

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

November 2020

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Upcoming Events:

Keltner Virtual Chapter Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM
Official Scoring - Stew Thornley



Keltner Virtual Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM
Down on the Farm - Tom Flanagan,
Brewer's VP-Minor League Ops



Keltner Book Club

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 PM
With Author Jane Levy

Big Fella



SABR Day - National

January 30, 1:00 - 3:00 (Central)
Watch for details



Joint Chapter - SABR Day

February 13 - Tentative

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

Keltner Virtual Meeting Dates in November

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM (Central)
Official Scoring with Stew Thornley



Long time SABR member and Twin's official scorer, Stew Thornley, will discuss the role of the official scorer; he will test our scoring skills; and answer any questions we may have about scoring. Does anyone have questions regarding the scoring of

Game Four of the World Series?

Thornley has authored over 45 books, mostly about baseball and contributed to numerous SABR publications. He also does scoring for the NBA Minnesota Timberwolves and takes pride in having distinguished himself a class clown.

Watch for an email with the Zoom invite or contact [Dennis D Degenhardt](#) if you would like to attend the meeting.

Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM (Central)
Down on the Farm with Tom Flanagan

We are honored to have Tom Flanagan, the Brewers Vice President of Minor League Operations to chat with us about the role of the Farm Director. He is the fifth person to head the team's player development and minor league operations. Plus, we can learn about the 2020 baseball season and player development.



The Milwaukee native, only 47, has been with the Brewers for 31-years starting as a batboy in 1990. He has also been a clubhouse attendant, baseball operations assistant, assistant director of scouting, and senior director of baseball operations before assuming his current role in November 2015.

With Flanagan's background, there's plenty of territory for questions and interesting tales.

Watch for an email with the Zoom invite or contact [Dennis Degenhardt](#) if you would like to attend the meeting.

October 24, Ken Keltner Virtual Meeting with Two Nowlin Books



Nineteen members enjoyed a thought-provoking discussion on two Bill Nowlin books. Bill Pearch from the Publications Marketing Committee introduced the editor of SABR's latest publication, [Baseball's Biggest Blowout Games](#), Bill Nowlin. He was joined by authors, Andres Koskinen (who was the Brewer's project captain), Bill Hawthorne, Blake Sherry and Herb Wilson. Nowlin talked about the project while each author covered their article on the Brewers' four most lopsided victories, interestingly, all where on the road. The writers' passion for their game made for a striking presentation and a fun evening.

We then transitioned to Nowlin's latest book, [Working a Perfect Game](#); a five year project interviewing 72 umpires plus two dozen callup and AAA arbiters plus four supervisors. What is a perfect game to an ump? It's when he feels there were no errors, no replays and he did everything possible to be in position to make all of the calls. From his conversations, Nowlin found that they see their work as more than just a job; they play a key role in maintaining the integrity of the game.

If you're tired of Netflix and looking for something interesting to watch, this meeting will fill the bill. Click on the link and enjoy!

Get to Know...

Mike Hauptert

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse professor, Mike Hauptert has worked diligently on his wardrobe that now revolves around baseball. It's so good, he can go through an entire semester without wearing the same baseball shirt twice.

Hauptert has lived most of his life in Mississippi River cities. He was born in Dubuque, Iowa in 1961, the oldest of seven siblings. His dad taught middle school science, and his mom worked hard in the home raising seven kids. Although they were good parents they had a flaw, neither was a baseball fan. Hauptert attended Catholic grade and high school before enrolling in Loras College where he majored in economics with a minor in German. He lived at home in Dubuque through college.



The excellent student says he then "parlayed that into a Fulbright Scholarship to study international economics at the University of Nurnberg in Germany." From there he returned to the river obtaining his PhD in economics at Washington University in St. Louis. Upon graduation, he accepted the UW-La Crosse position keeping him on the Mighty Mississippi.

The earliest baseball memory for Hauptert was playing T-ball where he claims he was "always the pitcher" which he indicated "should tell you about my talent level." He played Little League and then rec league slow pitch softball. Although he was (and remains) passionate about baseball, the good ol' college try wasn't enough for him to make the Loras team.

