

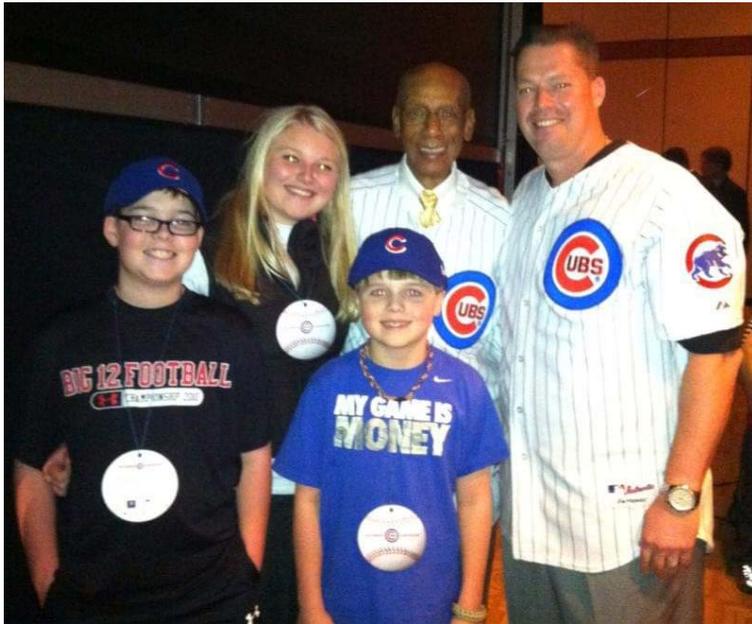


# EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

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*Above: Jon Lieber and family with Ernie Banks. (Photo: Lieber family)*

## JON LIEBER TALKS CAREER AND CUBS CONVENTION EXPERIENCE

BY: JOHN RACANELLI 

You might remember Jon Lieber as the last Chicago Cubs pitcher to compile a 20-win season (in his All-Star 2001 campaign) before Jake Arrieta reached the mark in 2015. He has retired from baseball and is now a budding real estate mogul and family man. But his road to Major League Baseball stardom was not always so certain.

Lieber grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the river from Omaha, Nebraska. Although he attended some Omaha Royals (AAA) games at old Rosenblatt Field as a child, Lieber would rather be playing baseball than watching it. His loyalty to a particular Major League team also changed from year-to-year, as he followed the better teams throughout the seasons—the Twins, Mets, Royals, Cubs and Dodgers came to mind. His favorite players included Dwight Gooden, Darryl Strawberry and Cubs killer Steve Garvey.

He played baseball at Abraham Lincoln High School, mainly as a right fielder—he loved to hit—and pitched only occasionally. He was not recruited to play college ball out of high school and figured his baseball career was at its end.

He continued his education at Iowa Western Community College and decided to give a walk-on bid with the baseball team a shot. At the tryout, he discovered quickly that he was not as speedy as he needed to be to outplay his outfield competitors. Fortunately, however, one of the catchers noticed his strong throws and suggested that he try pitching from the mound. As good fortune would have it, Lieber impressed the coaches enough to earn a spot on the roster, eventually becoming an important arm in the team's rotation.

After completing two years of community college, Lieber transferred to the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Heaping praise on pitching coach, Randy Powell, Lieber transformed into a dominant starter there. He posted 12–5 records in both 1991 and 1992, leading the Jaguars to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances and the 1992 Sun Belt Conference championship. As a senior, he posted a sparkling 2.04 ERA and was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year.

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BY JASON A. SCHWARTZ

Four cards, one player. Can you guess who?

# ALBUQUERQUE'S REPUTATION AS A LAUNCHPAD STILL TRUE

BY: TIM CZUBA 

When I was a kid, the Los Angeles Dodgers always had a seemingly endless parade of young star talent come through their system with Triple A Albuquerque being their last stop. The knock was always these young players, such as Greg Brock and Franklin Stubbs, had inflated stats due to the thin air. Reading or hearing these criticisms over the years did not adequately prepare me for the experience of baseball in Albuquerque. On a hot, dry and beautiful evening, I had the pleasure of watching the Albuquerque Isotopes take on the Round Rock Express

The Albuquerque Isotopes are currently the Triple A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, which makes sense due to the similarities in elevation that each club competes. The Isotopes are struggling this season a 50-68 record as of August 10 with many of their better prospects up with the Rockies or down in Double A. This was in direct contrast with the Astros-affiliated Express who boasted two hot prospects in Myles Shaw and Justin Tucker.

It started in the bottom of the first when, after the Isotopes loaded the bases with two singles and a walk, Drew Weeks hit what Hawk Harrelson would call a "can o' corn" to left center. That was, of course, until it carried nearly five hundred feet over the 428-foot left field power alley for a grand slam. Sitting just to the right of the plate, I heard the ball hit bat and, believe me, Weeks did not get all of it. Two more taters were hit that evening and neither would be considered a "shot", but both cleared the fences by plenty. I could only compare it to picking up a pair of binoculars after seeing the ball hit with the naked eye, finding the ball closer for a split second and then watching it carry even farther. It was surreal.

