



# 20 TO 80\*

## SABR SCOUTS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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

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### SABRscouts ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

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

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

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

## Marlin's Pro Scouts make them Competitive By Tracy Ringolsby

DENVER – While it is scouting that provides the basis for the Marlins ability to be competitive, it is professional scouting that does the heavy lifting in Florida. The Marlins had only one home-grown player in its Opening Day lineup: left fielder Jeremy Hermida, the Marlins' first-round draft choice in 2009. And they had only six home-grown players on their 25-man roster, and one of them, backup first baseman Ross Gload, a 13<sup>th</sup>-round pick in 1997, actually played in the big leagues with the Cubs, Rockies, White Sox and Royals before making his Marlins debut this year. The five who have never known an organization other than the Marlins are right-handed pitchers Chris Volstad (first round, 2005), Josh Johnson (fourth round, 2002) and Logan Kensing (second round, 2003), and outfielders Hermida and Brett Carroll (10<sup>th</sup> round, 2004).

There are various ways to evaluate the productivity of an organization's farm system, and the release of the All-Star ballots provides insight. The 240 players listed for All-Star consideration represent the projected regular lineup that each team submitted late in spring training. Six players originally signed by the Marlins are on the list, leaving Florida tied for 19th among the 30 major league teams. In addition to Hermida on its own roster, the Marlins originally signed first baseman Adrian Gonzalez of San Diego and Miguel Cabrera of Detroit, shortstop Edgar Renteria and outfielder Randy Winn of San Francisco and Mets second baseman Luis Castillo.

By contrast, Atlanta, Arizona, Toronto, Cleveland and Oakland each have 12 originals on the All-Star ballots, and Colorado, Boston and Seattle had 11 each. The Cubs, with three, and Baltimore, with four, were the least productive organizations. Colorado led the majors with all eight of the Rockies players on the ballot originally signed by the organization. Milwaukee and Arizona were tied for second with six. The Marlins and Nationals were at the bottom with one apiece – Hermida in Florida and third baseman Ryan Zimmerman with Washington.

The June draft produced 186 of the 240 All-Star nominees, including 69 players who were first-round draft choices, and 29 who were selected in the second round. There were 13 players drafted in the 20<sup>th</sup> round or later, including second baseman Orlando Hudson of the Dodgers, who was a 43<sup>rd</sup> round draft choice of the Dodgers. Toronto catcher Rod Barajas is the only draft eligible player on the ballot who was not drafted. He was an undrafted signee out of Cerritos (Ca.) College in 1996. There are 53 foreign signs, including catcher Ivan Rodriguez of Houston, first baseman Carlos Delgado of the Mets, and catcher Bengie Molina of San Francisco who were signed out of Puerto Rico before the island was included in the draft. The Dominican Republic has the biggest contingent of All-Star candidates among foreign signees with 23. There are 14 players from Venezuela, five from Japan, three from Cuba, two from Columbia, and one each from Korea, Mexico and Panama.

Here's who originally signed the All-Star candidates (still with the franchise):

**12 players** -- Atlanta (five), Arizona (six), Toronto (four), Cleveland (four) and Oakland (three).

**11 players** -- Colorado (eight), Boston (five) and Seattle (five).

**10 players** -- Chicago White Sox (three).

**9 players** -- New York Mets (three), Washington (one), St. Louis (five) and New York Yankees (four).

**8 players** -- Philadelphia (four), Los Angeles Dodgers (three), Tampa Bay (four), and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (four).

**6 players** -- Florida (one), Houston (two), Pittsburgh (three), Minnesota (three), Texas (two) and Milwaukee (six).

**5 players** -- Cincinnati (three), San Diego (two), San Francisco (four), Detroit (two) and Kansas City (two).

**4 players** -- Baltimore (three).

**3 players** -- Chicago Cubs (three).

An All-Star team of players with their original signing team who were former first round draft picks: 1B James Loney, Dodgers; 2B Chase Utley, Phillies; 3B Chipper Jones, Braves; SS Derek Jeter, Yankees; C Joe Mauer, Twins; OFs Manny Ramirez, Indians, Torii Hunter, Twins, and Ken Griffey, Jr., Mariners.

Lowest pick at each position: C Rod Barajas, undrafted, Diamondbacks; 1B Mike Jacobs, 38<sup>th</sup> round, Mets; 2B Orlando Hudson, 43<sup>rd</sup> round, Toronto; 3B Andy LaRoche, 39<sup>th</sup> round, Dodgers; SS Nick Punto, 21<sup>st</sup> round, Phillies; OFs Raul Ibanez, 36<sup>th</sup> round, Mariners, Nyjer Morgan, 33<sup>rd</sup> round, Pirates, and Nate McLouth, 25<sup>th</sup> round, Pirates.

