

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

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### Upcoming Events:

#### Marcus Hanel

Thursday, Jan 13 @ 7:30 PM Central  
Register [Here](#)



#### SABR's Virtual SABR-Day

Thursday Feb 3 @ 7-9 PM (Central)  
Details to be announced soon.



#### Virtual Analytics Conference

March 18-20, 2022  
Learn More [Here](#)



#### SABR Annual Convention SABR 50

Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor  
Baltimore, MD  
August 17-21, 2022  
Learn More [Here](#)

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### Upcoming Virtual Events

#### Marcus Hanel

#### Former Brewer Bullpen Coach

Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 7:30 PM Central



Join the Ken Keltner Chapter's Virtual Meeting with our special guest Marcus Hanel. Racine native Hanel was the Milwaukee Brewer's Bullpen Coach for the past 21 years, stepping down after the 2021 season. Prior to working with all of the 21st Century Brewer pitchers, he spent ten

years in the minor leagues after being drafted by Pittsburgh in the 18th round of the 1989 amateur draft. The recent addition to the Oldtime Ball Players Hall of Fame also starred in baseball at Horlick High School.

We will talk to Marcus about the duties of a bullpen coach and the Brewer pitchers of the 21st Century. And, as the bullpen coach, what stories will he have about what goes on out there. Will he have Trevor Hoffman stories? Others? If you are like most SABR members and love stories, this will be a can't miss event.

*(Please note the start time is 7:30 PM, not our customary 7 PM)*

Register for the meeting in advance [here](#). You will then receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

### 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 sites.

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

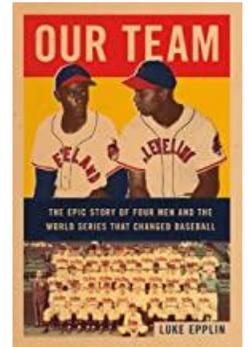
## December Book Club Meeting with Luke Epplin Discussing Our Team



The Keltner Book Club had the honor of having the author *Our Team - The Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series That Changed Baseball*, Luke Epplin join our Zoom Meeting on December 9th.

Epplin was terrific. He was researching the Cleveland Browns when he kept seeing articles on the Indians and realized the real story was the baseball team. And he focused on four people, Bill Veeck, Larry Doby,

Satchel Paige and Bob Feller. The book covers these four very well and Epplin added to the story. Where did the title for the book come from? Although the book takes place in 1948, he does a great job with the lead up to the year. One of the interesting conversations included Effa Manley. And we learned that Veeck was constantly trying to trade Ken Keltner.



Members who read the book thoroughly enjoyed the book and one of the reasons is it read like a novel. As one member said, if this was his first book what will the next be like. As Mary promised, there was a drawing to win a copy of the book and the winner was Dave Klement who did not read the book yet.

If you missed the meeting or want to see it again, click on the picture to enjoy the recording of the meeting.



### Keltner Book Korner

#### Book Club News by Mary Shea



Hey Keltner Bookworms,

Happy 2022 to all!

Thanks again to Luke Epplin for a great discussion on his book, *Our Team*. The book is due to come out in paperback this February. You can watch the recording of the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have any ideas for our next book selection, please contact [Mary](#). Maybe there is a book you received for the holidays that the group could enjoy with you!

Esquire created an excellent but always arguable list of the 100 best baseball books. Included are books by Keltner Book Club guests Jane Leavy and Mitch Nathanson. Check it out [here](#), and maybe we could cover one these selections.

Enjoy the offseason, and happy reading!

Mary



### Get to Know

#### Get to Know...Rex Hamann

Since 1999, Rex and his wife have visited nearly 500 graves of former American Association players in the Midwest. It all started back when he was living in Milwaukee and started learning about the old Milwaukee Brewers from his neighbors which led to his interest in the American Association. His interest was sparked after purchasing four cards of Milwaukee players from the T-206 set (1909-1911). But his “addiction” was complete after McFarland published the record of the American Association teams from 1902 to 1952. He then needed to know everything about the original Brewers and the league.

Rex D. Hamann, the third of four children of Albert Hamann and Marjorie (Taylor) Hamann, was born on Oct. 21, 1957 at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. His mom, originally from Milan, Michigan, did secretarial work for Oscar Mayer and other businesses while his dad worked in law enforcement, originally with the State of Wisconsin's Crime Lab then Campus Chief of Police at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His siblings included an older sister and brother with a younger sister.

He grew up in Madison where he received most of his education attending two grade schools, the first two years at Midvale Elementary then Orchard Ridge Elementary and Middle School through 8th grade. Hamann then attended James Madison Memorial High School before enrolling at Madison Technical College where he received his Associate Degree. He received his Bachelors in Education degree from UW-Madison. Rex attended UW-Milwaukee after moving to Milwaukee.