Dubuque was one of the first cities in the country to be wired for cable TV in the late 1960s, adding a few additional channels including WGN. With the Cubs on the air most afternoon, he became a big fan rushing home from school to watch the final innings. Although his dad wasn't a baseball fan, he did follow the Yankees to some extent and enjoyed teasing his first born about his Cubbies who would start strong but fade by the All-Star break thanks to their annual June swoon.

His earliest big league memory was his first trip to Wrigley Field at age ten or eleven. He recalls that Fergie Jenkins was on the mound and Chicago lost to Cincinnati. He doesn't remember anything else about the game, but has a strong recollection to what happened to his cousin, who was sitting next to him. Like many kids, he was holding out his glove hoping a foul ball would be hit his way when he made "quite the catch." Instead of the coveted baseball, somebody from the upper deck hurled a doughnut that landed directly in his glove; memorable but not what either of them was expecting.

Like many Cub fans of his generation, his favorite player was Ernie Banks. Hauptert had the good fortune to meet his hero at a card show while attending graduate school. Mr. Cub lived up to his expectations as he was pleasant and friendly confirming all the stories he had heard about him. Also, while at graduate school in St. Louis, Hauptert saw the hated Cardinals go to the World Series twice even buying tickets because, well, it was the World Series. He attended several games each year, mostly when the Cubs came to town. After graduation and moving to La Crosse in 1989 he did not attend another Red Birds game until 2007 during his first SABR convention held in St. Louis.

Hauptert joined SABR in the fall of 1985 after seeing an article about the local chapter in the St. Louis newspaper. His first chapter meeting was 20 years later in Minnesota. He belongs to the three nearby SABR chapters. Since 2007 he has attended the national convention making presentations at eight including winning the Doug Pappas Award for the Best Research Presentation in 2014 (Houston) for "William Hulbert and the Birth of the Business of Professional Baseball," Hauptert was honorable mention four times his presentations are always popular. He has made numerous presentations at four different chapters; the Frederick Ivor Campbell 19th Century and Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues conferences; SABR Symposium on the 100th Anniversary of the Black Sox; and the SABR Fall Research Conference on Women in Baseball in . Outside of SABR, he has presented at the Nine Annual Conferences and the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture.

As a professor, Hauptert is required to conduct research and publish the results. In the early 1990s, he developed a course on the economics of sports and entertainment that ultimately led to combining his love of baseball with his day job when he began researching and writing about the economics of the game. Hauptert's most prolific research has been based on the salary archives located at the Baseball Hall of Fame to catalog the salaries of every MLB player. Although he does research at many other libraries, hunting for baseball's business documents, he keeps returning to Cooperstown with its deep collection. Unfortunately, this year's pandemic prevented him from going to their for the first time in twenty years. The output from all of those hours spent in the archives has led to one book, coauthored with a friend, and more than 90 articles, book chapters, and book reviews on a variety of baseball topics, mostly related to the business of the sport.

He currently has three papers submitted to various journals. One is on the Negro Leagues, another on the origin of the Chicago White Stockings, and a third on Babe Ruth's lifetime earnings. And to stay out of trouble, Hauptert has projects underway that includes a franchise biography of the Cubs for SABR, an article on the AAGPBL, and of course his ongoing long term project to catalog the salaries of every MLB player.

In addition to earning his PhD in St. Louis, he met his wife, Mary Ellen there. It was meant to be because she is from a town in northern Minnesota that straddles the Mississippi, too. They have been married for 34 years and have four grown children, the youngest having graduated from college last May. They all live in fine baseball towns, Indianapolis, St. Louis, and San Diego which gets dad's approval. Their oldest daughter, who was born in St. Louis and was one year old when they moved to La Crosse, now lives back there. Along with her husband, they are on the front lines of the COVID fight, serving as a physician and a nurse in the emergency room at Barnes Hospital. No grandchildren yet, but they are hoping. The three daughters don't particularly care for the baseball but the Chicago curse (until 2016) was passed to his son who is a rabid Cubs fan.

What words of wisdom does Professor Hauptert have for us? "I like to tell my students that life is a marathon, not a sprint. That mentality finally paid off for me, when the Cubs won a World Series, fifty years after I started rooting for them."