Foreign signees: C Victor Martinez, Venezuela, Indians; 1B Carlos Delgado, Puerto Rico, Blue Jays; 2B Luis Castillo, Dominican Republic, Marlins; 3B Aramis Ramirez, Dominican Republic, Pirates; SS Hanley Ramirez, Dominican Republic, Red Sox; OFs Alfonso Soriano, Dominican Republic, Yankees, Ichiro Suzuki, Japan, Mariners, and Magglio Ordonez, Venezuela, White Sox.

Converted positions: C Russell Martin, Dodgers, third baseman; 1B Albert Pujols, third baseman; 2B Aaron Hill, Blue Jays, shortstop; 3B Michael Young, Rangers, second baseman; shortstop Alex Ramirez, White Sox, center fielder; OFs Matt Holliday, A's, third baseman; Rick Ankiel, Cardinals, left-handed pitcher, and Carlos Guillen, Tigers, shortstop.

High school drafts: C Joe Mauer, Twins; 1B James Loney, Dodgers; 2B Brandon Phillips, Reds; 3B Chipper Jones, Braves; SS Jimmy Rollins, Phillies; and OFs Matt Holliday, Rockies, Manny Ramirez, Indians, and Ken Griffey, Jr., Mariners.

This article was also published in Baseball America.

## SCOUTS IN THE NEWS

The Goldklang Group with the help of the Topps Company will honor a second group of inductees into their Professional Baseball Scouts Hall of Fame. The inductees will be recognized in the ballparks operated by the Goldklang group this summer. Tom Greenwade and Marti Wolever will be honored in St. Paul. Hudson Valley will honor Joe McIlvane and Joe Rigoli. At Brockton the honorees will be Rene Mons and Roland Johnson. Al Goldis and John Barr will be honored at Ft. Myers. At Sioux Falls Bob Fontaine Jr. and SABR member **Gary Hughes** will be recognized. Charleston will honor Tom Burns and Howard McCullough.

The Topps Company for the second time will place scout cards in their sets, pairing the scout with one of their notable signings. The scouts being honored include Paul Cogan (C. C. Sabathia), Clarence Johns (Russell Martin), Mark Wilson (Joe Mauer), Pat Daugherty (Matt Holliday), Larry Pardo (Ryan Braun), Fred Repke (Evan Longoria), Matt Lundin (Chase Utley) and Darrell Conner (Cole Hamels).

**Keith Lowe, Sr.** passed away December 31, 2008. He scouted for the Astros in 1964. An obituary also recorded he scouted for the Yankees and Diamondbacks.

**Matt Sczesny** who scouted for the Red Sox for over 30 years passed away January 3, 2009. Sczesny was also a long-time player and manager in Boston's minor league system. His playing days began in 1954, lasting through 1960 when he became a manager in the Red Sox system. He became an area scout for the Red Sox in 1971, continuing in that role through 2002. He is credited with signing Bob Stanley, Dan Gakeler, John Valentin, Kevin Morton, Mo Vaughn, Frankie Rodriguez and Peter Munro. Sczesny then served as a Pro Scout from 2003-2008.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=sczesn001mat>

**Henri Centeno**, who supervised scouting in Venezuela for the Cleveland Indians since 2004, was killed in an auto accident in Boca de Uchire, Venezuela January 12, 2009. Centeno played 5 seasons in the Astros chain.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=centen001hen>

**Ellsworth Brown** passed away January 21, 2009. Brown scouted for over 50 years, beginning with the White Sox in 1947. He also worked for the Kansas City Athletics, Senators, Giants and Minnesota Twins. He is credited with signing Kirby Puckett, Brent Brede, Bill Madlock, Ken Sanders and Larry Stahl.

**Edward H. "Eddie" Lyons** passed away January, 25, 2009 in Clemmons, North Carolina, at age 85. Originally signed by legendary scout Joe Cambria Lyons played 7 games for the Senators in 1947. Eddie went on to be a long-time scout, being credited with the signings of Carlos Lezcano, Mike Ramsey and Randy Martz. He scouted for the Cardinals from 1958-75, the Cubs from 1977-81, Montreal from 1982-3 and again in 1987-89, in between serving as a Special Assignment scout for the Expos. Lyons ended his career back with the Cubs as first a Special Player Consultant from 1990-92 and then an Advance scout in 1993-4.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/l/lyonsed01.shtml>

Former Major League outfielder and scout **Ted Uhlaender** passed away February 12, 2009 in Atwood, Kansas. Uhlaender, an outfielder played 8 major league seasons split among Minnesota, Cleveland and Cincinnati. He was originally signed by Buddy Hancken. He worked for the Yankees in 1994-5 as a Major League scout and served in the same role for the Giants from 03 until his death. <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/u/uhlaete01.shtml>

**John P. "Jack" Valley** passed away February 22, 2009, at age 89. A long-time college baseball coach (51 seasons at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts) Jack was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. SABR Scouts committee records show Valley scouted for the Cardinals in 1955, the Reds from 1962-67, Oakland from 1969-72 and Cleveland in 1973-4 and 1980 -85. He is credited with signing Mike Barlow.