Rex's earliest baseball memory was from 1964 when he was six years old. His cousin from Michigan was visiting and the families drove to Milwaukee for a Braves versus Houston Colt 45's game. He recalls sitting in the upper deck and had an unforgettable happenstance, they caught a foul ball. "My very first game, and we get a foul ball....go figure." The same youngster's favorite team was the Chicago Cubs. When he started collecting baseball cards, the first card was a 1964 Topps [Dick Ellsworth](#), a Cub's pitcher. He remained an avid fan of the Northsiders until high school in the early 1970s.

Like most youth of his time, Hamann's baseball playing days included little league, Madison City League ball and was on his high school's team for a short time. His next ball playing was softball 20 years later.

Teaching is a noble occupation and Rex had a 20 year career including 15 years with the Milwaukee Public Schools. Later he added five years of teaching in Barberton, OH and Anoka, MN. He has been the author and publisher of the American Association Almanac since 2001.

Keitha Lucas of Big Rapids, MI and Rex wed in 1999. It was both their first marriages, they do not have children. Keitha is also a teacher. They live in Andover Minnesota.

An avid user of the Baseball Encyclopedia, he maintained a collection of 3x5 cards on the players of his greatest interest, especially those Cubs from when he was collecting their baseball cards. "At the time, Rex said, "he had no idea anyone else was interested in baseball statistics. Then he learned about SABR joining in 1997 per his SABR profile.

When did Hamann start his baseball research and writing? "I began writing formally about my interest in baseball during the Fall of 2001 after searching for the grave of [Nick "Tomato Face" Cullop](#) in Gahanna, Ohio that year." He continued, "The grave was unmarked and so I took it upon myself to attempt to get a marker for his grave which later proved successful. I wanted to write about that experience and it led to the publication of my baseball history journal now known as the American Association Almanac.

Hamann just completed the most exhaustive project of his research career, compiling a record for each of the eight original American Association teams who established their franchise record in season home runs. Next, is beginning to work on the final four seasons of the American Association playoffs (1959-1962); hoping to publish in spring 2022.

Not surprising, Rex would like to be transported back to a Deadball-era contest in one of the old American Association cities, especially Milwaukee's Borchert Field if he could have a time machine moment. He explained, "To experience what it must have been like to watch a game where people were there largely for the experience of watching baseball. I'm especially interested in knowing what it must have been like for fans who did not have the benefit of a public address system to keep them



Rex with his friend Dan in the County Stadium mezzanine around 1999

informed of what was happening on the field. I like the idea of being at a game where baseball is the focus, not all the “entertainment” which takes place at modern games.”

In addition to his love of baseball, Rex has two other interests, Wisconsin brewing history and bluegrass music. Beer started when he was 11 or 12 years old when he asked his best friend’s dad if he could have the empty Miller High Life can, kicking off a lifetime interest. He started writing Breweries nationwide and saved all of the letter head that came back. The first can led to a large beer can collection until a broken pipe damaged most of them. But a new gathering started after he moved to Wisconsin’s biggest city, old beer bottles from Milwaukee with their original contents discovered at an antique store in the Third Ward. And he related, “that re-ignited my passion for collecting Wisconsin beer bottles. Since then the collection has expanded quite a bit.”

He has a modest collection of vinyl bluegrass LPs dating from the late 1950s, including his very first album purchased in Madison in 1972. Rex claims, “The capital city was a great place to see live bluegrass, and other folk music artists, and because of that I’m still very interested in roots music.”

Any final words of wisdom?” I would encourage anyone with any sort of passion for collecting to pursue their interests. My various collections have opened doors I never thought possible. Staying in touch with other collectors inspired me to write about my interests, and the writing only serves to enhance one’s interests.

So, who was first? Hamann’s necrology started with [Stoney McGlynn](#), the “Iron Man of Baseball” buried in Manitowoc and the first grave Rex visited. He was a famous Brewers pitcher from the Deadball era and one of those T-206 cards.



## **Borchert Field, the Bonus Chapters**

**By Bob Buege**

During the February Keltner Book Club meeting featuring Bob Buege and his awesome book, [Borchert Field Stories from Milwaukee’s Legendary Ballpark](#), we learned that 13 chapters were not included in the book. We asked Bob if he would like to place them in the *Hot Corner*; he happily agreed. We’ll feature one monthly into 2022. Thanks, Bob!

## **Black And White**

The Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri was founded in 1990. Situated in the historic 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine District, the focal point of the city’s African American culture during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this privately-funded institution is dedicated to preserving the vibrant history of Negro League baseball in America.

