

Beating the Bushes



*A publication of the Society for American Baseball Research
Minor League Committee*

Spring 2007

March 28, 2007

Our Goal: THE COMPLETE ONLINE SABR MINOR LEAGUE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Rod Nelson

Research Services Manager

It is with great excitement that I take this opportunity to address the hundreds of dedicated researchers and enthusiasts that make up the SABR Minor League Committee. This is truly an extraordinary time in the history of our organization and I think that based on the news I'm about to share, you'll certainly agree.

We are pleased to announce that SABR has recently become the beneficiary of several remarkable compilations of minor league research. The first comes in the form of a massive database file that is the product of more than a dozen years of diligent work by **Ed Washuta**.

Other recent contributions include an impressive collection of contemporary minor league ballpark photographs along with an index of historical ballpark data for playing grounds for clubs playing organized baseball in the United States, Canada and Mexico. SABR has agreed to preserve **Gary Jarvis'** website (www.minorleagueballparks.com) and is in receipt of hundreds of additional digital photographs. **Gord Brown** has contributed his research files listing minor league ballpark site location, years of operation, teams and league usage, seating capacity, outfield dimensions and other miscellaneous information.

Having these datasets available to be shared makes the goal of creating a comprehensive database of minor player statistics a worthy endeavor for the SABR Minor League Committee.

Our preliminary plan is to integrate the following into the Online SABR Baseball Encyclopedia:

- ◆ 151,000+ unique post-1901 ballplayers with basic biodata
(Name, DOB/POB; DOD/POD; B/T/ Ht/Wt for those debuting since 1942)
- ◆ 698,000+ Batting/Fielding/Pitching Records
- ◆ 3,030+ League/seasons official averages
- ◆ 24,100+ Team/season total

(Continued on page 18)

From the Chairman

The 2007 baseball season is just days away and this edition of the Minor League Newsletter *Beating the Bushes* should whet your enthusiasm. The research topics, stories and news are extensive in this, Kevin McCann's first issue.

Thanks to all who have contributed and please continue to do so to support *Beating the Bushes* with pertinent items.

All the best and I hope to see as many of you as possible in St. Louis.

John Schleppe
Chairman



From the Editor

The weather is getting warmer. The pop of leather gloves and the crack of wood bats that can be heard in Florida and Arizona will soon migrate north. Baseball is almost here!

Welcome to the latest issue of the Minor League Committee newsletter. You'll notice quite a few changes and even a new moniker: *Beating the Bushes*. What does it mean, you may ask? To me, it represents what most of us love doing: uncovering nuggets of information among endless rolls of newspaper microfilm; tracking down that elusive minor league player who has stories to share about a bygone league and appreciates that someone remembers him; filling in the statistical blanks for a one-season Class D league that not even its organizers cared to calculate. In other words, *Beating the Bushes* to learn more about the history of minor league baseball!

Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will be published four times a year. Those that follow should arrive in July, October, and January. As long as I have enough material to work with and literary contributions from the committee, a 16 to 18-page newsletter can be expected every quarter. I have a lot of ideas and features I'd like to add to each issue. I'd like to bring book and publication reviews back, which means I also need book reviewers. I encourage members to share their completed research here in the newsletter, whether it be a league or team season or a player biography or a compilation of unpublished league averages. Thank you **Paul Browne** and **Bob McConnell** for your contributions this quarter.

With the goal of an online Minor League Encyclopedia in the future, it's an exciting time to be part of the Minor League Committee. I'm looking forward to my rookie season as editor.

See you in St. Louis!

Kevin McCann
Vice-Chairman/Newsletter Editor

Committee News

New Committee Chairman

Kevin McCann has been named chairman of the Minor League Committee. He will assume his responsibilities following the SABR 37 Convention. Until then he will serve as vice-chair. He will also serve as editor of the committee newsletter.

Meet Me in St. Louis!

The SABR 37 Convention will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri July 25-29. The Minor League Committee will meet on Friday, July 27 at 4 p.m. More information will be available in the Summer (July) newsletter.



Frontier League Commissioner at SABR 37

Bill Lee, commissioner of the independent Frontier League, will address the convention on Saturday, July 28 at 3 p.m. He will speak on the present and future of independent baseball.

Minor League Ballparks

Members interested in minor league ballparks are familiar with **Gary Jarvis'** Minor League Ballparks website (www.minorleagueballparks.com). In May 2006, Gary decided to "retire" from his odyssey of visiting and photographing as many parks as he could. Rather than allow his site to disappear from the Internet along with his descriptions and hundreds of ballpark photos, Gary has generously donated his site's content to SABR and the Minor League Committee. We hope to incorporate his work into the Minor League Database for all SABR members to utilize. Thank you, Gary!

Newsletter Celebrates Milestone

Twenty years ago, **David Kemp** sat at his computer keyboard and compiled the first Minor League Committee newsletter. **John Pardon** was chairman. "This newsletter has been an idea of **Vern Luse** for some time," wrote David in the spring of 1987. "Vern believes that the newsletter can become a vehicle to improve and assist the research done on the minor leagues." Twenty years and several chairmen and editors later, the newsletter is still around.



The first issue was five pages. It asked members to share their contact information and areas of interest for a research exchange database. The committee had already completed the first two volumes of *Minor League Stars* and was preparing to work on the third. The newsletter also included additions and corrections to information in the first two volumes.

To read it and other past newsletters, go to the committee page on the [SABR website](http://www.sabr.org) and click "Minor League Committee Newsletters."

Beating the Bushes Minor League Committee Newsletter
© 2007 The Society for American Baseball Research. All rights reserved.

Research Projects

Gary Fink is working on the 1907 American Association. He is compiling names and batting records for players in less than 15 games and pitchers in less than 20 games. He has completed five out of the eight clubs and is still working on St. Paul, Columbus and Milwaukee. E-Mail: gcfink@charter.net

Ernest Green is writing a novel set in the minor leagues in the 1950's.

