

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

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### Upcoming Events:

#### Virtual Joint Chapter SABR Day

Saturday, Feb 19 @ 2 PM Central

Register [Here](#)



#### Keltner Book Club

The Baseball 100  
TBD March



#### Virtual Analytics Conference

March 18-20, 2022  
Learn More [Here](#)



#### SABR Annual Convention SABR 50

Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor  
Baltimore, MD  
August 17-21, 2022  
Learn More [Here](#)

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

### Welcome New Member: Tom Steele of Sussex

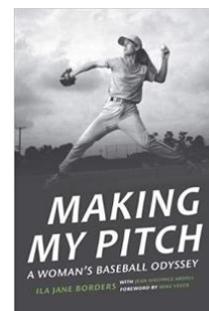
### Upcoming Virtual Events

#### Joint Chapter SABR Day Meeting

Saturday, February 19, @ 2 - 4 PM Central

Join the Emil Rothe (Chicago) and Ken Keltner Chapters annual SABR Day meeting.

Our special guests include Ila Borders, per her autobiography [Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey](#), "a Little League prodigy, MVP of her otherwise all-male middle school; and high school teams, the first woman awarded a college baseball scholarship, and the first to pitch and win a men's collegiate game." And much more including playing professionally. With women breaking barriers and making progress, Borders's insight will be very thought-provoking.



Joining Ila Borders is Jasmine Dunston, the daughter of longtime MLB player [Shawon Dunston](#), is taking over as the new White Sox director of minor league operations. She was named to the position back in December and will be reporting directly to Chris Getz, the Assistant General Manager of Player Development. She played softball at

Tennessee State before attending Valparaiso University earning her Masters in Sports Administration and then John F. Kennedy University for her Juris Doctorate in Sports Law.

Plus, Sara Sanchez a writer for [Bleeding Cubbie Blue](#) a Chicago Cubs blog site.

Register in advance [here](#). SABR will then email Zoom info.

### 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 sites.

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

## Video Recap Marcus Hanel at our January



Racine native Marcus Hanel was the Brewer's Bullpen Coach for the past 21 years, stepping down after the 2021 season. Prior to working with all of the 21st Century Brewer pitchers, he spent ten years in the minor leagues after being drafted by Pittsburgh in the 18th round of the 1989 amateur draft. The recent addition to the Oldtime Ball Players Hall of Fame also starred in baseball at Horlick High School.

The very personable Hanel talked about his minor league days, answered the question what does a bullpen coach do, talks about some of the Brew Crew's pitchers and has good stories. Did you know one of his roles was throwing BP?

If you missed the meeting or want to see it again, click on Marcus's picture to enjoy the recording of the meeting.



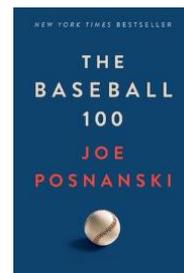
### Keltner Book Korner

#### Book Club News by Mary Shea

Hey Keltner Bookworms,



As the MLB lockout continues, so will the Keltner Book Club. Our next selection will be Joe Posnanski's *The Baseball 100*. Lists are highly debatable, and this highly acclaimed countdown of the greatest players in baseball history is no exception. See more info on the book [here](#).



We're planning on a virtual meeting sometime in March, so look for more details in the March newsletter. Hope you can join us and all are welcome! If you have questions please contact [Mary Shea](#).

Enjoy the offseason, and happy reading!

Mary



### Get to Know

#### Get to Know: Mary Kusmirek By: Mary Shea

Longtime SABR member Mary Kusmirek is a Chicago girl for sure, but I was compelled to give her the "Get to Know" treatment, even though this is the Milwaukee SABR chapter newsletter. Like many women involved with baseball, Mary has had a unique baseball life, even contradictory at times. She grew up a Cubs fan but eventually married a White Sox fan and became an avid Sox supporter, and a baseball fan in general. She also became an ambidextrous player. "I remember playing baseball with the boys, sandlot style. However, growing up in the Chicago area, you generally played 16-inch softball in the streets. We didn't have baseball gloves." Mary, a natural lefty, learned to play as a righty like everyone else she played with as a kid. She eventually acquired a left-handed glove. "I have to admit, it didn't hurt learning to throw with both hands, an asset that never really had a chance to shine... 'girls can't play baseball'... a line from a movie, yes, but it was my reality as a girl in the '60's." But this girl could play!