Probably the museum’s most memorable feature is the “Field of Legends.” An array of 12 nearly life-sized bronze statues portrays one dozen of the legendary figures of the game, one at each defensive position plus a few miscellaneous. Crouched behind home plate, of course, is the “black Babe Ruth,” [Josh Gibson](#). On the mound stands the ageless right-hander, [Satchel Paige](#). Ready to spring into action in left field is fleet-footed [Cool Papa Bell](#). Other immortals in the exhibit include [Oscar Charleston](#), [Judy Johnson](#), Ray Dandridge, and one of the museum’s founders, [Buck O’Neil](#). Each of these men, by the way, played ball in Milwaukee’s Borchert Field.



One other Negro League veteran who appeared in Borchert Field—just once, in the second game of his three-game career—was Eddie Klep. In stark contrast to the accomplishments of the Hall of Famers listed above, Klep’s Negro League experience was unremarkable except for one distinction—Klep was a white man.

The son of a Polish-speaking immigrant shoe repairman and sometime welder, Klep grew up in the industrial city of Erie, Pennsylvania. He was a talented athlete, a Golden Gloves boxer and left-handed pitcher whose ability compensated for his five-foot seven-inch stature. He was by no means a role model for America's youth. He dropped out of school in the sixth grade and remained uneducated and unable to hold a steady job.

"Eddie and work just didn't get along," said his wife, who along with their son was abandoned on more than one occasion.

Klep had a reputation for being thoughtful and kind-hearted, but he developed an alcohol problem at a young age. His teenaged years were marked by frequent scrapes with the law. Twice in his early twenties he served jail time, once for adultery and once for receiving stolen property.

The cause of Klep's unsettled life and ultimately his addiction to booze may have been born in tragedy. On March 15, 1937, his father was crushed between two railroad cars. Several of the father's co-workers placed the mangled remains of his corpse in a box and delivered it to Klep's house. Eighteen-year-old Eddie was home alone at the time and witnessed the horrific sight. Just a few months later Eddie was arrested for the first time for larceny. Four years later, on the eve of his wedding, he attempted suicide by swallowing Mercurochrome.

Despite Klep's personal struggles, in early March of 1946 he signed a contract to pitch for the Cleveland Buckeyes of the Negro American League. Led by the league's leading hitter, [Sam Jethroe](#), who later became the first African American to play for the Boston Braves, the Buckeyes were the defending league champions.

Less than five months earlier, [Branch Rickey](#) had electrified the baseball world by announcing that [Jackie Robinson](#) would join the Brooklyn Dodgers organization and play for their Montreal farm team. For whatever reason, certainly one involving money, Buckeyes owner Ernest Wright elected to emulate Rickey's controversial gambit but in reverse, making Klep the first Caucasian to play in the Negro Leagues. On March 18 the newly integrated Cleveland club boarded their team bus and headed south for Birmingham, Alabama for spring training.

But this was 1946. The Deep South was not about to permit a mixing of the races on the baseball diamond. On March 24 as the Buckeyes prepared for a pre-season contest with the Black Barons in Rickwood Field, a squad of local law enforcement officials descended on the playing field and ordered Klep off the premises. A city ordinance, it seems, forbade athletic events involving members of different races. This piece of local legislation was known as the Checkers Rule because it even prohibited persons of different skin tones from playing checkers together. Klep was chased out of the dugout and required to change out of his uniform and into civilian clothes. Then he was made to find a place in the seating area reserved for whites.

The Buckeyes didn't know it, but they were fortunate that the only persuasion used in this instance of Jim Crow municipal justice was verbal. The police performed their duty under the orders of Birmingham's Public Safety Commissioner, Theophilus Eugene "Bull" Connor. In the 1920's Connor had joined the Ku Klux Klan. In the '30's he first gained public prominence by broadcasting Birmingham Barons baseball games on the radio. It was in 1963, however, when Connor would outrage the nation by ordering fire hoses and vicious dogs used against peaceful civil rights demonstrators. By doing so, Connor became a symbol of racial hatred recognizable around the world.

Two weeks after his banishment in Birmingham, Klep finally got his chance to pitch for the Buckeyes. In an exhibition game against the Atlanta Black Crackers on April 7, he was the starting pitcher in the opening game of a doubleheader. He pitched three innings, allowing two hits and three unearned runs. Despite their shoddy fielding, Cleveland won and Klep was credited with the victory. It was his last appearance on the Buckeyes' exhibition circuit of the southern states. Apparently they were unwilling to risk more confrontations in the heartland of segregation.

The Negro American League season began on Sunday, May 5, with a twin bill matching the Buckeyes and the visiting Birmingham Black Barons. Eddie Klep did not play. In fact he sat idle for more than three weeks before making his official Negro League debut on May 29 in Grand Rapids,

Michigan. Facing the Chicago American Giants in relief in the sixth inning of a tie game, Klep shut the Giants down, surrendering only a solo home run in the ninth inning and securing the victory.

