



THE JENKINS JOURNAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SABR HANLAN'S POINT CHAPTER Spring 2023

In this issue:

EDITORS' WELCOME 2 CHAPTER LEADER'S MESSAGE 2

CHAPTER NEWS ... 3 FEATURE ARTICLES: 5

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT 6 COMMITTEE HOT CORNER 8

ABOUT US 10 CONTACTS..... 10 SABR NEIGHBOURS 11

OUR PARTNERS .. 11 CREDITS 12 SUBMISSIONS 13





Editor's welcome

Hello! Welcome to my first time at the helm as editor of the Jenkins Journal. I wanted to once again thank Elena North and Mike Anderson for trusting me to steward this publication with the grace and consideration that they so ably did for so many years.

I'm hoping that over the coming months I will get to know you all better and start shaping this newsletter to meet the interests of this diverse group of chapter members.



I had the pleasure of attending the World Baseball Classic in March in Phoenix, Arizona to watch Team Canada, and the Mexico-USA game. As someone who loves international sports, and baseball – the WBC is my ideal sporting event. And the opportunity to get out of the winter weather and to the desert was the icing on the cake.

It was a vacation, but I was clearly interested in seeing how Team Canada would acquit itself. I was disappointed with the number of current [MLB players who committed to play](#), especially given that Freddie Freeman had raised his hand once again. The team ended up a mix of up-and-coming Canadian players and a group of pitchers who were long past their pro playing days. The results were therefore somewhat predictable, with Canada mercy ruling Great Britain in their opening game, and being mercy ruled by eventual runner-up Team USA in their second. They managed a nice shutout win against Colombia, 5-0, but a loss to Mexico meant they wouldn't advance past the group play round.



This was the most-watched WBC in history and had incredible momentum that only grew throughout the knockout rounds. That the final ended up with Shohei Ohtani facing his Angels teammate Mike Trout for the last out in the 9th inning, striking him out to secure Japan the championship (and Ohtani the MVP) would have been too unbelievable if it had been scripted that way in a movie.

So what does this mean for Canada? Currently, there are 10 Canadian players in MLB – so less than half of what is needed to fill a full WBC roster. Even if every Canadian in MLB committed, they would be well behind other teams like USA, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Japan which can hand pick from a plethora of professional players.

Baseball in Canada will only grow with interest and support at the grassroots level and throughout all ages of play. And while it can be argued that Canada is still a hockey country, I believe the desire is there – with several youth academies, semiprofessional leagues and former MLB players returning to coach. I don't have confidence that this will turn the tide completely by the next Classic in 2026, but I have hope that the foundations have been laid, and that high level baseball will be nurtured and cultivated in Canada over the next generation.

And I'm never going to complain about waving a Canadian flag and watching John Axford finish out his career with a clean 1-2-3 inning against Great Britain.

Ruth Kapelus

Chapter's leader message – April 2023

The Chapter fiscal year end is May 31st but activity is not slowing down. On behalf of the Chapter, we thank Elena North and Mike Anderson for launching and editing the quarterly Jenkins Journal for the past two years. We also welcome and thank Ruth Kapelus for assuming leadership of the newsletter commencing with this issue.

Another major advancement is the Annual General Meeting Component to our spring meeting. As I write this the slate of candidates for next year's Board as well as the initial Chapter by-laws have been circulated. Membership activities will be supported by a membership committee comprised of GTA, SWO and Zoom only members to best serve our geographically broad-based chapter membership.

Looking forward to winding up a successful fiscal 2023 and the upcoming year commencing June 1st.



Chapter news

Hanlan's Point AGM:

For our April 15, 2023, Annual General Meeting, please review the link below as they are the draft by-laws to be voted on at the spring AGM

<https://bit.ly/hanlans-point-bylaws>

Below is the slate of candidates.

Please advise Allen Tait at atait4@cogeco.ca if other chapter members would like to stand as a candidate for a Board position. Nominations will close on Thursday, April 6. On April 10, a ballot will be issued for Board positions not acclaimed and approval of the by-laws. Votes can be cast in person at the meeting or by proxy for Chapter members who cannot attend the AGM in person.