Born in Chicago and raised in Burbank, just outside the city limits, Mary was named after her grandmother from Oconto, Wisconsin. She was a Cubs fan because of her mother, who schlepped three young kids on three CTA buses to get to Wrigley Field, and the family also watched games on WGN. Mary remembers seeing [Ernie Banks](#) “wiggle his fingers around the bat handle and pounding out a home run.” Her favorite player was catcher [Randy Hundley](#), and she would continue to have a soft spot for catchers. They eventually became friends. Of course, the fate of the 1969 Cubs would break their hearts.

As an adult, Mary studied Photography, Art, and Art History, and received a BA in Photography. She enjoyed documentary photography the most, which led her to working on a graduate project documenting the last season of the old Comiskey Park and the building of the new one. Disguised as a laborer, she had access to the job sites and documented the work of bricklayers, iron workers, and other construction workers, along with other workers and grounds crew. She witnessed famed groundskeeper Roger Bossard, the Sodfather, transferring the infield dirt from the old park to the new one. “Roger let me make and place a time capsule behind 2nd base.” Although the local papers didn’t pick up on her work, she had an “epiphany”, that she loved baseball and should pursue a career in it.

This led to her 21-year career working for the Cubs, mostly dealing with operations and crowd management, plus a variety of other tasks. “The joy of working with a diverse (group of) employees and helping fans and our neighbors made me feel I had come full circle.” Her first year would prove to be life-changing. Two movies shot scenes at Wrigley Field: *The Babe*, with John Goodman, and *A League of Their Own*, which portrayed the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) in the 1940’s. Mary was tasked with “babysitting” Madonna’s uniform, and was able to meet Tom Hanks, Rosie O’Donnell, and the other actors and extras. But the “real thrill” was meeting the actual former players of the historic women’s league, who consulted on the film with director Penny Marshall. Mary had already seen the documentary of the same name that got Marshall all charged up to make the movie. This led her to become an AAGPBL associate member and so deeply involved with the league that the players called her “one of us”. “The friendships I have made through this commitment will always be in my heart. I thought of these ladies as my little aunts with a lot of stories and plenty of spunk! These ladies were true keepers of the spirit of women in sports and the ‘We can do it!’ movement in those war years.” Mary was devoted to the league and these players over the years, including running two of their annual reunions.

One of her most interesting experiences while working for the Cubs, in my opinion, was the infamous Game 6 of the 2003 NLCS. “Moises Alou missed catching a foul ball that Mr. Bartman interfered with. Oops!” Mary had to direct the crowd control team as the dispatcher and deal with a lot of angry Cubs fans. “They brought him up to the crowd management offices for his safety and to avert the media attention. ... I came up with a plan to get Mr. Bartman out of the stadium so the media and fans wouldn’t swarm him. We dressed (him) like an Andy Frain usher and had him walk out with some employees.” The plan mostly worked until an employee’s radio gave Bartman away. “He had a tough offseason.”

After receiving a Masters in Communication, Mary worked in the Cubs ticket office. She met former Chicago mayor Jane Byrne, Cyndi Lauper, and Walter Payton, among others. Childhood favorite Randy Hundley was one of her season ticket holders.

As a Cubs employee, Mary won a pregame first pitch experience. “Wow, I was so excited. Except I had never thrown off a mound in my life! Yikes, so that winter, I paced off 60’ 6”, +/-, and practiced throwing snow balls. In the spring, I went to a women’s baseball clinic at a minor league park and just practiced throwing from the mound. So, the date comes. I have a good arm, I can throw fairly far, and fairly accurately, but could I throw a strike? So many people mess up this cherished honor. My goal was to throw a strike and don’t let anyone say, ‘you throw like a girl’. I think I looked like I was going to pass out. My knees felt weak with fear. Photographer Steve Green directed me to the top of the mound. I reared back and threw the ball for a strike. The ball popped the glove, and it kinda shocked me out of the silent haze I was in. I walked off the field and had to sit down. All I could think was I could see how a rookie might feel their first game in the big leagues at a major league park. After (the game), I went back to my game day work. I was sitting at my desk long after

the game ended, when who comes down to see me? Andy MacPhail, the Cubs President. He walks up to my desk, points his finger at me and says, ‘nice pitch’. I asked him, ‘Think I have a chance?’ He looked at me and said, ‘If only you threw it lefty!’ I said, ‘But I am left-handed.’ He said, ‘But you threw it righty.’ So, my imaginary tryout was now a bust! But looking back, at least I had that once in a lifetime experience, sorta like the women who tried out all those years ago to play in the All-American Girls Baseball League at historic Wrigley Field ... another full-circle event for me.”

