

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

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Upcoming Events



Keltner Fall Chapter Meeting
Saturday November 11 @ 11 AM
J&B's Bar & Grill



**Historic Hinchliffe Stadium
With Donna Muscarella**
Zoom, November 29 @ 7 PM CST
Register in advance [here](#).



Keltner Book Club
Author Lincoln A Mitchell
*The One Hundred Most Important
People in Baseball History*
Zoom Thursday, Dec 7 @ 7 PM CT
Register in advance [here](#).

Direct questions or comments to:
Dennis D. Degenhardt
bovine9@icloud.com
Cell: 262-339-9968

Welcome New Members Mike Millsap - Delafield

Upcoming Events

Keltner Fall Chapter Meeting
Saturday, November 11 @ 11 AM
[J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill](#)
5230 W Bluemound, Milwaukee

Special Guest – Willie Mueller
Former Milwaukee Brewer Reliever
Major League Antagonist Duke Simpson

Former Milwaukee Brewer reliever, West Bend 's Willie Mueller, will be our special guest to talk about his baseball career and a few post baseball things, too. What does he know about the movie *Major League*? And what has he been doing to support baseball in West Bend, a hotbed for the game.



Starring **WILLIE MUELLER** "THE DUKE" *Major League*

We will also talk about the new SABR publication on One-Win Wonders that will be hitting our emails before the end of the year.

Special Session of Talking Baseball

Let's talk about the Brewer season of hope that ended to soon and what does the team's future look like. Also, the post season, is the format working, surprises, and disappointments.

If you can't make the meeting and you have some thoughts about these and other baseball topics, send those to [Dennis](#) and we will include those in the discussion.

Plus, with weeks before the meeting...who knows. Stay tuned for possible additions.

Keltner Hot Corner Archives

You can now view or download past copies of the Keltner Hot Corner at: [Ken Keltner Badger State Newsletters](#)

Use of Links

Links in the *Keltner Hot Corner* are used to enhance the articles with the majority going to players SABR [BioProject](#) and [baseball-reference.com](#) as well as other related sites.

Who is Ken Keltner? See his SABR [Biography](#).

Hinchliffe Stadium with Donna Muscarella
Wednesday November 29, 2023
Virtual Meeting - 7 PM CST



Donna Muscarella is a fourth-generation baseball enthusiast, photographer, mixed-media artist, and baseball card collector. She attended her first professional baseball game at age 2½ but was enthralled by the Game even earlier. While Donna does not limit her photography to baseball, it is her most compelling subject. She has a passion for capturing its sights and shapes with her camera lens, using art to share her love of baseball with the world.

Hinchliffe Stadium, one of the few Negro Leagues ballparks still standing, is a repeat subject of Donna's artwork. In 2021, she released her debut custom trading card set, which combines her photography of Hinchliffe with facts about its Negro Leagues ties, and was featured in an article on *SABR's Baseball Card Research Committee*

Blog. Donna's Hinchliffe photography appeared on [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com) and in the third edition of *Turnstyle: The SABR Journal of Baseball Arts*, was recently requested by the YES Network and is slated for inclusion in the planned museum at Hinchliffe Stadium.

Donna was commissioned by the Staten Island FerryHawks of the Atlantic League to capture their 2022 inaugural season with her lens. A thirty-foot wall at their stadium is now filled with her imagery. Additionally, some of Donna's images of Kelsie Whitmore, the first woman to play in the Atlantic League, are part of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's photography collection.

Another of Donna's creative endeavors is mixed-media baseball artwork. She unites her love of photography and baseball cards with each new piece of artwork she creates. Every one-of-a-kind piece features an image captured by Donna, a hand-cut Allen & Ginter baseball card, soft pastels, and digital overlays. Moments in time are captured, transformed, and preserved, the creative alchemy of the process invigorating Donna.

Donna may be found on X, Instagram, and Threads using the handle @TheLensOfDonnaM. Some of her mixed-media artwork is visible in her online portfolio at [Behance.net/TheLensOfDonnaM](https://www.behance.net/TheLensOfDonnaM).

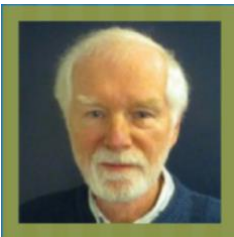
To learn more about historic Hinchliffe Stadium click [here](#). And to see the good work being done by the Friends of Hinchliffe, click [here](#).

To attend this interesting presentation on Hinchliffe, register [here](#).

Thank you, Mary Shea, for arranging this meeting.



Bob Buege – Eddie Mathews and the National Pastime
Joint Virtual Meeting with the Pee Wee Reese Chapter



Tad Myre and Ryan Schroer of the Pee Wee Reese Chapter in Louisville approached me about a meeting they were interested in doing with Bob Buege about his excellent book on Eddie Mathews. As Tad states in the linked videos, it was one of the best baseball books he ever read. I suggested making it a joint meeting.

Due to technical issues, Bob could not get the audio to work on his pc and we started the meeting without him talking about the book and Bob. At about the 34:20 mark, Bob called me and using my cell phone, we were able to finish an excellent meeting with Bob answering questions about *Eddie Mathews and the National Pastime*. After the glitches, this was another appealing meeting as we have learned to expect from Bob.

Ryan Schroer was the lucky winner of the drawing for an autographed copy of the book.

You can watch the recording by clicking on Bob's picture or [here](#).

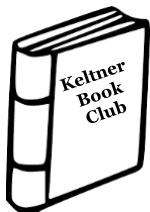
Know a Future SABR Member?

Have them visit [Become a SABR Member Today](#) for member benefits and subscription amounts.