Slate of Candidates for Hanlan's Point Board

April 15, 2023, Annual General Meeting

Chapter Leader	Allen Tait
Secretary/Treasurer	Elena North
Membership	Paul Moorehead
Communications	Barry Naymark
Social Media	Adrian Fung
Coordinator	GTA Vacant
Coordinator	SW Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Kapelus
Past President	Maxwell Kates

In exciting Fergie Jenkins news, it was announced on February 2023 that he will be honoured by his hometown with a new statue.

The city of Chatham-Kent in southwestern Ontario will unveil a nine-foot-tall bronze figure of Jenkins on June 10. It will be an exact replica of a statue made of Jenkins that sits outside of Wrigley Field, where he played his most significant games as a pitcher with the Chicago Cubs.



"Having this statue unveiled in my hometown will be very special," said Jenkins. "I'm very proud to be from Chatham. It is a great town and I'm excited for everyone to get a chance to see it.

"Thank you to Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts for allowing us to cast the exact same statue that sits outside of Wrigley Field."

Jenkins had an unparalleled career as a pitcher, with 284 career wins, a 3.34 earned-run average, and 3,192 strikeouts over 19 Major League Baseball seasons. He is one of only 19 players to reach 3,000 career strikeouts.

He played for the Philadelphia Phillies, Cubs, Texas Rangers, and Boston Red Sox, and in 1971 won the NL Cy Young Award for the Cubs.

His streak of six straight seasons with 20 or more wins (1967–1972) is the longest streak in the major leagues since Warren Spahn performed the feat between 1956 and 1961.

This is just the latest honour for Jenkins. He was named The Canadian Press male Athlete of the Year four times (1967, 1968, 1971, and 1974).

The three-time all-star became the first Canadian inducted into Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1991. Jenkins was also named to the Order of Canada in 1979, four years before he retired from MLB.

Feature articles

The Newsletter Survey - continued

Ruth Kapelus

I was hoping to follow up from this last survey to dig a little deeper and learn what you would like to see/read about in this newsletter as we go forward.

23 members of the Hanlan's Point Chapter responded to the survey, which leaves the majority (141) who didn't. Was this because you didn't see it? Didn't feel that you had the time to complete it? Or perhaps you receive too many Sabr emails that can sometimes make it hard to figure out which emails are chapter specific?

I would really like this newsletter to provide valuable content and information to every Hanlan's Point member, and hope that it might be something you look forward to landing in your email box.



So this is my entreaty to please share what you would like to see included, to feel empowered to contribute to the newsletter on a regular basis and ask for content that I can research and write up for upcoming issues.

I can be reached at rkapelus@gmail.com. Please reach out! I would love to hear from you and make the Jenkins Journal a newsletter that encompasses the interests of ALL chapter members, while touching on Canadian baseball past, present and future.

Canadians playing in MLB on Opening Day, March 31, 2023

The 2023 season opened last week, and there were some historic achievements from the 10 Canadian players, and one Canadian MLB Manager who suited up. We saw a homerun that tied a major league record, a win on their first MLB Opening Day, and a save from a Markham, ON favourite.

When St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Tyler O'Neill (Maple Ridge, B.C. - you may remember another Canadian player from this town, he's now enshrined both in St. Mary's and Cooperstown) hit a two-run home run off Toronto Blue Jays starter Alek Manoah in the third inning of the Jays/Cardinals opening game, it was his fourth consecutive Opening Day with a home run. This ties a major league record held by Yogi Berra, Gary Carter and Todd Hundley.

The Blue Jays won this game 10-9 over the Cardinals and for the second straight year, Jordan Romano (Markham, Ont.) pitched a scoreless ninth to record the save. In so doing, he became the first Canadian pitcher to record saves on back-to-back Opening Days for a Canadian club. Righty pitcher Zach Pop (Brampton, Ont.) came in the fourth inning to relieve Manoah and pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Between Pop and Romano, it became the first time in Blue Jays' history that two Canadians pitched for the club on Opening Day. And with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (Montreal, Que.) playing first base it was the first time that three players born in Canada appeared with the Jays on Opening Day.

