

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

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### Upcoming Events



#### World Series Club

Rick Schlesinger  
Tues, March 19 @ 5:30 PM  
Info – [Greg Ebbert](#)



#### Scott Doffek

Virtual Thur, March 21 @ 7 PM CST  
Retired UWM Baseball Coach  
Register info to follow



#### Keltner Book Club

Virtual Wed March 27 @ 7 PM CT  
With Author Mitchell Nathanson  
Register [Here](#)



#### Old Time Ballplayers Jamboree

Thur. April 18  
New Berlin Ale House



#### Keltner Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 18 @ 11 AM  
Detail in April Hot Corner

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

### Spring Training is Underway!!!

#### NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Anderson - Hobart  
Evan Glasser – St. Norbert College  
Owen Lynch – Northern IL University  
Brennan Larson – UW Stout  
Josh Richards – University of Wisconsin

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Scott Doffek – Retired UWM Baseball Coach**  
**College Baseball in Wisconsin and More**  
**Virtual – Thursday, March 21 @ 7 PM CDT**

Hartland's Scott Doffek coached college baseball at UW-Milwaukee, the states only D1 baseball program, for 29 seasons. For the first 12, he was the Assistant Head Coach under former Brewer [Jerry Augustine](#), running the day-to day operations. During his tenure, the Panthers won 785 games, 438 as the Head Coach after Auggie retired, the most victories in UWM history for any sport. Doffek retired following the 2023 season. UWM appeared in four NCAA tournaments, defeating the number one seed Rice in 1999 in the first round. Scott was named the Horizon League coach of the year five times. About [40 of his players](#) have been drafted or signed by professional teams with two time Golden Glove finalist, Daulton Varsho in the majors.



Prior to UWM, Doffek was the first team All-State second baseman in his senior year at Hartland Arrowhead High School in 1986 and is an inductee of the schools Hall of Fame. He won the NJCAA batting title, hitting .539, as a sophomore at Waukesha County Community College. Signing with Los Angeles, he spent five years in the Dodgers organization, rising to AAA. And in 1995, he was on the spring roster of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

With his background, who better than Scott to talk about college baseball in Wisconsin and nationally. Also, what is he doing since retiring?

Watch for zoom registration, coming soon.

#### Know a Future SABR Member?

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

## Recap February Meeting

### Charlie Hustle with Author Keith O'Brien

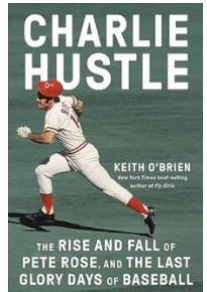


*New York Times* bestselling author and award winning journalist, Keith O'Brien, a Cincinnati native, joined the Keltner Virtual Chapter Meeting on to talk about his upcoming book [Charlie Hustle](#). It was a fascinating meeting with an author whose research and knowledge of [Pete Rose](#) convinced the skeptical attendees that this is a subject well worth writing and reading about.

O'Brien approached the book by not taking sides but telling the story of Rose. He was an American icon, beloved nationally and the story of baseball cannot be written without him. It is a human story of a working class person with ordinary skills who worked hard to get to the top of his profession admired by many, a

star who ultimately lost it all due to his fault, a Greek Tragedy. This is the first book that Rose talked to the author where he did not have control, 27 hours of interviews before he stopped returning calls. O'Brien interviewed three bookies, two commissioners, John Dowd, who conducted a great deal of the research into Rose's gambling, and the FBI, players, club officials and more. He interviewed [Fay Vincent](#) three times.

Based on O'Brien's reporting we learned that the commissioner's office was concerned with his relationships with bookies in 1978 even having him and his mistress, whose father was a bookie, tailed. It wasn't until a tip was received by *Sports Illustrated* in 1989 and their investigative team started looking onto it and when the Commissioner's office got wind of the SI's efforts, calling Rose in to questions him. Had he admitted to gambling Keith believes the story would have been different. And then he was banned. Rose thought he would still be eligible for the Hall of Fame until the Hall changed the rules 10 months before he was set to appear on the ballot. From O'Brien's research, Rose never bet against the Reds, but he didn't always bet. And we heard so much more. O'Brien answers questions with strong knowledge and opinions.



As mentioned above, many of the attendees were skeptical about why Rose now, including myself. Afterwards, while discussing the meeting during "bar time", we agreed that the book made sense now and we were interested in reading it. We have had many very good speakers and relistening to the meeting is always enjoyable. This recording is one I would recommend listening to, you will learn a great amount about the game during that time in addition to Pete Rose and maybe want to read the book as well.

Speaking of reading the book, Manley Olson won the drawing to win a copy of the book when it comes out around March 26.

To learn more about O'Brien or to order the book, visit his [website](#).



