. Two local umpires volunteered to call the game, and the two teams from the Louisville city amateur championship were rewarded with an opportunity to play in the game: The champion Epps Kola team would play alongside Ruth, and Gehrig sided with the runner-up Beck’s Lunch team.

It was a bit of a chilly day, with temperatures in the 50s, but 3,270 fans showed up at the ballpark to see the two national icons in person. Ruth had appeared in Louisville before in exhibition games in 1921 and 1924 (the second visit was a condition of the Louisville Colonels selling Earle Combs to the Yankees), but this was the first time the two ever appeared together in the city. Both players appeared in uniforms that were custom-made for the tour. Ruth wore a black uniform that displayed “Bustin Babes” on it in white lettering, and his hat was white with a black brim and featured a “BB” on it. Gehrig’s uniform was a greyscale opposite. His white uniform advertised “Larrupin’ Lou’s”, and his white hat with black brim included “LL” (the amateur teams played in their regular uniforms). Before the game started, the two stars put on a batting practice show for the crowd, and kids scrambled to gather up baseballs that Ruth and Gehrig gladly signed before and after the game and between innings.

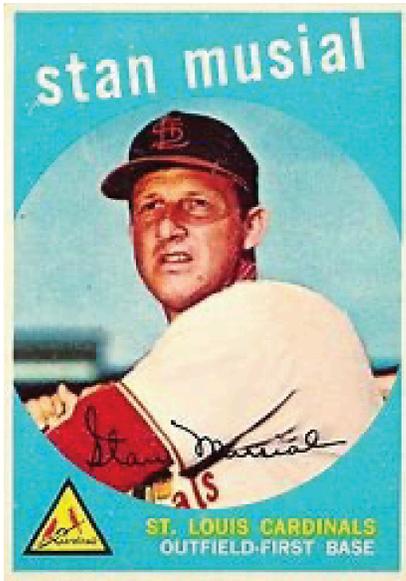
The fans that came to the game did not leave disappointed. Both Ruth and Gehrig started off the game playing first base and batting third in the lineup. Ruth had 5 hits in 6 at-bats with a double and two home runs, one of which was of the inside-the-park variety on a long drive to left-center field. Gehrig only had 2 hits in 7 appearances, but one of those hits was a grand slam. To the delight of the crowds, both players took the mound after the sixth inning. Ruth had three strikeouts but gave up three hits and hit a batter named Koeltz, which was probably the thrill of his lifetime. Gehrig may have been a bit more out of practice as a pitcher. He had one strikeout but gave up eight hits and had two wild pitches (the newspaper account did not record how many hits he allowed to Ruth).

As the ninth inning approached the Babes and Lou’s were tied at twelve runs apiece. Nine dozen baseballs had been brought for the game, and almost all of them had made their way into the hands of spectators, but there were just enough to get through the game. Ruth came up and hit a single off Gehrig in the ninth to drive in what would be the winning run. In the bottom half of the frame the lineup got switched up so that Lou might have one more chance to get an at-bat (it was an exhibition after all) but thinking he was already done, Gehrig had stepped away and could not be found in the dugout. The Beck’s Lunch players failed to score, and Ruth was credited with the 13-12 victory, Gehrig took the loss.

The pair concluded the day by speaking at Democratic party events in support of presidential nominee Al Smith. They spoke first at the Jefferson Country Armory, followed by another speaking engagement at the Seelbach Hotel. There was one last moment of excitement on the trip when Ruth went to sit down after speaking at the Armory and his chair collapsed underneath him. He escaped harm, and the tour moved on next to Milwaukee. Ruth and Gehrig would appear in Louisville again in 1932 when the Yankees took on the Colonels in an exhibition game. ■



Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig are pictured with the Louisville Epps Kola amateur championship baseball team at Parkway Field. For this game the team would play as the Bustin' Babes.



My Favorite Baseball Story

By Ken Draut

In the 1980s I came across this story in a book but recently found it again on the MLB website. I think you'll enjoy it.