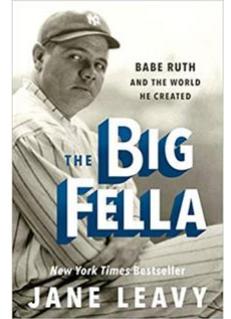


Keltner Book Korner

**Ken Keltner Chapter Book Club Meeting
Wednesday, December 9th, 7:00 PM CT
With Author Jane Leavy**

Book Club News by Mary Shea

Our next virtual Keltner Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:00 PM CT. The next selection is [“The Big Fella”](#), by nationally acclaimed author and Washington Post writer Jane Leavy. We are absolutely honored to have her join our meeting! Hope you can join us as well for this special event covering one of the most amazing characters in baseball history. Meeting invites will be sent out in early December. Please contact [Mary Shea](#) for details or if you have any questions. Special thanks to Mike Hauptert who helped arrange for Leavy to join our meeting in December. Happy reading!



Also, special thanks to ‘League of Outsider Baseball’ author/illustrator Gary Cieradkowski for attending our October meeting. He was a most excellent guest. We really appreciate his time, insight, and passion for sharing baseball history.

Revisit the October Meeting with Author Gary Cieradkowski *The League of Outsider Baseball*

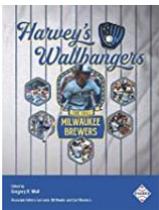


Watch Gary C talk about his compilation of stories based on the more obscure players, and more obscure stories of well-known players and other characters in *The League of Outsider Baseball* and other baseball topics. And, we chat about other baseball topics, too.

We recommend visiting his [Studio Gary C website](#), where you can explore the baseball artwork and stories he’s created over the years. He does amazing work. You can purchase his book there as well.

(Note the video starts about 10 minutes into the meeting, I forgot to start it.)

“Harvey’s Wallbangers: The 1982 Milwaukee Brewers”



Have you picked up your copy of SABR’s BioProject book on the 1982 Brewers, “Harvey’s Wallbangers: The 1982 Milwaukee Brewers” yet? If you would like a printed copy of the book and support the Ken Keltner Chapter, we have books available for \$26 including shipping. Contact [Dennis](#) to arrange for your copy. The net proceeds support’s the chapter.

Join SABR’s Golden Lineup to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

You can join **SABR’s Golden Lineup** by [making a gift of at least \\$100](#) by December 31, 2020. We will use your best gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 to bring more young people into the beautiful world of baseball; to publish groundbreaking books and articles; and to promote research, preservation, and scholarship. 10% of the donations will come back to the chapters.

Join
SABR’s
Golden Lineup

SABERMETRICS PRIMER

By Dave Weller

OPS and OPS+

You may have noticed that OPS has taken the place of the familiar batting average on the scoreboard at Miller Park in recent years. What the heck is this stat? Yelich finished 2020 with a .787 OPS, is that good? Why can't we go back to the good old batting average?

First, let's define OPS. OPS stands for On-Base Plus Slugging. It is simply the sum of a hitter's On-Base Percentage (OBP) and his Slugging Percentage (SLG). This combines the importance of getting on base and the importance of getting extra-base hits and gives a better picture of a hitter's all-around effectiveness.

OBP does a great job of capturing a hitter's ability to get on base, and therefore giving the team a better shot at scoring runs. However, it does not consider the hitter's power. A home run has the same importance as a walk. On the flip side, SLG places too much importance on power. According to FanGraphs, OBP is almost twice as important to scoring runs than SLG.

As for batting average, there are numerous issues with it as far as showing a hitter's value to the team. First of all, it does not value walks or hit by pitches at all. Second, it does not account for power, a single has the same value as a home run.

OPS does a decent job of mitigating these shortcomings, though it is not perfect. As stated earlier, OBP is almost twice as important as SLG, but they are treated as equal in OPS. However, it is an easy stat to calculate and understand, and it does factor in all the ways a player can get on base. For these reasons, OPS is generally a good stat to use.

