

EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023 • VOLUME 14 • EDITION 1

RICH HANSEN, CHAIR - RICHARD SMILEY, VICE CHAIR

DAVID MALAMUT, SECRETARY - PETER YEE, TREASURER - BILL PEARCH, NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Above: During this year's Cubs Convention, several autographed jerseys and bats from the popular 1984 National League East championship squad were prominently displayed. (Photo: John Racanelli)

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HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT 2023 CUBS CONVENTION



BY: JOHN RACANELLI

The Cubs Convention returned in 2023 after a two-year hiatus. The annual January event attracts fans who descend on the Sheraton Grand Chicago by the thousands to attend panels with Cubs management, ownership, and players; get photographs and autographs; and talk baseball with other baseball-starved Cubs fans. Although the crowds were decidedly thinner this year than in the past, the fervor for Cubs baseball was certainly not.

This year, the Cubs assembled displays of artifacts that would make any serious baseball fan swoon. One of the hotel's conference rooms was jampacked with individual awards including several MVP, Cy Young, Gold Glove, Silver Slugger, Rookie of the Year, and Manager of the Year awards. Also on display were trophies presented by local civic organizations or newspapers in honor of Cubs pennants in 1876, 1907 and 1908, along with the 2016 Commissioner's Trophy.

A separate room contained uniform and equipment displays covering Cubs teams from the 1960s through the present. A glass case showed off several game-used baseballs, bases, and helmets from the 2016 championship run.

The most amazing of the memorabilia rooms, however, looked as though it had come straight from Cooperstown. Items on display included a ticket stub from the first Cubs game at Wrigley Field on April 20, 1916 (a \$1.00 box seat!), Dexter Fowler's leadoff home run ball from Game Seven of the 2016 World Series, and scorecards from Babe Ruth's 1932 apocryphal "Called Shot" World Series game and Jackie Robinson's first game at Wrigley Field in 1947.

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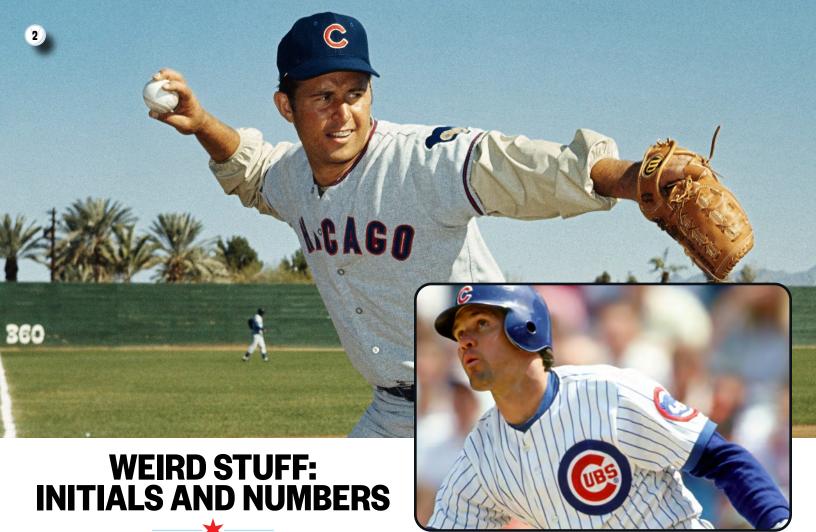














BY: DAVE ZEMAN

From 1962 to the present, only two Chicago Cubs have topped the National League in triples. There are interesting parallels between the two instances. In 1964, the Cub had the initials "R.S." and was born in a seven-letter Washington city that starts with "S". He tied for the NL lead with a Philadelphia Phillies rookie who posted historic offensive numbers despite topping the loop in strikeouts and most errors at his position. The Cub and the Phillie played the same position. Twenty years later, the Cub had the initials "R.S." and was born in a sevenletter Washington city that starts with "S". He tied for the NL lead with a Philadelphia Phillies rookie who posted historic offensive numbers despite topping the loop in strikeouts and most errors at his position. The Cub and the Phillie played the same position. Of course, the players were Ron Santo and Ryne Sandberg of the Cubs and Dick Allen and Juan Samuel of Philadelphia.