David Jenkins' photographic database of the Chattanooga Lookouts is almost complete. He is offering photo reproductions of player and team photos (1946 to 1960) from the original negatives at very reasonable prices. Proceeds go toward a baseball museum for Chattanooga. Contact David for a complete list of photos available. E-mail: carty43@netzero.net

Ted Lukacs continues his research to identify every minor league ballpark. He is willing to share information (within reason) as well as copies of Sanborn insurance map images he has collected. E-mail: tedlukacs@aol.com

Kevin McCann is compiling box scores to create batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for the 1922 Kitty League season. He is also writing a league history that will concentrate on the 1935-1955 seasons. E-mail: kdmccann27@comcast.net

Bill McMahon continues his work on the Farm Club project, a definitive list of farm clubs from 1930 to 1962. (See page 5) E-mail: mcmahon@uakron.edu

Brian Mohr is researching baseball in Fort Myers, FL. His work can be found on his website at www.fortmyersbaseball.com E-mail: beach64@att.net

Daniel Ross is compiling rosters and statistics for the 1886 Western League. He's

also exploring the social histories of each town and learning the league's impact on each community.

E-mail: danross@uapress.ua.edu

Mark Zeigler reports that his book *Boys of the Blue Ridge: The Early Years (1915-18)* could be available this spring. A follow-up book will be about the 1920 Blue Ridge League season that featured Lefty Groves. E-mail: bluerl@aol.com

Research Opportunities

Are you interested in minor league research but not sure what to do? Here are two projects for your consideration:

The **SABR Baseball Biography Project** is a collection of biographies written by SABR members. While concentrating on major league players, studies of career minor leaguers are encouraged as well. If there is a player you'd like to work on, consult the biographies posted on the BioProject Committee's website (bioproj.sabr.org) and see if one has already been written. If not, contact Mark Armour (markjane@comcast.net) to join the committee. Once you've been added, send a note to Lyle Spatz (spatzl@bellsouth.net) and volunteer to write about a particular player.

The **SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Research Grant** is a wonderful opportunity to work on a project and receive a little financial help at the same time. Everyone who has done research knows the expenses involved, such as gas and mileage, ordering microfilm through Interlibrary Loan, and photocopies and microfilm copies. If you have an idea for a project that might be beneficial to SABR members, contact Research Services Manager **Rod Nelson** (rnelson@sabr.org or telephone 800-969-7227) to learn more about it. One example of a minor league project funded by the SABR-Yoseloff Grant is **Marc Okkonen's** 1900-1910 Minor League Roster database. (See the committee page on the [SABR website](#) to find his database.)

Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball Update

Lloyd Johnson (lloydj@msn.com) reports that the third edition of *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* could be in researchers' hands before the SABR 37 Convention. He writes:

"The *Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* is back on the front burner as soon as Baseball America finishes the Super Register and BA editor Phillip Daquila returns from his European vacation. I see the *Encyclopedia* out by the SABR meeting in June. On the good side, every delay makes the book better.

"The Third Edition will carry many new independent leagues, not only the current Indys, but others, such as the Empire (New York) State, Carolina and Tri-State Leagues. The top shelf California State League appears, courtesy of **Carlos Bauer**, in its entirety."

Lloyd is still looking for missing data. Two

particular needs are league start and stop dates and no-hitters.

League Start and Stop Dates

Note: *If you need additional information such as cities in the leagues, please contact him.*

Year	Class	League	Start-End
1880	Ind	California Lg.	??-??
1890	Ind	Upper Peninsula Lg.	5/31-??
1891	Ind	Upper Peninsula Lg.	??-??
1896	Ind	Canadian Lg.	??-??
1897	Ind	Canadian Lg.	5/19-??
1905	Ind	California State Lg.	??-??
1908	D	Inland Empire Lg.	??-7/12
1909	Ind	California State Lg.	??-??
1922	B	Eastern Canada Lg.	5/11-??
1937-54	Ind	Mexican Lg.	??-??

The SABR Guide to Minor League Statistics Third Edition

Edited by Carlos Bauer

The SABR Guide to Minor League Statistics is a valuable tool for minor league baseball research. It shows where to find statistics in the various Baseball Guides and publications such as *Sporting Life* and *The Sporting News* as well as microfilmed newspaper inventories for selected libraries. It also contains lists of league statistics compiled by researchers that were not published in the Guides.

To order online at the SABR Store, go to www.sabr.org

To order through the mail, please send a check for \$19.95 (postage paid) to:
SABR ♦ 812 Huron Road East #719 ♦ Cleveland OH 44115

Missing No-Hit Data

Date	Pitcher	Team	League	Opposition	Score/Notes
4-25-85	Dick Conway	Lawrence	E. New England	Waltham	
6-11-88	Ad Gumbert	Zanesville	Tri-State	Mansfield	
6-17-89	Ruiter	Lansing	Michigan St	Jackson	
5-2-94	Matt Kilroy	Allentown	Pennsylvania St	Easton	
N. D.-96	Roy Fisher	London	Canadian		14-0
9-3-04	Jimmy Dygert	Poughkeepsie	Hudson River	Newburgh	
N. D.-04	Jack Pfeister	Omaha	Western	St. Joseph	
5-16-06	Lowery Bryant	Gulfport	Cotton St	Jackson	(10)
6-25-06	George Irwin	DuBois	Inter-State	Oil City	
6-26-06	James Freeman	Evansville	Central	Terre Haute	
7-30-08	William McGreary	Winston	Carolina Assn	Anderson	
9-19-09	Fred Marks	Galesburg	Ill-Missouri	Monmouth	(7)
6-15-10	Dutch Wahl	Eldorado	S. Illinois	Harrisburg	
8-14-12	Tom Caesar	Mt. Clemens	Border		
N.D.-21	Orrin "Red" Hayes	Flint	Mich-Ontario		
N.D.-22	Dee Hunter	Meridian	Cotton St		
7-3-23	Eddie Steinman	Mt. Pleasant	East Texas	Longview	?-0 (P)
7-7-23	Red Stoner	Knoxville	Appalachian	Kingsport	
N.D.-24	Jim Marquis	St. Joseph	Western	Omaha	
6-21-27	John Trippe	Cambridge	Eastern Shore	Easton	(7)
7-4-27	Rex Adkins	Hattiesburg	Cotton St	Gulfport	
N. D.-31	Gus Burleson	El Dorado	Cotton St		
5-22-32	Tony Tuma	Grand Island	Nebraska St	North Platte	(7)
7-8-32	Victor Salmon	Lincoln	Nebraska St	Beatrice	(7)
8-11-37	Dee Moore	Macon	South Atlantic	Columbus	(7)
5-8-38	Jerry Blanchard	Lubbock	W Tex-N Mex	Wink	(7)
8-8-39	Vincent Palumbo	Salem-Roanoke	Virginia	Staunton	
N. D.-40	Ed "Pat" Malone	Greenwood	Cotton St	Hot Springs	
8-2-41	Tony Foti	Lexington	N. C. State	Concord	
8-23-45	Dwight Wilkinson	Landis	N. C. State	Salisbury	