### Keltner Book Club News

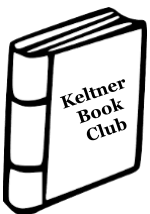
By Mary Shea

#### Keltner Book Club Virtual Meeting

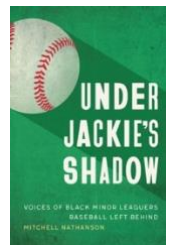
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM CT

Special Guest: Mitch Nathanson

***Under Jackie's Shadow - Voices of Black Minor Leaguers Baseball Left Behind***



Please join us as we kick off the MLB season with a discussion of Mitch Nathanson's new book, *Under Jackie's Shadow - Voices of Black Minor Leaguers Baseball Left Behind* including overlooked stories that deserve to be told. This new work, which is due out in April, focuses on the Black players who toiled in the minor leagues right after the integration of baseball, waiting for well-deserved chances to move up to the big leagues. "From their mouths to your ears, this is the unvarnished story of what it was like to be a Black man navigating the wilds of professional baseball's minor leagues during the 1960s and '70s." I highly recommend checking out [Nathanson's website](#), which includes info on all of this book, the author, and his other books.



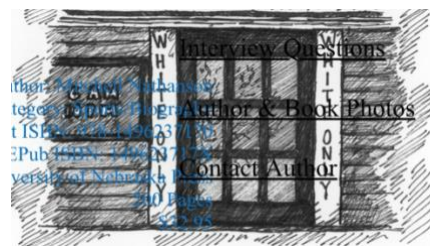
The book is available at Milwaukee's independent bookstore, [Boswell Books](#), as well as [thriftbooks](#), and [Amazon](#) for preorder.

All baseball fans are welcome to attend, and all attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win a copy of the book. Please register in advance for the meeting [here](#).

March 4, 2024

Keltner's Hot Corner

And here's a glimpse of the very cool artwork included in the book:



Also highly recommended is Nathanson's book, [A People's History of Baseball](#), which was published in 2012. This is a fascinating read, and Chapter 3, *Rickey, Race, and "All Deliberate Speed"*, is the perfect preface to his new book. It deals with myths surrounding Branch Rickey's signing of Jackie Robinson and how complete integration of baseball was actually stymied, at least partly, due to Rickey's precedents in his handling of integration and his dealings with the Negro Leagues. You can read more about this book on Nathanson's [website](#), and the book is available through [Amazon](#).

Nathanson also recently participated in an interesting and entertaining roundtable on [SABRcast](#) where he talked about the book and his process.

Hope you can join us, and happy reading!

Mary



### DDD's Discursive



Most of us know the fascinating career hits statistic for [Stan Musial](#) with 1,815 hits and home and ... 1,815 hits on the road. Is his picture in the dictionary for the word consistent? But baseball abounds with these interesting facts.

Bob Buege told a group at UW – Parkside something I have never heard before - [Warren Spahn](#) not only won 363 career wins but also 363 career base hits. Wow!

Sorry, I do not have a I do not have a Get to Know victim for this month. I have several requests out but still waiting for replies. If there is a SABR member you want to know more about or you would like to volunteer for a GTK, please let [me know](#).

When Mary Shea mentioned she was working on a story about Sister Toni, I was excited to read it and I wasn't disappointed. One of the missing members of the AAGPBL when the movie was released the good sister had quite the career. Plus, it is a good substitution for the GTK.

SAVE THE DATE: J&Bs is booked in April and early May when the Brewers are out of town, so the first date available for our **Spring Chapter Meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Save the date and let me know if you have meeting ideas.

### Keltner Hot Corner Archives

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

#### Use of Links

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

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

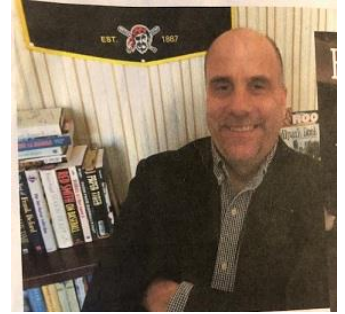


**The Power of One Run, or Not**  
by Tom Rathkamp

In 2023, the Milwaukee Brewers were **26-15** in one-run games. In April along, **6-1**; in July, **7-5**; in September, **2-4**. Thinking back at the season, it did seem as if they were in a lot of close games.

*Is the ability to win one-run games a repeatable, measurable, predictable trait, or just luck?*

There are plenty of teams in history that were above .500 in one-run games, and not above .500 in the remaining games. The opposite is also true. Several researchers have concluded that a team's record in 1-0 games is not a good predictor for how they will perform in those same games in the subsequent season. Renowned baseball researchers Bill James and Tom Ruane pondered this question in separate studies (URLs to each are provided at the end).



Both studies are long and detailed. Although they reached a similar conclusion, the roads they took there were quite different. Summaries of each follow.