Keltner Book Club News

By Mary Shea

Keltner Book Club Virtual Meeting Thursday, December 7th, 7:00 PM CT Special Guest: Author - Lincoln Mitchell



Our next book club selection will be *The One Hundred Most Important Players in Baseball History*, by Lincoln A. Mitchell. So, it's a countdown book, but this one focuses on players who aren't necessarily the greatest but have made significant and special contributions to baseball and society. Many are well known, but some are more obscure but nonetheless fascinating, including a few women. It includes plenty of unique insight and interesting nuggets and is really an enjoyable read.

All are welcome to attend. You can register for the Zoom meeting [here](#). SABR will forward login instructions.

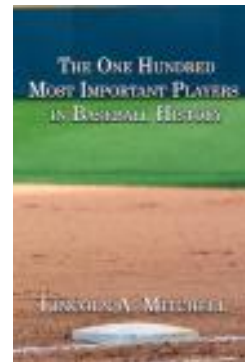
Lincoln Mitchell has had a remarkable career as a scholar, political analyst, and writer. You can read more about him and his work [here](#).

More info on the book can be found [here](#):

The book is currently on backorder at [Boswell Books](#) in Milwaukee but can be ordered through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. All meeting attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win a copy of the book.

Hope you'll join us for an interesting conversation, and happy reading!

Mary



Get to Know

Get to Know...Leslie Heaphy

On February 27, 2006, a special Committee of the Baseball Hall of Fame comprised of 12 Black baseball scholars and historians elected [17 individuals](#), including the first woman, from the Negro Leagues and earlier Black baseball into the Hall of Fame. Leslie Heaphy was a member of that [historic committee](#)¹. As she states in the linked HOF article, “still one of the most important things that I’ve ever had a chance to be a part of. It was certainly an honor to be asked to participate, but I also felt it was a big responsibility, too. It was an important thing to do and I wanted to make sure we did justice to what we were asked to do,” she said. “This was such a big part of baseball history. And seeing men and women, in this case, being recognized for their accomplishments, that’s a responsibility.”

Leslie Heaphy grew up in a small town, Livingston Manor, in the Catskill Mountains of New York. Her dad was the minister at the local Presbyterian Church while mom held a variety of jobs including church organist.

One of her earliest baseball memories is seeing the Yankees play an exhibition game at West Point but unsure how old she was. Heaphy grew up watching Yankees and Mets on tv or listening to her dad’s favorite team, the Yankees, on the radio whenever they went anywhere. But her favorite team has always been the Mets, “as a kid I loved watching Dave Kingman and [Felix Millan](#).” Leslie was also a big fan of [Rusty Staub](#) and [Tom Seaver](#) as well as David Wright, Jacob deGrom and Pete Alonso of the current Metropolitan. She has been fortunate to have met deGrom and Staub.



Dr H, as Leslie signs her email, graduated from Livingston Manor Central School, then attended Siena College in Loudonville, New York for her undergrad work. She progressed to the University of Toledo to earn her MA and PhD in history. It was during this time, 1989, that Heaphy joined SABR, reaching out to Dick Clark, Larry

¹ SABR member Larry Lester was also a member of the committee.

Lester, and Jim Riley for help on her master's thesis on the Negro Leagues. Dr. Leslie Heaphy is an associate professor of history at Kent State University at Stark in North Canton, OH.

After joining SABR the previous year, in 1990 she attended her first of 26 conventions in Cleveland that year. Leslie has attended every single [Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference](#), all five [Women in Baseball Conferences](#), about five [Analytics Conferences](#), and the [Fred Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference](#) when it was virtual. Plus, Heaphy participates in many chapter events. "I always enjoy meeting new people, catching up with others and learning new things. Love seeing new places as well." And she added, "Malloy is my favorite."

Heaphy has been active in the organization, chairing the [Women in Baseball Research Committee](#) since 1995. She was elected to the SABR board in 2010, and to Board Vice President in 2016, serving during some of SABR's greatest challenges, especially COVID, and our greatest membership growth, topping 7,500 for the first time this year.

A prolific writer, Leslie has written or edited 6 books on the Negro Leagues, women's baseball ([Encyclopedia of Women and Baseball](#)) and the NY Mets. Heaphy is the editor of McFarland's [Black Ball](#). Her SABR writings include 13 BioProjects, 11 SABR Journal articles, A SABR Research topic on the New York Mets, team ownership history, and two SABR Research articles. (To see and read her SABR work visit Leslie's [SABR author's page](#).) Plus, she has written a couple hundred articles, book chapters and book reviews on baseball subjects and other history topics. And, when not writing, Dr H has also given a few hundred presentations across the country.

What projects is she currently working on? "I am finishing a book chapter for the Hall of Fame on barnstorming, completing a book on Black women in baseball and editing [Black Ball](#)."

Have you participated in any other Hall of Fame special elections since the historic 2006 committee? Leslie explained, "I was a part of that whole process. This past vote for the early era committee was different than before—two ten person committees to look at Black and White players—met separately and then one single committee came together to vote on the two ballots leading to [Bud Fowler](#) and [Buck O'Neil](#) being elected. [Adrian Burgos](#) and I are the only two involved since 2006."

If Heaphy could have a time-machine moment (or three), where will she go? "I would love to go back and watch a Negro League East - West All-star classic, the 1969 World Series and Jackie Robinson's debut game." She continued, "I have always been interested in stories that are less well known and the Negro Leagues fit that criteria. I wrote my master's thesis and dissertation on the Negro Leagues. Favorite two players – [Mule Suttles](#) and [Pete Hill](#)."

When asked for her final words of wisdom, Leslie energetically replied, "Always follow your passions."



