

# 20 To 80\*



## SABR SCOUTS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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**2007 No. 1**

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***Welcome to both new SABR members and new members of the Scouts Committee.***

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### SABRscouts ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

The SABRscouts eGroup is a restricted and unmoderated online discussion group for members of the Scouts Research Committee. Its purpose is to foster interactive communication regarding areas of interest about professional baseball scouts and player development personnel. Subscribers are also encouraged to post research requests as well as the URLs, titles and/or brief summaries of "Baseball Scouts in the News" articles that they believe would be of interest to other committee members.

To join, send an email to [SABRscouts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SABRscouts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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**\*20 TO 80 IS A STANDARD SCOUTING SCALE**

## SCOUTS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the 2006 Scouts of the Year, selected by the Scout of the Year Foundation and honored at Baseball's Winter Meetings. The Western Scout of the Year was Bob Bishop, recently retired from the Kansas City Royals. Bishop's signings include Eric Karros and Tim Scott.

Eastern Scout of the Year is Tim Wilken, currently Director of Scouting for the Chicago Cubs. Wilken is credited with signing Mike Sharperson, Pat Borders and Jimmy Key. Ray Crone, Sr. of the Padres was selected as Midwest Scout of the Year. Crone's signings include David Segui and Arthur Rhodes. Ralph Avila was selected as the first recipient of the International Scout of the Year award. Avila is currently a Senior Advisor in the Player Development Department of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Among his long list of signings are the names Pedro Martinez, Raul Mondesi and Adrian Beltre.

More signing information can be found in the SABR Encyclopedia included in the members' area of the website at [www.sabr.org](http://www.sabr.org)

Founders Dennis Gilbert, **Roland Hemond** and a crowd of over 1,000 attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation dinner on January 6<sup>th</sup> in Beverly Hills. The event was expected to raise about \$300,000 for the foundation which offers grants to scouts in need.

Longtime scout George Zuraw retired January 15<sup>th</sup> from the Tampa Bay organization. Zuraw has been a scout since 1956, starting with the Pittsburgh organization. He spent about 20 years with Cincinnati during the Big Red Machine days. He served stints with Seattle, returned to Pittsburgh and ended his career with the Devil Rays. Zuraw's signings include Ray Knight, Tom Hume, Mario Soto, and Joe Oliver.

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## Advance Scouting / Red Sox by Bill Nowlin part 2

This article first appeared in *Red Sox Magazine*.

### Alex Gonzalez and Mark Loretta

Advance scouting work benefits fielders and hitters as well as pitchers. Alex Gonzalez explains that they will watch video of the pitchers they'll be facing. "We have a video room and watch the video in our hitting group. Who's pitching today, say Randy Johnson or anybody, you look at how they pitch, the last time he pitched to you - how he worked to you, watch this guy, how to see the curve. But they pitch different here [at Fenway]. You've got to make adjustments." He listens to the defensive coaches, too. For the Red Sox, it's third base coach DeMarlo Hale who positions the infielders while first base coach Bill Haselman positions the outfield. So, Gonzalez says, Hale might tell him, "This guy, everything he throws through here, he'll just try to...he'll like to hit up the middle. We just move a little here [to the left]. Some guys you leave straight, a slight pull."

If there's a shift on, for a Teixeira or Giambi, Gonzalez has to be prepared to play second base instead of shortstop. "They tell me before the game, this guy likes to pull-hit it early in the count. With two strikes, he'll have to hit a ball in the middle. You have to know the hitter, how they like to hit. What I do is watch his hands."

Like Varitek, most of Gonzalez's video work is done prior to a series, not on a daily basis.