I'll Have Four Sliders...And A Heart Bypass

The [Gateway Grizzlies](#) (Sauget, Ill.), who brought us the Krispy Kreme Bacon Cheeseburger last season, have created "Baseball's Best Slider" for 2007.

It's described as "a thin-sliced, steam-grilled, square-shaped burger topped with cheese and grilled onions that is then breaded and deep-fried." A two-pack has about 600 calories and 40 grams of fat. That's 90% of the recommended fat intake (at 2,000 calories a day)! Remarkd GM Tony Funderburg: "This is just another way to make Grizzlies games at GCS Ballpark more fun!"

Emergency rooms in the St. Louis Metro area are standing by. ☺

Farm Club Project

Bill McMahon (mcmahon@uakron.edu) writes:

“The project is to compile a definitive list of farm clubs from 1930 to 1962 (the "heyday" of the farm system). We would like to make a book out of this with sections on major league teams, minor leagues, and years. Most of the data is already available. There are some definitional problems which are explained in a piece entitled "The Heyday of the Farm System" available on request. What I would like to do is have a co-operative effort similar to the Biography Project. I need volunteers to take leagues. I will send you forms with basic data. Some leagues have already been assigned. If they have not been completed, they are open to all interested parties. If you have a favorite team and want to write a brief account of its farm system, I can supply data on all 20 franchises. I have written about a couple of teams. **Crofty Thorpe** is a volunteer with expertise about the Braves. As for years, there are some on my website (Gozipt.uakron.edu/~mcmahon).

“Again, if you want to see examples of "completed" leagues, please send me an e-mail. Unless you want to completely redo the format (which we then would have to discuss), what I would need from you is a paragraph or two describing the league and additional notes to the ones I have for each team in the league. One of our members has generously offered to improve upon my crude maps; I will take him up on that. As for the list of "farm questions," I shall continue to work on the unresolved cases and expect to report on them at the convention. Any help you can provide would be most welcome. I don't wish to discourage anyone, but let me issue the caveat that secondary sources are not to be trusted; in fact one finds errors in primary source material. If you get the Newspaper Archive or have access to microfilms of local newspapers, we would be very grateful for whatever you can unearth.”

American Association Project

Rex Hamann (pureout@msn.com) is continuing his efforts researching the first 51 seasons of the 20th Century American Association. He has been consigned to develop a comprehensive roster listing for the Louisville Colonels of the American Association from 1902-1952 scheduled for completion in August 2008.

One of his most enjoyable pursuits related to his study of the old American Association is the grave hunting tours he goes on every summer. He always finds graves of former American Association players that are unmarked. Several happen to be located in Ohio. If you have any interest in helping form a group to finance the gravestones for the following players, please let Rex know: Jiggs Donahue (Springfield), Nick Cullop (Gahanna/Columbus), Diamond Joe Rickert (Springfield) and John Malarkey (Marion). In Indiana: Alex "Duke" Reilly. In Wisconsin: Dan Marion (Milwaukee) and Bud Lally (Milwaukee). Also, anyone interested in locating graves near their home for the purpose of annual maintenance, there is a need for such volunteers. Please contact him for more information.

Rex continues his work on the 1910-12 Minneapolis Millers for his analysis on their three-peat championship performance. He is looking most closely at a league-wide comparison of player age and amount of major league experience as factors which may have played a part. His research for this project is funded in part by the SABR Yoseloff grant. He expects the first half of his work to be completed in June 2007, and the second half by the end of October 2007.

Research Assists

Carlos Bauer needs copies of two 1902 California League game accounts. If anyone has access to the Sacramento *Union Republican* news-paper, please contact him at carlosb@simplyweb.net

Gord Brown is researching minor league ballparks. If you're working on a particular league and have come across details about its ballparks, please contact Gord at gwbrown@golen.net

Jerry Jackson is creating a database of minor league managers since 1958. He needs birth and death dates and clubs they managed. For ones with 15 or more years experience, he also needs W-L records and leagues.

Jerry is also seeking split-season (not composite) won-loss records for the Mexican League for 1995, '96, '99 and 2001. He can be contacted at SABRMnLgs@aol.com

Phil Lowry is collecting stats for the SABR Marathon List, a personal project he has been working on for the past 44 years. He is looking for games that lasted five hours or more, 20 innings or more, or ended after 1 a.m.

So far, Phil has discovered 118 minor league games that lasted five or more hours; 199 that lasted 20 or more innings; and 120 that finished after 1 a.m. The longest and latest in all three categories is the 33-inning game in Pawtucket, RI April 18 and June 23, 1981. It was suspended at 4:07 a.m. on the morning of April 19, taking 8 hours and 25 minutes to finish! If you have uncovered any loooooong minor league games, please contact Phil at: plowry1176@aol.com.

