

# SABR Scouts Committee Newsletter

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July 8, 2002

## A GREAT SABR 32

SABR 32, held the final weekend in June at the Park Plaza Hotel in downtown Boston, was a good one for the Scouts' Committee. We did a great amount of business, made some huge strides forward, enjoyed the convention spotlight at the first-ever scouts' panel and again at the annual awards luncheon on Saturday, and took a giant step toward a SABR book project.

Here's what happened:

### ROLAND HEMOND AWARD

The second annual Roland Hemond Award, given to the major league executive who has made major contributions to SABR and to baseball in general thru research and upgrading the scouts' role in the game, was presented to Robert Howsam, the Colorado native who led the Cardinals to two World Series and built the Big Red Machine in Cincinnati in the 1970's. Bob, his wife, and son Edwin, a long-time scout himself, were on hand to accept the award and then did double duty when Bob served on the scouts' panel and the panel for general managers. Roland Hemond, a long-time major league GM and currently an executive advisor for the White Sox, was on hand to present the award named in his honor. Roland has contributed almost 7,000 reports on big leaguers to the Hall of Fame Museum...in addition to hundreds of "who signed whoms."

### TOM GREENWADE AWARD

Joe McGillen of Philadelphia won the Greenwade Award for submitting more than 800 "who signed whoms," the criteria for the award. Joe, a former officer of SABR and a one-time candidate for the SABR presidency, was introduced as the award winner at the Friday scouts' panel. He received a Babe Ruth model bat, properly engraved, from Louisville Slugger. More on both Joe and the Greenwade Award later.

### SCOUTS' PANEL

Your chairman, Bill Clark, moderated a five-person panel, set in motion by Bill Nowlin of the Boston SABR organizing committee and a member of the scouts' panel as well.

The committee had some heavy hitters. Mr. Howsam discussed the role of the scouts from the position of a club president/general manager; Paul Snyder, a 30-year veteran major league scouting director all with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves, spoke from the position of a man whose career depending on those who drove the back roads; John Koziak, an area scout for the LA Dodgers and the president of the New York/New England Scouts Association; Galen Carr, the director of advance scouting for the Boston Red Sox, who showed the high tech systems now used in major league coverage; Bill Clark, who covered the international scene. The 90 minute session was well-received and we hope it will be duplicated in Denver in 2003.

## THE COMMITTEE

A total of 15 committee members were on hand with others coming and going. Included in the core group were Roland Hemond, Tom Schieber and John Odell from the Hall of Fame Museum, and Norman Macht, one of the founders of the committee almost a decade ago.

Missing was Rod Nelson, the vice-chair of the committee and the person charged with the computerization of the committee's business. Rod was kayoed at the last moment by a personal situation which required him to remain in Denver. He reported that almost 6,000 of the 16,000 players to wear a major league uniform have now been matched with a signing scout. That's the "who signed whom" list which has been the major project of the committee in its short life. That data is available from Rod via e-mail.

Two major items came from the committee meeting.

1 - The entire project of assigning "who signed whoms" was addressed by Norman Macht. He commented that it seems such an inexact science that it runs counter to the goals of SABR - correcting the record thru research. Frankly, your chairman has felt that way from Day One since the person who actually found a player and did the leg work on him, has received no credit. Norm felt that we are not correcting the record, but are actually confusing matters. After much discussion, Norm moved that we retire the Greenwade Award honorably and replace it with an award (currently unnamed) which will go annually to the person who has done the most to promote the committee and SABR...and "who signed whoms" will remain a major part of that award...but not the total qualifying factor. The recipient will be chosen by a committee appointed by the scouts' committee chairman.

The motion passed unanimously. The new award will be selected by a three-person committee consisting of Jim Furtado (Mass.), Brad Sullivan (NY), Norman Macht (Md.), Rod Nelson (Colo.), and the scouts' committee chairman. The group will also consider a name for the award.

Thus, to Joe McGillen goes the honor of receiving the final Greenwade Award. He joins Steve Lamar and Dick Clark (twice) as the only winners.

2 - Rod Nelson was already ahead of the committee regarding the second item of change.

The committee emphasized the need to do additional research regarding the "who signed whom" list. Rod has already expanded a number of "signed bys" to include more than one scout and all researchers in the future are asked to consider who actually brought the player to a club's attention. For instance, Negro League players who later played in the majors are listed under the person who brought them from the Negro Leagues to the majors, but never is the scout mentioned who signed that player to the original Negro League club...a gross violation of historical fact.