Mark Loretta has been in major league ball for 11 years and seen the use of computer data evolve. "It's come a long way," he says. "Especially the video stuff. It's become a pretty big part of the game. I tend to lean more toward video scouting than I do the opinion of someone else. I like the radar gun reading, et cetera, but in terms of what a guy likes to do in a certain situation, I'd rather look at the video and kind of determine that for myself." Loretta is referring to the opposing pitchers. For

defense, he tends to rely more on the preview meeting with Hale, going over the opposing batters. All in all, Loretta says, "the Red Sox are as advanced as any team I've seen." He believes that the Red Sox pitchers "probably rely on it even more than the hitters do."

Billy Broadbent knows that information is something you don't toss out. "You don't ever throw anything out. A perfect example is Chris Hammond. He retired for a couple of years after the '98 season. You'd think you could throw away his video, but no, he ended up coming back." Hammond played for the Yankees in 2003 and for Oakland in 2004.



### **Mike Timlin**

Veteran relief ace Mike Timlin talks about how the bullpen uses the advance scouting reports. "We go over them as a group, the relievers. The catchers are in there, too. We sit down and put a game plan together, hash out some stuff. You bring your strengths, bring your weaknesses into the meeting. Nip starts rolling over the hitters, and we all chime in, because we've all faced different hitters at different times. There are things that we need [in the reports]: hot and cold zones. Where you had previous experience, most of it's knowledge that you already have in your head. I used to write the stuff down, what I did facing each hitter, but it got to the point it was kind of tedious. Now it's more of a memory thing. Most of the time I can remember the hitters that I faced, and how I got them out. Billy [Broadbent] sees it from a different perspective - he is like an advance scout that sits with us, or a pitching coach that sits here and watches all our films, as they happen. As it takes place. I went up to him as I got finished yesterday and asked him what it looked like. He gave me what he saw."

Levangie's reports mean a great deal to Timlin. "Dana has a great eye for baseball. Catching in the bullpen, he could tell you something you were doing wrong while you were doing it. He had that kind of eye. He's a very learned baseball man. Awesome."

### **Bill Monbouquette**

Of course, pitchers from earlier times never had the option to slip in a DVD and watch video. They still took advantage of the tools available to them. Bill Monbouquette pitched for the Red Sox from 1958 through 1965. "Each pitcher who was pitching in the series got the chance to go over the scouting report - what kind of success did you have? How do you pitch him? Where would you want to play him, in certain towns?" After time spent with a few other clubs, he ended up doing some scouting for the Yankees. Scouting reports in those days were handwritten reports. "You'd have to get that report in the next night."

Monbouquette felt at times there can be a danger in providing too much information. "I really believe there is way too much over-analyzing and thinking about the game today. You listen to guys talk and you go, 'What the hell is he talking about?' They make the game harder than it is." Nevertheless, the better players would always try to get an edge any way they could. "Ted Williams, he would watch a guy. The first inning would be over and he'd come flying in. He'd get right up over there [the home plate side of the dugout]; he'd want to get a look at this guy. He'd ask, 'Can you pick the ball up?' That's all that mattered to him."

These days, players will sometimes take advantage of modern technology during the course of the game. Broadbent explains: "If those hitters see somebody warming up in the bullpen, they'll go down and take a look on the computer to see what they can see versus right-handed or versus left-handed. There's room downstairs where they can take a look. Most of them know how to do everything, but I can control it remotely if they get stuck."



### **Curt Schilling**

Viewers watching the game on NESN will often see Curt Schilling poring over his notes during the course of a game. Schilling represents the most diligent player in terms of preparation. "The day I pitch, from the minute I wake up and get out of bed in the morning and have breakfast to when I throw the first pitch, every minute between those two moments, I'm in the on-deck circle. Every moment that I can, I'm thinking about a hitter or a situation, or a count, or a pitch. It's not that I'm trying to get on a game face and be a tough guy. It's just that I have a horrible fear of coming out of a game with a loss because I wasn't prepared for something. I've done it before when I was young and I vowed I would never do it again. If I'm going to take the 'L' and we're going to lose a game I pitched, it's going to be because I made mistakes. That happens, and you have to live with that, but I can't go to sleep at night if I thought I lost the game because I wasn't prepared.