**Tom Ruane**

Writing for *Baseball Think Factory* years ago ("*Looking for Clutch Performance in One-Run Games*"), Ruane opened his article with this:

*"You used to hear a lot (and perhaps still do) about a particular team's performance in one-run games and when you did, it was often used to either praise or damn their ability to perform in clutch situations. So, I decided to look at which teams had the greatest differences between their winning percentage in games both decided and not decided by one run."*

Ruane's research focused on comparing a team's record in one-run games to that same team's record in all other games. Here are the teams that improved the most in one-run games:

Year	Team	--- one-run games ---					----- others -----					Diff
		G	W	L	T	Pct	G	W	L	T	Pct	
1974	SD N	47	31	16	0	.660	115	29	86	6	.252	+.407
1955	KC A	45	30	15	0	.667	109	33	76	7	.303	+.364
1921	PHI N	45	25	20	0	.556	109	26	83	8	.239	+.317
1939	PHI N	50	25	25	0	.500	101	20	81	9	.198	+.302
1994	FLA N	36	23	13	0	.639	79	28	51	5	.354	+.284

And declined the most:

Year	Team	--- one-run games ---					----- others -----					Diff
		G	W	L	T	Pct	G	W	L	T	Pct	
1935	NY A	44	15	29	0	.341	105	74	31	2	.705	-.364
1948	CLE A	30	10	20	0	.333	125	87	38	2	.696	-.363
1963	MIN A	39	13	26	0	.333	122	78	44	3	.639	-.306
1947	NY A	51	22	29	0	.431	103	75	28	2	.728	-.297
1935	DET A	46	19	27	0	.413	105	74	31	2	.705	-.292

Ruane concludes that this is NOT an indication of clutch performance, for this reason: The teams doing much better in close games are very bad teams while the ones doing worse are very good teams. (Bill James reached a similar conclusion).

Ruane expanded his research to compare one-run records among teams with equal ability. Again, the best and worst:

## Best:

Year	Team	one-run games				---- others ---				Diff	Adj	
		W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct			
1974	SD	N	31	16	0	.660	29	86	0	.252	+.407	+.323
1955	KC	A	30	15	0	.667	33	76	1	.303	+.364	+.304
1981	BAL	A	21	7	0	.750	38	39	0	.494	+.256	+.284
1994	FLA	N	23	13	0	.639	28	51	0	.354	+.284	+.259
1972	NY	N	33	15	0	.688	50	58	0	.463	+.225	+.253

## Worst:

Year	Team	one-run games				---- others ---				Diff	Adj	
		W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct			
1966	NY	A	15	38	0	.283	55	51	1	.519	-.236	-.261
1929	NY	N	15	28	0	.349	69	39	1	.639	-.290	-.262
1963	MIN	A	13	26	0	.333	78	44	0	.639	-.306	-.278
1948	CLE	A	10	20	0	.333	87	38	1	.696	-.363	-.289
1935	NY	A	15	29	0	.341	74	31	0	.705	-.364	-.310

Success in one-run games still favors worse teams. There are a couple better teams in this list. Ruane made statistical adjustments that did not alter the conclusion in comparing the variations in the records, which is: how a team performs in one one-run games in one season offers NO predictability in how they will do the following season. If you think about it, perpetually dominant teams – especially those flirting with .600+ winning percentages – tend to accumulate more blowouts; hence, they might play in fewer one-run games.

Ruane expanded his research by dividing all teams in groups by their overall winning percentage and looked at median winning percentages in games decided by 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 runs or more. After doing this, he refreshed his list of teams and there were a couple good teams in the “Best” list and a couple bad teams in the “Worst” list. He wrote:

“This adjustment doesn't help to explain the variations we often see among teams of similar ability.”

Towards the end of his study, Ruane also concluded that: “A team's record in one-run games does not also seem to be a good indicator of the strength of the bullpen.”

This was interesting to me as it would seem logical that a team's success would closely correlate to the quality of their bullpen. Sometimes, logical assumptions can lead to faulty conclusions. Digging deeper through the weeds can often question or even dispute those conclusions. (Faulty assumptions are limitless in political discourse).

## Bill James

Writing on [BillJamesOnline](#) in 2007 (“[One-Run Records As a Basis for Managerial Evaluation](#)”), the title is only a small part of his research; only at the very end does he ponder a managerial evaluation.

While Ruane's premise was focused around the existence of “clutch ability” in the context of the predictability of one-run game success, James focused on just the “predictability” of that success and does not overtly mention clutch ability.