Now what about OPS+? Like other rate stats with a + after the name, OPS+ is standardized around 100. What does that mean? It means that 100 is average, 150 is 50% above average, 50 is half as good as average, and 200 is twice as good. This makes it easier to compare players. For instance, Yelich's OPS of .787 is better than Keston Hiura's .707, but by how much? Well, Yelich's OPS+ is 111, a bit above average (and definitely low for him, the lowest in his career) while Hiura's was 88, a bit below average (and 50 points below his 2019 OPS+).

Notable OPS and OPS+

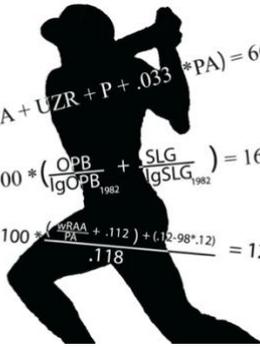
Seven players have a career OPS of over 1.000, and Mike Trout is close with a .9996. Babe Ruth is the all-time leader with 1.164. Others ahead of Trout include Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, Barry Bonds, Jimmie Foxx, Hank Greenberg, and Rogers Hornsby.

Bonds, Ruth, and Williams have the 12 best OPS seasons in MLB history. Bonds holds the record with an OPS of 1.1217 in 2004.

Ruth heads the career OPS+ list with an incredible 206, which is better than twice as good as the average player throughout his career. Williams (191), Bonds (182), Gehrig (179), and Trout (176) round out the top five.

Bonds has the top three OPS+ seasons (268 in 2002, 263 in 2004, and 259 in 2001) and the Babe has the next three (255 in 1920, 239 in 1921, and 239 in 1923) in the modern era. In all, Bonds, Ruth, and Williams have the top 11 OPS+ seasons since 1900.

Prince Fielder is the Brewer career leader with an OPS of .929, followed by Richie Sexson (.902) and Ryan Braun (.891). The top 5 seasons in Brewer history are Christina Yelich (1.100 in 2019), Fielder (1.014 in 2009 and 1.013 in 2007) and Ryan Braun (1.004 in 2007), and Paul Molitor (1.003 in 1987).



$$\sum_{y=1974}^{1993} (wRAA + UZR + P + .033 * PA) = 66.5$$
$$\hat{O}_{1982} = 100 * \left(\frac{OBP}{lgOBP_{1982}} + \frac{SLG}{lgSLG_{1982}} \right) = 166$$
$$wRC+ = 100 * \left(\frac{wRAA}{PA} + .112 \right) + (.12 * 98 * .12) = 129$$

Fielder (143), Braun (134) and Sexson (133) top the Brewer leaderboard in career OPS+ with John Briggs and George Scott tied for the fourth spot at 131. Yelich had to best season OPS+ for the Crew, a 179 in 2019. Braun, Fielder, and Robin Yount tied for second with 166 in 2011, 2009, and 1982, respectively. Rounding out the top 5 seasons is another three-way tie at 164 by Fielder (2011), Sixto Lezcano (1979), and Yelich (2018).

Next month we will look at wRC and wRC+.

Send your sabermetric questions to [Dave Weller](#).

SABR unveils 50th Anniversary Logo for 2021



OCTOBER 15, 2020 — As 2020 draws to a close, SABR is excited to look ahead and celebrate a major milestone: the organization's 50th anniversary in 2021.

SABR's 50th Anniversary logo, created by SABR member and renowned sports designer Todd Radom, proudly commemorates the organization's Golden Anniversary year.

"I'm so excited to lend a hand in helping SABR commemorate this milestone year. The logo is celebratory and rooted in baseball tradition, punctuated with a touch of bright gold — a reverent nod to SABR's golden anniversary," Radom said. "I'm proud to be a SABR member as we embark upon this landmark occasion, honoring the past and looking forward to a bright future together."

In 2021, SABR members can look forward to celebratory events and programming including:

- SABR Day and [Golden Ticket winner announcement](#) on January 30
- [SABR 50 convention](#), June 16-20 in Baltimore
- [SABR 50 at 50 Project](#), a monthly web series recognizing the sport's most [impactful players](#), [record-breaking feats](#), off-field figures, ballgames, books, films, stories, milestones, and baseball cards
- [SABR 50 at 50](#), a special anthology book from the University of Nebraska Press highlighting SABR's most essential research and historical contributions to the game
- [Oral History interviews](#) with SABR luminaries
- More to be announced soon!