Unfortunately, Mary left the Cubs long before the 2016 championship season. However, while working for the Joliet Slammers for eight seasons, she finally received a championship ring.

Following Mary’s involvement in baseball would make your head spin. As an intern with the Rockford Cubbies in 1996, she was instrumental in getting a plaque dedicated to the women who played at Beyer Stadium for the Rockford Peaches and the AAGPBL. The plaque is mounted on the historic ticket booth, which still stands. She also became very much involved with Australian baseball, including the Intercontinental Cup in Sydney in 1999, the Women’s Baseball Tournament in 2002, volunteering with the Adelaide Aces for several years, and an internship with the Canberra Bushrangers in 1993. She has volunteered and worked for the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics and numerous MLB All-Star games, including Milwaukee’s, and Fan Fests, as well as other baseball events that are too numerous to list. In addition to SABR and the AAGPBL, her memberships have included the Old Time Ballplayers Associations of Chicago, Joliet, and Milwaukee, and the Pitch and Hit Club of Chicago. She was awarded the AAGPBL Outstanding Associate Award in 2016.

Mary’s words of wisdom: “Follow your dreams! I joined SABR because (MLB baseball executive) [Roland Hemond](#) suggested it. He was a great ambassador of the game. I tried to be just that as well in my 29 years in the game!” In turn, I am a SABR member because of Mary.

Mary is a dog lover and works with animals in her retirement. I wish she would’ve been able to play in a modern league of their own. One AAGPBL player remarked that Mary could really hit the ball over the fence. But I’m hoping she’ll continue her amazing involvement with baseball in the years to come.



## **Borchert Field, the Bonus Chapters** By Bob Buege

During a Keltner Book Club meeting in early 2021 featuring Bob Buege and his awesome book, [Borchert Field Stories from Milwaukee’s Legendary Ballpark](#), we learned that 13 chapters were not included in the book. We asked Bob if he would like to place them in the *Hot Corner*; he happily agreed. We’ll feature one monthly and are near the end. Thanks, Bob, the extra chapters have been great!

### **BOYS IN BORCHERT**

One of the finest books ever written about baseball is Roger Kahn’s 1972 classic, *The Boys of Summer*. Kahn grew up in Brooklyn within walking distance of Ebbets Field. Later, as a young sports reporter for the New York *Herald Tribune*, he was assigned for two memorable seasons, 1952 and 1953, as the newspaper’s beat writer for his beloved Bums. The Dodgers in those days boasted a roster of talented, colorful characters who swept both National League pennants. Nevertheless, try as they might, the “Lords of Flatbush” could not overcome the indomitable New York Yankee dynasty, losing to [Casey Stengel’s](#) Bronx Bombers in seven games in each of those exciting World Series. Kahn’s book captured the joy and the pathos years later of those marvelous athletes who proudly represented New York City’s most populous borough.

Those “Boys of Summer,” as Kahn dubbed them collectively, did not arise as an intact unit to menace other cities’ ballclubs. The team was assembled piece by piece, primarily by Brooklyn general manager [Branch Rickey](#), with lesser contributions from his predecessor, [Larry MacPhail](#), and his successor, [Buzzie Bavasi](#). Visitors to Borchert Field had the opportunity to see the Brooklyn club *in toto* only once, in 1942, long before the years Kahn chronicled.

Individually, however, the majority of the 1952-53 Dodgers had showcased their talents in Milwaukee's wooden playground in advance of Kahn's nostalgic biennium. Taken as a group, they make up a ballclub filling all the positions on the field, including pitchers throwing from each side.