The game was a laugher as Albuquerque lit up Express pitching for 13 runs on 15 hits, winning 13-3. Myles Shaw looked impressive for Round Rock with a couple of hits and two nice plays at short. One wonders where Shaw will end up, with Carlos Correa being one of the better shortstops in MLB, when healthy. Tucker, on the other hand, was not overly impressive as his bat seemed slow this night.

Isotopes Park is beautiful and a top-notch minor league park. Part of the University of New Mexico sports complex, it is only a few minutes from downtown. It has a capacity of 13,500 and is the only minor league park I have ever seen with a two tier grandstand. The grandstand is very Dodger Stadiumesque in appearance with plenty of comfortable seats. There are lawn seats down both lines and a picnic area in left field; pretty standard for a minor league ballpark. Aside from the impressive grandstand, there are two other unique features to Isotopes Park. Right field has its own carnival area for young people with a carousel and a smaller version of Power-dive. Lastly, center field has its own Tal's Hill, similar to what used to be in Houston. It actually came into play on a triple by Isotopes second baseman, Peter Mooney.

In addition to a beautiful and comfortable ballpark, the amenities were also good. The food ranged from standard ballpark fare of hot dogs and hamburgers to southwestern themed dishes and was delicious, although the prices for food and beer were a little more than I was used to at a minor league facility. Ticket prices were reasonable as was the fan shop. All in all, it was an excellent experience and I would recommend a visit whenever you get out to New Mexico.

**Albuquerque, New Mexico's Isotopes Park. (Photos: Tim Czuba)**



# LIEBER CONVERSATION (CONT.)



Lieber was originally drafted by the Cubs after his junior year in 1991. The Cubs' initial offer was much less than he hoped, and he declined. The Cubs ultimately agreed to Lieber's requests, however, but well after he had already committed to return to school for his senior year. He was subsequently drafted in 1992 by the Royals and signed, eventually making his Major League debut with the Pirates. After pitching for five seasons in Pittsburgh, Lieber came to the Cubs by way of a December 1998 trade for Brant (Nooooooo!!) Brown.



2001 Topps, #618

Although he would not necessarily admit it was his biggest career regret, Lieber never hit a Major League home run in nearly 700 plate appearances, claiming persistent bad luck in hitting well-struck baseballs to the wrong parts of the park. In particular, he recalled absolutely tattooing a pitch from Tony Armas, Jr. at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, only to have it hit off the top of the wall, some 400-plus feet from the dish. It fell for a double, just one of several times he was snake bit by howling winds or just-too-big park dimensions.

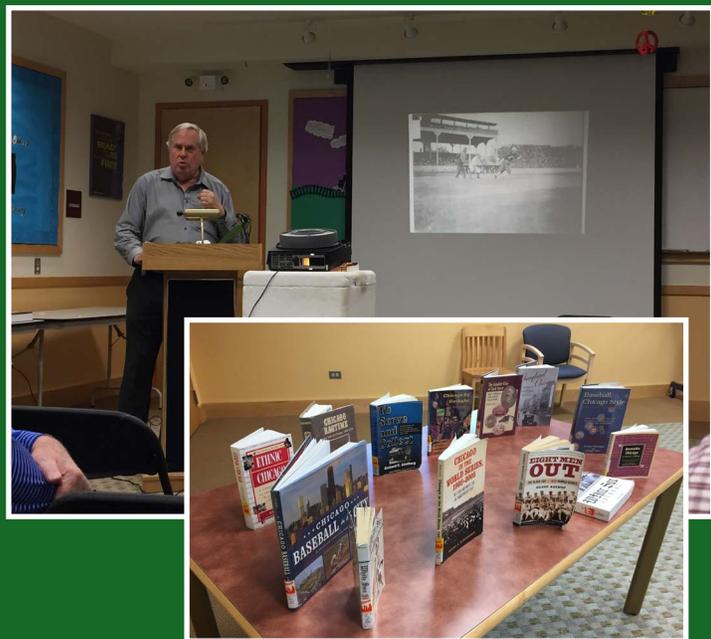
Lieber attended the Cubs Convention as an active player and always had a great time. (Attendance by active players was appreciated but was not required by contract or otherwise.) As an alum, he was first invited back a few years after his playing days ended and he has attended whenever possible since. The Cubs take care of all the arrangements, offering a first-class experience. Even though he signs hundreds of autographs in one sitting, his hand has never cramped up or hurt as a result!

Each year, Lieber is astonished and humbled by folks who have heartfelt memories of him giving them their first baseball or specific highlights of games they attended in which he reached a milestone or signed a cherished autograph. Some players that he would love to see return to the Cubs Convention include: Mark Grace, Kevin Tapani, Henry Rodriguez and Sammy Sosa. Additionally, he would love to see Luis Gonzalez and Lance Johnson, who both played baseball at the University of South Alabama.

Throughout his 14-year Major League career, Lieber pitched for the Pirates, Cubs, Yankees and Phillies, compiling a career record of 131-124, a 4.27 ERA (4.02 FIP) and amassing 24.3 bWAR. He has been inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame and the University of South Alabama Hall of Fame, where the ballpark clubhouse named in his honor. Despite all his success, Jon Lieber is approachable, down-to-Earth and someone you should make a point of meeting, if you have not done so already. And keep an eye out for his son Justin, who just may be destined for the PBA tour!