Rob Zastryzny (Edmonton, Alta.), a southpaw with Pittsburgh Pirates pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief and picked up the win for his club 5-4 over the Cincinnati Reds. It was the first Opening Day appearance of his career - at 31 years old. It was also the first time he had been on major league roster on Opening Day.

Right-hander Matt Brash (Kingston, Ont.), Zastryzny's Canadian World Baseball Classic teammate, struck out two while pitching a scoreless seventh inning in relief for the Seattle Mariners in their 3-0 win over the Cleveland Guardians in their season opener. The M's scored all three of their runs in the bottom of the eighth, so Brash



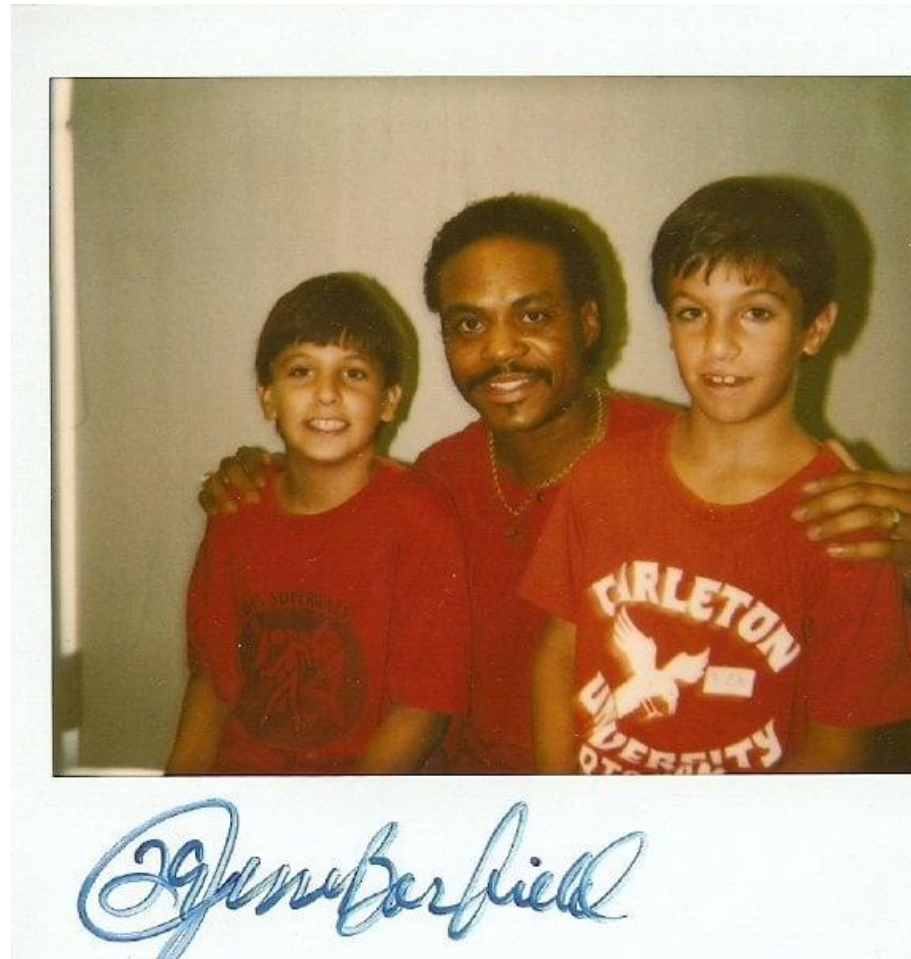
narrowly missed out on getting the win. Josh Naylor (Mississauga, Ont.) batted fifth for the Guardians, but unfortunately went 0-for-3.

Philadelphia Phillies manager and Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Rob Thomson (Corunna, Ont.) became the first Canadian to manage a big-league game on Opening Day since George Gibson (London, Ont.) on April 17, 1934. Thomson's Phillies lost 11-7 to the Texas Rangers.

Special hat tip to Kevin Glew from www.cooperstownincanada.com for the help collating the Canadian opening day stats.