**Dick Wilson** passed away March 9, 2009 in Reno, Nevada after a long illness. Wilson spent almost 60 years in the game, beginning as a minor league player in the 1940's, mainly on the West Coast. He began his scouting career in 1961 with Kansas City, also working for San Francisco, New York Yankees, Angels, Detroit, Mets, Atlanta and Florida organizations. Wilson spent 1964-83 scouting for the Giants and is credited with signing Dave Rader, Jim Willoughby, Steve Ontiveros, Terry Cornutt, Rob Dressler, Dave Heaverlo, Ed Plank, Casey Parsons and Frank Williams.

**Whitey Lockman**, better known as a major league player and manager than as a scout passed away March 17, 2009 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Lockman, an outfielder was signed by Bill Pierre and played in the major leagues in 1945 and 1947-60, mainly for the Giants. He managed for a few seasons in the minors and managed the Cubs from 1972-74. He scouted for Montreal from 1977-89, mostly as a Special Assignment Scout but is credited with signing Wallace Johnson.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/l/lockmwh01.shtml>

Legendary scout **Gene Handley** passed away April 12, 2009, aged 94. Eugene Louis Handley was born November 25, 1914 in Kennett, MO. He was signed by Frank Lane and Warren Giles for the Reds but made his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1946. Gene played two major seasons as an infielder. At one point in his career he was not able to beat out an established infielder in spring training with the Pirates and was sent back to the minors. That infielder was his brother Lee who spent 10 years in the major leagues. He played 17 seasons in the minors and also managed two seasons, 1954 and 1957. Gene went on to scout for the Cubs in 1955-6, then from 1958 till his passing. His signings include Bill Bonham, John Briggs, Steve Davis, Alec Distaso,

Jim Ellis, Dick Ellsworth, Mike Harkey, Ken Hubbs, Darrin Jackson, Jake Jaeckel, Pete LaCock, Dennis Lamp, Mike Krukow, Bobby Pfeil, Chris Piersoll, Ed Putnam, Jim Qualls, Bob Raudman, Ken Rudolph, Herman Segelke, Steve Smyth, Bill Stoneman, Dave Stevens, Tom Thobe, and Steve Trachsel.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/k/kelsobi01.shtml>

**Bill Kelso** died May 11 in North Kansas City, aged 69. William Eugene Kelso was born February 19, 1940 in Kansas City, MO. He was signed by Dodgers scout Monty Basgall and acquired by the Angels for who he made his major league debut in 1964. Kelso also pitched for the Angels in 1966-7 and ended his major league career with the Reds in 1968. He ended with a 12-5 record and a 3.13 earned run average. Bill went on to scout for the Angels, Phillies and Astros. Among his signings are Bob Dernier, Dave Silvestri, Dave Hajek, Chris Hatcher and Sean Runyan.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/k/kelsobi01.shtml>

**Note: statistics when available through Baseball Reference.com**

## **Making a Living Out of a Passion** *A Look at the World of Scouting* By Lee Lowenfish

It has long been a truism in the baseball business that scouts are the most vital and most underappreciated personnel in the industry. "You are nothing until you have been signed by a scout," more than one practitioner of the vital trade has told me. Yet formal recognition of the best in the profession has been a long time in coming. Except for an exhibit scheduled for 2012 on the minor leagues that will include a section on scouts' contributions, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown plans no specific program in the foreseeable future to honor the sport's talent hunters.

Could it be that their job is too humbling and nuanced for the ruling powers to notice? In *Dollar Sign on the Muscle*, Kevin Kerrane's marvelous book written over 20 years ago, he observed sagely, "Most people live with contradictions, but baseball scouts live with more than most." They must make educated guesses on what that teenaged player showing his wares in front of him will be capable of doing and actually **will be** doing years down the road. They are paid for their opinions and their reports should be concise, convincing, and most important, right, Jack Zduriencik recently said; he is the former scout and scouting director who is the new Seattle Mariners general manager. One scouting supervisor told Kevin Kerrane that he instructs his men in the field that when they are writing up a player, never use the words "but" and "however".