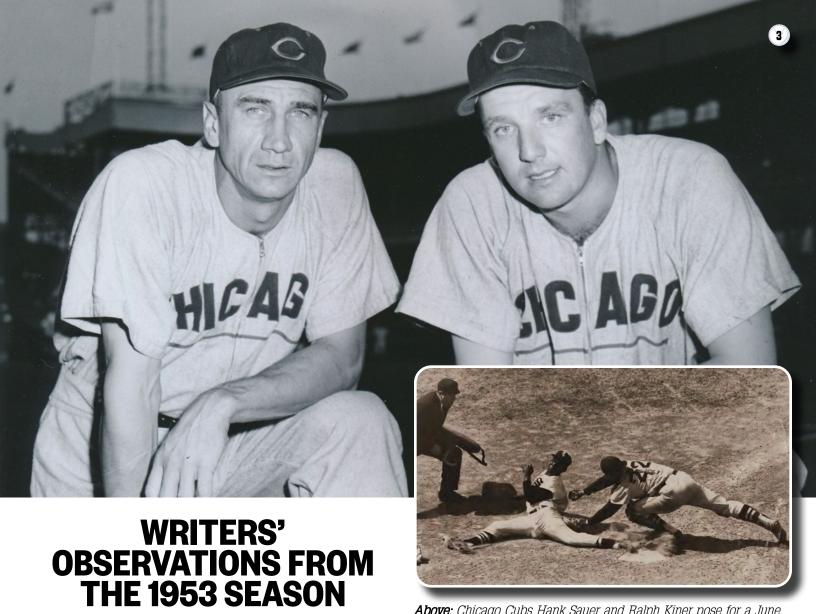
Corbin Burnes must be a fan of the number 243. He is the sole Milwaukee Brewer to lead his league in Earned Run Average, doing so in 2021 with a fine 2.43. In 2022, Burnes became the first Brewer to top his circuit in strikeouts, fanning, you guessed it, 243 batters.

If you want to learn about the first Chicago Cubs team to win the World Series, just play "Take Away the Second Number". The team's first title was in 1907. So, how many games did they win? Take away the second number and you get the correct answer – 107. But by how many games did the club win the National League pennant? Now remove the second number from 107 and that leaves 17, their margin of victory over the second place Pittsburgh Pirates.





Top to bottom: Ron Santo (Photo: Cooperstown Expert); Ryne Sandberg (Photo: NBC Sports Chicago); Corbin Burnes (Photo: NBC Sports Philadelphia); and 1907 Chicago Cubs (Photo: Chicago Sun-Times)





BY: FRANCIS KINLAW

Perhaps a shortage of news caused editors to fill column space with a light-hearted piece, or maybe a simple but entertaining article immediately after the holiday season seemed to be a good idea. Whatever the reason, the front page of *The Sporting News* dated January 6, 1954 revealed the results of a whimsical poll of baseball writers (under the byline of C.C Johnson Spink) that was unlikely to produce holiday cheer between many players and reporters. The survey focused on the "skills, team values, living habits, and personalities of players from every major-league team," with the scribes polled evaluating "only the players on the clubs which they observed in their own league." While some of the categories judged were positive in nature, quite a few were either not complimentary or unrelated to baseball.

The results of the poll were presumed to be based on observations from the 1953 season, and obviously such a poll should never be accepted as definitive. However, while the collective opinions of the writers may be suspect in some cases, these are their interesting choices regarding players on the rosters of a Chicago Cubs team that finished in seventh place in the National League and a more competitive White Sox club that finished third in the American League:

Above: Chicago Cubs Hank Sauer and Ralph Kiner pose for a June 1953 photograph at New York's Polo Grounds. (Photo: William C. Greene / RMY Auctions)

Inset: Minnie Minoso avoids a tag by Red Sox catcher Sammy White. (Photo: Rucker/Transcendental Graphics, via Getty Images)





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BASEBALL MOVIES BY PICTURE:
CAN YOU NAME THE BASEBALL
MOVIES BY SCREENSHOTS?