There were 269 players born in 19 different countries & territories outside of the mainland U.S. on opening day rosters, so 29 percent, per MLB. The leaders: – Dominican Republic: 104 – Venezuela: 62 – Cuba: 21 – Puerto Rico: 19 – Mexico: 15 – Canada: 10 – Japan: 8 – Colombia: 7.

Member spotlight – Maxwell Kates



Maxwell Kates is a SABR member who lives in Toronto.

Maxwell submitted this photograph of his brother and himself with Jesse Barfield, one of the 2023 Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductees.

"The photo was taken back in 1988, when Jesse played right field for the Jays. As the story goes, there was a stereo store opening in Mississauga and Jesse was on hand for the opening. We



schlepped (*editor's note - a Yiddish word for 'dragged'*) all the way out there from Don Mills, and my brother and I both wore our red shirts for Jesse. At one point, they announced that Jesse had to leave to go and play that afternoon. Kids started to cry, they had a real mess on their hands. So, they made the adults go home but the kids could still meet Jesse. As you can see, we had our photograph taken on a Polaroid (remember those?) which Jesse signed. Twenty years later, I met Jesse once again at a Fergie Jenkins Golf Tournament. I had the photo redone, and he signed that one, too. Not Billy Crystal's story about meeting Mickey Mantle, but I'll take it." - Maxwell Kates.

Hopefully Maxwell will have the chance to show Jesse both these photos again come June and the induction ceremony.

Coincidentally, Jesse shared on Twitter the artifacts he will shipping to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Barfield's display will include the last batting helmet he wore as a Blue Jay, a game-worn Blue Jays cap, a Canadian Cooper game-used bat and his Blue Jays batting cage jacket.





Committee hot corner

For this issue, I will profile the Women in Baseball Committee. The committee was formed in 1990 to study the role of women in various aspects of professional baseball. Areas of focus include:

- The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (1943 – 1954)
- Female barnstorming teams
- Women who have served/are serving as baseball officials or team owners

Committee activities include:

- 2 newsletters per year
- Highschool scholarship award
- Creation of a historical timeline
- Annual Dorothy Seymour Mills Award.

I encourage interested chapter members to check this committee on the SABR website. Joining is only a click away.

Canadian women baseball's firsts

A record number of women (19) have joined professional baseball coaching ranks, including two Canadian women: **Ashley Stephenson** with the Toronto Blue Jays and **Zoe Hicks** with the LA Dodgers. While there is still a very long way to go to get anywhere close to parity, both on the field and in front office roles, it is a step in the right direction, and one that seemed unlikely even five years ago. This also speaks to the strength of the Baseball Canada women's program, which will hopefully continue



RECORD NUMBER OF

WOMEN COACHES

AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

Alyssa Nakken , Major League Assistant Coach <i>San Francisco Giants</i>	Taylor Jackson , Development Coach <i>Boston Red Sox</i>
Rachel Balkovec , Minor League Manager <i>Tampa Tarpons (Low-A, New York Yankees)</i>	Amanda Kamekona , Minor League Hitting Coach <i>Cleveland Guardians</i>
Ronnie Gajownik , Minor League Manager <i>Hillbom Hoyt (High-A, Arizona Diamondbacks)</i>	Stephanie Lombardo , Development Coach <i>Pittsburgh Pirates</i>
Veronica Alvarez , Coordinator of Player Development <i>Latin America, Oakland Athletics</i>	Breanne Nasti , Development Coach <i>New York Mets</i>
Gretchen Aucoin , Reconditioning Hitting Coach <i>New York Mets</i>	Rachel Neugart , Baseball Operations & Player Development Spring Training <i>New York Mets</i>
Kayla Baptista , Coaching Apprentice <i>Texas Rangers</i>	Regan Saulnier , Development Coach <i>New York Mets</i>
Sarah Edwards , Hitting Development Coach <i>Philadelphia Phillies</i>	Ashley Stephenson , 4th Coach <i>Toronto Blue Jays</i>
Rachel Folden , Minor League Hitting Coordinator <i>Chicago Cubs</i>	Jaime Vieira , Minor League Hitting Coach <i>Toronto Blue Jays</i>
Chloe Gosselin , Development Coach <i>Boston Red Sox</i>	Christina Whitlock , 4th Coach <i>St. Louis Cardinals</i>
Zoe Hicks , Coach/Baseball Tech Associate <i>Los Angeles Dodgers</i>	

to help women blaze a trail that will ideally be well-worn for the next generation of girl to come.