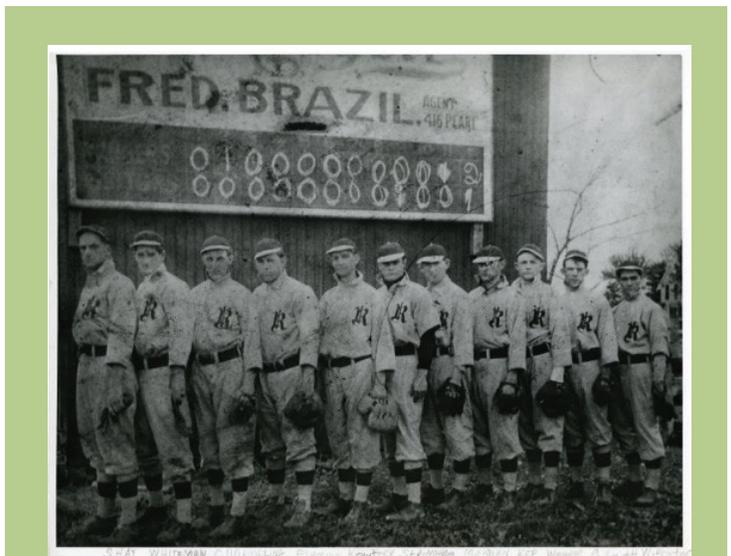
Tuesday, June 30, 1959, Cubs vs Cards at Wrigley Field. Ernie Banks on one side and Stan Musial on the other side.

It was the fourth inning when chaos broke out with the Cards leading 2-1. Stan Musial had worked the count to 3-1 on pitcher Bob Anderson. The next pitch sailed tight and high just missing Musial's bat and rolling away on the ground. Musial takes off for 1st, but Cubs catcher Sammy Taylor argues with the umpire that the ball nicked the bat and should be ruled a foul.

The pitcher joined the argument and Musial, realizing no time had been called, takes off for 2nd base. During the melee at home, Vic Delmore, the ump, had handed the pitcher a new ball even though the live ball was sitting on the ground. The third baseman, Al Dark, realizes the play is still live so he runs in and picks up the original baseball. Both the pitcher and the third baseman saw Musial running to second and BOTH balls were thrown to 2nd base. Anderson's throw was too high and sailed into centerfield. Dark's ball went to Ernie Banks. When Musial saw a ball go into center field, he decided to try to take 3rd base. Ernie Banks tagged him out with the original ball.

Apparently, the best sight of the play was watching Stan Musial walking around asking what the heck just happened. The umps ruled Musial out, but the Cards won 4-1, and this little piece of mixed-up, two-ball baseball faded away into history.

Reference: There are several retellings of this story. This is a recap of Eric Chesterton's article for the MLB website in May 2020 (try to Google "When Two Balls were in Play at the same time".) ■



Sherman "Shay" Minton is identified as the first player on the left. The photo was likely taken at Ranger Park in New Albany, IN. (Photo Credit - The Floyd County, IN, Library)

Sherman Minton Was Also a Baseball Player, Not Just a Bridge Over the Ohio River

Sherman Minton (1890-1965) was a U.S. Senator from Indiana and then an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to embarking on a political career, Minton played baseball in Indiana. He played at New Albany High School then manned centerfield at Indiana University, where he also played on the football team. Minton, who was commonly called Shay, also suited up for a New Albany semi-pro team, the Rangers. In the picture above, taken in either 1909 or 1910, he is identified as the first player on the left. He remained an ardent baseball fan for years, and even threw out the first ball of opening day for the Negro National League's Washington Elite Giants in both 1936 and 1937. Residents of Southern Indiana know Minton's name all too well due to the bridge over the Ohio River that is named for him (and is in the middle of a seemingly unending construction project).



UPCOMING BASEBALL EVENTS

- FEB. 17** → NCAA Baseball Season begins
- FEB. 24** → MLB Spring Training begins
- MARCH 30** → MLB Opening Day
- MARCH 31** → Louisville Bats season opener
- APRIL 4** → Louisville Bats home opener
- APRIL 15** → MLB Jackie Robinson Day
- APRIL 28** → Lexington Legends home opener

Happy Evans: Invaluable Spare Part on One of The Game's Greatest Teams

By Gary Cieradkowski

With good reason, the 1931 Homestead Grays are usually ranked among the greatest baseball teams ever assembled. Like the other teams that make the top tier, such as the 1927 Yankees, 1953 Dodgers, and 1975 Reds, the '31 Grays boasted a handful of future Hall of Famers: six to be exact. Three of them, Cyclone Joe Williams, Willie Foster, and Satchel Paige, were pitchers (though Paige only pitched one game for the team). The other Hall of Famers were catcher Josh Gibson, first baseman Oscar Charleston, and third baseman Jud Wilson. Additionally, three more players on the team have received major traction in Hall of Fame consideration as well: outfielder Vic Harris, catcher Ted Radcliffe, and second baseman George Scales. And while he wasn't a tremendous hitter, outfielder Ted Page was widely regarded as the best defensive outfielder outside the major leagues. To state it plainly, the 1931 Grays had an all-star or Hall of Famer at six of their eight starting positions.