"My goal is to never be caught off-guard on the mound. To always be prepared for any situation, any count, any hitter - as far as keeping notes on umpires, knowing what guys call on what corners. So in the eighth inning of a game with a runner on third, if I've got an umpire with a wider outer half to the strike zone, I'm going to try and throw the ball off the plate."

What about going over his notes while his team is up at bat? "The stuff that I'm doing between innings is more with the game charts. When I'm on the bench, I'll have all of my previous starts against that team, the game charts there, just to see sequences. Because there are hitters who I know that study. And who guess. And I've had situations where I know that he's guessing one way and I'll throw a fastball down the middle and the guy will...in New York, I threw a fastball right down the middle to A-Rod in the first inning for strike three and he took it. I knew he was guessing something else. And that's an out. Any time you can buy an out that way, the game's too hard not to take it."

Schilling takes an active role in defensive placement as well, creating his own spray charts and not relying on those from Major League Baseball. All his notes are handwritten, and he's been keeping them for years, carrying forward the previous year's notes during spring training. "As I've gotten older,

I've noticed that teams have an approach, much more so than individual hitters. In my preview meeting, I go over with the defensive coach where my outfielders are going to be with each guy, where my infielders are going to be, if this situation shows up, I want to do this and this and this. You rely on your advance scouts for a lot of that.

"I'm going to throw a pitch. I know where the ball's going to be when things are right; I know what his reaction's going to be. I don't want to give up a hit on a ball that I know was going to get hit before I throw the pitch. That doesn't make any sense. So I'll position the infielders, I'll move my defenders - and if a guy hits a ball to a spot where I've moved a defender away from - that's happened

- that's my fault. That doesn't bother me. I get mad, but I get nobody to blame. You can't defend a bad pitch, so I defend the pitch I know I'm going to make, and if I don't make it, that's my fault."

Varitek has the same feeling about proper preparation. He agrees that sometimes a good battery could probably pull it off sometimes without rigorous planning. "You probably can, but I think there's situations where you might not have your best stuff, you might not be locating as well that day, somebody's breaking ball isn't working as well as it normally does....It becomes my safety net. I think it's a big part of our continued success."



The information supplied by the Red Sox scouting department is crucial to Curt's approach. "I've had some great advance scouts in the past. I think a lot of it had to do with the fact that they knew I was relying on them. It's a thankless job. I know I couldn't be as good as I am - or want to be - without them. These guys - this group - are probably the best, the most detailed, the most thorough I've ever been around."

It's no accident that the Red Sox have made the post-season three years running, and part of the reason has been the advance scouting. Dave Jauss earned plaudits for his work in prior years, and earned him a World Championship ring, and the team continues to invest heavily in data collection, analysis, and distribution. There are the professional scouts evaluating draft prospects and players on other teams being considered for possible trade acquisitions. As the post-season approaches, some of the professional scouts will be assigned advance scouting duties, supplementing the work done by Bradley and Levangie to size up the opposition and better prepare the Red Sox players for the challenges ahead.



## **SABR ANNUAL CONVENTION**

We hope you will join us at the 2007 SABR convention to be held in St. Louis. We will convene at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, July 26 to 29. The Scouts Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening. The 2008 convention will be in Cleveland, home of SABR HQ. For more info: <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,1834,17>

## PROFILE OF A SCOUT: SHAKY KAIN

By Jim Sandoval

Major League Scout. College Football Referee. Minor League player and Manager. Such is the diverse career of Thomas “Shaky” Kain.

A Nashville, Tennessee native Kain played football and baseball for the University of Georgia before beginning a minor league career as a pitcher with Albany (Georgia) of the Southeastern league in 1927.

3 times he won 16 games in a season but never reached the majors. In his closest approach to the major leagues Shaky give up a home run to Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game while pitching for the farm club Newark against their parent club Yankees.