Rod has expanded his record-keeping capacity to include several new categories. He'll now list the signing date of the player, when and where the data was collected (publication, interview, etc.), and the names of all involved with the signing.

3 - Now comes a long process of sorting out many claims about who actually signed whom. For many such Hall of Famers as Honus Wagner and Cy Young there are more than one name listed as the signing person.

Most of the original listings did not include when and where the data were collected, so cross-checking will be difficult.

For those collecting data - please send your signing list along with your source for everyone, even though that person has been credited by others. Your information may be the deciding factor in our record.

#### A LONG-TERM GOAL

The committee's long-term goal is to list every scout with the club which employed him/her from 1845 forward, then properly assigning to that scout all the players signed by him/her who played in the major leagues.

Finding those scouts prior to WW II will be tough...so keep your eyes open for scouts' names as you research other projects. We've been receiving more data on the old-timers each month. Keep it coming.

#### THE IMMEDIATE GOAL

The Publications Committee has expressed a desire for the Scouts' Committee and the Oral and Pictorial History Committees to combine to come up with a publication devoted to scouting which will go to all SABR members and be sold by SABR. The exact format remains to be established, but generally we're looking at some 50 bios of scouts who operated prior to the advent of the baseball draft in 1965...but not limited to them. The plan is to accept volunteers who will take the responsibility for doing one, two, or three bios and follow thru with pictures, etc.. Almost all of the bios will be done about folks who are no longer alive, so this will truly be a research project.

Joe McGillen will do a bio on Jocko Collins, Bill Nowlin has been volunteered by the chairman to do Broadway Charley Wagner of the Red Sox. As we started this newsletter, a summary of the life of Pop Kelchner who signed some 123 major leaguers between 1900 and 1934, came via fax. We also recently received from Frank Phleps of King of Prussia, Pa., some 50 briefs (from two to eight paragraphs) of scouts over a century of scouting, many with birth and death dates, which can act as a springboard to many of the needed bios.

Here is a partial list of those we'd like to have first. If you have access to any of them - please contact Clark immediately.

Hugh Alexander  
Howie Haak  
Cy Slapnicka  
Paul Krichell  
Bill Essick  
Runt Marr  
Joe Cambria  
Branch Rickey  
Tony Lucadello  
Johnny Nee  
Joe Devine  
Wish Egan  
Charley Barrett  
Ray Largent

Jack Dunn  
Bobby Coltrin  
Ed Montague  
Sloppy Thurston  
George Moreland  
Nap Rucker  
Sinister Dick Kinsella  
Ollie Vanek  
Ed Walsh, Sr.  
Mike Donlin  
Joe Cantillion  
Larry Sutton'  
Goerge Huff  
Louis Heilbroner

And later lights such as:  
Larry Barton, Sr.  
Jim Russo  
Tony Robello....  
Bobby Mattick  
Epy Guerrero  
Nick Kamsic  
George Genovese  
Rex Bowen  
Paul Snyder  
Bill Wight

WRAPPING IT UP

As we head into the second half of 2002, here's where we are - and where we're going - in a nutshell.

- 1 - Continue research to get a list of scouts by team throughout the history of the professional game.
- 2 - Locate, document, and file "who signed whoms."
- 3 - Choose a scout to profile for the upcoming SABR book and start your research on that project.

ADDRESSES

All e-mail must go thru Rod Nelson. Your chairman, a true dinosaur, has no computer and has no desire to own one. Fax and snail mail works with the chairman. He's so far back in history that he doesn't even have a cell phone.

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PERSONALLY

Your chairman truly appreciates what has happened with our committee the past ~~two~~ years and there is no way thank Rod Nelson for the efforts he has expended in pulling all our data together in his web site. His job is immense - and he loves every minute of it. We must keep him well-fed and happy.

Ol' Clark still is working full-time as the international scouting supervisor for the San Diego Padres, but he has plans to slow down come Sept. 1/02. He's not quitting (there's still more than a year remaining on the current contract), but at age 70 he finds the road a bit tiring. TRavel takes him about 400,000 miles a year in the air to 20 countries or so and another 30,000 miles by car. In addition, he's trying to organize a huge pile of data into a book about a life in scouting - and time remains a problem. Also looking at a book about a life in weightlifting (still an active lifter in the 70-74 age group), and possible books on 40 years as a sports official and a hobby as a birder and bewildered botantist. When you reach 70, it is time get your act together. That's what we'll look at doing once this baseball season winds down. That means more time to work on SABR projects - and it seems there are plenty of SABR projects needing everyone's time.

Thanks to everyone for waht tou've done to make this committee very successful the past two years. Keep the data flowing...

  
BILL CLARK