As a writer who fights a tendency towards ambivalent wordiness, I have been fascinated by the challenges in this profession. It is a tough job and signings that don't pan out are more common than successes. "Don't be afraid to be wrong," Atlanta Braves scout Hep Cronin advises. "You won't become a real scout until you miss on some guys." Even Branch Rickey, who coined the term "dollar sign on the muscle," once stunned a confident young scout when he said that he understood no more than 55% of the game. Yet you don't give up, you keep looking out for the diamonds in the rough in the middle and lower rounds of the amateur draft that all agree are the true measure of a scout's acumen.

There have been occasional efforts to honor baseball's scouts. In 1993 the Mid-Atlantic Scouts Association, an organization in existence since 1970, erected a wall of honor outside the right field corner of Baltimore's Camden Yards; today over 100 of its members are recognized. Early this

decade the Staten Island Yankees, thanks largely to the efforts of Gary Perone who is the new business developer for the Brooklyn Cyclones, established a similar wall at its park. (Perone has built a website [www.nyproscouts.com](http://www.nyproscouts.com) and is eager to help promote scouts through Baseball Connect, a full service marketing group.)

By far, the most widespread effort for scout recognition began last season when the Goldklang group of minor league franchises honored with plaques two scouts at each of their six ballparks, ranging from their three Class-A major league affiliate teams in Hudson Valley, New York, Charleston, South Carolina and Fort Myers, Florida; to their three independent league teams in St. Paul, Minnesota, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Brockton, Massachusetts. 12 more plaques will be dedicated this summer and in future summers. **(See Scouts in the News above)** Another component of the Goldklang project is the Topps company's issuing of the first ever Bowman baseball cards featuring pictures of scouts.

Three criteria must be met to qualify for a Goldklang group award: You must have been in the scouting field for at least 20 years; you must have enjoyed some success in signing future major leaguers; and you must have been active in your local communities. The awards are determined on the basis of recommendations received from general managers, scouting directors, and scouts themselves representing all 30 major league organizations. Last year's winners included the aforementioned Hep Cronin, who signed Chipper Jones, and the Royals' **Art Stewart**, who lists among his many signees Bo Jackson, Carlos Beltran and Johnny Damon. Notables to be inducted in the summer of 2009 are **Gary Hughes**, the veteran scout and Cubs special assistant who helped build the 1997 Florida Marlins world champions; Joe McIlvaine, former general manager of both the Padres and the Mets; and Tom Greenwade, the only deceased scout in the entering class who was intimately involved in the scouting of Jackie Robinson and Mickey Mantle.

I attended the Hudson Valley Renegades ceremony in June 2008 and I was impressed by the quality of the sculptures on the plaques. More true to life and accurate than the sometimes grotesque gargoyles at Cooperstown, they are the work of the West Virginia artist Jamie Lester who was commissioned by the U. S. Bronze company, the same outfit that has designed the monuments for both the old and the new Yankee Stadiums.

I was moved by the sentiments and insights of the first two scouts enshrined at Hudson Valley. John Tumminia of the Chicago White Sox praised scouting as a profession where you can be both collegial as well as competitive. He also advised, "Never turn your back on a player you have a gut feel for." His co-honoree the spry passionate octogenarian Tom "T-Bone" Giordano counseled, "Do your own scouting. Show up early and watch batting practice and warm ups and take notes." All scouts tell great stories and Giordano, a veteran of many teams now with the Texas Rangers, explained that he got his nickname "T-Bone" because as a schoolboy in Newark, New Jersey he always went home for a steak lunch prepared by his Italian immigrant-butcher father. Invariably T-Bone hammered the ball so hard in the ballgames afterwards that soon his teammates were joining him for lunch. (Giordano's Topps baseball card informs us that in his first season in the minor leagues he outthomered Hank Aaron.)

Who is Marvin Goldklang, the man who inspired this project? He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and the Penn law school. He pitched for the Quakers as an undergraduate where he holds a dubious record for what he calls his Ryne Duren moment, hitting four batters in a row, though not on consecutive pitches, he quickly adds. After building a successful Wall Street merchant banking and private investment business, Goldklang entered the minor league baseball business in the 1980s. Included in his group are such prominent partners as Miles Wolff, baseball's brilliant Renaissance man and visionary; founder of the publication *Baseball America* and leader of the revival of independent league baseball; and Mike Veeck, the eldest son and promotion-conscious chip off the old block of the late owner-entrepreneur Bill Veeck.