[Pee Wee Reese](#) was the first of the "Boys" to appear in Borchert Field. His given name was Harold, but his skill at shooting marbles hung that nickname on him for life. He was small, though, a late bloomer who got into just five games in his senior year on his high school team. Originally signed by the Pittsburgh Pirates, he was released to the Louisville Colonels for the 1938 and '39 seasons before Larry MacPhail traded for him and made him a Dodger. In 1949 Reese was appointed captain of the team that became the "Boys of Summer."

With Louisville in the American Association, Pee Wee played many games in Borchert Field against the Brewers. On June 14, 1938, he earned a sub-headline in the *Milwaukee Journal* sports section: "Young Reese Is the Villain." Not yet 20 years old and still known primarily as a slick-fielding shortstop, he started a three-run rally with a single in the eighth inning. Then in the 12<sup>th</sup> he doubled home the winning run in a 6-5 victory over the Brewers.

When Reese played for the Dodgers in Milwaukee in 1953 against the Braves, he looked back on Borchert Field's unusual dimensions: "Those right and left field lines certainly were short," he said.

One of the Dodgers from 1952-53 who received short shrift from Kahn was right-handed hurler Ben Wade. In 1953, his best season, he was a solid if unspectacular performer with an 11-9 record. He was involved in some notable games, though, two of them against the Boston Braves. On July 6 he outpitched [Warren Spahn](#) and helped his own cause by belting two home runs off the great southpaw. At Ebbets Field on September 27, in the last full game the Boston Braves ever played, Wade got his comeuppance from Spahn's buddy [Eddie Mathews](#). The young slugger smashed three home runs that afternoon, two of them off Wade.

On August 23, 1941, two months after [Bill Veeck](#) and [Charlie Grimm](#) purchased the Milwaukee Brewers, Wade hurled a complete game in Borchert Field. He allowed just two runs in nine innings, but the home team defeated him, 4-3, in ten innings on a two-run triple by "The Mad Russian," [Lou Novikoff](#).

Two other right-handers of distinction from the "Summer" guys were relief specialists [Clem Labine](#) and [Joe Black](#). The cocky, crew-cut Labine had a wicked sinker and curve. With the Dodgers he twice earned a place on the National League All-Star squad. He pitched before the "closer" designation was created, but he certainly fulfilled that role with the Dodgers.

In the storied 1951 NL playoffs against the Giants, Labine, almost exclusively a relief man, filled in as the Brooklyn starter in Game Two. He fired a six-hit shutout to send the series to a Game Three. Everyone knows that [Bobby Thomson](#) won that final contest with a home-run off a Dodger reliever. Labine might have been manager Dressen's first choice, but supposedly Labine was struggling with his control in the bullpen, and besides, Labine had worked nine innings the day before. There was precedent, though. The previous June 27, with the St. Paul Saints, Labine had pitched a seven-inning complete game in the first half of a doubleheader, then hurled the final two innings of game two, winning both contests. Instead Dressen called on [Ralph Branca](#) and the Giants won the pennant, the Giants won the pennant, the Giants won the pennant...

In 1949 Labine was manager [Walter Alston's](#) bullpen workhorse for the St. Paul Saints. On September 10 in Borchert Field he made his 65<sup>th</sup> appearance of the season, replacing starter [Phil Haugstad](#), the pride of Humbird, Wisconsin, in the eighth inning. Labine gave up a run-scoring double to [Clint Conatser](#), giving the Brewers a 6-5 win and clinching third place for Milwaukee. Brooklyn general manager Branch Rickey looked on from the old wooden stands as Labine lost to the Brewers for the first time.

Six nights later Labine got even. Again in Borchert Field, the tireless American Association rookie worked the final two and one-third innings to save a victory for Edson Bahr and put the Saints ahead, two games to one, in the Shaughnessy playoffs. Ultimately the Brewers would eliminate the Saints in seven games.

The other right-handed fireman the Dodgers could put on the mound in their 1952 and 1953 seasons was Joe Black, the 1952 Rookie of the Year. Black, a Negro League veteran, earned the rookie honor with a 15-4 record and a 2.15 earned run average. He also finished a close third in the balloting for the National League Most Valuable Player. At World Series time the Dodgers were desperate for starting pitchers, so manager Dressen called on Black. He had only started two games all year, but in the Series opener against the Yankees, Black became the first African American pitcher to win a World Series game. He also started games four and seven, performing well in both.