Since Ruane's came first, James penned a response:

*"Tom Ruane, in his article "Looking for Clutch Performance in One-Run Games" establishes each team's "normal" one-run winning percentage sometimes based on their overall winning percentage, and at other points based on their record in games decided by multiple runs. Thinking more about it, however, I wondered if it might not be better to approach the expected one-run winning percentage not from the overall winning percentage, but from the ratio of runs scored to runs allowed. As soon as I got to that point, I was struck by a simple idea. Might it not be true, I wondered, that a team's ratio of runs scored to runs allowed is their expected winning percentage in one-run games?"*

In other words, Pythagorean W-L records:  $\text{win}\% = \frac{\text{runs scored}^2}{\text{runs scored}^2 + \text{runs allowed}^2}$

James adjusted the "runs scored" power to **.865** and although the overall conclusion did not change, it did reduce the amount of error and variance. He writes:

*"It seems to me that this is a better way to establish a team's expected winning percentage than basing it on the team's overall winning percentage. Teams have played as many as 75 one-run games in a full season, and as few as 22. A formula that states the ratio between multi-run winning percentage and one-run winning percentage for one of these teams can't possibly work for the other one. Suppose that you have two .600 teams. One plays 70 one-run games and goes 35-35, and the other plays 30 one-run games and goes 15-15. To get to .600 overall, the team playing 70 one-run games has to play .675 baseball in their other games. To get to .600 overall, the team playing 30 one-run games needs only to play .621 ball. That's very different."*

Ruane attempted to compare teams of the same caliber. James argues that *"they merely appear to be of the same caliber because one of them did really well in one-run games, and the other didn't."*

Many disagreements in baseball research – or any research – involve differences in conclusions and methods. In this case, the disagreements lie mostly in the methods and assumptions made in those methods. In sabermetrics, the fun is in the journey, not just the destination.

While James and Ruane agree the trait of one-run records seems like mostly a function of luck, James argues that applies more to having a "winning" record in those games; having a "losing" records in those games seems a tad more repeatable from season to season – although still not prevailing and certainly not entirely predictable.

*"There were 140 teams which exceeded their expected one-run winning percentages by five games or more. These 140 teams, in the aggregate, were +897.7 wins. In the following seasons, however, these teams were -23.6. In other words, they had, as a group, no tendency whatsoever to be better than average in one-run games, in the following season. The trait has a persistency of zero.*

*But there were 153 teams in my study which did 5.0 or more games WORSE than expected. In the aggregate, these teams were negative 990.6 wins. In the following seasons, they were also negative 93.9 wins.*

*My study suggests that you can't win more than your share of one-run games consistently, but you can lose more than your share, perhaps. It's not a HIGH rate of persistence—9%--and it COULD be just a hiccup in the data. It's a pretty healthy hiccup. 94 Wins is a pretty fair discrepancy in the data to be written off as luck, given the parameters of the data."*

In pondering the above, I pose this question:

*Do losing teams continue to lose for a longer period of time than winning team continues to win? (Possible fodder for a future article. Stay tuned ....)*

Getting back to the Brewer's 2023 season. Their winning percentage in one-run games was **.634** (26-15). Their winning percentage in all other games was **.545** (66-55), Their overall winning percentage was **.568** (92-70). Their Pythagorean W-L record (based on wins scored and wins allowed), was **.556** (90-72). We shall see how they perform in one-run games in 2024. The team will look quite different this season. Fans would be content if their overall winning percentage improves, whether that be in one-run games or not.

URLs to both studies appear below:

<https://www.baseballthinkfactory.org/btf/scholars/ruane/articles/onerun.htm>

<https://www.billjamesonline.com/article154/>

**Do you have a baseball story – everyone does!**

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

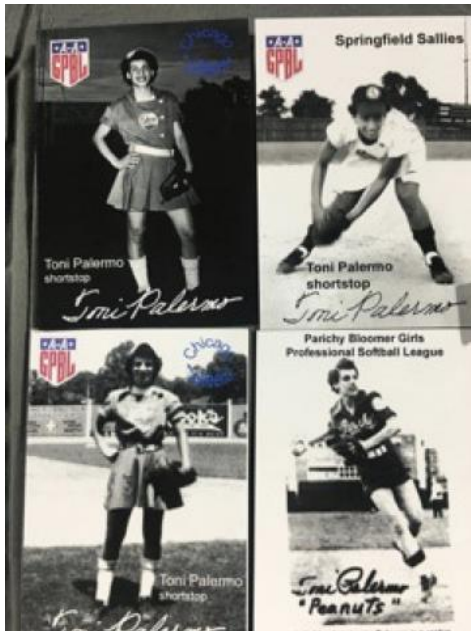
If you're ready to share yours, contact [Dennis](#).

## Sister Toni

### SR. TONI ANN “PEANUTS” PALERMO, PhD

By Mary Shea

Even though her nickname was “Peanuts”, due to her small physical stature, there are two words that would more define [Toni Ann Palermo](#) throughout her life - fearless and accomplished.