FRANCHISE STRIKEOUT LEADERS



BY: DAVE ZEMAN

In the nightcap of an October 4, 2022, doubleheader, the New York Yankees saw not one but two of their single-season records surpassed. Yes, Aaron Judge led off the game with his 62nd home run, topping Roger Maris's seasonal home run record for the Bronx Bombers. Gerrit Cole, however, made his own history that very inning. When he fanned Nathaniel Lowe of the Texas Rangers, Cole notched his 249th strikeout of the season, besting Ron Guidry's club mark that had lasted since 1978. Cole whiffed 257 batters last year, becoming the first Yankee to lead the American League in strikeouts since Al Downing in 1964. Allie Reynolds in 1952 had been the club's last right-hander to do so. In this era of strikeouts, which team has the longest running strikeouts record? A list of each current franchise's record follows, starting from the most recent. Teams that switched cities (the St. Louis Browns becoming the Baltimore Orioles, for example) have their records combined, as is done on Baseball-Reference.com. Teams that existed prior to the pitching distance being moved to its current length have their records since 1893 shown.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 -

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Above: Chris Sale established the Chicago White Sox single-season strikeout record of 274 in 2015. During his seven seasons on the South Side, he fanned a total of 1,244 batters. (Photo: Mitchell Leff/Getty Images/SB Nation)

Inset: In 1970, Hall-of-Famer Ferguson Jenkins set the Chicago Cubs single-season record of 274. During his 10 years on the North Side, he fanned 2,038 batters. (Photo: Bill Pearch)

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Submit your articles to Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at wcpearch@comcast.net for inclusion in an upcoming edition.

SOME ARTWORK PROVIDED BY:





OBSERVATIONS FROM 1953 (CONT.)

Most feared batter in clutch: Toughest pitcher for crucial game: Has done most for the team: Most box office appeal: Fastest runner:

Slowest runner: Best all-round athlete: Best physique:

Best student of the game: Most cooperative with writers: Least cooperative with writers:

Most helpful to rookies: Most popular off the field: Most friendly to fans:

Least friendly to fans: Wittiest:

Happiest:
Unhappiest:
Most serious

Most serious-minded: Greatest worrier:

Most temperamental: Least temperamental: Most relaxed on the field: Most nervous on the field:

Best bench jockey: Best conversationalist:

Least talkative: Most ambitious: Most intellectual:

Best business sense: Most conceited: Chicago Cubs
Hank Sauer
Warren Hacker
Hank Sauer
Hank Sauer
Hal Jeffcoat
Carl Sawatski
Randy Jackson
Hal Jeffcoat
Bob Ramazzotti
Hank Sauer
Eddie Miksis
Clyde McCullough
Hank Sauer
Joe Garagiola

Hank Sauer Joe Garagiola Eddie Miksis Joe Garagiola Hal Jeffcoat

Bob Ramazzotti Hank Sauer Eddie Miksis Hank Sauer Randy Jackson

Eddie Miksis

Eddie Miksis Bill Serena

Clyde McCullough Bob Ramazzotti Roy Smalley Ralph Kiner Ralph Kiner Eddie Miksis Chicago White Sox Minnie Minoso Virgil Trucks Minnie Minoso Minnie Minoso Minnie Minoso Sherm Lollar Minnie Minoso Minnie Minoso

Sherm Lollar
Billy Pierce
Saul Rogovin
Billy Pierce
Chico Carrasquel
Billy Pierce

Saul Rogovin Minnie Minoso Minnie Minoso

Saul Rogovin Billy Pierce

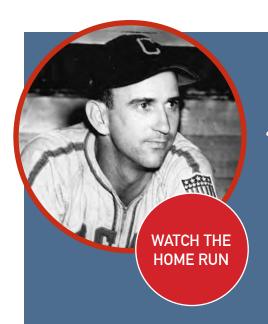
Paul Richards (manager)

Ferris Fain Sherm Lollar Chico Carrasquel Nellie Fox

Nellie Fox Billy Pierce Sherm Lollar Nellie Fox Red Wilson Ferris Fain Saul Rogovin