As Goldklang observed the baseball business, the lack of acclaim for scouts gnawed at him. "My best baseball conversations have always been with scouts," he told me late last year. "You can count on fewer than the fingers of one hand how many owners who understand the scouting profession." He was struck at how little baseball people know about the research into and development of their most important resource, the players. It seems, sadly, that Marge Schott, former owner of the Cincinnati Reds, was far from the only mogul who thought scouts were just a bunch of idle guys who watched a lot of ballgames.

Goldklang knew better because he loved the game and knew how hard it was to play. He felt that the scouts and cross-checkers in the trenches and their supervisors in the front offices were the best analysts of the game. The idea for the project accelerated when he met John Tumminia, a Brooklyn native who had played college ball at his hometown St. Francis College, in the minor leagues and in Italy before returning home to teach theology in a Catholic high school. The pay wasn't sufficient to support his wife and two young daughters so he took a job as a recreation supervisor in the upstate New York prison system. Yet when scout Al Goldis, who will be honored by the Fort Myers Miracle in Florida with a plaque this summer, offered him a job as a part-time scout with the Angels in 1987, he jumped at the chance.

"Scouting is like playing," the intense, mustachioed Tumminia told me recently. "You must give your whole life to what you're doing, give all your arteries to the game." He learned that lesson from his New York-area mentors like Ralph DiLullo who was honored posthumously by the Staten Island Yankees a few years ago. Ralph "was always upbeat, out there on the field before the game with other scouts," Tumminia recalls. He also praises Herb Stein, the Twins' scout, now 91, who signed Rod Carew and Frank Viola and several other Minnesota major leaguers, who stressed that you should always look for positives in a prospect because it is so easy to knock someone down.

Tumminia's passion for the game has rubbed off on his daughter Tyler who currently is the Goldklang Group's vice-president for marketing and operations and a driving force in publicizing the project. In the last stages of research for my Branch Rickey biography I sent Tyler a quotation from Charles Chapman, the University of California Latin American history professor Rickey hired as a west coast scout in the 1920s, who urged prospects to try for baseball for at least a year "to accept low pay in exchange for great adventures and lifelong friendships." Within moments she had posted in an email Chapman's inspirational words to all of the group's six franchises.

Every scout that I was able to reach in preparing this talk has made it a point to praise their unrecognized mentors who blazed the path while being given nothing other than lip service by their organizations about their importance. Tom Burns, the Blue Jays scout who will receive a plaque from the Charleston River Dogs this summer, wanted the late Joe Branzell remembered for his role in convincing the Orioles to erect the Camden Yards plaque.

"I was more thrilled for scouts in general than for myself," longtime Mets scout Roland Johnson echoed when told that he would be honored by the Brockton Roxx in the summer of 2009. Johnson's background is unusual because he came to baseball not from the playing field but from the world of research. After catching for Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. (a few years after the school's only future major league pitcher Moe Drabowsky matriculated), Johnson turned down a chance to play in the minors in Springfield, Massachusetts, opting instead to start work as an underwriter in nearby Hartford, Connecticut, the insurance capital of the world, Hartford. "I hated my job," Johnson says frankly, "and each fall I would write every major league organization for a job."

In 1965 Johnson saw an ad in the *Sporting News*, "Sports Nuts Wanted!" It had been placed by a New Jersey-company, Information Concepts, looking for researchers to compile what would become the first Macmillan Baseball Encyclopedia. It was trail-blazing research. For instance, there were no records of RBIs before 1920 so the project directors, David Neft and the late Richard M. Cohen, sent Johnson on a cross-country journey digging out information from box scores in old newspapers in

local libraries. The final product was the massive volume that published in 1969 became known as the Big Mac, the first statistical bible of baseball.

The next year Neft and Cohen and Johnson and other associates went into business on their own, publishing another smaller baseball encyclopedia and similar volumes for other sports. In 1973 the door to scouting opened for Johnson when he was offered a part-time job with the Cardinals. The pay was just \$50 a month with no expenses but he had regretted not seizing the opportunity to play when that catcher's opening arose nine years earlier. He was not going to make the same mistake twice.

He learned a lot about his craft working under the Cardinals' Northeastern area scout Dave Barbosh. Four years later when Barbosh decided he had enough of the east coast, he recommended Johnson for the position of full-time area scout. "I was only an area scout for four years and they are the ones who deserve the most recognition," Johnson says. "They cover a whole area and they try to get to know about everything involving the players - their coaches, their families, and their habits on and off the field."

Just as John Tumminia praised his rivals for being collegial in trying to unlock the keys to baseball development, Roland Johnson wanted to salute the memory of Porter Blinn who scouted for the Big Red Machine teams of Cincinnati in the 1970s. Blinn, a onetime oil company manager and American Legion coach who didn't become a scout until he was over 40 years old, was very helpful to Johnson when he was a young scout starting out in the fascinating if uncertain business.