New Oral History Interviews: Adam McCalvy and Mike Bauman



Although the Hot Corner was on hiatus this summer other Keltner Chapter members were busy with their projects. Larry Baldassaro completed two SABR Oral Histories with two of Milwaukee's favorite writers; Adam McCalvy, MLB.com's beat writer for over 20 years and former *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* reporter and MLB.com columnist Mike Baumann.

This month, you can listen to Larry's interview of Mile Baumann [here](#), conducted on June 20, 2023; a great opportunity to learn more about Mike.

If you missed Adam's oral history last month, you could listen to it [here](#).

Contribute to the Keltner Hot Corner

Do you have an article or topic you would like to publish in the newsletter? If so, that's great. Please contact [Dennis](#).

To Pg 1

2023 Wisconsin Born Players Making Their Debuts in the Show

We had three Wisconsin born players make their major league debuts this year. Two attended UW-La Crosse, two are pitchers and one made a dramatic start to his career in Game 160, earning an extra-inning win for his home state Brewers over the Chicago Cubs. Welcome to The Show Alec Marsh (Milwaukee), Taylor Kohlwey (Holmen), and Caleb Boushley (Hortonville).

This month we feature the first player to debut this year, Alec Marsh.

Alec Marsh By Dennis D Degenhardt

Alec Marsh was 25 years, 47 days old when he made his major league debut on June 30, 2023, with the Kansas City Royals becoming the 22,996th player in major league history and 255th ² from Wisconsin.

Alec Tyler Michael Marsh was born in Milwaukee on May 14, 1998, to Sheri and Jordan Marsh. He has one brother, Xavier, and one sister, Zahra.

Attending Milwaukee's Ronald Reagan High School, Marsh is the only professional ballplayer listed for the school, playing for the Huskies during his junior year having played club ball as a frosh and sophomore and again as a senior. He pitched the first no-hitter in school history defeating Milwaukee Hamilton 7-0 on April 30, 2015, fanning 19 while walking one. He also contributed at the plate going 2-for-3 with two RBIs.³

A month later in a game determining the city championship, Alec was struggling having walked five of the first six batters in the sixth inning, the bases were loaded with a 4-3 lead. Believing Marsh would work out of the jam, Coach Brent Scott, stayed with him, successfully winning their second city crown.⁴

Then in the State Sectional Finals, Marsh tossed a 5-0 shutout against Hamilton Arrowhead, the state's number one ranked team. He struck out ten allowing only five hits in the upset victory with Regan advancing to their first state tournament. "They couldn't touch his curve ball. His curve ball was outstanding, it even had me fooled the first inning," Regan catcher Devin Williams said. "Other than that, he shut them down, mixed pitches very well, mixed speeds up very well. He was just amazing out there."⁵ In a game earlier in the day, versus conference rival Riverside, playing shortstop, Alec's run scoring double in the eighth inning was all they needed in a 1-0 win advancing to face Arrowhead.⁶ The Huskies were eliminated in the first round of the state tourney losing to River Falls 10-0. Marsh lasted only 2 2/3 innings surrendering seven hits for five runs while whiffing one and walking two.

When the Milwaukee City, Gold Division, Area All-Conference Lists were announced, Marsh was named the Player of the Year and he shared Pitcher of the year with Riverside's Josiah Roundtree.

After returning to club ball for his senior year, Marsh committed to Arizona State University along with fellow Wisconsinite, Gavin Lux of Kenosha's Indian Trail High School and Academy.

As a freshman at ASU in 2017, he was used sparingly appearing in 11 games, one start, tossing 21 innings with no record and 8.14 ERA. His best outing was three scoreless innings of relief with three hits while striking out two against the California Golden Bears. Returning home for the summer, he played for the Lakeshore Chinooks in the Northwoods League. The 19 year-old started 7-of-12 games pitched with five wins, tied for the team lead, and tossed one of the Chinooks two complete games. Marsh was also third with 43 strikeouts.

Alec made great strides in his second year with the Sun Devils making 15 appearances, 12 as a starter. In 11 of those starts he allowed three runs or less and starting the season with 13 1/3 scoreless innings, seven hits and fanning ten. Marsh's best outing was a 5-1 victory over the Southern Cal Trojans in April working 8 1/3 innings,



Bruce Kluckhohn/USA Today Sports

² I still include J.P. Feyereisen as Wisconsin born although he was born in Minnesota because his mother's doctor, who practiced in River Falls and Stillwater, MN, used the hospital across the river for births; she was living in Wisconsin at the time J.P.'s birth and he was never a Minnesotan.

³ Mark Stewart, "The Rundown," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 3, 2015, B8.

⁴ Dave Boehler, "Alec Marsh Comes Through to Help Regan Edge Riverside" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 29, 2015, Web Edition.

⁵ "Regan Pulls Off Upsets As it Stuns Arrowhead," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 10, 2015, Web Edition.

⁶ IBID.

striking out seven taking a shutout into the ninth inning. In March, the right hander whiffed eight, a career-high, against Oregon State. For the season, he won and lost three games with a 3.89 ERA in 71 1/3 IP, striking out 64, walking 31 for a 2.05 strikeout ratio. That summer he went to the Cape Cod League playing for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox but only pitched in five games, two starts in 11 1/3 innings in June. Marsh struck out 20 batters in the brief stay in the Cape.

The 2019 collegiate baseball season would be Marsh's final season at Arizona State. The Junior was their Friday-night pitcher, leading the team in starts (16), wins (9), innings pitched (101 1/3), and Ks (99) with a 9-4 record and a 3.46 ERA. He threw one of ASU's two complete games, a three-hit, 4-1 victory over third-ranked Oregon State. Alec fanned 10 batters three times including back-to-back contests against Nebraska and California, the first Sun Devil to do so since Mike Leake's three consecutive 10 strikeout games in 2009. He was recognized for his solid year being named to the All-Pac-12 First Team.