Because *The Sporting News* was referred to as "The Bible of Baseball" in the mid-1950s and could claim very impressive circulation, there can be little doubt that players throughout the big leagues quickly realized how the results of this poll affected their reputations and those of their teammates. Among the Cubs, the results were very favorable for slugger Hank Sauer in terms of his value on the field and popularity off of it. He was designated as the team's "greatest worrier," but he obviously had no reason for concern regarding his standing with fans. Pitcher Hal Jeffcoat was considered a happy man who could run fast while maintaining an impressive

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 -





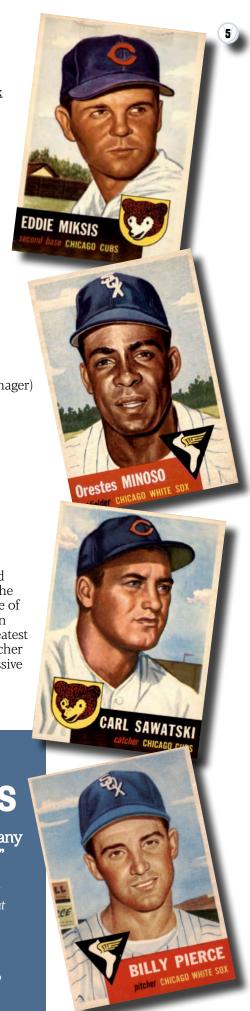
PASTIME PASSAGES

"That home run gets more attention than any homer, or even any hit, that I ever had."

— Luke Appling, discussing the home run he hit off of Warren Spahn at an Old-Timer's game at Washington's RFK Stadium in 1982.

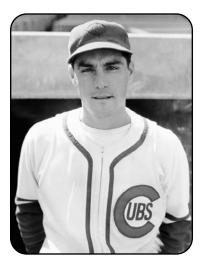
Chicago Tribune, January 4, 1991: 50.

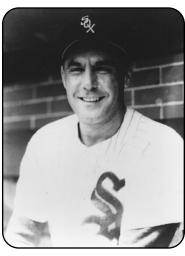
Do you have a favorite baseball-related quote? Send it to John Racanelli via email at j.racanelli@hotmail.com.



RANDOM* *TANDEM

PHIL CAVARRETTA BY: CHRIS KAMKA





Phil Cavarretta played his final game in a Cubs uniform - the 1,953rd game of his career — in 1953.

Phil Cavarretta played his first game in a White Sox uniform the 1,954th game of his career — in 1954.

Have a sweet Chicago Random Tandem? Send it to j.racanelli@hotmail.com!

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FRANCHISE STRIKEOUT LEADERS (CONT.)





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<u>Team</u>	<u>Pitcher</u>	Strikeouts	Season
Yankees	Gerrit Cole	257	2022
Astros	Gerrit Cole	326	2019
Rockies	German Marquez	230	2018
Marlins	Jose Fernandez	253	2016
Rays	Chris Archer	252	2015
White Sox	Chris Sale	274	2015
Brewers	Ben Sheets	264	2004
Diamondbacks	Randy Johnson	372	2001
Red Sox	Pedro Martinez	313	1999
Padres	Kevin Brown	257	1998
Blue Jays	Roger Clemens	292	1997
Nationals (Expos)	Pedro Martinez	305	1997
Phillies	Curt Schilling	319	1997
Braves	John Smoltz	276	1996
Mariners	Randy Johnson	308	1993
Rangers	Nolan Ryan	301	1989
Reds	Mario Soto	274	1982
Royals	Dennis Leonard	244	1977
Angels	Nolan Ryan	383	1973
Mets	Tom Seaver	289	1971
Tigers	Mickey Lolich	308	1971
Cardinals	Bob Gibson	274	1970
Cubs	Fergie Jenkins	274	1970
Dodgers	Sandy Koufax	382	1965
Pirates	Bob Veale	276	1965
Guardians (Indians)	Bob Feller	348	1946
Twins (Senators)	Walter Johnson	313	1910
Orioles (Browns)	Rube Waddell	232	1908
Athletics	Rube Waddell	349	1904
Giants	Christy Mathewson	267	1903
		*	

In addition to Cole, four pitchers are record holders for two teams—Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, Nolan Ryan and Rube Waddell. Oddly, four of the leaders fanned exactly 274 batters in their record-breaking campaigns—Bob Gibson, Fergie Jenkins, Chris Sale and Mario Soto, with the first two doing so in 1970.