Brian Mohr is seeking Florida State League and spring training box scores as well as photos and game programs for his Fort Myers, FL research. His e-mail is beach64@att.net

Steven Myers is interested in documenting the final season of the Ottawa Lynx (International) in 2007. He lives in Montréal and plans to attend a few games this season. If anyone would like to help him or can give him suggestions on how to cover a city's last year of minor league ball, please contact Steve at etan8_today@hotmail.com

Bob Rives is seeking information on minor and major league players Jack Banta, Hap McKain, and Claude (Lefty) Thomas. If you can help, please contact Bob at: 557 Rutland, Wichita KS 67206 or e-mail bprives@gmail.com

Robert Schultz is compiling a minor league manager register (1960-present) excluding Mexican and independent leagues. He lacks birth dates and places for at least 25 managers. Among them are:

- ◆ Cliff Ditto (Northwest League 1971-78) (died 1989 or 1990)
- ◆ Tom Dunton (Southern Oregon 1994)
- ◆ Mal Fichman (Boise 1987-89)
- ◆ Jake Molina (Idaho Falls 2001)
- ◆ Johnny Rodriguez (Jamestown 2002)
- ◆ Mike Sgobba (Lewiston 1973)
- ◆ Lloyd Simmons (ARL Royals 2002-07)
- ◆ Larry Smith (Welland 1993)
- ◆ Keith Snider (GCL Expos 1991)
- ◆ Mike Toomey (Alexandria 1980-81)

If you can help Robert with these and the remaining 25 managers, please contact him at robff49@yahoo.ca

Gaylon White is seeking personal stories, news articles, photos or obituaries on Angel Annie, also known as Roberta King. Angel Annie was a highly vocal and visible fan at Los Angeles Angels games at Wrigley Field in the early 1950s. An African-American woman in her 70's or 80's, she died in 1954 or 1955. If you can help, please contact Gaylon at: whizzer@charter.net

Necrology

Jack Hugh Bankead passed away in Dallas, TX March 13. He was born in Kansas City, MO Dec. 18, 1921 and graduated from Northeast High School in 1939. He debuted as a shortstop/third baseman with Neosho (Arkansas-Missouri) after graduation. After splitting the 1940 season between Neosho and Cooleemee (North Carolina State), he went on to play for Union City (Kitty) in 1941 and Williamson (Mountain State) in 1942. Jack enlisted in the Army and served in the 330th Regiment (83rd Infantry Division) during World War II. He returned for a final season with Gadsden (Southeastern) in 1946, playing in less than 10 games.

William T. Hoffner (Bill, Brick) died in Tampa, FL Mar. 19. He was born in Philadelphia, PA Apr. 18, 1911. After playing for the House of David semi-pro team in 1934, he began his pro career as a shortstop with Johnstown (Middle Atlantic) the following season, batting .245 in 124 games. He spent the next season with Baltimore (International) and split the 1937 season between Baltimore, Albany (New York-Pennsylvania) and Cambridge (Eastern Shore). After a five-year absence from pro ball, he returned as a second baseman/shortstop with Lancaster (Inter-State) in 1943, hitting .262 in 114 games.

Charles Albert Lacoste passed away in Mandeville, LA February 10. He was born in New Orleans, LA July 8, 1932 and attended Warren Easton High School. Mr. Lacosta was a first baseman who played four seasons in the minor leagues from 1951 to 1956. He missed two seasons (1953-1954) for military service. He played in over 252 games with Topkea (Western Association), Clovis (West Texas-New Mexico), Blackwell (KOM), Thibodaux, Lafayette and Alexandria (Evangeline), and Ponca City (Sooner State).

Frederick B. Thomas (Fred, Knocky) died in Colonial Beach, VA on February 9. He was born in Washington D.C. Mar. 12, 1914 and attended McKinley Tech High School and the University of Maryland. A left-hand hitting catcher/outfielder, he spent his first two minor league seasons with Salisbury (Eastern Shore) 1937-38. He batted .245 in 109 games with Oswego (Canadian-American) in 1939. He returned to pro ball in 1943 after a three-year absence with Utica (Eastern), batting .173 in 34 games.

William Henry (Bill) Walasko passed away in Calgary, Alberta, Canada February 14. He was born in East Coulee, Alberta July 20, 1935 and attended the University of Alberta. Mr. Walasko was a right-handed pitcher who played semi-pro ball for 13 seasons in the Foothills Wheatbelt, Western Canada, and Albert Major leagues from 1954 to 1968. He pitched for Missoula (Pioneer) in 1959, finishing with an 8-15 record in 31 games.

Dr. Kendell C. Wise (K.C., Casey) died in Naples, FL Feb. 20. He was born in West Lafayette, IN Sept. 8, 1932, son of minor league manager, scout and Detroit Tigers catcher Hugh Wise. He began his pro career with Sioux Falls (Northern) in 1953 as a second baseman/outfielder. He batted .276 in 961 minor league games over 10 seasons with Sioux Falls, Des Moines (Western), Los Angeles (PCL), Beaumont (Texas), Portland (PCL), Wichita (AA), Louisville (AA), Denver (AA), and Jacksonville (International). He played three seasons with the Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee Braves and Detroit Tigers (1957-60) and played for the Braves in the 1958 World Series.

Ray Nemec gathers death dates for minor league players as part of his research. If you know of any player deaths in your area, send them to: 1424 Heatherton Drive, Naperville IL 60563 or e-mail to: Basebalray@aol.com

They Were Cracker Jacks!