Black and his St. Paul Saints teammates traveled to Borchert Field for the 1951 American Association playoffs. On September 24, in his final outing before making it to the major leagues, Black started and retired the first eight batters he faced. Then he allowed a single to Brewers pitcher [Ernie Johnson](#) and the gates burst open. Two runs scored in the third and two more came across in the fourth before Dressen yanked his starter. Milwaukee pounded out 16 hits for the night, and Johnson coasted to a 17-2 triumph. The victory put the Brewers into the Junior World Series against the Montreal Royals.

Four of the Boys of Summer played in that series. After taking a two-games-to-one lead in Montreal, the Royals packed up and rode the train to Milwaukee for whatever games would be required. On the unseasonably warm night of October 2, the Dodgers' International League farm club again sent their towering southpaw Chris Van Cuyk to the mound. He had been the winning pitcher in the series opener in Montreal. For five innings the six-foot six-inch lefty carried a 2-1 lead. In the sixth he made his only real mistake of the night, a hanger that shortstop Buzz Clarkson lined over the left-field fence for a three-run homer. Brewers pitcher [Dick Donovan](#) made the score stand up, 4-2, to even the series.

Shortstop Bobby Morgan played all three games in Milwaukee but produced only two harmless singles. Left fielder George "Shotgun" Shuba had won Game Three in Montreal with a pair of two-run home runs, the second a walk-off blast in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning. In Milwaukee all he produced was a single and a double in eleven at-bats. His biggest contribution was a diving catch in Game Five that robbed Ernie Johnson of a base hit.

Versatile Junior Gilliam, a three-time Negro League all-star before the Dodgers signed him and assigned him to Montreal, played second base, third base, plus left and center fields in the three games in Borchert Field. In the deciding Game Six, Gilliam banged three base hits and scored twice. He also made a critical error, though, misplaying [George Crowe's](#) fly ball in the fifth and allowing three runs to score.

Of the Dodgers that Roger Kahn profiled in his book, the one man who insisted he didn't belong there was [Andy Pafko](#). "Handy Andy" was traded to Brooklyn by the Chicago Cubs on June 15, 1951, and then to the Milwaukee Braves before the 1953 season, so his Flatbush days were limited. Nevertheless, the most enduring image of Pafko shows him in a Dodger uniform, standing at the base of the left-field wall in the Polo Grounds as [Bobby Thomson's](#) "Shot Heard 'Round the World" rockets overhead.

Pafko grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm but never played for the Brewers. He appeared in Borchert Field on May 6, 1946, starting for the Chicago Cubs in an exhibition game against the Brewers. He went hitless in two chances against Eddie Karas, then sat down in favor of [Charlie Gilbert](#).

Of all the Dodgers between 1947 and 1955, none was more important to the team—to the country—than [Jackie Robinson](#). He began his first spring training in 1946 in Sanford, Florida, by being run out of town after one day due to death threats. (The city of Sanford apologized in 1997, 25 years after Robinson died.) Robinson's much-chronicled career began the arduous task of integrating baseball and American society. Before entering "organized" baseball, Jackie played shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs. In Borchert Field on May 28, 1945, the 26-year-old Robinson went hitless in four at-bats as the Chicago American Giants defeated the Monarchs, 4-2, in a Negro American League game. The pitcher who shut him down was Walter McCoy.

Another pioneer in baseball's historic breaking of the "color line" was catcher [Roy Campanella](#). One of the greatest catchers ever to play the game, Campy dropped out of high school on

his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to catch for the Baltimore Elite (pronounced EE-light) Giants of the Negro National League. Meal money at that time was fifty cents a day. In 1948 he became the sixth black player and the first black catcher in major league baseball. That season he also became the first African American ballplayer in the American Association. On June 2 he became the first black man to play in an American Association game in Borchert Field. That night he rapped a single in the second inning. In trying to steal second, he slid so hard that he ripped open the bag. He later flied out twice and was robbed of a base hit by third baseman Gene Markland.

Of all the outstanding pitchers that Campanella caught in ten years in the big leagues, including five World Series, he said the best was gangling left-hander [Elwin "Preacher" Roe](#). The Preacher didn't win a game in the majors until he was 28 years old, and he enjoyed his best seasons after age 32. From 1949 through 1953 he won 90 games and lost just 33, an amazing winning percentage of .732.