As soon as the game ended, Klep and his teammates loaded the team bus and began the 280-mile drive to Milwaukee. On May 31 the Buckeyes again played the Chicago American Giants in a league game, with the Giants the home club, this time in Borchert Field. The Giants' "regular" home stadium, if it could be called that, was Comiskey Park on Chicago's south side. The Giants played there when the White Sox were away. When Comiskey was not available, Borchert Field was the Giants' back-up home field.

In Milwaukee the weather on the last day of May is impossible to predict, but Miller Park has a retractable dome for a reason. May 31, 1946 found Borchert Field's splintered wooden bleachers wet from an afternoon drizzle that dissolved into a mist by evening. The temperature hovered in the mid-40's. It was not ideal weather for a night ballgame, but when you have driven six hours to get there, a chilly dampness will not stop you. The game proceeded as scheduled. The hardy fans who braved the elements were rewarded with a bit of history. Eddie Klep made his second career appearance as the league's only pale complexion. What's more, he came out of the bullpen, hurled three innings, and earned the win.

Two days later the Buckeyes played the Indianapolis Clowns in League Park. Klep made his first Cleveland appearance. It would be his last. He was called upon with the bases loaded in the ninth inning and the score tied. The first batter he faced was Goose Tatum, the "clown prince" of Harlem Globetrotters fame. Tatum ripped a line drive up the middle that Klep deflected but could not catch. One run scored. After a single, two more scored. Soon after that Klep was released by the Buckeyes. Cleveland manager [Quincy Trouppe](#) had a simple explanation: "He just wasn't a good enough ballplayer."

On July 13 Klep and a friend of his were caught stealing cases of beer. It was a petty crime, but Eddie had compiled a record of previous arrests. As a result, from September 1946 to September 1948, he was the best lefty pitcher on the baseball team in Pennsylvania's Rockview State Prison. It was not his final incarceration.

On November 21, 1981, Eddie Klep died in a state-owned medical facility in Los Angeles. His death was related to alcoholism.



## **The Kansas City Monarchs in Sheboygan, July 2, 1937**

**By Wallace Thiel**

It would be hard to overstate the prominent place local baseball held in communities all across Wisconsin throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; before the distractions of automobiles, television, digital media and screens of unimaginable capabilities. In Sheboygan the Chairmakers, the local ball club, were front and center in the minds of their fans as they held second place in their league as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend approached in 1937. Among those fans was 11-year-old Dolores Koehel who lived with her family right behind the North Side Athletic park just north of Superior Avenue.

When the Chairmakers weren't playing regular league games, they would sometimes fill the gaps with exhibition games, and the Negro American League-leading team, the Kansas City Monarchs, did exactly the same thing. When the Monarchs' bus appeared in Sheboygan and they squared off against the Chairmakers on July 2, 1937 Dolores snatched up her little red autograph book and headed over to the ball park along with a handful of other neighborhood kids and their parents.

The Monarchs were no ordinary black ball club. They were perennial leaders in the American Negro League and won the Negro League World series in 1924 and again in 1942. The "Sheboygan Press" previewed the game beforehand, citing the Monarchs' win over the Chairmakers in 1936 and Sheboygan manager [Joe Hauser's](#) hope to even the score. The article highlighted the Monarchs' lineup, full of players who would likely have been in the major leagues had they not been men of color.

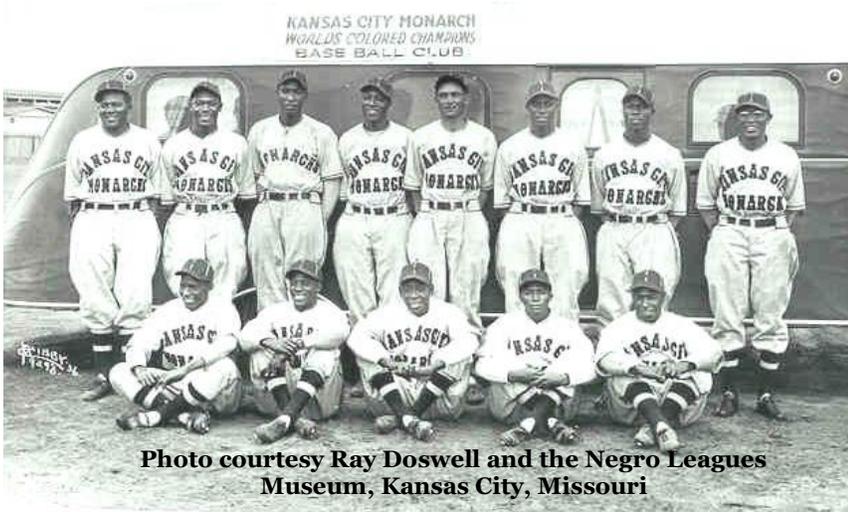
With a lineup of such talent, a sellout for the July 2 ball game could be expected. Frank Duncan, considered the best catcher in the Negro American League, was behind the plate. [Willard Brown](#) played left field and Ed Mayweather held down first base. All three homered that night in a 20-4 Kansas City rout of the local Chairmakers. Two famous Sheboygan players, Joe Hauser and John Posewitz, also homered in that game. According to the “Press” coverage the following day, July 3, 1937, Kansas City’s pitchers “sent such speed balls down the groove that the locals didn’t have time to swing at them, and as far as ‘stuff’ on the ball was concerned, they seemed to ‘loop-the-loop’ before they reached the plate.” The fast Monarchs swamped the Chairs, collecting 20 runs on 20 hits. In a nutshell, the Kansas City Monarchs displayed the talents of a major league team that deserved the advanced publicity offered by the previous days’ press coverage.