**Sources:**

Jon Lieber, telephone interview with author, January 24, 2019. [www.baseball-reference.com](http://www.baseball-reference.com)



## LINDBERG DISCUSSED THE "BLACK SOX" SCANDAL

On Wednesday, September 11, author and Chicago White Sox historian, Richard Lindberg, shared photos and insights about the "Black Sox" Scandal with guests at the Chicago Public Library's Austin-Irving Branch. He discussed how the watershed event became a defining moment in baseball history and how it altered the fortunes of the Chicago White Sox.

(Photos: Bill Peach)

# MOE BERG: CATCHER, LINGUIST, SPY

BY: AMELIA WALLACE 

Imagine the quintessential baseball game: it's a warm, languorous summer day, the scent of freshly mowed grass wafts in the breeze, vendors are hawking hot dogs and roasted peanuts, and then you hear it ... someone calling out in what at first seems an unfamiliar tongue. Listening more closely, you wonder—could that possibly be ancient Greek?!

If you were attending a Chicago White Sox game in the 1930s, experiencing this scene was a real possibility. As the story goes, whenever Hall of Fame White Sox pitcher Ted Lyons teamed up with catcher Moe Berg, the two relied on communicating in ancient Greek when an opposing runner was on second base. Berg's own words from his essay "Pitchers and Catchers" (in which he also describes the catcher as the "Cerberus of baseball") reveal why he and Lyons resorted to this rather unusual practice:

The catcher gives the signals only because he is in a better position than the pitcher to hide them. In a squatting position, the catcher hides the simple finger, fist, or finger-wiggle signs between his legs, complicating them somewhat with different combinations only when a runner on second base in direct line of vision with the signals may look in, perhaps solve them, and flash back another signal to the hitter.

In ancient Greek, Lyons and Berg found an ingenious way to signal each other secretly.

Berg had a history of using ancient languages in the context of baseball. As an undergraduate at Princeton University, he studied Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Sanskrit and later attended the Sorbonne in Paris to study experimental phonetics. While playing on Princeton's baseball team, Berg (playing shortstop) and second baseman Crossan Cooper used Latin as their own "secret language" to communicate who would "cover the bag" in the presence of an opposing base runner.

An abiding interest in the ancient Greeks and Romans—as well as cultures and languages from the world over—revealed itself in various aspects of Berg's life both on and off the baseball field. Sports Illustrated quotes an anonymous teammate as saying, "We'd all sit around and listen to him discuss the Greeks, Romans, Japanese, anything. Hell, we didn't know what he was talking about, but it sure sounded good." Toward the end of his baseball career, Berg made several appearances on the popular radio quiz show Information Please, successfully answering an array of questions on Latin and Greek etymology, among other topics. Later, during World War II, Berg's linguistic skills and extensive knowledge of international affairs aided him in his spying efforts for the United States. He played an important role in atomic counterintelligence, relaying information about the development of Germany's nuclear program.

## A. Bartlett Giamatti: Scholar, Leader, Commissioner

The history of the relationship between classical languages and baseball does not stop with Moe Berg. Perhaps the most famous Latin enthusiast in baseball was A. Bartlett Giamatti, seventh commissioner of Major League Baseball. Formerly a professor of Renaissance literature, and then the president of Yale University, Giamatti eloquently expressed the continued relevance of Latin in a letter responding to the query of a junior high school student:

Ask not, noble Dunn, what prompts us to study a "dead language," for the language is not dead. We study Latin because without it we cannot know our history and our heritage. And without that knowledge, we cannot know ourselves. Nosce teipsum, brave Dunn. If one can read that, one can—in one's life—begin to do that. The link between Latin and our lives is deep, and abiding.



A vintage Morris (Moe) Berg baseball card. (Photo: Amelia Wallace)



**CLICK HERE TO PLAY**  
**CAN YOU NAME THE CURRENT AND FORMER MLB PLAYERS FROM THEIR NIKE "HAIR-ITAGE" T-SHIRTS?**

## GET YOUR BASEBALL RESEARCH PUBLISHED

Are you conducting baseball research? SABR's Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter can help. We are looking for new articles to publish in the Chapter's monthly newsletter and social media outlets. Submit your articles to Chapter Secretary David Malamut via email at [david@malamut.net](mailto:david@malamut.net). Submittal deadlines are the 15th of each month for inclusion in the next edition.

# OFF THE BEATEN BASEBALL PATH: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

BY: BILL PEARCH 

Stepping off the beaten path oftentimes provides unique experiences that can be overlooked, or simply lost due to our daily routines. Historic treasures can lurk just around the corner, yet they remain hidden in plain sight. During August, my wife and I made the two-hour drive down Interstate 55 to send our niece and nephew off to school at Illinois State University. After spending way too much money on food and other assorted school supplies, we enjoyed a wonderful brunch with some friends who live in Bloomington, Illinois. We found ourselves just around the corner from a fascinating baseball location that is well worth the visit.

A few years ago, I discovered a parody Twitter account for a pitcher from the '80s. Not the Reagan-Bush '80s, I am referring to the Garfield-Arthur-Cleveland-Harrison 1880s. Back when pitchers were heavily mustachioed men who pitched every single day. Back when pitch counts were irrelevant and baseball was base ball. The pitcher I am referring to is none other than Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn.