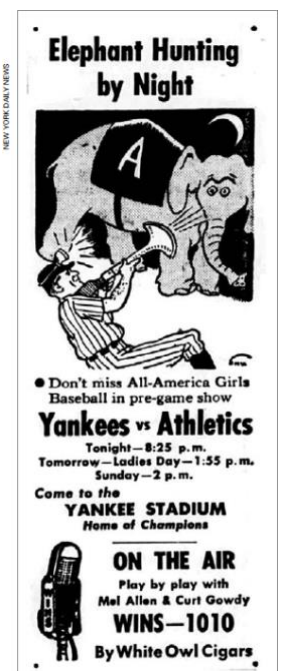
She was named Antoinette Palermo when she was adopted along with a sister, Mary Ann. Her father, Fred, a salesman, and her mother, Elvira, a homemaker, were from Italy, and only Italian was spoken in the home. Palermo honed her baseball skills at an early age, growing up in Forest Park, Illinois, during the 1930's, mostly playing ball with the boys in her neighborhood. She considered it a good place for girls to be involved in sports, that they were not held back. The family did not have a lot of money, but she recalls that her parents were able to buy her a bike so she could ride around and hang out with her baseball pals. By age eleven, Palermo was playing for the Parichy Bloomer Girls, a professional softball team in Forest Park. She was already being scouted by the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, or AAGPBL, which was launched in 1943. She was even asked to travel to Cuba for spring training with the professional women's league in 1947 but decided against it. It was during this time that she was dealt a tremendous challenge - the loss of her mother. Her father would eventually remarry, and she would acquire six other siblings.

At age 14, she was asked to join training with the league in South Bend, Indiana. She fearlessly navigated all the travel on her own, as she had not really asked for permission from her family to make the trip. It was there that she signed a contract with the AAGPBL, and she was able to send money back home during her playing days. She also had the opportunity to play at historic Wrigley Field.

In 1949, Palermo was recruited to play for the Chicago Colleens, one of the league's travel teams, and later their other travel team, the Springfield Sallies, in 1950. She was too young to play for the regular league. These two teams were developed for public relations and promotion of the league and barnstormed through 33 states, including pregame exhibition games at two legendary ballparks, Yankee Stadium and Ebbets Field. Usually a traditional leadoff hitter, she was always a fast, slick-fielding shortstop with a strong arm and was almost always expected to go from first to third if she was on base, which was often. She also was one of the stolen base leaders and was never afraid of sliding into a base and getting a “strawberry”, a large painful bruise often suffered from sliding in a dress, which was the AAGPBL uniform. The ground crews often used a caustic lye to mark the lines on the field, making the wounds worse. She was told she was a smart player for her young age, and always hustled. One of her coaches was [Max Carey](#), a Hall of Famer who blazed around the base paths himself. He taught her how to turn double plays and field grounders aggressively, not “letting the ball play you”.

By this point, the AAGPBL had transitioned from softball, with some baseball rules, to baseball, with overhand pitching and a 10-inch ball, close to the 9-inch traditional baseball. The league had abandoned the mandatory charm school attendance, but there were still some rules, and the players still had to play like men, but in a dress. Palermo has memories of mostly traveling on buses with no air conditioning. The travel was hectic, and there was little time to sleep with all the time devoted to riding the buses, practicing, and the actual games. They would take turns sleeping, using each other's laps as a pillow. But she remembers good fans and large crowds attending the games. A downside was the racism, both in the league, as Black women were not allowed to play, and outside of the games, especially evident in the Jim Crow south. She was raised by her family to have respect for all, so this was especially disturbing to her.

A highlight of Palermo's career was a short exhibition game played in 1950 at Yankee Stadium between the Colleens and the Sallies, preceding the major league game that day. The players found themselves sharing the



An advertisement in the New York Daily News on August 11, 1950, touts the “All America Girls” (sic) appearance at Yankee Stadium.



dugout with some of the Yankee greats from that era. The following is from an [article](#) about this historic game, written by Tim Wiles:

“Toni Palermo played shortstop, recalling that [Phil Rizzuto](#) loaned her his glove—and she used it in the game. She also could not recall game details, but noted, ‘I just know that I really enjoyed it, that I had his glove and I felt like a star out there. I was a confident player. I wanted every ball hit to me, no matter what the situation, and with his glove, I felt even more powerful.’ Palermo also recalled [Casey Stengel](#) working with her on double plays before the game, teaching her to time the approaching ball, get it on the hop she wanted, and to just kick the corner of the bag. ‘And it made a difference’, she recalled.”<sup>1</sup>

Palermo returned for a stint with the Parichy Bloomer Girls and played briefly for other professional softball teams. When she was 18, Toni experienced a calling to become a nun, joining the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She would give up playing the game she loved, thinking that if she kept playing, she would never fulfill her commitment to enter the St. Joseph’s convent. Meanwhile, the AAGPBL would wind down and play its last season in 1954.

As with most barnstorming teams and leagues outside of the major leagues, there are not a lot of statistics available, but anecdotally, it is clear Palermo was a promising young player. Her brief but successful playing career occurred at such a young age that it would be interesting to speculate what she could have accomplished if she continued to play into her twenties, what most likely would have been her prime. However, she did not give up playing sports, as she displayed her athletic ability and excelled playing softball and somewhat competitive tennis, playing in and winning national tournaments, sometimes against former pros. She even became an accomplished dancer, which she thought was very similar to playing ball, as you “have to play with a rhythm”.