In 2021, we will also continue working to fully digitize *all* previously published SABR research so it is searchable on SABR.org. There are additional plans to digitize the Rucker Archive and make 100,000-plus historical baseball images from that collection searchable. SABR will also begin cataloging and databasing research presentations from major conferences to make them part of the organization's powerful baseball research online search tool.

"There is so much on deck for 2021 as we celebrate the [50th anniversary of our founding](#)," SABR CEO Scott Bush said. "While commemorating the history of the game will always be at the core of SABR, we are excited to showcase how the organization will continue to help shape baseball's future."

To join SABR's Golden Lineup of donors supporting the 50th Anniversary, visit: [SABR.org/donate/2020](#). (Editor's note, 10% of the donations will come back to the chapter)

The American Association Angle
by Rex Hamann of The American Association Almanac
Kansas City Becomes Milwaukee's Blues in 1952 - Part 1

After inhabiting durable, but dilapidated, Borchert Field since 1902, the Milwaukee Brewers were in their final season at the venerable all-wooden ballpark at Eighth and Chambers on the Brew City's near north side. Having won the championship and the Junior World Series in 1951, the Brew Crew was the favorite to repeat in 1952, but standing firmly in their way were the Kansas City Blues. The following synopsis provides a look into their scintillating season series. The rugged back-n-forth battle between the Brewers and the Blues culminated their 51st season contending in the American Association. After 22 regular season games, the two teams clashed in a seven-game final round of the post season, providing the termination point for the Borchert Field era and Milwaukee's tenure in the American Association. This article will be presented in three parts; the first 11 tilts of the series are covered here.



Game 1, April 27: The two primary entrants in the pennant campaign kick off a sizzling affair at Blues Stadium. Entering Kansas City territory in first place with an 8-2 record, the Brewers have won eight straight games. Before just over 5,000 fans, the visitors take the lead with a pair of runs in the first inning, but the Blues bounce back and take a 3-2 lead after three. Milwaukee ties the tilt at 4-4 in the fifth, but that's when the Blues go to work. Facing **Howard Anderson**, Kansas City left fielder **Bill "Moose" Skowron** deposits a 400-foot, three-run blast over the left-center field fence to take the lead for good. **Blues 9, Brewers 5.**

Game 2, April 28: On the strength of a three-run eighth inning, the Blues master the Brewers on a Monday Ladies' Night. Down, 6-1, the Brewers score four runs in the fifth and the tying run in the sixth on a home run by right fielder **Jim Basso**. But in the eighth, the Blues rallied for three runs against starter **Bill Allen**. Milwaukee HRs: **Bill Bruton** and **Jim Basso**. Kansas City HRs: **Kal Segrist**. **Blues 9, Brewers 6.**

Game 3, April 29: A Tuesday night crowd of nearly 2,900 fans look on as their Blues take the series against the league champs, outscoring the Brewers, 23-12. Kansas City first-sacker **Don Bollweg** has the evening's lone home run which came in the third inning against Milwaukee ace **Murray Wall**, giving Kay-See a 4-0 advantage. **Blues 5, Brewers 1.**

Game 4, May 29: The Brewers overcome a four-hit night by left fielder Skowron in a game featuring several lead changes. Milwaukee first-baseman **Hank Ertman** ties the score at four apiece in the eighth with a triple to center, scoring the go-ahead, and deciding, tally on second baseman Segrist's throwing error. The Brewers get their first win of the season against their arch-rival, as starter **Virgil Jester** earns the win before a Thursday night crowd of nearly 5,000. **Kansas City HR: Andy Carey and Don Bollweg. Brewers 7, Blues 4.**

Game 5, May 30a: The *Kansas City Times* described the day as a "Memorial Day massacre," as the Blues sweep the Brewers at Blues Stadium with nearly 10,000 in the stands. Milwaukee's 4-0 lead after three innings in the first game evaporates in the sixth when the Blues score four times to take a two-run lead, enough for the win. **Brewers HR: Luis Marquez. Blues HR: Vic Power, Kal Segrist and Andy Carey. Blues 9, Brewers 5.**