The Monarchs were owned by [J.L. Wilkinson](#), a white fellow who had the respect of his all-black team. Andy “Lefty” Cooper, a star Negro League pitcher, managed the squad and was assisted by another well-known twirler, “Bullet” Joe Rogan, who was approaching the end of his career. The Monarchs would return to Sheboygan in 1938 to defeat the Chairmakers for the third time in another exhibition game.

These guys were good. Real good. Major League good. Yet if we were playing the popular TV game show, “Jeopardy,” I would venture to say that many contestants could quickly name baseball’s home run icon, [Babe Ruth](#), but would have no idea what team won the Negro American League Championship in 1937, much less who lead that team with a .368 batting average and an OPS of 1.049. That would be the Kansas City Monarchs and Willard Brown.

So, Sheboygan, Wisconsin entertained the likes of the best of the best baseball talent that July night, but it wasn’t until just recently that the baseball community has found it fit to acknowledge the Negro Leagues of that time as true major leagues. The door has been opened to recognize and memorialize the rich baseball talents of such players as “Bullet” Rogan, Andy Cooper and Willard Brown, not to mention the likes of Monarchs’ owner J.L. Wilkinson, without whom the Monarchs might never have excelled. Just how Dolores Koechel’s autograph book wound up in the hands of the Monarchs that night we just don’t know. What we do know is that when Dolores came home she had the autographs of J.L. Wilkinson, Andy Cooper, Willard Brown and “Bullet Rogan.” This wouldn’t be such a big deal, except that all four of these baseball greats have finally found their rightful place in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Thanks to Dolores Koechel who still lives in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Dolores, a lifelong baseball fan, raised three baseball loving sons. I am one of them.



Andy “Lefty” Cooper (L) and Willard Brown (R) Photo courtesy Gary Ashwill, Seamheads.com and Christies

Article published by the [Sheboygan Press](#), Tuesday, December 14, 2021

## Larry Baldassaro in Baseball Hall of Fame Article

Ken Keltner member and UW-Milwaukee Professor Emeritus of Italian was featured in the following Baseball Hall of Fame's Baseball History Series in December.



### Part of the Baseball History Series Written by: Janey Murray

When Lawrence Baldassaro finally put two and two together, he realized he was the perfect person to chronicle the rich history of Italian Americans in baseball.

“Here I am, all four grandparents and my mother were born in Italy, so they were immigrants. I’m a professor of Italian, and I’m writing about baseball,” Baldassaro said. “Why not write about Italians in baseball?”

It began with an interview with Phil Rizzuto in 1993 at Milwaukee County Stadium, where Baldassaro was a frequent visitor thanks to his role as a writer for the Brewers’ *Game Day Magazine*. Decades later, Baldassaro is the author of three different books focused on Italian Americans’ contributions to baseball – and now, a collection of the interviews he conducted for one of those books is part of the Hall of Fame’s Recorded Media Archives.



Baldassaro grew up in Western Massachusetts as a devoted fan of the Red Sox and Ted Williams. His playing career came to an end after a childhood spent in American Legion ball and a brief tenure in college and semipro ball. But by the 1980s, Baldassaro, then a professor of Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, got back into the game by writing about it – and eventually recognized a void he could fill.

“I discovered at that time, very little had been written about Italian Americans in baseball, in spite of an incredible history that goes back to the 1920s,” Baldassaro said.

His first book, “Beyond DiMaggio: Italian Americans in Baseball”, published in 2011, provides a narrative history of Italian Americans’ contributions to the game. “Baseball Italian Style: Great Stories Told by Italian American Major Leaguers from Crosetti to Piazza”, published in 2018, uses first-person accounts from Italian-American baseball players, presented in a style modeled after Lawrence Ritter’s “The Glory of Their Times”, long considered one of the great first-person accounts of baseball history.