Sr. Toni Palermo has devoted her adult life to her own education, teaching at all levels, and also continually helping those in need. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English, history, and math from Alverno College in Milwaukee, then taught grade school and high school for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. In 1970, she attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison, eventually earning three master’s degrees in psychiatric social work, kinesiology, and physical education and educational policy. She also completed an interdisciplinary doctorate in counseling, adult education, administration, supervision, educational policy studies, and communication arts. She taught courses in the Physical Education Department and School of Social Work at UW - Madison, and during her time there, she had the opportunity to have a radar gun clock her throws at over 80 mph. For decades, she has been an ardent supporter of Wisconsin Badgers women’s sports, including softball, basketball, volleyball, and hockey, often attending the games.



For many years, Sr. Toni was a lost player of the AAGPBL Players Association, as she had assumed a customary alternate religious name, Sr. Mary Concetta. In a remarkable twist of fate, she ran into another former player, Mary Froning O’Meara, at her church. After they realized they had both played for the league, Sr. Toni was reconnected to the organization. She became a great advocate of girls and women in sports, including baseball, and served as the Vice President of the AAGPBL Players Association. The league has continued in its mission to preserve their history and support girls and women in baseball. Sr. Toni has been honored for her accomplishments in sports, education, and ministry with several organizations, and she was even a contestant on the ABC show, *To Tell the Truth*, in 2019. Spending most of her life in Wisconsin, she would become a fan of the Milwaukee Brewers.

How does she do it all? She credits baseball, saying, “Baseball taught me discipline and how to be coachable. In life, we have to be coachable. We really have so much pride and can’t take any suggestions and just don’t grow. In every sport I’ve been in, you have to be coachable. That’s truly how our lives go.”<sup>2</sup> Sr. Toni has continued to inspire all those who were lucky enough to meet her, especially the girls and women playing her favorite sport.

### Sources

All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Website: [aagpbl.org](http://aagpbl.org).

Palermo, Toni. Grand Valley State University Digital Collections (Interview Transcript and [Video](#), Sept. 26, 2009.

Sr. Toni Palermo. Personal Interviews, 2014-2024.

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<sup>1</sup> Wiles, Tim, “We Were the Only Girls to Play at Yankee Stadium,” [SABR Spring 2023 Research Journal](#).

<sup>2</sup> [The Catholic Herald](#), “Sister, Doctor, Baseball Star,” Nov. 3, 2016.



## New Oral History

### New Oral History interview: Susan Shemanske



[Susan Shemanske](#), a pioneering woman sportswriter and the first female sports editor in Wisconsin with the Racine *Journal Times*, talks about her career, love of sports and more with Larry Baldassarro.

Susan was our special guest on SABR Day in February and this is a good opportunity to learn about her experiences if you were unable to attend the meeting or learn more that was not covered on SABR Day. She relates how interviewing for a sportswriter position she was asked “why – you’re a woman?” Enjoy the recording [here](#).



### Braves Presentation at UW Parkside

Thanks to a recommendation by Vinny Rotino, the Adventures in Lifelong Learning group at UW – Parkside reached out to the chapter to talk about the Milwaukee Braves. I recruited Bob Buege and Rick Schabowski for the February 15 event. Rick creating a special PowerPoint for Bob’s presentation. I went along to talk about SABR, made a few remarks and forget to take a picture! Bob, as usual gave a terrific presentation on his favorite topic and the audience of about 20 were very receptive asking good question.

Speaking of receptive, the attendees where very happy when Bob gave a copy of his book, *Milwaukee Braves: A Baseball Eulogy* to everyone interested in reading more on the only team to never have a losing season.



### Schabowski's Super Stumpers

#### March Trivia By Rick Schabowski

Rick has another good assortent of trivia questions ready for you. And as usual they are thinkers and challenging. And somehow, I got three correct, time to buy a lottery ticket.

Good Luck!

1. Who is the only franchise to never appear in a World Series?
2. Who is the last switch-hitter to win AL MVP?
3. Who has the most combined HR's and stolen bases?
4. Name the year and the stadium where ML's first night game was played.
5. What was the NL franchise Giants called previously?



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

**Trivia Answers are [here](#)**



### SABR 52 August 7 – 11 Hyatt Regency Minneapolis



The annual SABR convention, which is open to all baseball fans, includes top featured speakers from around the baseball world – front office executives, players, managers, scouts, journalists, historians, and analysts – innovative panel discussions, groundbreaking research presentations, ballgames, the SABR Trivia Contest, and most of all, the opportunity to make and renew baseball friendships over the course of this exciting and memorable event.

SABR 52 will be distinct [from its predecessors](#), as it will feature a Hall of Fame speaker lineup we know you'll love – including **Rod Carew**, **Tony Oliva**, **Bert Blyleven**, and **Jim Kaat** – and will be the most accessible and social experience we've ever organized as we emphasize SABR's ability to unite all of us in baseball fellowship.