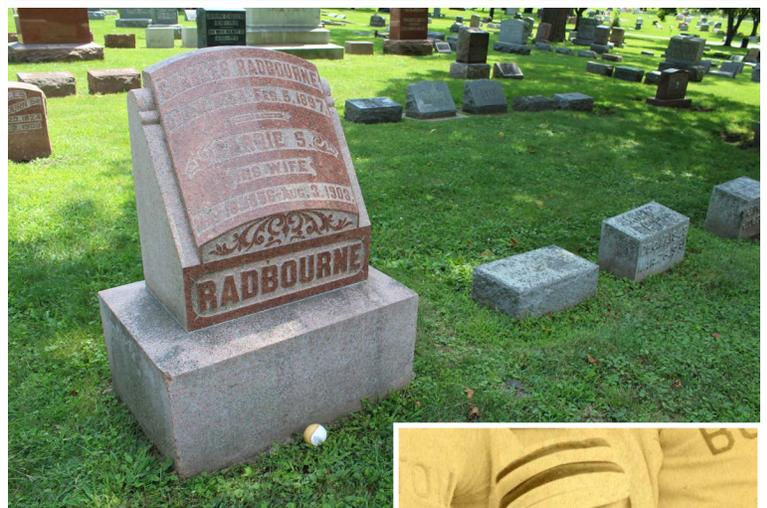
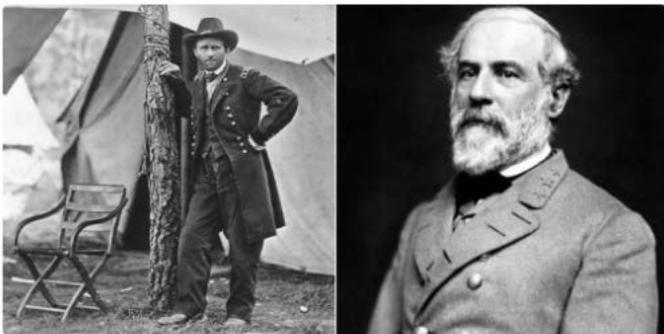
After a short drive we found Miller Street and drove through the stone gates inside Evergreen Cemetery. This cemetery is the final resting place of Associate Justice of the United State Supreme Court, David Davis; United States Vice President Adlai Stevenson; and Dorothy Louis Gage, an infant who was the niece of L. Frank Baum's wife and served as the inspiration for Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. And inside also rests arguably the greatest pitcher of the 19th century.

Charles Radbourn was a right-handed hurler who pitched in 527 games and won 310 of them. Of those same 527 games, he started 502 and recorded 488 complete games. He played for the Providence Grays, Boston Beaneaters (the franchise known today as the Atlanta Braves), Boston Reds (Players League) and the Cincinnati Reds. On the field he is best known for establishing the record for most single-season pitching wins with 48 in 1883, then shattering his own record the following year with 60 wins en route to a National League title for the Providence Grays. During the 1884 season, Radbourn pitched an astonishing 678 2/3 innings, 11 shutouts and finished with a 1.38 ERA. Despite not being an official stat (credited retroactively), he recorded one saves. For many years, Radbourn was credited with two saves should and only 59 wins that season.

But let's be honest. He's become a beloved character these days due to colorful tweets such this one:



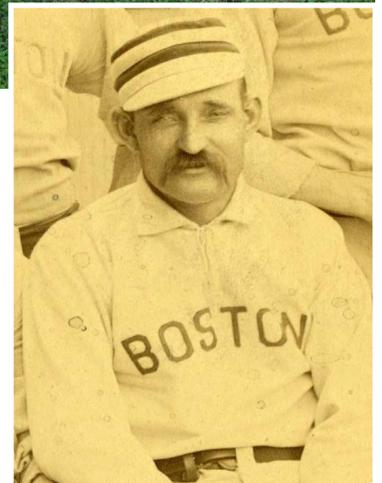
"Son, I've already seen an epic showdown between good and evil."



Top: In May 2019, a wood carving created by Bill Baker from Naperville-based Top Notch Chainsaw Carving was dedicated. (Photo: Bill Pearch)

Bottom: Radbourn's headstone features his family name spelled with an "E." (Photo: Bill Pearch)

Right: Radbourn was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1939. (Photo: National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum)



# SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MIKE SARAFIN

6

BY: BILL PEARCH 

Mike Sarafin considered himself a student of the game by the time “Harvey’s Wallbangers” were the pride and joy of Milwaukee and the Brewers hoisted their lone American League pennant. His appetite for baseball knowledge was insatiable and he would devour books and newspapers. Johnny Bench, Tommy Lasorda and rotating stars of the week taught Mike the finer points of offense and defense on *The Baseball Bunch*. Despite being born in Hinsdale, Illinois and raised as a Chicago Cubs fan, he remembers attending his first game at Milwaukee’s County Stadium in 1982.

“I was nine years old and we lived only a couple of miles away from County Stadium,” Sarafin said. “You could hear the roar of the crowd from our house, especially during the ’82 World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. But my first game was earlier that summer. I sat with my fellow Cub Scouts in the bleachers for a game against the California Angels and my Rawlings Robin Yount glove in hand.”

Reggie Jackson, who was playing his first season with the Angels, patrolled right field that day. “The fans were heckling him the entire game,” Sarafin said. “I knew he was a great player, but I was too young to understand why they were booing him.” Jackson, whose heyday as “Mr. October” was already behind him, would only have one more postseason home run left in his arsenal.