Baldassaro’s most recent book, “Tony Lazzeri: Yankees Legend and Baseball Pioneer”, details the life of Hall of Famer and longtime Yankees second baseman Tony Lazzeri.

Thanks to Baldassaro’s recent donation, a collection of interviews conducted for “Baseball Italian Style” are now part of the Hall of Fame’s Recorded Media Archives, and can be accessed by visiting the the Museum’s Giamatti Research Center in Cooperstown.

The interviews were conducted from 1993-2017, and include conversations with dozens of former big leaguers, including Larry Bowa, Dom DiMaggio, Tony La Russa and Rizzuto, among many others.

Baldassaro’s interviews, conducted with players from a variety of different generations, provide a look at the human side of the game, and the many ways in which life as a big leaguer has changed over time.

He knew that, for posterity, the Hall of Fame was just the place where these rich accounts of baseball history should reside.

“The game on the field pretty much stayed the same, but it changed in many ways – day games, no night games, traveling by train, sharing rooms in the hotels, working in the offseason,” Baldassaro said. “These stories do reveal the humanity behind the statistics, and they provide, I think, a very vivid description of day-to-day life in the big leagues, going back to the 1930s, all the way to today, seeing how life in the big leagues has changed.”

And yet, despite the many changes to the game, by Baldassaro's observation, the core motivations of baseball's greatest talents have remained largely stagnant.

"You get a sense from every one of them that, yeah, they made money, and some of the more recent ones a lot of money, but fundamentally, the motivation was always, 'I love the game, and that's what I want to do with my life,'" Baldassaro said.

*Janey Murray is the digital content specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*



## What's Happening with the DockHounds in Oconomowoc?



We just finished up a calendar contest where fans could submit photos of their dogs. Top 24 were selected and then the public voted for the [top 12](#). Calendars and merch now available on the DockHounds [website](#).

### DockHounds Announcements

The 2022 [Schedule](#) is out. They open their inaugural season on the road, well, maybe down the road in Milwaukee with three games against the Milkmen starting May 13. The DockHounds continue the road trip to Sioux City before returning home to open Wisconsin Brewing Company Park on May 29 for three against the Winnipeg Goldeyes followed by the Kane County Cougars ending their first home stand. The Hounds final home appearance is on August 28 before closing the season in Cleveland on September 4.

The new DockHounds Kids Club has just been announced - [Kids Club - Lake Country DockHounds](#)

We're still looking for a couple families to Host a Hound this summer! For more information: [Host a Hound - Lake Country DockHounds](#)

### Wisconsin Brewing Company Park Construction Update

- The field is completed - play ball!
- The parking lot is 85% complete. We will be preparing it for spring conditions
- Pouring the second floor of the indoor facility will occur within a week to 10 days. The we will need to allow 4-6 days to cure before the installation of the second floor walls
- Ballpark bowl to start construction this week

Eye spy something big and green. So excited about our new field.



**[Trish Rasberry](#)**  
General Manager  
Lake Country DockHounds

## New Membership Offer from SABR



If you or someone you know have been thinking of joining SABR, now is the time! For a limited time, try SABR with ONE FREE MONTH of membership. If you can't get enough baseball, a monthly SABR membership offers unparalleled access to the game's most important research and histories within a like-minded community of like-minded enthusiasts.

Learn more & join us today: <https://sabr.org/freemonth>



## Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By [Rick Schabowski](#)  
January 2022 Trivia.

1. In 2003, Lyle Overbay was acquired in a trade from the Arizona Diamondbacks. Who did the Brewers send to complete the transaction?
2. Lyle Overbay was traded in 2005 to which AL team in exchange for who?
3. What unusual feat did Brewers pitcher Bronswell Patrick accomplish during the 1998 season?
4. Who was the first Brewers slugger to have a six-hit game?
5. Which Brewers player hit for the cycle in 2004



Do you have a favorite baseball trivia question? If so, send it to [Rick](#) to see if you can stump him and we'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit for the stumper.

*Answers on page 14*

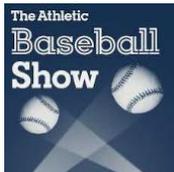


## Help with Book on Brewer Opening Days

Greetings Ken Keltner Chapter! My name is Matthew Prigge and I am currently at work on a book detailing the history of the Milwaukee Brewers via the franchise's 52 (soon to be 53) home openers. The book is set to be published in 2023 by McFarland and Company. I am reaching out to the Keltner Chapter for home opener photos that members have and might be willing to share for the project. I am hoping to include an image from or related to each home opener. Photos of the stadium, game action, even of your tailgate party would all be gladly accepted. Even mementos from home openers - give-aways, promo items, etc - could work. Being a small-run publication, there is no real budget for images, but I would properly credit the work and be very grateful for your help. If you can help out, please contact me at [mjprigge@gmail.com](mailto:mjprigge@gmail.com).