The 2019 squad made ASU's only NCAA Tournament appearance during Marsh's tenure. Facing the University of Southern Mississippi, in the first NCAA Regional Game, the Sun Devils were leading 1-0 when the Golden Eagle's game plan was to raise Alec's pitch counts in the humid 94 degree heat. They succeeded taking a 3-1 lead when Marsh exited the game with 108 pitches hurled. By the time the fifth inning ended, USM scored 12 times in a 15-3 rout. Marsh earned the loss, credited for five runs on six hits, with three bases on balls and seven strikeouts. "I've pitched in the humidity before because of where I'm from," said Marsh, "So it wasn't on my mind at all. I don't think it had a factor. It was just one of those days."⁷ ASU won the next tourney game vs. Stony Brook but was then ousted by USM.

The 55th Major League Baseball Amateur Draft was held on June 3 - 5, 2019. Alec Marsh was selected 70th in the competitive balance round by Kansas City. This was the draft where the Royals picked Bobby Witt, Jr. first. After signing, Alec was sent to Idaho Falls Chukars of the Pioneer League, a Rookie League. Because he had already pitched a full college season, the Royals were guarded with his outings. He led the team with 13 games started but he only pitched 33 1/3 innings. Marsh started the clinching game for the Pioneer League championship. For the season he was 0-1 with a 4.05 ERA. With a strike out ratio of 9.50 (38Ks/4BBs).

And then there was 2020. He received some training in Arizona before camps were closed due to the COVID pandemic, cancelling the minor league season - his professional baseball career was put on hold. While working out on his own Alec's agent found an opportunity in August to pitch in Texas. With Kansas City's okay (with a pitch count)⁸, he spent three weeks in the [Constellation Energy League](#) formed in Sugarland Texas as a response to the pandemic. The four team league played all of its games at Sugarland's Constellation Field. He worked in three games covering four innings for the Eastern Reyes del Tigre finishing with a 0-1 record and 4.50 ERA before the Royals invited him to be on the alternative camp, 60-man player pool. About the Texas experience Marsh said, "I think the biggest thing for me was I was the youngest guy there. There were a lot of guys that had some minor league time and some big league time. I think that was the biggest takeaway."⁹ Then he went to the Royals alternate camp in Kansas City finishing up the year in their fall camp at Kaufman Stadium. At the end of the fall camp, Royals minor league director of pitching performance, Paul Gibson, said, "He was just really outstanding in the Fall Camp,".¹⁰

Marsh's third year in professional baseball, 1921, started with a non-roster invitation to Kansas City's major league training camp before demotion to the AA Texas League, Northwest Arkansas Naturals in Springdale, AR. Alex started strong making four starts, three lasting five innings and another six. In 21 innings, he whiffed 34, with a .189 opponent's batting average, a 1.05 WHIP, and a 3.86 ERA. Then on June 3, the 220 pound righty went just 2 2/3 innings as the bicep pain he initially felt in training camp but ignored as typical for spring got worse. After extra rest, he returned to the mound on June 15 lasting 2/3 inning when he was pulled, done for the season, finishing 1-3 with a 4.97 ERA and 42 Ks in six starts. The mysterious injury was diagnosed as a bicep injury/stress reaction to his humerus bone that didn't require surgery but rest and rehabilitation. Marsh made one more appearance in the Arizona Fall League, tossing 1 1/3 innings, striking out three, plus

⁷ "Sun Devils Hammered by Golden Eagles – ASU Falls in NCAA Regional Opener at LSU," *The Times*, June 1, 2019, B1.

⁸ Anne Rogers, "Marsh Moving Up KC Prospect Rankings," *MLB.com*, March 16, 2021, <https://www.mlb.com/news/alec-marsh-moving-up-royals-prospect-rankings>.

⁹ Lynn Worthy, "Royal Pitching Prospect Alec Marsh 'Crushed' His Goals Without a Minor League Season," *Kansas City Star*, November 20, 2020. <https://www.kansascity.com/sports/mlb/kansas-city-royals/article247282459.html#storylink=cpy>

¹⁰ IBID.

surrendering two homers. But the way he threw his pitches encouraged everyone. With nothing to gain with another game, the mutual decision was made to stop pitching and focus on returning in 2022.

Entering the 2022 season, the 6-foot-2 hurler, hoping to complete his first full professional season, returned to Double-A with the Naturals. And a full season he had, making 27 starts, 25 at AA and two at season's end in AAA. Marsh struck out eight or more batters in six starts, including all five of his outings in May, fanning 10 on the 19th and 25th, when he recorded his only win. The Royals number 10 *prospect*, by MLB Pipeline, *was named* to represent the American League for the 2022 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game at Dodger Stadium based on his team-best 16 starts, with 105 strikeouts, second in the Texas League and third for all Double-A.¹¹ Alec did not get into the game. For the season, he finished with just the May 25 victory and 15 losses (most in the league) with a 7.32 ERA Marsh led the team and league with 147 Ks (11.6 SO9), as well as home runs surrendered, 27. In 114 1/3 IP he gave up 137 hits with a 1.671 WHIP. On September 18, he was promoted to the AAA International League Omaha Storm Chasers where he fared better making two starts finishing 1-1 with a 1.80 ERA, allowing only five hits (one homer) with a 1.000 WHIP. But he was healthy again, fanning batters, and did well in Triple A. On November 15, Marsh was added to Kansas City's 40-man roster.