While Sarafin knew Jackson was a superstar, he was drawn to Kansas City’s third baseman George Brett. While visiting his maternal grandparents in Michigan, his uncles treated him to a couple of games between the Detroit Tigers and Kansas City Royals at Tiger Stadium. “I became a fan of Brett because of his intensity,” he said, recalling a fistfight between the two teams and the legendary Pine Tar Incident. “As I grew up, I modeled my batting stance after him. I was always a Cubs fan, but I cheered for the Royals whenever I could see George Brett play live.”

Mike admitted that relocating from suburban Chicago to Milwaukee and north of Atlanta, and having family throughout the Midwest, exposed him to a lot of great baseball. “I would listen to Cubs games on WGN radio with my paternal grandparents in Darien, Illinois,” he said. “But I was also fortunate to listen to Ernie Harwell on Detroit’s WJR



**In 2006, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Mike Sarafin (right) had an opportunity to meet Bob Feller (left). Feller’s uniform number, #19, was retired by the Great Lakes Navy baseball team during its opening day ceremonies. Feller is the only Navy Chief Petty Officer in the Baseball Hall of Fame. (Photo: Mike Sarafin)**

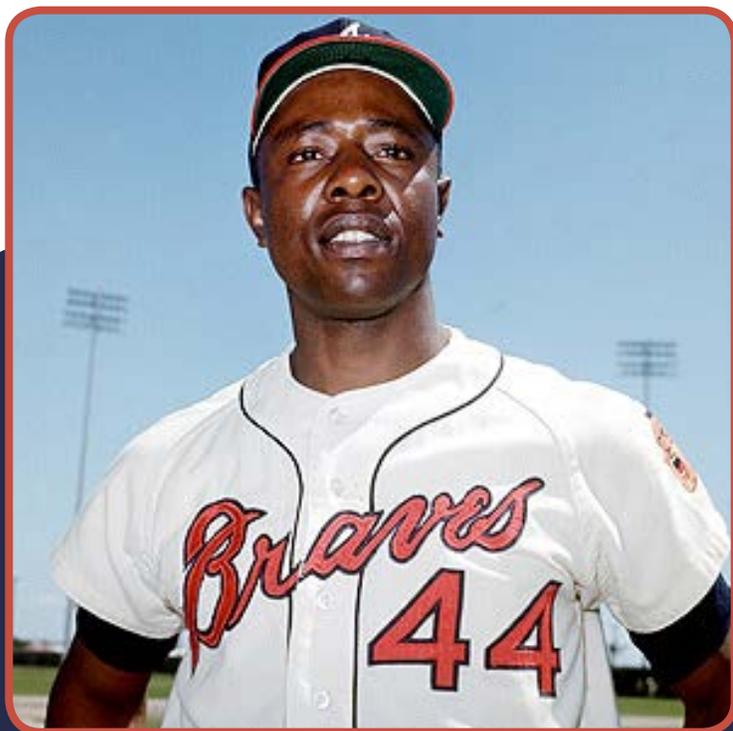
during the summers. Can you imagine how much fun the 1984 World Series would’ve been had the Cubs not blown it?”

But his baseball experiences were not limited to attending games and listening to the radio, he’s been actively playing the game since he was four years old. “I’m a little out of practice these days,” Sarafin said, “but I’ll never stop playing catch or hitting the ball.” His earliest memories of playing the game date back to wiffle ball games played against his dad when he was three or four.

“I didn’t start playing organized games until he 13 playing Senior League,” Sarafin said. “That first year, I played with Mark Grudzielanek in Cudahy, Wisconsin. He was a couple of years older than me, but we won the City Championship in 1986 then finished second the following year.”

Following that season, Sarafin’s family moved just northwest of Atlanta. As a 15-year-old, his Rockmart, Georgia team won its league championship. He admitted that during high school, Charlie Lau’s book,

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 -



## PASTIME PASSAGE...

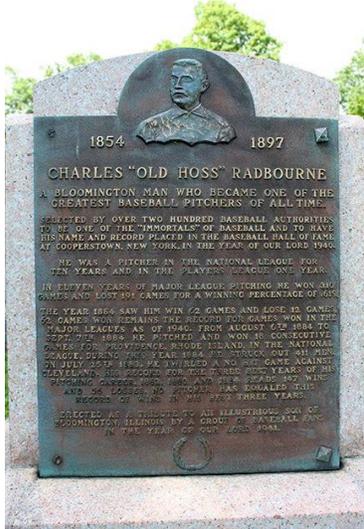
**“IT TOOK ME 17 YEARS TO GET 3,000 HITS  
IN BASEBALL. I DID IT IN ONE AFTERNOON  
ON THE GOLF COURSE.”**

**— HANK AARON**

Source: *The Californian* (Salinas, California),  
August 16, 2007, 15.  
Photo: SABR.org

# BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS (CONT.)

Upon the discovery of this Twitter account several years ago, I decided to conduct some research. Though he was born in upstate New York, he was raised in downstate Bloomington, Illinois. Following his 11-year playing career, he returned to Bloomington to own and operate a local saloon. While his playing days (1881-1891) were unkind to his arm, his post-playing days did not provide much relief. In 1893, he considered pitching once again. At his advanced age of 38, he asked for too lucrative of a contract and could not find any takers. He attempted once more in 1894, but again, he failed to receive interest from teams.