The 1896 Carbondale Cracker Jacks of the Pennsylvania State League

Paul Browne

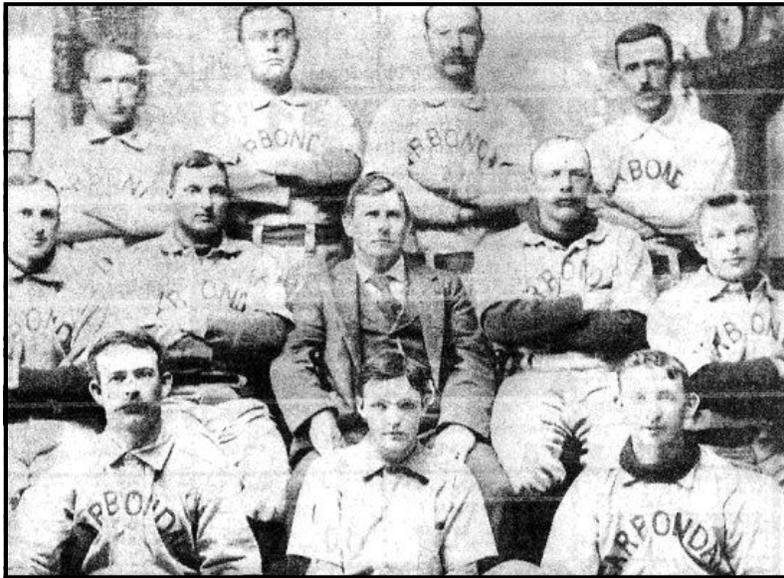
Some weeks ago the question was asked by the Carbondale News, “Anyone remember these guys?” While “remember” is a strong word I had come across some of these guys before. While preparing for the 1845 rules base ball game played in honor of Carbondale’s 150th Anniversary in 2001 I found that the first minor league baseball team to play in Carbondale was the 1895 Anthracites.

They played in the Pennsylvania State League, a league recognized in “The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball” as a signatory league of the National Agreement, the contract which governed the relationship between the major and minor leagues until replaced by the current organization in 1901. This book also listed a “non-signatory league” named the Pennsylvania State League in 1896. As the teams that made up these leagues were not listed I wondered if Carbondale had maintained a team in 1896.

After seeing the picture in the “Nostalgia” feature in the News, I dug out the 1895 box scores and found that most of these

players had also played on the 1895 Anthracites, namely Patchen, Massey, Staltz, McQuade, Sales, Cargo, Anderson, and Luby. Swift was also the manager of the 1895 team which finished second in the league, 5 games behind former American Association Philadelphia Athletics’ manager Bill Sharsig’s Hazleton Quay-kers. The American Association was the major league rival of the National League from 1883 to

1891 and Sharsig and the Athletics would play a major role in the 1896 Pennsylvania State League story.



The 1896 Carbondale (Pa.) Cracker Jacks. The players were: Sales (third base), Luby (pitcher), Massey (first base), McQuade (left field), Cargo (shortstop), Staltz (catcher), Finke (second base), Anderson (pitcher), Rafter (right field), and O’Gara (pitcher).

Minor leagues frequently only existed from year to year in the nineteenth century. In February of 1896 articles begin to appear in the Carbondale Leader and national papers speculating on the formation and membership

of a Pennsylvania State League in 1896.

J.W. Aitken represented Carbondale at a meeting in Lancaster that month to discuss the League. At that meeting the “Lancaster Plan” was adopted requiring each member team to post a \$500 bond with a trust company in their city, \$250 on March 1 and

\$250 on April 1 to guarantee their compliance with League rules. In March the League membership was finalized with Pottsville being the final team accepted over the application of Harrisburg. The other teams were the Philadelphia Athletics, Hazleton, Reading, Lancaster, Easton, York and Carbondale.

In 1896 a classification system existed within the National Agreement which categorized leagues by population. This required major league teams drafting minor league players to pay the teams in higher classified leagues more to compensate them for the loss of a player than they had to pay lower classified leagues' teams. With Philadelphia as a member the Pennsylvania State League

wanted a classification which took that city's population into account, the highest or "A" classification. On February 27, 1896 the Boston Globe reported that the national board decided that Philadelphia's population would not be counted and the average population of the other 7 league cities would be used instead.

Frank Hough of Philadelphia was the President of the State League and this offer was not accepted. The League would stay out of the National Agreement in 1896 and major league teams wishing to acquire League players would have to negotiate with each team or take a chance on engaging a player who was legally under contract to another organization.

The team had been known as the Anthracites in 1895 but the Carbondale Leader started to refer to the 1896 team as the Cracker Jacks, a relatively knew slang term which indicated a superior and exciting person, group or thing. Player signings and

other news began to be reported in March. Louisville of the National League asked Carbondale to release McQuade as he had already taken a signing bonus from that team but Carbondale refused their request. Pitcher Luby had signed with Rochester of the Eastern League but when they failed to deliver the second installment of his advance on time he jumped back to Carbondale. Staltz was named Captain of the team. Games were to be played at Anthracite Park, a field provided by the local traction company but no further support would be forthcoming from this source, an unusual situation for baseball teams of this time. This would cause financial disadvantages for the team as the season wore on. Umpire's for the League were to include former major league players Joe Horning, a rival of Carbondale's Padney Gillespie for left fielding honors during the 1880's, and Philadelphia pitcher William Anderson.



The Carbondale team played exhibition contests with Eastern League teams Syracuse, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Patterson of

the Atlantic League, an unaffiliated Bridgeton team and famed black touring team, the Cuban Giants, but did not fair well against this "fast company". The Cuban Giant game cost 25 cents to attend and an advertisement in the Leader invited the public to "Hear their (the Cuban Giants) Funny Coaching", indicating the Harlem Globetrotter style performance this team was famous for. The umpire for this game was a Carbondalian named Suntag. It would be interesting to know if this gentleman was related to Fred Suntag, long a stalwart member of Carbondale's Knight's of Columbus council.

(Continued on page 16)

Research Tips

Newspapers as Research Sources

Bob McConnell

The main source for minor league research, both historical and statistical, is newspapers. Collections of old newspapers have been deteriorating rapidly. However, there has been a big drive led by state libraries to microfilm these newspapers.

Most public libraries have microfilm of their local newspapers. Many of them participate in Inter-Library Loan. ILL is a system where, upon request, they will borrow microfilm from ether libraries around the country. The microfilm may not be taken out of the library, but must be used there. *The Library Of Congress* publishes *Newspapers In Microform*, a 1,000+-page book that should be found at most libraries. It lists all newspapers that have been microfilmed and the libraries that hold them.