Roland Johnson has a warehouse of stories from his days as a Cardinals area scout. Like every baseball man from Joe Torre on down to the Little League fungo hitter, Johnson sings the praises of the late George Kissell whose insights in the game made him a revered leader of the College of Cardinals. Johnson is glad that Kissell's grandson, a onetime scout, may well have preserved some of his grandfather's precious instructional tapes. (The Branch Rickey Vero Beach spring training tapes seem to have disappeared.)

Johnson remembers scouting Andy Van Slyke, a great all-around athlete in upstate New York who was such a good football player that Penn State coach Joe Paterno offered him a scholarship though he had gave up the sport in the ninth grade. Johnson was prepared to sign Van Slyke with the sixth pick in the nation after the New York state high school baseball championship game. "He had one of the greatest games I ever saw," Johnson says. Went 4-for-4 hitting shots all over the field. On his last at-bat, he was hustling out a grounder down the first base line and tripped over the first base bag and broke his ankle. "We had to fly Van Slyke to St. Louis for an examination," Johnson sighs at the remembrance. The injury would cost Van Slyke his first minor league season but he did sign and went on to a stellar career.

Like most scouts, who are generous in sharing success stories about their colleagues, Johnson shared one last gratifying tale about Rex Bowen, one of Branch Rickey's loyal talent hunters. As Rex was running a tryout camp at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh in the mid-1960s, young amateur pitcher Bruce Dal Canton waddled in weighing about 260 pounds. Bowen told him, "Young man, you have a chance at a major league career if you return next year weighing 30 pounds less." Sure enough, Dal Canton returned a year later weighing 230 pounds, was signed on the spot, and the next year was pitching in the big leagues for the Pirates at the start of an eleven-year career. At the time of his death in 2008 Dal Canton enjoyed universal respect as a pitching instructor and coach.

Roland Johnson's former Mets colleague, Joe McIlvaine, who will be honored with a plaque at Hudson Valley this summer, came to scouting from another unusual background. McIlvaine grew up outside Philadelphia in the small town of Narberth. He attended the same Lower Merion High School as famous graduates General Alexander Haig, Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan, and Kobe Bryant. At 6' 5" and barely 150 pounds, McIlvaine was not a heavily recruited high school

pitcher so after graduation he enrolled in an eight-year program at St. Charles Seminary preparing for the priesthood.

He continued to play semi-pro baseball in the summertime and when he decided after four years that the secular life was more appealing, he was signed by the Detroit Tigers where he pitched five years of Class A ball with a 16-16 record. He soon realized that his future in baseball would be off the field. In 1974 Orioles General Manager Frank Cashen spotted him as a comer and gave him his first scouting job. After time with both the Angels and Brewers McIlvaine was one of Cashen's first hires as a scouting supervisor when the former Orioles executive became GM of the New York Mets in 1981.

In 1982 McIlvaine signed Dwight Gooden with the Mets' 1<sup>st</sup> round selection, overall fifth pick in the country and by 1984 Gooden had rocketed to stardom with a 24-4 major league record. Reflecting about Gooden's many off-field problems since his early success, McIlvaine lamented in a recent telephone conversation, "Gooden had too much success too soon. I always want my players to struggle somewhat in the minor leagues so they learn how to deal with adversity. So that one bad game doesn't turn into three bad games in a row." Or worse.

Early on in his front office career McIlvaine became a devotee of psychological testing of players. He goes so far as to say that all the physical abilities in the world cannot overcome a poor psychological profile. "Every test I have ever seen for ballplayers indicates that they admit that the psychological component of the game is at least 75% if not more than 90%," he says. He is thus wary about players who don't own up to this fact and he shies away from that drafting or trading for that type of player.

McIlvaine has always considered baseball front office work to be a "learning laboratory" so he was never averse to hiring people smarter than he was. He counts seven future GM's who worked for him including Billy Beane of "Moneyball" fame (or infamy), the Blue Jays' J. P. Ricciardi and the Twins' Terry Ryan who hired McIlvaine in 1998 for his current position as a Twins special assistant. (In the middle of the 1997 season, with the Mets ten games over .500 and within sight of a playoff berth, owner Fred Wilpon fired McIlvaine as GM because he lacked "the skill sets" in media massaging and budgeting; this is another story for another time.)

McIlvaine knows that baseball scouting is anything but an exact science. He remembers filing an unfavorable scouting report in 1979 on a college junior pitching in the cold and the rain for Bowling Green University. "Looks like he rattles easily," McIlvaine wrote. "Leaves me with an empty feeling." So did the expert scout dismiss the abilities of one Orel Hershiser. In our recent phone conversation McIlvaine added that Hershiser and Wade Boggs were both available in Rule 5 minor league drafts, the pitcher two times!, and yet no organizations put in a claim on them. Moral of the story? Sometimes development takes longer in some players than others.