## The Athletic Baseball Show Podcast - Starkville Dec 23, 2021



As an avid fan of listening to podcasts in my five mile walks daily, I listen to a wide variety of topics but a lot of baseball. I need to share the greatest podcast I have ever listened to, Starkville hosted by Jayson Stark and Doug Glanville on December 23rd. Their guest was Tim Kurkjian and listening to Jayson and Tim talk about baseball was extremely entertaining and informative. Luckily, I walk at night with very few people around because I was laughing out loud throughout the podcast. Starkville is one of my favorites and this was the best of all of them.

If you are looking for some great entertaining baseball talk, I strongly suggest you listen to this episode. You can do so where ever you download your podcast or listen [here](#).

Enjoy! DDD



## The American Association Angle

### A Home Run Accounting for the American Association Champion

1936 Milwaukee Brewers

by Rex Hamann

Editor and Publisher of the *American Association Almanac*

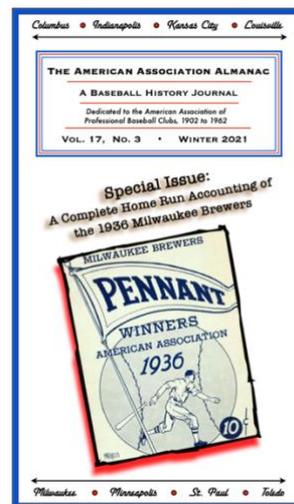
In the spring of 2021 the *American Association Almanac* published a detailed account describing the home run production of American Association teams whose output established the franchise record. In the case of the 1936 Milwaukee Brewers, two home runs were missing, and as a result, conclusions based on the data were incomplete. This has now been remedied.

In September, 2021 microfilm for the *Milwaukee Journal* established that the missing home runs were hit May 3, 1936 by Brewer outfielder **Tedd Gullie** and second baseman **Eddie Hope**. In addition, two home runs were also hit in the game by Louisville infielder **Jerry Adair**. These home runs did not appear in any other published box scores, and yet their team's respective season totals reflected them. In fact, even the *Louisville Courier-Journal* (which is accessible online) did not have these home runs for some reason; had it not been for their accounting in the *Milwaukee Journal* there would have been no way to account for them.

It took months of waiting for the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library and Inter-library Loan program to open back up after their covid lockdown before I could order the microfilm. Finding the missing home runs was essential to claiming a complete record, one which all computations (averages, sums, ratios) were developed. Hence a complete revision of the 1936 Milwaukee home run database was required.

Revising the Milwaukee database began early November, 2021. The new database formed the basis for publishing a revised accounting of the 1936 Brewers' home run production. That revision was published mid-December as Volume 17, Number 3 as a bonus issue for *Almanac* subscribers.

The issue was expanded from the original spring edition by nearly 3,000 words. Additional analyses and graphics and research methodology were included. In particular, a focus on Milwaukee's "Big Three" was included, analyzing the performance of Milwaukee's own **Chet Laabs** (OF), **Rudy York** (1b) and **Lin Storti** (3b).



The 1936 Milwaukee Brewers (courtesy Paul Tenpenny)

Of particular note was the role Laabs' home runs played in Milwaukee's securing the pennant over St. Paul.

Included in this *Almanac's* 28 pages are historic photos and many tables comparing the 1936 Brewers with other teams in the American Association. In addition, full-color homerographies (chronologies of each home run) are presented for Laabs, York, Storti and Gullie. Each homerography (see sample below) lists each player's home run in chronological order, including the date and location for each, plus other data.

Here are two sample pages from this issue:

With game 78 July 2 came the season's mathematical mid-way point as the host Brewers dropped their third straight game, giving them a record of 44-33-1, with a home run advantage of 76-61.

In Set 5 (July 5a-July 24) Milwaukee posted 11 wins, knocking 20 home runs while allowing 13. Wilburn and **Tedd "Ol' Reliable" Gullic** led the homer parade with four each, while Laabs was limited to a pair. Another Milwaukee favorite son, right fielder **Nap Kloza**, in for **Chet Morgan**, got into the act with a long ball July 22 in a loss at Columbus.

During one of the hottest summers on record, a "home run cooling trend" ensued in Set 6 (July 25-Aug. 9). Storti's home run July 27 was the only four-bagger by either team hit between July 24 at Toledo and July 31 at Indianapolis. Milwaukee won five of seven combined-homerless games in the set's first eight. Things warmed up at Indianapolis where Perry Stadium's 500-foot center field posed a perennial challenge. York walloped a grand slam in at the Indians' expansive yard Aug. 1. One Set 6 highlight: a combined five home runs Aug. 8a hosting Toledo; The Brewers blasted three long balls in their win against the Mud Hens.