He also pitched in a game against the legendary “Shoeless” Joe Jackson. Kain pitched and won a game for the semi-pro Albany club in 1923 against Joe Jackson’s Americus club.

Shaky served as a minor league manager from 1939-43 and 1946 with a break during World War II in 1944-5 to work in a war plant in Nashville. Among the players he managed were Yankee stars Yogi Berra and Joe Page.

He began his scouting career with the Yankees from 1947-48, continuing with the Pirates from 49-51, Phillies 1956-59 and Cubs from 1960-68. His signings include Ron Campbell, Jimmy Stewart and Don Kessinger.



In the off season Shaky was a college football referee, including many Southeastern conference contests. He was the referee for the Senior Bowl in 1953 and 1954.

Kain was inducted in 1986 to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

He helped SABR’s own **Lenny Yochim** enter the scouting profession, with Lenny serving as a bird dog scout for Kain before he was hired as a full-time scout. Lenny had this to say about Shaky: “in my opinion Shaky Kain was a fine person, great personality and true to his word. He was a credit to baseball.”

Shaky Kain passed away in June 24, 1971 in his native Nashville.

The Kain family baseball connection continues as Shaky’s grandson Chip is a broadcaster with the Tennessee Smokies of the Southern league.

A more detailed biography is being prepared for SABR’s bio project.

## SCOUTS COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Work continues on the committee's major projects. The *Who-Signed-Whom Database* is integrated as part of SABR's Online Encyclopedia in the members-only area of the website at [www.sabr.org](http://www.sabr.org) and displays listings by Player and by Scout. **Rod Nelson** heads up this project and requests that if you have additional entries or corrections to submit, please submit them via the website or send an email with all the particulars including a citation for your source. The listing of signing scouts for all 2006 debuts will appear in the next edition of *20 to 80\**.

*The Scouting Roster* now contains over 6,300 names of scouts and player development figures from baseball's history. **Jim Sandoval** is compiling this database. Eventually, this information will also be available online integrated with by Team and by Year. Please send career information, such as year, title, territory and organization scouted for to Jim. Team media guides are a good source for this data, but the best source we have found for historical scouts data is old copies of the Baseball Bluebook.

We are also looking for biographical information on scouts. Birth, marriage and death information will help with the writing of scouts' biographies. It will also help complete a more accurate historical record for scouts who did not play in the major leagues and are not listed in baseball encyclopedias. The committee has compiled a collection of obituaries which have been uploaded to Frank Russo's website at: [http://thedeadballera.com/Obitlistings\\_Scouts.html](http://thedeadballera.com/Obitlistings_Scouts.html)

A number of scouts have given oral history interviews and a list is accessible from the SABR website at <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,351,5,0> Tapes are available for \$3.00 each. For more information, contact David Paulson at (301) 854-2244 or [d2244p@yahoo.com](mailto:d2244p@yahoo.com)

## SCOUTS BOOK PROJECT

**Bill Nowlin** and **Jim Sandoval** have agreed to spearhead a committee book project. **Lou Gorman** has contributed an interview. **Ron Anderson** interviewed long-time Red Sox scout George Digby and Ed Scott.

We will be highlighting different aspects of the profession, including amateur scouts, cross checkers, pro scouts, advance scouts etc. If you are interested in participating in the project, please contact Jim Sandoval. Fair warning: some of you will be solicited to contribute personally. ☺

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## SCOUTS BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Baseball scouts are colorful subjects for SABR's Biography Project. The committee has a system in place that we can easily work with. If you are interested in writing a biography of a scout, we recommend that you review their research tips, author's guidelines and the SABR style guide at: <http://www.bioproj.sabr.org/> For more info, contact Mark Armour at [markjane@comcast.net](mailto:markjane@comcast.net).

Also please let the co-chairs know so we can compile an updated list of who is working on what biography. The chairmen are committed to provide research assistance and reference material on scouts.