For more information, click [here](#).

March 4, 2024

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**Contribute to the Keltner Hot Corner**

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

## Wisconsin Born Players SABR Bios

With the addition of the three new Wisconsin born major leaguers in 2023 there have been 257\* total and 94 have SABB Bios written on them. To get to know these guys better, we will include a SABR Bio monthly starting from the oldest with a completed bio to the most recent. Yes, that will take at least eight years to complete, and longer as new bios are finished. If you are interested in seeing the entire list of these players, or there is a Wisconsin born player that interests you and needs a SABR Bio, contact [Dennis](#).

(\*Includes J.P. Feyereisen who was born across the river in Minnesota because that was where his mom's doctor's birth hospital was located. She left Wisconsin for the birth and returned upon release.)

This month's Wisconsin bio is on Rochester's Ginger Beaumont, the 2,122<sup>nd</sup> major leaguer, 28th from Wisconsin. He is one of the best Wisconsin ball players not in the Hall of Fame often known as the first batter in the modern day World Series.



The Keltner Chapter worked with Bill Milatz, chairman of Burlington's Baseball Hall of Fame committee to help raise funds to place a two sided monument to be placed Burlington's Beaumont Field honoring Ginger. A big help came from Pittsburgh's Forbes Field Chapter where he played and SABR members nationally. I drove out to Pittsburgh for their 2015 SABR Day held at PNC Park. It was a great opportunity to meet new friends, talk about Beaumont as well as the project, and see the ballpark. Coming home that Saturday night, I raced a snowstorm coming down out of Cleveland and won! Then I was fortunate to be invited to the dedication where I met the family members and was able to thank the SABR members for their contributions.

You can read the August 10, 2015 Seamheads article about the memorial [here](#).

### Ginger Beaumont By [Daniel Ginsburg](#)

If Ginger Beaumont is remembered today, it's usually for being the first batter in modern World Series history. In the early days of the Deadball Era, however, he was considered baseball's finest leadoff man, a lifetime .311 hitter who was good enough to be named by both [Bill Klem](#) and [Honus Wagner](#) as the center fielder on their all-time teams. When contemporary observers spoke of Beaumont, they tended to focus on his surprising speed (he was once clocked from home to first in 4.4 seconds)—surprising because his typical playing weight was 190 lbs. on a 5'8" frame. "He was an excellent base runner, being very fast on his feet, but nobody who saw him for the first time ambling along on his way to the batter's box would admit this," wrote sportswriter John Gruber. "A lazier or more indifferent-appearing player, emphasized by a burly body, could not be conceived. But when he hit the ball he was off like a streak, which astonished the uninitiated and made him one of the wonders of the century."

Clarence Howeth Beaumont was born to Thomas and Mary (Jones) Beaumont on July 23, 1876, in Rochester, Wisconsin. A right-handed thrower who batted from the left side, he began his baseball career in 1896 as a semipro catcher, playing with teams from Rochester, East Troy, Waupun, Burlington, and Beloit College. [Connie Mack](#), who was then managing Milwaukee of the Western League, signed Clarence to his first professional contract late in the 1898 season when the Brewers were hit by a rash of injuries. Because Mack needed an outfielder, Beaumont (whose speed made him a natural candidate) made the shift from catcher to fly chaser and batted .354 with 11 stolen bases in 24 games.

That performance didn't go unnoticed by National League clubs, and Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore all expressed interest. After the season, Mack engineered a bogus sale of Beaumont to the Louisville Colonels to avoid losing him in the October draft ([Barney Dreyfuss](#), who





later became the young outfielder's employer, returned him shortly thereafter), then traded him in December to the Pittsburgh Pirates for pitcher Bill Hart and third-baseman [Bill Grey](#). An account of the trade referred to Clarence as a "brilliant and promising young player" and stated that Milwaukee fans "bid farewell to Beaumont with profound regret."

Less than a year removed from semipro ball, the 22-year-old Beaumont began his big-league career primarily as a pinch hitter and spare outfielder under manager [William Watkins](#). In late May, however, right-fielder [Patsy Donovan](#) replaced Watkins. Donovan gave Clarence a chance to play regularly, and by the end of June the rookie had nailed down the center-field job, much to the displeasure of the man he replaced, [Tom McCreery](#), who was openly hostile to his young challenger until Donovan intervened. On July 22 Beaumont accomplished a feat that has yet to be matched, collecting six hits in six times at-bat and scoring six runs against Phillies lefthander [Wiley Piatt](#). What is even more remarkable is that none of his safeties left the infield. For the season Beaumont batted .352, sixth in the NL, and stole 31 bases, but he wasn't even the best rookie on the Pittsburgh team; that honor belonged to third-baseman [Jimmy Williams](#), who batted .355 with considerably more power.