NICHIBEI YAKYU: US TOURS OF JAPAN, 1907-1958 (VOLUME 1)

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Japanese baseball, the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) is proud to publish Nichibei Yakyu: US Tours of Japan. Over 100 baseball teams from the United States and Hawaii have crossed the Pacific to play baseball in Japan. Nichibei Yakyu: US Tours of Japan is the first book written in English that focuses on these international tours.

Volume 1 focuses on tours between 1907 and 1958. During this time period, many of the sport's greatest stars—including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Jackie Robinson—played in the Land of the Rising Sun. These tours helped spread the game across the globe, spawned thousands of individual friendships, and helped bring nations together through the mutual love of baseball.

Lead editor Robert K. Fitts is the author of seven books on Japanese baseball and Japanese baseball cards. Fitts is the founder of SABR's Asian Baseball Committee and a recipient of the society's 2013 Seymour Medal for best baseball book of 2012, the 2019 McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award, the 2012 Doug Pappas Award for best research presentation at the SABR convention, and the 2006 and 2021 SABR Research Awards. He has twice been a finalist for the Casey Award and has received two silver medals at the Independent Publisher Book Awards. While living in Tokyo in 1993–94, Fitts began collecting Japanese baseball cards and now runs Robs Japanese Cards LLC. Information on Rob's work is available at RobFitts.com.

Contributors include: Adam Berenbak, Stephen D. Boren, Mark Brunke, Carter Cromwell, James E. Elfers, Robert K. Fitts, James Forr, Christopher Frey, John Harney, Tom Hawthorn, Len Levin, Satoshi Matsumiya, Yoichi Nagata, Roberta J. Newman, Joe Niese, Bill Nowlin, Ralph Pearce, Carl Riechers, Keith Spalding Robbins, C. Paul Rogers III, Allan H. "Bud" Selig, Yobun Shima, Dennis Snelling, Bill Staples Jr., Yusuke Suzumura, Steven K. Wisensale, and Kat Williams.

FROM SHIBE PARK TO CONNIE MACK STADIUM: GREAT GAMES IN PHILADELPHIA'S LOST BALLPARK

From Shibe Park to Connie Mack Stadium: Great Games in Philadelphia's Lost Ballpark evokes memories and the exciting history of the celebrated ballpark through stories of 100 games played there and several feature essays. The games included in this volume reflect every decade in the ballpark's history, from the inaugural game on April 12, 1909, to the last, on October 1, 1970.

Shibe Park was the home of the Philadelphia A's from 1909 until their relocation to Kansas City after the 1954 season, as well as the Philadelphia Phillies from 1938 until the ballpark's closure at the end of the 1970 season. In 1953 Shibe Park was renamed Connie Mack Stadium in honor of the baseball icon who had managed the Athletics for their first 50 seasons. Baseball's first steel-and-concrete ballpark, it hosted big-league baseball for 62 seasons and more than 6,000 games, including in excess of 3,500 games by the A's and 2,500 by the Phillies.

Contributors include: Matt Albertson, John Bauer, Josh Berk, Nathan Bierma, John J. Burbridge Jr., Thomas J. Brown Jr., Ken Carrano, Alan Cohen, Richard Cuicchi, Rich D'Ambrosio, Paul E. Doutrich, Greg Erion, Doug Feldmann, Scott Ferkovich, Dan Fields, James Forr, Brian Frank, Gordon J. Gattie, Mike Huber, Lawrence Knorr, Kevin Larkin, Bob LeMoine, Len Levin, Mike Lynch, Andrew Milner, Bill Nowlin, J.G. Preston, Carl Riechers, C. Paul Rogers III, Harry Schoger, David E. Skelton, Courtney Michelle Smith, Lyle Spatz, Mark S. Sternman, Jim Sweetman, Joseph Wancho, Rich Westcott, Gregory H. Wolf, Jack Zerby, John Zinn, and Don Zminda.