Upcoming events

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony weekend:

The 2023 Induction Ceremony for **Jesse Barfield**, **Denis Boucher**, **Rich Harden** and **Joe Wiwchar** will take place on Saturday, June 17 at 1pm.

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame will also be honouring the 2020 inductees **John Olerud** and **Jacques Doucet** and the new 2023 inductees at this year's ceremony in St Marys.

The Induction Ceremony under the ceremonial tent is free to attend.



However, there are many advantages during Induction weekend for members, including reserved seats for the ceremony and entrance into the autograph session prior to non-members.

Purchase a 2023 Elite, Home Run or Grand Slam annual [Membership](#) and receive 2 or 4 reserved seats depending on your membership type (**if requested by June 1**) for the Ceremony.

Buy a 2023 Home Run or Grand Slam Annual [Membership](#) and you can dine with the Inductees.

Autograph session rules:

Members are \$20 each to enter autograph session.

Non-members are \$30 each to enter autograph session.

Hall of Fame 2023 members enter first.

The autograph session is 90 minutes long.

Autographs are limited to one item per person per Inductee/special guest.

Autographs will be signed on a first come first serve basis.

Hall of Fame staff reserve the right to cut the line at any time.

Autographs are not guaranteed.

NO posed photos.

For more information: <https://baseballhalloffame.ca/induction-day/>

Former MLB player Willie Wilson will be the special guest at a baseball camp this July 10 and 11, 2023 in Clinton, Ontario and July 12 and 13 in Kincardine. For more information or to register: <http://clintonminorbaseballcamp.ca>.
<http://kincardineminorbaseballcamp.ca>

About us

The SABR Hanlan's Point Chapter has existed for some 40 years. Named after the park from which Babe Ruth launched his first professional home run in 1914, it was originally intended to serve the Greater Toronto Area; however, its membership spans a much wider geographical area running from Newfoundland to the Western Provinces. Chapter activities are planned and coordinated by a Planning Committee. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @SABR_HP



CONTACTS

CHAPTER LEADER & TREASURER:

Allen Tait, Grimsby, ON
atait4@cogeco.ca

COMMUNICATIONS:

Barry Naymark, Owen Sound, ON
barrynaymark@yahoo.ca

COORDINATOR, SW:

Elena North, St. Marys, ON
monklands@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER:

Effective 2023: Ruth Kapelus, Toronto, ON (rkapelus@gmail.com)

SABR NEIGHBOURS

SABR Frank “Shag” Shaughnessy Ottawa Chapter: website ; on Twitter:
@OttawaSabr
SABR Quebec
SABR Southern Michigan Chapter

OUR PARTNERS

[THE CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM](#)

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum exists to preserve and promote Canada’s baseball tradition. Its extensive collection is housed in a modern facility on a 32-acre site. It is also home to the Harry Simmons Memorial Library, a joint venture with the Centre for Canadian Baseball Research.

CBHFM is a stop on London Tourism’s Southwestern Ontario Baseball Heritage Pass, together with historical Labatt Park in London and the Beachville District Museum.

[THE CENTRE FOR CANADIAN BASEBALL RESEARCH](#)

The Centre is a not-for-profit corporation established to encourage and facilitate research into baseball’s historical development in Canada and to disseminate the results of this research. Its initiatives include maintenance and operation of the Research Library and an annual Canadian Baseball History Conference.

CREDITS

Use of Fergie Jenkins’ name in the newsletter title is by permission of the Fergie



Jenkins Foundation.

The SABR Hanlan's Point logo is used by permission of SABR.

SUBMISSIONS

We have not established a word limit for articles since the format allows us to publish an article précis with a link to a longer text.

To have your work included in the newsletter, or to make suggestions, please email Ruth. Contributors should consult the SABR Style Guide and Tips for Aspiring Authors. Scroll down [here](#).