At the end of the 1899 season Barney Dreyfuss bought a half-interest in the Pirates and merged them with the best of his players from Louisville. The result was a powerhouse and the beginning of what Beaumont later referred to as "my happiest years in baseball." Beaumont was Dreyfuss' kind of player; he didn't smoke or drink and devoted much of his free time to youth baseball in Pittsburgh. Up until then the speedy outfielder was usually known as "Clarry" or "Beau," but Dreyfuss nicknamed him "Ginger" due to his red hair (though some claimed it was due to his speed and hustle), and the nickname stuck with Beaumont throughout his life.

In 1900 Ginger Beaumont suffered through a sophomore slump, batting just .279, but for the next five years he was one of baseball's most dangerous hitters. In 1901 he finished among the NL's Top 10 in batting average (.332) and stolen bases (36), and the following year he won the NL batting title with a .357 average while finishing first in hits (193), third in runs (100) and on-base percentage (.404), and fourth in total bases (226) and stolen bases (33). Beaumont had another outstanding season in 1903, batting .341 and leading the NL with career-high marks in runs (137), hits (209), and total bases (272). Of course the highlight of that season came on October 1 in front of 16,242 screaming fans at Boston's [Huntington Avenue Grounds](#). Stepping in to face the great [Cy Young](#), Beaumont lofted a fly ball to center field that was caught by Boston's [Chick Stahl](#), thus becoming the first batter in the history of the modern World Series. For the eight-game Series Ginger batted .265 and led the Pirates with six runs scored.

Beaumont put together another strong season in 1904 when he batted .301 and led the NL for the third consecutive season in hits (185), but in 1905, though his .328 batting average ranked fourth in the NL, he began to suffer from knee problems that limited him to 103 games. The knee worsened in 1906, when Ginger appeared in only 80 games and batted .265 with just one stolen base. Concerned about Beaumont's physical condition, Dreyfuss traded him and fellow veterans [Claude Ritchey](#) and [Patsy Flaherty](#) to the Boston Nationals in December 1906 for infielder [Ed Abbaticchio](#). It was a trade that clearly benefited Boston. Ginger recovered in 1907 to play in 150 games and lead the NL for the fourth time in hits (187) while finishing third in the batting race with a .322 average.

Beaumont's knee injury finally started to take its toll in 1908. The former speedster who in his prime had legged out numerous bunts and infield hits saw his running speed decline, and with it his batting average. Ginger batted in the .260s in both 1908 and 1909, and Boston traded him to the Chicago Cubs in February 1910 for rookie pitcher [Fred Liese](#) and cash. Beaumont spent the 1910 season as an extra outfielder and pinch hitter on the pennant-winning Cubs, batting .267 in 76 games. In his return to the World Series he appeared three times as a pinch hitter, walking once and scoring a run. Ginger didn't get along well with manager [Frank Chance](#), and the Cubs released him in March 1911. He finished his baseball career in 1911 with St. Paul of the American Association, batting .249 in a part-time role.

After leaving baseball, Ginger Beaumont concentrated on running his 180-acre farm in Honey Creek, Wisconsin, which he had purchased in 1904 (probably with his pay from the first World Series) and renamed Centerfield Farm. He and his wife, Norma (Vaughn) Beaumont, whom he had married in

November 1901, enjoyed the “simple life.” They raised two daughters and one son and became fixtures in their community. In 1914 Ginger was elected a supervisor of Walworth County. He had saved his money during his playing career and by all accounts was comfortably well-off later in life. Ginger’s health began to deteriorate in 1948 when he suffered a stroke, and a second stroke in 1950 confined him to a wheel chair for the last years of his life. In 1951 Beaumont was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame as a charter member. Two stars of the 1903 World Series, [Deacon Phillippe](#) and Cy Young, unveiled his plaque at the ceremony.

Ginger Beaumont died at the age of 79 on April 10, 1956, in Burlington Hospital, near his Wisconsin farm. His obituary in *The Sporting News* called him “one of the game’s all-time great outfielders.” The Beaumont Little League in Burlington bears his name, and in 1968 the Old-Timers Athletic Club of Racine erected a flagpole and plaque in his memory. Beaumont was the subject of campaigns in the 1940s and 1980s for enshrinement in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, but at this point that supreme honor appears unlikely to come his way.

Note: A slightly different version of this biography appeared in Tom Simon, ed., *Deadball Stars of the National League* (Washington, D.C.: Brassey’s, Inc., 2004).

**Sources**

For this biography, the author used a number of contemporary sources, especially those found in the subject’s file at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

**Do you have a baseball story – everyone does!**  
 We all have great baseball stories, often shared with family and friends for years. So, when will you share it with your SABR family? We all love stories and want you to share yours with all of us.  
 If you’re ready to share yours, contact [Dennis](#).

- Schabowski Super Stumpers  
 March Answers:
1. Seattle Mariners
  2. Vida Blue -1971
  3. Rickey Henderson - 1,703
  4. May 24,1935, Crosley Field
  5. New York Gothams -1885

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