Anyone who has studied the Negro leagues knows that due to economic and travel constraints, teams were kept small, generally around sixteen players. A typical roster would be eight position players, one extra catcher and four or five pitchers, most of whom could play another position when needed. This left just two or three spots for utility players. And because they had to sub for eight different positions, utility players filled a crucial role on a team.

When it came to the 1931 Grays, one of the greatest ballclubs ever assembled in the history of the game, who did their owner/manager Cum Posey choose to send in when one of his all-stars or Hall of Famers was injured?

Bill "Happy" Evans, that's who.

Happy Evans was a 32-year-old with almost a decade of experience playing infield and outfield for some of the better Blackball teams in the country. His all-around athletic ability and good disposition made him the perfect replacement player.

William Demont Evans II was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1899. His parents split when he was boy, and he grew up with his mother in his grandmother's house on East Caldwell Street in Louisville's 5th Ward.

He played baseball on the city's sandlots and football in school. Alternately nicknamed "Skinny" for his lean frame and the "Gray Ghost" for his speed and light complexion, Evans set records in passing and rushing in high school. Through his father's connections, Evans joined the Louisville White Sox as a teenager. The White Sox were a black-owned team in the short-lived Western Independent Clubs league. Besides playing against other Black teams, the White Sox took on many local White semi-pro clubs,

giving Evans valuable experience in inter-racial play. In fact, in John Holway's book, *Black Giants*, Evans describes working out with the Louisville Colonels of the White American Association. He also got to play against Negro League legend Oscar Charleston, then a young star with the Indianapolis ABCs. The two formed a friendship that would pay dividends for Evans in the coming years.

In 1917, Evans enrolled in Livingstone College, an historically black Christian college in Salisbury, North Carolina. He played college ball for two years before leaving to play ball for pay in Atlantic City. The Jersey Shore had a vibrant summer baseball league made up of the Black workers at the local resorts. Professional Negro League teams used these summer leagues as a reservoir from which to draw fresh, young talent.

In short order, Evans was recruited by Gilkerson's Union Giants. Run by former Negro League infielder Robert Gilkerson, the Union Giants toured throughout the northern Midwest states playing town teams and other traveling ballclubs. During the early 1920s, Evans played against and befriended several of the banished Chicago White Sox players who threw the 1919 World Series. In Holway's book, Evans relates how he learned his drag bunting skills from Buck Weaver and Happy Felsch during this period.

Evans' reputation got around, and in 1924 he was traded to the Chicago American Giants. Run by owner/manager Rube Foster, the American Giants were among the most successful franchises in Blackball. The team had won the first three Negro National League pennants from 1920 to 1922 and, at one time or another, fielded the game's greatest stars. However, Evans' time with the American Giants was short. As he told John Holway, "But I found out Chicago wasn't the place for me. I wasn't used to drinking, and when they paid me off the first time, I got drunk. Next time I got paid, I did the same thing. So, I caught the train that night and went back to Gilkerson."

Meanwhile, Oscar Charleston had left the Indianapolis ABCs and recommended his old acquaintance, Bill Evans, as his replacement.

This began the prime of Evans career. He played for Indy in 1926, moved to the Cleveland Hornets and then the Brooklyn Royal Giants. When Charleston joined the Homestead Grays in 1930, he recommended team owner Cum Posey bring in Bill Evans.

By this time, Evans had made a name for himself with both his clutch hitting and strong, accurate throwing arm. Opposing teams found that when there was a man in scoring position, the last guy you wanted to see at the plate was Evans. His ability to put the ball in play, whether through a drag bunt, grounder behind the runner, or a fly ball sacrifice, made Bill Evans just the kind of player you want coming off your bench in a tight spot. Cum Posey, whose Grays teams had fielded future Hall of Famers such as Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, Buck Leonard and Cool Papa Bell, said that he would rather see Bill Evans at bat with a man on third than anybody he'd ever seen.

Perhaps even more valuable was Evans' throwing arm. Strong



Louisville native Bill Evans was the utility man on what is often called the greatest team in Negro Leagues history

and freakishly accurate, Ted Page said that from the outfield Evans could hit a pack of cigarettes on home plate on one bounce. When playing shortstop or second base, Evans' rifle accuracy turned the infield into a double play nightmare for opposing teams.

Grays owner/manager Cum Posey thought so highly of Evans' utility work that he gave him his own "day" so the team and fans could show their appreciation for their utility specialist. To show off his versatility, Evans played all positions during the game. In later years, Posey was still so taken with Evans' throwing arm that when he picked an all-time all-star team in 1937, the Grays owner selected his old utility man as "Best Throwing Outfielder."