Just three seasons after pitching in his final professional game, misfortune struck in April 1894. While on hunting trip, he was accidentally shot in the face by a friend that lead to loss of sight, partial paralysis and speech loss. Following the hunting accident, Radbourn's health continued to fail and lead him to drink heavily and become a recluse. He would ultimately fall into a coma and die in early 1897.

At the time he played, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown did not exist. The Hall of Fame began electing players in 1936, but the facility would not open until 1939. Elected in the Class of 1939, Charles Radbourn's plaque was included with those of Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, Walter Johnson and a dozen others when the building opened that year.

An interesting note to point out is that his last name is misspelled on both his headstone and Baseball Hall of Fame plaque. His family always spelled their name Radbourn rather than Radbourne. Old newspaper stories from his era often referred to him with the incorrect surname.

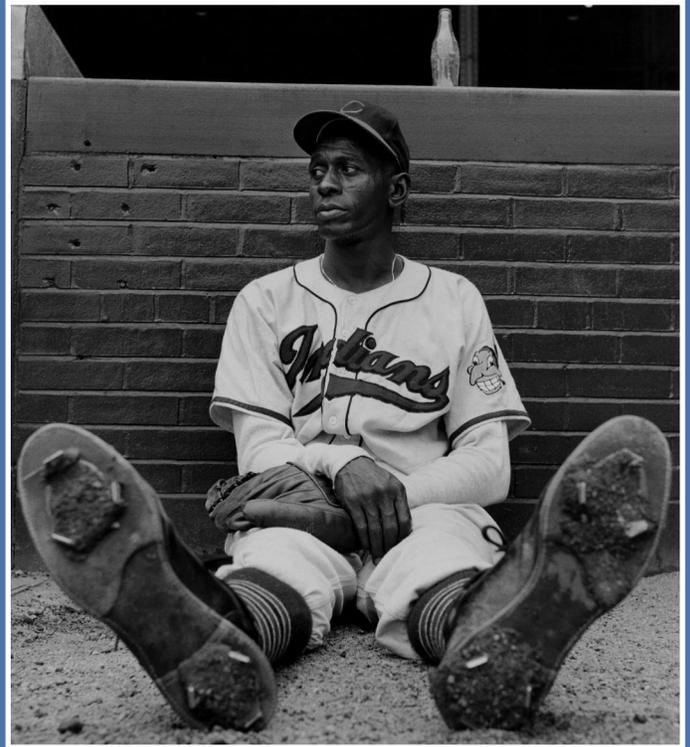
For more information about Radbourn's pitching feats from 1884, I suggest reading *Fifty-nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded Baseball, and the Greatest Season a Pitcher Ever Had* by Edward Achorn.

\* Note: The historical marker indicates that Radbourn won 62 games in 1884.

**Sources:**  
Baseball Reference, SABR and the Baseball Hall of Fame

## GET SOCIAL WITH SABR'S EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

THERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS TO INTERACT WITH CHICAGO CHAPTER MEMBERS. CLICK TODAY AND START TALKING BASEBALL.



## TOP 10 HALL OF FAME PLAYERS WITH FEWEST APPEARANCES FOR TEAM

YEAR	PLAYER	TEAM	APP.	AGE
1965	PAIGE, SACHEL	KCR	1	58*
1947	DEAN, DIZZY	SLB	1	37*
1943	GOMEZ, LEFTY	WAS	1	34*
1925	BENDER, CHIEF	CHW	1	41*
1922	EVERS, JOHNNY	CHW	1	40
1929	EVERS, JOHNNY	BSN	1	47*
1918	HAINES, JESSE	PIT	1	24**
1916	MATHEWSON, CHRISTY	CIN	1	35*
1915	VANCE, DAZZY	PIT	1	24**
1909	CHESBRO, JACK	BOS	1	35*
1975	MARICHAL, JUAN	LAD	2	37*
1904	BROUthers, DAN	NYG	2	46*

\* LAST MLB APPEARANCE  
\*\* FIRST MLB APPEARANCE

# SARAFIN: SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONT.)

*The Art of Hitting .300*, was an inspiration. “While there, I played three years on my high school’s varsity team,” he said. “We finished second place in the sub-region then did not make the playoffs. In 1990, our team ended the season as Region co-champions, but lost in the second round of the playoffs.”

In 1990, Sarafin moved back to Chicago and started watching Robin Ventura’s White Sox. “I became a Ventura fan since I followed him during the College World Series,” he said. “Plus, I eventually married a South Sider. Guess I’m a Sox fan by marriage, except for when they play the Cubs.”

Mike tried out for the College of DuPage Chaparrals in 1992 and 1993, but didn’t make the cut. Though disappointed, he played on the Palatine Panthers of the Chicago National Adult Baseball Association’s “A” League in 1992 and “AA” League in 1993. “In ‘92, we won the league championship,” he said. “I hit the game-winning single in the bottom of the 10th inning of the championship game.” In 1994, Sarafin played for the Clearwater Cubs of the Florida State Stan Musial League. After suffering an Achilles tendon injury, he took a break from baseball.