Another publication that can be found at most libraries is the *Interlibrary Loan Policies Directory*. It lists most fairly large libraries and their policies regarding the loan of microfilm. Some libraries charge a nominal fee. The Library Of Congress has, by far, the largest collection of newspaper microfilm and they do not charge.

If you need a single story or box score and you know the exact date, most libraries will make a copy from the microfilm for a small fee.

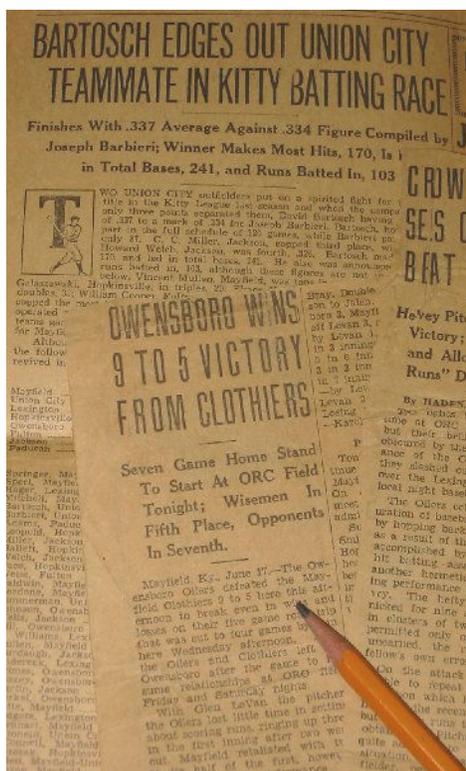
SABR owns a complete run of Sporting Life and an extensive run of The Sporting News. This microfilm may be borrowed from the SABR office.

For statistical research, both Sporting Life and The Sporting News carried box scores of all major league games and many minor league games. The SABR publication *The New SABR Guide To Minor League Statistics* has a table listing the years that various minor league box scores were carried.

Many years ago, SABR member Jerry Jackson make a compilation of all available newspapers on microfilm and the libraries that would loaned it via ILL. He made the compilation available to a few researchers. The compilation is now out of date. Many newspapers have been microfilmed since then and a number of libraries have changed their loan policies. Maybe Jerry can be talked into revising his compilation and make it available to researchers.

Most libraries have microfilm readers and they are easy to use. For people not familiar with readers, a librarian will be glad to give instructions.

Bob McConnell may be contacted at: 210 West Crest Road, Wilmington DE 19803. E-Mail: HomerBobMcC@aol.com



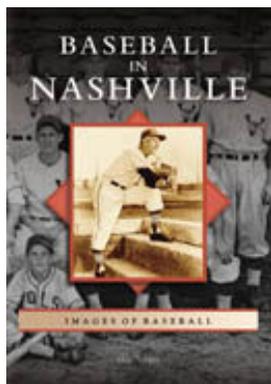
Publications

American Association Almanac Spring 2007 (Vol. 6, No. 1)

The Spring 2007 edition by **Rex Hamann** covers the topic of Neil Park II in Columbus, Ohio from its inception to its demolition. This is a detailed chronological accounting of the history of the park and provides a focus on the important games played there. It includes several images of both the interior and exterior of the park as well as an architectural rendering of the "proposed grandstand." It also features opening homestand attendance figures from 1905-07. (1905 was the first year the club used the park) Finally, a necrology section describes the baseball lives of 15 former American Association players who have gone with the great majority; includes their American Association batting/pitching line. This issue represents my finest work to date. Over 27,000 words, 54 pages in booklet format with color cover/back.

The Spring 2007 edition is \$8.00 (postage paid) or \$6.00 to subscribers. A one-year subscription is \$16 and two years is \$26.00. To order, write to: American Association Almanac, 14201 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover MN 55304-3311 or e-mail pureout@msn.com. It can also be ordered online at www.americanassociationalmnanc.com

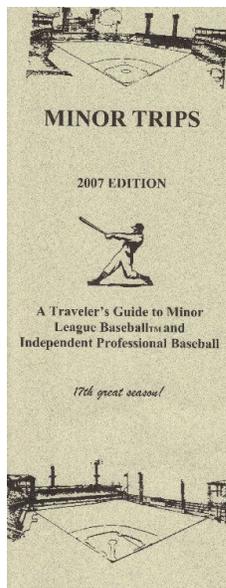
Baseball in Nashville



Nashville's first professional baseball team was organized in 1885, but the city's baseball roots can be traced to 1862, as Union soldiers camped along the Cumberland River taught the Northern game to the citizens. Including the Negro League Elite Giants and

a two-year existence by the Nashville Xpress in the 1990s, **Skip Nipper** traces its roots from the early teams to Herschel Greer Stadium and the Nashville Sounds' Pacific Coast League Championship in 2005. *Baseball in Nashville* will be published by Arcadia Publishing on March 26. Copies can be ordered online for \$19.99 at www.arcadiapublishing.com

Minor Trips 2007 Edition



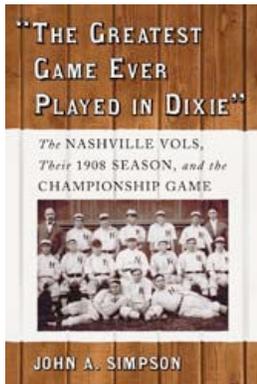
Bob Carson launches his 17th season of *Minor Trips* in 2007. It's a 47-page pocket-sized booklet with information on affiliated and independent league teams and ballparks in the United States and Canada. It gives ballpark directions, radio stations and home dates for each team organized by state. To order, send \$10 to: Minor Trips, P.O. Box 360105, Strongsville, OH 44136. His website is www.minortrips.com

Minor Trips Newsletter January 2007 (Vol. 14, Issue 1)

When you order *Minor Trips*, you also receive the Minor Trips newsletter. The January 2007 issue is 16 pages with articles on ballpark trips, reviews, and colorful promotions (like Frivolous Lawsuit Night). It also has book reviews and an article entitled "Independently Speaking" by **Bob Wirz**.