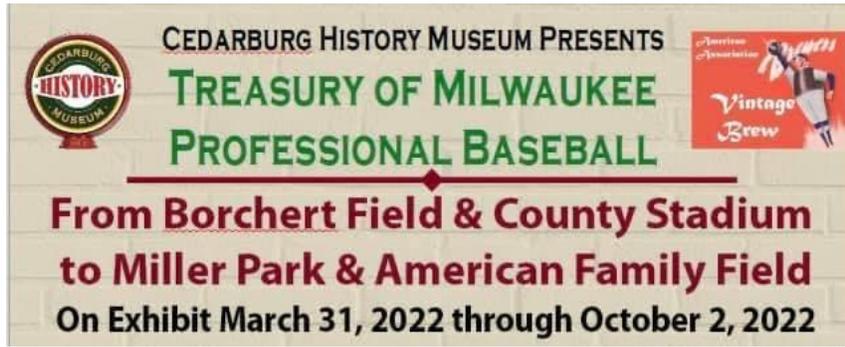
While coaching a high school basketball team during the off-season in his native Arkansas in February 1946, Roe got into a dispute with a referee. The official punched Roe, who fell and struck his head, fracturing his skull. He was never again able to throw his fastball more than a few times during a game. He more than compensated, though. As he admitted in *Sports Illustrated* after his retirement, he learned to throw a spitball. He and Campanella worked it to perfection.

In his fastball days before his head injury, Roe appeared a number of times in Borchert Field. From 1941-43 Preacher was a member of the Columbus Red Birds, winners of three straight Junior World Series titles. In Milwaukee on June 5, 1942, he started but lasted just over three innings, allowing seven hits and four runs. On July 26, 1943, Roe carried an eight-game victory streak into Borchert Field. In the fifth inning he provoked the Brewers' fans with repeated throws to first to hold the runner close. Milwaukee skipper Charlie Grimm then got on the umpiring crew, claiming that Roe's tosses to first were balks. Roe lasted through six innings before giving way to a pinch hitter. He left on the short end of a 3-1 score and absorbed his first loss in more than two months.

In the 1950's the city of New York was blessed with three great center fielders: as the song says, Willie, Mickey, and The Duke. The Duke, of course, was Hall of Famer [Edwin Donald Snider](#), probably the finest hitter in the long history of the Dodgers and the biggest bat of the Boys of Summer. In 1947 Snider split the season between Brooklyn and St. Paul of the American Association. On the night of July 17, 1947, The Duke made his only appearance in Borchert Field. Playing center field for the Saints, he slammed a single and a double in five at-bats. It could have been more. With the bases loaded in the sixth inning, the Brewers brought in reliever [Cy Buker](#) to face Snider. Duke pounded an outside pitch down the line toward the left-field corner. Milwaukee third baseman Damon Phillips backhanded the ball and threw to the plate for a spectacular force out, depriving Snider of at least a pair of runs batted in.

Of course, a ballclub needs a manager, and for the Boys of Summer it was irrepressible [Charlie Dressen](#). He was a true veteran of Borchert Field, having played there as a St. Paul Saints infielder in the early 1920's and with the Minneapolis Millers in 1931. Charlie was a tough little fellow who, despite falling short of five-foot six in stature, played pro football when it was in its infancy. On October 15, 1922, he sat out with an injury as his Racine Legion team trounced the Milwaukee Badgers, 20-0, in the first NFL game played in Borchert Field. (The following Sunday on the same gridiron, the Badgers fought to a scoreless tie with the Green Bay Packers.)

Dressen made one more visit to Borchert Field. On July 8, 1942, the Brooklyn Dodgers played an exhibition game with the Brewers in front of a paying crowd of 9,104. The Dodgers won the game, 7-6, with a lineup that featured [Arky Vaughan](#), [Pete Reiser](#), [Ducky Medwick](#), [Dixie Walker](#), [Billy Herman](#), [Dolf Camilli](#), [Mickey Owen](#), and [Whitlow Wyatt](#). The Brooklyn field manager was Leo Durocher, and one of his coaches, nine years before becoming the manager of the Boys of Summer, was Charlie Dressen.



## What's Happening with the DockHounds in Oconomowoc?

### DockHounds Announcements



The Dog Pound continues to grow with players signing contracts. The [roster](#) now has 17 players including seven pitchers.