The Cubs' Billy Blitzer, who enters his 27<sup>th</sup> season with the same organization, perhaps a modern record in these days of changing ownerships and changing jobs at all levels of the baseball industry, tells this story on himself about the signing of a Cubs' number one pick, outfielder Doug Glanville. Blitzer, who will be honored this summer with a Topps/Bowman trading card, had seen Glanville play at the University of Pennsylvania but hadn't met his family. When the scout went to visit the Glanvilles at their comfortable home in the New York City suburb of Teaneck, New Jersey, Glanville's mother greeted him politely at the door and escorted him into a well-appointed living room highlighted by a grand piano and a spiral staircase.

Clad in shorts and a T-shirt and showing none of the muscle definition of a world-class athlete and future major leaguer, Doug Glanville nonchalantly walked down the stairs. "Play something for Mr. Blitzer on the piano, Douglas," Mrs. Glanville said. The scout swallowed hard. "What have I drafted here?" Blitzer thought to himself. A concert artist and not a ballplayer? A Liberace and not a Leon Durham? Everything worked out well even though Glanville's best years came with the Phillies not

the Cubs. By the way, Granville's intelligent and amusing commentaries on issues in baseball today have been a valuable addition to the website of nytimes.com.

I wish I had more time to tell more stories I have gathered from the Goldklang awardees and other scouts I have met over the years. They have restored my faith in the beauty of the game, its challenges, heartaches and rewards. I think the last word best goes to San Francisco Giants scouting director John Barr who will be enshrined this summer at the Fort Myers Miracle ballpark. When told of his award Barr concisely expressed the genuine idealism and humility of the baseball scout: "I've been fortunate enough to make a living out of a passion."

Lee Lowenfish's latest book, Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman, came out in paperback in the spring of 2009 from the University of Nebraska Press. He can be reached at [leelow627@earthlink.net](mailto:leelow627@earthlink.net) or [lee@leelowenfish.com](mailto:lee@leelowenfish.com)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON A SCOUT: Bill Phillips**

**By Craig Lammers**

"Whoa Bill" Phillips, one of the most successful managers and scouts of the Deadball Era is mostly remembered today as a turn of the century pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. "Silver Bill" as he was also nicknamed had a couple of pretty good years (and a couple of not so good years) in the major leagues as a pitcher, but his real legacy was as a manager and scout instrumental in the formation of the Federal League.

An arm injury ended Bill's major league career, and for a time it seemed his baseball career. He regained his effectiveness pitching in the Southern Association. He also developed an eye for talent there that would pay off when he came north again in 1908. At the age of 39 he was offered the job of playing manager for East Liverpool of the Class C Ohio Pennsylvania League. East Liverpool was near his home of Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Phillips stocked his first club with veteran players, most from Western Pennsylvania or who'd played with or against Phillips in the south. One of those players was Forbes "Scotty" Alcock an Ohioan who'd play again for Phillips in the Federal League of 1913 before jumping the Feds for the White Sox.

Phillips finished second with East Liverpool, earning a promotion to Wheeling of the Class B Central League. He won a pennant at Wheeling with many of the same players in 1909, but had a second division team the next year. A playing manager in 1909, he retired as a player after that season. Strangely that second division team was his first real opportunity to sign and develop young talent. Fred Graf a semipro from Canton, and Earl Moseley a collegiate pitcher from Mount Union signed their first contracts with Phillips that spring. Neither was ready for the Central League, but both would eventually reach the major leagues. Wheeling was affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and future major leaguers Rivington Bisland and Bill Doak were sent to Wheeling by the Pirates. He also received Burt Shotten on option from the St. Louis Browns and signed Fritz Maisel after the Northern Association folded. He also resurrected the career of a veteran Ohio minor leaguer Jack Compton who had been unable to pitch in 1909 due to a sore arm. After getting another chance by Phillips, Compton's arm came around and he reached the major leagues with the Reds the following season.

In 1911, Phillips signed to manage Youngstown, Ohio, marking a return to the Ohio-Pennsylvania League. He inherited a few good players, and brought a few like Moseley back. By season's end he would recommend Moseley to the Cubs and alert Jimmy McAleer of Washington to the potential of outfielder Howard Shanks. More importantly, he scouted an obscure Class D League.