"The Greatest Game Ever Played in Dixie": The Nashville Vols, Their 1908 Season, and the Championship Game

This book by **John A. Simpson** delves into the forgotten season of the 1908 Vols and their fight to have a championship season. It examines the personalities of the ball-



players and the traits—still important today—that they exhibited on the diamond a century ago. The book also focuses on larger sociological concerns along with the players and their season. The organizational development of the game with its evolution of rule changes is re-

viewed to provide necessary background for the reader. “*The Greatest Game*” will be published by McFarland Publishing in Spring or Summer 2007. It can be ordered online for \$29.95.

Internet Resources

Baseball History

www.usfamily.net/web/trombleyd

David Trombley’s site contains a thorough exploration of the Northern League (1933-1971), including pages on its history, annual standings, seasonal highlights and statistics, and best and worst teams. He has also compiled a list of major league players from South Dakota. The most recent addition is a section on the Dakota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Leagues (1920-1923).

Baseball Outlaws

www.baseballoutlaws.com

Hank Utley’s new website is devoted to his research on the independent Carolina League. It features player profiles, poems, and team photographs as well as information on his two books *The Independent Carolina Baseball League* (co-authored with Scott Vermer) (McFarland 1999) and *Outlaw Ballplayers* (co-authored by Tim Peeler and Aaron Peeler) (McFarland 2006).

Greenwood, Mississippi Minor League History

www.baseball.aboutgreenwoodms.com

Donny Whitehead’s website shares the history of minor league baseball in Greenwood, MS. Each team has its own page with lots of photographs, memorabilia and autograph images. He also gives an overall history of Greenwood’s 19 minor league seasons in the Mississippi State League and the Cotton State League from 1910 to 1952.

Paper of Record

www.paperofrecord.com

We were disappointed when ProQuest was taken from us at the beginning of the year. But a bright ray of sunlight has peaked out from the gray clouds of our research despair: the Paper of Record—home of *The Sporting News* digital images— is now a **free** online service! Perhaps a bit over exaggerating but it’s a welcome resource for baseball researchers.

Pro Baseball Newspaper Archive

www.probaseballarchive.com

Pro Baseball Newspaper Archive is a free service of Newspaper Archive.com and a great tool for the minor league researcher. It contains images of hundreds of local newspapers from across the country and not just those of the larger cities.

Sulphur Dell

www.sulphurdell.com

Skip Nipper has built a site dedicated to one of the distinctive minor league ballparks in the South. Sulphur Dell was home to the Nashville Vols of the Southern Association from 1901 to 1961 and the South Atlantic League in 1963. The site features a timeline of the ballpark’s history and lots of photos and memorabilia images as well as a page with fans’ memories of watching games there.

Affiliated Leagues



Memphis (Pacific Coast League) will host the first annual Civil Rights Game at AutoZone Park March 31 as the world champion St. Louis Cardinals play the Cleveland Indians.

The Ottawa Lynx (International League) will relocate to Lehigh Valley, PA as the IronPigs in 2008 and play at Coca-Cola Park, which is under construction.

Nashville (PCL) has pushed a possible new downtown riverfront stadium back to 2009.

As part of their agreement with their new affiliation with the Yankees, Scranton-Wilkes Barre (International League) will install natural grass at Lackawanna County Stadium.

The Arkansas Travelers (Texas League) will play at Dickey-Stephens Park in 2007.

To reflect the merger of BellSouth with AT & T, the home of the Chattanooga Lookouts (Southern League) has been renamed AT & T Field.

The Appalachian League will operate with nine teams in 2007 after Pulaski was unable to gain a major league affiliation.

Bluefield will celebrate its 50th anniversary in the Appalachian League this season.

Independent Leagues



The Continental Baseball League will begin its inaugural season on May 25. It will field four clubs in Texas: the Bay Area (League City) Toros, Lewisville Lizards, Tarrant County (Keller) Blue Thunder, and Texas Heat (travel team). Ron Baron is president/CEO and former major leaguer Jay Johnstone is team relations director. Their official website is www.cblproball.com

Clark Griffith, member of that famous baseball family, is the new commissioner of the Northern League.

The new South Coast League will hold its first All-Star Game at Hernandez Stadium in Aiken, SC on Sept. 2. The end-of-the-season game will be combined with league award ceremonies.

The San Diego Surf Dawgs will not operate in the Golden Baseball League this season. They could not reach an agreement on usage of the stadium at San Diego State University.

The Frontier League will have two new teams: the Southern Illinois Miners (Marion, IL) and the Slippery Rock Sliders (Slippery Rock, PA).

Grand Prairie, TX has proposed a 4,000-seat ballpark for an American Association club set to play in 2008. The issue goes before voters in May.

Cracker Jacks

(Continued from page 11)

The team did better against Pennsylvania State League competition, holding onto third place throughout most of the season, usually behind the Athletic and Lancaster teams. Despite this good showing, attendance was poor and the club's directors were constantly selling or buying additional shares of stock themselves to keep the team afloat. Massey and Cargo were the leading hitters on the team and Cargo and Luby maintained the highest fielding percentages through early June. In a game on June 4th against the Athletics at Carbondale's Alumni Field the Leader reported that Patchen used a bat "that ex-Mayor Hendrick had turned with his own hands."

Trouble within the League began to surface in June with York disbanding on the eleventh. Reading had been transferred to Shamokin early in the season and that city's backers were constantly agitating to get back in the league, including a bid to push Carbondale out in April.

Carbondale's team was rumored to be folding at the time of York's exit but the local directors denied it.