## RESEARCH NEEDS, FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Any scouts-related research requests can be sent to **Jim Sandoval** to be included in a future edition of *20 to 80\** or shared with the entire committee via the eGroup listed on page one. We encourage your submissions, anything from full-length articles to interesting factoids about professional scouting from members of the committee.

### Latin American Scouting

Greetings from Anthony Salazar, chair of SABR's Latino baseball committee.

We are seeking new members and new research. Got an interesting story to tell about a Latino figure in your area of research? Let us know. We would enjoy the opportunity to share with our committee members. We publish a quarterly publication, "La Prensa del Béisbol Latino," which is a great resource for the student of Latino baseball history.

If you have something you are working on, please feel free to share with us!

For more information, contact me by email: [salazar8017@yahoo.com](mailto:salazar8017@yahoo.com). Thank you!

### The SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Research Grant

For many SABR members developing their research projects in the winter off-season, good ideas are often hampered by nagging costs.

For the amateur historian or student, \$100 extra in gas money traveling to a distant archive or photocopying expenses can be a significant financial burden. This is designed to help alleviate that type of burden. But in order to take advantage of this great opportunity, you first must fill out a grant application!

The grant application guidelines may be downloaded from the SABR website at: <http://www.sabr.org/cmsfiles/Grants%20Proposal%20Process%202007%20and%202008.pdf>

If you have specific questions, please contact Research Services Manager Rod Nelson via email or by telephone in the SABR office at 800.969.7227.

The SABR-Yoseloff Baseball Research grant program is a useful member benefit and a great way to offset some of the myriad of expenses one incurs during the course of personal research projects. Because any aspect of the history of baseball is acceptable for funding from this grant program, most baseball research projects are eligible for full or partial grant funding.

A grant may be used to support research conducted by graduate students on their theses or dissertations or any other paper that is a prerequisite for an advanced degree, but not for term papers. It may also be used to support research on books and articles.

A grant may be used for the reimbursement of research expenses, including travel and lodging, inter-

library loan fees, research fees, photocopying, telephone expenses, etc. (this list serves as a guideline and is not comprehensive in nature). The final work product of the proposed research should be suitable to be published by SABR, although copyright will remain with the author. For clarification, publication does not necessarily mean print publication. The final work product may be something that SABR can publish on its web site in electronic format, such as an article, a database, or other media product.

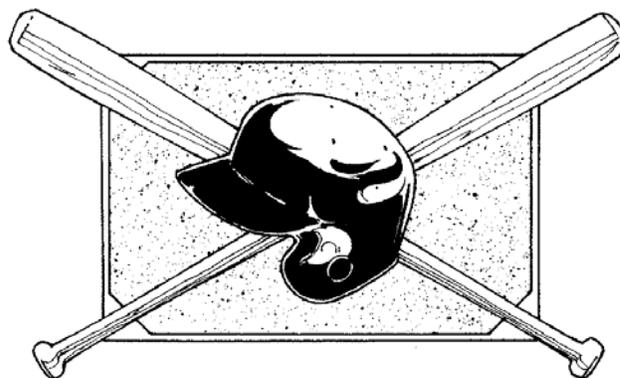
Proposals are currently being accepted for the 2007 calendar year. You must be a member of SABR to receive a Yoseloff-SABR Baseball Research grant.

Deadline for proposal applications is April 30, 2007

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If you would prefer a paper copy of this newsletter, please contact me at [casandman@aol.com](mailto:casandman@aol.com) or 256-721-7643. A paper copy will be mailed to anyone without an email address.

If you no longer wish to receive this correspondence please send a note to [rnelson@sabr.org](mailto:rnelson@sabr.org) or call the SABR Office at 800-969-SABR (7227) to be removed from the committee list.





**20 To 80\***



**SABR SCOUTS COMMITTEE  
NEWSLETTER**

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