The Northern State of Indiana League began life in 1907 as the Indiana-Ohio League. Shortstop Everett Scott had played briefly with Youngstown in 1910 and was briefly on the roster of the Fairmont, West Virginia team. Most of his experience was with Kokomo and his home town of Bluffton in the Indiana League. Scott wasn't the only infielder Phillips spotted in the league. He signed Al Scheer as a second baseman in the spring of 1911 but returned him to Bluffton at the end of spring training. According to the *Youngstown Vindicator*, Scheer was returned to Bluffton for financial reasons. After another infielder didn't work out, Phillips repurchased Scheer at midseason. He'd also recommend Scheer to McAleer but he failed to make the Washington team in 1912 and returned to Youngstown. Finishing second his first year at Youngstown, Phillips won the pennant in 1912, also recommending Scott & Moseley to the Red Sox.

After winning the pennant for Youngstown, there was friction with ownership likely over salary and Phillips did not return. Instead he was instrumental in the success of the Federal League after being hired as manager of the league's Indianapolis team. He brought Charles Conway with him from Youngstown and convinced Scheer to join the Hoosiers after brief 1913 appearances with Brooklyn and Providence. He signed Alcock from the local American Association team after he'd been optioned to Canton. He also assembled a group of players he was familiar with from his time in the Central League. This group included Biddy Dolan the 1913 Federal League batting champ, Carl Vandergrift and at midseason the pair of Georges Kaiserling and Textor. The acquisition of Textor as a free agent created no controversy, but Kaiserling was convinced to join the Feds after the local American Association team wanted to send him to the Pacific Coast League.

The following season the Federal League upgraded to major league status and Phillips brought back old favorite Earl Moseley. Several of the 1913 favorites were retained and other role players such as Bill Warren who shared the catching with Textor were brought in. He also signed his third baseman from Wheeling in 1909 to replace the departed Alcock. That third baseman was Bill McKechnie. Phillips won his third consecutive pennant and second straight with the Hoosiers in 1914 and remained with the team when it was transferred to Newark in 1915. In June of 1915, the Newark team fired the man who'd been instrumental in the success of the Federal League, replacing him with McKechnie and Bill Phillips' career as a manager and scout was over. He returned to Charleroi and entered business. By the time of his death on October 25, 1941 The Charleroi *Daily Mail* referred to him as "revered in the annals of the sport."

Sources:

*East Liverpool Times*  
*Canton Repository*  
*Youngstown Vindicator*  
*Indianapolis Star*  
*Charleroi Daily Mail*

## SABR ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hope you will be joining us for the 2000 SABR convention to be held at the J. W. Marriot Hotel in Washington D. C from July 30-August 2.

To make reservations by phone, call 800-266-9432 or 506-474-2009. Tell them that you are making your reservations at the JW Marriott Pennsylvania Avenue for the Society for American Baseball Research -- SABR 2009 Annual convention. You can also make reservations online at:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/sabr2009>

More information about the convention can be found at the SABR 39 website:

<http://convention.sabr.org/>

The committee will hold its annual meeting at the convention, Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. We will also be presenting the annual **Roland Hemond** award honoring a baseball executive who has made significant contribution to the scouting community. This year's honoree is Dallas Green.

## **SCOUTS COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

### **SCOUTS BOOK PROJECT**

Work on the scouts' book project continues. Those who have promised an article/essay we would like a rough draft to be turned in by December 31.. Contact Jim Sandoval [casandman@aol.com](mailto:casandman@aol.com) or Bill Nowlin [bnowlin@rounder.com](mailto:bnowlin@rounder.com) if you have any questions or would like to contribute.

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

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

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

A number of scouts have given oral history interviews and a list is accessible from the SABR website at <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,351,5,0> For more information, contact Eileen Canepari in the SABR office at [ecanepari@sabr.org](mailto:ecanepari@sabr.org) or 216-575-0500.

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## **SCOUTS BIOGRAPHY PROJECT**

Baseball scouts are colorful subjects for SABR's Biography Project. The committee has a system in place that we can easily work with. If you are interested in writing a biography of a scout, we recommend that you review their research tips, author's guidelines and the SABR style guide at: <http://www.bioproj.sabr.org/>

For more info, contact Mark Armour at [markjane@comcast.net](mailto:markjane@comcast.net).

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

Any scouts-related research requests can be sent to **Jim Sandoval** to be included in a future edition of *20 to 80\** or shared with the entire committee via the eGroup listed on page one. We encourage your submissions, anything from full-length articles to interesting factoids about professional scouting from members of the committee. If you would prefer a paper copy of this newsletter, please contact me at [casandman@aol.com](mailto:casandman@aol.com) or 256-721-7643. A paper copy will be mailed to anyone without an email address.

***20 TO 80\****

**SABR SCOUTS COMMITTEE  
NEWSLETTER**

***Society for American Baseball Research***

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