The 2022 [Schedule](#) is out. They open their inaugural season on the road, well, maybe down the road in Milwaukee with three games against the Milkmen starting May 13. They go on a road trip before returning home to open Wisconsin Brewing Company Park on May 29 for three against the Winnipeg Goldeyes followed by the Kane County Cougars ending their first home stand. The Hounds final home appearance is on August 28 before closing the season in Cleveland on September 4.

Excitement is growing for the DockHounds with [ticket packages](#) flying out the door.

### Dairy Land College League to Play at Wisconsin Brewing Company Ballpark

We're excited to announce that the Dairyland Collegiate League will be playing some games at Wisconsin Brewing Company Park this summer!

The wood bat college development summer league founded in 2021 will have five teams this year. The league's coaches are current college players or former pros? The league runs from June to August? For more information on the Dairyland Collegiate League click [here](#).



### Wisconsin Brewing Company Park Construction Update

- The first floor plumbing is going into the main building
- The third base building will start getting drywalled this week
- The floor selections are all complete
- The second floor wall panels will go up in the next three weeks



### [Trish Rasberry](#)

General Manager  
Lake Country DockHounds

### The Keltner Hot Corner Want's You

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

## West Bend Baseball Association Fundraising for Lights

The West Bend Baseball Association raised \$1.4 million to update the dated Karl M Kuss Memorial Field at Regner Park. They replaced the diamond with a turf field and constructed a whole new grandstand, last updated during the depression. Unfortunately, a large donation promised before the pandemic was cancelled and the World War II lighting was removed from the remodel completed last summer. They are now asking for donations to bring the lighting into the 21st Century. If you have played baseball at Regner Park or would like to donate, you can do so [here](#).

Willie Mueller, WBBA president and former Brewer reliever and *Major League* star appreciates your help.



## SABR Analytics Certification

### SABR Analytics Certification program launches with online course on baseball analytics



It's time to get SABR Certified! The first course in the new [SABR Analytics Certification](#) program — Conversational Analytics and Critical Thinking in Baseball — is available online now.

The SABR Analytics Certification program is an online, on-demand curriculum offering professional development and learning opportunities for those interested in elevating their skills and knowledge relating to baseball analytics. The curriculum was developed by current baseball professionals, including employees of Major League Baseball and its clubs.

SABR members get a significant discount on this Analytics Certification course registration, saving **\$55 off the regular price**.

Visit [SABR.org/analytics/certification](http://SABR.org/analytics/certification) to sign up today or learn more



## Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By [Rick Schabowski](#)  
February 2022 Trivia.

1. Name the Philadelphia Phillies outfielder who won four home run crowns in the 1930's and was a 1980 HOF inductee?
2. This Hall of Famer played all his game in the outfield and appeared in two World Series with the Cardinals and three with the Yankees.
3. Name the Negro Leagues star pitcher who won a Negro League World Series with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1942, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in 2001.
4. Three times in his career in the 1880's and 1890's this player stole over 100 bases in a season four times. He was inducted into the HOF in 1961. Who is he?
5. This 2002 inductee played all 2,511 games at shortstop. Who is he?



How did you do with this month's question? I had one. Let me know [DDD](#).

Do you have a favorite baseball trivia question? If so, send it to [Rick](#) to see if you can stump him and we'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit for the stumper.

*Answers on [page 11](#)*

## Help with Book on Brewer Opening Days

Greetings Ken Keltner Chapter! My name is Matthew Prigge and I am currently at work on a book detailing the history of the Milwaukee Brewers via the franchise's 52 (soon to be 53) home openers. The book is set to be published in 2023 by McFarland and Company. I am reaching out to the Keltner Chapter for home opener photos that members have and might be willing to share for the project. I am hoping to include an image from or related to each home opener. Photos of the stadium, game action, even of your tailgate party would all be gladly accepted. Even mementos from home openers - give-aways, promo items, etc - could work. Being a small-run publication, there is no real budget for images, but I would properly credit the work and be very grateful for your help. If you can help out, please contact me at [mjprigge@gmail.com](mailto:mjprigge@gmail.com).