Now age 25, he was back in the big league camp to start the 2023 campaign. Needing more seasoning after the struggles the previous year, Marsh was optioned back to the Naturals on March 10. He started out well continuing to strike out opponents while cutting down the long ball. Through his first eight games Alec was 2-1 with a 3.57 ERA, giving up 14 earned runs and only one homer. He scuffled in his next three starts giving up 14 runs as well with three dingers bumping his ERA to 5.32. The parent team, seeing improvement, sent him back up to Omaha on June 13 with his first mound appearance the following day. He won that game and started twice afterwards, all lasting five innings. He garnered another win in the third appearance and had a 2.40 ERA with 19 whiffs when the big club recalled him on June 30.

With the scheduled starter Jordan Lyles ill, Alec Marsh made his major league debut on Friday, June 30 at Kaufmann Stadium facing the Los Angeles Dodgers. On the fifth pitch of his first major league ball game, Mookie Betts planted a fastball 422 feet over the left field wall.¹² Welcome to The Show! He got out of the inning with no further baserunners and striking out Max Muncy swinging for his first K. He only allowed a single in the second inning and notched another strike out. Marsh's nemesis, Betts, came to bat again in the third inning with one out and repeated his earlier performance with another solo jack to left. He then walked Freddie Freeman for another first and whiffed Muncy for a second time to end the inning. The Royals scored a run in their half of the inning, trailing 2-1. Experiencing control issues after one out in the fourth, two walks, a double, and single (by Betts), the Dodgers scored twice, and Kansas City added another run. In the fifth, the Dodgers Will Smith tripled and a walk to Muncy ended Marsh's day. Smith scored on a sacrifice fly off the reliever ending Marsh's scoring, yielding five runs, all earned, on four hits, with four walks and five strikeouts for the loss, Dodgers 9, Royals 3. "The adrenaline definitely hit me out there, but I tried to control the most that I could," Marsh said. "I just wanted to give us a chance to win. Facing that kind of lineup is definitely better than anything I faced before." His manager thoughts on the outing were, "He is certainly not the first guy to give up homers to Mookie Betts," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said of Marsh "He competed and the pitch count got elevated there in the third and fourth. But, his stuff was okay. ... All in all, he handled himself fine. That is a tough lineup."¹³

With Marsh's debut he became the first player from the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to play in the majors since 1967, 56 years.¹⁴ The last MPS ballplayer was a Boy's Tech¹⁵ student...[Bob Uecker](#), the only Milwaukee born player to play for the Milwaukee Braves and the Brewers longtime radio broadcaster.

Marsh finished the 2023 season making eight more starts and nine relief appearances, eight as a bulk reliever¹⁶. His three victories were as the bulk reliever, and he had nine losses finishing with a 5.69 ERA. He averaged over one strike out per inning (1.14) fanning 85 in 74 1/3 innings. His challenge continued to be the long ball

¹¹ Alec Marsh Named to 2022 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game," MiLB.com, July 14, 2022, <https://www.milb.com/news/marsh-named-to-2022-futures-game>.

¹² Jaylon Thomas, "Mookie Betts Homers Twice as L.A. Dodgers Hammer Kansas City in Series Opener," *The Kansas City Star*, June 20, 2023. <https://www.kansascity.com/sports/mlb/kansas-city-royals/article276920713.html>

¹³ IBID.

¹⁴ JR Radcliffe, "Marsh Ends MPS Drought in Majors," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, July 8, 2023, 17.

¹⁵ Back in Uecker's time that was what the school was known as. Today it's the Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School

¹⁶ The bulk relieve pitches the majority of their innings following an opener.

surrendering 16 with five multiple homer games. Pitching somewhat better in the bulk role with an ability to strikeout batters, points to better things, if he can control home runs and walks.

Sources:

[baseball reference.com](http://baseballreference.com)

<https://thesundevils.com/sports/baseball/roster/alec-marsh/8382>

<https://northwoodsleague.com/lakeshore-chinooks/>



**By Rick Schabowski
October Trivia**

Before we get to the trivia, Congratulations Rick for 20 years of teaching at WRTP/BIG STEP Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, you've helped thousands improve their skills to obtain better employment. You can send kudos to Rick [here](#).



Rick continues on a roll with some interesting and challenging questions and what better theme than Brewer's playoff experience. (Too bad they were eliminated so soon.)

1. Who led the Brewers in home runs in the 1982 World Series season?
2. In the 1982 World Series this Cardinals DH/PH went 0-6, striking out three times. Ten years earlier, in the 1972 World Series he had a .348 batting average and blasted four home runs. Who is he?
3. After 1982, it took a long time for the Brewers to return to the playoffs. Name the team they played and season.
4. The Brewers have been eliminated in the NL playoffs by the eventual WS Champions on five occasions. Name the team and the seasons.
5. What was the score and who was the winning pitcher for the Brewers in the first game of the 1982 World Series?

Do you have a baseball trivia question or two, to stump Our Stumper? If so, send your questions to [Rick](#) to see if you can trip him up and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit - bragging rights - for your stumper(s).

Trivia Answers are [here](#)

Do you have a baseball story – everyone does!

We all have great baseball stories, often shared with family and friends for years. So, when will you share it with your SABR family? We all love stories and want you to share yours with all of us.

If you're ready to share yours, contact [Dennis](#).



Monthly Wisconsin Born Players SABR Bios

With the addition of the three new Wisconsin born major leaguers in 2023 there have been 256 (J.P. Feyereisen makes it 257 but he was born across the river in Minnesota because that was where his mom's doctor's birth hospital was located) and 93 have SABR Bios written on them. So, you can get to know these guys better, we will include a SABR Bio monthly starting from the oldest with a completed bio to the most recent. Yes, that will take at least eight years to complete, and longer as new bios are finished. If you are interested in seeing the entire list of these players, or there is a Wisconsin born player that interests you and needs a SABR Bio, contact [Dennis](#).