Milwaukee's 18 blasts in a 12-game stretch helped them win 15 of the set's 20 games, pushing their season record to 72-47 through Aug. 9. Laabs was back on track with five clouts, while Storti and York registered four. The Brewers allowed nine HR while collecting 19 in the set.

Milwaukee sealed the deal in Set 7 (Aug. 10-Aug. 25), winning 14 while losing only four and tying twice, all at Borchert Field. Laabs and York each collected six home runs, combining for 12 of Milwaukee's 23. Storti, Gullic and outfielder **Frenchy Uhalt** registered three apiece. Uhalt popped a pair Aug. 11 in a win against Indianapolis. Kansas City and Milwaukee combined for a season-high six circuit clouts Aug. 25, as Gullic registered a pair in the win. Allowing 20 HR, the most since Set 2, was a sign pitchers were tiring.

Six straight losses to start Set 8 (Aug. 26-Sept. 7) signaled the entire team was fatigued. Gullic starred, belting a combined three homers in consecutive games Aug. 28-30a, each at Lexington Park, and all for naught. At Nicollet Park Sept. 3a the Brewers and Millers combined for five home runs, including the last three regular season clouts registered by Milwaukee. Gullic, Storti and Laabs each went yard, while Laabs furnished the season's bookend long ball after having delivered in the season opener. Then the drought hit: Milwaukee's final five games at Kansas City were combined-homerless, and the Brewers salvaged just one win.

Sothoron's Suds Men finished with a record of 94-64-3 to claim the pennant. By defeating Kansas City in the first round of the playoffs and Indianapolis in the second, the Brewers claimed the league championship under the new Shaughnessy playoff system.

The switch-hitting Storti, a right-hand thrower, finished fifth in the league's home run derby, averaging 19.7 hr/g and homering once every 19.4 at-bats.

After playing for the St. Louis Browns (1930-34), Storti converted his major league experience into a successful career in the high minors. With Milwaukee for five seasons, he was a consistent star who set the bar high for himself in 1934 during his first season as a Brewer, batting .330 with 328 total bases, easily a career year for the California native. In 1936 he nearly matched that production, batting .307 with 322 total bases in addition to his 31 long balls.

As with many home run hitters, Storti had his ups and downs as the season progressed, but his overall consistency was part of what made him part of the Brewers' Big Three. With three multi-homer games and three consecutive-game homers, his performance paralleled that of Laabs and York. His homerless streaks were of shorter duration but occurred more frequently than those of the other Big Three, with a maximum of 13 (g# 26-38), two of 11 (g# 93-103; 141-151) and three of nine games, two in the first half, one in the second half.

While his total was lower, his value to the club can be viewed in terms of the team's 21-6-0 (.778) record in his GHR.

### 1936 Milwaukee Home Run Highlights

- **Chet Laabs'** 42 HR established the all-time Milwaukee franchise record;

Laabs also led the team with:

- a .268 hr/g average in 157 games
- 22 first half HR
- 10 HR vs. St. Paul (four at home), the maximum vs. one team
- 21 HR at home, a perfect home/road split

- Milwaukee won 27 of the 39 games (.692) in which Laabs homered;

- Four Brewer players hit home runs in three straight games: Laabs, **Tedd Gullic**, **Chet Wilburn** and **Rudy York**;

- York produced four HR in three straight games, all at Minneapolis, Aug 31-Sept. 2;

- Laabs delivered Milwaukee's 50th HR May 31a in win at Kansas City in Game #42.

- Tedd Gullic came up with the Brewers' 100th HR July 19b in a win at Indianapolis;

- Laabs slugged Milwaukee's 150th HR of the season. It came Aug. 30b in a loss at St. Paul;

- Milwaukee's 50th homer at Borchert Field was hit July 16a in HG #43 in a win over Columbus. Insufficient data prevents identification of the player responsible; it was either Gullic, Storti or Laabs.

Copies of Vol. 17, No. 3 are available for \$10.00 including shipping. Please order through:

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Copies of Vol. 17, Nos. 1 and 2 of the *American Association Almanac* are also on sale. Please [email](#) the author, [Rex Haman](#) for information on obtaining either copy, or to subscribe to the *American Association Almanac*, a bi-annual print publication offering various histories of American Association teams and players since 2001.

***Please support your local baseball historians!***

### **Schabowski's Super Stumpers**

January Answers:

1. Richie Sexson
2. Gabe Gross
3. Patrick hit a home run
4. Johnny Briggs was 6-for-6 on August 4, 1973 versus the Indians
5. Chad Moeller on April 27 vs the Reds in a 9-8 Brewers win at Miller Park