Sarafin enlisted in the Navy in 1999. In 2003, Mike played on the Patrol Squadron 4 Skinny Dragons of the Marine Corps League at Hawaii’s Kaneohe Marine Corps Base. In 2005 and 2006, he played on the Great Lakes Captains Navy Baseball team. “In 2005, we won the Midwest Suburban Baseball League Championship,” he said. “I had a two-homer game in the semifinals and my leadoff triple sparked a rally during the championship game.” From 2009 through 2011, Sarafin was tapped to run to Bangor, Washington Navy Baseball team. “We finished second, fourth and fifth place respectively in the NABA Kitsap Peninsula League during those three seasons.”

With a background of baseball and military experience, Sarafin decided to join SABR earlier this summer. “I have always read and studied baseball history, it’s been in my blood since I was born,” he said. “My research interests include statistics, pre-1900 baseball, Civil War-era baseball, military baseball during World War II, stadium histories and uniform histories.”

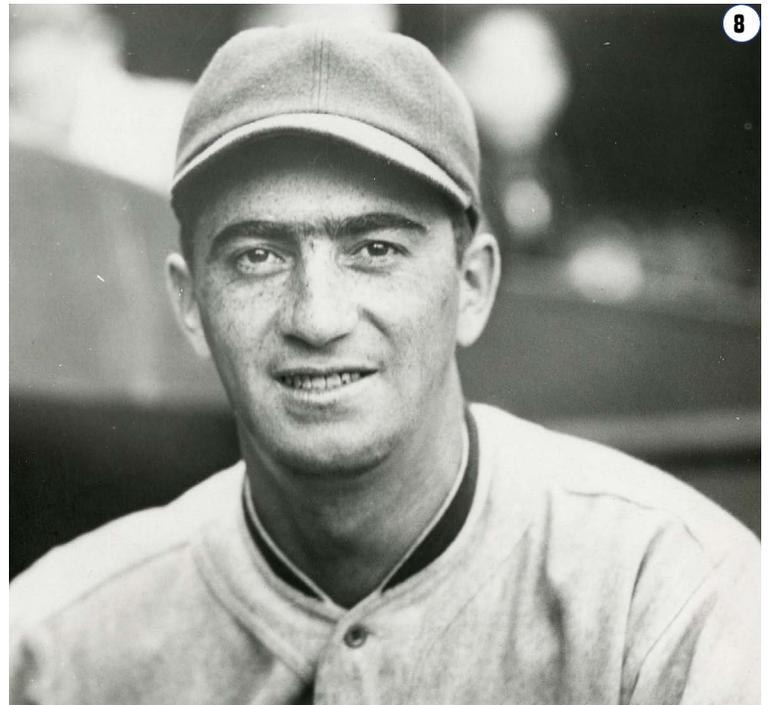
“There are so many baseball moments that I wish I could have witnessed,” Sarafin said, recalling home runs by Ruth, Maris, Mantle and Mazeroski. He considered Larsen’s perfect game, or Ted Williams’ final day of 1941. “But I wish I could go back and be at the first game my Grandpa Sarafin went to.”

To this day he loves reading about baseball. W.P. Kinsella ranks among his favorite authors with books like: *The Dixon Cornbelt League and Other Short Stories*, *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy*, and *Shoeless Joe*. But don’t forget Bernard Malamud’s *The Natural* and Eliot Asinof’s *Eight Men Out*. For baseball movies, his top three are *Bull Durham*, *The Natural*, and *Field of Dreams*.

While Mike has a passion for baseball history, he has several suggestions for how Major League Baseball should evolve. “Let’s expand by adding two more teams and realign,” he said. “Only allow division winners to advance to the playoffs and shorten the season by six games.” But he confesses that the purist in him wouldn’t mind reverting back to two 12-team leagues and eliminating interleague play.

Currently, Sarafin is still in the Navy stationed in King’s Bay, Georgia. Today, he is rooting for Anthony Rizzo and hoping for another Cubs World Series title. Once his tour is complete, he will retire from the service and relocate back to the Chicago area.

On a final note, Mike has a piece of advice for Rizzo. “I appreciate his humble nature and patience at the plate,” he said. “But I think he can hit for a higher batting average if he would adjust his stance slightly and stop trying to pull everything.”



Above: Moe Berg as a member of the Chicago White Sox. (Photo: Charles M. Conlon/National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum)

## MOE BERG (CONT.)

Giamatti wrote several articles affirming his deep love of baseball prior to becoming baseball commissioner. His praise for baseball linked the sport together with his scholarly interests, particularly his celebration of the color green. For Giamatti, the green of the baseball diamond was “the color of hope,” symbolism that he noted is particularly meaningful in Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. He also commented on the significance of the word park, derived from the Persian word for paradise, further observing that the first “true” baseball game was played in Hoboken, New Jersey, at a place popularly called the Elysian Fields. It’s almost as if the perfection of the baseball park can only be properly expressed in the language of epic.

### Try It Yourself

Are you a fan who’d like to try calling a few baseball plays in Latin? Check out some Latin baseball vocabulary, courtesy of John Traupman’s Conversational Latin for Oral Proficiency, listed below.