As early as March, Mobile of the Southern league had offered to buy the entire Carbondale team. In mid-June Pottsville attempted to buy Carbondale's team to replace its struggling players. The price offered was rumored to be between \$1,000 and \$1,200. Another theory had Carbondale and Shamokin being combined and

transferred to Reading in a league which would only include three other teams, Philadelphia, Pottsville and Lancaster. Under this scenario it was expected Scranton would pick up Massey, Cargo, O'Gara and McQuade.

On June 15th Easton disbanded and it was expected that Hazleton would also fold. On June 20th the Leader reported that the Cracker Jacks would not return to Carbondale and under the heading "The Last of the Mohicans" the paper reported on the team's last game as Carbondale, ironically another victory. The team had been sold to Pottsville

but for only \$500, the local owners no longer able to sink additional funds into what had been a successful baseball team but a financial failure.

All the Carbondale players were to play in Pottsville with the exception of Finke, O'Gara and Luby. Finke was displaced by Pottsville's existing second baseman, Cub Stricker who had played major league ball in the American Association and National League from 1888 to 1893 with 1890 being spent with Cleveland of the Players League. O'Gara had agreed to go to Pottsville but reneged, angering manager Swift who claimed to have introduced the player to the professional game.

Luby was another story. He was in jail near Hazleton for failure to pay a \$75 hotel bill. The Carbondale team had left him there but with the folding of our franchise the blacklisting of Luby and Patchen by Carbondale was lifted and the Hornellsville, New York team acquired Luby by bailing him out of jail.

On June 22nd Reading had succeeded in getting its team back from Shamokin but



even the move to larger cities did not save the Pennsylvania State League. On July 3rd Lancaster moved to the Atlantic Association followed by Philadelphia on July 13th.

Many of Carbondale's players, who do not appear to have included any local players, continued to play professional ball. Luby is the player whose career is easiest to track with certainty. The Leader reported that he was born in Charleston, South Carolina, played with Chicago of the National league from 1890-92, New Orleans in 1893, Milwaukee in 1894 and Louisville in the National League early in the 1895 season before coming to Carbondale for the 1895 season. He died in Charleston on April 24, 1899. His name was John Perkins Luby but he was known as Pat.

Following the 19th century tradition the Leader rarely mentions the first name of any player. The exceptions being "Big Bill" Massey, "Tommy" O'Gara and manager Martin Swift.

In September of 1896 Massey appeared in at least one game with Scranton of the Eastern League. Massey had played for Cincinnati in the NL in 1894 and for numerous minor league teams all over the country as well as Toronto and Montreal from 1900 to 1909. His whereabouts from 1897 to 1900 is unknown, as pre-1900 data on the minors is difficult to find but he was reserved by Hartford in the Eastern League for 1900 so he may well have played for them at least as early as 1899. Massey died under unknown circumstances in the Philippines in 1940.

O'Gara seems to have been as dependent on Swift as the manager had indicated as I found no record of him playing professional ball again. Manager Swift came to Carbondale after managing the 1893 Scranton team in the Pennsylvania State League. He would manage the Scranton Miners of the Atlantic League in 1899 and a Swift was managing the Milton Academy team in 1900. A Robert Cargo, born in Pittsburgh, played for that city in the NL in 1892. He played for several minor league teams from

1900 to 1904. He was playing for Atlanta of the Southern Association when he died on April 27, 1904. An Ed Sales, born in Harrisburg, played shortstop for Pittsburgh in 1890 and died in New Haven Connecticut in 1912. A Dave Anderson, a Pitcher, was born in Chester, Pa. in 1868, played for Philadelphia of the NL in 1889 and 1890, and died in Chester March 22, 1897. Based on their places and dates of birth and the positions played, these are very possibly the Carbondale players.



In early June 1896 there was talk of Carbondale participating in an inter-state league in 1897. The other expected teams were Elmira, Binghamton, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Hazleton and Reading. This league did not come about and more locally based Carbondale teams, which probably included a few paid players, played against teams in Lackawanna, Wayne and other nearby counties. By 1898 these players would find this local competition rather stiff as they would have to face a Honesdale team which included an up and coming pitcher named Christy Mathewson.

This article was originally published in the Carbondale (Pa.) News.



Minor League Committee

Chairman

John Schleppi: John.Schleppi@notes.udayton.edu

Vice-Chairman/Newsletter Editor

Kevin McCann: kdmccann27@comcast.net

Farm Report Editor

Anthony Salazar: salazar801@yahoo.com

Online Discussion Group

The committee's discussion group is on Yahoo Groups. If you are a committee member and want to join, send an e-mail to: SABRminorleagues-subscribe@yahogroups.com

The discussion site is at: sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/SABRminorleagues/

Database

(Continued from page 1)

It is understood that this volume of information contains numerous errata; mostly replications of errors found in those and other commonly published references, many of which have been well documented by members of this committee.

We are fortunate to have decades of research notes as compiled by SABR founders **Bob McConnell** and **Ray Nemec**, as well as many others, to serve as our guide to updating the database as we move forward.

Reed Howard has agreed to contribute his massive collection of 19th century minor league records to the effort.

Frank Hamilton has also offered his compilation of Mexican League and Independent League data.

We would like to count on those with expertise over specific leagues, teams and players to assist with fact-checking and assem-

bling the otherwise unpublished averages. And in time, the database will also display the results of the *Farm System Project* headed by **Bill McMahon** and the *Roster of Minor League Managers*, compiled by **Jerry Jackson**.

We envision an ongoing need for volunteers in a variety of capacities. If you've tabulated minor league statistics by reviewing box scores or compiled biographical information on minor leaguers, be sure to communicate your area of interest and expertise to SABR Minor League Chairman **John Schleppi**, Vice-Chairman **Kevin McCann** and myself.

If you are intrigued by the project and are willing to contribute your time, keep an eye out for how you too can help out in this amazing research tool.

In addition to all those named above, I want to thank **John Zajc**, **Dick Beverage**, **Dave Chase**, **Tom Hufford**, **John Pardon**, **F.X. Flinn**, **Ted Turocy**, **Tom Ruane** and **Frank Hamilton** for their encouragement and support for this endeavor.