During the Grays famous 1931 season, Evans ably filled in for Charleston, Wilson, Harris, and any other position player except the catcher. With Evans working the swing shift, the Grays won an astonishing percentage of their games. Unfortunately, their actual record is bit hard to judge, since some scores have not yet been found and the level of competition ranged from small town and factory teams to mid-level white minor league clubs and professional Negro League teams. Phil S. Dixon's book on the 1931 Grays puts their overall results at 143-29-2 for an .828 winning average. Research by historian Scott Simkus puts the Grays as the top Black team in 1931 and, given the same advantages in resources as a white big league team, theoretically finishing in the first division of the American League.

As for Evans, Phil S. Dixon's book credits him with 125 hits including 18 doubles, 5 triples and a pair of home runs. Unfortunately, Dixon does not provide any further stats in his book. However, *Seamheads.com* which provides documented stats backed by box scores, shows Evans playing in 42 games with 37 hits in 142 at bats including 15 RBI and 4 doubles and 4 triples.

Like Gilkerson's, the Grays were an independent team that played most of their games away from their home field in Pittsburgh. This meant endless bus travel, where the hardships they encountered make their .828 winning percentage even more amazing. In a 1976 article in the *Omaha World-Herald*, Evans recalls one harrowing evening with the Grays when their bus got stuck in mud outside Grand Forks, North Dakota. The team had to arm themselves with their bats to protect themselves against marauding wolves. Later in the article, Evans remembered, "We always were pitted against the bus. It was the tires, the transmission, or the engine. When our engine wouldn't start one time, our owner got so mad he pulled out a gun and shot the bus in the radiator."

Evans left the Grays the next year after leading the East-West League in singles. He wound down his career playing with the Washington Pilots and Cincinnati Tigers before retiring in 1934. He returned to Louisville where he became a playground director for the city. He and his second wife Lillie Ragland eventually relocated to Los Angeles where they both worked in the households of Beverly Hills' elite. Lillie, who had attended college at Tennessee A&I before having to withdraw due to the Great Depression, eventually earned her realtor's license, becoming the first Black woman admitted to the Los Angeles Realty Board. Lillie operated a thriving business, and in 1971 became the first Black director of the Los Angeles Realty Board.

Bill "Happy" Evans passed away in 1976. Though he did not have a Hall of Fame career, his part in making the 1931 Homestead Grays one of the game's greatest teams cannot be understated. As a utility player, Evans filled a tough and crucial position unique to the Negro Leagues that was remembered by his fellow players and fans long after he passed. Perhaps the most direct tribute to Evans' ability comes from teammate Ted Page who told John Holway, "When you're picking the best all-round utility man, I always pick Martin Dihigo first. And then I come to Bill Evans." A contemporary of both Ted Page and Bill Evans, Hall of Famer Martin Dihigo is regarded by many historians and players as the greatest all-around ballplayer in the history of the game. For Page to mention Evans in the same breath as Dihigo is quite a compliment.

In a curious footnote to this story, the old utility player's legacy lives on in a way not shared by anyone else in baseball history. Though Happy Evans and Lillie had no children together, they enjoyed spending time with Lillie's niece, Doria Ragland. That name may seem familiar – Doria Ragland is the mother of Meghan Markle, now known as Meghan, Duchess of Sussex. In fact, Doria inherited the Evans' house in Los Angeles when Lillie passed away in 2004.

To quote Mel Allen, "How about that!"

Louisville Baseball on



The Louisville Colonels at Parkway Field, 1940

Rare footage of the Louisville Colonels. Harry Rothgerber of the Pee Wee Reese chapter helped to solve the mystery of the odd numbering on the Colonel jerseys, as detailed in this article from [WHAS: 80-year-old Louisville mystery solved thanks to newly found home movie film](#)



Here's how America's favorite pastime is steeped in Louisville

The Louisville Bats and Louisville Slugger were featured on Good Morning America last year in a segment detailing how Louisville is tied into baseball Americana.



Tad Myre being interviewed by Dawne Gee

Our very own Tad Myre and Louisville Bats President Greg Galiette appeared on Wave Country last year to discuss Felton Snow and the Louisville Bats "The Nine" initiative.

[▶ CLICK TO WATCH!](#)

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Have questions or comments, or want to contribute to a future newsletter? Email Chris Betsch at cbbetsch@gmail.com

Special thanks to Gary Cieradkowski of StudioGaryC.com for designing the graphics for The Pee Wee Reese Report

LOUISVILLE BATS
**SEASON
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