LET'S TALK SABR BOOKS!

Calling all baseball writers, bloggers and podcasters. I'd love to discuss the latest books in SABR's Digital Library with you. Contact Bill Pearch via email at wcpearch@comcast.net.



CHRISTY MATHEWSON GRAVESITE

LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA





BY: DAVE ZEMAN

The 2023 MLB regular season is just around the corner. Did your favorite team make enough moves? Fans of Jeopardy! will be familiar with before and after catgeories. For these questions, two answers are combined to make one correct response. Ready to play ball? Here's the pitch!

- Lower facial muscle / ended MLB career with the 1945 White Sox, finishing 8th in AL batting average
- Short-lived gunslinger / won 30-plus games a record seven times
- First to be drafted first overall by the Chicago Bears / only Idaho-born player with 100-plus career home runs
- Dodger with a 1948 no-hitter / Thelma Lou's beau
- Homered in first MLB at bat in 1984 / long-time attraction of the Ed Sullivan Theater

Above: Located on "Path of Love" at Lewisburg Cemetery in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania (40.95770331, -76.88808098) [SABR Baseball Map Site ID: 2086] / Photo: Bill Pearch

If you are interested in joining the Landmarks Committee and assisting with the project, contact John Racanelli.

Do you go out of your way to visit old ballparks, historical markers, statues or gravesites? We would love to hear about it! Send us your experiences and photos to j.racanelli@ hotmail.com!

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022: HOW DID YOU DO?

- Who was the first American League second baseman with 40 homers in a season? Brian Dozier hit 40 of his 42 home runs in 2016 as a second baseman for the Minnesota Twins.
- 2. Through 1952, only two non-Hall of Famers hit at least 40 round trippers in a season. Who were they? Cy Williams clubbed 41 homers for the 1923 Philadelphia Phillies while Hal Trosky bashed 42 for Cleveland in 1936.
- From 1931 through 1946, there were 16 40-homer seasons in the American League but only one in the Senior Circuit. What National Leaguer performed the feat? Johnny Mize, for the 1940 St. Louis Cardinals, had 43.
- 4. Who was the first 40-homer slugger to not lead his league in that category? Lou Gehrig belted 47 round trippers in 1927 but Babe Ruth hit 13 more.
- Through 1946, who was the only National Leaguer with more than one 40-home run campaign? Chuck Klein hit 43 in 1929 and 40 more the following season for the Phillies.





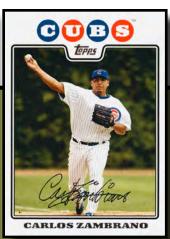


Left to right: The Cubs Convention featured several item of interest including the team's 1908 World Series trophy, Ernie Banks jersey, and a 1930 Hack Wilson jersey.

Below: Ryne Sandberg's 1984 Rawlings Gold Glove award.

(Photos: John Racanelli)





TOP 10: MOST PITCHES THROWN BY CHICAGO HURLERS, SINCE NUMBERS FIRST TRACKED IN 2000

	PITCHER	YEAR	<u>PITCHES</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
1	MARK BUEHRLE	2004	3,690	245.1	WHITE SOX
2	CARLOS ZAMBRANO	2007	3,688	216.1	CUBS
3	JON LIEBER	2000	3,669	251	CUBS
4	CARLOS ZAMBRANO	2006	3,625	214	CUBS
5	RYAN DEMPSTER	2010	3,596	215.1	CUBS
6	CARLOS ZAMBRANO	2005	3,557	223.1	CUBS
7	KERRY WOOD	2003	3,543	211	CUBS
8	BARTOLO COLON	2003	3,525	242	WHITE SOX
9	RYAN DEMPSTER	2011	3,515	202.1	CUBS
10	MARK BUEHRLE	2002	3,510	239	WHITE SOX

*MAKES YOU WONDER WHO HOLDS THE TRUE RECORD, CONSIDERING NO ONE ON THIS LIST EVEN APPROACHED 300 INNINGS PITCHED!