This month's Wisconsin bio is on Walt Wilmot an outfielder from Plover who "set three rather obscure records that have never been broken."

To Pg 1

Walt Wilmot

This article was written by Terry Bohn

Timing is everything. Walter Wilmot was a highly sought-after outfielder in his prime during the bidding war between the upstart Players League and the established National League. During a six-season run (1890-1895) with the Chicago Colts (the former nickname, White Stockings, was still sometimes used), Wilmot was reportedly paid an “astounding” \$4,250 a season, the highest salary of any NL player, and far more than that of his more famous teammate, [Adrian “Cap” Anson](#).¹ Colts President [A.G. Spalding](#) once turned down an offer from [Frank Selee](#) of the Boston Nationals to purchase Wilmot, offering a three-year contract of \$3,450 a season, “an offer that fairly astounded the baseball public at the time.”²

Wilmot had a fine 10-year major-league career and after retiring as an active player, he stayed in baseball as a minor-league manager and team owner for many years. His salary record has obviously been shattered by modern players, but Wilmot set three rather obscure records that have never been broken. On September 20, 1890, he was hit twice in the same game by batted balls while running the bases. The next year, on August 22, 1891, he drew six walks in a nine-inning game; only one other player, [Jimmie Foxx](#) in 1938, has equaled that feat. Finally, in August 1894, Wilmot stole eight bases in two consecutive games. [Rickey Henderson](#) stole seven bases in two games, but no one has ever tied or broken Wilmot’s mark.

Walter Robert Wilmot was born on October 18, 1863, in Plover, Wisconsin, a small town in the central part of the state adjacent to Stevens Point. (Plover was later incorporated into Stevens Point.) His parents were Acel Wilmot, originally from New York, and Hannah (Morrison) Wilmot, a native of Indiana. Acel supported the family as a butcher but when he was younger served in the Union Army in the Civil War and worked as a riverboat pilot. Walter was the oldest of four children; sisters Sibyl and Bessie and a brother, John, followed him.



While Walter was in his teens, the family moved to Ada, Minnesota, where his father ran the city’s first meat market. At the time of the 1880 US Census, Walter worked as a teamster, but turned to baseball shortly thereafter; in 1881 he reportedly helped the Ada team win the amateur championship of the Northwest.³ The next two years Wilmot was a member of the semipro Grand Forks (North Dakota) Red Caps. The following year, 1884, he had a tryout with the St. Paul Apostles of the Western League but was released in April.

Later that year Wilmot’s family moved to North Dakota, and he spent at least part of 1884 with a club in Valley City. Apparently, he was a pitcher of some ability early in his career: A report noted, “During the seventh inning the catcher of the Valley City nine, Mr. Kelley, received a ‘pea warmer’ in the stomach delivered from pitcher Wilmot when Frazee was at bat. The blow doubled Kelly up for a few minutes, but he soon recovered himself sufficiently to receive the cannon shot[-]like balls that were constantly arriving from Wilmot.”⁴

Wilmot’s whereabouts in 1885 are not certain. He may have played part of the season in Hamilton, Ontario,⁵ and it’s possible that he made a brief appearance with a team closer to home in Stillwater, Minnesota, in September of that year. He began his professional career with the St. Paul Freezes of the Northwestern League in 1886 and the following year (1887) returned to the team (which had changed its name to the Saints) and had an excellent season, batting .344 in 119 games. Several sources suggested that he made have also played briefly for Oshkosh, Wisconsin,⁶ in the same league, but no information could be found to verify that claim.

Several major-league clubs were after Wilmot’s services but it was Washington Nationals owner [Ted Sullivan](#) who went to St. Paul and secured his name on a contract calling for a salary of \$1,700 per year.⁷ Wilmot opened the 1888 season as the Nationals’ starting left fielder and went hitless in four at-bats in his major-league debut on April 20 against the Giants at Swampoodle Grounds in Washington. He hit just .224 in his rookie season but displayed outstanding speed in the outfield and on the basepaths, swiping 46 bases. The 5-foot-9-inch, 165-pound switch-hitter returned to the Nationals in 1889 and increased his batting average to .289 while pacing the National League with 19 triples.

[John Montgomery Ward](#) was the driving force behind baseball’s first players union, the Brotherhood of Professional Baseball Players, formed in November 1889, and the Players’ League, which operated during the 1890 season. Wilmot was a member of the Brotherhood and although he likely listened to offers, had no

intention of jumping to the Players' League. He did express his desire to leave Washington and no doubt used these developments as leverage in contract negotiations.

Chicago's Spalding was faced with the defection of many of his top players to the Players' League, so on November 25, 1889, he purchased Wilmot's contract from the Nationals for \$4,250.⁸ A week later Chicago manager Cap Anson came to St. Paul, where Wilmot had made his offseason home working as a banker, and signed him to a three-year contract at \$4,000 a year,^{9 10} making him one of the highest paid players in baseball.¹¹ The only clause Wilmot asked for in his contract was an assurance that he would not be released if the Chicago players who signed on with the Players' League later returned to the club.¹² With the Colts in 1890, Wilmot's 13 home runs tied for the league lead with [Mike Tiernan](#) of New York and [Oyster Burns](#) of the Brooklyn Bridegrooms. In addition, he led the league in games played and games as an outfielder (139), and in putouts as an outfielder (320).

Around this time Wilmot began to engage in other sporting interests in which he may have been more proficient than he was as a baseball player. He was an expert trap shooter and made several offseason trips to northern Minnesota and North Dakota with Anson to hunt geese, ducks, and deer. He once bought a racehorse and became widely known as one of the best billiards players in the Midwest, winning several tournaments.