Game 6, May 30b: The hosts take immediate advantage of the offerings of an overworked Brewer pitching staff, taking the visitors to task with four runs in the first frame against righty **Bill Allen** who allows three hits and exits before retiring a batter. The score is 9-0 before the Brewers score their first run in the fifth. The Blues (27-17) take over first place by a half-game in front of Milwaukee (24-15). **Blues 10, Brewers 2.**

Game 7, June 11: Down five games to one in the series, Brewer bats come to life, much to the chagrin of the nearly 7,500 Kay-See fans on hand at Blues Stadium. Both teams score once in the first

before the Brew Crew takes matters into their own hands with three tallies in the fourth. Three more in the ninth sock it away, as visiting Milwaukee outthit the Blues, 16-7, and move two full games ahead of them in the battle for first place. **Blues HR: [Bill Renna](#) and [Don Bollweg](#). Brewers 8, Blues 4.**

Game 8, June 12: Carrying a 2-0 lead through six innings, the Blues have things in hand before the Brewers finally get on the board with a tally in the seventh. But Brewer bats bust out big-time in the eighth, exploding for five runs. **Hank Ertman**'s double ignites the rally, sending two runners home on a ball bouncing past center fielder **Bill Renna**. **Brewers 6, Blues 3.**

Game 9, July 3: Just two games out of first place behind the Brewers, the Blues impress the 10,638 home faithful with an extra-inning win. The hosts take a quick 1-0 lead in the first inning against Milwaukee starter **Bill Donovan**, but the Brew Boys return the volley in the second. Not until the seventh is another run scored when the Blues strike again to tie the score. In the tenth, **Bill Renna**, with a five-game home run streak on the line, delivers a no-out single to plate **Bill Skowron** with the winning tally against Donovan, for their 51st win of the season. **Blues 3, Brewers 2.**

Game 10, July 4a: The Brewers and Blues wrap up the Kansas City portion of their head-to-head matchup with a doubleheader at Blues Stadium. Milwaukee center fielder **Bill Bruton** plates the Brews' first run in the first frame facing the tough **Ed Cereghino** who shuts the door the rest of the way. The Blues tie it in their half. In the second, their first run of the inning becomes the deciding tally off **Murray Wall**, taking a 2-1 lead into the third. **Kansas City HR: [Fenton Mole](#). Blues 7, Brewers 1.**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.				
	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
Milwaukee	49	24	.671
Kansas City	51	28	.646	1
Louisville	40	39	.506	12
St. Paul	39	40	.494	13
Indianapolis	38	41	.481	14½
Minneapolis	35	44	.443	17
Columbus	35	46	.432	18
Charleston	27	52	.342	25

Game 11, July 4b: With the league leadership on the line, tensions are high in the game which features three Brewer ejections, including manager **Bucky Walters** in the sixth. Once again Milwaukee scores in the first, but can muster nothing further facing Blues' ace **Eddie Erault**. The lead holds until the third when the hosts post three runs, then hold on for the win in the seven-inning contest. Both clubs play errorless ball before the Blues' second-largest crowd of the season: 14,782. **Blues 4, Brewers 1.**

In the first 11 contests of the series, the Blues outscore the Brewers, 64-42, and out-homer Milwaukee, 11-3.

The American Association Almanac is a bi-annual print publication dedicated to the history of the old American Association. To subscribe, please contact Rex Hamann by email at pureout@msn.com for further information.

Ideas for SABR Day 2021 Needed!

SABR will be holding a special two-hour Zoom event on SABR Day, January 30 with info TBA. Speaking with Chicgo's Bill Pearch, we are looking at still holding our joint event two weeks later on February 13. Since it will also be a Zoom event, what can we do big together? Can you help us brainstorm? What type of ideas? Something that may be a reach like Mark Attanasio, Peter Gammons, Henry Aaron, Bob Uecker etc. Also, with your great idea, if you have contacts or ideas on how to reach the person(s) that may be helpful? Send your innovative notions to [Dennis](#) or give him a call at 262-339-9968. Thank you for your help with brainstorming our annual event.