**baseball:** (the ball itself) basipila -ae f, (the sport) ludūs -ī m  
basipilae  
**play baseball:** basipilā lūdere  
**base:** (first, second, third, home) basis -is (acc. -im) (prīma, secunda, tertia, summa or domestica)  
**baseball game:** basipilae lūsus -ūs m, basipilae certāmen -inis n  
baseman (first, second, third): (prīma, secunda, tertia) basiārius -ī m (-a -ae f)  
**bat:** clava -ae f  
**batter:** clavātor -tōris m (-trīx -trīcis f)  
**catch:** excipiō -ere excēpī exceptus  
**catcher:** exceptor -ōris m, exceptrix -trīcis f  
**fly ball:** pila volāns  
**glove:** digitābulum -ī n  
**hit:** pulsāre  
**hit the ball out of the park:** pilam extrā campum lūsorium pulsāre  
**hit a home run:** circuitum basium facere  
**inning:** missus -ūs m  
**outfielder:** externus (-a) custōs -ōdis mf  
**pitcher:** coniector -ōris m, coniectrix -īcis f  
**shortstop:** intermedius (-a) basiārius -ī m (-a -ae f)

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# ZEMAN'S ZINGERS: SEPTEMBER 2019

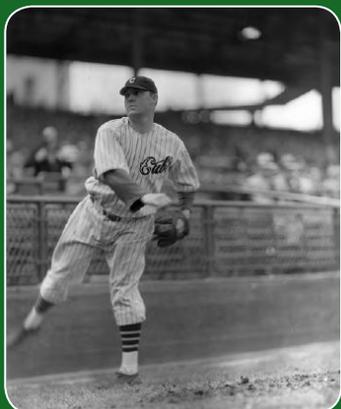
BY: DAVE ZEMAN 

Here are five questions to test your baseball knowledge. We also have the answers to last month's questions. Ready? Play ball!

1. Going into 2019, the Washington Senators/Minnesota Twins franchise saw only three different batters hit at least 40 home runs in a season. Who were they?
2. Name the three teams that have won the last three World Series in which they have played.
3. Who is the only American Leaguer to have a 50 home run season and also a 50 stolen base campaign (different years)?
4. Two teams, the San Diego Padres and the Tampa Bay Rays, have won exactly one World Series game. Who were the sole winning pitchers for their respective clubs?
5. What current National League city was once named Losantiville?

## AUGUST 2019: HOW DID YOU DO?

1. What two hitters amassed at least 600 doubles, 100 triples, and 300 home runs? **Stan Musial with 725/177/475, and George Brett with 665/137/317**
2. What pitcher won World Series games for three different franchises? **Curt Schilling for the Phillies, Diamondbacks and Red Sox**
3. Three hurlers tossed complete game shutouts in the World Series since 2000. Who are they? **Randy Johnson in 2001, Josh Beckett in 2003, and Madison Bumgarner in 2014**
4. Who was the most recent American League pitcher to win a complete game shutout in the Fall Classic? **Jack Morris, winning Game Seven in 1991**
5. Name the only batter to have a 200-strikeout season in each league. **Chris Carter fanned 212 times for the 2013 Houston Astros and whiffed 206 times for the 2016 Milwaukee Brewers.**



## CHICAGO RANDOM TANDEM TED LYONS AND PAT MALONE

Left: In 1930, White Sox pitcher Ted Lyons led the American League with 29 complete games.  
Right: In 1930, Cubs pitcher Pat Malone led the National League with 22 complete games.

Logos: [Sportslogos.net](http://Sportslogos.net) / Photos: [SABR.org](http://SABR.org)



## SOUTH BEND CUBS WIN 2019 MIDWEST LEAGUE TITLE!

On Saturday, September 14, the South Bend Cubs defeated the Clinton LumberKings to win the Midwest League's 2019 title. With the 5-0 win, the Cubs completed the three-game sweep of the LumberKings. They finished the playoffs with a perfect 7-0 record. *(Photo: South Bend Cubs website)*

## WHAT'S ON DECK?

### GET YOUR PENCILS AND SCORECARDS READY

- **BLACK SOX SYMPOSIUM**  
September 27-29

- **CHAPTER LUNCH - OCTOBER**  
We will host a chapter lunch during the month of October, so get ready to discuss postseason games. Once finalized, we will share details on the chapter's website and social media outlets.

## SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We all have great baseball stories to share. In each issue, we will highlight SABR Chicago Chapter members. Contact Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at [wcpearch@comcast.net](mailto:wcpearch@comcast.net) to schedule a brief interview.





*Scott Lindholm dug into the data and shared his thoughts about the best catchers in baseball history.*



*Tom McIntyre presented his recommendation for a new method of awarding wins to pitchers.*



*Bill Leibforth discussed his new book, "Baseball's Forgotten Black Heroes."*



*Our September 2019 chapter meeting presenters (left to right): Emil Rothe Chapter Chair Rich Hansen, Bill Leibforth, Scott Lindholm and Tom McIntyre.*

## SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING VIDEOS

If you were not able to attend our most recent chapter meeting on September 14 at the Lisle Public Library, there is no need to fear. We have all of the presentations available on our Facebook page. Click the links below and enjoy.

- Part 1 - Rich Hansen introductions; Scott Lindholm discusses greatest catchers of all time
- Part 2 - Tom McIntyre presents his new method for awarding wins to pitchers
- Part 3 - Author Bill Leibforth discusses his new book and some of his findings