HAVE YOU COMPILED A TOP TEN LIST THAT THE CHAPTER WOULD FAWN OVER? SEND IT TO JOHN RACANELLI VIA EMAIL AT J.RACANELLI@HOTMAIL.COM.

CUBS CONVENTION (CONT.)

Bats from each of the famous Tinkers-to-Evers-to-Chance trio were on display, just in front of an amazing Ernie Banks jersey.

The centerpiece of the display was a Hack Wilson jersey from his monster 1930 season. According to Cubs historian Ed Hartig, the Wilson jersey is preserved in a temperature



and humidity-controlled environment in a facility in Georgia, so getting to see it on display was a rare opportunity.

Kudos to the Cubs for putting together such an astounding collection of memorabilia for fans to enjoy at the Convention. This history buff was impressed.





2023 NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Chicago's Emil Rothe Chapter is a bimonthly publication. We want to highlight your contributions. If you would like to submit content for a future issue, contact Newsletter Editor Bill Pearch at wcpearch@comcast.net.

MARCH-APRIL 2023

Published: March 5 Content Deadline: Feb. 12

MAY-JUNE 2023

Published: May 7 Content Deadline: April 9

JULY-AUGUST 2023

Published: July 2 Content Deadline: June 11

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

Published: Sept. 3 Content Deadline: August 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

Published: Nov. 5 Content Deadline: Oct. 8

10)

OBSERVATIONS FROM 1953 (CONT.)

physique, while third baseman Randy Jackson was recognized as a solid athlete capable of handling his duties at the hot corner with a relaxed demeanor. Warren Hacker received the most votes in only one category, but it was an important one: the hurler most suited to take the mound in a crucial game. (Of course, since the Cubs trailed the pennant-winning Brooklyn Dodgers by 40 games upon the conclusion of the 1953 season, Hacker's opportunities to pitch under pressure were limited!)

One unfortunate observation noted by participating writers cannot be ignored, and that is the fact that infielder Eddie Miksis suffered from a significant public relations problem. Miksis drew the most votes in the five most undesirable categories: lack of cooperation with writers, an unfriendly relationship with fans, a personality reflecting general unhappiness, a temper attached to a short fuse, and conceit.

On the 1953 White Sox, pitcher Saul Rogovin emerged as that team's version of Miksis—with one exception. First baseman Ferris Fain was identified as the most temperamental man on the roster, but Rogovin drew the most criticism for each of the other four negative characteristics.

When it came to admirable traits, future Hall of Famer Minnie Minoso earned a star—actually several stars—from the scribes. He was deemed to be excellent in clutch hitting, value to the team, box office appeal, speed, all-around athleticism, physical condition, and attitude. Billy Pierce also garnered plenty of praise for general cooperativeness and helpfulness toward rookies, all while seeming "serious-minded." However, although the lefthander posted 18 victories in 1953, Virgil Trucks (who won 15 games) was regarded a better choice to pitch in a crucial game.

As a reader of this article, you may have your own impressions of former Chicago players based on personal contacts, opinions expressed by acquaintances, or research. If you are such a person, comparing your thoughts to those of writers from the past may serve as an interesting and enjoyable exercise. After all, a desire to inspire that activity was likely one reason that *The Sporting News* published its rather unusual poll in the first place! •

SAVE THE DATE! CHAPTER LUNCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 4



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DETAILS AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL SOON.





With Super Bowl LVII just days away, we're going to test your scoreboard identification skills with a pigskin twist. From the clues in this photo, can you successfully guess the exact date of the Chicago Bears game? You may need to zoom in. Some of the clues might be deceiving. Good luck. Special thanks to Richard Smiley, our chapter vice-chair, for this issue's challenge.

Our November-December 2022 puzzler had three correct guesses. The photo featured the August 14, 1997 game between the Anaheim Angels and Milwaukee Brewers at Milwaukee County Stadium. The Angels won, 5–1.

Jeff Howard / Ed Hartig / Richard Smiley

Do you have a scoreboard photo that will have your fellow chapter members scratching their heads? Send it to Bill Pearch at wcpearch@comcast.net. Note that photos are not limited to Chicago ballparks.

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