Wilmot's batting average slipped to .216 in 1892, and, with his initial three-year contract set to expire, Chicago President and part-owner [James Hart](#) planned to cut Wilmot's salary. Wilmot threatened to retire and used his offseason employment in a lucrative brokerage business in St. Paul as a "lever to gain his end."¹³ He sat out all of spring training but after pleas from Anson finally signed and joined the club in late May.

The figure for which Wilmot eventually signed was not reported. He rebounded in 1893, batting .301 in 94 games. Wilmot's best year in the big leagues was 1894. Usually hitting third in the Colts lineup behind shortstop [Bill Dahlen](#) and ahead of cleanup hitter Anson, Wilmot batted a career-high .329 and his 45 doubles were third best in the National League. He scored 136 runs and knocked in 130 runs, good for fifth in the NL behind league leader [Sam Thompson](#) of the Phillies. His 76 stolen bases were third in the league behind [Billy Hamilton](#).

Wilmot's most memorable day that season was probably Sunday, August 5, when a near-capacity crowd of 9,000 was on hand at the West Side Grounds to watch the Colts take on the Cincinnati Reds. In the top of the seventh, with Chicago leading 8-1, a cigar dropped carelessly on the wooden roof of a tool shed under the seats caused a fire to break out in the "northwest corner of the 50-cent section." Soon flames and smoke blocked the stairway exit, leaving the only choice for fans to go onto the field to escape the blaze. However, a wire screen with barbed wire blocked their path. When they realized the danger, Wilmot and outfielder [Jimmy Ryan](#) grabbed bats and began beating down the fence to allow the frightened spectators to escape. More than 200 fans were trampled, burned, or cut on the fence, but because of Ryan and Wilmot's heroic action, there were no fatalities.¹⁴

The Western League was reorganized in 1894 under [Ban Johnson](#). Wilmot attended the Western League meeting in the fall of 1894 to try to secure a franchise for St. Paul. But with backing from [John T. Brush](#), the franchise was instead awarded to [Charles Comiskey](#). Rebuffed in his first attempt at team ownership, Wilmot returned to Chicago for the 1895 season, which would turn out to be his last with the Colts. He had another strong year, batting .283 in 108 games.

Throughout his career, several game accounts mentioned Wilmot's outstanding speed in the outfield, but other reports frequently noted a "fumble" or "rank muff" on the part of Wilmot that led to runs by the opposition. Despite his range, his defensive statistics were poor, even for the era. Twice he led the National League in errors by an outfielder, and in 958 career outfield games, 745 of them in left field, Wilmot committed 228 errors for a rather dismal .903 fielding average.

Part of the explanation may have been that left field in Chicago was the sun field. Wilmot dropped numerous fly balls when the sun got in his eyes while he tried to make a catch, bringing on abuse from fans in the left-field bleachers. The heckling reached a breaking point one day in 1895 when "Walter Wilmot, supported by half the team and several Cleveland payers, went into the 25-cent bleachers in left field and administered a well-deserved thrashing to an abusive individual whose vile tongue has caused the players and crowds great annoyance lately. The party was located, and besides being well punched, was thrown out of the grounds."¹⁵

In 1896 Anson loaned Wilmot to Minneapolis of the Western League, where he signed as player-manager. Employing many of disciplinary methods he had learned from Anson, Wilmot piloted the Millers to an 89-47 record and the league pennant. [Bill Hutchison](#), a former teammate in Chicago, won 38 games and Wilmot

batted .391 as the team's left fielder. Many of the team's stars, including slugging first baseman [Perry Werden](#), were signed by major-league clubs and the team plummeted to the second division in 1897, prompting its owners to release Wilmot in July.

Wilmot was indirectly responsible for the early success of pitcher [Deacon Phillippe](#). In 1897 Wilmot partnered with Anson to form a four-team semipro league in North Dakota that served as a quasi-farm system for both the Millers and Chicago. Phillippe was the most notable player sent to Fargo by Minneapolis to gain experience. He was later drafted by Louisville and then moved to Pittsburgh when the National League contracted in 1900. Phillippe is best remembered as the winning pitcher in the first modern World Series game in 1903.

Initially there were rumors of Wilmot joining [Connie Mack](#) in Milwaukee in 1897 but instead he returned to the major leagues, signing with the New York Giants for the balance of the season. He was back with the Giants in 1898 but, slowed by a sore arm and weak batting, was released in June.¹⁶ This concluded Wilmot's major-league career. He appeared in 962 games over 10 seasons and finished with a batting average of .276. Among his 1,100 hits were 152 doubles, 92 triples, and 58 home runs – a considerable total in the nineteenth century. He drew 350 walks and struck out just 233 times. Wilmot stole 383 bases in the major leagues, and 76 in a season twice (1890 and 1894). His 1890 total was the fourth best in the league behind leader [Billy Hamilton](#) of Philadelphia, who swiped 104.

After this release by the Giants Wilmot returned to Minneapolis, where he managed the team and continued to play the outfield through the 1900 season. In February 1901 Wilmot signed to manage Milwaukee of the American League but when the club owners would not concede control over player acquisition that Wilmot thought necessary to field a winning team, he withdrew and became a team owner for the first time when he was awarded the Louisville franchise in the new Western Association (formerly the Interstate League).¹⁷ Wilmot had his team playing winning baseball, but poor attendance prompted him to transfer the team to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in June. He batted .311 as a regular outfielder and managed the club to a first-place finish.¹⁸

A baseball war dominated in Organized Baseball during first years of the twentieth century, resulting in multiple franchise shifts and changes in league affiliation. Wilmot's former team, the Minneapolis Millers, had been longtime members of first the Western Association, then the Western League, and then the minor American League through 1900. When the American League declared itself a major league prior to the 1901 season, replacing four teams, Minneapolis was one of the franchises left behind. But a new minor league, the American Association, was formed in 1902 and Wilmot bought the Minneapolis franchise.¹⁹

The Millers finished in seventh place, 43½ games out, and after they lost their first 11 games of the 1903 season, Wilmot resigned as manager in early May. His threat to "quit baseball for good" lasted only a couple of weeks until in late May he was signed as manager and part-owner the Butte (Montana) Miners. He led the club to the Pacific National League pennant. The following year the Miners got off to a slow start, attendance suffered, and when club began to face financial difficulties, Wilmot began to sell off his best players. The following year he sold his interest in the club and eventually returned to Minneapolis.