## The American Association Angle

### Home Run Frequency as Measure by At-bats Per Homer Run: Single-season Performances of both the American Association Milwaukee Brewers and the Modern Milwaukee Brewers

By: [Rex Hamann](#)



When Manny Pina hit 13 homeruns in 2021, we knew his long ball production was elevated considering the platoon role he was in with Omar Narváez. This led to these questions: What was Piña's actual home run frequency (as measured by at-bats per home run) and how did his rate of home runs per at-bat compare with other members of the Milwaukee Brewers, either past or present? In order to answer this question, a database was created for the home run leaders of both the American Association Milwaukee Brewers and for the modern Milwaukee Brewers major league team.

Manny Piña's 2021 performance, as valuable as it was to Craig Counsell's contenders, did not make the all-time Top Ten list for the modern Brewers, but landed 11th, still quite a feat to contemplate. Homering at a rate of one home run per 13.8 at-bats he led the team. By comparison, the team's long ball leader, Avisail García, hit his 29 home runs at a rate of one per 15.9 at-bats, second only to Piña's mark, although with 461 at-bats as opposed to Piña's 180.

Listed below are the top ten players of the "modern" Brewers (1970 to present) the top ten are as follows:

Rk	Player	Season	#HR	AB/HR
1	Christian Yelich	2019	44	11.1
2	Prince Fielder	2007	50	11.5
3	Greg Vaughn	1996	31	12.1
4	Gorman Thomas	1979	45	12.4
5	Prince Fielder	2009	46	12.8
6	Jedd Gyorko*	2020	9	13.0
7	Ryan Braun	2007	34	13.3
7	Richie Sexson	2001	45	13.3
9	Chris Carter	2016	41	13.4
10	Richie Sexson	2003	45	13.5
	*short season			

The only players listed above who were not the team leader that season were Greg Vaughn who ranked second to John Jaha (34; 16.0 ab/hr) in 1996 and Ryan Braun who ranked second to Prince Fielder in 2007. Because the focus of this list is on team leaders, Jedd Gyorko's AB/HR supersedes that of Manny Piña's AB/HR of 13.8 in 2021. If we exclude Gyorko's short-season numbers, Piña

makes the top ten list; in this particular list (you could always set up your own parameters) the focus emphasizes the team leader above all others; hence Gyorko's presence on the list is a requirement. ! For those fans who enjoy the statistical aspect of things without getting too immersed in SABRmetrics, comparing the AB/HR can be a very satisfying exercise. It's a simple, yet meaningful example of how baseball history can bring the game to become even more enjoyable than what it already is. Just as an example, comparing a few of the players listed here with some of your other favorites throughout history could bring a new perspective on things. Simply use the statistics provided at [baseball-reference.com](http://baseball-reference.com) and get out your calculator!

Listed below are the top ten players for the American Association's Milwaukee Brewers:

Rk	Player	Season	#HR	AB/HR
1	Chet Laabs	1936	42	14.9
2	Mickey Heath	1938	32	16.1
3	Lin Storti	1934	35	16.2
4	Bunny Brief	1925	37	16.7
4	Rudy York	1936	37	16.7
6	Tedd Gullic	1940	31	17.9
7	Tedd Gullic	1935	33	18.4
8	Dan Bloxsom	1930	29	19.0
9	Lin Storti	1936	31	19.4
10	Howie Moss	1949	29	19.8

The only players listed above who were not the team leader that season were Rudy York and Lin Storti in 1936 who ranked second and third, respectively, behind Chet Laabs that year.

Not one player from the "original" Milwaukee Brewers would rank above those listed for the "modern" Brewers. Such data underscore just how much the game has changed with respect to hitting home runs.

The Deadball Era (1902-1919) Milwaukee Brewers had their share of home run leaders, but neither their home run totals nor home run frequency compare with the top ten lists above. For the next installment of the *American Association Angle* the home run leaders of the Deadball Era Brewers will be examined as will those of the Milwaukee Braves.

***The American Association Almanac is a bi-annual print publication dedicated to the history of the old American Association. To subscribe, please contact Rex Hamann by email at [rex457@gmail.com](mailto:rex457@gmail.com) for further information.***

### Schabowski's Super Stumpers

February Answers:

1. Chuck Klein
2. Enos Slaughter
3. Hilton Smith
4. Billy Hamilton
5. Ozzie Smith.

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