Now over 40 years old, Wilmot was finally done as an active player. But he wasn't done with baseball. He signed to coach the University of Minnesota baseball team for three seasons (1908-1910) and opened a billiard parlor at the Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis. Over the last two decades of his life, Wilmot listed his occupation in city directories and on census forms as either a promoter or manager. Most notably, he staged large events for the Minnesota Automobile Show Association, where a former player of his, Perry Werden, worked as his assistant. Over the years he branched out, serving as superintendent of an automobile exhibit at the Michigan State Fair, and he promoted other events like wrestling matches and an aviation meet in the Twin Cities.

Wilmot married three times. In November 1883 he married a woman in Menominee, Wisconsin, but that union was short-lived. A few months after the wedding Mrs. Wilmot "ran away to Spokane Falls with a traveling man."²⁰ Wilmot was granted a divorce on grounds of desertion. On November 7, 1900, he married Claire Macdonald in Kansas City. She was the daughter of a judge and congressman who had recently moved to Kansas City from Minnesota. Wilmot met Claire when they both were living in Minneapolis and they had a son, John, born July 25, 1902, in Minneapolis. A second, son, Walter Robert Jr., was born on June 25, 1904, in Butte while Wilmot was managing there.

The circumstances surrounding Wilmot's third marriage are a bit confusing. He is listed in Minneapolis city directories in 1908 and 1909 but at the time of the 1910 US Census, he, Claire, and their sons were living with his mother-in-law in Kansas City, and he listed his occupation as that of a land promoter. The couple are shown

living at the same address in 1912 and 1913 Kansas City directories but apparently divorced around that time as there is a record of a marriage between a Walter Wilmot and a Gladys Packard on March 3, 1913, in Indiana.

The 1920 US Census lists Walter and Gladys as living in Minneapolis with son Walter Jr. (Walter and Claire's first son, John, died accidentally in 1917), and 1920, 1921, and 1922 city directories list Mrs. Claire M. Wilmot and Walter R. Wilmot living at separate addresses in Minneapolis. Claire is listed as Walter's spouse in his Find-a-Grave entry, but Illinois death records list his spouse as Gladys. Several of his obituary notices mention being survived by his widow. No first name of the widow is given, but they mention that he was also survived by Walter, a "son by a previous marriage,"²¹ implying that the widow was not his mother (Claire).

It is not known what malady Wilmot suffered, but he went to Chicago in the fall of 1928 for treatment by medical specialists. After what was described only as a "lingering illness," Wilmot died at a sanitarium in Chicago on February 1, 1929, at the age of 65. A Presbyterian funeral service was held at Arnett Chapel in Chicago and his body was returned to Stevens Point, where he was interred in the family plot the following spring. He was survived by his wife and son.

Acknowledgments

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Sources

Unless otherwise noted, statistics from Wilmot's playing career are taken from Baseball-Reference.com and genealogical and family history was obtained from Ancestry.com.

The author also used information from Wilmot's file at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Notes

- 1 "Funeral Rites for Wilmot to Be Held Sunday," *Minneapolis Tribune*, February 2, 1929: 5.
- 2 "W.R. Wilmot, Once Pilot of Millers, Dies," *Minneapolis Tribune*, February 2, 1929: 1.
- 3 "Bring Body of Wilmot for Burial," *Stevens Point (Wisconsin) Journal*, February 4, 1929: 2.
- 4 "The Base Ball Game," *Jamestown (North Dakota) Weekly Alert*, August 8, 1884: 2.
- 5 "W.R. Wilmot, Once Pilot of Millers, Dies."
- 6 "Wilmot's Pay Best of 90s Topped Anson," *Stevens Point Journal*, February 2, 1929: 6.
- 7 "Wilmot Goes to Washington," *St. Paul Globe*, October 20, 1887: 1.
- 8 "Wilmot Was Dominating Figure in 19th Century," *Portage County Gazette* (Stevens Point, Wisconsin), July 20, 2001: 12.
- 9 "Wilmot Gets \$4,000 a Year," *Washington Evening Star*, December 2, 1889: 5.
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- 11 Michael Hauptert, "MLB's Annual Salary Leaders Since 1874," <https://sabr.org/research/article/mlbs-annual-salary-leaders-since-1874/>.
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- 13 "Wilmot Will Retire," *Chicago Tribune*, March 5, 1893: 7.
- 14 "Hurt in a Panic," *Chicago Record*, August 6, 1894: 1-2.
- 15 *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 25, 1895: 1.
- 16 "Walter Wilmot Released," *St. Paul Globe*, June 9, 1898: 5.
- 17 "Wilmot Gets a Franchise," *Minneapolis Journal*, March 30, 1901: 10.
- 18 Grand Rapids finished with the best record in the Western Association, but at a year-end league meeting, several of its wins were thrown out and Dayton was awarded the league pennant.
- 19 "Wilmot, Head Miller," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 24, 1901: 7.
- 20 "Fielder Wilmot Wants a Divorce," *Chicago Tribune*, March 1, 1891: 3.
- 21 Walter Wilmot Rites Held in Chicago Chapel," *Minneapolis Tribune*, February 4, 1929: 10.

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